

Minutes for Stora chefsmötet 2020, skype meeting

Tuesday, 1st of September 2020 (4 hours)

Attendants: Director Generals and NIC representatives

Meeting chaired by Susanne Ås Sivborg, Sweden

Notes taken by NIC group

Country	Institution	Names
Denmark	The Danish Agency for Data Supply and Efficiency	Kristian Møller Susanne Boiesen Petersen
	Danish Geodata Agency	Pia Dahl Højgaard Uffe Jimenez Ravn-Christensen
Finland	National Land Survey	Arvo Kokkonen Heli Ursin
Iceland	Landmælingar Íslands	Eydís Líndal Finnbogadóttir Gunnar H Kristinsson
	Registers Iceland	Margrét Hauksdóttir Hjörtur Grétarsson
Norway	Kartverket	Johnny Welle Kåre Kyrkjeide
Sweden	Lantmäteriet	Susanne Ås Sivborg Mikael Lilje
Greenland	Naalakkersuisut	Thomas Gaarde Madsen
Faroe Island	Umhvørvisstovan	Sigurð í Jákupsstovu Ronnie Thomassen Stein Fossa

1. Welcome note from Susanne Ås and a short tour de table.

Susanne welcomed us all to this virtual meeting and regret that the situation does not allow a face-to-face meeting.

2. Nordic NMCA status due to the Corona pandemic

DK. Pia reported that the situation seems to be under control in the country. The government presented a new budget recently and it was noted that the pandemic has effects on the economy. Even if Denmark has managed well, the trade partners has not been as successful. How this can / will affect the GS and SDFE is not clear yet. Most staff members are still working from home and the organisations have been able to carry out all production tasks, duties and responsibilities. However, innovation and brainstorming have suffered during this period. Lastly, it was noted that we will probably see much more virtual meetings in the future even after travelling is allowed.

IS. The pandemic has severe effect on the economy, specially the tourism industry. The unemployment is rising and is expected to be high by the end of the year. There are still many restrictions in place as f ex gatherings are limited to 100 people and you should keep two metre distance. New and stricter border screening has been imposed since 19th of August which means that two Covid-19 tests with five days in between is needed to enter Iceland. At Registers Iceland the Customer service was closed for a few weeks during the pandemic but beside that business has been very much the same. At LMI the situation has been business as usual as well. Staff are nowadays allowed to work outside the office two days per week but working remotely has been well received and proved efficient. Working remotely part of the week could even be the new normal after the pandemic.

FIN. In Finland the second wave has started and now there are some new restrictions, and some has been reinstated. Most of the infected are found in the larger Helsinki area. At LMV business is back to normal but during spring there was little terrain work. The production is less than planned and will not recover during 2020. Service demand has been at the same level as expected throughout the pandemic. It has been noted that 83% of the staff members are working from home. International traveling has been cancelled through 2020 whereas domestic travelling is allowed but only for needed travelling.

FO. The Corona situation is stable, and they are back to zero new cases for eight days now. The effect on the economy is not severe. The staff members are back to office since May but are also allowed to work from home if needed or requested.

NO. The situation is stable in the country and the short-term effect on the economy is not severe. It has been noted that there is an increase of public spending during this period. Staff members of Kartverket have of course been working from home and a survey showed that over 80% are very pleased about working remotely and want to continue that path. Kartverket has gradually been opening the office and currently some 50-60% of the staff are back to work. Kartverket has even received extra funding for more field work due to the pandemic.

GL. Greenland has managed well and there have been very few cases. Several restrictions on travelling abroad. The challenge they have is that most staff members have left for new challenges and this is not believed to be Corona influenced.

SE. In Sweden the people follow what the government recommends and that is e.g. still to work from home. Lantmäteriet's offices have been open throughout the period. It is also noted that staff members want to start coming back to the office and from an employer's perspective this must be done in a structured way. National economy is not doing as bad as originally feared but many companies are nevertheless struggling. At Lantmäteriet employees have started to ask for more flexibility around where to work for the future and are seeing the benefits of online meetings. Just as Denmark noted, innovation and creativity are suffering and is lower than before. We are all realising the need for physical meetings even if digital meetings work well. Production is higher than before, due to less travel, meetings and conferences. The economy for Lantmäteriet is also much better than expected as well as that the level of sick leave is lower than normal. Doing regular surveys about remote work.

3. Tenth session of the UN-GGIM meeting, reflections and discussions

This meeting is held during the same period as the (virtual) tenth session. The director generals reflected on the outcome of the UNGGIM meeting and Nordic cooperation. It was noted that a virtual meeting is relevant for reporting on progress in the work of UN-GGIM but not effective to secure development in the same questions. Technically the meeting has went well. Sweden also noted that all communication was made in English as well as most statements.

Most focus within UN-GGIM is spent on the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and from a Nordic perspective Norway, Sweden and Denmark have been the countries most involved in the development of IGIF documents (IGIF's Part 2 and 3 remain unfinished). Norway and Sweden have also indicated their interest in being involved in the dedicated UN-GGIM high level expert group to steer the development and use of IGIF. Sweden is prepared to investigate what it means to participate in this group. All director generals supported the proposal that the Nordic countries cooperate on the Nordic representation in the UN-GGIM high level expert group.

