UN-GGIM Private Sector Network

Dr Michael Gould
Esri Inc.
On behalf of Dr Zaffar Sadiq MOHAMED GHOUSE (chair)

Geneva, 09/July/2025

UN-GGIM
PRIVATE SECTOR NETWORK

2023-2025

LEADERSHIP OF UN-GGIM PSN

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CEO, Numer8 Analytics Pvt. Ltd, India

Region: UN-GGIM Asia Pacific

VALRIE GRANT

Founder/Chairwoman, GeoTechVision, Jamaica

Region: UN-GGIM Americas

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Vice President – Product Management, Geospatial World, India

Region: UN-GGIM Asia Pacific

WILLY GOVENDER

CEO
TERRA ANALYTICS, South Africa

Region: UN-GGIM Africa

PETER TER HAAR

Ter Haar Geoinnovation
United Kingdom

Region: UN-GGIM Europe

DR. KUMAR NUVULUR

Sr. Director, Global Industry Business Development, Maxar Technologies, USA

Region: UN-GGIM Americas

DR. SAAD ALHAMLAN

CEO, Gravity Geospatial Services
Saudi Arabia

Region: UN-GGIM Arab States

BEN ADDOU IDRISSI KAMAL

CEO, ETAFAT
Morocco

Region: UN-GGIM Arab States

PETER BAUMANN

CEO, Rasdaman GmbH
Bremen

Region: UN-GGIM Europe

FELIX ORINA

Managing Director, Orbital Africa
Kenya

Region: UN-GGIM Africa

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Director, Advisory & Innovation
AAM, a Woolpert Company
Australia

Region: UN-GGIM Asia Pacific

UN-GGIM PSN Secretariat:

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Director - Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure, Geospatial World, India

Region: UN-GGIM Asia Pacific

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CEO, Geospatial World
India

Region: UN-GGIM Asia Pacific

STEVEN HAGEN

Vice President Development, Oracle
USA

Region: UN-GGIM Americas

Regional Activities of UN-GGIM PSN in 2023-24

DR. ZAFFAR SADIQ MOHAMED-GHOUSE

Director, Advisory & Innovation
AAM, a Woolpert Company
Australia

Region: UN-GGIM Asia Pacific

UN GGIM Asia Pacific – Thirteen Plenary Meeting, 26-29 November 2024, New Delhi, India

- **Conducted the UN-GGIM AP regional consultation with private sector to gather inputs for the paper.**
- Contribution to Working Group 4 on IGIF
- Established the operation of a regional PSN committee for Asia Pacific
- EB Meeting Sydney , May 2024

VALRIE GRANT

Founder/Chairwoman, GeoTechVision, Jamaica

Region: UN-GGIM Americas

UN GGIM Americas – Eleventh Plenary Meeting, October 2024, Mexico City, Mexico

- **Conducted the UN-GGIM Americas regional consultation with private sector to gather inputs for the paper.**
- **Industry and academia bridge the gap,** Organized by Private Sector Network Americas (PSNA) and the Academic Network Americas (ANA)
- Organization of Carigeo
- Podcast of geospatial leadership

PETER TER HAAR

Ter Haar Geoinnovation
United Kingdom

Region: UN-GGIM Europe

UN GGIM Americas – Eleventh Plenary Meeting, November 2024, Belgium.

Conducted the UN-GGIM Europe regional consultation with private sector to gather inputs for the paper.
Participation in the plenary and present plan on the PSN activities for Europe.

Participate in webinar series of the UN-GGIM Europe

WILLY GOVENDER

CEO
TERRA ANALYTICS, South Africa

Region: UN-GGIM Africa

UN GGIM Africas– Ninth Plenary Meeting, November 2024, Addis Ababa

- **Conducted the UN-GGIM Africa regional consultation with private sector to gather inputs for the paper.**
- Participation in the Plenary and providing a plan of work of PSN in Africa

DR. SAAD ALHAMLAN

CEO, Gravity Geospatial Services
Saudi Arabia

Region: UN-GGIM Arab States

UN GGIM Arab States – Eleventh Plenary, February 2024, Doha

- **Conducted the UN-GGIM Arab States regional consultation with private sector to gather inputs for the paper.**
- Web session pre-planning meeting of the 10th Plenary by PSN Arab States
- Participation in the Plenary and providing a plan of work of PSN in Arab States
- Dedicated UN-GGIM PSN Arab States Workshop was successfully conducted in Doha Feb 2024.

