



GEO-CRADLE H2020 SC5-18b-2015, GA No. 690133

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



Deliverable D7.5: Impact Assessment 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 Officer	Ms Gaëlle LE BOULER		

Deliverable/Document	Number	D7.5	Name	Impact Assessment Methodology	
Work package	Number	WP7	Name	Impact and Exploitation	
Date of delivery	Contractual		M34	Actual	30.11.2018
Status	Final				
Nature	Report				
Distribution Type	Confidential				
Authoring Partner	NOA				
Prepared by	Eleftherios Mamais - NOA				
Quality Assurance	Haris Kontoes (Project Coordinator), Evangelos Gerasopoulos (PCT member and Liaison Officer)				
Contact Person	Eleftherios Mamais		Technical Manager		
	Metaxa & Vas. Pavlou Str. • 152 36 Penteli, Greece				
Email	mamais@noa.gr	Phone	+30-2103490104	Fax	+30-2106138343





Executive Summary

This document presents the Impact Assessment Report. This report was built on the approach proposed at D7.3 “Impact Assessment Methodology” and takes note of the lessons learned in the implementation of the project.

Based on the steps of the methodology, this report discusses the achievement (or not) of the impacts originally foreseen (“expected impacts listed in the call”). This is primarily done against the foreseen KPIs. A brief discussion on additional impacts is provided in the “Conclusions”.



Table of Content

List of Tables and Figures	iii
1 Context	1
2 Impact of GEO-CRADLE.....	3
2.1 Strategic Impact	3
2.2 Expected Impacts as listed in the Call	6
2.3 Measuring the impact – the GEO-CRADLE methodology.....	11
3 Conclusions.....	14



List of Tables and Figures

Table 1: GEO-CRADLE Contribution towards 2016-2025 3

Table 2: Summary of expected impacts and GEO-CRADLE contribution 10

Table 3: Updated list of KPIs 13

Figure 1: The GEO-CRADLE ecosystem 2



1 Context

The role of coordinated, comprehensive and sustained Earth Observation information, as an enabler for informed decision making towards effectively addressing global and regional challenges, has been the keystone of the GEO vision. The key levers, as recognised in the 2016-2025 GEO Vision are: (i) the advancement of EO data sharing, (ii) greater EO interoperability and integration, (iii) substantial collaboration among governments and international organisations, (iv) empowered regional coordination, and (v) user-driven networks and projects to close critical information gaps.

In direct “dialogue” with this vision, the EU has been strongly contributing to GEOSS through the deployment of Copernicus but also through the funding (over €200M in the course of FP7) of the needed R&D constituents. In that context several projects have been implemented, with the aim to build the necessary EO capacities at national/regional level, engage the relevant EO players and develop synergetic approaches to research and EO service development. This has been also strongly informed by the recognition of EO’s [role as a key driver for smart specialisation strategies](#) at the regional level.

Yet, despite all these efforts, at the time when GEO-CRADLE was starting (2015), several critical gaps existed in the BAMENA region. Ironically perhaps, the gap in knowledge about what the gaps are, was a critical barrier for any effort towards coordinating EO activities. Thus, building on outputs of key projects (e.g. BalkanGEONet and AfriGEOSS), as well as the conclusions of dedicated events such as the 2nd South-Eastern Europe GEO Workshop (October 2014)¹ and the 8th GEO European Projects Workshop (June 2014)², organised by NOA, we were able to note:

- A disparate level of development w.r.t to community building and networking in the different countries, coupled with the ineffective exploitation of available complementarities in resources and expertise, the lack of strategy and knowledge of processes for international integration and cooperation, the bottom-up approach and self-targeted implementation of activities at the institutional level and the fragmented coordination of different observational and computational platforms.
- The ineffective engagement of the user community and stakeholders in the region, the low involvement of industries, SMEs and other key players and the limited public awareness on the benefits that EO can bring to the market and into people’s everyday lives.
- The identification and exploitation of synergies in terms of funds, capacities and research disciplines, co-ordination of data and infrastructure, operation of common facilities and joint exploitation schemes, and a gradual adjustment towards stakeholder needs who will be convinced with hands on illustrations.
- The clear gap between the northern and the southern nations of the Mediterranean basin that affects to a great extent the research outputs in terms of validation and coherency, and the transformation of the regional capacities to sustainable services following the paradigm of Copernicus.

