

UN-GGIM Academic Network's Contribution to GeoAI

AI for Good workshop on “The role of GeoAI and Foundational Models in shaping an AI-driven future for all”

9 July 2025

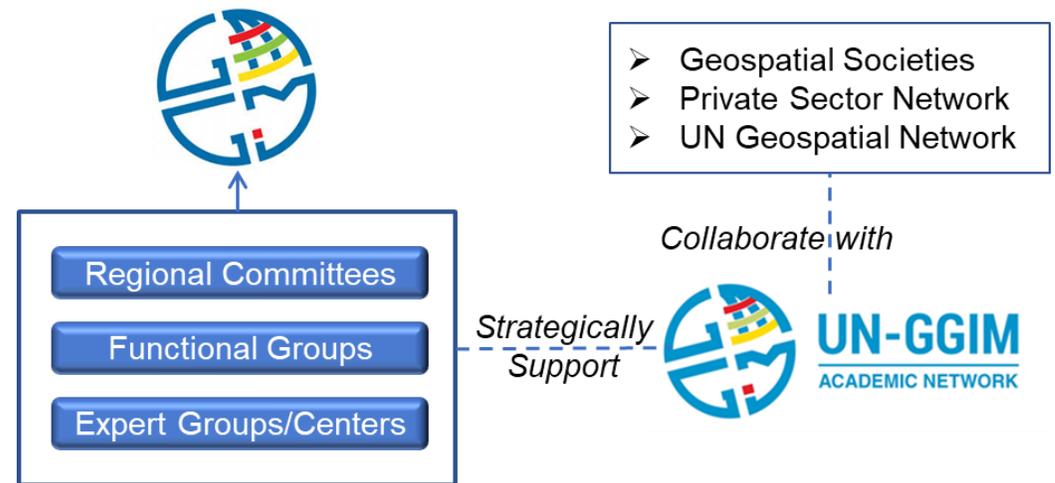


UN-GGIM | ACADEMIC NETWORK

unggim.academicnetwork.org

UN-GGIM Academic Network

- Coalition of recognized universities, research/education centers, or equivalent, involved in R&D and training on geospatial information
- Support UN-GGIM's aims and objectives by facilitating member's access to research & education capacities

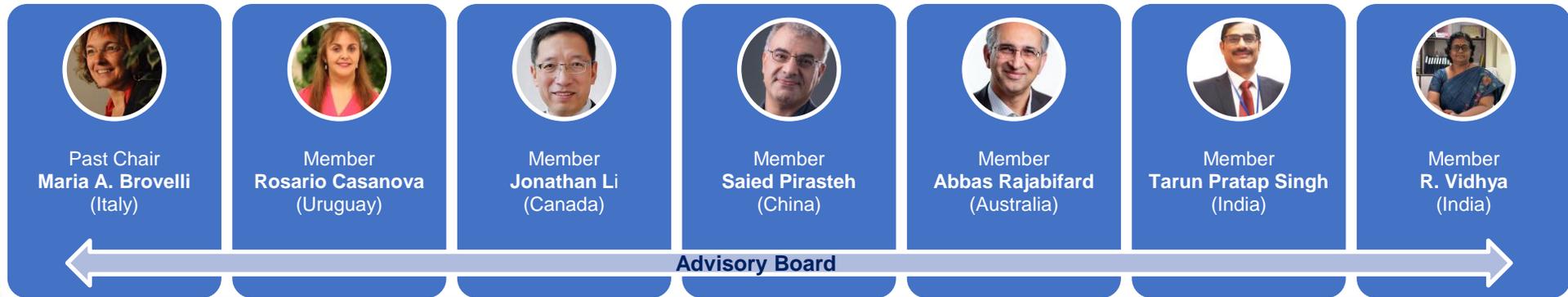
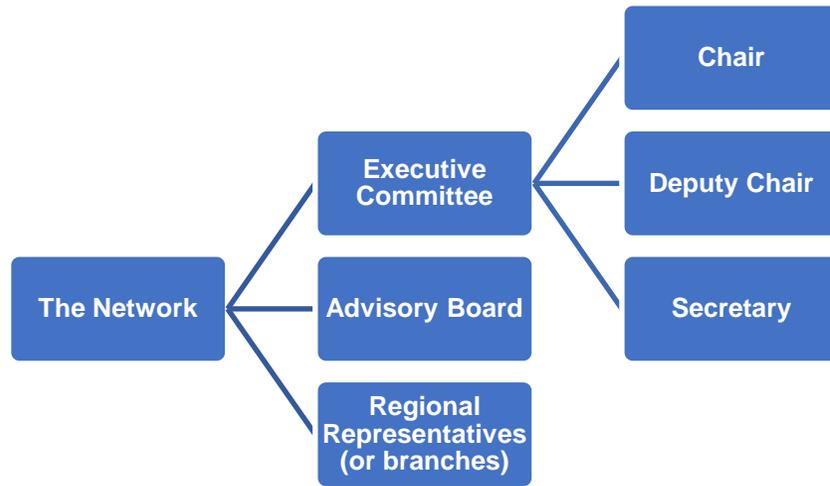


