



**20 & 21 October 2014
Athens, Greece**

**2nd South-Eastern Europe GEO Workshop
on Integrating Earth Observation Data
and Services for monitoring the
Environment, protecting the citizens and
stimulating the regional economic growth**

The Greek GEO Office Activities

**Dr. Evangelos Gerasopoulos
Director of Greek GEO Office
National Observatory of Athens**



- The Greek GEO Office is one of the few operational regional GEO Offices in the World.

HISTORY

- In *February 2006* in Brussels, the participation of Greece in the International initiative GEO was announced after the decision of the Ministry of Development (General Secretariat for Research and Technology-GSRT).
- The GEO office in Greece *started operating in 2007*.

TARGET MISSION

- Its target is the effective encouragement of scientific projects in the country in relation to global activities under the framework of GEO and GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems).

The new Greek GEO Representation - Structure

- In recognition of the substantial role that the Office needs to play in the years to come, Greece proceeded with a substantial restructuring of the GEO office
- The new scheme aims at optimizing efforts in coordinating and integrating existing infrastructure and databases throughout Greece towards meeting GEO's definition
- Greek scientists covering all aspects of GEO activities (in situ, space) and new assets (validation of satellites, ESA mirror site) anticipate that Greece will become a significant hub at regional scale (Balkans, E. Mediterranean and Middle East)

National Delegation

GEO Principal

Prof. Christos Zerefos

Deputy GEO Principal

Prof. Kanaris Tsinganos

GEO Office

Director

Dr. Evangelos Gerasopoulos

Secretary

Mrs Eleni Christia

Indicative contributions of the Greek GEO office to GEO activities

- **Participation of staff in Evaluation Teams**

5th GEOSS Evaluation of Water, Weather and Climate Societal Benefit Areas

6th and Final Evaluation of GEOSS

- **Participation of staff in the GEOSS 2016-2025 Implementation Plan Working Group (IPWG)**

- **Organization of the second meeting of the IPWG hosted by the National Observatory of Athens , 10-11 June 2014**

Contribution to GEO Workplan 2012-2015

1. Task SB-04 «Global Urban Observation and Information»

Co-Leader: Dr. Iphigenia Keramitsoglou

Global Urban Supersites Initiative



Global Urban Observation and Monitoring from Space

A high-level targeted two-day workshop was held in Athens, Greece, on 31st March and April 1st 2014

(BEYOND project)

All speakers were of international standing and addressed a range of issues concerning the urban environment from different points of view.

