

Malta meetings in September and progress

The **EGDI-scope** project recently held meetings on 9-10th September in Malta. The meetings consisted of a full consortium meeting, including all delegates from national surveys followed by a stakeholder event. The agenda included updates from all the work packages, input and collaboration on use cases, as well as initial discussions on the next steps towards implementation and governance of the e-infrastructure.

WP updates. All work packages are progressing well and a number of deliverables have now been submitted in report form – all reports are available via the EGDI web site. There is still the opportunity to complete the questionnaires (3d data and national dataset availability) online as we move towards a final analysis of the datasets and proposal of methodologies in the 2nd phase of the project. A brief update on the work packages is provided below.

WP2 Stakeholder consultation has had considerable input and collaboration with a wide variety of stakeholders in a broad range of thematic areas such as hydrogeology, marine, environment and mineral resources. Questionnaires, meetings and feedback has provided extremely useful information and contributed to the development of a series of Use Cases. These Use Cases enable the development and output of the EGDI-scope to identify and develop its proposals in a constructive and illustrative way with both data providers and user-needs considered. They demonstrate the types of information required by the user, and how the EGDI might be able to provide the relevant information.

WP3 Prioritisation of datasets has collated and analysed almost 2000 datasets from across Europe incorporating information from the INSPIRE indicators, questionnaire returns from NGOs and output data from past or ongoing pan-European projects e.g. SubCoast. This initial data analysis will now be taken forward to identify and propose a series of developments for the short-, medium and long-term. The issue of scale was discussed with particular emphasis on suitability and applicability.

WP4 Technical design has analysed and identified a number of requirements including functional, INSPIRE, portal and infrastructure needs. Full details are documented and available via the website. Further development will incorporate proposals for how the EGDI could potentially organise QC of products, share methodologies to produce European-wide products, and how new projects could use existing egdi components. In addition, issues such as hosting of portals, catalogue, services and their sustainability, performance is being considered.

WP5 Legal aspects has considered and reported on trust and authentication. This includes Service level agreements – how far does your commitment go, e.g. updates, tracking data to protect IP, the need for easy registration and access to attract users, and personal data protection. The full report is available on the website.

Breakout discussions focussed on the principles and opportunities for governance and funding and prioritizing thematic areas/ datasets for EGDI: INSPIRE/ use cases. With regard to governance, there was a common understanding that for the implementation of the EGDI a certain permanent structure will be necessary to maintain relevant datasets and project results at European level. With regard to the datasets and use cases it was agreed that there was a need for data of varying resolutions to suit different needs. The top themes proposed as priority based on political importance, scientific importance and short-term feasibility, were baseline geological map data (both onshore and offshore), mineral resources, geohazards e.g. landslides and subsidence, hydrogeology, water resources, soils and land use.

Stakeholders meeting

A diverse range of topics were included and discussions were initiated by a series of presentations including geographic data, domain-specific topics e.g. hydro, ecosystem services, marine and many more. User needs in other related domains were discussed to ensure that the EGDI takes into account and considers all aspects of user needs both in terms of data requirements but also access to the data (IP, format, technical architecture). Projects presented included OneGeologyEuropePlus, the EEA/EGDI-Scope soil use case, EMODnet geology, Minerals4EU, The European Location Framework, GeoMol, and InGeoClouds. The need for geological data and services from the view of professional geologists was highlighted by the European Federation of Geologists, and also the links with GEOSS. Break-out-sessions were split into four topics – Minerals, Marine geology, Environment and Geohazards.

Both days meetings provided extremely useful information exchange and continued collaboration and much encouragement was gained with positive feedback both within the geological community and stakeholders. This contributes to taking forward the current results towards a work plan for implementation of the EGDI, that is shared among national surveys, EGS expert groups and stakeholder representatives. In the coming six or seven months there will be several events or other opportunities for additional exchange and concerted action, before the presentation of final results of EGDI-Scope which is planned for the EGU 2014 in Vienna. We look forward to seeing you there. If you require more information please see the website www.egdi-scope.eu where more information or the relevant contacts can be found.