

GEO-X Plenary Statement Germany

The multitude and magnitude of the European contribution to GEO, such as those of the EUMETSAT, ESA, Copernicus und EU FP7 and Horizon2020 programs, are of great importance to Germany as a strong European Union Partner, and are being supported by us accordingly. Namely the Copernicus Programme, that recently reached very important milestones, poses a significant step forward not only for European Earth Observations, but for the whole world, and Germany is very proud of that.

Besides the European dimension, German remains active also individually in supporting many GEO Tasks, the 3 GEO Implementation Boards and several working groups, such as on Monitoring and Evaluation, and the secretariat. We also continue to support the GEO Trust fund with 100.000 € in 2014.

Furthermore, we would like to point out the following specific contributions:

- The Geo Data Infrastructure Germany (GDI-DE) is a national German initiative. The underlying Geodata Catalogue.de, a high-performance, standardized, harmonized and consolidated metadata information system integrates at present 29 catalogue services from national, regional and local level with about 85 000 metadata. It is fully integrated in the GEOSS Information System.
- Starting early 2014, the German Aerospace Center DLR makes available the Digital Elevation Data of the Tandem-X Mission for scientific use. Tandem-X Data with its unprecedented combination of global coverage and highest accuracy is a unique dataset and will be of great value for many different GEO tasks.
- Since mid 2013, the Global Precipitation Climatology Center of the German Meteorological Service DWD provides a new drought index on operational basis and fully free, which is of interest for Climate, Water and Agriculture communities. all over the world, as it is globally applicable. This and five further user tailored data sets have been referenced with digital object identifiers (DOIs) and registered with GEOSS Data Core. Also, a global GPCC-First Guess Daily product has become available for verification against satellite based daily precipitation analysis products and model based re-analysis.
- In order to support the GEO climate activities, specifically at the interface with the Global Climate Observing System and the Global Framework for Climate Services, we will second a Junior Professional Officer to the GEO Secretariat.
- From 2014 onwards, Germany funds the GEO-BON project office, which will be hosted by iDiv, a specialized biodiversity research facility in Leipzig, Germany.
- Furthermore, Germany will contribute additionally up to 100.000 € in 2014, to support the achievement of the targets until 2015. Our intention is to earmark these additional resources to support specific activities that are of great importance, but have not yet fully developed their potential.