

The Geographic Information Umbrella Organisations in France

**François SALGÉ, Secretary General of
the French National Council for Geographic Information, France**

Key words:

SUMMARY

France umbrella organisation for GI may be described through two separate but sister organisations, AFIGÉO and CNIG: AFIGÉO, Association Française pour l'Information Géographique and CNIG, Conseil National de l'information géographique.

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1. MISSIONS

AFIGÉO's mission is to favour the development of geographic information in France for the benefit of all public and private actors, the industry, producers, publishers, researchers, teachers, technical services of state and local governments, and other users. Contributing to the tasks of the CNIG, AFIGÉO's objective is to enlarge the work towards all professionals and users in order to ensure that needs and technical improvements are better taken into consideration within the national policies. Its ambition is to federate the activities of scientific and technical organisations as well as professional unions maintaining constant relations with them.

CNIG mission is threefold. It advises the French government and the French administration on national policies having an effect on or being affected by GI. It contributes to the development and the promotion of GI taking into account the requirements of the users. It monitors and surveys the technological and methodological development in the GI sector in order to ensure national policies take it into account.

2. OBJECTIVES/STRATEGY

AFIGÉO strategy is to bring together all operational actors of the GI sector (either public, semi-public or private, either national regional or local, either legal bodies or individuals). It is then to propose and suggest new orientations to national and local policies such as data sharing among actors over a given territory. It is finally to inform its members on technical, organisational, economic and legal issues. Representing the operational actors, its strategy is to contribute to CNIG work and to participate in its working parties.

CNIG objectives include:

- the formulation and the adoption of a national policy for setting up a French national spatial data infrastructure, for each geographical "référentiel"
- the establishment of a mechanism allowing to define its content, its maintenance and its access,
- the survey of GI decision mechanisms, identifying the lacks in order to formulate a unified and clear French policy on geographic information
- the identification at their earliest stages of the European regulations, directives and decisions that may impact the GI sector, the study of expected consequences and influence their finalisation

- the promotion of the coordination of GI development at local level in consistency with national development in order to achieve better human and financial resources usage
- the knowledge and understanding of the GI sector, the identification of facilitators and barriers for its development contributing to the setting up clear regulations for the private to sustainably develop.

3. KEY ROLES

AFIGÉO

Knowledge and information supplier, Public relations, awareness raising and promotion of GI, Political interface, lobbyist, Promoter of standards, certification.

CNIG

GI policy maker, Knowledge and information supplier, Public relations, awareness raising and promotion of GI, Mediator, negotiator, Facilitator for education (professional development) and training.

4. ACTIONS

AFIGÉO

Workshops, Conferences: 1 conference per year (in coordination with CNIG), Projects, Publications, Lobbying, Working groups.

CNIG

Conferences: 1 conference per year (in coordination with AFIGÉO), Publications, Commission and working groups

5. STRUCTURE

AFIGÉO

General Board: General assembly of the members: 1 general assembly per year

Executive Board: Management board of 16 members: four to six meetings a year, a President, a Secretary General (same individual as for CNIG) a treasurer ; the President and General Secretary of CNIG are both mandatory members

Working groups

Participation of AFIGÉO members to CNIG commissions and WG.

Topic oriented Working Groups

AFIGÉO Club Export

Membership:

Categories and number in each category, target groups:

3 benefactors, 13 “level 1” member, 28 “level 2” members, 23 individual members

Benefits for the members:

- Be the French forum for GI
- Single entry point for all topics related to GI
- Lobbyist
- Expertise mobiliser
- Funding catalyst
- GI awareness raising place
- GI standardisation contributor
- “référentiels” think-tank
- French GI expertise promotor for the International market
- European link
- The membership is not separated into a public and private part.