To tackle these challenges, the need for a permanent coordination mechanism at the regional level, building interfaces with GEO and EU, but also other initiatives like AfriGEOSS, was

¹ <http://ocean.space.noa.gr/BEYONDsite/index.php/2nd-se-geo-workshop-home>

² <http://www.gepw8.noa.gr/index.html>



highlighted. Such a “structure” should provide an effective means to promote collaboration between countries with proven capacity in the field, to foster the exploitation of best practices by potential new GEO members (e.g. using the experience of the Greek GEO office, one of the few regional offices in the world), and eventually to act as a springboard for the implementation of GEOSS and Copernicus in the region of BAMENA.

This need gave rise to the GEO-CRADLE project, which has since strived to live up to its main aspiration:

To constitute the “cradle” of sustainable, coordinated EO activities and capacities in BAMENA, through the maximisation of synergies amongst key EO partners and the creation of an ecosystem and a toolbox that allows to effectively address the regional needs within and beyond the project’s lifetime, supporting the implementation of GEOSS and Copernicus.

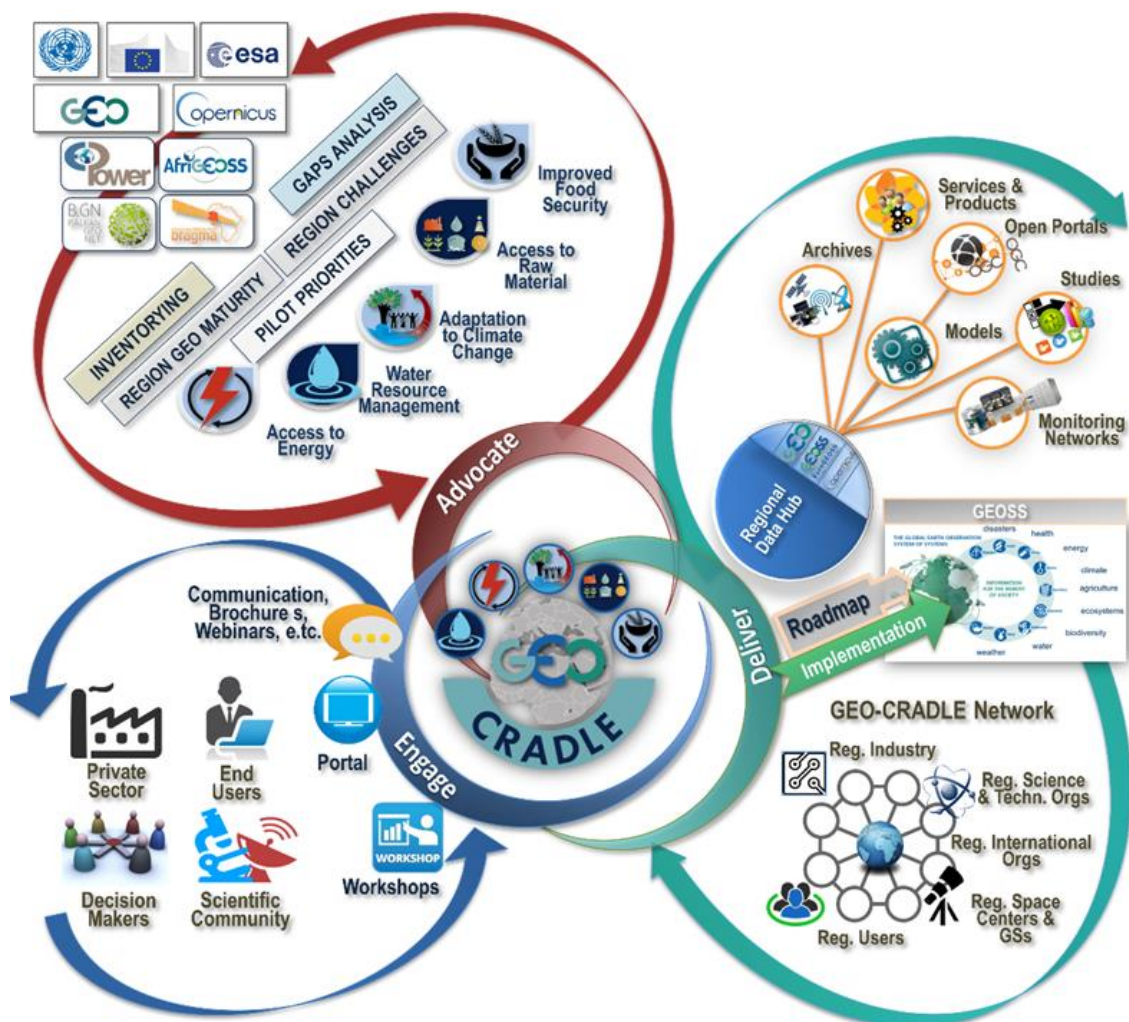


Figure 1: The GEO-CRADLE ecosystem



2 Impact of GEO-CRADLE

2.1 Strategic Impact

In light of the context described in Chapter 1, GEO-CRADLE has put forward a number of activities that can have a concrete impact for the implementation of GEOSS and the uptake of Copernicus in the RoI.

Vision	Means	Activity	GEO-CRADLE Contribution towards 2016-2025
Objectives	Areas of action	ADVOCATE	
		ENGAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop synergies, encourage cross-fertilization, address common challenges across the RoI and enforce prioritization via flexible regional frameworks Involve the EO industry, institutions, governmental organisations and international initiatives, towards a sustainable network in the RoI for the benefit of GEOSS, EuroGEOSS, and Copernicus Identify funding gaps, enhance visibility of opportunities, explore new resources, urge national (or private) commitments, leverage new calls of regional interest Broaden the GEO, EuroGEOSS, and Copernicus user base through well-targeted dissemination and exploitation actions Support– through the diffusion of best practices – the greater participation of less developed countries in GEO and the establishment of regional GEO offices Demonstrate the power of GEOSS, and EuroGEOSS to uncover trends in the regional earth system, and design pathways to reach decision makers and assess progress towards policy goals
		DELIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver a sustainable information system through a dedicated data sharing hub (Regional Data Hub) that links with various sources in the RoI and follows the same principles as the GEOSS and EU data portal Establish the foundations towards greater regional participation in GEO Initiatives and/or the initiation of specific regional GEO Flagships (in connection to pilot activities) Showcase concrete collaborative schemes (building on the pilots) relying on integration of regional capacities and skills towards addressing specific challenge priorities in the RoI Support integrated and cross-utilised solutions of space based, airborne, and in-situ monitoring networks in the RoI Provide the means (maturity indicators) and the methodology (roadmap, impact assessment) for continuous and efficient maturation of participation in and contribution of countries to GEO, GEOSS, EuroGEOSS, and Copernicus

Table 1: GEO-CRADLE Contribution towards 2016-2025



GEO-CRADLE has been running for more than 30 months and will be concluded in November 2018. In this timeframe the following key highlights have been achieved:

