

National Observatory of Athens (NOA)

Dr. Haris KONTOES

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Research Director & Coordinator of GEO-CRADLE

GEO-CRADLE started as a CSA project funded by the H2020 but today is a GEO Initiative after the decision taken in the last GEO Ministerial in Kyoto

Horizon 2020 Regional Seminar Addressing Euro-Mediterranean Common Challenges through Research and Innovation Cooperation, 22 January 2019, EuroMed University of Fes, Morocco



GEO-CRADLE

http://geocradle.eu

GEO-CRADLE coordinates and integrates state-of-the-art EO activities in the regions of **North Africa**, **Middle East**, **and Balkans** (NAMEBA) and develops links with GEO related initiatives towards GEOSS, contributing amongst others to EuroGEOSS and AfriGEOSS.









THE OVERARCHING GOAL

Develop and sustain updated the roadmap for the implementation of GEO, GEOSS, and Copernicus in regions

The **GEO-CRADLE** project has received funding from the European Union's **Horizon 2020** research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 690133



GEO-CRADLE

http://geocradle.eu









GEO-CRADLE

- ✓ Brings together key players representing the entire EO value chain (> 300 stakeholders) from 29 countries
- ✓ Promotes the uptake and exploitation of innovative EO activities in NAMEBA





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The GEO-CRADLE addresses









Pilots
applicable
&
adaptable
to all
countries



Improved
Food Security

- Water
Extremes
Management
(IFS-WEM)

2 ZERO
HUNGER
MOPRODUCTION
MOPRODUCTION
GOOD

COMMON AND PRODUCTION
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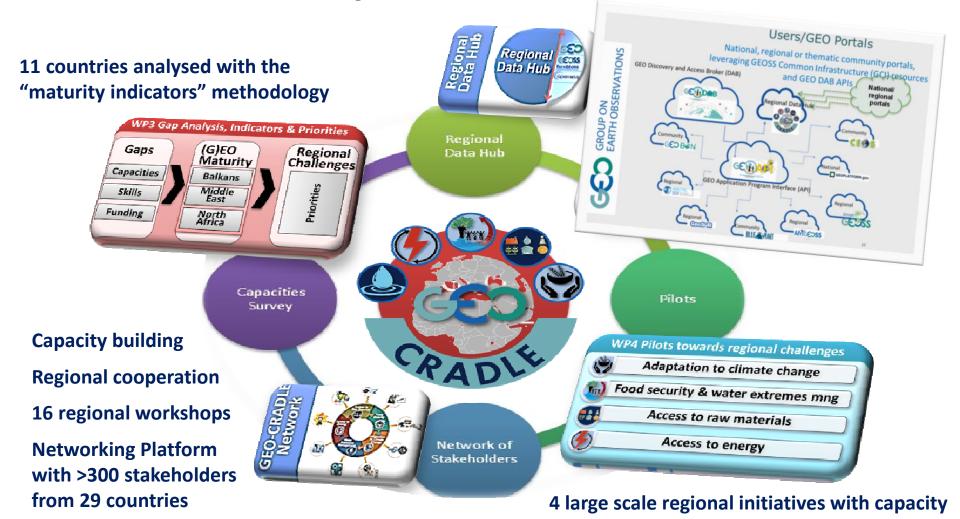


Through the support of

- ✓ Regional Cooperation
- ✓ Awareness raising
- √ Capacity building
- ✓ Training upon Open data accessing, sharing and exploitation