Global Activities of UN-GGIM PSN

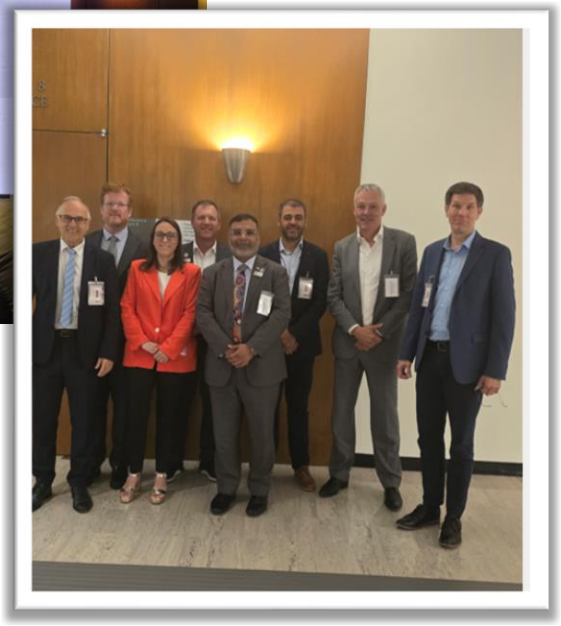
1) The UN-GGIM: Private Sector Network (PSN) actively engaged in various initiatives,
notably contributing to the UN-GGIM sessions focusing on the Future of Geospatial
Ecosystem during the 14th session at New York, August 2024.

2) The PSN involvement extends to the drafting committee for the Future of Geospatial Information Ecosystem, a document presented at the
the 14th session of UN-GGIM.

3) Additionally, the PSN made significant contributions to Working Group 4 on Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), providing invaluable insights
from the private sector to aid in IGIF implementation including the IGIF HLG on Financing pathway.

4) With a commitment to furthering IGIF, the PSN developed a
position paper delineating its role in IGIF development and enhancement at the
14th session of UN-GGIM.

5) A jointly authored paper on GeoAI, co-authored by PSN and the Academic Network, is scheduled for publication.