Org: Dr. I. Keramitsoglou



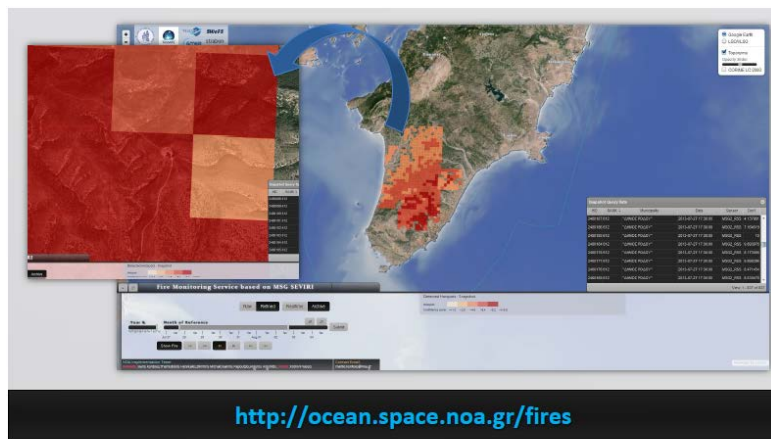
GEO Task SB-04 participants

Contribution to GEO Workplan 2012-2015

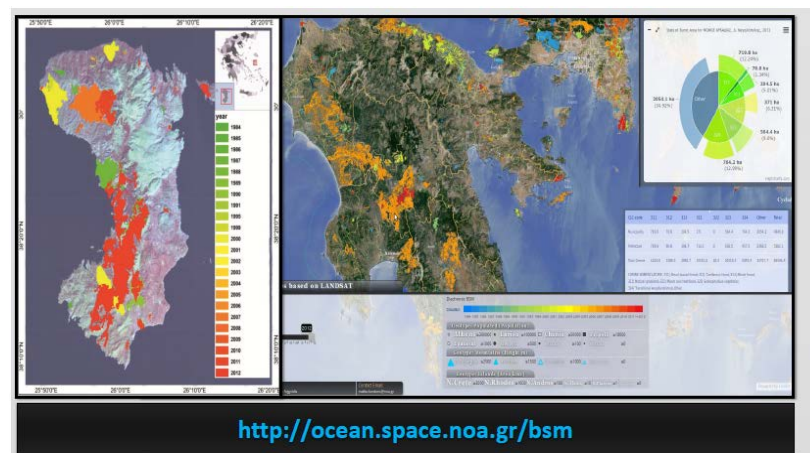
2. Task D1-01-C1 "Disaster Management Systems"

Informing Risk Management and Disaster Reduction

Scientific Contributor: Dr. Haris Kontoes



Real-time Fire Monitoring System integrating efficient algorithms for image processing and classification, producing maps of active fires every 5 minutes at a spatial resolution of 500 m.



Diachronic mapping of burned areas all over Greece for the past 30 years (1984 to 2012), annual Damage Assessments at HR.

Contribution to GEO Workplan 2012-2015

Incorporation of *BEYOND activities* in the update GEO workplan under the task DI-01 “Informing Risk Management and Disaster Reduction”- Section C1 Disaster Management Systems.

The priority is

«To make *information related to environmental risk and vulnerability easily accessible* to a wide range of decision-makers through a virtual platform. The platform is built upon the **South African Atlas** (based on a spatial database system and a repository of global-change related information), the **Chinese disaster assessment system** (based on Geographic Information Systems), and the **European Centre of Excellence for Earth-observation based monitoring of natural disasters BEYOND** (based on databases of observations and higher-level products)»

NOA – Greek GEO Office participated in the GEO X Plenary *(Jan 2014, Geneva)*

NOA participated in the Workshop on "*Disasters Risk Reduction and Earth observations: a GEO perspective*" at the GEO-X Plenary which was organized by the Secure World Foundation and the GEO Secretariat.

The main *objective* of the Workshop was to **bring together researchers and practitioners from Universities, UN Agencies, industry and the private sector working in all aspects of the use of Earth observation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)**. This event was a venue for presenting recent advancements in the establishment of an operational GEOSS for the benefit of DRRM.

NOA participated also in the *EC Side events* and represented the Greek GEO Office and the BEYOND project.

There was an oral presentation at Session X of the role of the Greek GEO Office and the role of the National Observatory of Athens in monitoring natural disasters.

Organized/Hosted/Participated in several workshops and meetings related to GEOSS

- **13 June, 2007**, Inform and support the Greek Scientific Community to GEO/GEOSS involvement: National Observatory of Athens, Athens, Greece: Informative Meeting "**The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the potential involvement of Greek Scientific Society**".
- **9-13 June 2008**, Athens, Greece: A series of (regional) GEO Workshops organized by the GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice and the IGOS Coastal Theme in partnership with GOOS and GTOS "**First Regional Workshop-Observing System Requirements for Managing and Mitigating the Impacts of Human Activities and Coastal Inundation in the Med Region**".
- **27-28 April 2009**, **9th Capacity Building Committee Meeting**, Athens
- **8-10 June 2009**, Athens, Greece: GEO South-Eastern Europe and Eastern Mediterranean Symposium on "**Earth Observation Services for Monitoring the Environment and Protecting the Citizens**".
- **12 to 15th of October 2009**, Festival "**La Rencontre de la Terre**", Athens, Greece. Held under the patronage of the City of Athens by "Conferences sans Frontieres" and the Mariolopoulos Kanaginis Foundation and under the support of various Greek and French partners. The Festival was organized for the celebrating of International Year of Planet Earth.

