

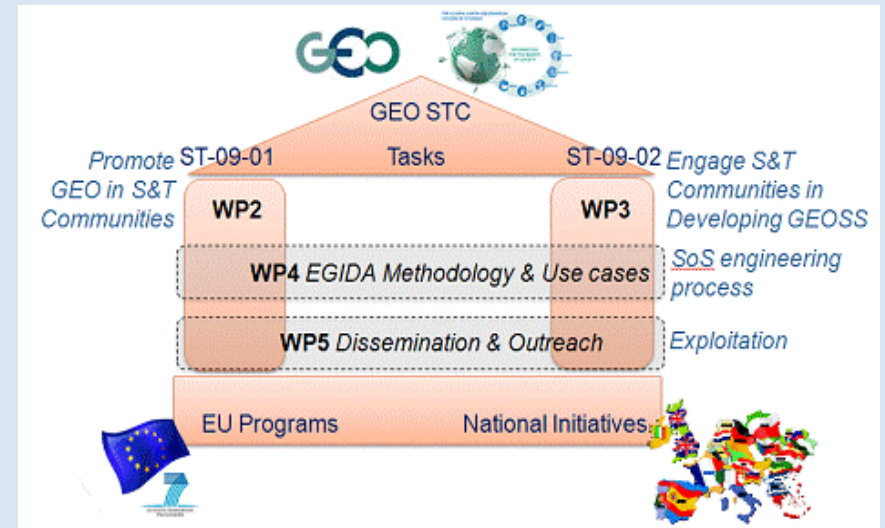
EGIDA NEWSLETTER

EGIDA/GEOSS-This is the first newsletter on the activities of the EGIDA project. EGIDA is an EC programme initiated to promote the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) to the science and technology community. In particular, EGIDA will work with the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) Science and Technology Committee (STC) to carry out the GEO STC Roadmap.

The Global Earth Observation System of Systems will provide decision-support tools to a wide variety of users. As with the Internet, GEOSS will be a global and flexible network of content providers allowing decision makers to access an extraordinary range of information at their desk.

GEOSS will proactively link together existing and planned observing systems around the world and support the development of new systems where gaps currently exist. It will promote common technical standards so that data from the thousands of different instruments can be combined into coherent data sets. The 'GEOPortal' offers a single Internet access point for users seeking data, imagery and analytical software packages relevant to all parts of the globe. It connects users to existing data bases and portals and provides reliable, up-to-date and user friendly information – vital for the work of decision makers, planners and emergency managers.

- **EGIDA**-EGIDA is an EC project under the Seventh Framework Programme. The purpose is to coordinate the earth and environmental cross-disciplinary projects to promote the GEOSS. In particular, EGIDA supports the GEO Science and Technology (S&T) Committee and the development/implementation of the GEO S&T Roadmap. This will include supporting GEOSS Tasks ST-09-01 Promote GEO in S&T Communities and ST-09-02 Engage S&T Communities in Developing GEOSS. These objectives will be accomplished using the flow diagram below:



EGIDA STAKEHOLDERS NETWORK AND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

One of the most important events in the EGIDA will take place on May 9-11 in Bonn, Germany. This is the 1st Joint Workshop of the EGIDA Stakeholders Network and Advisory Board

The objective of the workshop is to network representatives of the broad group of stakeholders in Science and Technology (S&T) of GEOSS and to activate contributions from this network to the implementation of the Road Map of the GEO Science and Technology Committee (STC). In order to achieve this goal, the workshop will

inform participating GEOSS S&T stakeholders as well as members of the EGIDA Advisory Board about EGIDA, its first actions and the medium-term approach;

solicit feedback and contributions from the stakeholders; receive directions from the Advisory Board; elaborate S&T user requirements and attempt a gap analysis.

The workshop will also address specific tasks of the EGIDA project and activities of the STC Road Map with the goal to further elaborate proposals for contributions by the stakeholders outlined above. The workshop is open for all EGIDA project members, members of the EGIDA Advisory Board, members of the EGIDA Stakeholder network, the STC members, and in general stakeholders in S&T of GEOSS. See

http://www.geo-tasks.org/egida/meetings/snab_ws2011

GEO-VII PLENARY AND BEIJING MINISTERIAL SUMMIT

- EGIDA had a significant presence at the GEO-VII Plenary and Beijing Ministerial, held from 3-5 November 2010. Several members of the EGIDA Project Team were present. Flyers were distributed and an EGIDA Introduction slide show was presented at the STC, the EC and the IEEE booths. The **REPORT OF THE MID-TERM EVALUATION OF GEOSS IMPLEMENTATION** presented at the Plenary had a set 8 recommendations for GEOSS. The EGIDA project will have a significant role in carrying out the recommendations especially with respect to those addressing the sustainability of GEOSS beyond the 2015 date and improving the GEOSS communication and outreach process.
- **GEO EUROPEAN PROJECTS WORKSHOP (GEPW)**
GEPW-5 will continue and extend the effort started several years ago to develop the collaboration between the GEO initiative and the European Commission projects on Earth Observation funded through the Framework Programme of Community Research. GEPW-5 in London on February 8-9 will address the European input to the GEO 2012-15 WP and the implementation of GEO data sharing Action Plan



GEO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T) ROADMAP

The GEO S&T Roadmap identifies and motivates the path that the GEO STC follows to achieve its objectives. It addresses GEO's committees, Task Teams, working groups and Communities of Practise. It also addresses the S&T communities within the scope of the Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs) of the GEOSS and the S&T communities needed to build, deploy, access and sustain GEOSS.