The Activities

Regional Data Hub with >25,000,000 datasets



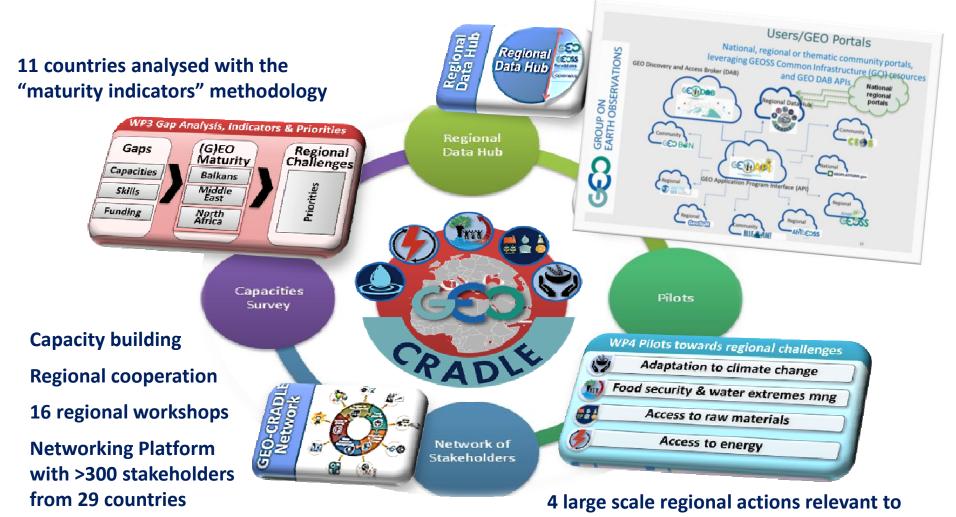
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building and delivery of innovative services

in support of 11 UN SDGs

The Activities

Regional Data Hub with >25,000,000 datasets



6

capacity building and delivery of innovative

services in support of 11 UN SDGs

Results: Maturity Indicators Methodology & Assessment

Definition of maturity

Data Analysis and sample augmentation

Definition of maturity

Collection of data through many sources

Data Analysis and sample augmentation

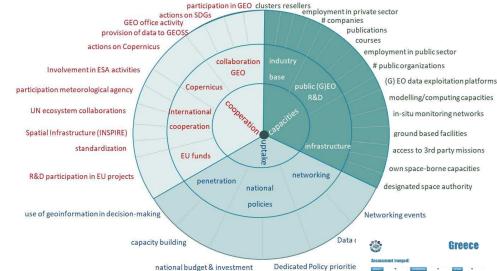
Independent validation

Replication & upscaling

Innovative, independent, up-to-date and replicable methodology for the assessment and monitoring of EO maturity at national level

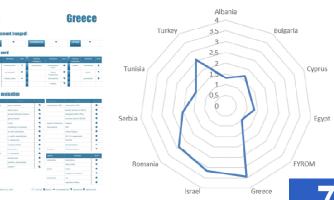
A very extensive set of 32 indicators was defined across 3 main fields:

- 1. Capacities
- 2. Cooperation
- 3. National Uptake and Awareness



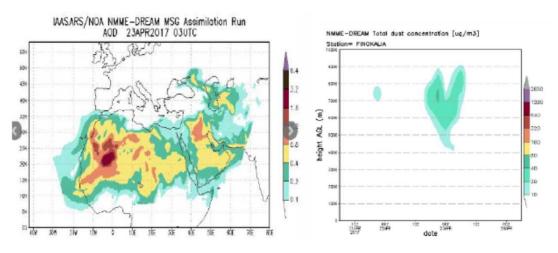
Application of the methodology in 11 countries of the BAMENA region:

Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, FYROM, Greece, Israel, Romania, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey,

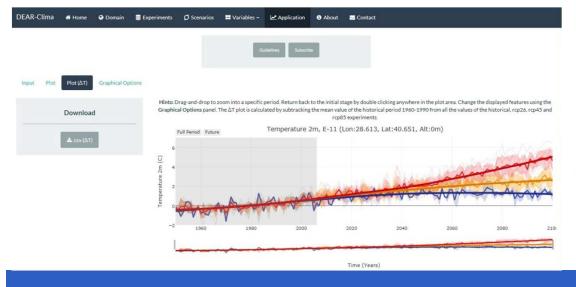


Results: Thematic 1 – Adaptation to Climate Change

Desert Dust services:



Regional Climate Change services:

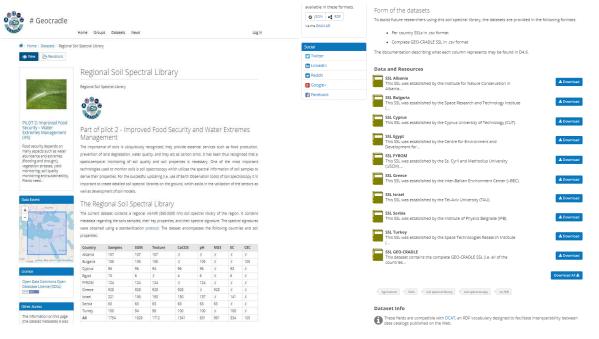


Engagement of end-users:



