



The EPOS science case

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In the first two years of the EPOS Preparatory Phase (2010-2012), very significant progress has been made in formulating the strategy for integrating data and services for the solid earth science community in Europe, and a solid framework for the EPOS architecture is now emerging. These achievements are the result of extensive involvement of the producers and providers of relevant data and services.

At the same time, efforts have started for the drafting of the science case for EPOS, to highlight the key scientific questions, research avenues and themes of societal relevance which will be tackled with the EPOS infrastructures in the forthcoming years. The science plan provides the framework and context for the development and implementation of 'data products' that utilize the integrated services. It will also help to guide further developments of infrastructures, from observation networks to communication and dissemination platforms and processing services. The EPOS science plan will serve to identify priority themes for future coordinated European research and as a basis to coordinate national and institutional efforts in maintaining and expanding their respective infrastructures.

An open community discussion of the EPOS science plan is needed to fully exploit the potential of EPOS data, products and services, and to identify new research avenues based on the availability of multidisciplinary observational data and advanced IT resources.

In addition to the EPOS science plan, a high-level strategy for the whole solid Earth sciences is also being developed, to highlight the scientific challenges and the relevance of Earth sciences for the European society.

In this presentation we will discuss the key elements of the EPOS science plan, the envisioned way forward to develop it further, and the mechanisms identified to involve the scientific community.