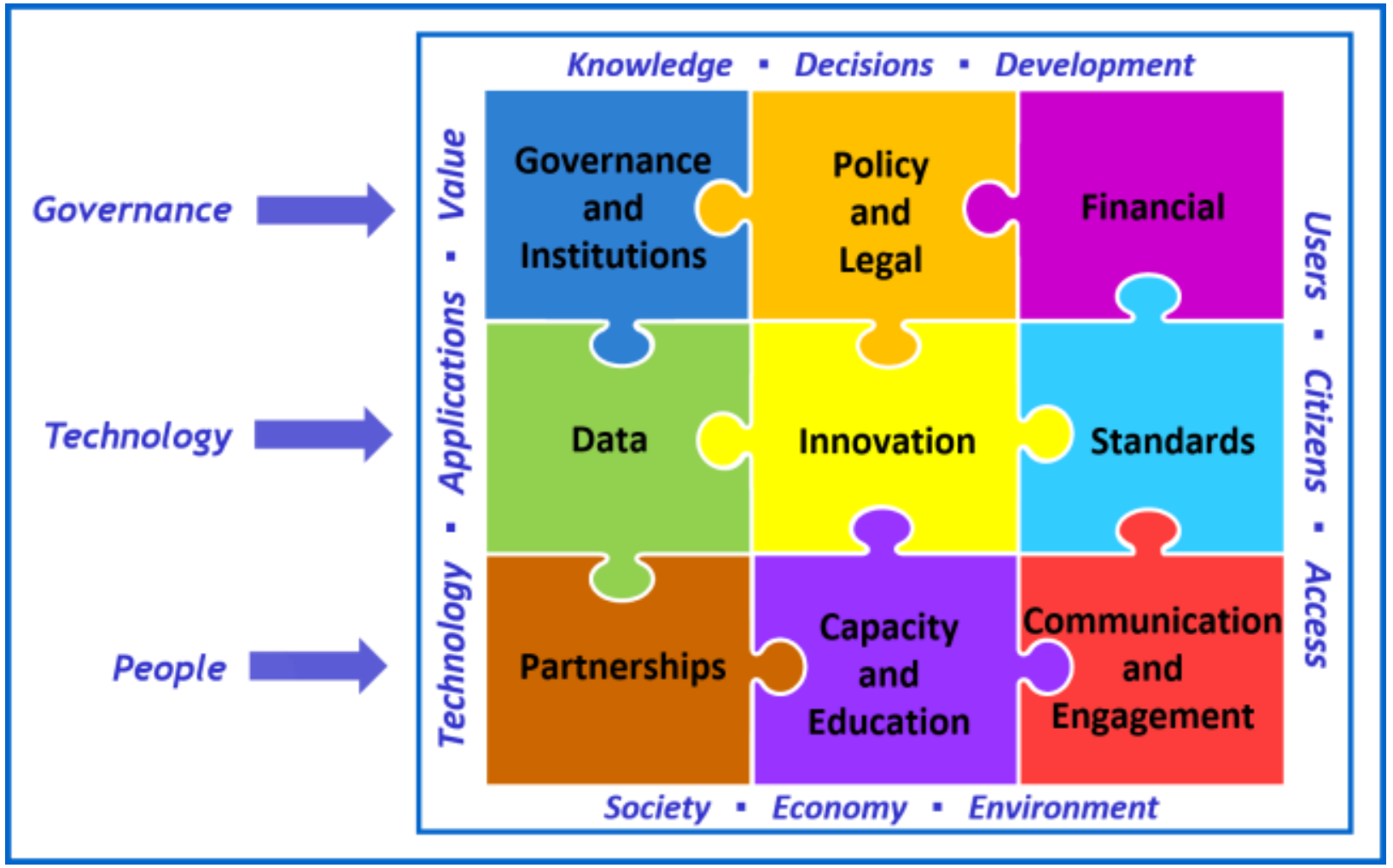


Role of the Private Sector in Strengthening the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF)

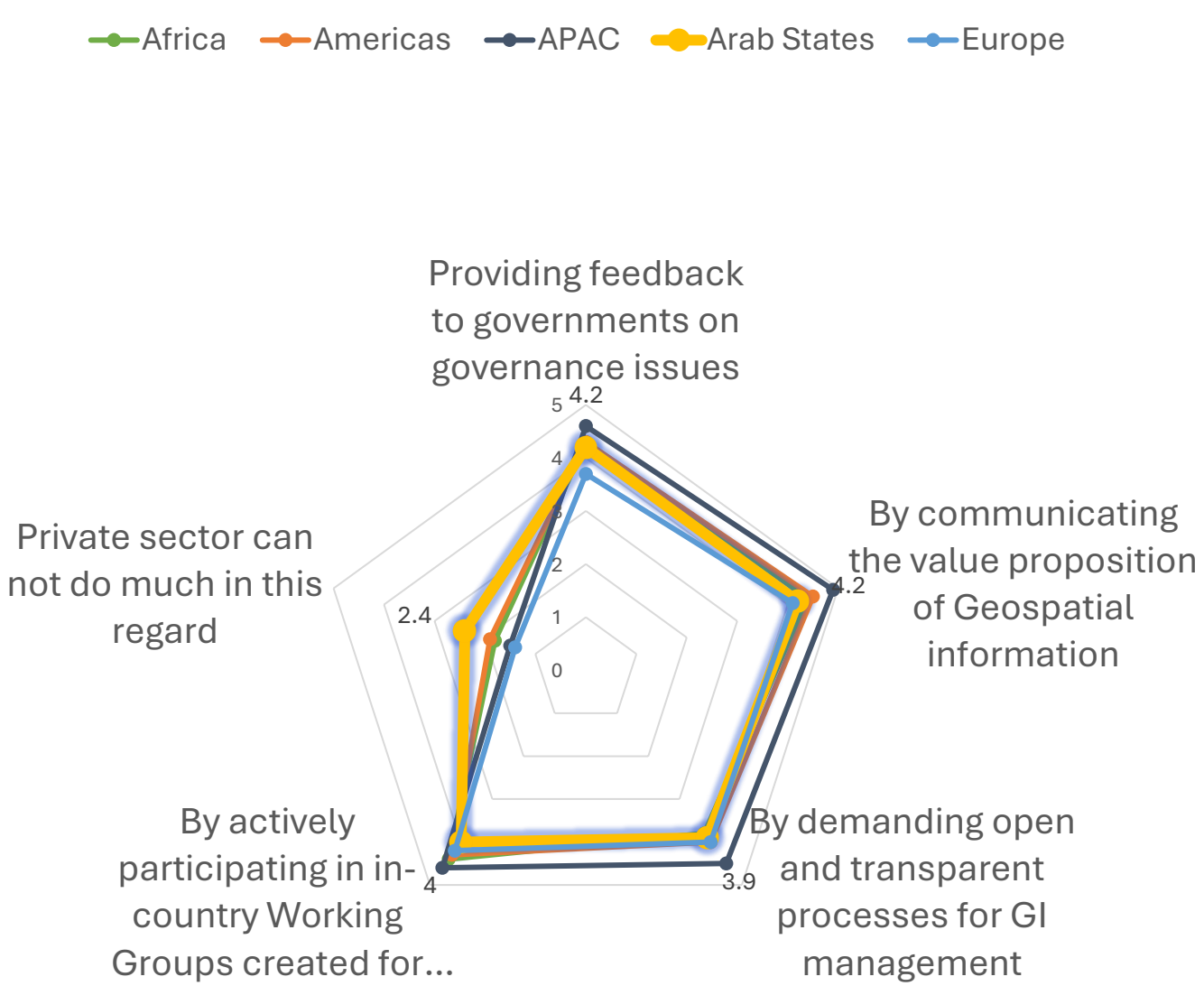
The Group of Experts to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management – Private Sector Network (UN-GGIM: PSN)