Objectives of the Network

- Promote and foster collaboration between universities and research entities/groups to support the operation of UNGGIM-IGIF
- Encourage members to undertake work that is able to contribute to the UN-GGIM mission and UN-SDGs
- Provide a forum of geospatial academics and researchers to advance competencies and qualifications needed for the UN-GGIM and supporting Member States
- Build capacity and develop an inventory of international education programs open to and recommended for UN-GGIM actors.



Organization of the Network



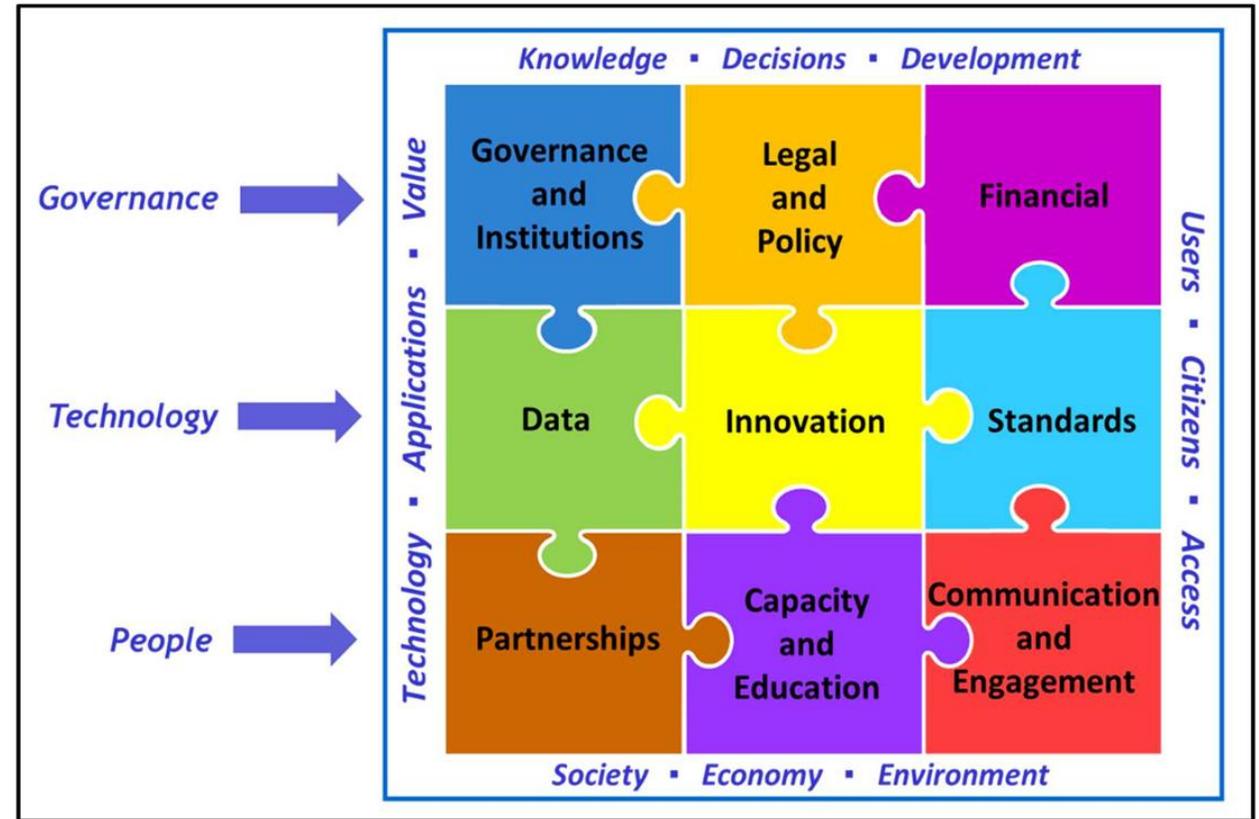
Network Members

- 76 members, incl. 4 associate members
- 40 countries
- 9 new membership applications pending for approval



Strategic Activities

- The Academic Network contribute to:
 - all UN-GGIM IGIF Strategic Priorities & Components
 - the development of SDGs



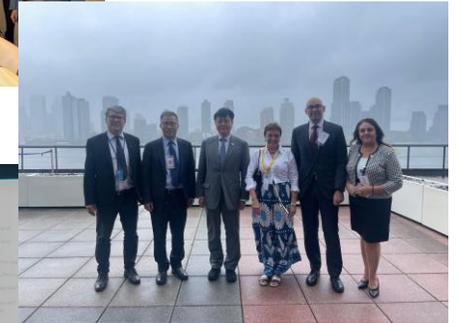
Strategic Activities cont.

- Contributes by
 - Collaboration and joint activities with UN-GGIM regional committees, functional groups, other thematic networks, and new UN centers
 - Organize side events, workshops and seminars (incl. webinars)
 - Build capacities, e.g.,
 - develop online list of educational materials
 - [conduct UN-IGIF surveys](#)
 - [develop UN-IGIF knowledge and capacity gaps, skill sets, etc.](#)
 - Publications
 - academic network or joint whitepapers
 - digital booklets for young people
 - UN-IGIF best practices
 - YouTube series
 - UN-GGIM AN Story Map
 - Strategies for engaging with the wider membership



Organized / Co-organized Events

- Online member's meeting to solicit their ideas or suggestions on how to better support UN-GGIM's mission, 7 November 2024.
- Side event "GEOAI: Opportunities and Challenges"
 - with Private Sector Network, 13th UN-GGIM Session, 2-4 Aug 2023, NY, USA
- Joint Side Event on "Geospatial Data Analytics and GeoAI Accelerating the SDGs and Impacting National Priorities"
 - with all thematic networks, 14th UN-GGIM Session, 7-9 Aug 2024, NY, USA
 - Business meeting on "strategic plan for the Network over the next few years"
- the UN-GGIM Panel at the ISPRS TC IV mid-term symposium, Fremantle, Australia, 22-25 October 2024.
- participated in the United Nations Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Week 2024, Deqing, China, 21-24 October 2024.



Looking forward ...

