

**European GEO Workshop**  
**"EuroGEOSS: Shaping the European contribution to GEOSS"**  
**19 - 21 June 2017, Helsinki**

<b>Name of the session: GEO capacity development, contribution to SDGs and realization of regional impacts derived from GEO European Projects</b>	
Organisers:	Haris Kontoes (GEO-CRADLE Coordinator) & Andiswa Mlisa (GEO Secretariat)
Moderators:	Lefteris Mamais & Mark Noort
Timing:	Half day, morning session – 3 hours 15 minutes
Format:	Mixed: presentations (1 <sup>st</sup> part), group work (2 <sup>nd</sup> part) and panel discussion (3 <sup>rd</sup> part)
Objectives	
<p>The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) has as one of its six Core Functions: <i>Cultivating awareness, building capacity and promoting innovation</i>. Sustaining and enhancing existing capacity is essential for developing competencies in the effective use of Earth observations which in turn are essential for responding to societal challenges and addressing sustainable development issues.</p> <p>European GEO projects help promote the uptake of EO services and data in response to regional needs, foster the integration of EO capacities and their coordinated exploitation, and engage ecosystems of EO stakeholders across the entire value added chain.</p> <p>Through these actions, EU GEO projects enable the implementation of GEOSS and Copernicus in the regions, and stimulate regional actors' engagement in these two flagship EO programs. The example of GEO-CRADLE — a project implemented in North Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans— will be the starting point for a discussion, on how EU projects can better promote the uptake and exploitation of EO at regional scales.</p> <p>The first objective of the session is related to general GEO capacity building and the Sustainable Development Goals and aims to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential synergies on capacity development between the GEO European Projects (GEPs)</li> <li>- How the GEPs can (jointly) contribute to this GEO core function, and</li> <li>- How they are strengthening individual and institutional capacity through access to data and infrastructure resources for countries to better respond to the UN Agenda 2030 on sustainable development goals.</li> <li>- Availability and use of knowledge sharing tools as part of capacity building.</li> <li>- The role and contribution of GEPs in understanding geographical diversification strategies for capacity building prioritization in an attempt to meet actual needs, addressed gaps and the maturity of countries, regions, continents, to uptake Earth observations in decision making.</li> </ul> <p>The second objective of the session is related to the activities and goals of the GEO-CRADLE project and to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Present the concepts of the Regional Networking Platform and discuss their potential and limitations in enabling stakeholders across the EO value added chain to initiate cooperation and interact.</li> <li>- Demonstrate the importance of Regional Data Hubs as tools to collect EO data, to enable data exchange, and to create links with the GEOSS and EU central portals.</li> <li>- Discuss the new methodology introduced by GEO-CRADLE to assess the EO maturity at country level, in support of long term strategies.</li> <li>- Showcase the role of European GEO Projects in setting up regional action plans addressing common priorities via successful use cases.</li> <li>- Present coordination schemes that enable the EO community to participate in regional initiatives and future actions.</li> </ul> <p>Panellists will discuss these key objectives on the basis of short input statements.</p>	

Potential participants (with email addresses if possible)

## Wednesday 21 June 2016

### 8:00 - 8:30 Registration & Welcome Coffee

### 8:30 - 10:00 Part 1: Setting the scene (1 hour presentations + 30 min Q&A / discussion)

- a) Presentation on GEO capacity development, contributions of GEPs related to capacity building and knowledge sharing. (15 min) *GEO Secretariat*
- b) Presentation on engagement of stakeholders (GEO-CRADLE partner presenting the network). (15 min) *GEO-CRADLE Vaggelis Gerasopoulos*
- c) Presentation on dissemination of GEO and Copernicus in the regions (GEO-CRADLE examples). (15 min) *GEO-CRADLE Eleni Christia*
- d) Methodological aspects for assessing regional maturity and setting up regional action plans for addressing priorities and needs (GEO-CRADLE partner). (15 min) *GEO-CRADLE Mónica Miguel-Lago*
- e) Q&A / discussion

### 10:00 - 10:45 Coffee Break (Poster Session)

### 10:45 - 11:30 Part 2: Brainstorming session (working in groups) (30 min group work + 15 min pitches of solutions)

Key questions:

- a) What is the best way to contribute to GEO capacity development (through GEPs and beyond GEPs) for the coming 10 years (GEO implementation plan) + concrete examples? *Moderator: GEO Secretariat (Andiswa Mlisa)*
- b) What is the best way for GEO capacity development to contribute to the SDGs (through GEPs and beyond GEPs) + concrete examples? *Moderator: Mark Noort, HCP International*
- c) Geographical diversification of GEO capacity development and knowledge (and data) sharing: what factors need to be taken into account and what is the best approach (through GEPs and beyond GEPs) + concrete examples? *Moderator: Paola De Salvo, GCI*

### 11:30 - 12:30 Part 3: Regional experiences and assessing solutions (panel discussion with regional stakeholders) (1 hour)

- a) Case studies that are promoted as priorities in GEO-CRADLE; can they potentially be linked to EO market uptake at regional level and which is the expected impact for the regions. *Lefteris Mamais, GEO-CRADLE*
- b) Panel discussion. *Moderator: Lefteris Mamais, GMES in Africa (Christophe Roeland), Afri Alliance (Uta Wehn), 4PRIMA (CSA-Carolina Rodriguez-Rodriguez), GEO-CRADLE (Haris Kontoes), FEMIP (ESA+EIB)*

### Expected output

1. Demonstration of concrete actions and methodologies for stimulating efficient networking, building EO data collection and exchange platforms, linked to GEOSS and EU needs and trends.
2. Showcase of specific activities through which end users have exploited GEP's outcomes, tools and products to meet regional needs or individual needs of significance.
3. Understand the importance of regional and geographically targeted GEPs implementation for mapping regional needs and challenges, the range of gaps in existing capacity building, regional particularities deriving from linguistic or cultural diversities.
4. Mapped capacity development activities across the GEO European Projects and identified links of how to connect their activities with the GEO Work Programme.
5. Understanding how GEPs may contribute to capacity development for the Sustainable Development Goals.
6. Understanding the range of different needs for capacity building and the role that geographically

targeted GEP can play from both the methodological and the implementation perspectives.