UN-GGIM
PRIVATE SECTOR NETWORK

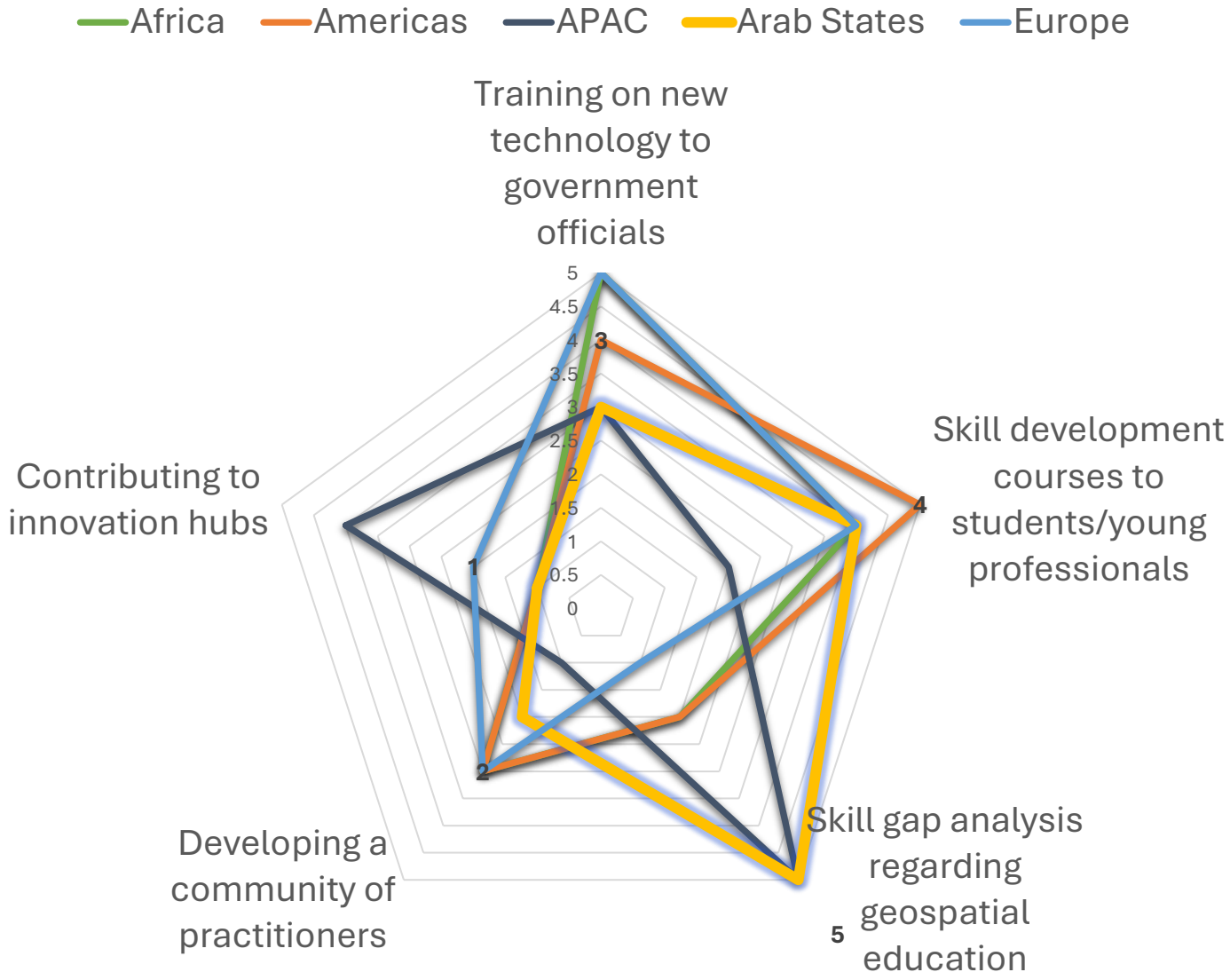
IGIF: 9 Strategic Pathways



Stronger PS Role in Geospatial Governance

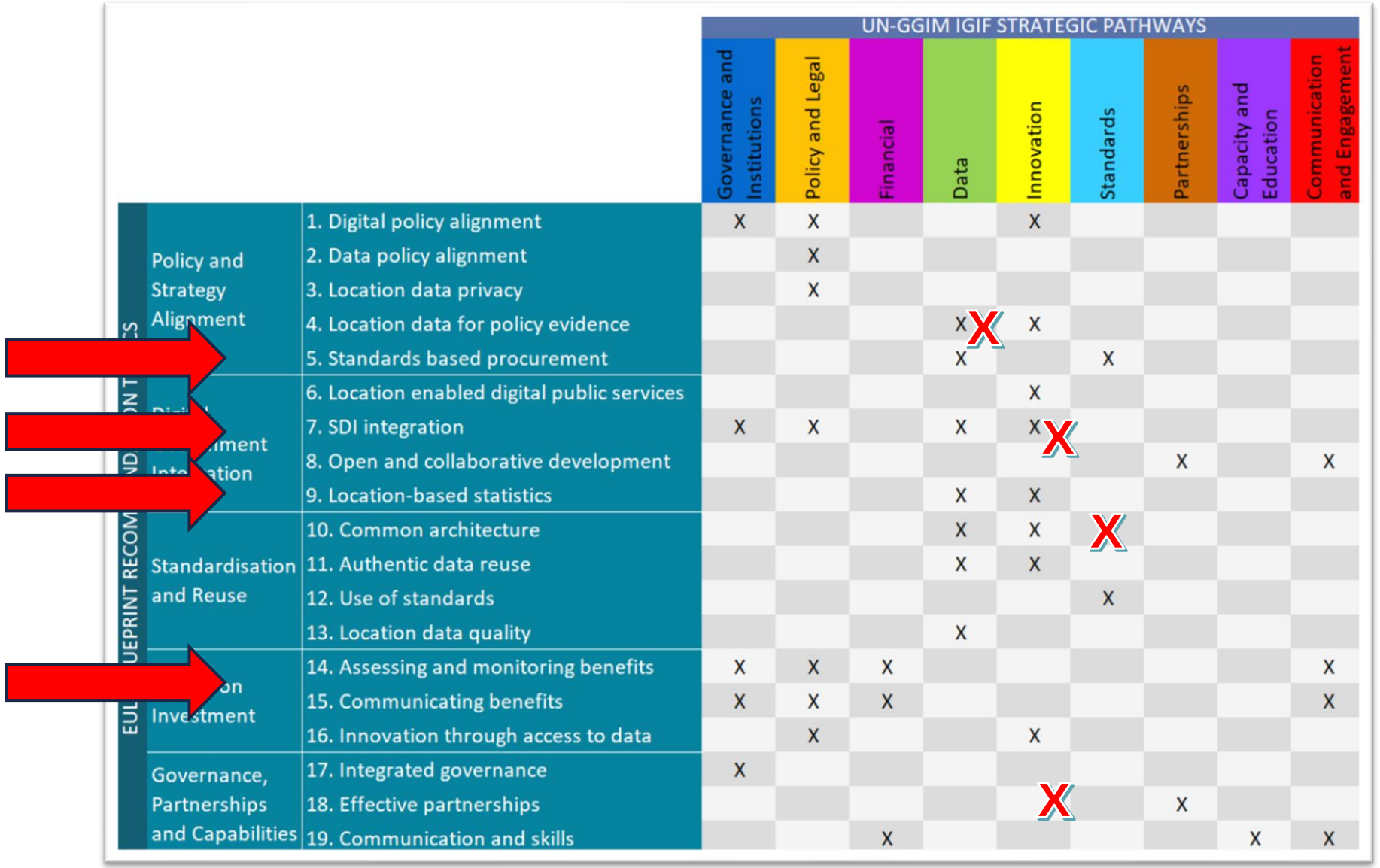


PS Role in Capacity Development



Connecting activities to Strategic Pathways

GeoAI
(notional)



			UN-GGIM IGIF STRATEGIC PATHWAYS								
			Governance and Institutions	Policy and Legal	Financial	Data	Innovation	Standards	Partnerships	Capacity and Education	Communication and Engagement
EULF BLUEPRINT RECOMMENDATIONS	Policy and Strategy Alignment	1. Digital policy alignment	X	X			X				
		2. Data policy alignment		X							
		3. Location data privacy		X							
		4. Location data for policy evidence				X	X				
		5. Standards based procurement				X		X			
	Digital Investment Integration	6. Location enabled digital public services					X				
		7. SDI integration	X	X		X	X				
		8. Open and collaborative development							X		X
		9. Location-based statistics				X	X				
	Standardisation and Reuse	10. Common architecture				X	X				
		11. Authentic data reuse				X	X				
		12. Use of standards						X			
		13. Location data quality				X					
	Investment	14. Assessing and monitoring benefits	X	X	X						X
		15. Communicating benefits	X	X	X						X
		16. Innovation through access to data		X			X				
	Governance, Partnerships and Capabilities	17. Integrated governance	X								
		18. Effective partnerships							X		
		19. Communication and skills			X					X	X