The vision for GEOSS is to realize a future where decisions and actions for the benefit of humankind are informed by coordinated, comprehensive and sustained Earth observations and information, based upon sound scientific and technical advice. The Roadmap was developed by the STC to realize that vision.

The STC has been set up to ensure that GEO has access to scientific and technological advice. Its objectives support the 2015 strategic target of ensuring "full interaction and engagement of relevant science and technology communities such that GEOSS advances through integration of innovations in Earth observation science and technology;

enabling the research community to fully benefit from GEOSS accomplishments." The high-level objectives of the STC are to:

1. Enable GEO to make decisions on best available and sound scientific and technological advice, through the solicitation of input from a broad, trans-disciplinary scientific and technological community.
2. Ensure the scientific and technological integrity and soundness of GEO Work Plans.

The roadmap presents a set of activities grouped under the activities of the two STC tasks which can be mapped to the objectives. See

http://www.earthobservations.org/documents/committees/stc/stc_roadmap_20091202.pdf

ST-09-01 (EGIDA WP2)

STC established two Tasks to carry out elements of the Roadmap activities and EGIDA's work packages have been set up to support this Task structure. ST-09-01 will focus on catalyzing research and development resources for GEOSS. These include not only financial resources but the relevant knowledge, skills and capabilities of the science and technology community. This means identifying the relevant science and technology communities who have resources to bring, engaging with them and establishing their science and technology gaps, priorities, and continuity needs to support GEO and the building of the GEOSS.

In this context, one of the first areas that WP 2 is focussing its efforts on is to establish a process to help the community to define the science and technology needs and priorities in Earth Observations and communicate these to the relevant GEOSS components. This will help to prioritise which gaps in the observing system should be filled first. In terms of continuity there are linked activities on defining continuity indicators and a process whereby the relevance of potential GEOSS components can be assessed. As part of this process, a number of candidates that are currently run using research funding will be put through a prototype assessment process, to see whether a case can be made for them to become operational components of GEOSS. The outcome of this activity will be a report setting out a framework for the sustained operation of the GEOSS. All of this activity will be carried out in cooperation with the STC and the ST-09-01 Task Team, with which a significant cross-membership has already been established



ST-09-02 (EGIDA WP 3)

EGIDA aims to create incentives and promote GEO in the S&T Communities by providing direct support to the GEOSS S&T Roadmap and the relevant activities of GEO Task ST-09-02, via the following tasks:

EGIDA together with ST-09-02 will propose a GEOSS data citation standard

EGIDA will support ST-09-02 in the development of a draft “GEO Label”

In coordination with ST-09-02, WP 3 will focus on establishing a master plan for scientific sessions focusing on the GEOSS to S&T relationship

EGIDA will support ST-09-02 in the development of a process for the identification of compelling examples

WP3 aims to support the STC and ST-09-02 in identifying core data sets

WP3 aims to develop a framework concept for European funding agencies that would facilitate availability of European S&T resources for GEOSS

USE CASES (EGIDA WP 4)

- Pan-European “Air Quality for Health

As an example of how the EGIDA methodology may be applied, the current task will work towards promoting awareness and stimulate engagement of the GEO principles in the Air Quality and Health communities. To achieve this, a systematic analysis of legislation, measurement data, models, information resources, monitoring programmes and research projects will be undertaken. Through meetings with the Air Quality and Health communities, the analysis will be discussed and enriched. The meetings will furthermore be used as a tool for transferring of the EGIDA methodologies to enable dissemination of results and data from national and international stakeholders to GEOSS as a whole.

- Hot-spot pollution in the Mediterranean

This task aims to have a nest of the EGIDA methodology on hot-spot pollution in the Mediterranean. The CNR-IIA is coordinating the WP on chemical pollution in the Mediterranean under the KnowSeas project, in which temporal trends for key drivers are being observed through main socio-economic indicators in shipping and land-based industrial sources of pollution. To this end, available data from regional and national monitoring networks are collected and integrated in a database. With the above in mind, the active engagement and incorporation of science and technology community to the development of GEOSS through the implementation of a SDI, and transfer of knowledge to national research systems would be strategic.



MEDITERRANEAN REGION

This task aims to provide a use-case for the EGIDA methodology replication process, focusing on partnership, infrastructures, products and services involving southern Mediterranean Countries.

To implement capacity building of neighbour EC developing countries, the use-case will provide technology, OS oriented, capable to permit a congruous and continuous data management and data flow, toward interoperability, on the basis of the EIONet model.

To implement this vision, this task will use the UNEP-MAP network to promote data and information sharing and to involve northern African actors to achieve interoperability tests.

