



**GINIE: Geographic Information  
Network in Europe**

**IST-2000-29493**

# **Establishing a European Advisory Board for Geographic Information**

## **Analysis of Responses received**

**D2.13.2**

**Editor:** Chris Corbin

**Partner:** EUROGI

16<sup>th</sup> June 2003

**Project Co-ordinator**  
University of Sheffield – USFD

**Partners**

European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic information – EUROGI

Joint Research Centre of the European Commission – JRC

Open GIS Consortium (Europe) - OGCE

**GINIE**  
**ABGI consultation – an analysis**

**Contents**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page</b>
1	Introduction	
2	Statistical analysis of responses	
3	Analysis of Responses	
4	Conclusions	
5	Next steps	

**Annexes**

1	Statistical Analysis of responses	
2	Consolidation of responses by question posed	
3	Notes of consultation with PÉAF	

# GINIE

## ABGI consultation – an analysis

### Introduction

The main purpose of GINIE is to develop a cohesive Geographic Information Strategy at the European level and support its implementation. As part of this strategy it was foreseen that a sustainable advisory board would be needed that would discuss and seek consensus on geographic information matters at the highest political and industrial level that would ensure the European GI Strategy met the requirements of society. A key objective of the GINIE project is to establish a fully functioning Advisory Board of Geographic Information (ABGI) and to include a business plan that would ensure it was a sustainable entity.

As part of the process to establish the ABGI GINIE published a consultation paper in October 2002 titled *Establishing a European Advisory Board for Geographic Information: A consultation paper* which is available from the GINIE web site [www.ec-gis.org/ginie](http://www.ec-gis.org/ginie). The consultation commenced late October 2002 and ended in February 2003 overall an elapsed time of 3.5 months. The GINIE partner EUROGI led the consultation process on behalf of the GINIE project. During this period the consultation document was downloaded over 600 times from the GINIE web site and since the public consultation closed 118 times, making an overall total of 718.

The written responses received by GINIE were collated and published incrementally during the consultation period on the GINIE web site at the end of each calendar month. The final document titled *Establishing a European Advisory Board for Geographic Information: Responses received by EUROGI for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2002 through to the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2003* is available from the GINIE web site [www.ec-gis.org/ginie](http://www.ec-gis.org/ginie). Up until the end of May 2003 this document has been downloaded 470 times from the GINIE web site.

As part of the consultation GINIE consulted the Pan European Associations Forum (PEAF) at a meeting held in Apeldoorn in the Netherlands on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2003. The draft notes from the PEAF consultation can be found at Annex 3 of this document and via the homepage of the EUROGI web site [www.eurogi.org](http://www.eurogi.org).

During the consultation period the GINIE partners brought the ABGI consultation to the attention of their members as did many of the pan European Organisations with an interest in GI. Many of the national GI Associations also brought the ABGI consultation to the attention of their members through conferences, meetings, newsletters, email and by posting news item on their respective web sites.

The INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) initiative through the GINIE partner the European Joint Research Centre (JRC) also brought the ABGI consultation to the attention of the INSPIRE working groups experts.

The objective of this document is to provide an analysis of the ABGI consultation and to set out the next steps GINIE recommends towards the objective of establishing an ABGI.

### 1.1 Seeking the views of the European GI community

The European GI community includes a very wide set of people and organisations working in the public, private, voluntary and research sectors who are committed to maximising the effective use of geographic information for better governance, business, research and informed citizenship. These people and organisations belong to a wide range of national representative organisations that support networking, exchange of good practice, personal development and professional support. These national GI related organisations in themselves belong to pan European organisations that have a similar mission and objectives. The GINIE consultation objective was in the first instance to seek out from these organisations their opinion on the concept of establishing an ABGI.

## **GINIE**

### **ABGI consultation – an analysis**

With the above in mind the GINIE consultation invited the GI community across Europe to contribute their views and thoughts on the proposal to create a sustainable ABGI. To assist this process the ABGI Consultation document set out nine questions and invited the European GI community to submit their views. The questions posed were:

***Question 1:** Are there are other important drivers supporting the need for increased use of GI?*

***Question 2:** Are there any other important drivers calling for increased level of GI coordination in Europe?*

***Question 3:** Are there other important stakeholders in the GI community that we need to get feedback from? Please specify.*

***Question 4:** Is there a need for such a structure?*

***Question 5:** is this an appropriate vision of what an ABGI should be for?*

***Question 6:** Are these appropriate objectives? Are important ones missing?*

***Question 7:** Are there other models that could be relevant to fulfilling the mission and objectives of the proposed ABGI?*

***Question 8:** Are there other important attributes missing? Which ones?*

***Question 9:** Do you agree that the Network and Forum models are the better ones? If not why not?*

The responses received to each of these questions have been collated under each question in Annex 2 of this report.

# GINIE

## ABGI consultation – an analysis

### 2 Analysis of the Responses.

The public consultation resulted in 40 written responses being received by GINIE. The responses have been tabulated by sector and question and are shown in Annex 1 and summarised in TABLE 2-1.

Description of tabulation	Table
Country	A1-1
National GI Associations	A1-2
PEAF Members	A1-3
Inter Government GI Organisations	A1-4
National mapping Agencies	A1-5
Private Companies	A1-6
Academic & Research Organisations	A1-7
Public Sector Organisations	A1-8
Citizens (Individuals)	A1-9
Question 1	A1-Q1
Question 2	A1-Q2
Question 3	A1-Q3
Question 4	A1-Q4
Question 5	A1-Q5
Question 6	A1-Q6
Question 7	A1-Q7
Question 8	A1-Q8
Question 9	A1-Q9

Figure 2-1 shows the sectors from which written responses were received.

**FIGURE 2-1**

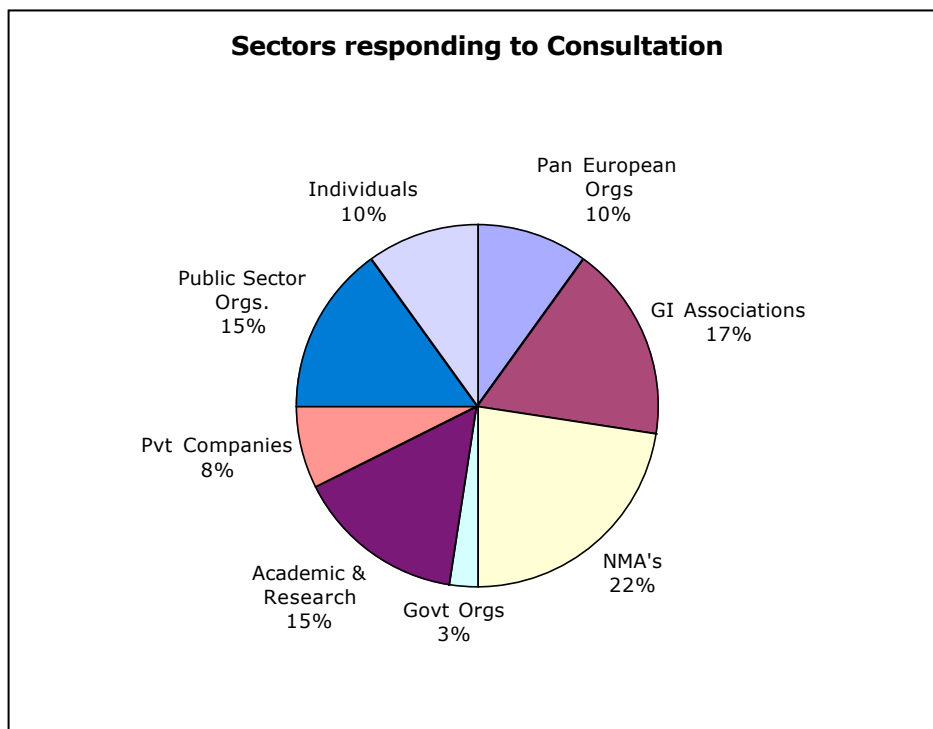
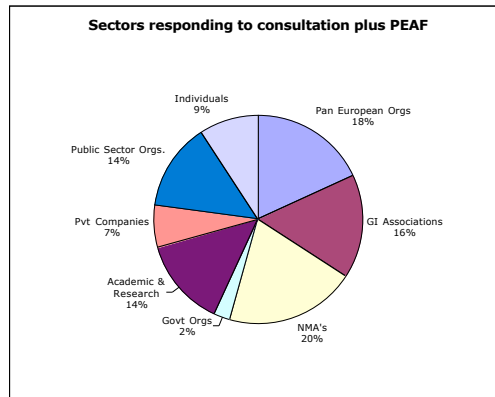


Figure 2-2 shows the sectors involved which includes the PEAF meeting participants as well as the written responses. This shows that 18% of the submissions came from pan European organisations with an interest in geographic information representing over 6600 members.

# GINIE

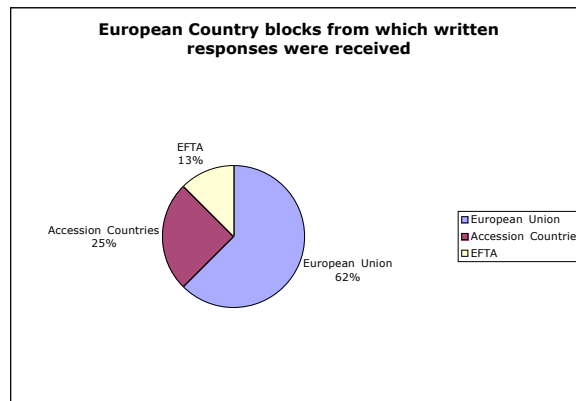
## ABGI consultation – an analysis

**FIGURE 2-2**



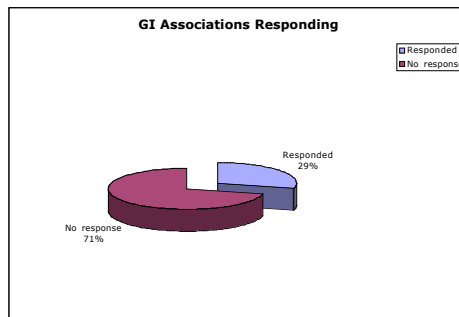
The written responses originated from 16 different countries as shown in Figure 2-3. Only 66% of the EU countries were represented within the responses received. No responses were received from Austria, Belgium, Ireland, Luxembourg, and Spain. Only 4 of the Accession countries were represented within the responses received and 2 of the EFTA countries. Overall 57% of the countries across Europe as a whole were represented within the responses received. (Ref: Table A1-1)

**FIGURE 2-3**

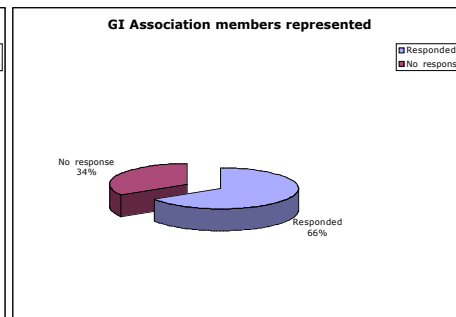


Of the 24 national GI associations (Ref: the GINIE Report *Survey of National GI Associations in Europe* [www.ec-gis.org/ginie](http://www.ec-gis.org/ginie) ) only 7 submitted written responses Figure 2-4 (29%) , which have when combined a membership of 4347 which represents 66% of the combined membership of the 24 national GI Associations within Europe Figure 2-5. (Ref: Table A1-2)

**FIGURE 2-4**



**FIGURE 2-5**

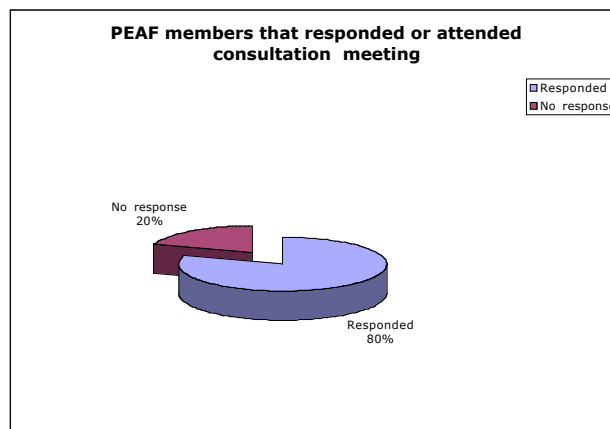


## GINIE ABGI consultation – an analysis

Although only 29% of the national GI Associations responded many of those responding represented those with the largest number of members. Although the response rate was low from the national GI organisations this is compensated for by the written response received from the pan European organisation EUROGI. EUROGI directly represents 22 of the 24 national GI associations shown in Table A1-2 and as a result the EUROGI response represents a very large network of GI organisations and individuals all across Europe totalling over 6500 members. A number of the smaller GI communities are also members of one of the larger GI Associations such as Malta for example that are members of the UK AGI as such the numbers represented through the combined EUROGI and National GI Associations set of responses provides near to 100% coverage.

Of the pan European bodies that make up the PEAFF only 4 submitted written responses (28%) however this rises to 86% as a result of the GINIE consultation with PEAFF members 80% of whom were present at the meeting as shown in Figure 2-6. (Ref: Table A1-3)

**FIGURE 2-6**



Nine of the 41 European National Mapping Agencies (NMAs) (22%) responded to the consultation. (Ref: and Table A1-5) These nine represent 31% of the active members of EuroGeographics membership. (Ref: [www.eurogeographics.org/AboutUs/Members/nma\\_info/Members\\_list.html](http://www.eurogeographics.org/AboutUs/Members/nma_info/Members_list.html)) Although the numbers responding (Figure 2-7) are low this is compensated for as a result of the written response received from EuroGeographics that represented the position of all its members. In many cases the national NMA is also a member of the national GI Associations listed in Table A1-2 and members of other pan European GI related organisations listed in Table A1-3.

**FIGURE 2-7**

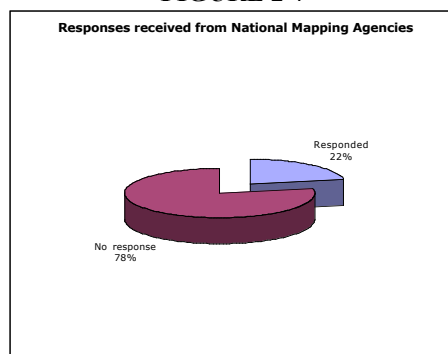
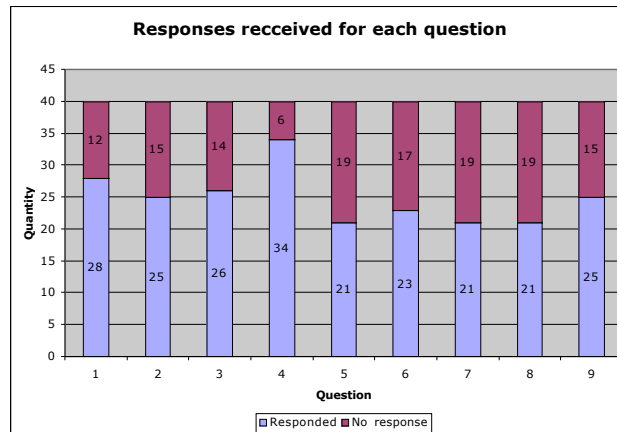


Figure 2-8 shows the number of responses received for each of the questions posed which are further analysed within Tables A1-Q1 through to A1-Q9.

