

Request 2018 for Expressions of Intent to scale-up and showcase EuroGEOSS pilot applications

1. Introduction

EuroGEOSS is a regional initiative launched in October 2017 by the European Caucus of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO)¹.

The EuroGEOSS vision is to significantly enhance environmental, social and economic benefits from the European participation to GEO.

This is implemented through improving uptake by European users of the Earth Observation (EO) data and information made available for instance through the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)² and the Copernicus Data and Information Access Services (DIAS)³.

EuroGEOSS innovation shall contribute to the solving of GEO societal challenges⁴, help to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other GEO engagement priorities⁵, as well to support the implementation of EU policies, including environmental legislation.

The EuroGEOSS initiative aims to accelerate European innovation in EO application development from demonstration to market. It promotes collaboration, coordination and combination of user-driven research developments already taking place in Europe.

Achieving the overall EuroGEOSS vision requires to:

- improve ways to combine EO supply and demand in Europe;
- break down Research & Innovation (R&I) silos;
- pool EO expertise and resources along the value chain;
- mobilize and link up interested public and private stakeholders and users at EU, national and regional levels;
- facilitating new ways of working together;
- make best use of the R&I financial instruments which exist in Europe.

To achieve this vision, the EuroGEOSS Coordination Group⁶ has decided to launch annual *Requests for Expressions of Intent to deliver EuroGEOSS Pilot Applications*.

This approach is inspired by the calls for commitment that have been launched under the European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs)⁷ supporting of the Innovation Union flagship of the EU 2020 Strategy⁸.

The EuroGEOSS series of annual Requests shall consolidate *ad hoc* European innovation partnerships (called EuroGEOSS *Action Groups*) to combine, upscale and streamline specific EO pilot applications whilst making best use of GEOSS and Copernicus data and information.

¹ The GEO partnership ([link](#))

² The GEOSS Portal ([link](#)):

³ The upcoming Copernicus Data and Information Access Services (DIAS) ([link](#))

⁴ GEO Societal Benefit Areas from the GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025 ([link](#))

⁵ GEO Engagement Strategy ([link](#))

⁶ The EuroGEOSS initiative is chaired by the European Commission (DG RTD and DG GROW) and coordinated by a group of experts nominated by the European GEO member countries and participating organizations. The list of nominated experts is accessible from [the EuroGEOSS web site](#).

⁷ Innovation Union and EIPs ([link](#))

⁸ EU 2020 Strategy ([link](#))

The challenge for these Action Groups consists of ensuring critical mass and a smoother transition from the demonstration phase to implementation of EO applications of high market potential for consolidated user needs in Europe.

The EuroGEOSS Requests should facilitate increased synergies between European stakeholders along the EO value chain (including the commercial sector) and bring together relevant initiatives already supported through various funding schemes and/or having identified potential funding source in the short term (e.g. from Horizon 2020, national and regional programmes, Copernicus Framework Partnership Agreement, Copernicus Core Services, GEOSS activities of the GEO Work Programme 2017-2019, activities carried out by European GEO Participating Organizations).

2. EuroGEOSS Request for Expressions of Intent in 2018

Why to participate?	What EuroGEOSS deliverables?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To share good practice, benchmark experiences and scale them up across different local contexts and across the EU ✓ To network including with users and other stakeholders not yet involved in European R&I EO activities ✓ To get high visibility and recognition-including in GEO and Copernicus events - and take part in a more strategic dissemination at European and international level under the EuroGEOSS flag ✓ To benefit from EuroGEOSS as a regional gateway to GEO ✓ To link with important EO projects and programmes in Europe including Copernicus, Horizon 2020 and its follow-up programme after 2020 ✓ To benefit from and contribute to a reinforced European EO marketplace ✓ To get regularly informed on funding opportunities ✓ To participate in a European-wide, lasting partnership where shared competences, resources and skills are aligned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Real life, user-driven demonstrated EO applications ✓ Reviews of user-related experience and questions ✓ Catalogues of good practices available in different languages ✓ Strategies for scaling-up new services including critical success factors ✓ Guidelines for business models, evidences on return on investment ✓ Innovative procurements of interoperable innovative solutions ✓ Innovation deals in the field of service solutions ✓ Reference site with high potential for replication in Europe ✓ Inter-regional cooperation ✓ Synergies with H2020 projects (e.g. strategic dissemination of deliverables); ✓ Awareness raising campaigns ✓ Education and training modules, including for trainers ✓ Emerging themes of novel interest for European research & innovation.

The *Request for Expressions of Intent* in 2018 is open to all stakeholders from any European GEO member countries⁹ and to all European GEO participating organizations. It will be published online from mid-April till 30 June 2018 from the [EuroGEOSS website](#) on Europa.

An *Expression of Intent* in the context of this Request is a voluntary, measurable and concrete engagement in support of upscaling a specific user-driven EO application

⁹ GEO Members: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom. Additional contributing country: Lithuania.

helping directly to achieve one or several Sustainable Development Goal(s) prioritized in the Request (see Annex I).

