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# The Challenge of Raising Stakeholder Awareness at All Levels

The UN General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) two years ago as part of the 2030 Agenda. There are 17 SDGs and 169 targets. Experience from the previous UN Millennium Development Goals programme placed special emphasis on data, monitoring and reporting. The SDG indicator framework elaborated by the UN Inter-Agency Expert Group for Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDGs) provides the basis for the yearly SDG progress report of the UN Secretary-General, as mandated by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. The recent second SDG progress report emphasises the importance of data and monitoring statistics.

This poses a challenge for both the stakeholders and a statistical system that needs to expand from local to global, while accounting for these SDG indicators being collected and aggregated from different territorial levels. This is where location and, consequently, the spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) come into play. The motto of the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI) Association is "Advancing a location-enabled world". GSDI, via the UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM), provides a contribution in the context of the UN 2030 Agenda including at national and regional levels, as well as thematic areas such as the UN-GGIM Academic Network. To facilitate awareness-raising, stakeholder engagement and capacity building, a variety of GSDI actions are in place in the form of webinars/workshops, sharing of best practices, open data/open source, the Small Grants Program and others related to SDI4SDGs, Marine SDI, INSPIRE and the Global NSDI Index Project.

The joint use of Earth observation (EO) and geospatial infrastructures provides synergy and supports SDG advances serving citizens, national policies and the UN 2030 Agenda issues. These are demonstrated by GEO, GGIM, GSDI, IAEG-SDG and EO4SDGS experts in the recently published special issue of the open-access journal *Geo-spatial*

Information Science guest-edited by Prof John van Genderen.

**Awareness-raising in Hungary**

Volunteers of the Hungarian Society on Surveying, Mapping and Remote Sensing (MFTTT), namely the former and recent national INSPIRE delegates (Prof Szabolcs Mihály and Tamás Palya) and the Hungarian member of GSDI, launched an awareness-raising campaign this year to engage stakeholders. They did this by using a series of presentations emphasising both the challenge and the opportunities to the surveying and geomatics communities addressing support for the SDGs at the national level. The target audiences of the first five domestic and cross-border conferences include service and solution providers as well as decision-makers from government, industry and academia. The awareness-raising events were as follows (with number of participants shown in brackets):

- Day of the European Surveyors and Geoinformatics, Budapest (180)
- GIS Open 2017, Székesfehérvár (150)
- 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Surveyors of the Hungarian Technical Scientific Society of Transylvania (EMT) Bile Tu nad, Romania (140)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Geoinformatics Conference and Exhibition, Debrecen (120)
- 31<sup>st</sup> MFTTT Conference, Szekszárd (170)
- Mini-conference devoted to the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Prof Béla Márkus, Székesfehérvár (45)

Recent actions include promoting the open-source 2017 WorldWind Europa Challenge in Helsinki – an annual competition for students and SMEs to create open-source solutions serving sustainability and urban management and to facilitate collaborative advancement of these solutions on a global scale. Another promising link was just established with the Sustainable Development and Resources Research Center at the Public Service University in Budapest. To effectively realise the SDGs, we need an interdisciplinary vision, strong stakeholder engagement, multi-agency partnerships, interoperable geospatial data infrastructure and a collective effort for capacity building.