# GINIE

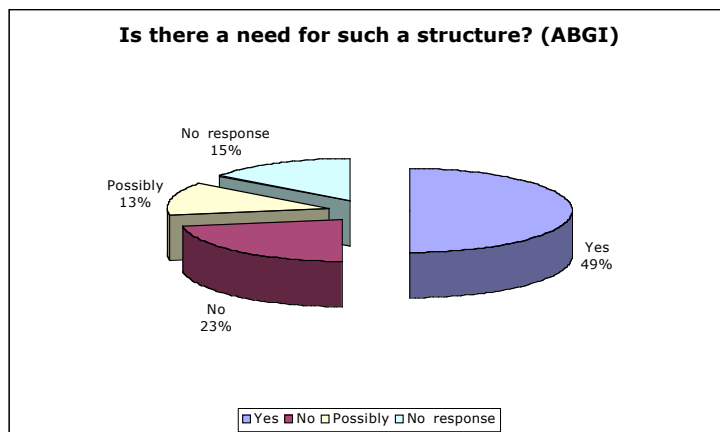
## ABGI consultation – an analysis

**FIGURE 2-8**



The key question within the ABGI consultation document was question 4: *Is there a need for such a structure?* The majority of respondents answered this question directly or within their general statement. Figure 2-9 shows that the majority of the respondents were of the view that there was a need for such a structure.

**FIGURE 2-9**



Further analysis of the **Yes** category (20 respondents) shows that six respondents felt that there should be a new organisation established and 14 proposed that an existing organisation should adopt the role.

Further analysis of the **Possibly** category (5 respondents) shows that four respondents felt that if there was a need then it should be handled by an existing organisation with one respondent indicating no preference.

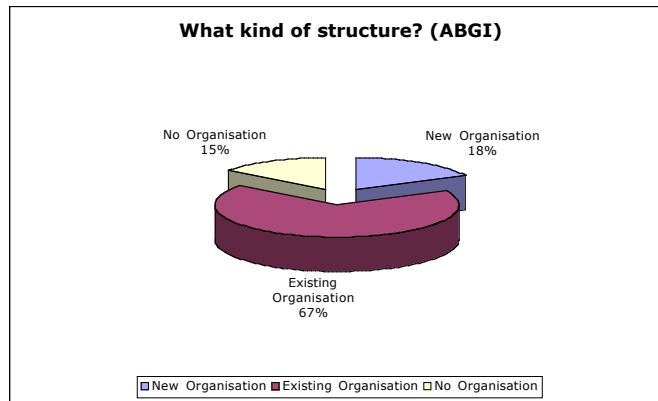
Further analysis of the **No** category (9 respondents) shows that five of the respondents felt that improved co-ordination was required and that this should be undertaken by an existing organisation. Four respondents either did not qualify their answer or felt there was no need at all for the structure.

Figure 2-10 shows the combined outcome of the above analysis. Of the 34 respondents that answered question 4 the majority felt that there was a need for such a structure however it should be taken forward by an existing organisation which has the primary focus of improving co-ordination of GI activities at the pan European level.

# GINIE

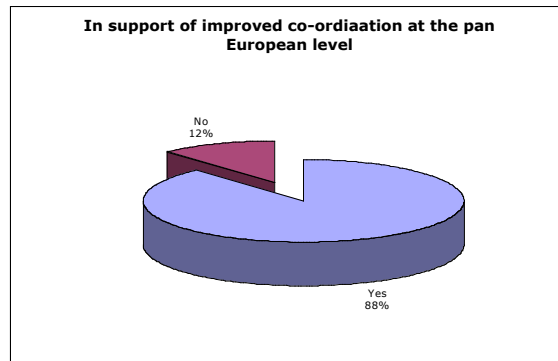
## ABGI consultation – an analysis

**FIGURE 2-10**



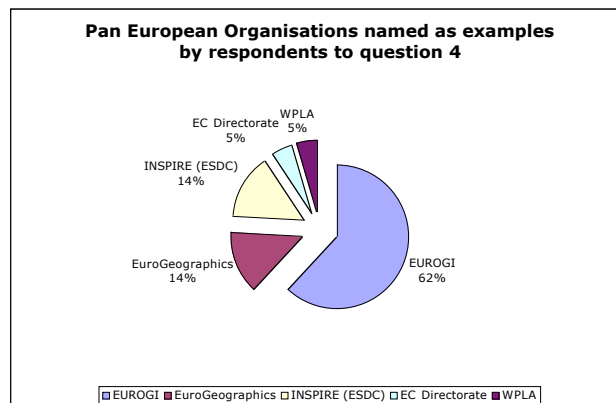
If the responses to both question 4 and question 9 are merged then overall a substantial number of respondents (88%) which between them represented over 6600 organisations and individuals felt there was a need for an organisation that worked to improve the co-ordination of GI at the European level as shown in Figure 2-11.

**FIGURE 2-11**



Many of the respondents felt that an existing organisation should take the lead to improve partnership working and co-operation and as such move towards addressing the objectives of the ABGI as set out in the GINIE consultation paper. The respondents felt that this would provide immediate benefit and at the same time provide space for the INSPIRE initiative to develop. Sixteen respondents named pan European organisation that they felt should take the lead. Figure 2-12 shows that the respondents quoted EUROGI most often.

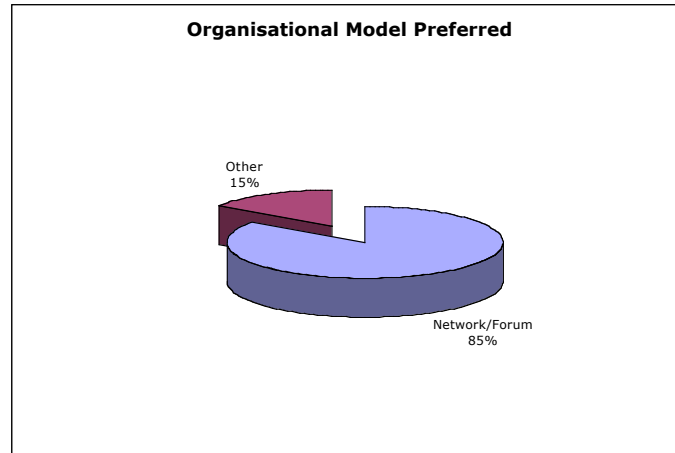
**FIGURE 2-12**



## GINIE ABGI consultation – an analysis

Question 9 of the GINIE consultation asked *Do you agree that the Network and Forum models are the better ones? If not why not?* This question builds upon those that responded to question 4 that such a structure was needed. A substantial majority of those that responded to question 9 (85%) supported the network or forum model as shown in Figure 2-13.

**FIGURE 2-13**



Of the 26 responses received for question 9 only four proposed alternative models, which included European Union structures such as permanent committees such as the proposed INSPIRE (ESDC) and the establishment of an Observatory.

The key attributes of an ABGI as set out in section 10 of the GINIE consultation document were supported by the majority of the respondents to Question 8. The observations made with regard to the importance of communication were implicit in the attributes set out in section 10.

# GINIE

## ABGI consultation – an analysis

### 4 Conclusions

The GI community that responded to the consultation agreed in general with the position and content of the GINIE consultation document. The GINIE consultation document set out the position and role of geographic information in Europe and the need for an organisation that could monitor, co-ordinate, report and advise on the effective use of GI for the benefit of the European society. The overall view of the respondents was that there was not a need for yet another GI organisation to be established at the European level but rather effort should be devoted to improve what already existed. (Ref: Question 4) Many respondents stated that the rationalisation process should be an evolutionary process with a gradual move towards creating a stronger voice for GI within Europe. A number of respondents proposed that the first steps towards this objective should be:

- To improve the understanding on the roles and activities of the existing pan European organisations that have an interest in GI through an organisation such as the PEAFF;
- To improve the co-ordination between the existing pan European organisations that have an interest in GI.
- Where there is common ground to act together to promote and advice on GI.

These views were neatly summarised in the GeoForum Norway submission, which stated:

- “There is a need of better co-ordination of the GI-initiatives in Europe.
- There is a need of a better interaction between the Government, the Public sector, Private industry, NGOs in the GI field. It is a need to establish a more co-ordinated experience exchange, information dissemination and distribution to achieve better and more cost-effective solutions and avoid too much double work.
- There is a need of a GI-body with strong advising voice for all GI – actors in Europe.
- There is a need of a strong implementing GI-body on behalf of the EU Commission.”

The Norwegian view is neatly summarised in the FIGURE 4-1 contained in the submission from Antti Vertanen, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Finland, which shows the working relationship between the various organisations.

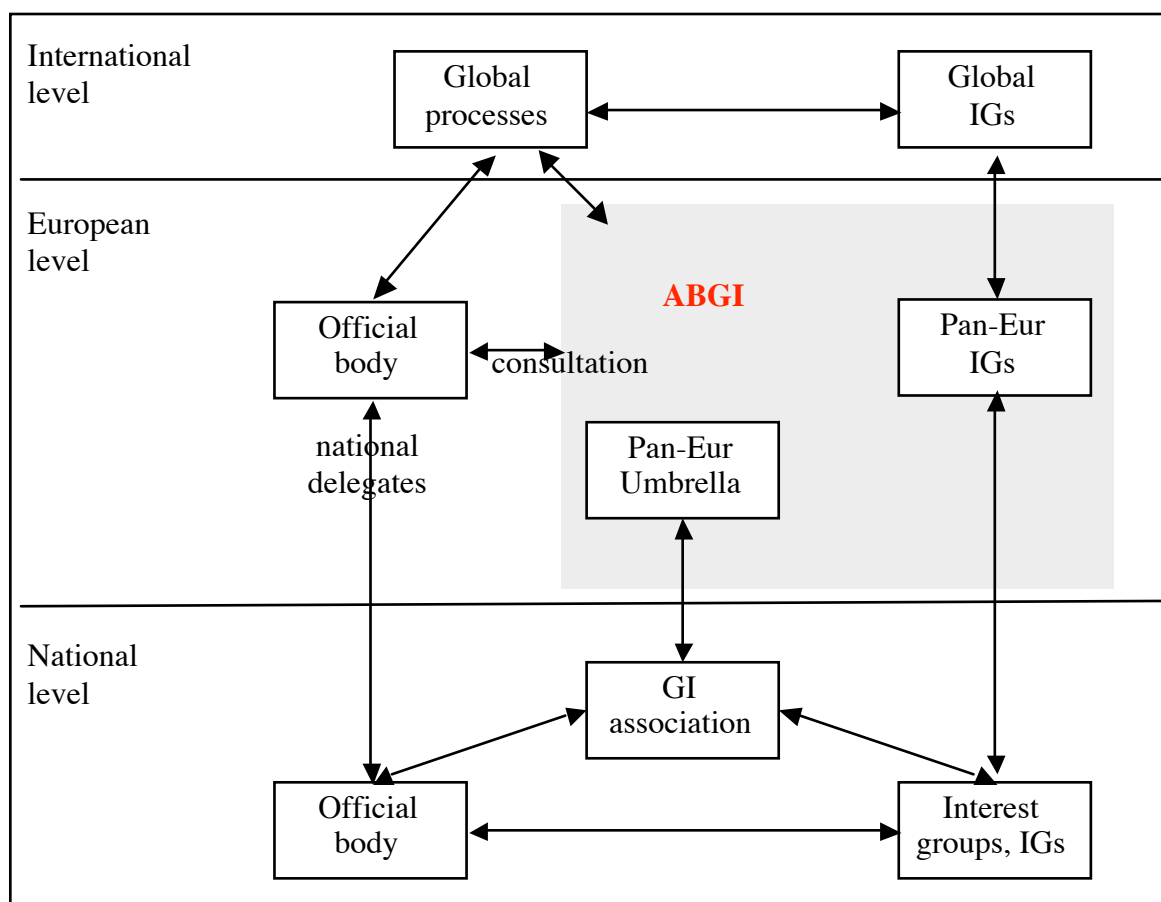
“The ABGI should be a clear counterpart for the official EU-related bodies. The ABGI should be able to represent the various GI umbrella organisations in Europe. It should also be able to process and consolidate the various needs and views of the users, industry, research and other interest groups. Basically the ABGI should have a consultative role in the decision making process. If there is no clear official GI related EU body in Europe in the future (INSPIRE fails etc.), the ABGI should also be able to reflect the needs of the national GI bodies.”

Figure 4-1 neatly summarises the way EUROGI has been evolving over the past four years as EUROGI has direct links to the GSDI Association and the global GI initiatives. EUROGI also has been one of the leading organisations in the establishment of the PEAFF.

# GINIE

## ABGI consultation – an analysis

FIGURE 4-1



The response from the GI community that there is not a need for yet another organisation at the pan European level that is dealing with GI but instead to improve co-ordination amongst the existing pan European GI organisations is to some extent expected. The GI community is small in comparison to other sectors of activity within society. By adding another organisation without rationalising what already exists would stretch the GI community to the extent that no material gain would be made as a result of spreading the limited resources over a broader range of organisations. The respondents also identified the added risk of greater fragmentation rather than rationalisation occurring as a result.

The GINIE plan for the ABGI consultation was that it should be undertaken in at least two phases. Phase 1 was to consult the GI community. The feedback from the Phase 1 consultation would be used to update the phase 1 consultation document and then use it to initiate Phase 2. Phase 2 would involve consulting the wider community especially those organisations that have an indirect interest in GI.

Within the responses received only one organisation EUROGI offered to act as the catalyst for improving the co-operation between the existing pan European GI organisations. The EUROGI proposal was reflected by many respondents that felt EUROGI should work to improve the co-ordination and to possibly consider adopting a consensus making role.

It maybe natural for the GI community to respond in the way that they have in proposing that no new organisation is established as it could be taken as a threat to the current pan European GI organisations.

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

A number of respondents felt that the original intentions of establishing EUROGI was to achieve the objectives of the ABGI and that consideration should be given as to how to assist EUROGI (which is limited by resources that it has available) to take on the independent role of pan European Advisor on GI more coherently.

Although many respondents recommended improved co-ordination of GI interest at the European level there was no clear indication that any of the pan European GI organisations would accept co-ordination by another GI organisation. This would indicate that a softer approach needs to be adopted through the medium of the PEAf, which has been in existence for the past three years.

#### 6 Next Steps

The next steps on the ABGI are:

- Action 1:** to publish this report on the GINIE web site and bring the European GI communities attention to it;
- Action 2:** to initiate a survey of the pan European organisations in order to gain an improved understanding of their roles, mission and objective;
- Action 3:** to initiate a survey to identify the key GI players within each European country and at the pan European level;
- Action 4:** for GINIE to consider how to improve the co-ordination asked for by the GI community and in the process to consider any proposals received from existing pan European representative organisations;
- Action 5:** to present the interim results to the European Commission GINIE project reviewers and agree the next steps;
- Action 6:** to report back to the European GI community through the PEAf and by making presentations at appropriate pan European GI events such as the 9<sup>th</sup> GI & GIS work shop in A Corruna.

The reports that will be published as a result of Actions 2 and 3 would complement the survey of national GI Associations that has already been undertaken and reported on within GINIE refer to [www.ec-gis.org/ginie](http://www.ec-gis.org/ginie). As a result GINIE would gain an improved understanding of the GI sector within Europe which would enable GINIE to make recommendations as to the course of action that should be taken to achieve the objective of the ABGI as originally set out in the GINIE consultation document.

