

EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)  
International Cooperation in Earth Observation Missions (1)

Author: Dr. Catherine Doldirina  
Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, Italy, kdoldyrina@yahoo.com

GEO: TEN YEARS OF ACTIVITIES AND THE LAUNCH INTO THE NEW DECADE

**Abstract**

This paper looks into the progress of the development of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) as an organisation, in particular of setting up its Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and data sharing practices. As a co-chair of the GEO Data Sharing Working Group, the author analyses GEO activities related to the work on and formulation of the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles, development of the guidelines for their correct interpretation, innovative steps to their modernisation, and further steps that lie ahead of GEO for their effective and efficient implementation within the framework of the new GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025.

The paper highlights the achievements of the past decade, assesses the challenges to success and discusses further steps necessary to further strengthen GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and sustain them as part of the overall Open Data trend that has emerged world-wide for various types of data. It furthermore analyses the issue of the necessity of a synergy between the efforts undertaken within GEO and other similar or related projects and activities, like various satellite Earth observation missions, particularly within the field of data sharing principles and standards to enable the most efficient and effective use of available resources.