

GNU

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GMES Network of Users

CONNECTING GMES USERS

GNU aims at structuring the GMES demand side by setting up an independent platform that will become the focal point to express European GMES users' needs for environmental applications and their feedback on GMES products. Likewise GNU will foster a systematic dialogue between the stakeholder communities.



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The main objectives of the project include:

- De-fragmentation of the environmental GMES user communities: currently user federations of GMES projects are isolated from each other, owing to the topical approaches (land, forest, air, marine, etc.), and there is a need to address cross-cutting issues.
- Enable independent and unfiltered user statements: so far GMES user groups exist only within the frame of projects led by service providers. Often these users have no or little access to project resources which makes it difficult for them to exchange information.
- Be a mouthpiece for the needs of GMES users at national and regional levels: European level users are already well represented in various bodies, but this is not the case for users that operate on subsidiary levels.
- Aggregate and differentiate user appraisals of GMES products: GMES projects have brought about a wealth of different products. There is a need to prioritise and catalogue GMES data products to facilitate access by users to the products most suitable for their needs.
- Link data-related and human aspects of GMES: most problems in GMES projects relate to communication issues rather than to technology development, however these issues have not always been properly addressed. An investigation of user-provider relations will provide the basis for efficient modes of collaboration.

The project consortium includes environment agencies

and ministries; specialist agencies on air, forestry and land information; SMEs for support work; and research organisations. The consortium intends to closely interact with an outer network made of national and regional level stakeholders including service providers, European and international stakeholders, and other projects and networks.

JOINT WORK OF THE CONSORTIUM

The partners exchange experiences and good practices, collect and interpret GMES related documents, with the aim of acquiring a common state of knowledge.

CONNECTING GNU TO OTHER ACTIVITIES

The consortium sets up links with European and international level stakeholders, other projects and networks, in order to exchange experience and information. Results are presented and discussed with national stakeholders including industry, researchers, policy makers, and users.

EVALUATING GMES PRODUCTS

The partners define criteria to evaluate GMES data products, develop common validation standards, set up a meta data base of GMES data products and prioritise these products. An analysis of the response from GMES stakeholders will provide ways to optimise the impact of GMES data products in relation to different stages of particular policy cycles.



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LIST OF PARTNERS

- Federal Environment Agency, Austria
- Agency for Land Information Flanders, Belgium
- European Forest Institute, Finland
- Ministère de l'écologie, du développement et de l'aménagement durables, France
- Federal Environmental Agency, Germany
- Informus, Germany
- Thuringian State Institute for Forestry, Game and Fishery, Germany
- Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services, Italy
- Latvian Environment, Geology, and Meteorology Agency, Latvia
- Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (National Geological Survey), the Netherlands
- Norwegian Institute for Air Research, Norway
- Transparent World, Russia
- Slovak Environmental Agency, Slovakia
- European Topic Centre on Land Use and Spatial Information at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
- GeoVille, Luxemburg
- Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, Sweden
- National Environmental Research Council (British Geological Survey), UK
- Environment Agency of England and Wales, UK
- Joanneum Research, Austria
- Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy, Germany
- Ecologic, Austria
- Siberian Centre for Environmental Research and Training, Russia

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PROJECT INFORMATION

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