**GINIE**  
**ABGI consultation – an analysis**

**Annex 1 - Statistical Analysis of responses**

Countries from which one or more responses originated are shown in TABLE A1-1.

<b>Country</b>	<b>TABLE A1-1</b>			
	<b>EU</b>	<b>Accession</b>	<b>EFTA</b>	
Austria	-			
Belgium	-			
Cyprus		-		
Czech Republic		Yes		
Denmark	Yes			
Estonia		-		
Finland	Yes			
France	Yes			
Germany	Yes			
Greece	Yes			
Hungary		Yes		
Iceland			-	
Ireland	-			
Italy	Yes			
Latvia		-		
Lithuania		-		
Luxembourg	-			
Malta		-		
Netherlands	Yes			
Norway			Yes	
Poland		Yes		
Portugal	Yes			
Slovakia		Yes		
Slovenia		-		
Spain	-			
Sweden	Yes			
Switzerland			Yes	
UK	Yes			
<b>Total Countries</b>				
<b>Column Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Responded</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>% Return</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>57%</b>

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

Responses received form National GI Associations are shown in Table A1-2.

Country	Name of GI Association	Responded?	Number * of members
Austria	AGEO	-	-
Belgium	CC Belgium	-	-
Cyprus	-	-	-
Czech Republic	CAGI	Yes	163
Denmark	Geoforum Denmark	Yes	575
Estonia	-	-	-
Finland	ProGIS	-	-
France	AFIGeO	Yes	67
Germany	DDGI	-	-
Greece	Hellas GI	-	-
Hungary	HUNAGI	Yes	63
Iceland	LISA	-	-
Ireland	IRLOGI	-	-
Italy	AM/FM Italia	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-
Luxembourg	GTIM SIG	-	-
Malta	MAGI	-	-
Netherlands	RAVI	-	-
Norway	GeoForum Norway	Yes	2150
Poland	GISPOL	-	-
Portugal	IGP	-	-
Romania	-	-	-
Russia	GIS Association	-	-
Slovakia	SAGI	-	-
Slovenia	GIC Slovenia	-	-
Spain	AESIG	-	-
Sweden	ULI	-	-
Switzerland	SOGI	Yes	129
Turkey	-	-	-
UK	AGI	Yes	1200
<b>Total Associations</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>6547</b>
<b>Total Responded</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>4347</b>
<b>% Returns/Members</b>		<b>29%</b>	<b>66%</b>

- Ref: GINIE Report *Survey of National GI Associations in Europe* [www.ec-gis.org/ginie](http://www.ec-gis.org/ginie)

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

Table 7 of the GINIE ABGI consultation document set out a number of pan European organisations all of which were sent copies of the consultation document by the EUROGI Secretariat. Table A1-3 details those that responded as well as those that attended the annual meeting of the Pan European Associations Forum (PEAF) at Apeldoorn on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2002. (Refer to annex A3 for a record of the meeting.)

Name of Organisation	Responded	Representing – number of Members	Attended PEA Meeting 16 Dec 02
AGILE	Yes	50	Yes
CLGE	-	-	Yes
EARSC	-	-	Yes
EARSEL	-	-	-
EUMETNET	-	-	na
EUREAU	-	-	na
EuroGeographics	Yes	34	Yes
EuroGeoSurveys	-	-	Yes
EUROGI	Yes	6500	Yes
EuroSpace	-	-	na
FEDMA	-	-	na
OEEPE	-	-	Yes
UDMS	-	-	-
WPLA	Yes	24	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6608</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>% responding</b>	<b>28%</b>		<b>80%</b>

Where na = not yet involved in the PEA

Country	Table A1-4 Inter Governmental GI Organisation	Responded
Czech Republic	NemoForum	-
France	CNIG	Yes
Germany	IMAGI	-
UK	IGGI	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>

# GINIE

## ABGI consultation – an analysis

**Table A1-5**

Country**	Name**	Status**	Responded?
Albania	Institut Studimit Tokave	Pending	
Armenia	State Committee of the Real Property cadastre (SCC) of the Government of the Republic of Armenia	Pending	
Austria	Bundesamt für Eich und Vermessungswesen - (BEV)	Associated member	
Belarus	National Mapping Organisation of Belarus	Pending	
Belgium	Institut Géographique National - Belgique - (IGN-B)	Active member	
Bulgaria	Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works	Pending	
Croatia	Drzavna Geodetska Uprava - (DGU)	Active member	
Cyprus	Cyprus Department of Lands and Surveys - (DLS)	Active member	
Czech Republic	Cesky úrad zememericcky a katastrální	Associated member	
Denmark	Kort & Matrikelstyrelsen - (KMS)	Active member	Yes
Estonia	Estonian National Land Board	Active member	
Finland	Maanmittauslaitos - (MML)	Active member	
Finland	GEODEETTINEN LAITOS	Associated member	
France	Institut Géographique National - France - (IGN-F)	Active member	
Germany	Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie (BKG) - Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Vermessungsverwaltungen der Länder der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (AdV)	Active member	Yes
Great Britain	Ordnance Survey - (OS)	Active member	Yes
Greece	Hellenic Mapping & Cadastral organisation (HEMCO)	Active member	
Greece	Hellenic Military Geographical Service - (HMGS)	Associated member	
Hungary	Földmérési és Távérzékelési Intézet - (FÖMI)	Active member	Yes
Iceland	Landmælingar Íslands - (LMI)	Active member	
Ireland	Oifig na Suirbheireachta Ordnaís - (OSI)	Active member	
Italy	Istituto Geografico Militare Italiano - (IGM)	Associated member	
Latvia	State Land Service of the Republic of Latvia	Active member	
Lituania	Nacionaline zemes tarnyba prie Zemes ukio ministerijos	Active member	
Luxembourg	Administration du Cadastre et de la Topographie - (Cadastre)	Active member	
Moldova	State Agency for Land Relations and Cadastre of the Republic of Moldova	Active member	
Northern Ireland	Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland - (OSNI)	Active member	Yes
Norway	Statens Kartverk - (SK)	Active member	
Poland	Główny Urząd Geodezji i Kartografii	Active member	Yes
Portugal	Instituto Português de Cartografia e Cadastro - (IPCC)	Active member	Yes
Romania	Oficiul National de Cadastru, Geodezie si Cartografie	Pending	
Russia	Roskartografia - (Roskartografia)	Active member	
Slovakia	Urad geodézie, kartografie a katastra Slovenskej republiky - (UGKK)	Active member	Yes
Slovenia	Geodetska Uprava Republike Slovenije - (GURS)	Active member	
Spain	Centro Nacional de Información Geográfica - (CNIG)	Active member	
Sweden	Lantmäteriverket - (NLS)	Active member	
Switzerland	Bundesamt für Landestopographie - (BLT)	Active member	
The Netherlands	Topografische Dienst Nederland - (TDN)	Active member	Yes
Turkey	Milli Savunma Bakanligi, Harita Genel Komutanligi - (GCM)	Active member	
Ukraine	Upravlenie Geodesii, Kadastra pri Sowete Ministrow Ukrainy	Pending	
Yugoslavia		Pending	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>Active member</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>9 (31%)</b>
	<b>Associate member</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Pending member</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

\*\* (Ref: [www.eurogeographics.org/AboutUs/Members/nma\\_info/Members\\_list.html](http://www.eurogeographics.org/AboutUs/Members/nma_info/Members_list.html))

**GINIE**  
**ABGI consultation – an analysis**

**Table A1-6**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Responded</b>
Italy	Gruppo Atlantis SA	Yes
Netherlands	ESRI	Yes
UK	Modern Maps	Yes
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>

**Table A1-7**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Academic/Research Organisations</b>	<b>Responded</b>
Czech Republic	Technical University of Ostrava	Yes
Germany	Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research	Yes
Greece	Technological Education Institution Athens	Yes
Netherlands	Wageningen University	Yes
Netherlands	Van Hall Institute	Yes
Sweden	IDA Linkoping University	Yes
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>

**Table A1-8**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Public Sector Organisations</b>	<b>Responded</b>
EU	IST Directorate	Yes
Finland	Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry	Yes
France	Ministere de L'Ecologie Et Du Developpement Durable	Yes
Germany	Surveying and Mapping Agency of Northrhine Westfalia	Yes
Greece	Ktimatologio S A	Yes
Hungary	Geological Institute of Hungry (MAFI)	Yes
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>

**Table A1-9**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Individuals</b>	<b>Responded</b>
Germany	Jeff Thurston	Yes
Germany	Frank Hoffmann	Yes
UK	Derek Earnshaw	Yes
UK	Keith Murray	Yes
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>

**GINIE**  
**ABGI consultation – an analysis**

**Table A1 - Q1**

<b>Type of response</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Not answered	13	31.7
Agreed with no comments	4	9.8
Agreed but with comment	24	58.5
Did not agree with no comment	0	0
Did not agree with comment	0	0
Total number of responses	41	

**Table A1-Q2**

<b>Type of response</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Not answered	16	39
Agreed with no comments	4	9.8
Agreed but with comment	21	51.2
Did not agree with no comment	0	0
Did not agree with comment	0	0
Total number of responses	41	

**Table A1-Q3**

<b>Type of response</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Not answered	15	36.6
Agreed with no comments	3	7.3
Agreed but with comment	23	56.1
Did not agree with no comment		
Did not agree with comment		
Total number of responses	41	

**Table A1-Q4**

<b>Type of response</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Not answered	19	46.3
Agreed with no comment	4	9.8
Agreed but with comment	15	39
Did not agree with no comment	1	2.4
Did not agree with comment	2	2.4
Total number of responses	41	99.9

**Table A1-Q5**

<b>Type of response</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Not answered	20	23.8
Agreed with no comments	7	17.1
Agreed but with comment	13	31.7
Did not agree with no comment		
Did not agree with comment		
Position not clear	1	2.5
Total number of responses	41	

**GINIE**  
**ABGI consultation – an analysis**

**Table A1-Q6**

<b>Type of response</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Not answered	18	43.8
Agreed with no comments	9	22
Agreed but with comment	13	31.7
Did not agree with no comment		
Did not agree with comment		
Position not clear	1	2.5
Total number of responses	41	

**Table A1-Q7**

<b>Type of response</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Not answered	20	48.8
Agreed with no comments	5	12.2
Agreed but with comment	16	39.0
Did not agree with no comment		
Did not agree with comment		
Position not clear		
Total number of responses	41	

**Table A1-Q8**

<b>Type of response</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Not answered	20	48.8
Agreed with no comments	6	14.6
Agreed but with comment	14	34.1
Did not agree with no comment		
Did not agree with comment		
Position not clear	1	2.5
Total number of responses	41	

**Table A1-Q9**

<b>Type of response</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Not answered	16	39
Agreed with no comments	0	
Agreed but with comment	25	61
Did not agree with no comment		
Did not agree with comment		
Position not clear		
Total number of responses	41	

# GINIE

## ABGI consultation – an analysis

### Annex 2: Consolidation of responses in relation to each question posed

#### Question 1: are there other important drivers supporting the need for increased use of GI?

The consultation document set out the following key drivers for GI at the European level as:

- The eGovernment initiatives at the European and national levels;
- The growing awareness on the value and fundamental importance of GI;
- The need to address European cross border issues in an effective way;
- The expansion of the European Union (EU);
- The demands by society for improved policy making and implementation;
  - The demands for an inclusive society in the Information Age;
  - The increasing concerns for sustainable development;
  - The European perspective for Spatial Planning.
  - The demands arising from emergency planning and national security.

#### Result of Consultation

The responses by enlarge endorsed the drivers set out in the consultation document with the following additional drivers were proposed.

The demands of location based services. **(Ref: AGILE)**

Risk and crisis management. (related to natural hazards and disasters crossing traditional borders) **(Ref: CAGI)**

Transport. **(Ref: CAGI)**

Telecommunications. **(Ref: CAGI)**

The need to involve citizens in the decision making process. **(Ref: CNIG)**

The demands for more cost-efficient solutions, products and services. **(Ref: Geoforum Norway)**

NATO security and emergency tasks. **(Ref: F.Hoffmann)**

Broadband infrastructure development. **(Ref: F.Hoffmann)**

Regional SDI initiatives. **(Ref: F.Hoffmann)**

The need to involve the citizen in decision making processes. **(Ref: AFIGeO)**

The demands from environmental policy. **(Ref: A.Linsenbarth)**

The need to do the *same things in different countries*. **(Ref: EuroGeographics)**

The need to stimulate the value adding (private sector). **(Ref: EuroGeographics)**

The demands associated to the implementation of environmental policies such as the Water Framework Directive. **(Ref: A.Fonseca)**

The demands associated to technological developments such as Local Based Services/wireless technologies. **(Ref: A.Fonseca)**

Technical development such as networks, mobile telecommunications, positioning. **(Ref: A.Vertanen)**

The higher education Institutes and Universities (and not only) GI and mapping education programs across Europe and their standardisation. **(Ref: D.Pantazis)**

The growth in the global real estate market. **(Ref: T.Vickers)**

The public safety, security and military applications. **(Ref: H.Linde)**

The cross-border environment needs. **(Ref: H.Linde)**

The GMES action (which is much broader than INSPIRE) clearly calls for further co-ordinated use of GI. **(Ref: G.Weets)**

From INSPIRE key datasets impact study, it became clear that the main benefits of providing/using spatial through an European Spatial Data Infrastructure are improved access to Geo-Information, better quality of geo-information, better informed decision making and improved information sharing and distribution. These benefits can also be considered as important drivers supporting the need for increase use of GI. **(Ref: J.Crompvoets)**

The general view on GI as a national infrastructure (like statistical information and other). **(Ref: J.Riecken & K.Barwinski)**

The European INSPIRE initiative. **(Ref: J.Riecken & K.Barwinski)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

The drivers listed are not new. Technology is helping to realise the benefits of GI and the key policy change reflects the desire in society for improved openness and inclusiveness. **(Ref: OSNI)**

The freedom of information act (legislation in UK and Republic of Ireland). **(Ref: OSNI)**

eEconomic growth - GI will invariably lead toward economic growth and subsequent improved standard of living. **(Ref: J.Thurston)**

eScience - capability to utilise scientific understanding and knowledge together with identifying European regional research needs. **(Ref: J.Thurston)**

eCommunications – improved capability to communicate conceptually. **(Ref: J.Thurston)**

Timeliness – ability to move from policy to action. **(Ref: J.Thurston)**

How well does the GI information answer the questions that may be asked. **(Ref: J.Thurston)**

Developments in LBS. **(Ref: M.Bakker)**

The societal demands for effective environmental planning and quality. **(Ref: M.Vogiatzis)**

The need for GI value-added products/information. **(Ref: M.Vogiatzis)**

Rising spirit of enterprise – low cost GI can induce rising of large number of SMEs developing new services based on this GI. This will increase indirect income of state budgets through taxes. **(Ref: P.Rapant)**

Global navigation satellite system developed by EU – GALILEO. Wide use of GALILEO services will be dependent on easy access GI. SMEs can develop large number of services for example leisure time based on GALILEO positioning. **(Ref: P.Rapant)**

The increasingly urgent need for scientific input to environmental management and policy. This includes terrestrial, aquatic, and marine interests. **(Ref: C.Cogan)**

The EU Water Framework Directive. **(Ref: P.Kardevan)**

The GMES action (which is much broader than INSPIRE) clearly calls for further co-ordinated use of GI. **(Ref: Guy Weets)**

La richesse du “background” montre que de nombreuses initiatives ont déjà été prises mais qu’elles ne parviennent pas à atteindre une phase réellement opérationnelle.