- GEO-CRADLE ran for the first time in NAMEBA region a very analytic inventory and assessment of the existing EO capacities, monitoring capabilities, and skills which are available for integration and supplementary support to EO capacities. This [Survey](#) is ongoing and based on this feedback the [Networking Platform](#) is set up providing useful information about the profile and the capacities of 270 stakeholders in 29 countries across the entire value chain. The proposed Initiative will sustain further this network of actors through a lasting activity ensuring the exchange of know-how, bringing organisations together, and facilitating further the team up/partnering process at regional level for identifying and solving common challenges, and setting up consortia for addressing priorities of regional calls (examples: EuroGEOSS Call, EuroGEOSS Request 2018 for Expressions of Intent, PRIMA, CHIST-ERA, EO4SD, etc).
- Furthermore, GEO-CRADLE has set up a [Regional Data Hub](#) (RDH), serving as a gateway that facilitates the access of the regional actors and EU partners to open datasets and portals from the regions. This plays a unique regional role, amongst others, in the direction of the implementation of the SDGs. Millions of datasets are now available by accessing through the RDH to GEOSS and regional / local portals.
- GEO-CRADLE also for the first time ran an in depth reporting of the user needs in the four thematic areas of the project, e.g. adaptation to climate change, improved food security & water extremes management, access to raw materials, and access to energy which are highly related to the objectives of several SDGs. More than 40 priority proposals were drafted and after consolidation a number of common regional service delivery and capacity building challenges were promoted. The [Pilot Activities](#) were implemented successfully, engaging the relevant end users and addressing regional challenges. They provided very useful EO services and data, which are also publicly available on the [Regional Data Hub](#). Some of these services (e.g. energy) have been considered as good cases for potential EuroGEOSS services in the future.
- In parallel, GEO-CRADLE organized 16 [Regional Workshops](#) which supported knowledge sharing / capacity building, engaged more stakeholders and end users, provided participants with a unique cross-sector networking opportunity (e.g. an enhanced cooperation between academia and industry), identified the potential local challenges and needs that can be addressed by EO, enhanced growth and innovation in the geo-information sector, and enabled more informed decision making.
- GEO-CRADLE has delivered a Roadmap for the Implementation of GEO, GEOSS and Copernicus in the NAMEBA region. The roadmap is taking into account the synthesis of the results from the thorough gap analysis, at the regional and the country level, to present an updated and valid overall picture of the gaps and needs in terms of capacity building, resources (including human), funding, coordination mechanisms. It weighs the readiness and maturity of each country to address the identified gaps and pursue the means to cover the needs and establish the appropriate flow direction of further exchange of know-how and best practices. The roadmap is identifying all regional challenges as they result from the collaboration with the regional stakeholders during the implementation of the GEO-CRADLE and will be setting the priorities for GEOSS and a potential regional initiative to cope with these challenges in an effective and collective manner.
- GEO-CRADLE as such has been recognized as Initiative of GEO at the GEO WEEK 2018, and its outcomes have been used as fundamental components in the definition and development of following European Union flagship initiatives and big projects in the



domain, such as EuroGEOSS and NextGEOSS. This Initiative is a continuation and extension of the work of the GEO CRADLE Community Activity, which provided EO capacity building in the North Africa, Middle East, and Balkans (NAMEBA) region, now with potential to expand to the Black Sea. The Initiative will capitalise, sustain and scale up the results mainly achieved during the implementation of the 3-year H2020 GEO-CRADLE project.

- In addition to that the first GEO Office in the RoI of GEO-CRADLE was established in Albania, as a result of the aforementioned activity of the project. The contact point has been designated at the State Authority for Geospatial Information (ASIG) by the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania. Currently, ASIG, with the assistance of GEO-CRADLE's Liaison Office (Greek GEO Office), informed accordingly the GEO Secretariat and will hopefully become an active member of the different GEO Boards, to follow closely the evolution of GEO and coordinate GEO relevant activities at the national level.



2.2 *Expected Impacts as listed in the Call*

In the following table we can see the contribution of GEO-CRADLE against the expected impacts listed in the Work Programme.

Expected impacts listed in the Work Programme	GEO-CRADLE Contribution	
<p><i>Improved food security, access to raw materials and energy, and adaptation to climate change in the North-African, Middle-East, and Balkan regions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gap analysis, mapping regional needs against existing EO Capacities 	<p>GEO-CRADLE made a gap analysis. The methodology and the findings of the gap analysis are available at D3.1</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan on priorities for addressing the regional challenges 	<p>An action plan addressing the regional challenges was implemented during the life time of the project. In Deliverable D3.3 the detailed action plan is described. This action plan based on the results of end user needs, a gap analysis and maturity assessments for Earth Observation capacities in the RoI, and provides the framework for the necessary actions both at regional and national level</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot activities that pave the way towards addressing the identified regional challenges 	<p>The 4 pilot activities of the project were implemented in the region of interest. Through these pilots several regional challenges were identified. More information are available in the related deliverables D4.5, D4.6, D4.7, D4.8</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap for long-term, strategic planning 	<p>The most important outcome of the GEO-CRADLE project is the "Roadmap for the Implementation of GEO, GEOSS and Copernicus in the NAMEBA region". The roadmap took into account the synthesis of the results from the thorough gap analysis, at the regional and the country level, to present an updated and valid overall picture of the gaps and needs in terms of capacity building, resources (including human), funding, coordination mechanisms</p>