Results: Thematic 2 – Improved Food Security & Water Extremes Management

Regional Soil Spectral Library: 1754 soil samples from 9 countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, FYROM, Greece, Israel, Serbia, Turkey)



Engagement of end-users:

Albania: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade & Entrepreneurship

Greece: The Agriculture Cooperatives of Nestos, NESPAR, and the Cooperatives of Xanthi, Eleftheroupoli, and Volvi

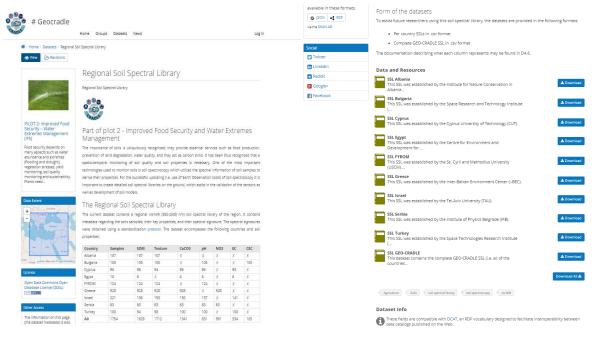
GEO's Secretariat

myDEWETRA platform:



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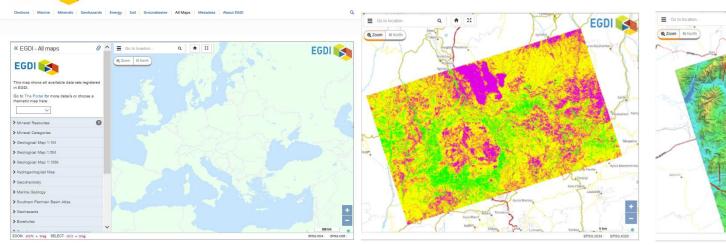


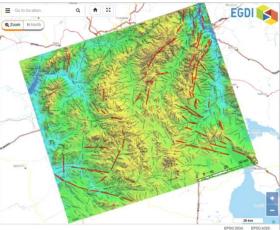
Results: Thematic 3 – Access to Raw Materials

EuroGeoSurveys' European Geological Data Infrastructure (EGDI):

Products for 3 countries (Greece, Cyprus, Turkey)







Engagement of end-users:

Greece: Ministry of Environment and Energy, Municipality of Alexandroupolis

Cyprus: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, the Hellenic Copper Mines Ltd

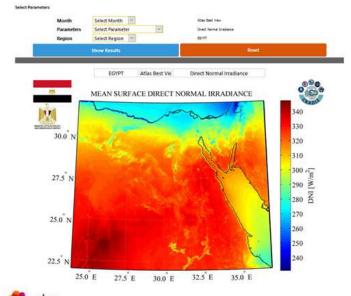
Turkey: JADE - Association of Geological Researches of Turkey, and JeoDijital Bilisim Teknoloji Madencilik in Turkey

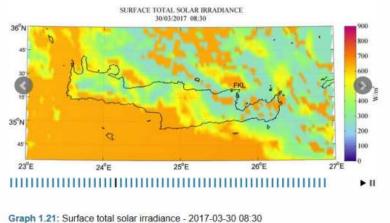
Morocco: Minister of Energy, Mining, Water and Environment

Algeria: Geological Survey of Algeria

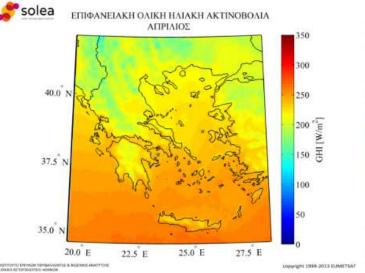
Results: Thematic 4 – Access to Energy

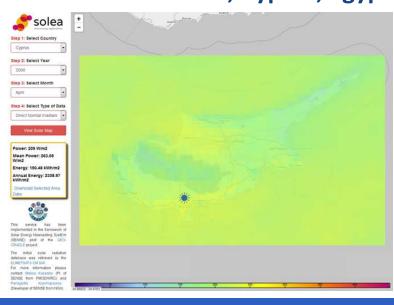
PRE-TECT campaign in Greece: Solar Atlas for Egypt and Greece:





