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IMPLEMENTATION OF GEOSS DATA SHARING PRINCIPLES: RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL DATA ACCESS REGIMES

Abstract

Successful implementation of GEOSS Data Sharing Principles is fundamental to the ability of GEO to achieve the goals and aims for which it set up the system of systems. In 2011 the process of making GEOSS operable and stable continued, and the roadmap for the next years was developed and agreed upon. The 2012-2015 GEO Working Plan, adopted in December 2011, points out that one of the most important milestones to achieve during this period is the development of "flexible national and international policy frameworks to ensure that a more open data environment is implemented". The Data Sharing Task Force leads the execution of this task.

This paper examines the interrelationship between the successful acceptance and enforcement of GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and the development of data access policies and regulations for other projects and initiatives like GMES, CBERS or for national Earth observation satellites. The aim of the analysis is to identify activities and actions that are being undertaken outside GEO in order to assess whether they can become tools for the successful implementation of GEOSS Data Sharing Principles. It also serves the purpose of providing a better understanding as to what areas of these policies and regulations, for instance, the Data Sharing Task Force should target in order to promote intellectual property arrangements that support the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles.

There is a need for more or better correlation between the initiatives and work of GEO and the developments on the level of its individual members in order, as it will support the most effective and fullest implementation of the principle of the free and unrestricted access to EO data and information that GEOSS has as its foundational basis. This paper looks for the commonalities between the two to provide points of references that will help to achieve objectives set for operational GEOSS.