Article type: Article or Resource

GeoAI empowers UN-GGIM from academia, industry and state members' perspective

Saied Pirasteh[1], Songnian Li, Maria Antonia Brovelli, Georg Gartner, Zaffar Sadiq Mohamed Ghouse, Ivana Ivanova, Abbas Rajabifard, Michael Starek, Christy Claudill, Lokendra Chauhan, Paloma Merodio, Andrea Manara, Mahdieh Shirmohammadi[1]

[1] Institute of Artificial Intelligence, Shaoxing University, 508 West Huancheng Road, Yuecheng District, Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province, Postal Code 312000, China. Email: spirasteh71@gmail.com

Abstract

Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI) is set to transform academia and industry by offering new research and application opportunities. Here, we design a quantitative survey to explore and understand the current state of GeoAI and discern avenues for strengthening capacity and fostering a collaborative environment. We also develop and enhance GeoAI and ethical guidelines and best practices frameworks. This study's insights were from 120 participants

UN-GGIM
ACADEMIC NETWORK

Open
Geospatial
Consortium

WGIC
World Geospatial Industry Council

GEOAI Skill Needs Survey – Private Sector

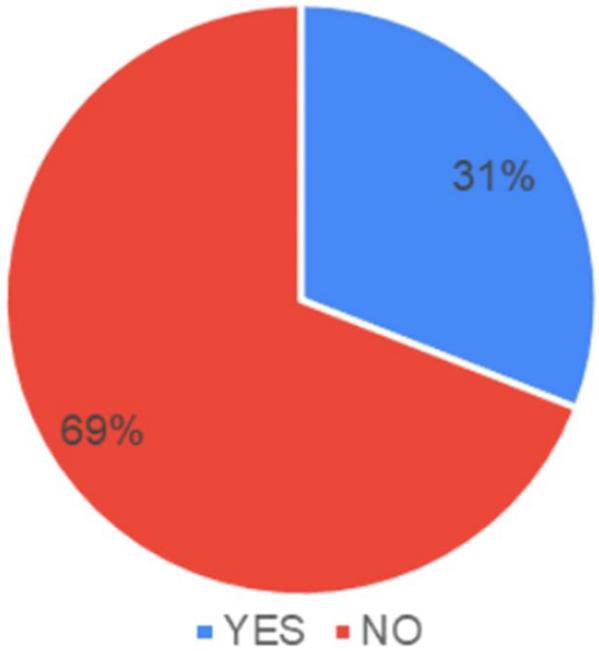
- By Lokendra Chauhan
Founder, Qen Labs Inc.