PAR Atlas for Greece, Cyprus, Egypt:





Engagement of end-users:

Egypt: Ministry of **Electricity** and Renewable Energy

Greece: National **Independent Power Transmission** Operator, Attica Group with Bluestar and Superfast Ferries, National and Kapodistrian University of **Athens**

Pre-tect campaign

Results: Capacity Building & Stakeholders Engagement

Date	Location
28/04/2016	Cairo, Egypt
14/07/2016	Novi Sad, Serbia
26/09/2016	Tirana, Albania
17-18/10/2016	Rabat, Morocco
19/10/2016	Timimoun, Algeria
16/11/2016	Limassol, Cyprus
03/01/2017	Chişinău, Moldova
02/02/2017	Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
24/03/2017	Sofia, Bulgaria
26/04/2017	Brussels, Belgium (Industrial market)
09/05/2017	Magurele, Romania
25/05/2017	Cairo, Egypt
14/09/2017	Tel Aviv, Israel
07/12/2017	Tunis, Tunisia
15-16/03/2018	Istanbul, Turkey
04-05/06/2018	Thessaloniki, Greece (3 rd South- Eastern Europe GEO Workshop)

16 Regional Workshops have taken place in the **BAMENA region**:

- advocating for free & open data policies in support of GEO & INSPIRE principles
- supporting knowledge sharing capacity building
- providing a unique cross-sector networking opportunity
- identifying the potential local challenges and needs that can be addressed by Earth Observation
- enhancing **growth & innovation** in the geo-information sector
- enabling more informed decision making















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Results: Capacity Building & Stakeholders Engagement

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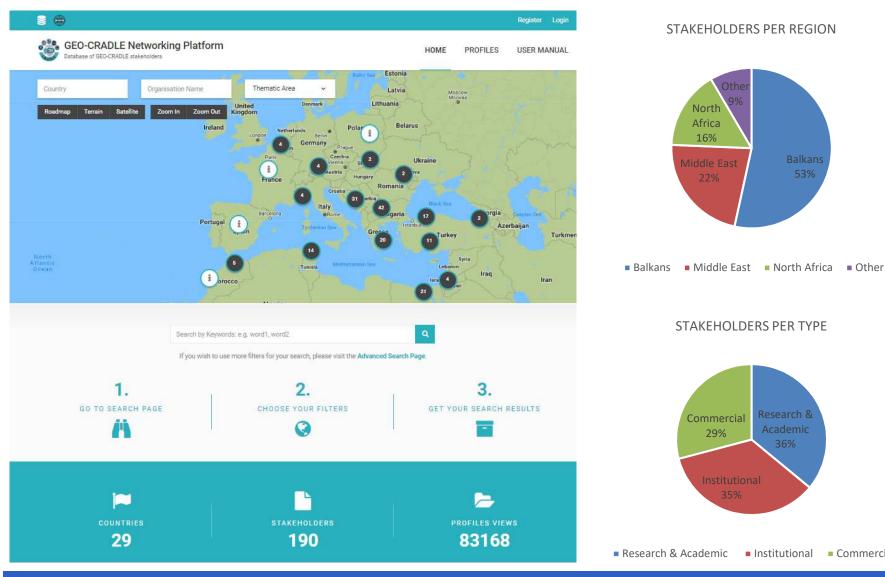




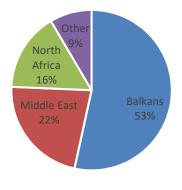


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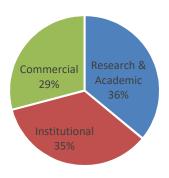
Results: The Regional Networking Platform