- Work closely with all UN-GGIM functional groups and committees
- Collaborate with academic communities to build capacities and develop educational programs and materials that are more relevant to UN-GGIM, especially
 - focus on awareness of UN-IGIF and support of UN-IGIF implementation
 - work with the three newly established centers
- Promote the Network to more members and engage members and young professionals (including students)



UN-GGIM Academic Network's Contribution to GeoAI



UN-GGIM | ACADEMIC NETWORK

unggim.academicnetwork.org

Organized / Co-organized GeoAI Events

- [GeoAI Education](#) webinar (June 2023)
 - Virtual & video online, with 3 invited panelists



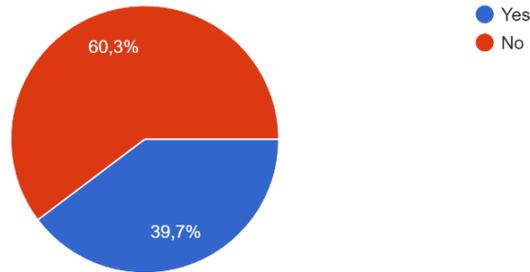
- Workshop on [“Building a foundation for geospatial AI: defining a syllabus and body of knowledge”](#) (July 2023)
 - In person & video online



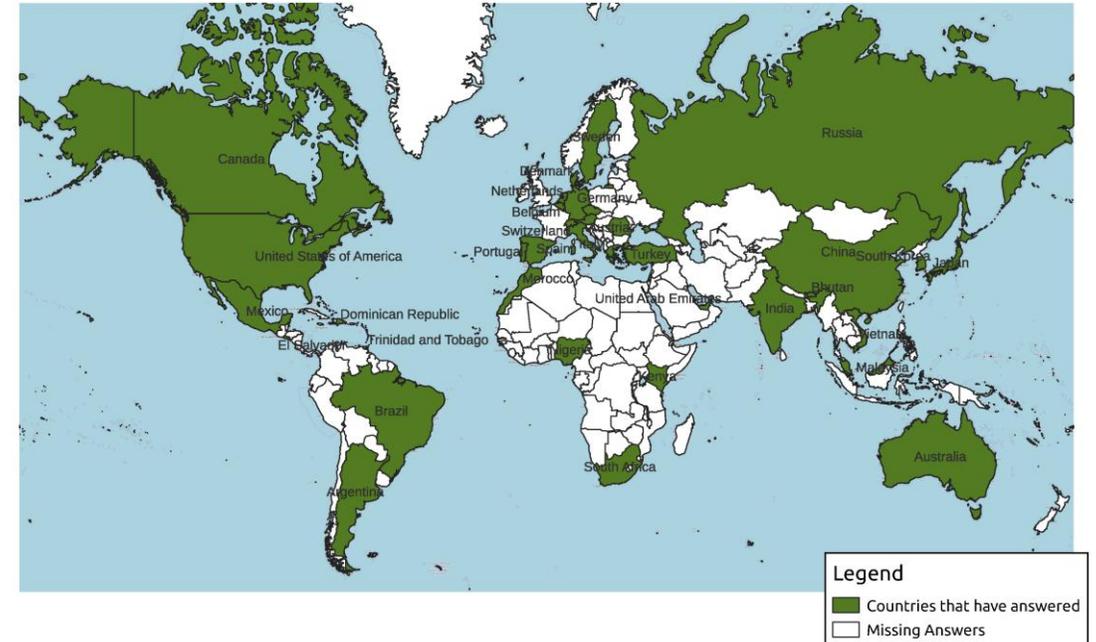
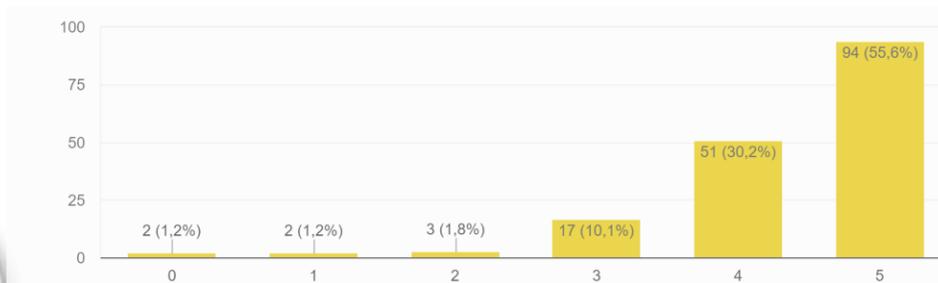
2023 GeoAI Survey