Geographical Representation

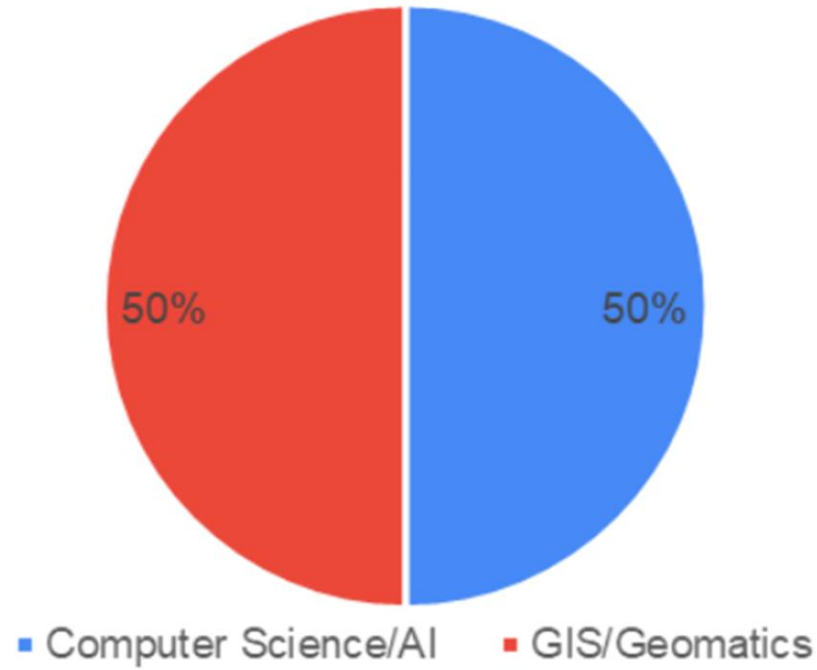
24 Countries Represented by Respondents

Findings from Private Sector Survey

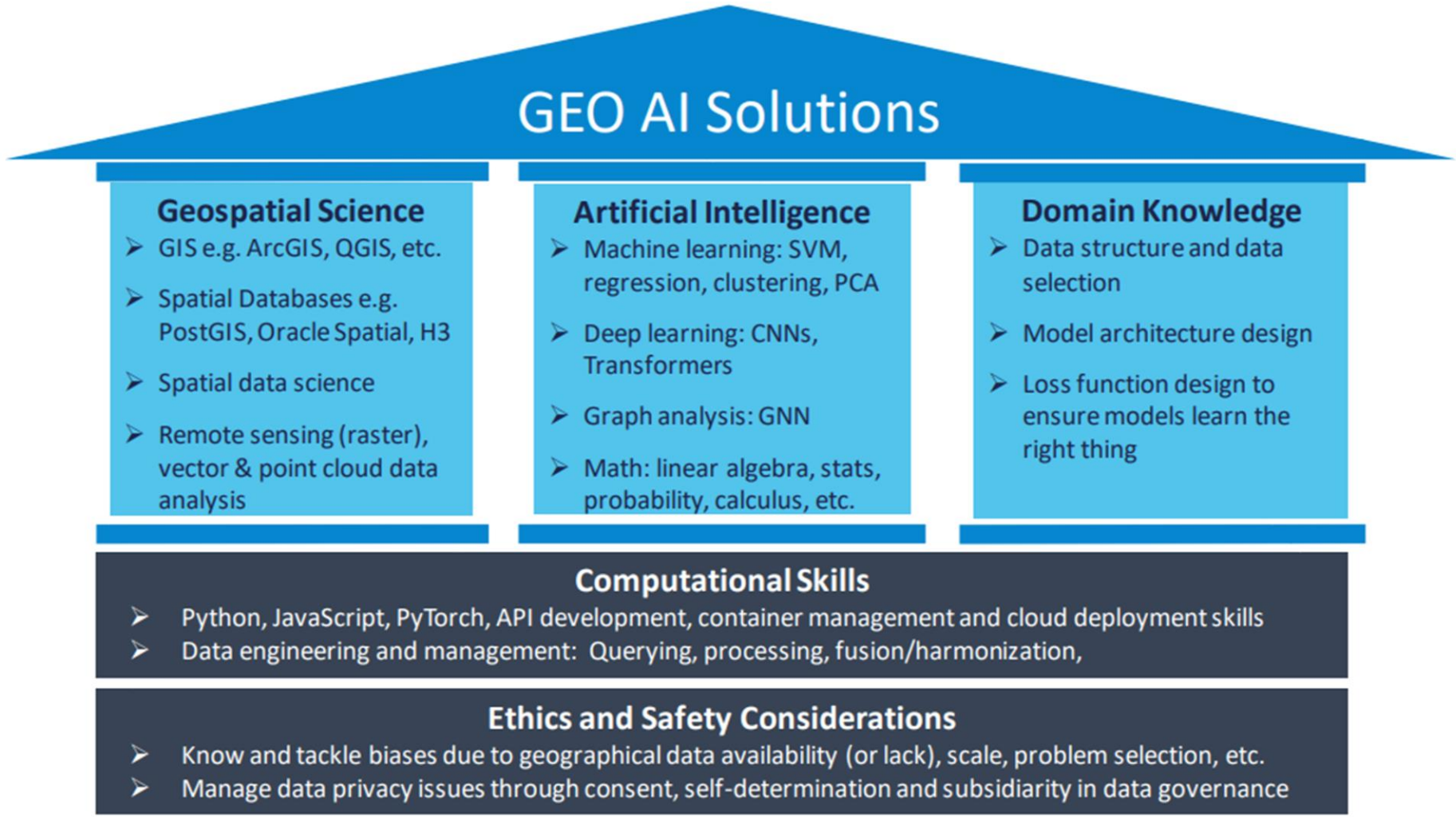
Do University Graduates have Required Skills for GeoAI Jobs?