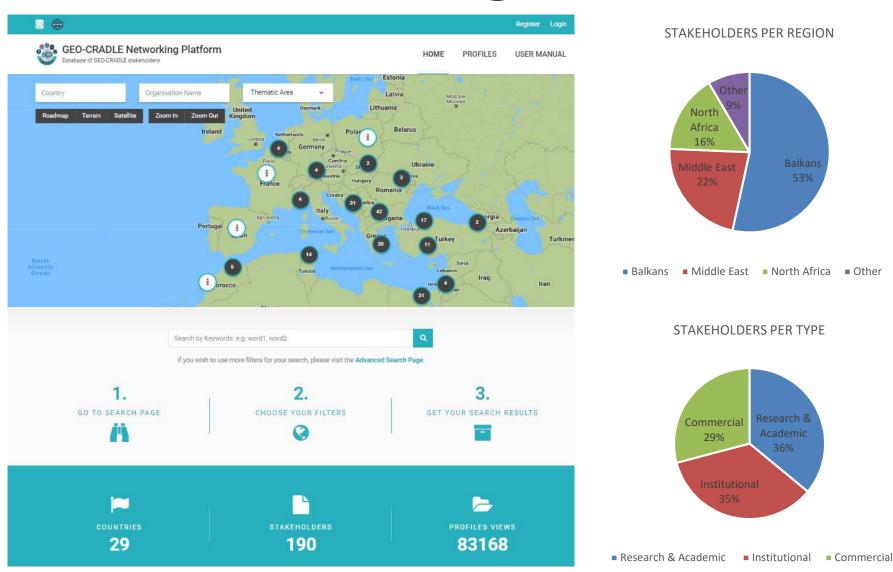
STAKEHOLDERS PER REGION



STAKEHOLDERS PER TYPE



Results: The Regional Networking Platform

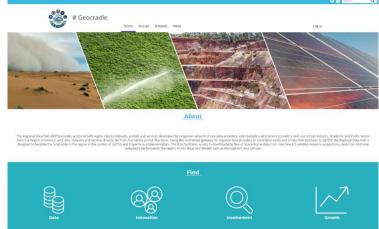


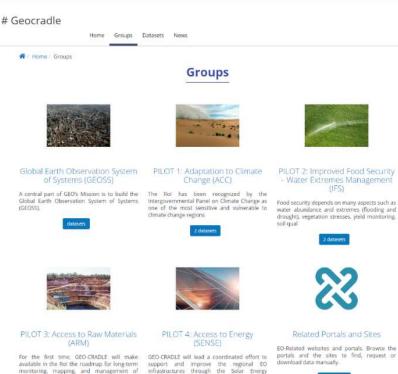
Results: The Regional Data Hub

Login

25534239 datasets & 45 related portals and sites

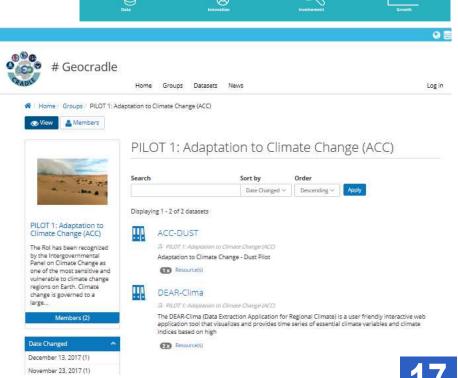






Nowcasting SystEm (SENSE)

monitoring, mapping, and management of



Guides GEOSS

the implementation of GEOSS and the uptake of Copernicus in the Rol

Assesses

the readiness and maturity of each country in the Rol

Lays out

the actions for the long-term response to major regional challenges in the Rol

Paves

the ground for a potential regional large initiative

GEO-CRADLE Gap Analysis

- Findings of previous projects
- Inventory of EO capacities
- User Requirements Analysis
- Regional Priorities

EO Maturity Indicators

- National EO Capacities
- National User Uptake and Market Penetration
- International Cooperation

Existing Documentation

- GEO/GEOSS
- Copernicus
- Other Flagship initiatives, instruments & programmes

Project Partners

- State-of-play of EO at national level
- Insights on national markets
- Relaying insights by users

Analysis and synthesis by GEO-CRADLE

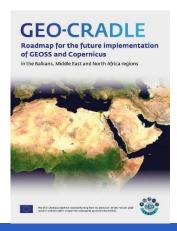
- Construct thorough picture of current state-of-play at regional level
- Identify key opportunities and major weaknesses/challenges in the region
- Define who, what, when, how in form of action plan