- Survey to the Universities – 70 participants

Is your University a member of the UN-GGIM Academic Network?
68 risposte

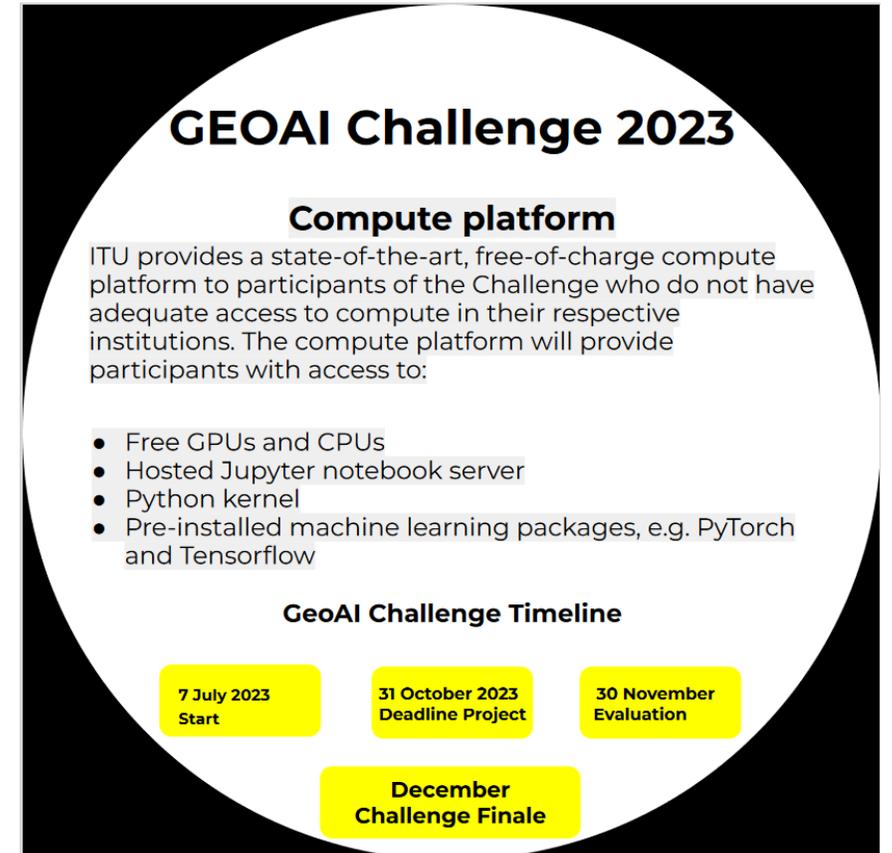


Do you believe that GeoAI can **improve** the **provision, effectiveness and value** of the existing geospatial procedures, products and services?



GeoAI Challenge

- In collaboration with UN Open GIS initiative and UN Geospatial Network



GEOAI Challenge 2023

Compute platform

ITU provides a state-of-the-art, free-of-charge compute platform to participants of the Challenge who do not have adequate access to compute in their respective institutions. The compute platform will provide participants with access to:

- Free GPUs and CPUs
- Hosted Jupyter notebook server
- Python kernel
- Pre-installed machine learning packages, e.g. PyTorch and Tensorflow

GeoAI Challenge Timeline

- 7 July 2023 Start
- 31 October 2023 Deadline Project
- 30 November Evaluation
- December Challenge Finale



GeoAI BoK and Syllabus

- Workshop on “Navigating GeoAI: Plotting the course for future education” (May 2024)
- GeoAI syllabuses, tailored for different audiences:
 - developers
 - geomatics experts, and
 - decision-makers
- A comprehensive GeoAI body of knowledge (initial work)
- Developed by:
 - WP1 – GEOAI Syllabus for developers
 - WP2 – GEOAI Syllabus for appliers
 - WP3 – GEOAI Syllabus for decision-makers
 - WP4 – GEOAI Body of Knowledge

