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LEARNING BY DOING

from the beginning of GMES to a new
generation of GMES projects/actions

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Analysis of Selected GMES projects carried out at the beginning of GNU was based on:

- Usefulness/utility: the service improves users' day to day operations
- Reliability: the service is credible and consistently meets user defined quality standards
- Affordability: the service's benefits justify costs and are competitive with other usual sources

Main conclusions of GNU's analysis:

- Lack of consistent methodology for user assessment
- Weak C/B analysis carried out by users
- Strong partnership established by service providers and users
- The bigger the No. of users the better to make the project relevant for their needs, but.....
- also more difficult to harmonize their information needs and priorities

Main recommendations from the analysis

- Develop an consistent database of users, service providers and products
- Integrate quantitative assessment into evaluation reports
- Ensure transparency of GMES projects
- Work for a common methodology to assess utility, benefits, accuracy and affordability of GMES products
- Select target user group according to project expectations

To which extent are the results of this work
and recommendations reflected
in the content of recent EC calls/projects?

FP7 Space call 2009/WP 2010

- Establish appropriate **funding arrangements** for the operational phase of GMES, in order to *ensure the sustainability of the services for users*;
- Targeting specific applications serving a wider group of users (eg. across Europe), or a multithematic application of a specific user (e.g. regional or local) with *emphasis on users ready to fund services when EC funding ends*.
- Existing and validated experimental practices or methodologies need to be turned into operational prototypes in close interaction and trade-off/validation process with the service users.
- Successful integration into current user practices and their working environment need to be demonstrated.

- Description of feedback and assessment process of the service *by relevant end-users*, demonstrating acceptance level of products, of prototypical service
- Scenarios for integration into users' working methods and resulting decision-making processes
- To facilitate efficient acquisition and exploitation by both service providers and users, activities will have to include R&D for:
 - improved accessibility to long-term data archives, implementation of meta-data standards, actions to facilitate information retrieval and dissemination;
 - improved accessibility to in-situ systems;
 - adoption of open standards for data documentation, data models and services;
 - integration of tools and services allowing anybody to query, view access and exchange the information held by distributed public and private bodies;
 - establishment of a data policy and appropriate security framework.

FP7 Environment Call 2009/WP2010 – EO and Assessment Tools for Sustainable Development addressing:

- integrating European activities within GEO;
- Cross cutting research activities relevant to GEO
- EO in emerging areas
- Capacity building activities in new EU countries and developing countries
- Tools for impact assessment
- Sustainable development indicators
- Interplay between social, economic and ecological systems

- The requirements of these calls for new GMES projects certainly reflect much of the GNU recommendations – a good starting point
- The real difference will be measurable at the end of the new projects
- A quick glimpse on some FP7 projects recently started (MyOcean, MACC) or proposed (GRAAL, HELM, EGIDA, CERES) seem to show that:
 - users are stronger and more knowledgeable partners in terms of their expectations from projects results
 - Quality criteria/Validation approaches taken are into account
 - Data policies and stronger outreach actions are included
 - National/Subnational coordination addressed

Furthermore...

The proposed GMES Regulation includes:

- a User Forum to ensure that service specifications correspond to users needs
- Full and open access, free of charge, to information produced by EC funded GMES services and data
- Full transparency in procurement of space data
- The role of the EEA as technical coordinator of the in-situ component and land monitoring services
- Greater coordination with GEOSS

Our parallel sessions can now benefit from the experience of the GNU partners and Extended Consortium Members in recently started projects, as well as from the expected results of recent project proposals to approach the issues identified:

- Meeting user reporting obligations and priority data flows
- Improving modeling and forecasting by use of in situ data;
- Facilitating user contribution in building SEIS/INSPIRE
- Facilitating National/Subnational coordination