

EuroGEO Implementation Plan (2020-2022)

1. Executive Summary

Full title of the Regional GEO: EuroGEO, the European component of the Group on Earth Observations

Short title or acronym: EuroGEO

Proposed or existing category: Regional GEO

Overview

The EuroGEO Initiative launched in 2017 provides a regional framework to promote coordination and cooperation among the members of the European GEO Caucus. EuroGEO will achieve a critical mass in Europe by combining existing European Earth Observation assets and initiatives and demonstrating pilot applications supporting governments in their decisions, boosting innovation and improving lives in Europe.

Emphasis will be put on the following strategic actions:

- Identifying existing EO applications under development in Europe with the highest potential to respond to consolidated European user needs, but requiring further demonstration, incubation, upscaling, deployment or replication;
- Up-scaling selected pilot applications by streamlining innovation instruments available at EU, national or sub-national levels and actively promote synergies;
- Connecting EuroGEO pilot applications and related GEO actions to allow for appropriate scaling-up (from National, through European up to global scale) and scaling-down (from global to regional scale);
- Showcasing GEOSS benefits to European citizens, science and businesses and promoting in Europe the GEO vision to realize a future wherein decisions and actions are informed by coordinated, comprehensive and sustained Earth observations and information.
- Supporting the consolidation of national GEO management structures across Europe.

EuroGEO builds upon, networks and promotes further incubation and scaling-up of the most promising user-driven applications conducted at national or EU levels by the members of the European GEO Caucus. Particular emphasis is put on tackling as far as possible the 'last mile' of the innovation process, thus enabling pre-operational services that could extend / reinforce other GEO initiatives and flagships. This will accelerate the transformation of GEO from a data-centric to a user-driven partnership.

European funded project such as e-shape (*EuroGEOSS Showcases: Applications powered by Europe*) and PARSEC (*Promoting the international competitiveness of European Remote Sensing companies through Cross-cluster collaboration*) are contributing to this endeavour.

EuroGEO pilot applications will take full advantage of the operational data and information products delivered by Copernicus and the core Copernicus Services, the EU operational programme for Earth observation. The selected pilots will be of direct relevance to the GEO Engagement Priorities (including the Sustainable Development Goals) whilst leveraging Global and European EO initiatives to improve/facilitate the implementation of European environmental policy. EuroGEO applications will be focused and address specific user defined scenarios such as e.g. Identification and use of appropriate climate information required for defining building regulations with respect to flood

resilience. These very specific applications are not explicitly addressed with the Copernicus Core Services and it is here where EuroGEO is able to provide additional support.

After the initial start in 2017, and a number of preparatory steps in 2018 such as the setting-up of the Action Groups, EuroGEO has entered the next stage with the launch of major European funded projects contributing to the above objectives. The first outcomes of those projects will consolidate the specific demand for GEOSS solutions in Europe, facilitate interaction with and contribute to relevant GEO actions and stimulate the innovation process tackling unaddressed regional needs.

EuroGEO has a light governance structure to support greater engagement by the members of the European GEO Caucus. The structure includes a Coordination Group to oversee strategic implementation, and Action Groups reflecting shared thematic interest at local, national and European levels.

Planned activities

While EuroGEO has already had an initial impact on the EO landscape in Europe since its inception in 2017, in the coming years, new activities are planned to secure the initiative in Europe, together with the Copernicus Programme, forming as such the European contribution to GEO. This will be done in close collaboration with the Coordination Group and the Action Groups. Close interactions with the GEO Flagship and Initiatives and the Foundational Tasks will be pursued.

The main spheres of activities to be conducted by the EuroGEO Initiative relate to *Coordination, Combination and Collaboration* (EuroGEO 3Cs):

- Coordination of GEO-relevant activities undertaken in Europe to ensure a coherent European contribution to GEOSS;
- Combination or integration of activity outputs to provide added value and to reach maximize user uptake and engagement;
- Collaboration beyond individual programmes and user communities.
- Coordination with other regional activities

Points of contact

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