<p>Improved Earth Observation data and information services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a network of key partners with secured access to large scale EO infrastructures in the RoI 	<p>Through the establishment of the GEO-CRADLE Regional Networking Platform, an attractive and comprehensive web platform where regional stakeholders can be informed on existing large scale EO infrastructures and other capacities, complementary skills and collaboration opportunities, the project provides</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make available the Regional Data Hub enabling data access and use 	<p>The GEO-CRADLE Regional Data Hub provides access to both region-related datasets, portals and services developed by a regional network of raw data providers, intermediate users/service providers, end-users from Industry, Academic and Public Sector from the Region of Interest, and, also, datasets and services directly fed from the GEOSS-portal Moreover, being the centralised gateway for regional data providers to contribute easily and timely their products to GEOSS, the Regional Data Hub is the focal node in the region in the context of GEOSS and Copernicus implementation. The RDH facilitates access to downloadable files of Space-borne data from real-time EO satellite missions acquisitions; data from Airborne campaigns performed in the region; In-situ data; and Models such as Atmospheric and Climate</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong engagement of EO service providers (through EARSC and consortium partners) 	<p>EARSC members become aware of GEO-CRADLE activities of the region through the monthly report, annual reports and several events where we had presented our activities under GEO-CRADLE. Apart from that actual EARSC members such as Agroapps, Airbus, Draxis, Eurosense, Geosystem Hellas, GMV, Neuropublic, Resac, RSICS, TAKT, Terrasigna, Terraspatium involved somehow in the inventory or contributing to the different discussion in the region we also had the Industry event in Brussels where we had the involvement of EARSC membership</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know-how, expertise and best practices sharing 	<p>The organisation of 17 regional workshops in the RoI gave the opportunity to GEO-CRADLE to share with the regional stakeholders know-how, expertise and best practices</p>



<p><i>Rapid re-installation of the required infrastructures by the relevant public services and decision makers</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate the integration of existing infrastructure and capacities through the GEO-CRADLE Network 	<p>The GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform allows the interaction with and between external EO stakeholders, including relevant public services and decision makers. Additionally, it provides updated information on the existing regional EO capacities, including infrastructures. More specifically, it registers the space-borne capacities, the ground-based/In-situ monitoring networks/facilities, and the modelling and computing processing capacities</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster diffusion of know-how from more to less mature countries (in terms of (G)EO maturity) 	<p>A maturity indicators analysis was implemented during the lifetime of the project. The main outcome was the identification and the decoding of each country's current status related to the implementation of GEOSS and the uptake of Copernicus services. The outcome of this analysis is available at D3.4</p>
<p><i>Future investments in this region, leading to sustainable development of resources and activities.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness campaign to decision makers on funding needs and investment returns per business sector 	<p>The organisation of 17 regional workshops in the RoI gave the opportunity to GEO-CRADLE to share with the regional stakeholders know-how, expertise and best practices</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEO-CRADLE network as springboard for future regional R&D projects (e.g. through H2020, Copernicus and/or national funds) 	<p>Building on the outcomes of the pilot activities, a number of R&D projects and/or partnerships have been launched with the participation of GEO-CRADLE members and external entities (scaling and extending). For example, through the GEO-CRADLE's WP3, InoSens directly contributed to setting up of solid ground for future investment in the region as it participated in mapping of the regional EO capacities, skills and user needs. Moreover, it partook in defining priorities in relation to regional challenges as well as in creation of action plan to tackle them. During the numerous project activities and events, the GEO-CRADLE network supported InoSens in strengthening its connection with the national and regional EO partners. These new partnerships are expected to be directly supported and facilitated by outputs of the GEO-CRADLE's WP3 in the future regional projects and initiatives (e.g. EuroGEOSS Action Group on Disaster Resilience)</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic alignment of regional activities to socioeconomic needs; cross-fertilisation effect 	<p>GEO-CRADLE pilots support the UN Sustainable Development Goals. 11 SDGs are supported by the GEO-CRADLE pilots. More specific, these SDGs are: 13- Climate action, 3-Good Health, 11-Sustained Cities, , 2- Zero Hunger, 15-Life and Land, 12-Responsible Consumption, 1-No poverty, 7-clean Energy, 9-Industry and Infrastructure, 17-Partnerships for the Goals and 5-Gender Equality</p>
<p><i>Strengthened competitiveness and performance of critical economic and social sectors such as tourism, agriculture, transportation, health, research, and education.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustained ecosystem of EO stakeholders across the complete EO value chain 	<p>The GEO-CRADLE Regional Data Hub (RDH) is identifying and linking numerous datasets from the region onto the GEOSS Platform. Beyond augmenting the reach of these countries within GEOSS and vice versa, the RDH has been a pillar for the advocacy on data sharing principles and a node for the creation of an ecosystem of data holders, scientists, data users, and entrepreneurs</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access, and use of EO data in the RoI through the Regional Data Hub 	<p>The Regional Data Hub acts as the cornerstone for promoting better sharing of information and knowledge amongst EO stakeholders in the region, in line with GEOSS Data Sharing principles. First of all it provides free and open access to all GEO-CRADLE pilots’ datasets and services. Moreover, it provides access to other region-related datasets and services, directly fed from the GEOSS-portal, as well as from additional regional data providers (whose products may not be already registered to GEOSS)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster the creation of a competent community enabling the uptake of EO in new markets, and the enlargement of the relevant business sector 	<p>By regular promotion of the project activities, news and GEO-CRADLE’s tools (Data Hub; Regional Networking Platform) through its social media channels and regional events (EO workshops, seminars, conferences, etc.), some partners speeded up the expansion of local and regional EO business network and partnership. Capitalising upon the outputs and experiences from the GEO-CRADLE project and network, some partners also has strengthened its connection with existing EO community, while at the same time it has been fostering creation of a competent community and enlargement of current business sector by regular involvement of new partners from other research and education sectors</p>