Interested parties are encouraged to submit their Expression of Intent as a joint proposal comprising several organizations/entities, bringing together existing, mutually reinforcing application developments. A party making an individual submission is asked to indicate, where relevant, with which other stakeholders they are already partnering within the scope of their submission. A joint submission can also include partners from outside Europe. However, given the regional approach of EuroGEOSS, the proposed activities need to be led by an organization / entity located in Europe.

Each Expression of Intent should focus on one or several of the EuroGEOSS priorities listed in Annex I. Submissions are expected to fulfill the evaluation criteria listed in Annex II.

The EuroGEOSS Coordination Group, will review the submitted Expressions of Intent and their related consortia.

A clustering of the most advanced and relevant submitted Expressions of Intent will be proposed by the EuroGEOSS Coordination Group, leading to the establishment of EuroGEOSS *Action Groups* derived from those consortia. Each Action Group will focus on the upscaling of a specific EuroGEOSS pilot application.

Action Groups shall last for a period of maximum three years and be operated on a best effort basis. They shall bring together a relevant multi-stakeholder group of partners across various disciplines for innovation (e.g. research, industry, finance, non-governmental organizations, etc.), as well as the demand and supply sides of innovation.

The Action Groups are responsible for establishing their own working methods and governance. For the sake of consistency, it is suggested that the working methods and governance rely on the following principles:

- *Openness and partnership* - common willingness of all partners to cooperate with other relevant partners inside and outside the Action Group.
- *Reporting* - to the EuroGEOSS Coordination Group on an annual basis on the progress and on the bottlenecks/barriers that each Action Group encounters and which remedial action they propose to overcome them.
- *Monitoring* - outcome of each Action Group shall be monitored annually, and results made public, subject to compliance with Intellectual Property Rights.

Action Groups selected by the EuroGEOSS Coordination Group are free and encouraged to communicate externally that they are working as a EuroGEOSS Action Group until the end of their maximum three year duration. The EuroGEOSS Coordination Group shall communicate about the Actions Groups through the channels made available by its members, including the EuroGEOSS website hosted by the European Commission.

Being a EuroGEOSS contributor shall increase the visibility of your activities at European and international levels in the context of GEO and Copernicus, opening up cooperation possibilities with new partners along the value chain.

The Commission intends to actively promote and disseminate under the EuroGEOSS logo the outcome of all EuroGEOSS Action Groups as European know how in Earth observation applications.

Annex I: EuroGEOSS scoping priorities for the Request 2018

Each Expression of Commitment submitted to the Request 2018 shall contribute to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 by upscaling close-to-market applications contributing directly to one or several of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- SDG2: Zero hunger
- SDG3: Good health and well-being
- SDG6: Clean water and sanitation
- SDG7: Affordable and clean energy
- SDG9: Industry innovation and infrastructure
- SDG11: Sustainable cities and communities
- SDG13: Climate action
- SDG14: Life below water
- SDG15: Life on land

In addition, each Expression of Commitment is asked to specify the extent to which it might also contribute:

- Other priorities of the GEO Engagement Strategy:
 - The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction¹⁰
 - The Paris agreement on climate change¹¹
- One or several GEO Societal Benefit Areas (SBA):
 - Biodiversity and Ecosystem Sustainability
 - Disaster Resilience
 - Energy and Mineral Resources Management
 - Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture
 - Infrastructure and Transportation Management
 - Public Health Surveillance
 - Sustainable Urban Development
 - Water Resources Management
- Implementation of EU policies, including environmental monitoring, protection and reporting in relation to EU environmental legislation.

¹⁰ <http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

¹¹ http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

Annex II: EuroGEOSS selection criteria for the Request 2018

Expressions of Intent submitted through the Request 2018 should take the following criteria defined by the EuroGEOSS Coordination Group:

1. Proposed contributions shall be based on existing applications, which already have been demonstrated within another environment (e.g. FP7/H2020, ESA, national or sub-national programmes). The aim is show the highest potential possible to respond to consolidated end-user needs in Europe.
2. Proposed submissions shall be documented in terms of established market uptake potential, wide applicability and strong socio-economic benefit that would clearly benefit from:
 - Scaling up in a real life environment at trans-national / European scales;
 - Combination of different applications addressing similar end-user needs;
 - Support for operationalisation / first-of-a-kind market deployment;
 - Provision of GEOSS data (e.g. in-situ data);
 - User-driven partnership with ongoing GEO activities;
 - Partnering with the European commercial sector for service commercialisation and sustainability.
3. Proposed contribution are required to address the full value chain and leverage Copernicus data, Copernicus Core Services and related infrastructure (e.g. DIAS) for the scaling-up of EuroGEOSS applications.
4. Expressions of Intent should also take the following general principles resulting from EIP best practices into consideration:
 - User Engagement: underwriting the EuroGEOSS vision, objectives and criteria;
 - Inclusiveness: widely involving all relevant actors and constituencies in Europe;
 - Critical mass: sufficient, concrete and measurable resources to carry out the actions of the contribution;
 - Delivery: delivery of proposed outcomes in a period of maximum three years.