Experiences and lessons learned and relevance for an institutionalised user representation

GEO UIC, Vienna, 27 January 2011
GNU is the pilot activity for effective GMES user coordination.
GMES Network of Users
30 years
23 partners
3 associates

1st
1st
3 years
22 countries
23 partners
30 associates
GNU partners

- Environment Agencies
- SMEs (support)
- NGO
- Land Agency
- Environment Ministry
- Remote Sensing Research
- Socio-logical Research
- Air Quality Agency
- Forestry Agencies
- Geological Surveys
- European Topic Centre (Land use)
Project goals
1) GNU provides a mouthpiece for GMES users in the member states.
2) GNU defragments GMES user communities.
3) GNU links data-related and human aspects of GMES.
Interactive bottom-up working methods
Project outcomes
Good Products:
1. Improvement of work
2. Practical applicability
3. Reliability
Good Cooperation:

1. Iterative development
2. Support
3. User-friendly data systems
Good Framework:

1. Equal footing with other stakeholders
2. Subsidiarity
3. Involvement in Financial decisions
Implications for the GMES User Forum
Big Leap

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But a lot to learn from
**Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting**

Every three years, Commonwealth Ministers responsible for women’s affairs meet to agree action on issues such as gender equality.

Since 1990, each Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting, or WAMM, has afforded civil society organisations the opportunity to influence and shape its outcomes, as well as wider policy and practice on women’s affairs.

The 9WAMM took place in Barbados between 6 and 9 June 2010.

Real Users

No country represented by space or technology stakeholders
Participatory processes

Mere plenary discussions will not be sufficient
Penetrating national communities

National/regional user fora to gather widely supported perspectives
Chairing seen as facilitation/moderation

Independence
Issues users consider important

Users define content to be covered
GREAT MIGRATIONS
KRETANJE MILIONA, OPSTANAK KAO JEDAN.

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL
GNU (GMES Network of Users): Experiences and lessons learned for an institutionalised user representation

Herbert Haubold, Environment Agency Austria

Handout for the GEO UIC, Vienna, 27 January 2011

GNU is the pilot activity for effective GMES user coordination.

Goals:
1) GNU provides a mouthpiece for GMES users in the member states.
2) GNU defragments GMES user communities.
3) GNU links data-related and human aspects of GMES.

Project outcomes: Users‘ views on GMES

1) Good Products

   Improvement of work
   Related to topic user works on (policy, compulsory monitoring)
   Fulfil true needs (necessity related and taylor made)
   Integrated in users’ procedures

   Practical applicability
   Resolution adequate for purpose (thematic, spatial, temporal)
   Timeliness (data sources and delivery)
   Common software and infrastructure

   Reliability
   Independent quality control (documented validation procedure)
   Transparent production (methods and complete meta data available)
   Limitations specified

2) Good Co-operation: Operational level, that is projects/services

   Iterative development
   Development with users, not for them (needs into requirements)
   Prototypes tested and refined in loops
   Penetrating users’ organisations (from core-users to the mainstream)

   Support
   Operational contact with provider (assistance)
   Completely known service chain
   Competition and market (open service network)

   Data systems
   Clear straight forward structure (comprehensible and logical)
   Easy product access (little administration)
   Sound meta data (clear legal information)

3) Good Framework: Linking users to other stakeholders on process level

   Equal footing
   Users’ influence beyond recommendations
   Involvement in strategic decision making cycles (e.g. EO priorities)
   As influential as infrastructure owners

   Subsidiarity
   Balanced de-centralised and centralised production (local expertise)
   Linking GMES to existing data bases (particularly national in situ data)
   Mandated GMES user co-ordination on national level (specifications)

   Financial decisions
   Users involved in prioritising GMES funds (less focussed on space)
   Future beneficiaries involved in selection of services
   Twinning, Life+, Territorial cooperation, EuropeAid as models
Implications for the GMES User Forum

GNU can in several regards provide an example how the GMES user forum could effectively work. Nevertheless, there is a big leap needed:

- GNU: User Forum
- typical: representative
- project: mandated
- experts: delegates
- selected topics: complete
- informal: official

Criteria for a successful GMES User Forum

Real users:

All representatives should be GMES users (e.g. environment agency or ministry) and no country should be represented by space of technology stakeholders who would not be able to truly understand and to credibly represent users' interests.

Participatory processes:

To capture the many different view points and to enable all participants to articulate their ideas and concerns, mere plenary discussions will not be sufficient. Well designed professional communication procedures are needed.

Penetrating national communities:

National/regional user fora should serve as counterparts to the European one, to gather widely supported perspectives. Delegates will need such mechanisms to articulate statements which represent the user community in their country.

Independence:

The Commission as a European organisation has the opportunity to be in a neutral position in the User Forum and could see its chairing function as a facilitation/moderation role. The User Forum should be enabled to openly articulate its views.

Issues users consider important:

The participants should – jointly with the Commission – define the content to be covered by the User Forum to ascertain that this body reflects what users currently consider important or which problems they intend to solve.

All project results are available on www.gmes-network-of-users.eu