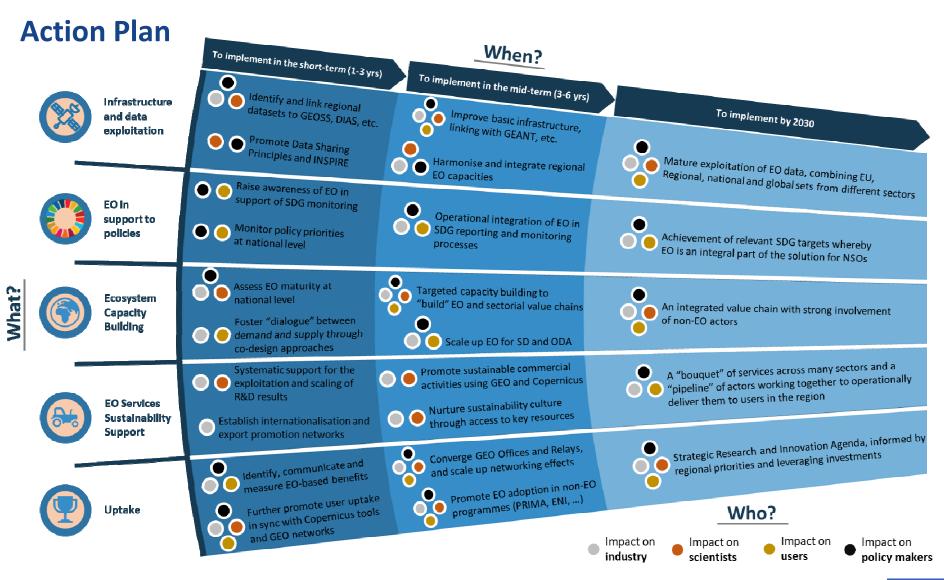
External Experts

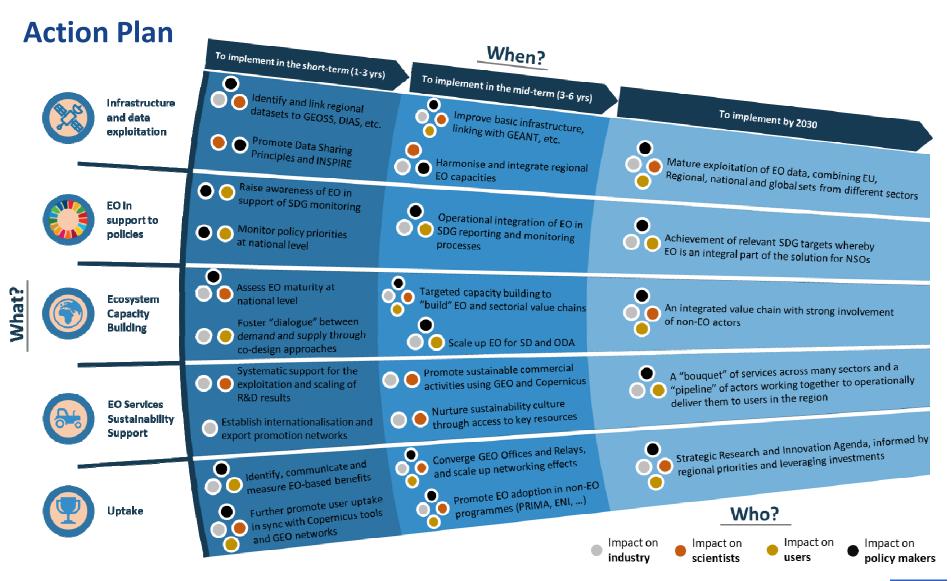
- Insights through dedicated workshops
- Interviews with demand/supply actors
- Thematic expertise by advisory board

Roadmap

- Short vs long term actions for uptake of GEO and Copernicus
- Strategies for cross-fertilisation of programmes and activities
- Long-term exploitation of regional capacities/capabilities







Action Plan

Action 1: Ident Action 2: Pron Action 3: Impr Action 4: Harn Action 5: Raise Action 6: Moni Action 7: Foste