CNIG

General Board

The Geographic information National Council composed of 35 members:

1 President designated by the Prime Minister, 4 local government elected people, 17 representatives of ministries, 2 qualified individuals (currently from the private sector), 7 public sector data producers, 4 representatives of the trade unions

Working groups

See organisational chart

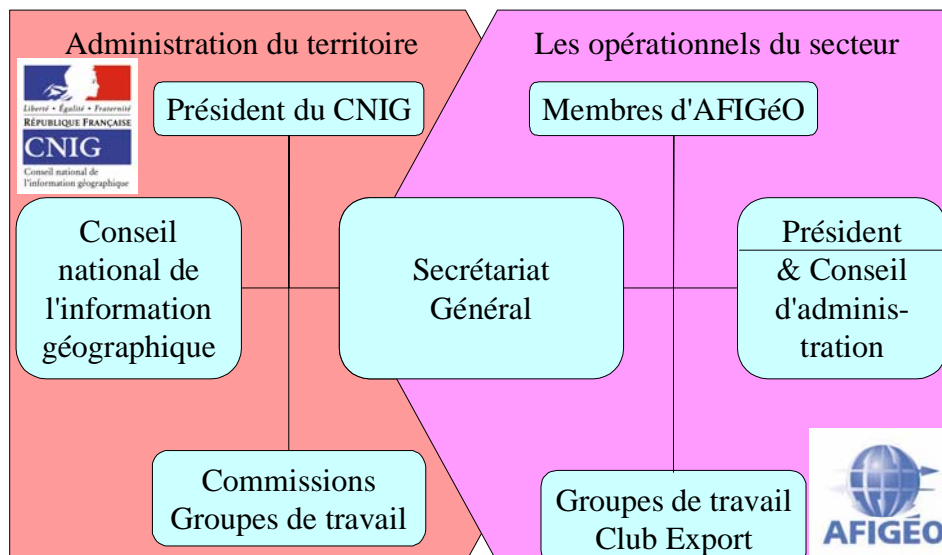
Secretariat

1 General Secretary designated by the ministries in charge of the budget and of the public works, 4 senior engineers, 1 webmaster, 2 secretaries

