

Coordinating and integrating state-of-the-art Earth Observation Activities in the regions of North Africa, Middle East, and Balkans and Developing Links with GEO related initiatives towards GEOSS



Set up of the Advisory Board Report

Contract Number	H2020 SC5-18b-2015, Project GA number: 690133	Acronym	GEO-CRADLE
Full title	Coordinating and integrating state-of-the-art Earth Observation Activities in the regions of North Africa, Middle East, and Balkans and Developing Links with GEO related initiatives towards GEOSS.		
Project URL	http://geocradle.eu		
EC Project Officers	Ms Gaëlle LE BOULER & Ms Malgorzata ROGIVAL		

Deliverable/Document	Number	1.3	Name	Set up of the Advisory Board Report	
Work package	Number	WP1	Name	Coordination and Management	
Date of delivery	Contractual		M6	Actual	29.07.2016
Status	Final				
Nature	Report				
Distribution Type	Public				
Authoring Partner	NOA				
Prepared by	Ms Alexia Tsouni				
Quality Assurance	Dr Haris Kontoes (Project Coordinator), Mr Lefteris Mamais (TQM)				
Contact Person	Dr Charalampos (Haris) Kontoes		Project Coordinator		
	Metaxa & Vas. Pavlou Str. • 152 36 Penteli, Greece				
	Email	kontoes@noa.gr	Phone	+30-2108109113	Fax +30-2106138343





Executive Summary

This public document presents the Advisory Board (AB), and in specific its role as a body and its expected contribution to the project, as well as brief CVs of its members. It also refers to the special session of the GEO-CRADLE Workshop in Novi Sad, Serbia, which was dedicated to the presentation of the AB and a first discussion about its involvement in the project.



Project Information

This document is part of a research project funded under the **European Union Horizon 2020 Programme - Coordination and Support Action**.

Call Identifier: SC5-18b-2015, Integrating North African, Middle East and Balkan Earth Observation capacities in GEOSS.

Project GA number: 690133

Project Title: GEO-CRADLE - Coordinating and integrating state-of-the-art Earth Observation Activities in the regions of North Africa, Middle East, and Balkans and Developing Links with GEO related initiatives towards GEOSS.

Project Beneficiaries:

ID	Participant Organisation Name	Country	Logo
1	National Observatory of Athens (NOA) - Coordinator	Greece	
2	Interbalkan Environment Center (IBEC)	Greece	
3	Center for Environment and development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)	Egypt	
4	Research and Studies Telecommunications Centre (CERT)	Tunisia	
5	Tel Aviv University (TAU)	Israel	
6	Cyprus University of Technology (CUT)	Cyprus	
7	TUBITAK UZAY Space Technologies Research Institute (UZAY)	Turkey	
8	Space research and technology institute (SRTI)	Bulgaria	
9	National Institute of R&D for Optoelectronics (INOE)	Romania	
10	University of Ss Cyril and Methodius (USCM)	FYROM	
11	Institute for Nature Conservation in Albania (INCA)	Albania	
12	Institute of Physics Belgrade (IPB)	Serbia	
13	CIMA Research Foundation (CIMA)	Italy	
14	Academy of Athens (AOA)	Greece	
15	INOSENS (INS)	Serbia	
16	European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC)	EU	
17	EURISY	EU	
18	EuroGeoSurveys (EGS)	EU	
19	World Radiation Center (PMOD/WRC)*	Switzerland	

*Note: Switzerland is not requesting financial contribution from the EC



Table of Contents

1.	Background.....	1
2.	Role of the Advisory Board.....	2
3.	Presentation of the members of the Advisory Board	3
3.1.	Kanaris Tsinganos (GR) – Chair.....	4
3.2.	Peter Zeil (AT).....	4
3.3.	Luca Montanarella (IT)	4
3.4.	Ivan Petiteville (FR).....	5
3.5.	Andiswa Mlisa (ZA).....	5
3.6.	Joan Masó (ES)	6
3.7.	Elena Xoplaki (GR)	6
3.8.	Nikolaos Arvanitidis (SE).....	7
3.9.	Ayman El Dessouki Ibrahim (EG).....	7
4.	Kick-off of AB involvement.....	8



1. Background

The objective of this public document is to present the Advisory Board (AB), and in specific its role as a body, as well as brief CVs of its members.

The set-up of the AB was carried out in the first 6 months of the GEO-CRADLE project in the framework of the Work Package 1 (WP1-Coordination and Management). The final AB membership was established in Month 6 (July 2016) as outcome of Task 1.1 (Project Management).

