



*GEO Data providers workshop 20, 21 April 2017, Florence, Italy*



The Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System (SIOS) is on the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructure (ESFRI) roadmap. Its aim is to establish a comprehensive observation system for Svalbard that covers all elements relevant to Arctic Earth System Science. As part of the SIOS research infrastructure there is an emphasis on providing quality controlled in-situ and remote sensing data for polar research.

SIOS's own vision is to establish an Arctic observing system that will not only provide long-term systematic observations but will also allow different research communities to interact and explore links between their fields of expertise. This fits into GEO's mission to supply various stakeholders with environmental data collected through observing systems such as SIOS.

Currently SIOS is a project within the ESFRI framework. It is a distributed research infrastructure project, where there is a central hub (the SIOS Knowledge Centre) that connects a network of partner institutions. In the upcoming months SIOS will be transformed into an independent consortium, supported by a non-commercial limited company owned by one of the consortium partners (the University Centre in Svalbard). This is a necessity in order to establish SIOS as an independent legal entity.

SIOS will commence its operational phase in 2018. In 2017 the science optimisation advisory group has decided that pilot projects will have a thematic focus on snow and ice. Each year a new thematic focus will be added to the observing system after approval through the science optimisation advisory group. The data sets that are produced by SIOS are subject to our data policy that works on principles of full and open exchange of data, metadata and products shared within SIOS. The full data policy is due for approval by the general assembly this spring.

During the preparatory phase of SIOS the benefits of being part of GEO were clearly outlined, in particular in relation to the task on "Information Service for Cold Regions". In its operational phase, SIOS would like to contribute to GEO as a data provider as we believe that it is in SIOS's interest to make the data more widely available, which in turn will promote the SIOS research infrastructure.