Action 8: Assess Action 9: Foster Action 10: Carry Action 11: Scale

Action 13: Est Action 14: Pro Action 15: Nur

Action 12: Pro

Action 16: Ider
Action 17: Fur
Action 18: Con
Action 19: Prov
Action 20: Dev

- DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AGENDA, INFORMED BY REGIONAL PRIORITIES AND LEVERAGING EXISTING INVESTMENTS
- EXPLOT EXISTING FUNDING INSTRUMENTS IN SUPPORT TO CAPACITY BUILDING AND SERVICE DELIVERY
- ENSURE THE ENGAGEMENT OF LOCAL ACTORS IN EU PARTNERSHIP
- SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW EO SERVICES FOR SDG MONITORING AND POLICY PRIORITIES AT NATIONAL LEVEL
- CARRY OUT TARGETED CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIONS FOR BUILDING EO SECTORIAL VALUE CHAINS
- CAPITALISE ON EXISTING INITIATIVES e.g. GEO-CARDLE, AFRIGEOSS, EUROGEOSS, TO FOSTER HARMONISATION AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT BY INTEGRATING REGIONAL CAPACITIES, SKILLS
- IDENTIFY AND INTEGRATE REGIONAL DATA SETS AND OPEN THEM TO WIDELY USED PORTALS e.g. GEOSS GCI, DIAS, OTHER REGIONAL GATEWAYS (GEO-CRADLE RDH)
- PROMOTE OPEN DATA SHARING PRINCIPLES
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 - CONVERGE GEO OFFICES AND RELAYS AND SCALE UP NETWORKING IN THE REGIONS

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The GEO-CRADLE Initiative: Raise Awareness on Funding Resources



The GEO-CRADLE Initiative: Proposal Submission in EU Calls

Short info about the call

EuroGEOSS (<u>www.eurogeoss.eu</u>) is a H2020 Innovation Action call under Work Programme Year H2020-2018-2020 whose main objective is to **strengthen the benefits for Europe of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).** The main objective of this project is to accelerate users' uptake of open Earth Observation (EO) data and information for the benefit of Europe, through the effective use of European EO resources (including space, airborne, insitu measurements and citizen observations) to prepare for operational environmental forecasting, and for mitigation and adaptation actions through **building on Copernicus services and GEOSS initiatives and flagships.**

Funding scheme

H2020 rules



Submission

It is a 2-stage proposal in which 55 organizations participated, under ARMINES coordination and NOA's participation as a key partner. Among the vast and multidisciplinary types of organizations, several members of the GEO-CRADLE consortium and networking platform participated.

Νo	0	Role in GEO-CRADLE
Me	Organization	Role in GEO-CRADLE
1	NOA (National Observatory of Athens / IAASARS)	Project Coordinator of GEO-CRADLE
2	i-BEC (inter-Balkan Environment Center)	Consortium Partner of GEO- CRADLE, Regional Coordinator
3	CEDARE (Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe)	Consortium Partner of GEO- CRADLE, Regional Coordinator
4	EARSC (Furopean Association of Remote Sensing Companies)	Consortium Partner of GEO-CRADLE
5	PMOD/WRC (Physikalisch- Meteorologisches Observatorium Davos / World Radiation Center)	Consortium Partner of GEO-CRADLE
6	CIMA (Centro Internazionale in Monitoraggio Ambientale)	Consortium Partner of GEO-CRADLE
7	TAU (Tel Aviv University)	Consortium Partner of GEO-CRADLE
8	EGS (EuroGeoSurveys)	Consortium Partner of GEO-CRADLE
9	BIOSENSE INSTITUTE (Research and Development Institute for Information Tech)	Member of the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
10	AoA (ACADEMY OF ATHENS)	Member of the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
1.1	EVENFLOW	Member of the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
12	DRAXIS ENVIRONMENTAL S.A.	Member of the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
13	NEUROPUBLIC S.A.	Member of the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform

The GEO-CRADLE Initiative: Proposal Submission in EU Calls

Short info about the call

PRIMA (http://prima-med.org) is a new Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area, envisaged to develop (much-needed) solutions for a more sustainable management of water and agro-food systems. The main objective of this ten-year initiative (2018-2028) is to devise new R&I approaches to improve water availability and sustainable agriculture production in a region heavily distressed by climate change, urbanisation and population growth. PRIMA is being financed through a combination of funding from participating countries (currently €274 million), and a €220 million contribution from the EU through Horizon 2020, its research and innovation funding programme (2014-2020). PRIMA programmes support research and innovation through distinct types of actions/activities:

- In Section 1: Research & Innovation Actions (RIA), and Innovation Actions (IA) as defined in the General Annexes of H2020.
- In Section 2: Research and Innovation Activities (RIA*[2]) based on national rules.
- In Section 3: National research programmes (PSIAs).

