



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
toward GEOSS

GEO-CRADLE Kick-Off Meeting
Friday, 19th of February, 2016

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BALKAN
GEO
NET



www.balkangeo.net

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Balkan GEO Net

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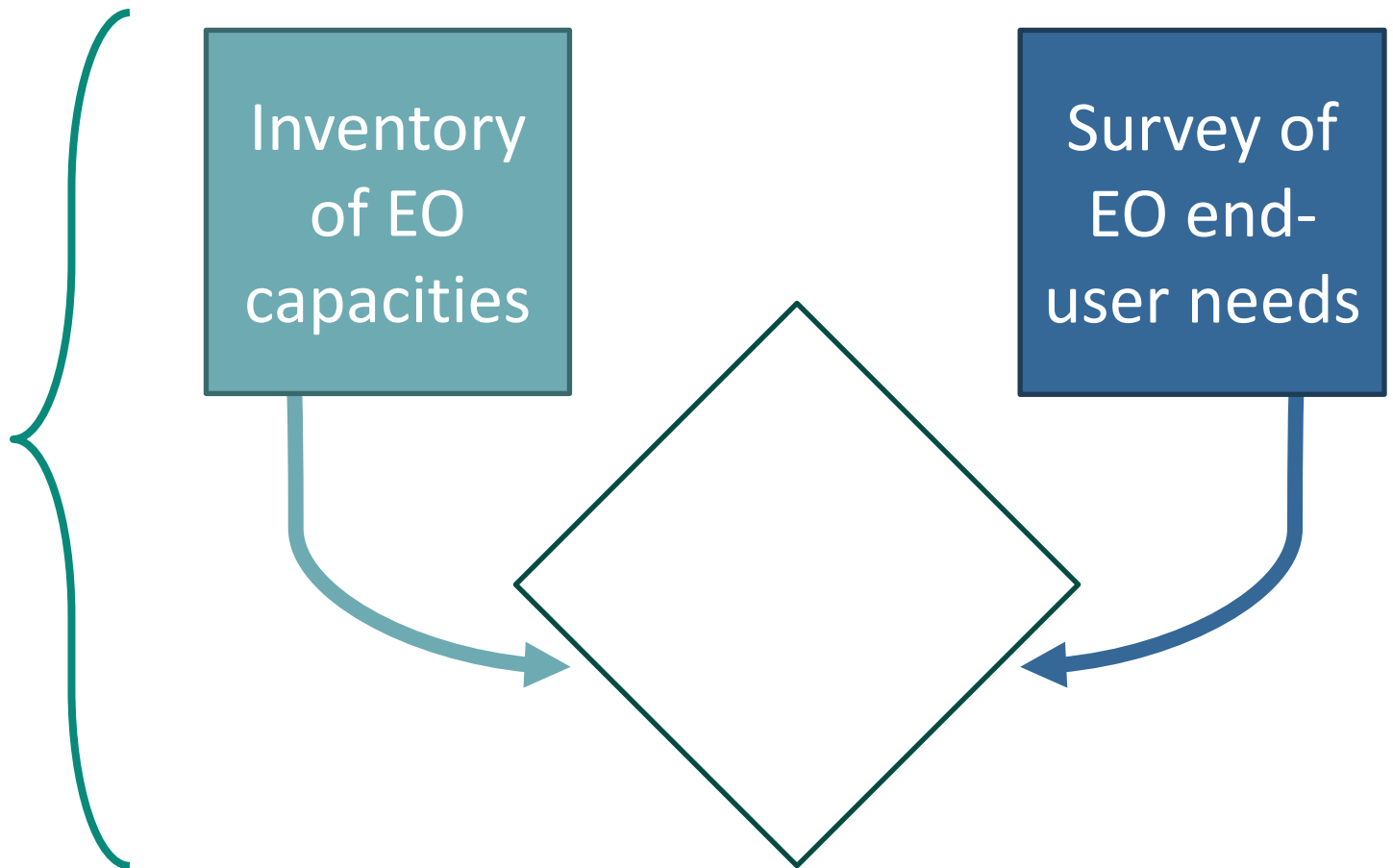


- Before Balkan GEO Net:
 - Different levels of development for region's EO community, between countries and between different EO fields
 - Numerous national and international projects in the area
 - Repetition in collected data between different countries but also on national levels in cases
 - Clear need for coordination, one of the goals of Balkan GEO Net



Balkan GEO Net

1st
step





Gap Analysis

- Fragmentation of communities with insufficient interaction, b/w countries and b/w fields
- High costs of duplicated data collection
- Bottom-up approach when top-down needed
- Scientific community targets research community rather than general public (except disaster mgt.)
- Data providers disagree with free data access because it is a source of income
- No common standards between EO data users – lower use of INSPIRE standards than in GEO member countries
- >50% of end users not satisfied with provided products/services due to high costs and delays in delivery
- Access to EO info very important to empower SMEs
- Need to inform EO community of GEO and GEOSS benefits



Strengths

- Land monitoring, environmental monitoring, climate change and natural hazards are key EO applications for most Balkan countries
- Organizations involved in research programs or other EO related activities have already developed results and services in this field



Weaknesses

- Lack of defined national policies and priorities regarding EO, in turn holding back development of a regional strategy for EO activities and priorities, and financial allocation for a regional EO system.
- Interoperability between organizations providing or using EO data on a national and regional level
- Transformation of EO research results to sustainable and innovative products
- There is limited amount of regional funding in EO related activities
- Low level of public, and in some cases institutional, awareness on EO benefits



Opportunities

- Through participation to European or global initiatives, collaboration among academic institutions is increasing.
- The level of interests within specialized research organizations dealing with EO issues is increasing.
- Networking between existing data providers in each country and within the broader Balkan community could be beneficiary for all Balkan countries.
- Weak countries in EO related activities could benefit from best practices study cases from stronger countries.
- In public and in private sector there exist well trained or/and highly qualified EO personnel.
- Most countries are integrating in the process of integrating into EU



Threats

- Economic crisis along with already low or non existing national funding.
- Difficult access, cost of data, and not well defined distribution policies.
- Not all the countries have adopted EU standards for EO data, thus compatibility of data is disputed among different organizations at regional level.
- Collaboration among Balkan countries and former Yugoslavian Republics is weak and should be improved and increased, mainly in terms of sharing regional datasets.
- The collaboration among academic institutions and decision makers for EO data development could be improved.



Balkan GEO Net

- Situation is improving
- BUT much lower than C & W Europe
- Address:
 - Lack of funding
 - Data exchange
 - Better business models
 - Not all countries members of GEO
 - Poor connectivity to wider community
 - Poor stakeholder awareness of coordination benefits





Balkan GEO Net



- Roadmap & recommendations for each country
 - How to boost capacity building
 - How to boost integration of EO into administration/decision-making/planning for all Societal Benefit Areas
 - EU funding mechanisms presented
- Dissemination
 - Promoted GEOSS & Copernicus
 - Outreach, trainings and workshops in region
- Permanent Networking Facility





Balkan GEO Net

- www.balkangeo.net
 - Project description: about, objectives, partners, work packages, etc.
 - Info about workshops & trainings including material (e.g. presentations)
 - Deliverables
- www.pnf.unist.hr
 - Metadata on EO community and projects



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Thank you

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