

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

**UN/ECE Work Session on Methodological Issues Involving the Integration of Statistics and  
Geography**

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Topic (i): Policy and organizational aspects in GIS and statistics

**COORDINATION OF GEODATA AND GIS IN THE SWISS FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION**

Submitted by Swiss Federal Office of Topography<sup>1</sup>

**Contributed paper**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In December 1997, the financial controller of the Swiss federal administration issued a critical report regarding the expenditure and the coordination efforts in the area of data capture and project coordination of geographical information systems (GIS). As a result, the Federal Council commissioned the Swiss Federal Office of Topography (S+T) on 25 February 1998 to create a coordination group, called COGIS, responsible for all GIS activities. At the same time, the Swiss Federal Directorate of Cadastral Surveying was integrated in the Federal Office of Topography.

2. The aim of GIS coordination is to make full use of the synergy potential of GIS data capture and applications in the federal administration. The goals of COGIS are:

- to avoid multiple data capture;
- to promote cooperation between GIS projects;
- to apply existing knowledge and experience in new projects.

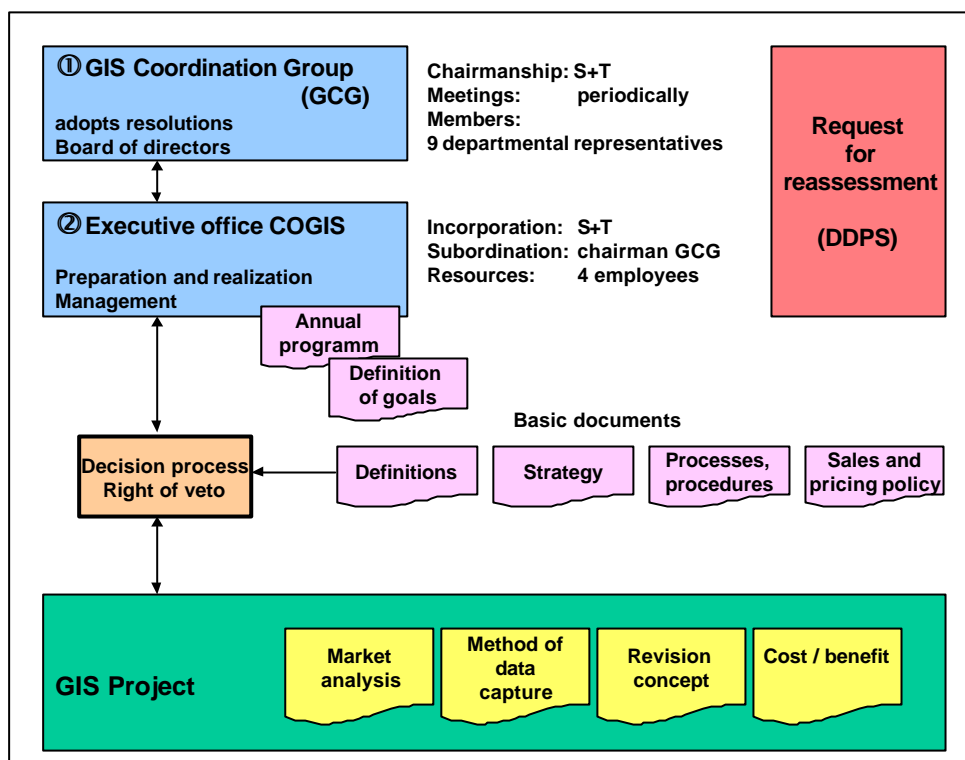
3. The proposed organization has two levels :

i) The first level consists of the interdepartmental GIS Coordination Group (GCG) as the supervising authority. This body decides on strategic resolutions for implementing GIS applications in the federal administration and has the authority for issuing directives and coordinating GIS projects in all realms of the federal administration. It controls the activities of COGIS.

ii) The second level consists of the executive office COGIS, attached to the S+T. It has the task of a consulting and supervising body and is the prime contact in the GIS area for all government agencies. As a center of competence it follows the technical development along the goals outlined by the GCG.

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## II. GIS COORDINATION GROUP (GCG)

4. The GCG is the decision-making organ in all matters concerning GIS coordination in the federal administration. It functions as the board of directors which supervises the activities of COGIS, passes resolutions and defines the goals and the annual agenda. It consists of the following representatives from key offices concerned with GIS:

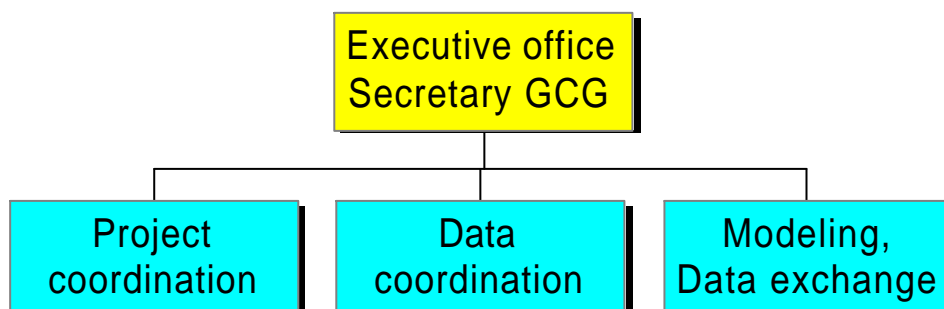
- Federal Office of Topography, Federal Office of Statistics, Defence Procurement Agency, General Staff, Federal Office for Information and Telecommunication, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape and others.
- The chairman of GCG is the Director of the Federal Office of Topography.

## III. EXECUTIVE OFFICE COGIS

5. The executive office of COGIS is the administrative organ of the GIS coordination group. It is annexed to the S+T and its manager reports directly to the chairman of the GCG. It operates with a total of 4 employees and an independent budget. It is the official representative of the federal administration in external GIS affairs.

6. COGIS is organized as follows:

- (i) **Executive office:** supervision of the COGIS office, secretary of the GCG



- (ii) **Project coordination:** coordinating projects, consulting and expertise of GIS proposals; elaborating and acquiring basic documents, guidelines and directives.
- (iii) **Geodata coordination:** coordinating the acquisition of geodata; revising data and project inventory (project portfolio)
- (iv) **Modeling, data exchange:** coordinating interfaces; consulting data modeling; promoting data exchange (INTERLIS); national and international standards and norms.

#### IV. DIRECTIVES AND INSTRUMENTS

7. A set of basic documents will be worked out to provide the guidelines for GIS projects. On this basis, the COGIS office shall examine and supervise the GIS projects of the federal administration. The following basic documents have to be developed and approved by the GIS coordinating group:

- Terminology for defining applications and projects,
- GIS strategy for determining priorities in data and application preparation,
- Annual program of COGIS (once a year),
- Processes and procedures for carrying out GIS projects and for GIS controlling,
- Sales and prices of geographic data.

8. This enables COGIS to:

- participate in the decision-making in GIS projects,
- offer system consultation,
- assist in projects,
- elaborate matters concerning data modeling and interfaces,
- manage meta databases containing geodata and GIS projects.

#### V. PRESENT STATE OF PROJECT (MAY 2000)

9. COGIS is operational since January 2000. As from March 2000, the team will be composed of three collaborators currently active in the coordination of several GIS-projects within the federal administration. At the end of April 2000 the first meeting of the group of coordination will take place. One of the objectives will be to specify GIS-strategy of the federal administration.