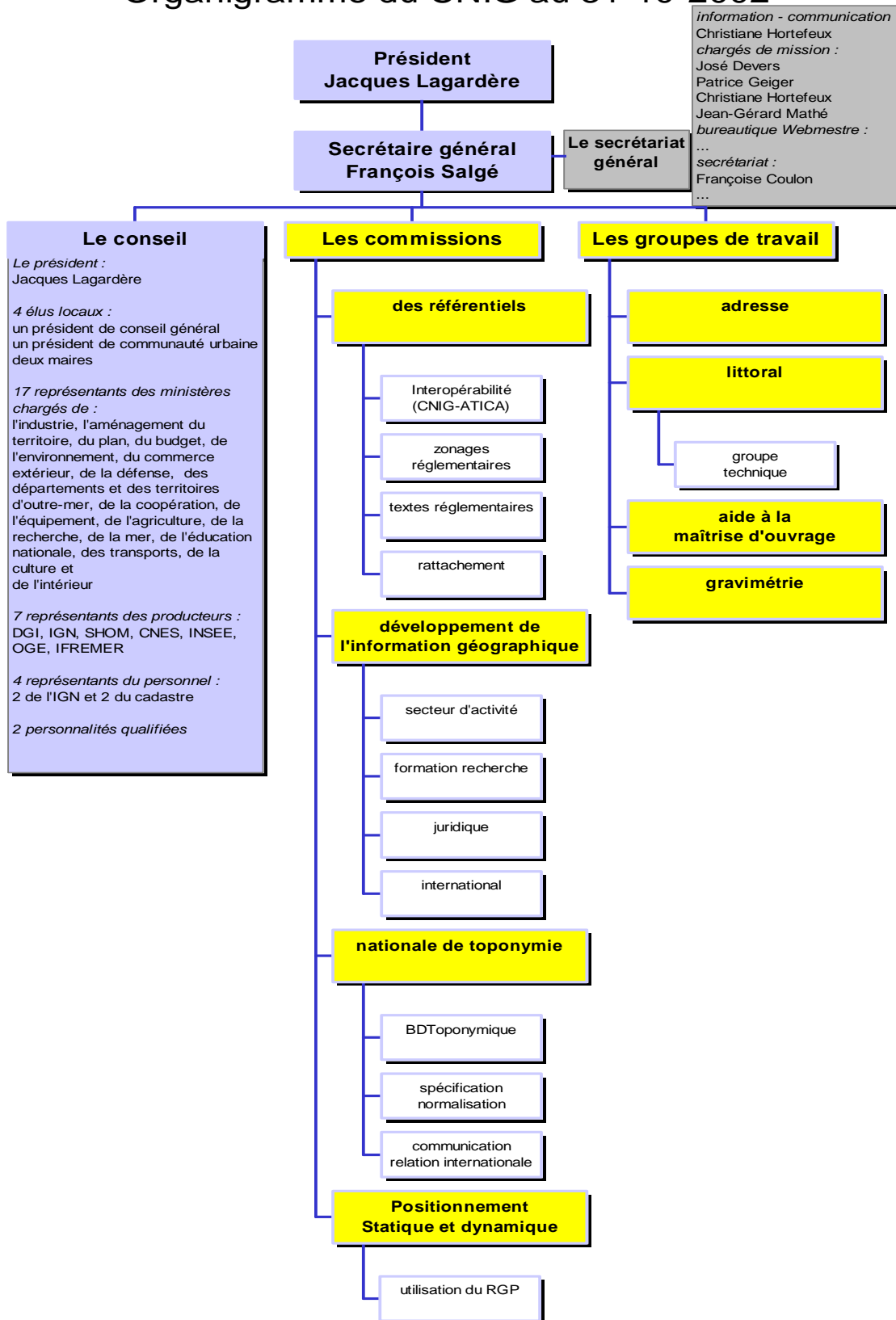
Membership

CNIG working parties include private sector members

Organisational scheme



Organigramme du CNIG au 31-10-2002



6. RESOURCES

AFIGÉO

year	2 002	2 001	2 000	1 999	1 998	1 997
revenues (k€)	92	138	197	266	307	386

CNIG

	2003 <i>requirements</i>	2002 <i>estimates</i>	2001 realisation	2000 realisation
Personnel	636 k€	456 k€	442 k€	420 k€
housing	60 k€	58 k€	57 k€	56 k€
running costs	32 k€	32 k€	29 k€	19 k€
Studies and publications	78 k€	35 k€	65 k€	52 k€
total	806 k€	581 k€	593 k€	547 k€

Communication

AFIGÉO

Newsletters	Lettre d'AFIGÉO (e-mail sent) one per month
Web site	http://www.afigeo.asso.fr/
E mail	afigeo@afigeo.asso.fr

CNIG

Newsletters	Lettre du CNIG (e-mail sent) one per month
Web site	http://www.cnig.gouv.fr/
E mail	cnig@cnig.gouv.fr

7. IMPORTANT ISSUES

The important issues are the same for AFIGÉO and CNIG (they share the concerns)

- « Référentiel géographique à grande échelle »:
- Technical aspects: content, specification and quality, address and urban area specificities
- Legal aspects: subsidized products and public procurement, licensing
- Financial aspects: licence fees, public funding level
- Organisational aspects: role of local governments
- GI development
- Observatory of the GI sector: definition study,
- Role of the local governments: Comité départementaux de l'information géographique
- Legal issues: access to and exploitation of public data
- Data sharing and interoperability between administration information systems
- Usage of GI: bringing together GI and discipline experts to analyse GI use in a discipline (littoral areas, flooding risks, local governments)
- Education and training: geo-portal and evaluation of high level GI training offer
- International: French know-how export, French international strategy, EUROGI activities
- Technology
- Permanent GPS network

- Toponymy
- Common framework for Interoperability between information systems of the public sector
- Accuracy level of topographic surveys funded by the public sector

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