La question à poser serait alors plutôt : le secteur d’activité de l’information géographique, foncièrement transversal (et l’information géographique n’est que rarement le seul constitutif des produits finals), peut-il être moteur ou doit-il revendiquer d’être associé à des initiatives sectorielles?

Ce secteur d’activité peut en effet pleinement contribuer à la transparence du débat et de la négociation, au moment où les États traitent de “développement durable”. De plus, l’expertise apportée par ce secteur favorise une prise en compte conjointe des différents intérêts (en particulier environnementaux).

Il est important que les objectifs assignés aux apports de l’information géographique soient clairement inscrits dans des cadres précis (initiatives sectorielles, proposition législative particulière). **(Ref: MINISTERE DE L’ECOLOGIE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

**Question 2: Are there any other important drivers calling for increased level of GI coordination in Europe?**

#### **Result of Consultation**

“The drivers mentioned are not all very convincingly formulated. What could be added as drivers calling for increased level of GI coordination is the increasing need for skills in GI usage and the development of a framework for knowledge, skills, and attitudes related to the use of GI. Also, the enlargement of the EU will contribute to making European cross-border issues more salient.” **(Ref: AGILE)**

“No. The issue is more to better understand the role of each existing organisation and recognise their role and their limits.” **(Ref: AFIGéo)**

“A heterogeneity used to be (and perhaps still can be) the beauty and richness of Europe. A better co-ordination of many independent diverse bodies means one of the ways to avoid the simplified and consequently insensitive unification and homogeneity (being strong from the short-term perspective, but fragile or unstable from the long-term one).” **(Ref: CAGI)**

“No. The issue is more to better understand the role of each existing organisation and recognise their role and their limits. The issue is not that of an increased level of coordination but that of a better understanding of the remits of each entity and the resolution of overlaps and gaps between these remits. Coordination though is to imposing but convincing and implementing synergies. Co-ordination implies negotiations to bring gradually the actors to a common understanding of the issues and a common way to resolve them. Transparency is not for the sake of developing a market, transparency is for the sake of a better understanding of the living space and for better decision making.” **(Ref: CNIG)**

“Drivers for increased coordination – could also add a financial driver, which is to reduce costs through avoiding duplication of effort and consequently provide better value to the end users.” **(Ref: EuroGeographics)**

“Potential of reduced public costs by reduced double work, reuse of basic geographic information.

Demands for core and low price basic geographic information as basic for value adding services to strengthen the competitiveness of SMEs

Demands for GI as tools to the Water Framework Directive.” **(Ref: GeoForum Norway)**

“Emerging European facilities for positioning (EGNOS, Galileo) and remote sensing (GMES)” **(Ref: Antti Vertanen)**

“In p.6.4 the subtitle “**operational and strategic coordination**” can be added.” **(Ref: Geodesy and Cartography, Warsaw)**

“YES, as there are:

- EU Subsidy policy in agri sector;
- EU enlargement process.” **(Ref: Frank Hoffmann)**

“The high level politicians awareness.” **(Ref: Dimos Pantazis)**

“Drivers for increased co-ordination of GI. Changes in global accounting standards. These are due to come into effect in 2005 and will require companies to value their assets on a consistent market basis. Some 40% (by value) of corporate assets are in real estate (i.e. land and fixed tangibles). In the interests of shareholder equity, there needs to be a consistent European basis for defining and valuing these assets.” **(Ref: Tony Vickers)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

“Below, several other important drivers are written for increased level of GI co-ordination in Europe.

From INSPIRE key datasets Impact study, it became clear that the main drawbacks of providing/using spatial through an European Spatial Data Infrastructure are Data Pricing Problems, Issues with data protection (copyright) and data standardisation. An increased level of GI-co-ordination could solve these drawbacks.

An increased level of European GI co-ordination could improve the current spatial data price policy at national levels. For example, INSPIRE vision will provide in funding and pricing reflects the recent trends towards more "liberal" data policies. But INSPIRE still faces opposition from entrepreneurial civil servants in charge of "governmental commercialisation" initiatives, who are tempted and motivated to engage in anti-competitive practices to prevent the growth of perceived private sector competitors. A European GI co-ordination could support Member States which have a less "liberal" data price policy.

An increased level of European GI co-ordination could provide a base for policy-making on sound knowledge and participation. Therefore, it will reduce the time to implement policies.

An increased level of European GI co-ordination could reduce the investments of numerous projects for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of Union policies.

An increased level of European GI co-ordination could strengthen the European cohesion between the Member States

An increased level of European GI co-ordination could support social cohesion. It could support decision making capacity development at different levels (local, national, regional and European), and new socio-economic activities.

An increased level of European GI co-ordination could be a formidable instrument of democracy. It could protect the European Infrastructure of misuse, so that this infrastructure does not become a terrible instrument of oppression and retreat (Draft INSPIRE Preliminary Impact Assessment).” **(Ref: Joep Crompvoets)**

“YES:

- \* - the users of GI which expect an easy and open access to information
- \* - the companies in the GI-market, e.g. SME's, which expect a growing market ("Boosting of the geospatial data market in North Rhine Westphalia" - <http://www.media.nrw.de/imperia/md/content/publikatio/53.pdf>)” **(Ref: Jens Riecken & Klaus-Jürgen Barwinski)**

“\* Re Point 6.1: This paragraph suggests that the proposed ABGI will emphasise regulation, rather than co-ordination. As OSNI understands, this document is not proposing the regulation of the GI environment nor do we suggest that it should be regulated.

\* INSPIRE adequately addresses the need for GI co-ordination in Europe. It is important not to add to already large bureaucratic burden. (As set out in Table 7.1)” **(Ref: OSNI)**

“- (EResponse,; while operational co-ordination and organizational co-ordination fall into this broadly, the capability to respond to, for example, fires or earthquakes or oil spills requires a mechanism that is fast and effective. Industry may have suitable information at much higher resolutions, which could be invaluable - thus a way to obtain needed information from non-government sources is required.

- 'Technology or Technological Awareness'; technological development in the GI area means new possibilities for obtaining specific types of information.” **(Ref: Jeff Thurston)**

“6.2. .. increasing need ... different sectors as well as increasing skills in GI usage. The further development of a framework for knowledge, skills and attitudes will be necessary. The board could have a defining role in this.

## **GINIE**

### **ABGI consultation – an analysis**

#### **Mission:**

maximise and optimize. Many different organizations, projects and programs are active in this field, but optimization (who is doing what, can we learn of experiences, do we develop knowledge exchange?)”  
**(Ref: Marinus de Bakker)**

“Le probleme pose n’est pas tant celui d’une coordination accrue que celui de la bonne comprehension des roles des acteurs existants. Deux petits commentaires, pour illustrer.

La coordination n’est par l’injonction mais plutot la recherche et la mise en oeuvre de synergies, ce qui demande pugnacite et modestie. Elle ne pourra operer qu’en proposant des actions acceptables par les organismes concernes et en prenant a sa charge la mise en forme des convergences progressives.

La transparence (6.1) n’est evidemment pas au service du developpement du marche de l’information geographique, mais l’information geographique peut servir la transparence, par exemple en pronant des referentiels largement accessibles, donc peu charges et peu chers. ... Cette observation vaut egalement pour le projet INSPIRE.” **(Ref: MINISTERE DE L’ECOLOGIE ET DU DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

**Question 3:** Are there other important stakeholders in the GI community that we need to get feedback from? Please specify.

The consultation document set out the following categories of organisation and stakeholders to provide a base line for the prospective respondents.

**Table 7.1**

Category	Pan European Organisation
Umbrella/ Broad	1. EUROGI
Professional	1. The Council of European Land Surveyors (CLGE) 2. Federation of European Maritime Associations of Surveyors (FEMAS) 3. European Organisation for Experimental Photogrammetric Research (OEEPE)
Sector	1. The organisation representing National Mapping Agencies (EuroGeographics) 2. The organisation representing the Geological Surveys (EuroGeosurveys) 3. The Network of European Meteorological Services (EUMETNET) 4. European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC) 5. Union of the Water Supply Associations from Countries of the European Communities (EUREAU) 6. Association of the European Space Industry (EUROSPACE)
Thematic	1. Urban Data Management Society (UDMS) 2. The UNECE Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) 3. Federation of European Direct Marketing (FEDMA)
Research	1. Association of Geographic Information Laboratories in Europe. (AGILE) 2. The Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL)

There are also a number of other international organisations that have a direct interest in GI matters in Europe, which may have a European branch. These include:

- The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG)
- The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI)
- The UN Working Group for GI (UNGIWG)
- The Open GIS Consortium. (OGC)
- The International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)
- The International Cartographic Association (ICA)
- The International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO)
- The International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy (UNIPED)

### **Result of Consultation**

The responses to the consultation suggested the following organisations should also be included:

CEN  
 Census providers  
 Citizens  
 CORINE  
 Disaster management bodies (crisis management, flood-protection, planning)  
 EEA  
 ESA (European Space Agency)  
 ESF  
 ESPON  
 EUROGEO  
 EUROREF  
 European Forestry Institute  
 Forestry bodies  
 GISIG

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

GMES  
Health agencies  
Hydrometeorology bodies  
Industry, especially SMEs  
ISO  
IUCN  
INSPIRE  
Local Government  
Municipalities  
NATO  
Statistical bodies

#### **Actual responses:**

“The elected people must be also consulted in another stage of the process. In France the associations of lord mayors (elected), or of president of department or of president of region have an increasing understanding of the potential of GI technologies to improve their decision making process. They are concerned with the overlapping situation of responsibilities over a given territories. If a European association of elected people do exist, it will be key to obtain feed back from them.

It is essential that both the supply and the demand side of the domain be adequately consulted. AFIGéO recognises that it may not be possible to consult as widely as one would wish. The consultation strategy as set out in the GINIE consultation document is correct, i.e. of first consulting those organisations at the pan European level that already have an interest in GI and that as a subsequent step the wider user community be consulted. The GI community needs to first establish its position before extending the consultation to a wider community. It is important for the GI community to speak with one voice on this matter.

National GI associations such as AFIGéO also have a broad membership base that includes all that have an interest in GI. EUROGI of which AFIGéO is a member, has an important role in the GINIE consultation not just as a GINIE partner but also as an entity in its own right as it can involve its members’ members. Nonetheless, the consultation being organised in the sole English language hindered the full consultation of the French GI community. Having done the consultation within a limited number of stakeholders, AFIGéO recommends that a further wider consultation be undertaken in national languages.” **(Ref: AFIGéO)**

“It is essential that both the supply and the demand side of the market be adequately consulted. Due to the pervasive nature of GI the number of organisations that need to be consulted is very wide and broad as such the AGI recognises that it may not be possible to consult as widely as one would wish. In the AGI’s opinion the consultation strategy as set out in the GINIE consultation document is correct. i.e. of first consulting those organisations at the pan European level that already have an interest in GI and that as a subsequent step the wider user community be consulted. The GI community needs to first establish its position before extending the consultation to a wider community. It is important for the GI community to speak with one voice on this matter.

National GI associations such as the AGI also have a broad membership base which includes all that have an interest in GI. As such EUROGI has an important role in the GINIE consultation not just as a GINIE partner but as an entity in its own right as it can involve its members member’s in any consultation.

With the current intention to revive the European Standards Committee CEN/TC 287 it is felt that the European Standards making forums as well as OGC should be consulted.

With the above in mind the organisations set out for phase 1 of the consultation are more than adequate.” **(Ref: AGI)**

“The organisations mentioned will cover quit a large group of stakeholders to be involved in an initiative like ABGI. Other possible organisations could be ESPON and the ESF. There are also other user groups,

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

such as local authorities, which are not necessarily represented in one of the mentioned organisations. These groups present a considerable share of the GI community. The fact that they are not well organized make them difficult to consult, but it is important to consider possibilities to incorporate also the less organized GI users.” **(Ref: AGILE)**

“The advantage and in the same moment the weak point of GI(T)s are their complexity crossing nearly every situation of the practical life of anybody. From that point of view a successful GI implementation into the everyday lives of the Europeans means to find ways and mechanisms of:

- an efficient communication inside the GI community (being in fact open) **and**
- a broad horizontal interaction with those specialised or interested in other subjects and representing the “just” GI end-users.

The list could be enlarged by:

- IUCN and other environmentally oriented networks;
- bodies concerning statistics;
- bodies concerning hydro-meteorology, forestry, crisis management, flood-protection planning etc. etc.

*The Chapter 7 (page 7) of the Consultation document finishes with the idea to have an organisation, the ABGI. I am afraid the goal is to modify the ways and tools of the current co-existence of the existing organisations, to strengthen their co-ordination, to avoid duplicities, to use their nodes and roles in the exiting network more efficiently. It is not about defining a new organisation but about defining a functional structure (with specific institutional role of the EC-linked or incorporated unit(s) resulted from the INSPIRE stream, the specific advisory body based on the feed-back and practical knowledge of the existing functional organisations representing national or specific subject-oriented interests related to the GI field.”* **(Ref: CAGI)**

“The elected people must be also consulted in another stage of the process. In France the associations of lord mayors (elected), or of president of department or of president of region have an increasing understanding of the potential of GI technologies to improve their decision making process. They are concerned with the overlapping situation of the responsibilities over given territories. If a European association of elected people do exist, it will be key to obtain feed back from them.

The inter-ministerial entities for GI that exist in many European country, such as CNIG, must be directly approached and consulted as they have at least the requirement for a better coordination between the member states and the Commission with regard to GI. CNIG, as an advisory body composed of representatives from local governments, from many ministries, from the public sector producers, from the trade unions and from the private sector, is untitled to give advices on the creation of European advising bodies.

There is paramount a requirement for a better understanding of the existing structures and a better information on them done in a consistent and executive way. That will allow better organisation in consultation processes.” **(Ref: CNIG)**

“Yes. Additional stakeholders could include:

- ISO (International Standards Organization) As just one example, this stakeholder is an important contributor to the development of spatial metadata standards.
- IEEE-GRSS (The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - Geoscience and Remote Sensing Society)” **(Ref: Cogan)**

“List is very GI-Producer-driven, and not very GI-User-driven.” **(Ref: Crompvoets)**

“Important stakeholders – it would be useful to be clearer about the roles of existing organisations. To this end, Table 7.1 could be developed further to provide a more detailed analysis of who is doing what.” **(Ref: EuroGeographics)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

“Maybe we should get feed-back from stakeholders with indirect links to GI, but associated with it in practice, namely from the research community and from the industry/business (topics that are more GI dependent), that are not represented by the organisations listed in Table 7.1.” **(Ref: Fonseca)**

“It is also of great importance to co-ordinate with existing initiatives working in the same direction, i.e. INSPIRE, GMES etc. Especially INSPIRE is an example of an initiative that is focussing on cross boarder problems that needs advanced GI and GIS solutions to implement the Water Framework Directive. The co-operation between National Mapping Agencies in EuroGeographics is also interesting but represents only one part of the GI community.

