

Workshop “Towards a sustainability process for GEOSS Essential Variables”

Bari (Italy), 11-12 June

EV Workshop

Questions to be addressed by speakers

The speakers are asked to give an overview of the status of the discussion of essential variables (EVs) within their community or SBA.

All speakers should address the same set of questions to get a coherent overview of the status for the different SBAs. These questions include:

- Is your community developing a set of area-specific EVs?
- If not, is the community planning to start this in the near future?
- If you have, or are developing a set of EVs, please consider the following questions:
 - How do you define EV?
 - What criteria, methodology, and process are used to identify EVs?
 - Do you have a template to document a EV?
 - How are EVs validated to meet the criteria and to be essential?
 - To what extent are the EVs already accepted by the community?
 - Are the EVs linked to applications and users?
 - How is a community agreement reached?
 - Is a community review process in place?
 - Are the EVs linked to an international body (i.e. a UN convention or similar) and is this body involved in accepting the EVs?
 - Do you have a database with information on the EVs?

We also would like to hear more about the links between EVs and observation networks:-

- Are the current operational networks operated by your community measuring the EVs?
- Have you already carried out a gap analysis utilizing the EVs to identify gaps and priorities in terms of in situ and remotely sensed data availability; models (algorithms); direct measurements or proxies; data repository; infrastructure.

Workshop outcomes

Prepare a report (D2.2), which assesses the EV status in each SBA considering the answers received to all the above questions. A list of all the available EVs will be provided in an initial database allowing to produce a

table/matrix with SBAs and EVs. This table will show the areas less covered help to identify which EVs are relevant to multiple SBAs, as well as the level at which the EVs are validated.

The report will include a summary of the current state and recommendations how to proceed in the future. The report will be reviewed by at least one reviewer for each of the SBAs and aiming to cover different geographical regions. It will be considered to publish the report as a joint ConnectinGEO and GEO document.

General comments

The definition of an EV still needs to be worked out. However, it will be important to include in the definition that an EV should be monitoring change in the system state (and have value for attribution of the drivers for these changes). An EV should only be accessible through measurements and not be derivable in different way.

A variable can be essential in principle, but the spatial and temporal resolution of observations of this EV depend on the use of the observations, and in some cases, available observations may not be ready for use for specific applications.