Organized/Hosted/Participated in several workshops and meetings related to GEOSS

- 29-30 April 2010, 4th GEO European Projects Workshops, Athens, Greece
- 10-11 June 2014, Adaptation Strategies to Global Environmental Change in the Mediterranean City and the role of Global Earth Observations, *Greek EU Presidency Event, Athens*, Greece
- 12-13 June 2014, 8th GEO European Project Workshop, Athens Greece
- 20-21 October 2014, 2nd South-Eastern Europe GEO Workshop on Integrating Earth Observation Data and Services for monitoring the Environment, protecting the citizens and stimulating the regional economic growth, Athens, Greece

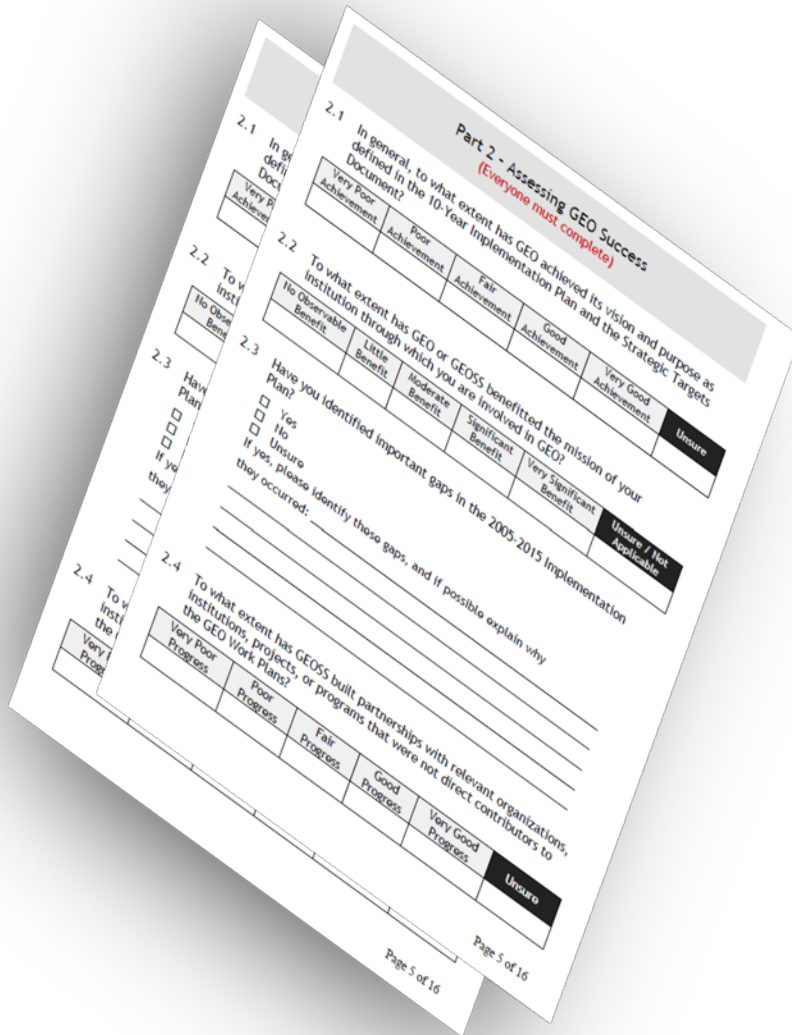
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for uniform appearance (style, colors) of national logos ...**



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Summative Evaluation for GEOSS Implementation July 2014- May 2015



You are kindly requested to complete the survey
and bring it back to the reception
at your earliest convenient
during this workshop

(approximately 20-30 minutes to
complete)