What should be explored is a co-operation between EUROGI and EuroGeographics established on request by the EU Commission. The first organisation represents the GI community as a whole the other represents strong national agencies but with a special, limited task of delivering GI information to the public according to national regulations.” **(Ref: Geoforum Denmark)**

“

- What is the difference of Category “Sector” and “Thematic” ?
- Suggesting WPLA in Category “Sector”.
- Suggesting FIG listed as Professional.
- ESA (European Space Agency) should be added.
- ISO and CEN committees for Geographic information should be mentioned.” **(Ref: GeoForum Norway)**

“YES, the EU needs to co-ordinate with NATO's tasks for ESDI.mil at all levels of DB-scales < (1:50 000 - 1:250 000)” **(Ref: Hoffmann)**

“an additional educational organisation (although not a 'key' driver) is Eurogeo ([www.eurogeo.org](http://www.eurogeo.org)), the European association of national geography teachers organisations.” **(Ref: Holsmuller)**

“As the above proposed extension affects a lot of other disciplines and stakeholders as well, the integration of all necessary disciplines define the sphere of stakeholders to be involved: at first place the soil science and land use issues (regional development policy) should be mentioned which includes also the issues of forestation, and ecological problems.” **(Ref: Kardevan)**

“- Table 7.1

- From category “professional organization” the OEEPE should be shifted to the category “research organization”.

- On the list of research organizations “The European Forest Institute” should be added.

- While such European Agencies like European Environmental Agency and European Space Organization are missing?

- On the list of international organizations the “IUFRO” – International Union of Forestry Research Organizations” - should be added.

- In our opinion besides to the Pan European Organizations also the Pan European projects such as INSPIRE and CORINE should be added.” **(Ref: Linsenbarth)**

“\* An estimated 80% of government held information may be related directly or indirectly to a location therefore there is an unlimited number of potential stakeholders. The real issue here is to limit stakeholder participation in order to make adequate progress.

\* There are already a large number of representative bodies throughout Europe; the focus should be on improving co-ordination between these existing organisations.” **(Ref: OSNI)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

“The principal national stakeholders.” (Ref: **Pantazis**)

“I think it is necessary to include organisation to your list:

Geographic Information Systems International Group - GISIG, Genoa, which organises international project through Europe (PANEL-GI mentioned in commented document among others).

B, It would be of interest to obtain feedback from other sectors which >>USE<< GI widely. I recommend especially:

- All modes of transport, maybe with emphasis to road transport. GI will be substantial part of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) or transport telematics.

- Emergency management services.” (Ref: **Rapant**)

“Yes - Inclusion of 'Health' agencies and 'Census' providers. Both provide rich information related to GI - the 'human dimension'.” (Ref: **Thurston**)

“ABGI can achieve widespread support of the GI community if only all sectors (public, private, industry, academic, R&D) and all regions of Europe are represented. For effective communication with the target group it is desirable to invite their representatives as members, or permanent observers.” (Ref: **Toth**)

“- industry, especially SMEs

- citizens, basic users” (Ref: **Vertanen**)

“Stakeholders in GI. Those involved in land and property management and markets need to be involved. They are probably the largest and wealthiest group of end users of GI in Europe. Although they currently depend largely upon others (such as land surveyors and national mapping agencies) for access to GI, they ought to be directly involved in defining the content of European GI standards.” (Ref: **Vickers**)

“Il y a surtout besoin de mieux comprendre l'articulation des structures déjà existantes et d'être régulièrement informés, brièvement et sur un même support, afin de pouvoir facilement rediffuser largement et faire réagir un maximum de partenaires, ce que ne permet ni la forme actuelle des documents papier envoyés ni la consultation successive de nombreux sites web différents.” (Ref: **Wahl**)

“If we are looking at the establishment, implementation and maintenance of National Spatial Data Infrastructures and herewith at the strategic level of GI co-ordination, it is more or less the state, represented by interministerial bodies and/or the NMA's that has to perform this task, especially if the NSDI forms part of e.g. eGovernment initiatives. In our opinion, this role for NMA's applies to European co-ordination as well. At the operational level, standardisation organisations such as ISO or OGC have already provided a set of technical standards and drafts for harmonisation of GI.

Consequently, the NMA's have already been represented in the relevant international organisations in many of the categories as shown in table 7.1 of the consultation paper. The aims of the proposed ABGI seem to be very similar to those of the already existing organisations. Other stakeholders, e.g. the private sector or R&D are also represented at international level.

We think that an improvement of collaboration of existing organisations would be sufficient for achievement of the goals set out in the consultation paper. Examples could be the Pan European Associations Forum (PEAF) under the auspices of EUROGI, or EUROGI itself, where first steps towards closer collaboration of international GI bodies were made. Further, the existing organisations have certainly recognised the need for a common approach of GI issues at European level and have already undertaken steps towards improvement of bilateral or multilateral co-operation. This would consume far less human and financial resources of the relevant organisations, that have to be pro-actively involved in several

**GINIE**  
**ABGI consultation – an analysis**

activities. Those resources should be dealt with carefully. The impact and efficiency of existing organisations should not be weakened by the creation of another umbrella organisation.” **(Ref: WPLA)**

# GINIE

## ABGI consultation – an analysis

### Question 4: Is there a need for such a structure?

#### Q4 responses grouped as per Table A1-3

“Answers to this question covered a wide spectrum, from “No, not another board” , or “Yes, but without any VIP’s”, or “Yes, but with narrow defined goals and tasks”. Most agreed with the need for better coordination and thus for some structure to make that happen. The question is perhaps not ‘whether’ but ‘how’ one should build such a structure. How will such a ‘structure’ get the leadership it needs to perform its role and how should its role be specified to make sure that it does not duplicate (again) what takes place elsewhere?”

While increased coordination of GI in Europe is certainly desirable, adding another organisation may not necessarily be the solution. Careless consideration and evaluation of the mission and objectives of the envisaged ABGI, those of the ESDC envisaged under INSPIRE and those of other existing organisations such as EUROGI could serve as a basis for shaping and combining the role of an ABGI with that of an existing organisation (or extending that of the planned ESDC).” **(Ref: AGILE)**

“No.” **(Ref: EuroGeographics)**

“Yes, but as part of an existing organisation that should be enhanced or adapted to take on the responsibility of improved co-ordination and policy formulation.

As stated above EUROGI has the broadest representation of all the pan European organisations that have an interest in GI. EUROGI has since its inception taken action to deal with the soft issues of GI policy. For example law, organisational structure, capacity building, and works to maximise the use of GI for the benefit of all within Europe. As such EUROGI is ideally suited to policy formulation and proactive promulgation. However EUROGI’s resources are limited and that thought would need to be given as to how to resource the expanded role for EUROGI if this was the agreed outcome of the GINIE consultation.

With the above in mind EUROGI believes it should take on the proposed role of the ABGI and would be pleased to meet with the GINIE consortium to put forward a proposal, an action plan and an outline business model.” **(Ref: EUROGI)**

“In general it is very important, that no further fragmentation of efforts and organisations should happen, but that all stakeholders in GI are willing to closely collaborate. This does not require a new co-ordinating body for monitoring of all activities, but it means that existing organisations should be willing to take joint action at European level in order to foster the future GIS-development. One example could be the collaboration of EuroGeographics and WPLA in order to strengthen our activities and to avoid further fragmentation. Thus, WPLA recommends, to postpone the setup of an ABGI at least until all other possibilities for collaboration, in particular the INSPIRE-initiative at EU-level and the possible establishment of a European Spatial Data Committee, have been tested.” **(Ref: WPLA)**

#### Q4 responses grouped as per Table A1-2

“Yes, an advisory structure is required but as part of an existing organisation such as EUROGI that should be enhanced or adapted to take on the responsibility of improved co-ordination and policy formulation.

AFIGéO shares the view that EUROGI has the broadest representation of all the pan European organisations that have an interest in GI. EUROGI has since its inception taken action to deal with the soft issues of GI policy. As such EUROGI is ideally suited to policy formulation and proactive promulgation. AFIGéO realises that EUROGI resources are limited and that thought would need to be given as to how to resource the expanded role for EUROGI if this was the agreed outcome of the GINIE consultation.” **(Ref: AFIGéO)**

## **GINIE**

### **ABGI consultation – an analysis**

“YES – the word **structure** is important.” (Ref: CAGI)

“We do not think that establishing a new organisation is the way to go. An advisory board as proposed by the GINIE project should be based upon existing organisations or co-operation between existing organisations. We find that it is essential that both public and private points of view are equally represented in such a board since both parties are necessary to obtain the full potential of the opportunities in GI.” (Ref: **GeoForum Denmark**)

“GeoForum welcomes the INSPIRE initiative and recommend GINIE to base its conclusions on this development and avoid more double organisations in this field.

GeoForum supports the recommendation of an advisory FORUM/Board representing a broad GI-community. In addition it will be of importance to have a strong implementing GI-body to act on behalf of the EU-Commission.” (Ref: **GeoForum Norway**)

“SOGI sees the urgent need of such a structure, but as part of an existing organisation. This organisation should be enabled to take on the responsibility of co-ordination and policy formulation.

As stated above SOGI believes that EUROGI has the broadest representation of all the pan European organisations that have an interest in GI. EUROGI has since its inception taken action to deal with the important issues of GI policy in Europe. Because of its members coming from all fields, EUROGI is representing the GI community on a very broad base, and not only on small thematic fields.

With the above in mind SOGI believes EUROGI should take on the proposed role of the ABGI.” (Ref: **SOGI**)

“Yes, but as part of an existing organisation that should be enhanced or adapted to take on the responsibility of improved co-ordination and policy formulation.

The AGI’s preference is that an existing European umbrella Organisation for GI such as EUROGI should be the candidate for extending its remit to act as the European ABGI.

The AGI believes that EUROGI has the broadest representation of all the pan European organisations that have an interest in GI. EUROGI has since its inception taken action to deal with the soft issues of GI policy. For example law, organisational structure, capacity building, and works to maximise the use of GI for the benefit of all within Europe. As such EUROGI is ideally suited to policy formulation and proactive promulgation. The AGI realises that EUROGI’s resources are limited and that thought would need to be given as to how to resource the expanded role for EUROGI if this was the agreed outcome of the GINIE consultation. In the AGI’s opinion this is no different from that needed to create the business model for the proposed European ABGI.” (Ref: **AGI UK**)

#### **Q4 responses grouped as per Table A1-4**

“Yes, an advisory structure is required but as part of an existing organisation such as EUROGI that should be enhanced or adapted to take on the responsibility of improved co-ordination and policy formulation.” (Ref: **CNIG**)

#### **Q4 responses grouped as per Table A1-5**

“The KMS would therefore recommend that no new organization is created, but rather that the strengths of the existing organizations are used to improve coordination and sharing of knowledge as it is described in the paper under Network model.” (Ref: **Vibeke Ingemann, KMS**)

“As Vice-President of EuroGeographics I am in full agreement with the statement made by the Management Board of EuroGeographics which clearly stated its desire to aim for "more integration and

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

less fragmentation" in the GI industry and as such did not want to see another new organisation being created, rather a network approach built upon existing organisations which would facilitate the exchange of information.

We do not need energy put into another discussion forum, neither in the industry nor in the public administration. We do need much more energy aiming at practical results like the establishment of an European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI).

There is no necessity and no niche for an organisation like ABGI” **(Ref: Dietmar Gruenreich, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy)**

“There is no need to create new organisational structure for ABGI. However for implementation of the very ambitious objectives described in the consultation paper some investments, especially in field of human resources are likely to be indispensable. For monitoring European data policies, watching the technological development and providing information support towards the interested parties a task force or a knowledge centre might be required, which can operate at/within an existing organisation. Regarding inclusiveness the EUROGI seems to integrate different sectors through its members; consequently ABGI’s association to EUROGI can be a good choice. However we would like to stress, that any other organisation, which is able to integrate cross-sector interests could host ABGI. Based on this the network or the policy forum seem to be the appropriate organisational structure. However this does not exclude that ABGI develop into a self-financing market-oriented consultancy service later on.” **(Ref: Katalin Toth, Hungarian NMA)**

“I don't see a need for extra European wide boards on GI besides the existing groups like EuroGeographics and Eurogi and we certainly don't have time to give a contribution to new groups.” **(Ref: Hans van der Linde, Topografische Dienst, Netherlands)**

“Yes” **(Ref: Adam Linsenbarth, Poland)**

“We do not, however, believe that the diversity of existing organisations and the resulting overlap and duplication is a reason for creating yet another organisation at the European level.” **(Ref: OS-GB)**

“No. There are already adequate mechanisms and enough bodies in place.” **(Ref: OS-NI)**

#### **Q4 responses grouped as per Table A1-6**

“There is a need for such a structure but would prefer that one of the existing bodies would embrace it (like EUROGI).” **(Ref: Frank Holsmuller, ESRI)**

#### **Q4 responses grouped as per Table A1-7**

“YES, there is a need for such structure.” **(Ref: Petr Rapant, University of Ostrava)**

“Yes.” **(Ref: Dimos Pantazis)**

“Sure. One of the key components of Spatial Data Infrastructure is a proper institutional framework for accessibility, sharing and participatory use of spatial data and information.” **(Ref: Joep Cromptvoets, Wageningen University)**

“Only if there is a special need and niche. I am not yet sure who will ask and receive the strategic vision and (accepted) leadership.” **(Ref: Marinus de Bakker, Van Hall Instituut)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

#### Q4 responses grouped as per Table A1-8

“I am not sure there is a need for such a structure, we should consider first the possibility to extend the mandate of an existing umbrella organisation such as EUROGI.” (Ref: **Guy Weets**)

“There is a need for an ABGI (see Figure 1.), but the mission and objectives described in the consultation paper are too strong. The ABGI should have clear mandate to promote and develop a strategic vision of the ESDI according to the premises of its members. The ABGI can not have a mandate to ‘ensure consistency of such actions and policies at national and European level’, ABGI should have role to promote the harmonisation through its members.” (Ref: **Antti Vertanen, Ministry of Agriculture & Fishery**)

“Plutot que piloter, ce qui est sans doute hors de portee (voir reponse a question 1) ni vraiment souhaitable, il pourrait s’agir d’observer et de tirer des enseignements. Encore faudrait-il que l’expertise utilisee pour ce faire soit nationalement reconnue. Ne pourrait-ce etre une production d’une DG adequate (economie ou statistique)? Le domaine de l’information geographique ne peut etre le seul ni meme le principal moteur de quoi que se soit.” (Ref: **Thierry Wahl, Ministere de L’Ecologie**)

“The result of the above mentioned paper can only be to realize a fully functioning Advisory Board on Geographic Information. Just do it!

This could be done by giving EUROGI the task to install a general office as the central managing body for discussing and preparing decisions. It should also focus on creating standards together with a high level working group – HLWG – where politicians, industry, research and OGC could give support. At the end EUROGI could be the adviser for all ‘Geoinformation’ activities for the EU.

