

# Record Number of FIG Member Associations at FIG General Assembly



As part of the FIG Working Week 2017 that took place in Helsinki, Finland, the General Assembly was held on 29 May and 2 June. A record number of member associations – 73 altogether – were present on one or both of the days. Together with other members and observers, around 350 delegates attended the General Assembly in total.

In her report on the past year, FIG President Chryssy Potsiou stated that it was hard to include all the many activities that have been going on and all the volunteers who have been involved and have done such substantial work for FIG: activities including the council, the 10 commissions, networks,

permanent institutions and the current task forces. Together they are all striving for one goal: to increase the value of FIG's data, tools and services for society.

Two new Honorary Members and an Honorary Ambassador were appointed. Daniel Steudler from geosuisse is well known all over the world for his extensive work for FIG since 1994. Among other things he has worked on the Cadastre 2014 publication, implementation and maintenance of the Cadastral Template (which was last year updated to Version 2.0), as chair of the Task Force on Spatially Enabled Societies and on the publication Cadastre 2014 and Beyond.

Yerach Doytsher has likewise been involved in FIG activities since the 1990s and has, among other things, served as FIG commission 3 chair, chair of the Task Force on Scientific Journal, ACCO representative to the FIG Council, and a key member of the Local Organising Committee for FIG Working Week 2009. Paul Munro-Faure, formerly of FAO, received a special appreciation as FIG Honorary Ambassador for his work at FAO in cooperation with FIG over many years, especially on the development and implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines (VGGT) around the world. He has also served FIG as commission 7 chair.

The competition between Krakow (Poland) and Accra (Ghana) to become host of FIG Working Week 2021 was intense. The member associations from both countries were well prepared and original in promoting their applications. It was a close-run decision, but Accra (Ghana) won the vote in the end.

Louise Friis-Hansen, FIG director



*The Presidents' Meeting with all the presidents/heads of representation.*

**More information**  
[www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net)

## Creating a Global Index of National Spatial Data Infrastructures



The need for an integrated agenda across the environmental, economic and social sectors is encapsulated in the UN Agenda 2030 through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Spatial evidence is required to monitor and assess progress towards a large proportion of the goals. To achieve this, a country needs to have the underpinning and supporting infrastructure to allow spatial data to be accurate, transparent, open and interoperable – something that a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) can help to achieve. Despite this, there is currently neither an available global measure of a

country's NSDI to perform these functions, nor a way to identify where improvements need to be targeted.

The GSDI project to create a global index of NSDIs proposes a set of indicators to score NSDIs globally. The index consolidates and condenses a large body of scholarship and experience on NSDIs into a set of key components that can be assessed and benchmarked using six indicators. The index will provide a top-level, multi-actor assessment and is intended to both support and stimulate more detailed assessments for

regions of the globe where strong transnational planning capacity is vital and urgent for users.

The NSDI index is being executed by Georgina Chandler, with assistance and supervision from Prof Joep Crompvoets (KU Leuven), Paul Jepson (Oxford University), Susanne Schmitt (World Wildlife Fund-UK) and Dave Lovell (GSDI president-elect).

The index will be pilot tested on a selection of 10-15 countries and the results, along with the proposed index, will be published and