

3rd GRAAL working group up-date

Date: 4 July 2011

Venue: Central Sweden EU Office, 3 rue du Luxembourg

WG Meeting: Space sub-group of Transport WG

Number of participants: 13

The third GRAAL WG update had the a threefold objective: (1) to introduce the GMES Bureau Activities and (2) EUROGI (European Umbrella Organization of Geographic Information) (3) to discuss the first Brussels briefing concept with ERRIN members and with LRA and sectoral networks.

The GMES Bureau presentation on their activities, current and future financing was delivered by Marie-Menard Caer:

- The main objective of the Bureau is to provide information services to policy-makers and other users
- History of GMES:
 - Initiation of GMES started in 2001 by Baveno Manifesto
 - In 2000 the Gothenburg EU Summit "establish by 2008 an operational European capacity for ... GMES"
 - in 2005 GMES becomes 'flagship' of the European Space Policy
 - in 2008 EC-ESA agreement on GMES was signed
EC proposal for a GMES Programme Regulation (6th Space Council orientations)
 - in 2010 EP and EU council decisions; Preparation of the operations
 - in 1012 the first GMES Sentinels will be launched
- areas: land, marine (e.g. sea surface forecasting), atmosphere (air quality, pollutants), emergency (e.g. fire), security and climate (e.g. green house analysis)
- Financing three stages:
 - demonstration stage (R&D funding)
 - 2002-2013: ESA+EC investment: €3.2billion
 - pre-operational stage (mixed R&D and operational funding)
 - operational stage (operational funding) beginning after the regulation adopted last year by the Council and the European Parliament.): €107M (emergency management, land monitoring, user uptake, space component)
- Areas funded so far:
 - pre-operational services;
 - dedicated space infrastructure (the Sentinels);
 - access to data
 - Coordinate access to in-situ data
 - Support the downstream sector and user uptake.
- Financing after 2014: GMES to be financed but outside the multiannual financial framework and the budget
- GMES is a challenge, needs time
- A lot of developments over the past 5 years
- The best value for money investment

The EUROGI presentation was delivered by Catharina Bamps, newly appointed Secretary General of the organization (since March 2011):

- EUROGI stands for European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information

- currently it has 22 members:
 - 16 National Geographic Information Representatives,
 - 4 Corporate Members
 - 2 Other Organisations involved in geographic information (GI)
 - It represents more than 6500 organisations (public, private, academic..)
- Scopes: policy, awareness raising, capacity building
- NGO established under Dutch law
- Vision: Geographic Information with all its aspects should become a fully integrated component of the European knowledge-based society.
- Mission: In order to ensure good governance, economic and social development, environmental protection and sustainability, and informed public participation, the mission is to maximise the availability, effective use and exploitation of GI (geographic information) throughout Europe. This requires EUROGI to stimulate, encourage and support the development and effective use of GI and relevant technologies, and to act as the voice for the European GI community.
- Position paper on digital agenda and common strategic framework, multiannual financial framework (GMES funding)
- Bodies:
 - General Board: all members
 - Executive Board: 9 organizations
 - Legal and Administrative Officer

WHAT?

- 1. Datasets and services: to promote the compatibility, sharing and re-use of geo-spatial data.
- 2. User access: to promote easy access to datasets by users from a technical, legal, financial point.
- 3. Applications: to promote the development of innovative services enabling the effective use of geospatial data for day to day uses (general public, government, industry, and research).

HOW?

- 4. To build the necessary technological, political, and human capacity at all levels.
- 5. To contribute towards advancing Global Spatial Data Infrastructures, support European overseas development aid programmes and deal with such other issues external to Europe as may arise from time to time.
- 6. Communicate about the objectives, high level and net-work lobbying to achieve the objectives.

- Current activities: policy: emerging future, influencing, future funding, information sharing
- Emerging future: open data, internet of things, volunteer GI, open source software
- Central, East and South East Europe: EUROGI support, National GI Associations
- Events: INSPIRE, eSDI-Net (Oct), Plan4all (Oct), Scandinavian conference (Oct), Geospatial World Forum (Apr 2012)
- Engagement with European Parliament
- EU projects
- Best practices award (eSDI-Net event)
- International relations
- Services: website, newsfeeds, newsletter

ERRIN will organize a briefing each year of the project lifetime. The first one is scheduled for 8 November. The concept has been discussed with the participants (ERRIN supporting regions + other networks, like Eurocities, EUROMONTANA,

CEMR). Participants agreed on a whole day event with a morning session where networks can present their activities and with three sessions in the afternoon, each of them addressing one particular GMES area. Selected challenges are: climate change, water management and urban/rural planning. All these three areas will be presented by LRAs and a provider company to showcase how that particular challenge can be managed by a GMES service. The Secretariat re-works the concept by including suggestions from the participants and the new concept will be disseminated to the attendees.