To coordinate all the activities around in Europe is a must and has to be done very fast.” (Ref: **Klaus-J. Barwinski, Northrhine Westfalia**)

“The need for an ABGI, its structure and objectives should be outlined or integrated into the INSPIRE initiative. INSPIRE suggest a similar structure with similar objectives. There should be no parallel developments! INSPIRE might even take use the AGBI-ideas.” (Ref: **Surveying and Mapping Agency of North-Rhine Westphalia.**)

“As you mentioned in your report, there are several representative organizations or associations dealing with GI issues but undoubtedly there is lack of an overall co-ordination to provide strategic mission and leadership across EU. Therefore I strongly suggest the establishment of an additional organization such as ABGI.” (Ref: **Mimis Vogiatzis, Ktimatologio**)

“Yes. In CE countries there is a special model to be observed in the praxis of governments: the governmental policies (strategies or initiatives) are sometimes not formulated by the experts of the government but private companies are commissioned with the planning or designing tasks. This praxis is sometimes leads to the implicit appearance or prevalence of partial interests of companies. It is therefore essential to set up expert committees or boards that can handle all important technical or professional issues and represent exclusively the government.” (Ref: **Peter Kardevan, MAFI**)

#### Q4 responses grouped as per Table A1-9

“YES, there is a strong need to complement INSPIRE structure by an independent forum to provide strategic advise & professional expertise on a neutral, but professional base, that can not be done within a VIP circle like board as EUROGI is composed... There is a doubt that GINIE should end with an ABGI as proposed.” (Ref: **Frank Hoffmann**)

“Yes, there is a need for such a structure. Imagine that cross boundary datasets do exist - there must be a means to update them, manage them, understand them and use them effectively in a consistent manner if

## **GINIE**

### **ABGI consultation – an analysis**

they are to be useful. This will build capacity and provide 'access doors' for industry and others to support products and develop solutions that are consistent and interchangeable.” **(Ref: Jeff Thurston)**

“I think the aim must be to encourage greater collaboration of existing bodies, each with their own role and expertise .....rather introduce another body of the nature of ABGI.” **(Ref: Keith Murray)**

“1. There are already adequate groups and voices in the GI arena. Forming a new group risks duplication of effort, competition for resources and confusion amongst stakeholders. Smaller countries and organisations already find their resources stretched keeping up with the groups and work that currently exist without adding to this. If greater co-ordination amongst existing groups is required then this should be done but the answer is not the setting up of another body.

2. If this extra advisory role is shown to be demanded it could be taken by an existing organisation, such as EUROGI or EuroGeographics, backed up by the infrastructure of INSPIRE.” **(Ref: Derek Earnshaw)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

**Question 5:** is this an appropriate vision of what an ABGI should be for?

“Yes it is. However, it will need fine-tuning at later stage together with translation into several European languages.” (Ref: AFIGeO)

“Yes, there is a clear need to maximize the use of GI, but there is also a need for optimizing the use. There are many different organizations, projects and programs active in this field, but there is a lack of coordination and awareness of each other's mission and activities. There is therefore a need to learn from each other's experiences and to develop knowledge exchange. This will contribute to a more effective use of GI by the sectors mentioned.” (Ref: AGILE)

“Yes, but see my remarks above..... “maximise and optimize. Many different organisations, projects and programs are active in this field, but optimization (who is doing what, can we learn of experience, do we develop knowledge exchange?)” (Ref: Bakker)

“Yes” (Ref: EUROGI)

“Yes” (Ref: SOGI)

“Yes” (Ref: Adam Lisenbarth, Poland)

“Yes” (Ref: AGI)

“Yes” (Ref: Dimos Pantazis)

“YES, partially. The mission is in principal OK, but it does not fit (in its scale) to something that one could imagine as an advisory board.

I am not sure that the B in the abbreviation still reflects the content of the ABGI message. The B may even cause some confusion of expectations. (My poor English could be the reason but I presume this could be a question displayed also by others. I presume that a **Board** is a group of persons more or less nominated by their native organisations, these can be highly educated or highly professional individuals with some defined and some ethical feed-back to the organisations of their origin. They can generate ideas, even strategic ones. But where is the power for the consistent work every single day to reach the objectives?!? (I mean people, money, consistent communication and other technical work).

The Advisory **Body** for GI should be a recognised key node of a broader structure/network aiming these objectives. It even does not need to be a new legal entity. (Otherwise it would be a new monstrosity creating and managing new networks, facing the normal resistance against any new body or an empty balloon that disappears after some time).” (Ref: CAGI)

“Yes it is. However, it will need fine-tuning at later stage together with translation into the European languages.

It may be said also that rather than piloting the actors, there is a requirement for observation of what GI sector is, for analysing the findings and for proposing actions. That observatory role should be the responsibility of a given DG in the commission (statistics or economic) assisted by national observatories. They will draw the terms of reference of the observatory, fund it and they might be then ask the advisory body to undertake the observations on a basis that each country would find legitimate.” (Ref: CNIG)

“Instead of ‘to maximise’ GI-Use and I would prefer ‘to Optimise’ (meaning in this context, to obtain the most efficient or optimum use of; to make the most of; to develop or realise the utmost extent). The ABGI has to focus on the fitness for purpose (demand) or use of GI, not on the maximum use.

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

“Mission – my understanding of ‘mission’ is the ‘role’ of an organisation. The mission as presented reads more like a ‘vision’ and EuroGeographics would support a vision ‘to maximise the use of GI by all sectors of society....’ It is unrealistic however, to believe that a single organisation can provide the ‘strategic vision and leadership necessary to maximise the use of GI’” **(Ref: EuroGeographics)**

“The mission seems appropriate providing guaranties of multi-sectoral participation and multi-purpose application. I think objectives 3 and 5 are the most relevant for this ABGI. Maybe a more evident interaction with the European Community Programmes definition should be included, to provide support to some of the possible initiatives.” **(Ref: Fonseca)**

“The intention of the vision and objectives is to vague but in the right direction. It should be complemented with the INSPIRE objectives. There is a need for a stronger mandate for advising GI-policy to EU-Parliament and EU-Commission and a stronger power, funding and organisation for implementing GI policy in EU and EUROPE.” **(Ref: GeoForum Norway)**

“NO, it should be based in interdisciplinary RTD-Center for ESDI and supported by European stakeholders (EC, NATO, EuroGeographics, ESA, EEA, EUROSTAT, JRC + leading private sectors in energy, telecom, transport, ... + ? etc), then ABGI could be acting as a control supervising board likely as the GALILEO process has been organized...” **(Ref: Hoffman)**

“Yes, but they overlap with quite some activities of EUROGI.” **(Ref: Holsmuller)**

“If the proposed ABGI just has an advisory role, who is it advising? Also, if it is just giving advice, what is the sanction?” **(Ref: OSNI)**

“It is an appropriate mission, but might include ‘that result in increased standard of living’ – or something like that, which I take to mean citizens within Europe live sustainably as determined by numerous criteria ABGI will have to decide upon. Therefore, accountability comes into the framework and could be considered quantifiable. How do you gauge GI improving life, which criteria?” **(Ref: Thurston)**

“ABGI’s objectives are relevant by the exception of capacity building in fields of education an training. Such activities are beyond the means of an advisory board. We recommend to paraphrase this point as follows: “In the capacity building process ABGI will pay special attention to transmitting best practices towards education and training”. **(Ref: Toth)**

“There is a need for an ABGI (see Figure 1.), but the mission and objectives described in the consultation paper are too strong. The ABGI should have clear mandate to promote and develop a strategic vision of the ESDI according to the premises of its members. The ABGI can not have a mandate to ‘ensure consistency of such actions and policies at national and European level’, ABGI should have role to promote the harmonisation through its members.” **(Ref: Vertanen)**

“I agree with the overall mission.” **(Ref: Guy Weets, EC)**

“Voir ci-dessus.” **(Ref: Wahl)**

“YES, this is an appropriate mission of ABGI.” **(Ref: Petr Rapant)**

## GINIE ABGI consultation – an analysis

**Question 6:** *Are these appropriate objectives? Are important ones missing?*

“There is a need to see what kind of program and implementation is seen behind these beautiful words.”  
**(Ref: Bakker)**

“Yes, these are appropriate objectives. The one that could be missing is the following:

To create a suitable environment to share spatial data and to improve participatory use of spatial data.”  
**(Ref: Crompvoets)**

“Objectives – No, these are not appropriate. For example, it is impossible to have one organisation that is truly representative of the GI industry and therefore able to act as a ‘recognised voice’. A more realistic objective would be to improve the sharing of information and this can be done within existing organisations and the emerging INSPIRE framework.” **(Ref: EuroGeographics)**

“The stated objectives seem to contradict point 6.1 re the size of the advisory body.” **(Ref: OSNI)**

“Yes, they are the appropriate objectives. ‘Technology Transfer’ and expediting that process may be another, particularly between regions.” **(Ref: Thurston)**

“I believe that possible objectives are the following:

To provide support and advocacy in the institutional setting of EU regarding the legal framework on the use, dissemination, disposal and rights of GI and metadata.

To encourage geographic information, technology penetration and use throughout public administration, business and industry in EU. This can be achieved with the support of specific actions (awareness, education, etc) or proposal submission across the whole policy areas within EU.” **(Ref: Vogiatzis)**

“YES; these objectives are appropriate.” **(Ref: Petr Rapant)**

“It is important to become a focal point in Brussels for EU-related interests and matters of individual European members (states, organizations, institutions, networks). A possible body like ABGI should coordinate, promote, assist, inform, lobby, etc., GI interests both in the direction of the EC and the direction of the individual European members.

The objectives mentioned are nicely formulated, but in terms of action plans needed and the way towards implementation much remains unclear. One example is Objective 4 (support education and training) which seems to be inappropriate in its current articulation: 1) because it would extend the scope of activities of an ABGI too far and 2) in terms of its financial implications (measures for education and training).

It is suggested to add to Objective 5 (promote adherence to best practice...) the idea that these best practice and comparative studies could also serve to better understand the (differing) perceptions of stakeholders in the GI community such as fear to share and to lose control over their data.” **(Ref: AGILE)**

“YES. This discussion would describe the view introduces in the A5 from an other view.” **(Ref: CAGI)**

“Yes” **(Ref: EUROGI)**

“Yes. None missing.” **(Ref: SOGI)**

“Yes it is. However, it will need fine-tuning at later stage together with translation into the European languages. It is felt that there should be support for institutional capacity for European specifications such as reference data and standards.” **(Ref: CNIG)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

“YES, but an ABGI organised in the manner of EUROGI can NOT solve the integration function for an ESDI, it must be within the responsibility of the EC (... maybe, by extending the potential of JRC and merging it with EuroStat and EuroGeographics (*which must be an EuroMapAgency for small scale euro spatial data infrastructure enabling instant-mapping-tasks for emergencies and EC policies !*)).” (Ref: **Frank Hoffmann**)

“Yes it is. However, it will need fine-tuning at later stage together with translation into several European languages. It is felt that there should be support for institutional capacity for European specifications such as reference data and standards.” (Ref: **AFIGeO**)

“Yes” (Ref: **Adam Lisenbarth, Poland**)

“There is a need for an ABGI (see Figure 1.), but the mission and objectives described in the consultation paper are too strong. The ABGI should have clear mandate to promote and develop a strategic vision of the ESDI according to the premises of its members. The ABGI can not have a mandate to ‘ensure consistency of such actions and policies at national and European level’, ABGI should have role to promote the harmonisation through its members.” (Ref: **Vertanen**)

“Yes, mentioned objectives are appropriate.” (Ref: **Frank Holsmuller, ESRI-Europe**)

“Yes.” (Ref: **AGI UK**)

“Yes.” (Ref: **Dimos Pantazis**)

“Yes the objectives are appropriate.” (Ref: **Guy Weets, EC**)

“idem.” (Ref: **Wahl**)

“ABGI’s objectives are relevant by the exception of capacity building in fields of education and training. Such activities are beyond the means of an advisory board. We recommend to paraphrase this point as follows: “In the capacity building process ABGI will pay special attention to transmitting best practices towards education and training”.” (Ref: **Katalin Toth**)

“The need for an ABGI, its structure and objectives should be outlined or integrated into the INSPIRE initiative. INSPIRE suggest a similar structure with similar objectives. There should be no parallel developments! INSPIRE might even take use the AGBI-ideas.” (Ref: **Klaus Barwinski, Dr. Jens Riecken**)

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

*Question 7: Are there other models that could be relevant to fulfilling the mission and objectives of the proposed ABGI?*

“no comments” **(Ref: AGILE)**

“This should not be the EITHER OR approach. Some complementary roles and actions are of interest to fulfil the general mission. That is why a body having a clear and fixed place in the institutional framework of the EC is needed. And also an advisory body having a functional efficient backing from a rich network of diverse organisations linked to the GI research, industry and several levels of government and the every day practise of these all participants is crucial. Both of these bodies should be competent and respected/recognised by the GI community (related with the transparent processes, representing and other characteristics given in the chapter 10, page 13 of the consultation material). Mechanism of communication in this basic triangle should be defined and transparent. The mechanism of generating practical feedback to the ABGI and of monitoring the EC affairs should be recognised or specified and used. The mechanism of dissemination (and implementation) of the ABGI ideas should be defined. The **network** covers a lot of these tasks, but also other models could be adopted for some specific aims. Based on the existing limitation in the legal FW in our country we had to create a national **platform** concerning GI and information on real estates. It is not a legal entity, the membership of representative corporate members is based on high level agreements. Although it does not have a special operational strength, it is an important cross-sector and inter-ministerial body opening space for horizontal co-operation and co-ordination.” **(Ref: CAGI)**

“No the key models have been identified.” **(Ref: EUROGI)**

“No the key models have been identified.” **(Ref: SOGI)**

“An observatory funded for having a sound knowledge of what the GI sector is together with a network is the most suitable model. However, CNIG considers the model is less important than the people that serve it are. A rather political question is to organise the actual power. The model selected will have to be consistent with what INSPIRE organisation will be.” **(Ref: CNIG)**

“NO, it should be a combination of all components, but based on strong support from EC, and must have strong RTD potential for realising EC policies... it should have the integration role of GEO + ENVIRO + SPATIO sectors based on an EuroMapAgency (!?) and EuroStatAgency, where ABGI has the supervising role with stakeholders from EU administrations, organisations, industry, education & academics.” **(Ref: Frank Hoffmann)**

“No the key models have been identified although the subtleties in the differences between some options is hard to measure. However, AFIGÉO considers the model is less important than the people and it is a rather political question that organise the actual power.” **(Ref: AFIGeO)**

“It should be possible to merge objectives from different models.” **(Ref: Adam Linsenbarth)**

“I am only able to refer other possible models, based on a mixture of the indicated ones. A possibility could be to start with the network model and after sometime try to include part of the forum model.” **(Ref: Alexandra Fonseca, Instituto Geográfico Português)**

“An EU committee is not a relevant model for the organisation (see the Fig. 1). Basically we need the ABGI to work together with the ESDC and/or other EU bodies (consultative role).” **(Ref: Antti Vertanen)**

“this seems to be sufficient exhaustive.” **(Ref: Frank Holsmuller, ESRI-Europe)**

“No the key models have been identified.” **(Ref: AGI UK)**

## **GINIE**

### **ABGI consultation – an analysis**

“Combination (of the existing ones) and flexibility are the key words for a future model” **(Ref: Dimos Pantazis)**

“Plutot une structure du type observatoire (9.4.3). Ce point d’organisation devra etre coherent avec les futures propositions de projet INSPIRE.” **(Ref: Wahl)**

“The attributes of ABGI given in paragraph 10 are appropriate, but we would like to complete them. Beyond raising awareness and transmitting values of GI towards the decision makers and the society ABGI should act as an integrating organisation, working for convergence of different players of GI community, providing a discussion and – if it is necessary – a conciliation forum.” **(Ref: Katalin Toth)**

“No comments” **(Ref: Joep Cromptvoets)**

“I don't see that an ABGI should necessarily follow any of the previous models listed. Ideally, ABGI should synthesize already existing work acting as the conduit toward a larger picture - an integration role from which transboundary policy (needs) are identified. In this sense, ABGI is posing 'futuristic' potentials, identifying 'what-ifs' and formulating strategy. The operative words are proactive, leading, and visionary.” **(Ref: Jeff Thurston)**