		in EO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set solid foundations for the provision of services benefiting sectors as agriculture, energy, land development, tourism, climate change vs health, environmental, and food protection 	<p>The SENSE pilot and the ACC pilot during the life time off the project created services that benefit sectors such as energy and health. For example, through the GEO-CRADLE’s networking platform, SENSE succeeded in stimulating the interest of relevant energy stakeholders, decision makers and solar energy investors from the public and private sector like the Egyptian Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, the Greek Power Transmission and Distribution System Operator, the Attica Group and various scientific communities (research institutes, universities, health sector)</p>

Table 2: Summary of expected impacts and GEO-CRADLE contribution



2.3 Measuring the impact – the GEO-CRADLE methodology

Key Performance Indicators

Timing ³	Target range		Target Result	
	t1	t2		
Regional EO capacities, gaps and priorities (WP2+WP3)				
Stakeholders participating in dedicated surveys	50-75	100-150	268 surveys	Associated with the inventory
Number of identified regional priorities	6-8	10-15	8	As described in D3.3
In-situ networks to be supported and integrated	20-25	25-30	110	Identified in the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
Unified and complementary operation of regional observational systems (space-based, air-borne and ground segment)	10-15	20-30	28	Identified in the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
Modelling and computing processing capacities	-	-	116	[Bonus impact]: Identified in the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
Implementation of sustained regional services	3-5	7-10	9	Associated with the applications within the feasibility studies
Countries covered in priority action plan	14-15	20-25	12 countries	As described in D3.3
Contributions to specific challenges, GEOSS and Copernicus (WP4+WP5)				
Experimental campaigns from which data will be integrated	5-7	8-12	18	3 for T4.1 (PRE-TECT, DoGMA, CliMA) + 9 for T4.2 (Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, FYROM, Greece, Israel, Serbia, Turkey) + 3 for T4.3 (Cyprus, Greece, Turkey) + 3 for T4.4 (Egypt, Greece, Cyprus).
Regional Participating Organizations (POs) added to GEOSS	5-7	10-15	6	During GEO-CRADLE duration the following entities joined: ASREN; CEDARE; CRTEAN; Mariolopoulos-Kanaginis Foundation; OSS
Integrated Regional Datasets accessible through RDH	-	-	25.539.345	The GEO-CRADLE RDH was finally upgraded to a regional brokering mechanism from 3 sources: 1. GEO-CRADLE pilots; 2. GEOSS Portal; 3 Related Portals and Sites.
Country (G)EO Maturity Profiles	14-18	20-25	11	As presented in D3.4
Establishment and operation of Regional/National GEO Offices	2-3	3-5	1	Albania

³ (T1: During the project, T2: Within 5 years after the end of the project)



