

Geo Data Providers Workshop, Florence, Italy, 20-21 April 2017:

Thursday 20 April 10:10-10:20 Message from the DG research and Innovation of the European Commission

Application of the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles within EC programmes

- Thank CNR, ESA, and GEO Secretariat for inviting the Directorate General in charge of Research and Innovation at the European Commission to participate to this second GEO Data Providers Workshop
- This series of workshop is a very timely initiative in view first of ensuring that GEOSS is regularly updated with new EO datasets becoming available and second that the access to those data is organized in a convenient manner for those users
- The European Commission (EC) was proactive since the beginning of GEO to encourage Earth Observation data owners, in particular in Europe, to share their data through GEOSS.
- As a consequence major EU programmes such as Copernicus, the EU EO programme, and Horizon 2020, the EU Research programme, are applying the GEOSS data sharing principle of free, full and open access to Earth observation data.
- For instance the data produced through the Copernicus Space Infrastructure, the Sentinel satellite data, is available open and free of charge through the website 'Copernicus.eu', which is quite a significant contribution to the Global Earth Observation System of Systems.

Involvement of the EC in the development of the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI)

- Now an open data policy such as the GEO free, full and open access to EO data is a necessary condition to facilitate the use of Earth observation data but it is

not sufficient to allow discovery and access to GEOSS information resources in a practical way for the users.

- This is the reason why we have invested EU resources in collaboration with ESA, the JRC, and CNR, to support the development of the GCI which currently interconnects more than 140 major EO data providers and allows access to millions of resources worldwide.
- More specifically we have supported several FP7 projects, notably EuroGEOSS and GEOWOW, that have contributed to the development of the GEOSS Data and Access Broker (DAB) and of the GEOSS WEB Portal (GWP).

Future actions foreseen by the EC to facilitate the access to and exploitation of Earth Observation Data through GEOSS

- We are now launching several actions in collaboration with various partners in order to facilitate the access of European Earth observation data through GEOSS and to encourage the exploitation of GEOSS for the benefit of European users
- The first action is a collaboration we have started with ESA so that the GEOSS Web Portal is evolving into a more user-oriented facility. We will provide within few months, through Horizon 2020, a grant to ESA to co-fund the enhancement of the GWP.
- We are specifically attentive through this collaboration that the portal will be upgraded to ensure full alignment with the evolution of the various GCI components (essentially the DAB).
- We also want to make sure that the portal enhancement will be conducted taking full account of major European EO data and information platforms such as the Copernicus Data and Information Access Services (DIAS) and the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE)
- A second action that we have launched within the Commission is the establishment of a closer collaboration between DG RTD, and the DG in charge

of the implementation of the Copernicus programme, DG GROW. We have agreed between the two DGs that all the Copernicus resources (data and services) should become systematically discoverable through the GEOSS Common Infrastructure.

- Some of the Copernicus resources, such as Sentinel 1 and 2 are already accessible through the GCI but we are proceeding now with an inventory of the Copernicus services, products and data already discoverable through the GCI and are planning to set up a process for a more systematic registration of the Copernicus resources into GEOSS.
- A third action we are currently preparing is intended to support the improvement and evolution of the GCI as foreseen in the GEOSS-EVOLVE initiative of the 2017-2019 GEO Work Programme. To this effect we are making provision in the Work Programme 2017 of Horizon 2020 to support the Joint Research Center (JRC) in its contribution to the GEOSS-EVOLVE initiative to adapt the GCI in view of the delivery of EO services and products in the different GEO SBA's. This contribution should include addressing the needs of GEOSS users particularly in the GEOSS initiatives and "flagships" and defining measures to sustain the GCI on the long term

Downstream exploitation of data provided through GEOSS

- As indicated previously the Commission supports the development and the evolution of the GCI as well as calls to GEO data providers such as the one that has been launched on the occasion of this workshop with the view that the sharing of Earth observation data, information and knowledge at global level is a necessity for Europe to gather intelligence to realise the goals of resilient societies, sustainable economic growth, and a healthy environment.
- In this context we have initiated through the Horizon 2020 project NextGEOSS the creation of European GEOSS Data Hub that is intended to provide an R&I

platform for the exploitation of Earth Observation data in Europe. NextGEOSS will implement a federated data hub for access and exploitation of Earth Observation data, including user-friendly tools for data mining, discovery, access and exploitation with the view of delivering innovative and business oriented applications through 10 pilot projects (*e.g.* agricultural monitoring, air pollution and urban growth, or smart cities and energy)

- As I draw to a close I would like to mention that we have started to discuss with the European GEO caucus the concept of a European regional initiative within GEOSS possibly called EuroGEOSS. This should be an application-oriented initiative, aiming to showcasing and promoting existing European "GEOSS" actions and scaling them up to deliver real services relying on existing strengths in specialised European organisations and agencies. This initiative would obviously comply with the aspiration of the GEO members to move onto a more user oriented GEOSS and we plan to support it through the next phase of Horizon 2020 in 2018
- EuroGEOSS will be a central theme of the annual European GEO Workshop due to take place this year on 19-21 June in Helsinki. The workshop will the opportunity to discuss the EuroGEOSS concept and in connection with the GEOSS data provider workshop today the requirement for data provision within such a regional initiative. You are then most welcome to attend the workshop in Helsinki.

I wish you all a fruitful workshop.