“No” **(Ref: Marinus de Bakker)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

#### **Question 8: are there other important attributes missing? Which ones?**

“One important attribute is missing: a new body such as ABGI should be communicative. If the ABGI cannot communicate with either their stakeholders or its proposed public it will not be effective.” **(Ref: AGILE)**

“YES, perhaps to add (what probably presumed) competent and respected/recognised (but depends on the way of its behaviour and results).” **(Ref: CAGI)**

“The key attributes have been identified.” **(Ref: EUROGI)**

“The key attributes have been identified.” **(Ref: SOGI)**

“The key attributes have been identified. Again, the people staffing the implementation of the advisory process are more important.” **(Ref: CNIG)**

“YES, consensus, innovative, integrative, networked.” **(Ref: Frank Hoffmann)**

“The key attributes have been identified. Again the people staffing the implementation of the advisory process are more important.” **(Ref: AFIGÉO)**

“Attribute “connected” - besides to government also “ local government” should be added.” **(Ref: Geodesy and Cartography )**

“Maybe user driven.” **(Ref: Alexandra Fonseca)**

“No.” **(Ref: Frank Holsmuller)**

“The key attributes have been identified.” **(Ref: AGI)**

“Alternatives could be:

- Strategic in vision;
- Powerful (from an institutional context);
- Coherent with wider economic, social and environmental objectives;
- Interactive with other existing and planned Community interventions.” **(Ref: Joep Crompvoets)**

“Consensus principle: define and initiate consensus procedures inside of ABGI.” **(Ref: Klaus Barwinski)**

“We find the suggested models for an ABGI – the network or the forum – unsuitable for its posited leadership role in strategy, policy development and advice. The industry does not need another talking shop.” **(Ref: OS-GB)**

“Some of the objectives appear similar to the INSPIRE principles which leads to the question - what is the purpose of this body?” **(Ref: OSNI)**

“Communicative

If the ABGI cannot communicate with either their stakeholders or their proposed public it will not be effective.” **(Ref: Marinus de Bakker)**

“I guess no.” **(Ref: Petr Rapant)**

“How will be assured the existence of the mentioned attributes?” **(Ref: Dimos Pantazis)**

**GINIE**  
**ABGI consultation – an analysis**

“RAS” (Ref: **Wahl**)

“The attributes of ABGI given in paragraph 10 are appropriate, but we would like to complete them. Beyond raising awareness and transmitting values of GI towards the decision makers and the society ABGI should act as an integrating organisation, working for convergence of different players of GI community, providing a discussion and – if it is necessary – a conciliation forum.” (Ref: **Katalin Toth**)

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

#### **Question 9: Do you agree that the Network and Forum models are the better ones? If not why not?**

##### **Q9 responses grouped as per Table A1-3**

“One member argues that the problem with the network concept is that there are already different examples of networks and for the purpose of an ABGI it is far too non-committal. The forum concept is nice but non-committal too. A possible model could be a policy center.

Others agree that the Network and Forum models are the better ones, but argue that they will also fail if issues such as communication and decisiveness are not well taken care off.

A choice for a Network structure, especially building on an existing one (see response to question 4 above, ESDC), seems appropriate in order to gain acceptance and visibility of the ABGI functions within the GI community and in order to minimise additional costs for the GI community.

Another model suggested was to create an observatory. A model like this has been proposed also in the context of the use of GI at the local level.” (Ref: **AGILE**)

“Models – given our comments above we would support a ‘network’ model, not coordinated by a new organisation (as proposed in the paper), but developed by the existing organisations (using, for example, the PEAf as one way of achieving this) and gradually formalised (if this is appropriate) through INSPIRE.” (Ref: **EuroGeographics**)

“EUROGI prefers the network structure. The reason being that the huge potential that lies within the current GI networks across Europe needs to be involved not just to partake in the processes of formulating GI policy but also in implementing the agreed GI policy.” (Ref: **EUROGI**)

##### **Q9 responses grouped as per Table A1-2**

“The important aspect of the model is linked to the cultural differences that do exist between countries. Networking is the easiest way of achieving the sense of belonging to the GI community and to achieve sound advices. Nonetheless networking requires resources and it is felt that institutional support is requested to achieve the networking. One should realise that the GI sector is totally fragmented: SMEs are the main private sector actors. Where a big player is involved in geomatics, it does that in a fragmented way, important users are local and are fragmented in essence. Therefore it is illusive to consider the industry will pay for the functioning of the network.

The requirement is for a strong network that builds upon all the national networks that take account of cultural differences. Then GI actors will really recognise the advisory role is being effectively and efficiently fulfilled.” (Ref: **AFIGéO**)

“Yes, accompanied by a set of measures, some mentioned above.” (Ref: **CAGI**)

“Networking as proposed could be the basis for the advisory board, but it must be strengthened by a strong secretariat that is able to formulate policies, achieve network approval and present the results for the decision makers in casu the EU-commission and the European Parliament.” (Ref: **Geoforum Denmark**)

“There is a need of a strong OPERATIVE organisation to supply EU with Geographic Information and tools to make analysis and services to the commissions tasks. This could be a parallel to EUROSTAT. Such an organisation could be constructed as a broadened EuroGeographics. If this should be a preferred choice EuroGeographics then would have to split its tasks and reporting and set up a separate department especially serving EU. There should be two main instructing bodies into this organisation. An instructing and decision making body (Steering Committee)(ESDC) could consist of High Level GI representatives from the Member states and COGI (a strengthened COGI with High Level Representatives from the

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

Commissions) for the internal EU demands and use of GI. There is a need of a directly involvement and funding from the relevant commissions.

For the other part (main tasks as today for EuroGeographics) this should be directed as today by its members, of course it would also be influenced by the demands from EU.

There would also be a need of an external forum (European Geographic Information Forum (EGIF/ABGI) for giving input and advice to the GI policy and activities within Europe. A Board or a Forum representing the users, academia, private producers, software dealers, NGOs in the GI field etc. One choice could be a construction like the European Health Forum Gastein (for instance with EUROGI as a facilitator that could bring in its network relations) The roles of this Advisory Forum in relation to the instructing/decision making forum (ESDC) must be further discussed.

It is of great importance that both the Advisory FORUM and The Steering Committee of this kind really have active, members, able to speak up for a broad society and able to have a future perspective, act strategic, gain confidence and initiate activities both ways. The Steering Committee must be authorised to make commitments on behalf of their respective states and commissions.” **(Ref: GeoForum Norway)**

“SOGI prefers the network structure, since this can assure the best participation and involvement of the GI community throughout Europe.” **(Ref: SOGI)**

“The AGI prefers the network structure. The reason being that the huge potential that lies within the current GI networks across Europe needs to be involved not just to partake in the processes of formulating GI policy but also implementing the agreed GI policy.” **(Ref: AGI)**

#### **Q9 responses grouped as per Table A1-4**

“The important aspect of the model is linked to the cultural differences that do exist between countries. Networking is the easiest way of achieving the sense of belonging to the GI community and to achieve sound advices. Nonetheless networking requires resources and it is felt that institutional support is requested to achieve the networking. One should realise that the GI sector is very fragmented: SME’s are the only private sector actors. Where a big player is involved in geomatics, it does that in a fragmented way, important users are local and are fragmented in essence. Therefore, it is illusive to consider the industry will pay for the functioning of the network.

The requirement is thus for a strong network that builds upon the national networks that take account of the cultural differences.

This strong network will have to closely liase with the body where the member-states and the European institutions will meet to discuss GI issues.” **(Ref: CNIG)**

#### **Q9 responses grouped as per Table A1-5**

“The KMS would therefore recommend that no new organization is created, but rather that the strengths of the existing organizations are used to improve coordination and sharing of knowledge as it is described in the paper under Network model.” **(Ref: Vibeke Ingemann, Kort & Matrikelstyrelsen)**

“In our opinion the network model is the most suitable.” **(Ref: Adam Linsenbah, Geodesy and Cartography, Warsaw)**

“Proposals are already being developed under the existing INSPIRE model. The proposed Network and Forum models are simply duplicating this work and creating an overlap.” **(Ref: OS-NI)**

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

“In a first approach I think the network model is the best one for this kind of board. But who will put this working and with what kind of support?” (Ref: Alexandra Fonseca, Instituto Geográfico Português)

#### **Q9 responses grouped as per Table A1-6**

“Agreed. We would recommend the 'lightest' option: the Network model. This corresponds with the structure of EUROGI and we wonder if EUROGI can be used as a 'host' of the ABGI to prevent any overlapping activities.” (Ref: Frank Holsmuller, ESRI-Europe)

#### **Q9 responses grouped as per Table A1-7**

“Yes, I agree. But I propose to think about development of more complex model: for example develop a PANEUROPEAN NETWORK, which will organise FORUM every year. FORUM can "generate" some kind of committee, which will represent NETWORK for one year. FORUM can draw strategic directions.” (Ref: Petr Rapant)

“Combination. Both models will have problems of flexibility and fast actions.” (Ref: Dimos Pantazis)

“Yes. However, be aware of the different cultures (basic assumptions and beliefs) within Europe towards organisation (institutionalisation). Take the model that fits to understanding of most of the Europeans. Cultural dimensions like Power Distance and Uncertainty Avoidance are very different across Europe. For this reason, I really support this consultation paper.” (Ref: Joep Crompvoets)

“Yes, but other quality indicators like communication and perhaps decisiveness should be incorporated.” (Ref: Marinus de Bakker)

#### **Q9 responses grouped as per Table A1-8**

“A network of networks seems to be the most suitable organisation. It doesn't exclude the organisation of a forum to further build consensus amongst the shareholders.” (Ref: Guy Weets, EC IST)

“I also recommend the Network model. The transparency and the creation of truly common visions will still be a major challenges for the network.” (Ref: Antti Vertanen, Ministry of Agriculture & Fishery)

“The first preference is the Network Model.” (Ref: Klaus Barwinski & Dr. Jens Riecken  
Surveying and Mapping Agency of North-Rhine Westphalia)

“I agree with the rating of the models stated in the report but please consider the following possible model as well, that is a synthesis of the Network and Forum models. I believe that model success is based on the implementation of AGBI vision and objectives in each of the member countries. Therefore I suggest the establishment of regional boards in each member country that will report directly to AGBI. These regional boards will act in closed co-operation with AGBI and under its guidance will:

- \* provide overall co-ordination among different local communities of interest both in public and private sector;
- \* influence country policy in GI and technology related issues by submitting proposals and memorandums; and
- \* monitor the success of actions and policies taken at the national level and the rate of development as well.

Members of these boards can be elected among the groups interested in GI in each country. Financial support is also a major issue.

Based on the above structure, AGBI may organize a conference in annual basis bringing together experts, decision-makers, politicians, academia etc. to discuss raised issues, exchange views and experiences, reach conclusions and formulate further policies.” (Ref: Moschos Vogiatzis, Ktimatologio)

“EC-based structure.” (Ref: Ministere de L'Ecologie et du Developpement Durable)

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

#### Q9 responses grouped as per Table A1-9

“It appears to me that the 'Network' model is the best alternative. I assume that many of the advantages of the Forum model already take place through the many organizations listed in this document above - that is, they 'outreach' already. Having identified the need of ABGI through the mission statement, it would seem logical then that ABGI's role is as a mechanism between already existing good work and efforts and establishing a visionary capability to a broader Europe.” **(Ref: Jeff Thurston)**

“YES, but an ABGI must neither be established as another VIP circle nor as NGO like board, as far as INSPIRE'ing the future ESDI needs all elements...

- being based on EU regional development funds
- being open, transparent and networked with national centers/boards
- being the innovative core component in a networked forum structure
- being integrative and consensus focused onto enlarged multi-culti Europe
- being supervised by different administrative, academic and sectoral experts
- being organised as a PPP likely the ongoing GALILEO process... “ **(Ref: Frank Hoffmann)**

# GINIE

## ABGI consultation – an analysis

### Annex 3 - Notes of Consultation with the PEAf

Draft minutes of the PEAf 16<sup>th</sup> December 2002.  
(Copied from the PEAf web site. Homepage [www.eurogi.org](http://www.eurogi.org))

**Meeting Location:** Dutch Kadastre, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands

#### List of PEAf attendees:

Bino Marchesini (Chair)	EUROGI (Secretary General)
Peter Creuzer	WPLA
Emile Elewaut (EE)	EuroGeoSurvey
André Jadot	(EuroSense)- EARSC
Nick Land (NL)	EuroGeographics
Martin Molenaar (MM)	OEPEE
Gerda Schennach (GS)	CLGE
Fred Toppen (FT)	AGILE

#### Special GUEST:

Peter Laarakker- Director of Vastgoedinformatie, Dutch Cadastre

#### List of GINIE attendees:

Alessandro Annoni (AA)	JRC
Chris Corbin (CC)	EUROGI
Max Craglia (MC)	University of Sheffield (Coordinator)
Günther Gleixner (GG)	GRINTEC (Reviewer)
Daniele Rizzi (DR)	EC-DG Information Society
Stéphane Roche (SR)	University of Angers (Reviewer)
Paul Smits (PS)	JRC
Robin S. Smith (RS)	University of Sheffield

#### Agreed actions:

1. Submit written comments on questions not discussed to any GINIE member. **Action: All**
2. Pragmatic input to focus discussion. **Action: All**
3. Consolidate feedback received from public consultation. **Action: GINIE (CC)**

#### Discussion

##### Introduction and General remarks

The chair asked MC to present some background to the ABGI consultation. MC presented the context from the mid-1990s where DG13 (Information Society) aimed to generate support for a discussion between industry, producers, users and research that led to GI 2000. This made a case for a policy framework relating to GI across Europe, with the equivalent of an NSDI at a super-national level that would build upon national activities.

From around 1998 to 1999 it was suggested a Communication would be established but, eventually, this did not take place, with a perceived lack of support from industry. The issues surrounding GI 2000 took place in the context of the launch of the Euro and liberalisation of the telecommunications industry in Europe that may have appeared more important to industry at this time. Simultaneously, there was also a change of commissioners that prevented GI policy moving any further forward. However, when a collapse did occur some realised that there was a bit of a vacuum.

## **GINIE**

### **ABGI consultation – an analysis**

A more strategic dimension was missing and EUROGI began to develop their strategy. This was shortly followed by the proposal for GINIE (Geographic Information Network in Europe). When the project was proposed in late 1999 / early 2000 there was a vacuum for strategy development. One component of GINIE was to look towards developing an ABGI, building upon recommendations from GI 2000 that looked for a “high-level working party”. GINIE, however, did not begin until November 2001 and by this time INSPIRE was beginning. It was seen as an important policy development in a maturing industry that was also increasing in awareness. INSPIRE has a focus on environmental issues, at least in the first stage. It is currently envisaged that a European Spatial Data Committee may be set up to coordinate the INSPIRE implementation.

GINIE is still interested in setting up an ABGI but clearly there is also a need to monitor the progress made by INSPIRE and the proposed coordinating structure. The consultation document raises issues about the areas that should be covered by such a Board, in the context of policy primers such as e-government and GI development. It also aims to discover participants’ views on whether current organisations can fulfil these requirements and if there is a need for additional coordinating structures that support the GI communities needs. It is very much an open document.

