



Addressing sustainable contributions to GEO/GEOSS from Science and Technology Communities: the EGIDA Methodology

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The European Project EGIDA (Coordinating Earth and Environmental cross-disciplinary projects to promote GEOSS) co-funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework programme, has started in September 2010. It aims to prepare a sustainable process of contribution to GEO/GEOSS promoting coordination of activities carried out by: the GEO Science & Technology (S&T) Committee; S&T national and European initiatives; and other S&T Communities. This will be done by supporting broader implementation and effectiveness of the GEOSS S&T Roadmap and the GEOSS mission through coherent and interoperable networking of National and European projects, and International initiatives.

The definition of a general methodology for a sustainable contribution to GEO/GEOSS through the implementation of a System-of-System (re-) engineering process is one of the objectives of the EGIDA Project in order to consolidate the results of the actions carried out in support of the GEO Science and Technology Committee (STC) Road Map. The EGIDA Methodology is based on several sources including GEO activities and documents, activities of the EGIDA project in support of the GEO STC Road Map, lessons learned from the initiatives and projects already contributing, in different ways, to the building of advanced infrastructures as direct or indirect part to GEO/GEOSS.

The design of the EGIDA Methodology included several steps: a) an operational definition of the EGIDA Methodology, b) the identification of the target audience for the EGIDA Methodology, c) the identification of typical scenarios for the application of the EGIDA Methodology.

Basing on these design activities the EGIDA Methodology is defined as a set of two activities running in parallel: Networking Activities - to identify and address the relevant S&T community(-ies) and actors (Community Engagement) – and Technical Activities: - to guide the infrastructure development and align it with the GEO/GEOSS interoperability principles (Capacity Building). For each activity several actions and sub-actions are defined. For each action and sub-action, practices and guidelines derived from the design phase are proposed.

The EGIDA Methodology is under evaluation and assessment in the EGIDA Project through four use-cases. The use cases, based on-going projects and initiatives, have provided input in the design phase and in the following phases will assess different aspects of the EGIDA Methodology.

The release of the final version of the EGIDA Methodology, including suggestions from the GEO STC, EGIDA Advisory Board and EGIDA Stakeholders Network ; and feedbacks from the evaluation and assessment activities in the EGIDA use-cases, is planned for the end of the EGIDA Project in August 2012.

The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 265124.