

Breakout Group International Stakeholder's Interest

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The group discussed the summary of different interests in the GNU project that were expressed by the international stakeholder group in the Vienna meeting in March 2009.

GNU findings

The international stakeholder group expressed a range of interests in as well as expectations from the GNU project. Expectations towards the GNU project range from organising the user community in an operational phase of GMES, better specification of user requirements through consensus building among various user groups, via links to GEO or INSPIRE to providing considerations on GMES governance.

Opinion of the extended stakeholder group

The extended stakeholder group did not comment on the international stakeholder's interests and expectations which would be difficult to do as these are the interests of particular institutions, different from the ones present in the current meeting.

Instead the extended stakeholder group discussed GMES on the international process level, thereby focussing on additional information needed to improve the overall knowledge of different international programmes and on current data and information gaps.

In fact most participants did not request more information on the existing and up-coming programmes, but better structured information (e.g. high level summaries), cross-cutting elements and guidance where to find the respective information, possibly packaged for different audiences' needs.

Main data and information gaps that urgently need to be addressed are access to EO data (i.e. licensing policies), service sustainability (in terms of finance as well as guaranteed availability of input data) and funding of in-situ data collections.

Specifically, data quality must be maintained in the long term, ideally with at the same time free data. Data continuity is a key quality especially for users in the field of the environment, because they work on long-term monitoring and reporting. Owing to current financial constraints, even for in situ data, long term funding is in many cases not secured. Moreover, GMES is not well balanced in this regard, since 2.6 Billion € are planned for the space segment, whereas currently only 3 Million are planned for in situ work.