MC made it clear that although GINIE envisages an ABGI, but that if there is no need for one then this in itself is acceptable. The first stage of the consultation is to look to the GI community for their opinion, hence the purpose of this meeting alongside other consultation mechanisms, before looking beyond the GI community. Once the broad consultation is over the results will be digested and a more focused discussion will take place with government, industry and other key stakeholders. It is, thus, a multi-layer consultation and this meeting is just one part.

The chair invited some general comments about the consultation document.

FT felt that the document was well structured, that the background was useful and that the questions seemed useful. The chair then suggested that the remainder of the meeting should focus on taking each question in turn.

#### **GINIE Consultation document Question 1**

NL noted there were some issues surrounding the coverage of the document in terms of reference to stimulating the private sector and the need to include ideas about the value-added sector in particular. He noted that users might want to be able to do the same things in different countries. MC agreed that this was especially important from a business point of view.

#### **GINIE Consultation document Question 2**

FT felt that there was a need to include an idea about the skills that are needed to use GI. NL also felt that the issue of “market confidence” was significant and that presenting regulation could be a heavy handed approach, and that the wrong conclusions could be drawn from the text in regard to this as GI is not a separate domain. The ABGI could be seen as a regulatory mechanism and that it would be worth noting it did not have a regulatory role.

MC noted that it is not envisaged for the ABGI to have a regulatory function per se, as it would have no mandate or authority in this respect. However, what it could do is to help develop confidence in the market amongst all players by studying and disseminating examples of good and bad practice. This could be seen as a “watchdog” role rather than that of a regulator.

NL highlighted paragraph 6.2 saying that this noted the challenges faced. He felt that GI is no longer a unique entity and questioned whether it needs to be seen as a separate domain from other types of information, as it increasingly becoming integrated with existing Information Systems and communities. He asked if we should be re-enforcing a separate identity. MC wondered if, in the context of policy such as e-Europe, it would be better to access and influence this group rather than a GI-labelled board. He

## **GINIE**

### **ABGI consultation – an analysis**

suggested that this may be a better route and that it could be completed in stages, with different fora in different sectors of the GI community.

GS felt that there was a need to refer to the debates about citizen's and individual rights and the protection of citizens more explicitly. She noted there were initiatives of the EC to include citizens in electronic activities. MC also noted the Aarhus convention in this context of social justice and that the area of the environment may have played a limited role in the consultation document, but that it could lead to a strengthening of citizen's roles.

MM felt it would be useful to have an indication of the volume of the market and what major investments have been made. It was reported that GIS software is worth €1.1 billion worldwide. GS felt that case studies are well identified. MM questioned what the loss would be if you do not organise yourself, PC noted that €120 million underpins €300 billion of activity. CC noted that providers are not the only component and that the way in which GI was delivered to society should also be a consideration. MC noted the example of the UK mapping agency, Ordnance Survey and the £100 million pound investment that underpins a £100 billion economy.

EE reported the situation in the geological survey field and that a CBA looked at both economic and societal gains that can be made from geological information as part of impact analysis. CC noted a similar position where a case study was being conducted to look at the economic activity within 100 metres of a road intersection at a cost of £12 million. The scenario of an accident and tracking its economic output / loss can produce a persuasive story, with NL noting that "the number of lives saved" being a powerful political tool. CC later noted that this example is used in the UK courts for calculating claimant compensation. EE noted that if the value of GI has to be looked at and an independent analysis would be needed. NL felt that a degree of realism would be needed, as there would be some overlap between organisations.

NL also asked, in terms of paragraph 6.4, if an idea of "best practice" actually existed in this area and if lessons had been learnt, and if the creation of a new body would make a difference. MC felt that there must have been or it would be a very difficult position if no lessons had been learnt. He also felt that the scale of impact was interesting and referred to the GINIE SDI workshop in Ispra and Ian Masser's comparative study of the NSDIs in Australia, Canada and the USA, as some of the best examples of SDI work outside Europe, although they were not necessarily examples to copy. CC noted the varying approach of the state and the way in which developments in these countries were geared towards an export market as well as a home one, with Australia and Canada being particularly interested in societal issues.

MC noted that in Europe SMEs were an important part of the EC agenda but that GI seemed to be dominated by discussions about government. He felt there should be some congruence between different sectors. CC felt that if we not going to explore GI policy then any activity relating to it would be reactionary, and thus problematic. He suggested it was a fundamental process that forced other structures and people to think about how they relate to and feed into GI policy. MM wondered if there was a reason for the heavy involvement of governments and why this sector is not evolving into a private market. He suggested low turnover as a possible cause. CC noted the importance of PSI, as GI is an important element that can help to connect between different sectors. He felt the EU is not doing anything, and has to react and maybe take a lead.

#### **Stakeholders**

##### **GINIE Consultation document Question 3, page 7**

Are there other important stakeholders in the GI community that need to be involved?

MM wondered if they are all different and reflected on the roles of EuroGeographics, OEB and WPLA. NL and MM felt that the model could be re-drawn to set the organisations on the left-hand side and to place them in the categories. MC noted that it was presented in the present form to show their main activity. He

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

noted that GINIE were interested in finding out what existed in terms of the community and the models they utilised. CC felt that in this context standards were maybe missing.

MM suggested that the key players in NSDIs included three to four key-players and cited the Netherlands as an example, where three players account for 80% of the activities. FT then reiterated the need to explore GI skills thoroughly, with an increased need for a framework for GI research. The roles of the European Science Foundation and AGILE were highlighted and he wondered if the ESF should be mentioned.

In the context of research, AGILE and EarSel, AA wanted to know why there was no umbrella organisation for remote sensing. MM noted, that in the Dutch context, the national remote sensing board was imbedded in the national space programme [\*or spatial data infrastructure programme?] that in turn was linked to European activities, leading to a belief that there was no need for a separate action.

#### **Mission statement**

#### **GINIE Consultation document - The Remaining Questions**

The PEAFF was asked if there was a need for such a structure. MM wanted to know whom were GINIE wanting to seek coordination for. NL felt that the short answer was that there was no need for an ABGI but that there was a need to develop coordination. He felt that there was a lack of support for GI 2000 and that we are still in that position: should we aim to build something new or develop existing structures, and that we, generally, are trying to justify a conclusion, the ABGI.

FT felt that AGILE found it difficult to see a coherent view and that the general view was that there was no need for a new board. However, he had a mixed view as some issues exist that require further examination. MM felt that we were too early in the process to actually establish an ABGI. GS felt that there was a structure missing within the Commission where a focus for GI could be made, a contact point and a place to coordinate matters. DR noted that, so far, no central point exists but that many DGs deal with GI. He said that internal coordination comes from COGI which, as a first step, will deal with internal needs. One of the recommendations of INSPIRE could be the need to establish a single contact point within the Commission. AA noted that discussions taking place in INSPIRE were similar to this meeting.

CC noted that GI should not just be reflected in government debates but should reflect the opinions of the wider community. He pointed out the valuable roles of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and the voluntary sector and that they also require coordination. As a result he felt that the GI community as a whole should react. It was noted that as each nation does not have a national GI forum, and does not recognise their necessity, why should we expect the EC to have a central body?

EE noted the situation was easier for the geology community, that the picture can be easily dissected and the costs and benefits readily recognised as to whether information is put online or not. He noted the integration of data and that once this is done money can be saved. There has been a decrease in geological surveying jobs until data was put online. He emphasised the need to develop step-by-step. One way of seeing the impetus for this activity was that “if your name does not appear in the yellow pages you cannot sell pizzas”, with the Internet acting as the directory.

CC felt there was a need for a forum to produce a balanced view. He noted the need to develop the public/private interface. He noted that in the public sector there may also be conflict between different parts of an organisation and that a view of government being more simplistic than the industry sector would prove weak. He felt that although small groups can work reasonably well, the larger they become greater problems emerge and that a policy may be needed, as expansion of a sector makes that sector look into less well-known fields. He suggested that the issues for government terminate at the exchequer and that there is a ‘void’ for GI in this context. This, he felt, forced the community to think wider and how we could rationalise policy.

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

EE felt that only a very limited approach could be made at present, if one was to attempt to incorporate everything. He felt that moving step-by-step into this area was very important and that a system designed for all comers was not possible, with restrictions on budgets and time playing their part.

CC asked how one would structure thought processes to get at what you want. NL felt that the level of debate was improving and that there was an organic growth to this thing. The funding of this was seen as an issue for associations. If one had to use ‘pocket money’ to pay subscriptions etc. then choices had to be made as to whom scarce resources should be given to. For example, a choice would have to be made between EUROGI and an ABGI. NL thought that this was partly an issue about understanding how we could help existing organisations achieve what they want to achieve, and how it was possible to help them to communicate.

The chair asked the GINIE consortium members about the response to the consultation from other actors. MC outlined three groups: Firstly, those that thought an ABGI was useful in getting people together, although there were also some that felt it could provide a little more than supporting existing organisations to do their business. The second group, MC felt, had confused the role of an ABGI with the activities of INSPIRE and that the latter would solve any policy issues. The last group of replies felt that there was no need for a Board but that a structure was needed to increase dialogue, although the mechanisms to tackle this were unclear. NL noted that it was crucial to determine how any such structure could be made to function and that a shared vision was very desirable.

CC wondered how to reconcile two groups in the community with different solutions. He suggested the only way to do this was to think outside of the GI community box and recognise other demands. NL said it was important to make sure that activities are user-driven. CC said that, in the context of question 3, it is important to talk to the GI community first and then to explore the views of end-users of GI. MM wanted to know who the end-users were and how readily identifiable they were. CC suggested that there were a number of sectors (from telecoms to farming) where data would, partly, be sourced from the GI community. He outlined the idea of user-push versus user-pull and the need to support and develop a user-pull approach, such as the roles of public services, the government and their administration. MM felt that all users had different requirements. NL wanted to reinforce the idea that ensuring existing bodies had a customer focus was more important than setting up an ABGI. CC felt there was a need for a game-plan or one would end up in a position of many of the self-regulated industries. NL felt that INSPIRE was the best activity to support, at present. CC felt, however that GI is a very broad entity and did not cover infrastructure alone, and that INSPIRE was related to harder, and readily identifiable, topics. AA then noted the official nature of COGI’s role and that there had been a large step made to activate it. He felt its role was one of informing and that a first priority was to improve coordination that would possibly involve INSPIRE. He noted that such ideas can take a long time and not just specific thematic areas.

The recent emergence of several policy areas, including INSPIRE and European legislation on environmental information, were noted. Although there is discussion in the commission an issue was raised by AA about the need for a GI policy. When talking about public sector information (PSI) the issue of GI itself may not emerge. INSPIRE will not re-work this policy and will only add the missing GI aspects. He reported that INSPIRE can be seen as user-driven, as it relates to various scales and standards, and that agreement has been made to support existing work to avoid duplication and develop new uses of GI. AA noted that all projects with GI component will be presented to COGI and that INSPIRE will be present in FP6.

CC noted that INSPIRE does not have a policy-watch as such and that there are a lot of issues that it may not interact with, such as looking at the availability of skills in the future (i.e. education) or influencing market mechanisms. He felt that a more holistic approach would be needed. He felt that INSPIRE will not help to balance pricing, for example. He said that activities such as the Aarhus Convention and Freedom of Information on environmental matters were things that an ABGI could review, with a grander view. He noted the development of UN policy on an inclusive society and questioned what policies were in place for this, including the value that could be drawn from the Aarhus Directive and rights relating to our environment. He felt that citizen access to information to exploit it for democratic purposes etc. was

## GINIE

### ABGI consultation – an analysis

important. If GI is fundamental then there is a need to explore and adopt this view. He also noted that the community needs advice on a number of issues, including PSI and that no mechanism is in place to influence policy-making.

It was suggested that DG Information Society were trying to push information but nobody was keeping up with their efforts. The problem emerges that if response is not made soon after Commission activities then they would wash their hands of GI. WE, as a the GI community, need to articulate why policy is important but there is no mechanism to do this at present. NL wondered what could be done now to help but wondered if an ABGI was appropriate.

CC said that even if the community says no to an ABGI something would need to be done to reflect the work on PSI or the ETRE committee (what is this?). NL said that it was useful to look at specific examples such as these. Data providers lobby users who are also lobbying government. He wondered how this can be rationalised and that it could be seen as job for politicians rather than the community per se, and how it is possible to get everyone to agree. CC recalled the example of PSI and the effort to have it collected and make it readily available, but then to have it not used. He suggested that it was a policy issue to move PSI into society. NL suggested there was a need to look at these examples and see how they could be included in discussions, citing education, market in particular. Other examples were then noted in terms of education and training, alongside the role of market structures and policy watch that would provide a better feel for GI.

CC then noted the need for reference data to make sure that it was possible to compare across member states. He felt it was possible to contrast a request for data with political matters. He gave another example of the need for a policy where everybody can use healthcare services in their country of choice. This would be underpinned with GI skills needed for its delivery (e.g., a European database with some reference data like postcode and addresses).

The GMES representative (who?) talked about GMES tackling the issue of which data to provide, and that there was a place for a board. NL disagreed suggesting that they were this already but that a better mechanism for sharing such information would be useful. He noted the potential role of COGI and that different actors may be needed at different times. CC felt that COGI's usefulness was dependant on it working and that an inspired game plan was still needed.

MC wanted to make sure that the PEAFF understood that the ABGI was not GINIE, and that the PEAFF itself was closer to its perceived membership. He then gave a brief conclusion. He suggested that existing organisations want to find ways that would improve the way they could work together. There would need to be a greater common vision contained in a framework for action. He noted that the PEAFF felt that there was no need for a new body or structure but that there would be a need for some action in bringing issues together, such as developing a way to examine issues such as PSI, where a policy-watch would pull information allowing it to be analysed together. This, in turn, may lead to a greater sense of what we need to service and how resources could be pooled, which already would lead to a positive situation.

AA raised the issue of coordination and reflected on the activities of the Forestry Standing Committee and the impact of the new Water Directive and the need for Water Directors. He said there would be similar bodies amounting around fifty groups. This number of actors would prove problematic for coordination, particularly when those, such as the Forestry Standing Committee, did not see themselves as part of the GI community.

CC wondered about the impact of a data and information policy rather than a specific GI policy. He felt that, to some, the "geography" tag makes people think it may not be relevant to them, and that it is useful to think about how other areas see the GI community. MC noted the impact of policy areas such as e-government, which is strongly influenced and underpinned with GI, as nothing works without an address. This is a very important issue for the customer/citizen and he felt we should think about how to "interface" with them. CC suggested it could be a matter of advising citizens, raising GI awareness across the board. EE was interested in finding out how we could start by taking some pieces out of the mosaic of umbrella

## **GINIE**

### **ABGI consultation – an analysis**

organisations and fit them into a new picture, although he wondered if there were too many parts to define something clearly. AA gave an example of the EU grid and that if something was technical it could be resolved by INSPIRE but that other issues could not such as the data requirement for a DTM.

CC wondered if the PEAFF felt the mission statement was right, to “maximize the use of geographic information”. MM wondered if the definition was too broad for an advisory board, and wondered if it was possible to define a mission without a structure. NL felt there was a need to be more pragmatic. He felt the “mission” was in fact a long term goal and should be described as a “vision”.

MC considered it as a process, not a ‘big bang’ or an ‘all or nothing’ approach. He said that GINIE would extend the second level consultation for broader feedback to the end of January 2003. NL wondered when a consolidated view of the initial consultations would be ready. MC said that it should be ready by the beginning of February 2003. He said that GINIE would look for responses from two panels made up of representatives from government and industry.

End of document