

GECCO Data Access and Publication Policy

The purpose of the policy is to guide researchers in performing analyses, writing papers and submitting publications and other types of reports based on geographical data collected within GECCO.

The geographical data gathered within the project are stored and can be accessed in two ways:

- Centrally, accessible via the GECCO steering group via the website www.gecco.nl
- De-centrally, linked to the cohorts affiliated with GECCO, accessible via the respective cohort(s).

Via whichever source the GECCO geographic data are to be obtained, decisions on its usage and requirements for publications are made by the GECCO steering group. It is encouraged to include cohort data of multiple cohorts. Analyses over multiple cohorts can be done by pooling the cohort datasets and harmonising the variables, or by analysing results for each cohort and then pooling the results. This latter approach is often more feasible. Either way, it is expected that the applicants provide the necessary personnel resources (and financial resources, which is needed to obtain data for some cohorts). An overview of GECCO cohorts and cohort metadata can be found here:

<https://www.gecco.nl/cohort-data-1/>. Note that obtaining these cohort data will require separate application(s) directed to the data owners, and decisions on usage of cohort data remain with the cohort data owners or the designated cohort steering group

If any researcher wants to make use of geographic data that has been gathered, developed or centralized by GECCO, the following steps need to be taken:

1. A GECCO Publication Proposal needs to be completed and submitted. This is an online form which can be downloaded [here](#) and submitted to j.lakerveld@amsterdamumc.nl. The geo data access and publication proposal include:
 - a) A working title
 - b) The selected environmental variables to be obtained
 - c) The foreseen co-authors. Please note that it is advised to invite a GECCO-expert to contribute as co-author
 - d) The research question
 - e) Indication of which cohort data will be used (if any).
 - f) The funding source(s) of the applicants
 - g) A preliminary proposal for analyses and publication, and
 - h) A foreseen timeline.
2. Proposals are forwarded to the GECCO steering group. If there is no objection within three weeks, the proposal is considered to be approved. If there are questions then the request may need to be further considered - which may require revisions to the proposed plan. If a disagreement within the steering group exists with regard to approval or not, the steering group will gather and discuss the proposal. If no consensus can be reached, the steering group will vote. The majority of votes will determine the decision, and this decision will then be final.
3. The data requested in approved proposals will be provided via the GECCO coordinating office (if only geographic data is requested) or through the cohorts (if geographic as well as cohort data is requested, and requirements for usage of cohort data are also met).
4. Upon publication: a (link to the) pdf of the paper needs to be provided.

All data access and publication proposals will be assessed against the following criteria: 1) Scientific rigour of analyses, 2) appropriate project group, 3) involvement of relevant GECCO cohort data where possible, and 3) overlap with other known GECCO analyses.

General rules

- The geographic data that are provided after acceptance may only be used for the analyses as specified in the accepted publication proposal, and may not be further used or distributed.
- New research questions require the submission of a new proposal.
- Accepted publication proposals will be shared with the wider GECCO consortium.

- Use of geographic data is, in principle, free of charge for non-commercial users. Commercial parties that want to make use of GECCO data, as well as requests for tailored data sets may involve financial compensation (amount to be determined). Use of GECCO data should be budgeted in grant proposals of projects in which use of GECCO data is foreseen.

What you should include in your Presentation/Abstract/Poster/Manuscript

1. A Standardised Acknowledgement of GECCO

All manuscripts and (poster) presentations utilising GECCO data should acknowledge GECCO by stating: “Geo-data were collected as part of the Geoscience and Health Cohort Consortium (GECCO), which was financially supported by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw), and Amsterdam UMC. More information on GECCO can be found on www.gecco.nl”

2. A reference to the protocol papers

All manuscripts utilising GECCO-data are to include a reference to the following GECCO protocol papers (usually in the introduction or the methods section):

- Timmermans et al. (2018) Cohort Profile: The Geoscience and Health Cohort Consortium (GECCO). *BMJ Open*. 8:e021597. ([Link Full Text](#)).
- Lakerveld J, Wagtendonk AJ, Vaartjes I, Karssenbergh D. (2020) Deep phenotyping meets big data: the Geoscience and health cohort consortium (GECCO) data to enable exposome studies in the Netherlands. *International Journal of Health Geographics*. 19:49. ([Link Full Text](#))

3. Appropriate logos

If possible, posters, brochures, infographics and PowerPoint slides in which GECCO is featured should contain the GECCO logo. Please contact the GECCO chair to obtain a logo in high resolution.