It was also noted that some countries now are moving from developing the IGIF document, to using it actively for NSDI development in member states. This is something that Norway has done in several countries already. Important also to ensure that IGIF is voluntarily and not compulsory. It is also important to communicate the benefits of IGIF to ensure its use.

DECISION: It was agreed that the Nordic countries cooperate on the Nordic representation in the UN-GGIM high level expert group.

ACTION: Sweden to investigate what it means to participate in UN-GGIM high level expert group.

4. NIC report by NIC chair

Susanne Boiesen Petersen presented the report from the NIC group focusing on;

- Report in accordance with our annual plan
- Follow up from Lille Chefsmöte

According to the annual plan it is clear when certain reports are requested by the DGs. The work in the Nordic cooperation is divided into;

- Ad hoc groups: Work on specific high priority "challenges", identified by Directors (example: GDPR)
- Working Groups: Work on issues in relation to "on-going operations" as a mapping agency (example: Cadastre WG)
- Networks: Knowledge exchange on Specialized areas and skills (example: Inspire implementation)

Ad-hoc groups:

Machine Learning: The group has been populated, decided on the scope of the work and will have a Kick-off webinar in September. The Group is led by SDFE Denmark.

DECISION: The DG's endorse the time frame and road map proposal from the Ad-hoc group. The group is asked to present a report at the Lilla Chefsmöte 2021. The DG's emphasized that it is important to stick to the "year wheel", so if the group finds there is a need to do additional work, the group will have to present a new challenge for the DG's at Lille chefsmöte for discussion and approval.

PSI: has been established but is in a pending mode now.

DECISION: The DG's expresses will to activate the PSI group to help discussion and implementation in the respective country. Finland will take the lead.

New technologies to improve quality in Cadastral information and services. Key technologies and questions have been identified.

DECISION: The DG's approved the creation of ad hoc, report to be delivered to Lilla Chefsmöte 2021.

DECISION: DGs request that the work carried out in the ad hoc groups must be coordinated with the work carried out in the existing networks and working groups in Nordic cooperation.

Faroe Islands expressed interest in the work of the ad hoc group on New technologies to improve quality in cadastral information and services and machine learning groups.

Working Groups:

The Nordic cooperation currently have four working groups, and these were presented at the meeting.

Cadastre: Report noted

IT & Development: Report noted. Comments were made regarding the need for this working group to focus on supporting the other working groups. The update of the mandate of the group was presented.

DECISION: The DG's support the new mandate of the IT group

Land Mapping: Report noted

Land Registration: Report noted. It was commented that it is important that the task the groups are concentrating on tasks that will benefit the NMCA's.

ACTION: NIC was asked to find out more about the Nordic network of land registration lawyers and investigate whether the group should turn in to a network.

To improve communication between Working Groups, common Skype meetings have been planned and held between the Working Group Leads and NIC.

It is important that the leads of the working groups have dedicated time to use on leading the groups and ensure that they accomplish agreed activities. Important that there is clear benefit of the work done in the WG's and that the results are provided within the year a project is initiated.

Denmark proposed that the NIC should be led by the nation that is hosting the next Chefsmöte and not as currently by the country with the member in the EuroGeographics Management Board. The proposal was positively received by the other countries.

DECISION: NIC will be led by the nation that is hosting the following year's Chefsmöte. The Nordic Agreement on cooperation needs to be updated accordingly.

Implementation of the Nordic strategy was also reported. NIC has, together with the Working Groups, gone through all strategic goals and activities and it was noted that there are many activities left to work on. Is this a sign of that the strategy is not valid, not used or lack of priority?

ACTION: NIC will ask WG's to focus on the strategy topics and strategic goals.

5. National strategies:

Sweden, Denmark and Finland presented on new strategies;

Sweden: A new National Geodata Strategy 2021-25 was presented having the vision of "Open and usable public geodata are the foundation for a robust and sustainable Sweden, freely available for the whole society". [LINK?](#)

Denmark (SDFE) presented their new strategy "A cohesive Data Foundation for a Digital Denmark" . [LINK?](#)

Finland: Finland presented on the National Land Survey's strategy and its implementation.

Norway complemented the discussion mentioning that they are using the UN-GGIM document on Future Trends to discuss some key questions internally, that also drew the interest from other participants in this meeting: The key questions could be "What is the role of NMA's in the future", "Who are the users?", "Who are the customers?", "What does IoT, digital twins etc. mean for us?". There could be a need to do a more thorough Nordic work on this for a future discussion.

DECISION: These are issues that should be discussed more extensively at the next meeting.

Faroe Island informed that Umhvørvisstovan has taken over the responsibility of land and sea mapping from Denmark and are now hiring staff for this. They are expecting to have seven persons in the department doing this work.

6. Nordic representative on EuroGeographics Management Board

Kristian Møller is currently a member of the EuroGeographic Management Board, representing the Nordic region. His mandate is supposed to end at the EG General Assembly in autumn 2020, but since this is a virtual meeting the suggestion is to extend the mandate of the EG MB to the next General Assembly that will be held in May 2021. There might be a need to revisit who will be the Nordic candidate for 2021-2023 even though Kristian at this moment would be interested in continuing and all Nordic NMCAs are in favour of this.

EuroGeographics is about to appoint a new Secretary General and the selection process has now reached to the point where there is only one candidate left. Negotiations are ongoing.

7. Next meeting

DECISION: Sweden will take on the organization of the meetings in 2021