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ATHENS 7-9 DECEMBER 2022

EuroGEO Action Group for Disasters:

Capitalizing Earth Observation in support to Civil Protection & Disasters Resilience

Chair: Dr. Haris Kontoes (IAASARS/NOA)

Research Director

(Operational Unit BEYOND Centre | IAASARS | NOA)

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EuroGEO GEO GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS



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The Chair raised a set of questions related to:

1. The need of sustaining the network of partners and the operation of the EuroGEO Action Group for Disasters
2. The support that the partners need for making the developed applications more sustained and close to the market through upscaling users' segment and reaching to new communities
3. The partners' views for bridging the gap between development of state-of-the-art innovative solutions and their real operational use
4. The benefits for the partners from developing their applications under the brand-name of EuroGEO, and last but not least,
5. The governance aspects related to the Action Group.



Key recommendations following the discussion:

1. The EuroGEO Action Group for Disasters should keep its operations and even more enlarge by including additional partners from different sectors, also emphasizing on non-traditional EO sectors (such as tourism, insurance, agriculture, health), and building stronger links with the private and the public sector.
2. The EuroGEO Action Group for Disasters should open more to SMEs, given that SMEs don't have enough EO capacity and cannot commit resources to develop innovation. The Group should work together with the private sector, with the latter playing the role of the co-designer for developing prototype innovation and standardization of analysis-ready-data, tailored to the SMEs service needs and business cases.
3. In this context, it was also outlined that the e-shape project has been providing systematic support towards developing a methodology and applying the principles of the co-design process, adapted to the specific end-user needs.
4. The EuroGEO Action Group for Disasters should keep running and in parallel exploit other ongoing and upcoming technologies and initiatives, such as Copernicus and Research & Infrastructure programme (e.g. ACTRIS), and Destination Earth, thus securing access to extreme data (EO, in-situ, numerical predictions), HPC and Cloud Computing facilities. All these are recognized as a real need for implementing the demanding applications, and upscaling, and transferring them in new areas inside EU and beyond.



Key recommendations following the discussion (continued):

5. The EuroGEO Action Group for Disasters has identified the need and the opportunity (following specific success stories that have been presented during the session) to capitalize the research and innovation through consultancy services to governmental bodies, therefore attracting additional funding sources at national level, in other words, achieve co-funding from the involvement of the member states.
6. The EuroGEO Action Group for Disasters requests support by EuroGEO for sustaining capacity building and dissemination activities, as well as for developing appropriate business plans, especially for those partners who are not familiar with approaching the markets.
7. It was agreed that the EuroGEO Action Group for Disasters should adopt as a good practice and promote through its activities the e-shape contribution in the development of the Knowledge Hub and the promotion of GEO data management principles.
8. As for the governance aspects, the EuroGEO Action Group for Disasters considers as of crucial importance to be assigned a more official role and receive institutional support by linking it to the governance of the EuroGEO, thus strengthening its supportive role towards the sustainability of the network and the exploitation of its services.