Assessing benefits and obstacles of using and contributing to 
EuroGEOSS and to GEOSS: A survey approach

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The Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) is a voluntary initiative to provide a global Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), linking existing and planned observing systems in various thematic areas, aiming to support decision-makers. The project EuroGEOSS- a European approach to GEOSS, demonstrates the added value of making existing systems and applications interoperable within GEOSS and INSPIRE, in the areas biodiversity, forestry and drought. We present a set of surveys to assess the benefits, expectations and obstacles experienced when using or contributing to the interoperable systems achieved through the two initiatives. This includes, among the EuroGEOSS partners and their users (i) before/after open questionnaires and (ii) the Value Measurement Methodology (VMM) to quantify experts’ assessments; as well as (iii) an open questionnaire among contributors to GEOSS. So far, the survey among EuroGEOSS partners confirmed that their expectations were met: the metadata catalogue facilitates data accessibility, dissemination and sharing; the EuroGEOSS broker reduces time and costs of searching, requesting and accessing data. Contribution to EuroGEOSS facilitates the integration into a global SDI and provides networking opportunities. On the other hand, the main challenge for a global SDI was perceived to be the ‘cultural change’ required to share data and models. Similarly, respondents to (iii) perceived benefits of contribution to GEOSS to be i.e. increased visibility of work, networking and availability of a wide range of products. As challenges, they named lack of commitment, funds, organization and recognition. The survey to users will be conducted during and after the EuroGEOSS conference 2012.

Keywords: GEOSS, user survey, qualitative benefit assessment, Value Measurement Methodology