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# GNU's International Stakeholder Group: its members and their interests in a discourse

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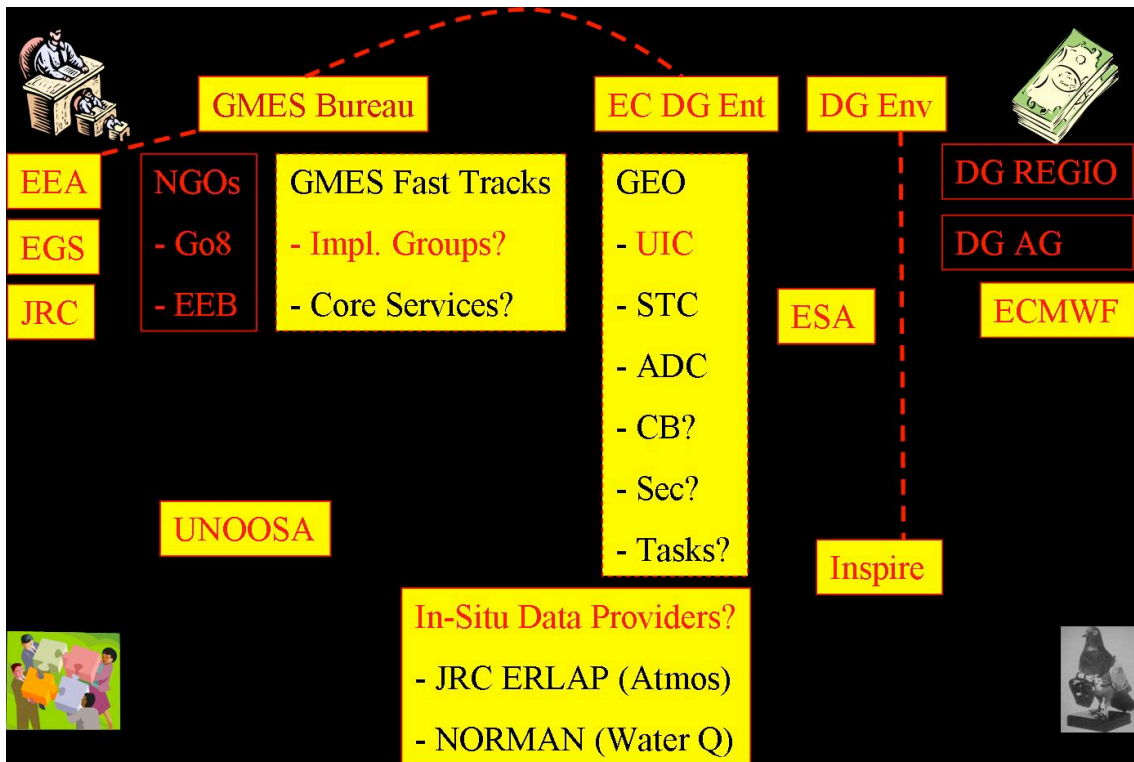
# GNU's International Stakeholder Group: its members and their interests in a discourse

## 1. Rationale

The rationale for GNU setting up a group of international stakeholders is the need to develop a dialogue between GNU and those responsible for governing GMES, its funding, the provision of EO and in-situ data for GMES and delivering the products and services derived from those data. This should be a high level group of people, organisations and initiatives, at the European or International level, and that have significant influence in the GMES landscape. This deliverable describes the group's members, how GNU identified them and what their interests are in talking to GNU.

## 2. Methodology

The first task was to identify such stakeholders. This was done as a group exercise during the GNU Consortium Meeting that was held in Nottingham in June 2008. An empty GMES "landscape" bounded by governance, funding, data provision and EO capability was populated with suggestions from the GNU Partners. The second task was then to select the most appropriate from amongst those identified at step one. The GNU Partners chose those likely to be most interested in GNU, with whom we thought that a dialogue would be productive. The third stage was to invite them to take part in the group. This was done after the meeting using the knowledge within the GNU Consortium to identify the most appropriate individuals to contact within the selected organisations. The BGS, as the Work Package Manager, together with the GNU Coordinator jointly invited the participants by personal contact and email, following this up with a formal letter. This process led to agreement to participate from an appropriate group of international stakeholders, illustrated in yellow below.



### 3. Members

The final composition of the international stakeholders group, with the interests that they primarily represent in **bold**, and a brief pen picture of their interests in having a dialogue with GNU taken largely from the group’s first meeting, follows:

- Robert Lowson, European Environment Agency EEA & **GMES Bureau**

The GMES Bureau has a range of responsibilities in GMES, centred on coordination. Robert works for the EEA but has been seconded to the GMES Bureau and thus his interests in GNU mainly come from the GMES Bureau’s perspective. He wants to get a clearer picture of the development of user coordination within the GMES initiative. This will be used to help consider its role in GMES governance.

- Hans Dufourmont, **European Commission Directorate General Enterprise & GMES Bureau**

DG ENT are one of the main Directorates associated with GMES. Hans represents them in the GMES Bureau. He is the Bureau’s formal liaison officer with GNU.

- Hugo de Groof, **European Commission Directorate General Environment, GMES & INSPIRE**

DG ENV are another of the main Directorates associated with GMES. Hugo thinks that it is important that GNU's outcomes are taken fully into account in shaping GMES in future. He finds GNU's reports interesting, particularly their assessment of the GMES projects. GMES should keep in mind to adequately address the concerns of end users. However, he sees no clear separation between user and producer as a lot of producers are also users, like meteorological services. Therefore, he suggests focusing not only on end users but also on service providers and potential users.

