

Report on Plenary Session 1

Thursday 12th June

9:15 – 10:30

Overview of key European and Greek
activities supporting the implementation of
GEOSS

Chair: Gilles Ollier, Rapporteur Evangelos Gerasopoulos

1. Selected GEO Activities at Greek Institutions - Prof. Christos Zerefos (Academy of Athens)

Local offices: effective encouragement of scientific projects in the country in relation to global activities under the framework of GEO and GEOSS

Optimize efforts in coordination and integration existing infrastructure and databases towards meeting GEO's definition

Greek GEO related activities cover a wide range from satellite products validation and QA, urban observations from space, extreme weather, risk management & disaster reduction, address societal threats and needs

2. The first Mirror Site of ESA's Sentinels at the National Observatory of Athens - Prof. Kanaris Tsinganos (NOA)

Hosting and onward distributing Sentinel data, to ensure the access, archiving, and redistribution of data and products for the derivation of value adding environmental services and information

Expected to play crucial role in covering national priorities but also to have impacts at the regional level, promoting collaborations

Emphasis was given on crisis management, emergency response and support actions, post disaster recovery actions

Vision: Enhanced capabilities towards improvement of EO products-services- response time, regional service provider.

3. Horizon 2020 and Earth Observation Research Funding Opportunities - José-Miguel Rubio-Iglesias (EC - DG RTD)

H2020 features: societal challenges, open to international collaboration, great ideas from the lab to the market, continuity and GEOSS support, open access

Priorities: Excellence in science, Industrial leadership, Societal challenges

H2020 – GEO: societal challenge 5, Climate action, environment, resource efficiency and raw materials , 5.5 Developing comprehensive and sustained global environmental observation and information systems – need for GEO data, EU already committed, delivery of new systems

Next year 3 topics: Coordination and supporting action (NA, ME and Balkans), Innovation Actions towards Citizens' Observatories, ERA-NET to bring together and strengthen European, national and regional R&I programmes in the domain of EO ... plus ... Blue Growth, Space (Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies)

4. Copernicus Earth Observation Programme: a status and future perspective- Silvo Žlebir (EC - DG ENTR)

Copernicus: one of the largest integrated Earth Observation systems, end user-focused for environment and security, source of information for the public, policymakers, scientists and businesses, EU to GEO/GEOSS contribution – Expected to return back in economic terms

Copernicus EU regulation is there ! (April 2014, objectives, governance, budget)

Legal framework of the data and information policy: (Objectives) promote use and sharing, support EU research, technology and innovation communities, strengthen EO markets in particular the downstream sector, (key elements) no restriction on use and users, free of charge versions of any dataset, worldwide no limitation in time,

5. Role of GEOSS to support Environmental Policies - Josiane Masson (EC - DG ENV)

Great potential of EO to support Env. Policies with the synergy of in situ data

DG Env. not a direct user but as a client expects EO to improve the evidence base – how? widely available, interoperable, fit-to-purpose data

Input for: designing and developing, implementation, reviewing effectiveness
provision of indicators, information to the public and authorities

7th Environmental Action Programme – 9 priorities: (thematic) natural capital, resource efficient-low-carbon growth, health & environment, (enabling) implementation, knowledge/evidence base, investment, integration, (spatial) urban environment, international

5. Role of GEOSS to support Environmental Policies - Josiane Masson (EC - DG ENV)

DG Env. support to EO: definition of user requirements, synergies and coordination, Copernicus, environmental sectorial policies, international conventions

Among many GEO and EU initiatives and programmes (GEO BON, EU, BON, GFO, GEO GLAM, GEOSS-INSPIRE) the Citizen Observatories were highlighted

Way forward: Copernicus – start delivering operational services, additional research and innovation for integrating and exploiting fast growing EO data, continue support to environmental data collection, support to in-component essential – synergies with policies and other environmental information systems