



COOPEUS

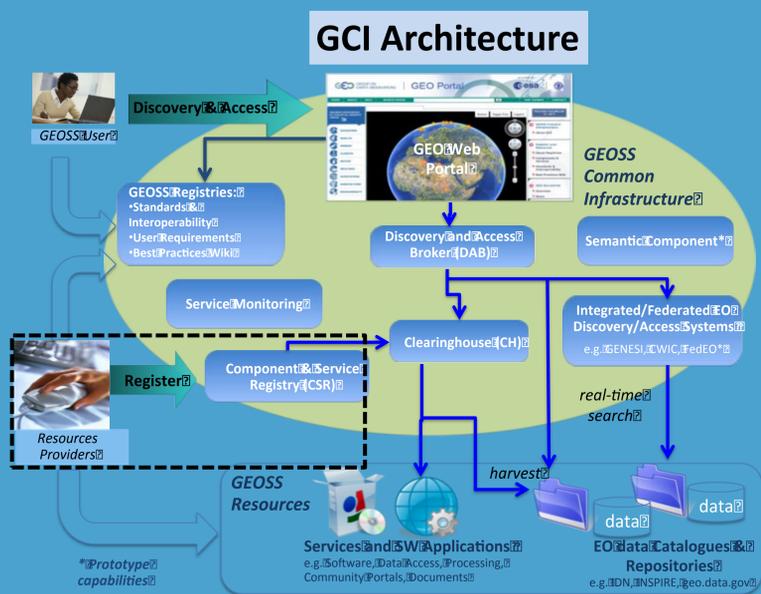


Connecting Research Infrastructures

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Practical Use of the *GEOSS Common Infrastructure* by Environmental Research Infrastructures – Lessons from a COOPEUS-GEOSS Workshop

COOPEUS views the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI) as an important platform promoting cross-disciplinary approaches in the studies of multifaceted environmental challenges, and the research infrastructures (RIs) in COOPEUS are currently in the process of registering resources and services within the GCI. The workshop revealed that data policies of the individual RIs can often be the first impediment for their use of the GCI. Through hands-on exercises registering resources from the COOPEUS RIs, the first steps were taken to implement the GCI as a platform for documenting the capabilities of the COOPEUS RIs. Recommendations from the workshop participants revealed that in order to attract research infrastructures to use the GCI, the registration process must be simplified and accelerated. The resource registration and feedback by COOPEUS partners can play an important role in these efforts.



GEOSS Common Infrastructure
GEOSS provides a common infrastructure (GCI) for global data exchange.

The GCI allows providers of earth observation data to register their resources and make them available through the GEOSS Component and Services registry

The GCI allows users of earth observation data to search and access data, tools and services via the GEOSS portal

Registration process



The GEOSS GCI facilitates data providers in earth sciences, such as the environmental research infrastructures of the COOPEUS project, to self-register their resources in the Component and Services Registry.

GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI)

GEOSS is working towards creating a robust and sustainable system, in which the GEOSS common infrastructure (GCI) plays a central role. The GCI revolves around several components, in which the *Discovery and Access Broker (DAB)* has a particular important role facilitating a brokered access to the portal enabling discovery of data from a pool of heterogeneous resources. Find more information at https://www.earthobservations.org/gci_gci.shtml

COOPEUS and GCI

The COOPEUS project was initiated in 2012 with the goal of bringing together environmental research infrastructures from various science disciplines from both sides of the Atlantic to advance the international data availability and facilitate data exchange across scientific disciplines as well as borders. The partners of the COOPEUS project recognize the GCI as a unique opportunity to integrate all available environmental information in a common platform. Benefits include: a) improved discovery and access to data and information; b) increased visibility of available data, information and services; and c) improved structure of the environmental infrastructure landscape.

The COOPEUS-GEOSS GCI- workshop

COOPEUS and GEOSS held a joint workshop in order to foster the use of the GCI by data managers of the COOPEUS research infrastructures. The workshop was based on hands-on exercises specifically targeting the components allowing data-providers to make their resources available through the GEOSS portal. The goal was to equip the COOPEUS RIs with the necessary skills to make use of the GEOSS GCI to distribute their resources.

Outcome of the workshop:

The direct hands-on experience registering data and services provided important feedback regarding the usability of the GCI for environmental RIs, and COOPEUS has the following primary recommendations for improvement of the use of GCI by environmental research infrastructures:

- **Simplification of the registration process**

From the hands-on exercises, it was revealed that the registration process is not trivial and prior knowledge of the procedure is in most cases a prerequisite for a successful registration. Hence, the registration must be made easier, which will allow a larger group of data providers to conduct self-registration of their resources and services; this can partly be improved using semi-automatized processes.

- **Integrity of the records**

The RI representatives at the workshop expressed a wish for more transparency in regards to the integrity of the records in particular concerning preservation and quality control.

- **Data policies allowing GCI contributions**

In some cases, the research infrastructures data policies requiring accept from the individual data owners prevented data managers from registering data and service through the GCI. COOPEUS will work towards the implementation of data policies allowing GCI contributions.

A full workshop report with all recommendations is available from the COOPEUS website

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