

Breakout Group Data Catalogues / Portals

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Acquaintance with existing data catalogues / portals

Users are well experienced with web / data portals that they use for daily work. Depending on their activity they act as providers and / or user (clients) of these portals. Due to the nature of the members of the extended consortium, most of the portals are of regional or national origin.

In addition to the data portals reviewed by the GNU partners, the group came up with a long list of additional portals (U = User, P = Provider).

Web portal	Usage	U/P
ETC LUSI geonode	Searching for data, download, analysis	U/P
Google Earth	Geography, geomorphology, environmental information	U
NLCSK	Provide info on services	P
Soil Portal	Broad range of data and services related to soil and environment	P
EuroForest Portal	European Forest information, mostly on national level	P
ARPA	In situ meteorological data	P
www.meteo.lu	Meteo news	P/U
CENIA geoportal	Geo information	P/U
NASA – LAADS	Obtaining MODIS raw data for the SISCAL service (see below)	U
PCN	Orthoimages access; Italian Ministry of the environment	U
NOAA Climatic data centre portal	Analysis of data sets and data of meteorological stations	U
Eionet	Data upload, reporting obligation	P/U
E-PRTR	Latvian portal	U
Forest Carbon Portal	reporting	U
EEA data portal	Data download, reporting	U/P
INGV	Seismic data	U
ONEGEOLOGY	One Geology Project	U
Geoportal.cenia.cz	Any data, mostly environmental data	P/U
Czech geology Survey	Geological data	U
GEO	Public metadata and services	P
Sinanet	Italian environmental information system	P

JRA	Japanese meteorological service, reanalysis data sets to assess climate dynamics in a region	U
Climate.scert.ru	Dynamics at climatic processes	P/U
SISCAL	Distribution of value-added products on coastal areas and lakes (EO-based)	P
ESA rolling archives	Obtaining MERIS raw data	U
NASA-LAADS	Obtaining MODIS raw data	U
NASA-OceanColor	Obtaining MODIS and SeaWiFS raw data	U
EOLISA	Checking for MERIS-FR overpasses and performing orders on availability	U

Pro's and Con's of existing web systems

The main comments made by the extended stakeholder group confirmed the findings of the of the GNU partners. The possibility to search for data in a structured manner is an important functionality for the user. But users are not only interested to know that data exist, they need to be able to use the data and integrate them in their own applications. Therefore the “availability” (i.e. the possibility to actually download the data) is a key feature for a successful data portal.

Unfortunately also available data are often not described in a detailed manner, so that a) the ability to find them is limited and b) the user can hardly judge on the fitness for purpose of the data. In this respect meta data are regarded as crucial and need to comply with a minimum standard.

Overly complex structures of the portal, slow response times and registration to discover the service were often named as main constraints for using a particular portal.

Recommendations

As meta data were identified as a critical issue for success, the group elaborated a list of most desired meta data element. Geographic coverage, temporal reference and contact information of the service provider were considered most important.