A special session of the GEO-CRADLE Workshop in Novi Sad, Serbia, was dedicated to the presentation of the AB and a first discussion about its involvement in the project.



2. Role of the Advisory Board

GEO-CRADLE is going to be assisted and guided by a number of known experts who set up the project's AB, the invitation of whom took full account of the specific objectives that GEO-CRADLE seeks to achieve.

The final AB membership was established so as to include representatives from stakeholders and decision makers, to cover all the thematic priorities of the project and the entire Region of Interest (RoI), while keeping the AB at a reasonable size so as to maintain its flexibility to convene and execute its duties.

Its members are expected to:

- ✓ support the alignment of GEO-CRADLE activities to the strategic priorities of key organisations (ESA, EC-Copernicus, GEO Secretariat);
- ✓ provide expert advice for the specific thematic areas addressed by the project through the pilots:
 - 1) adaptation to climate change;
 - 2) improved food security and water extremes management;
 - 3) better access to raw materials; and
 - 4) better exploitation of renewable energy sources;
- ✓ ensure efficient coordination with other important actions that promote the implementation of GEOSS and Copernicus in the region of interest (e.g. ConnectinGEO, AfriGEOSS);
- ✓ support the project in networking and access to datasets and monitoring networks.

Therefore the role of the AB is crucial for the successful implementation of the GEO-CRADLE project, the maximization of its impact, the visibility and the sustainability of its results.



3. Presentation of the members of the Advisory Board

The AB was finally set up to include 9 members of different and complementary backgrounds in the best possible way, with high level expertise in their domains, and a geographical balance which covers the RoI (North Africa, Middle East, and Balkans).

No	Name	Organisation
1	Kanaris Tsinganos (GR) – Chair	President of the National Observatory of Athens, Member of the National Advisory Council for Research and Technology, Professor of Astrophysics & Astronomy in the University of Athens
2	Peter Zeil (AT)	Spatial Services GmbH, Ex EU DG GROW – K2 / Seconded National Expert from Z-GIS
3	Luca Montanarella (IT)	European Commission (JRC - Chair of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils)
4	Ivan Petiteville (FR)	European Space Agency (Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes)
5	Andiswa Mlisa (ZA)	GEO Secretariat, facilitator for the implementation of AfriGEOSS
6	Joan Masó (ES)	CREAF (Coordinator of the ConnectinGEO project)
7	Elena Xoplaki (GR)	Justus-Liebig-Un. Giessen (Ass. Prof. Climatology, Climate Dynamics and Change)
8	Nikolaos Arvanitidis (SE)	EGS (Chair of Mineral Resources Expert Group)
9	Ayman El Dessouki Ibrahim (EG)	Emeritus Professor at the Electronics Research Institute of Egypt, Ex-Chairman of NARSS

3.1. Kanaris Tsinganos (GR) – Chair



Prof. Kanaris Tsinganos is the Director of the National Observatory of Athens (NOA) and President of the Governing Board.

He is Professor of Astrophysics & Astronomy in the University of Athens. He has served as member of the National Advisory Council for Research and Technology, National Delegate to the ESA Science Programme Committee and Deputy National Delegate to GEO.

He will be hosting and chairing the Advisory Board meetings on behalf of the coordinator (NOA).

3.2. Peter Zeil (AT)



Dr. Peter Zeil is currently working as a senior expert for Spatial Services GmbH. Previously he was a seconded national expert (from Z-GIS) at the European Commission - DG GROW Unit K2, responsible for the Copernicus Emergency Management Service.

He is a well-known expert in the field of EO services and applications. He has been instrumental in several capacity building projects in Africa, including BRAGMA and in several GEO-related actions (e.g. EnerGEO).

He brings an excellent network of EO stakeholders in Europe, Africa and Middle East.

3.3. Luca Montanarella (IT)



Dr. Luca Montanarella is a scientific Officer in the EC Joint Research Centre (JRC) and Chair of the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS).

In his career he has served as Principal Administrator at the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Head of the JRC action “Soil Data and Information Systems”, Head of the European Soil Bureau project.

He brings his valuable expertise in soil databases, GIS, soil protection and land degradation.

3.4. Ivan Petiteville (FR)



Dr. Ivan Petiteville joined ESA as system engineer and then project manager of several satellite EO ground segments and Head of the Multi-mission Ground Segment Office.

He has been involved in the Committee for Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) since 2000. He was Chair of the CEOS Working Group in Information Systems and Services, and then CEOS Executive Officer, insuring a proper interface between CEOS and GEO. Since 2011, he has been leading the coordinated efforts of the major space agencies in the world, in the field of Disaster Risk Management, as Chair of the CEOS Working Group on Disasters.