GEO-CRADLE H2020 SC5-18b-2015, GA No. 690133

Outside GEO-CRADLE activity plan, partner-partner and/or partner-stakeholder partnerships triggered via GEO-CRADLE networking	2-3	5-7	13	The following projects are directly tied to GEO-CRADLE: Invictus, ECARS, Solar Farm, SEBS, Interreg IBEC, GEOGLAM initiative Albanian Data Cube, Airbus, Telespazio Vega, EuroSense, GMES&AFRICA, PREPARE, Magdi Yacoub Solar Farm, EuroGEOSS Showcases
Task leads/contributions to specific GEO tasks by GEO-CRADLE players	5-7	10-15	15	From the GEO 2017-2019 Work Programme Activities: 4 GEO Initiatives + 1 Community Activity + 5 GEOSS Development and GCI Operations Foundational Tasks + 1 Community Development Foundational Task + 2 Secretariat Operations Foundational Tasks. Moreover participation in the Subgroup of Regional GEOSS, and in the High Level Working Group.
Engagement and Exploitation (WP6+WP7)				
Regional/National workshops, technical meetings	7-10	15-20	19	14 Regional Workshops, 2 national workshops, 3 dedicated side events / technical meetings
Systematic users of Regional Data Hub	25-50	50-100	30	Associated with users and/or contributors to the results of the feasibility studies hosted on RDH
Key decision makers engaged in GEO-CRADLE network	10-15	20-30	20	Key decision makers actively involved in GEO-CRADLE events
Spin-off and R&D projects built on GEO-CRADLE and its pilots	1-3	3-5	11	The following projects are directly tied to GEO-CRADLE: NextGEOSS project, CLAIRE project, Invictus proposal, InnoSup proposal, EOPEN, EOENABLER proposal, Solea, Magdi Yacoub Solar Farm, GMES&AFRICA, EuroGEOSS Showcases, PREPARE



Private companies engagement to GEO-CRADLE	3-5	5-10	17	Airbus, Telespazio vega UK, Evenflow, Eurosense, Libelium, DEIMOS, Balloonera Private Company, TEMES S.A., Agriculture Cooperatives of Nestos, NESPAR, and the Cooperatives of Xanthi, Eleftheroupoli, and Volvi, Hellenic Copper Mines Ltd, JeoDijital Bilisim Teknoloji Madencilik, Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation, Attica Group with Bluestar and Superfast Ferries, Greek National Independent Power Transmission Operator
Regional EO actors profile available through GEO-CRADLE portal	50-60	100-150	190	Identified in the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform (public profiles)
Countries represented in GEO-CRADLE Network	14-15	20-25	29	Identified in the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
Number of visitors in GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform	-	-	2927 unique IP visitors	Identified in the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
Number of visitors in Regional Data Hub Platform	-	-	5000 unique IP visitors	Identified in the Regional Data Hub Platform

Table 3: Updated list of KPIs



3 Conclusions

From its very conception and throughout its implementation (34 months), GEO-CRADLE has been in accordance with and driven by the strategic priorities laid out in the [GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025](#) regarding the implementation of GEOSS and with the [Copernicus Regulation](#) defining the actions towards Copernicus uptake. In this timeframe, GEO-CRADLE has managed to create significant momentum for the improved uptake of EO activities in the NAMEBA region. In a nutshell, the project has succeeded to:

- **Promote the uptake of EO services and data in response to regional needs.**
- **Support the effective integration of existing Earth Observation Capacities in the RoI.**
- **Facilitate the networking and engagement of the EO stakeholders in the RoI.**
- **Build trust and capacity among the actors, and enhance their participation in and contribution to the implementation of GEOSS and Copernicus in the RoI.**
- **Propose a roadmap for the implementation of GEO, GEOSS and Copernicus in the RoI.**

Today, GEO-CRADLE stands at a point where it will be continued as a GEO Initiative. This is because it was able to demonstrate its value and underline its contribution to the achievement of GEO/GEOSS and EuroGEOSS goals in the region, as well as to argue for the need to maintain the existing GEO-CRADLE coordination and networking mechanism alive and further scaled up for the benefit of EU GEO supported initiatives and Copernicus.

Moreover, the proposed Initiative will provide further impetus on the GEO-CRADLE pilots and offer an opportunity to extend the relevant GEO-CRADLE services, as well as, where relevant, the services from other projects as NextGEOSS, ERAPLANET, and EuroGEOSS, beyond the geographic and thematic coverage initially considered by GEO-CRADLE, in support of the three GEOSS priorities, namely CC, DRR and SDGs.