Funding scheme: Based on National Regulations

Submission

NOA is coordinating under Section 2 - Thematic area 2: Sustainable farming systems under Mediterranean environmental constraints under Topic 1.2.1: Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change the submission of a proposal that will team up partners of the GEO-CRADLE project.



No	Organization	Role in GEO-CRADLE
1	NOA (National Observatory of Athens / IAASARS)	Project Coordinator of GEO-CRADLE
2	AUTH (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)	Contributor to the Adaptation to Climate Change pilot implemented in the framework of GEO- CRADLE
3	CEDARE (Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe)	Consortium Partner of GEO-CRADLE, Regional Coordinator
4	TUBITAK UZAY (Space Technologies Research Institute)	Consortium Partner of GEO-CRADLE
5	CIMA (Centro Internazionale in Monitoraggio Ambientale)	Consortium Partner of GEO-CRADLE
6	CERT (Centre of Telecommunications Studies and Research)	Consortium Partner of GEO-CRADLE
7	CUT (Cyprus University of Technology)	Consortium Partner of GEO-CRADLE

The GEO-CRADLE Initiative: Raise Awareness on Funding Resources

Short info about the call

CHIST-ERA (www.chistera.eu) is a 2017 Call for Research Proposals supporting 2 different topics: 1) Object recognition and manipulation by robots: Data sharing and experiment reproducibility (ORMR); & 2) Big data and process modelling for smart industry (BDSI). CHIST-ERA is a consortium of funding organizations with programmes supporting Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies (ICST). The CHIST-ERA consortium is itself supported by the European Union's Future & Emerging Technologies scheme (FET). CHIST-ERA promotes multidisciplinary and transnational ICST research with the potential to lead to significant breakthroughs. The funding organizations jointly support research projects selected in the framework of CHIST-ERA, in order to reinforce European capabilities in selected topics.

Funding scheme

National funding organization, thus each partner must fulfil the conditions of the funding organisation they are applying to.

Submission

Under NOA's coordination a proposal has been submitted on 2017-01-11 that teams up with 2 partners and 1 end-user of the GEO-CRADLE project.

Short info about the call

EO4SD (Larger scale EO exploitation activities in support of sustainable development initiative) is an ESA tender (EOP-SEI/SNC/VAE SCW/17-027) aiming at building long-term sustainable use of EO-derived information services to support international development activities (e.g. World Band, Asian Bank etc.). It focuses on 4 specific thematic domains of sustainable development, namely:

- · Climate Resilience
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Marine & Coastal Resources Management
- States Affected by Fragility, Conflict & Violence

Funding scheme

EC-ESA funding.

Submission

Under GMV's coordination the proposal was submitted in October 2017. NOA is one of the partners and exploits the "EO capacity building" competences that have been radically developed through the GEO-CRADLE project. In addition, SIGE, a Tunisian local company was reached through the GEO-CRADLE network, so as to act as a local office in this region.



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1	NOA (National Observatory of Athens / IAASARS)	Project Coordinator of GEO-CRADLE
2	PMOD/WRC (Physikalisch Neteorologisches Observatorium Davos / World Radiation Center)	Consortium Partner of GEO CRADLE
3	IPTO (Independent Power Transmission Operator of Greece)	End-User of the Solar Energy pilot implemented in the framework of GEO CRADLE

No	Organization	Role in GEO-CRADLE
1	NOA (National Observatory of Athens / IAASARS)	Project Coordinator of GEO-CRADLE
2	SIGE (Société d'ingénierie géomatique et environnementale)	Member of the GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform

Areas Open to Collaboration

- Coordination of EO activities at regional level
- Capacity Building
- Networking & Stakeholders Engagement
- Assessment of EO maturity at national level
- Operationalisation of EO-based services relevant to:
 - Adaptation to Climate Change
 - Improved Food Security & Water Extremes Management
 - Access to Raw Materials
 - Access to Energy
 - Disasters Management
 - Water Resources Management
- Implementation of data sharing principles

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http://geocradle.eu

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