In addition, he was one of the Co-Chairs of GEO Architecture and Data Committee, representing CEOS, and currently member of the GEO Programme Board as alternate representative for CEOS.

3.5. Andiswa Mlisa (ZA)



Ms Andiswa Mlisa is Scientific and Technical Officer in the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat.

She has over 13 years of experience developing Earth Observations and geospatial techniques for hydrogeology and earth science applications. In her current role at the GEO Secretariat she is facilitating the implementation of AfriGEOSS, a trans-continent initiative to coordinate and reinforce synergies among national and/or regional EO efforts in Africa and globally.

She is also responsible for the coordination of capacity building initiatives in GEO, which aim to build infrastructure, institutional and individuals' capacity to foster use of EO for informed decision-making.

3.6. Joan Masó (ES)



Dr. Joan Masó Pau is a Researcher in CREAM (Centre de Recerca Ecològica i Aplicacions Forestals) and coordinator of the ConnectinGEO project.

He is President of the Earth and Space Science Informatics (ESSI) division of the European Geosciences Union (EGU), member of the GEOSS Standards and Interoperability Forum, the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), and the GML2JP2 standards working group.

He brings in his expertise in digital cartography, web technologies, Geo-services, and GEOSS standards.

3.7. Elena Xoplaki (GR)



Prof. Elena Xoplaki is Associate Professor in the Section of Climatology of the Justus-Liebig University, Giessen, Germany.

She is a core partner of EU-FP7 CLIM-RUN (Climate Local Information in the Mediterranean region: Responding to User Needs), ACQWA (Assessing Climate impacts on the Quantity and quality of WATER), Co-PI of the EU-FP6 CIRCE (Climate Change and Impact ResearCh: the Mediterranean Environment).

Her valuable contribution is expected in climate change adaptation in the Rol and access to regional databases on climate and water resources.

3.8. Nikolaos Arvanitidis (SE)



Dr. Nikolaos Arvanitidis is Economic Geologist with more than 35 years as Researcher at the Geological Institute of Stockholm University, R&D Project Manager on mineral exploration and development projects and Regional Division Director at the Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration in Greece, Senior Specialist at the Geological Survey of Finland and presently Head of Economic Geology Division at the Geological Survey of Sweden.

He is Chair of the Mineral Resources Expert Group at EuroGeoSurveys, Executive Secretary of the European Technology Platform for Sustainable Mineral Resources and operational member of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials Strategic Implementation Plan. He is also active member of the Raw Materials Supply Group, the working groups on Criticality and ERECON, and the Advisory Group on Challenge 5 under Horizon2020.

3.9. Ayman El Dessouki Ibrahim (EG)



Prof. Ayman El Dessouki Ibrahim is Emeritus Professor of Computers at the Electronics Research Institute, Ministry of Scientific Research, Egypt.

He was Chairman of the National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences (NARSS) from 2006 to 2011.

From 1983 up to now he also works on:

- Development of Software Systems for Industrial Firms;
- Design & Implementation of Software Systems for Decision Support & Information Centers and Networks;
- Feasibility Studies & Assessment of Needs & System Analysis and Design & Procurement Procedures.

4. Kick-off of AB involvement

A special session of the GEO-CRADLE Workshop in Novi Sad, Serbia (<http://geocradle.eu/index.php/outreach/dissemination-activities/33-novi-sad-ws>), was dedicated to the presentation of the AB and a first discussion about its involvement in the project on Friday 15th July 2016. GEO-CRADLE Project Coordinator **Dr Haris Kontoes** explained the role and the expected contribution of the AB, and presented its members, while thanking them for their participation.



Dr Haris Kontoes,
Project Coordinator



Prof. Kanaris Tsinganos, AB Chair



Prof. Elena Xoplaki, AB Member

AB Chair **Prof. Kanaris Tsinganos** underlined that GEO-CRADLE is a very interesting project with an equally interesting geographical distribution and involvement of existing incubators, as well as funding opportunities for start-ups and SMEs interested in using geo-information. He stated that NOA and he personally will provide all support needed to the Project Coordination Team. Prof. Tsinganos suggested that in parallel to the use of EO data and interaction with SMEs, it is worth to interact and exploit existing research by established groups in EO which may play the role of a catalyst in future break-throughs in the area. AB Member **Prof. Elena Xoplaki** focused on the need and importance of cooperation between the researchers, the public authorities and the private sector, for the best exploitation of EO to cover the identified needs.