- Tim Haigh, replacing Chris Steenmans, **European Environment Agency**

The EEA have a leading role in coordination of in-situ data provision in GMES. Tim coordinates SEIS at the EEA. Tim is interested in what the operational parts of the GNU user community will look like in the future. What will follow on from GNU for the operational phase, what could it look like, and what are the components and elements of a future GMES user community?

- Luca Demichelli (succeeding to Patrice Christmann), **EuroGeoSurveys**

EuroGeoSurveys is the organisation representing 33 national geological surveys in Europe with an overall work force of over 20,000. The geological surveys of Europe are national government institutions which, in roughly 50% of the cases, are part of the respective ministries of the environment. Usually they are the official national bodies responsible for raw materials and quarrying activities, geohazards monitoring and prevention, geological mapping, groundwater, etc.' EGS members are active participants in GMES and EGS sit on the GMES Advisory Council. They appreciate the conclusions of the GNU reports, which can be applied in their GMES projects. They feel that there is a need to improve semantics within the GMES projects: to define what the environmental components are and to define various natural resources. They want to see agreed lists on these issues. They also see an urgent need to improve governance of EU geographic information. They are frustrated about the current situation in the GAC; many end user communities are not represented but are in other fora like the GEO high level group or in SEIS. They suggest bringing users together to discuss Europe's geographic information needs.

- **Alessandro Annoni, Joint Research Centre & GEO Architecture & Data Committee**

The JRC are one of the main EC entities implementing GMES, SEIS and INSPIRE. Alessandro is from the JRC's Institute for Environment and Sustainability. From the INSPIRE point of view, his main interest is to ensure compliance between GMES and adopted legislation for INSPIRE (e.g. Regulation on Metadata, Network Services for View and Discovery). For INSPIRE legislation still under preparation he is interested to ensure their coherent development (e.g. GMES's data product specifications v. INSPIRE data specifications under preparation).

- **Gary Foley, US Environmental Protection Agency & GEO User Interface Committee**

GEO extends the GMES approach to global scale. It deals with its user communities via its User Interface Committee, of which Gary is co-chair. A dialogue with GNU, as representatives of the GMES User Community, will be of mutual benefit, particularly because GNU is one of the few activities which have set up operational links between GMES and GEO.

- **Mark Doherty, European Space Agency**

ESA are one of the main sponsors of GMES, through provision of the GMES Sentinel satellite series and via the funding of GMES Service Elements (GSE). Mark Doherty was unavailable, but was represented by Frank-Martin Seiffert. Frank is responsible for the GSE Land and GSE Forest Monitoring at ESA. He looks to GNU to provide recommendations from the user perspective. He is interested to see how they are expressed, if they are understood and taken up, and how communication works within the GMES user network. He hopes that the expressions of the users in GNU together can be stronger than those from the users within individual projects.

- **Manfred Klöppel, European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasting ECMWF**

ECMWF are a source of data and information of high relevance to GMES. Manfred thinks it is important to make the link between GMES and GEO. He can bring input from the GEO User Interface Committee into GNU and vice versa, e.g. concerning user requirements. He is interested in the feedback on the GNU reports and if the outcomes will be taken on board in the GMES process and in other GMES projects. He can also contribute experience from the meteorological community.

- **Hans Dahlin, EuroGOOS & GMES Marine Core Service**

Hans Dahlin represents EuroGOOS and as such can fill one of the user gaps in GNU: he can contribute from the marine users' side. He is particularly interested in how GMES can improve the downstream services at national level for marine services.

- **Philippe WaldTeufel, National Centre of Scientific Research CNRS (France) & GMES Atmosphere Core Service**

Philippe works in the Service d'Aeronomie du CNRS. He chairs the implementation group for GMES Atmospheric Services and he wants to learn more about the GNU project from that perspective.

- **Dietmar Grünreich, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy BKG (Germany) & GMES Land Core Service**

Dietmar is the director of the BKG. He chairs the implementation group for the GMES Land Service and he wants to learn more about the GNU project from that perspective.

- **Werner Balogh, UN Office of Outer Space Affairs**

Werner sees potential links between GMES, GNU and the work of UNOOSA. This goes back to the original vision of the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) in the late 1950s to ensure that space technology and applications are used for the benefit of all humankind; initiatives like GMES and GEO contribute to the realization of this vision. Potential links to GNU/GMES from UNOOSA include capacity building activities in the UN Programme on Space Applications (PSA) and UN entities as users of EO data as well as users and providers of value added data. Much of the data and information that will be made available through GMES may also have applications in the work of the UN. He is interested in establishing a link between the PSA, users in developing countries and the UN system and GMES.

- **Georg Rebernick, Environment Agency Austria, GMES In-situ Observations Working Group**

Georg's organisation is a potential user of various GMES services. He is interested in the benefits GMES can give to the various fields of work of the agency like better, cheaper, more reliable or more consistent data being made available by European agencies. For the work of ISOWG, it is important to clearly present the benefits of GMES to be able to adequately contribute to the in-situ data requirements of the core services. He would like to see links between GMES and ISOWG and he expects from GNU that it can contribute to benefit both areas.

This concludes deliverable D4.1. The outcome of the dialogue with the International Stakeholder Group over the course of two meetings, and through correspondence in between, will be reported in Deliverable D4.2, which is due later in the project.

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This report and the other reports by GNU  
can be downloaded at the project website:

[www.gmes-network-of-users.eu](http://www.gmes-network-of-users.eu)