Easier to upskill Geo degree holders or Computer Science



Skills and Competencies Required

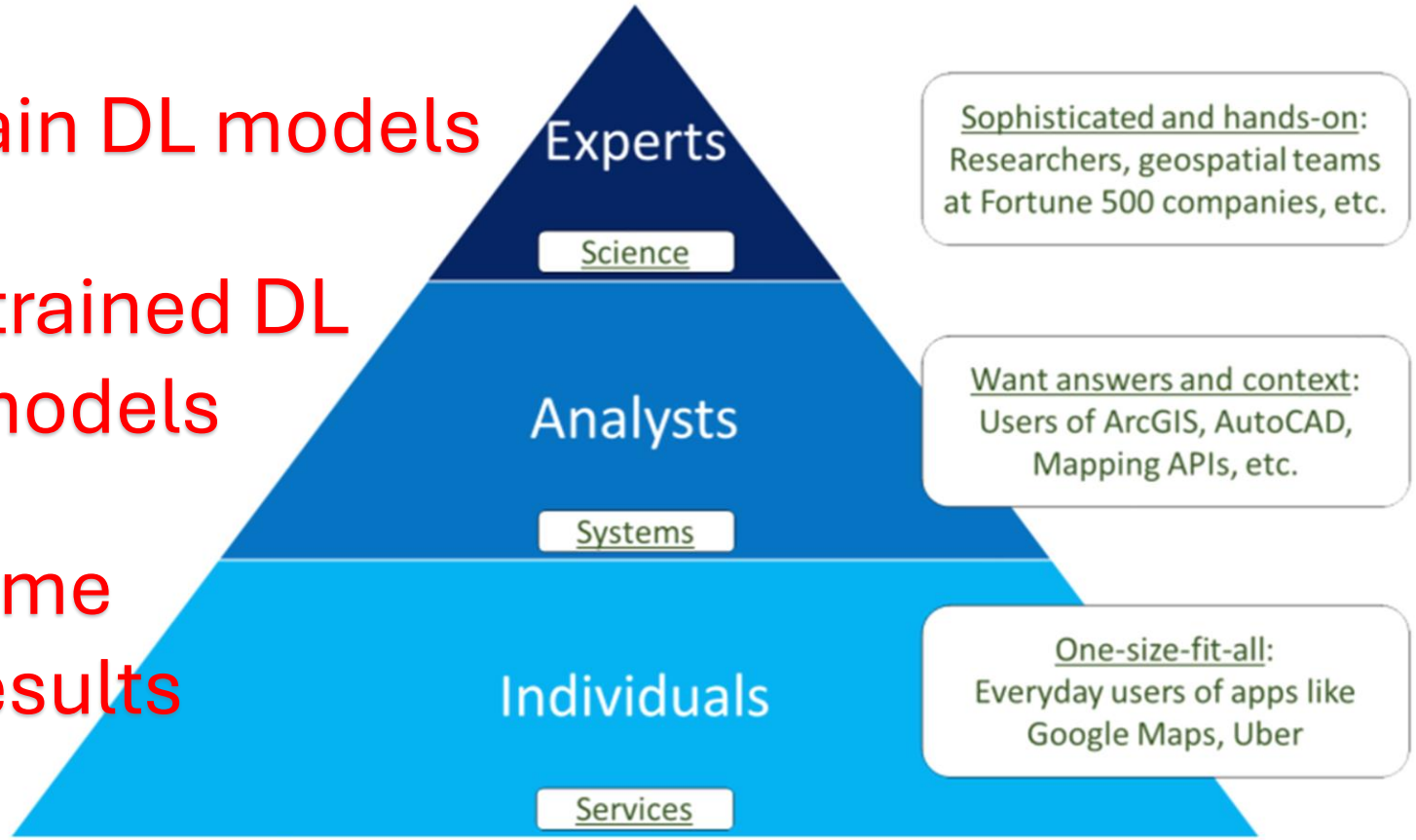


Hierarchy of Geospatial Users

Train DL models

Use trained DL models

Consume model results



Sophisticated and hands-on: Researchers, geospatial teams at Fortune 500 companies, etc.

Want answers and context: Users of ArcGIS, AutoCAD, Mapping APIs, etc.

One-size-fit-all: Everyday users of apps like Google Maps, Uber

Next phase: Multimodal GeoAI foundation models (FM) for answering spatiotemporal and retrieval queries in natural language.

Question: When everyone becomes a GeoAI FM user, what kind curriculums would be required?

Summary of Conclusions

- AI will affect the work of UN-GGIM and IGIF.
- GeoAI is in widespread demand.
  - Traditional GeoAI (data capture) and Assistants (LLMs)
- Industry Upskilling is Common: Academia can do more.
- Greater collaboration needed btw Public (incl. Univs) & Private Sectors, Governments, UN.
  - Communication of the importance
  - Capacity Development
  - Agreements on Ethics, Policy

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Let's develop a positive and enduring impact on a sustainable world using geospatial information, leaving no one behind