

Deliverable

Report on governance models

Authors and affiliation:
Jørgen Tulstrup, GEUS,
Jasna Šinigoj, GeoZS,
Margarita Sanabria, IGME
Patrick Bell, BGS,
Dana Čáková, CGS,
Marc Urvois, BRGM.

E-mail of lead author:
jtu@geus.dk

Version: 12-10-2021

This report is part of a project that has received funding by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 731166.



Deliverable Data		
Deliverable number	D9.3	
Dissemination level	Public	
Deliverable name	Report on governance models	
Work package	WP9, Sustainability issues	
Lead WP/Deliverable beneficiary	GEUS	
Deliverable status		
Submitted (Author(s))	12/10/2021	Jørgen Tulstrup, Jasna Šinigoj, Margarita Sanabria, Patrick Bell, Dana Čáková and Marc Urvois.
Approved (Coordinator)	18/10/2021	Jørgen Tulstrup



1.1 Background

As it was described in the FP7 project EGDI-Scope (<http://www.egdi-scope.eu/>), there has been numerous geoscientific projects generating pan-European and more localised datasets that have been made accessible on the internet through projects funded by the EU and other sources over the last years. Most of these have however ceased to function a few years after implementation, as there has been no funding available to keep them alive.

One of the main goals of GeoERA is to make the resulting data and assessments sustainable for a long period after the end of the ERA-NET. Work Package 9 has the objective of proposing such a sustainable solution for GeoERA both in terms of funding and governance of the platform (operation, maintenance and further development).

Specifically, Task 9.2 was established with the purpose of exploring which governance models will be relevant to establish for the results of the GIP-project and the underlying EGDI infrastructure.

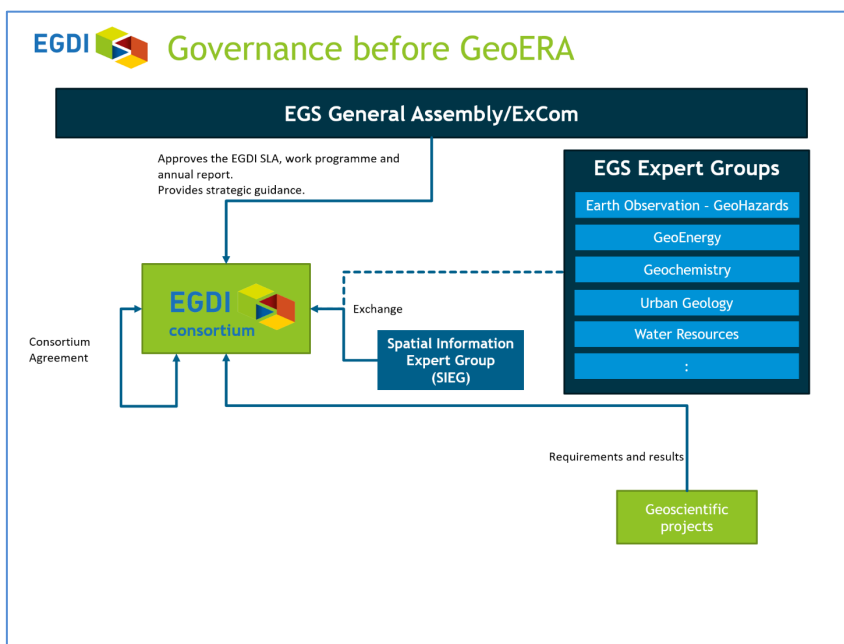
This report describes the suggestions for governance. Main focus is on the future Coordination and Support Action for a Geological Services for Europe which is expected to be granted under Horizon Europe in 2022, but it will also be taken into account that EGDI is serving other projects than the ones from GeoERA and the CSA.

1.2 Governance of EGDI in the first few years.

The EGDI was established in 2016, and a first governance model for the infrastructure was established. It contained the following elements:

- An EGDI Consortium, consisting of the EGS members GEUS, GeoZS, CGS, BGS, BRGM and (since 2020) IGME, performing the operation and basic maintenance of EGDI.
- The EGDI Consortium has entered into Service Level Agreements with EGS covering different time periods, the latest one covering the years 2020 and 2021.
- Under each SLA yearly Work Programmes have been agreed on between EGS and the EGDI Consortium, and reports describing the work carried out have been written after each year for the approval of EGS.
- The EGS Spatial Information Expert Group (SIEG) has been informed about the EGDI operations and maintenance and has commented on this. There has also been exchange with the other EGS Expert groups but with a lower frequency.
- The system supported results from a number of projects where EGS members had participated.

The model can be illustrated like this:

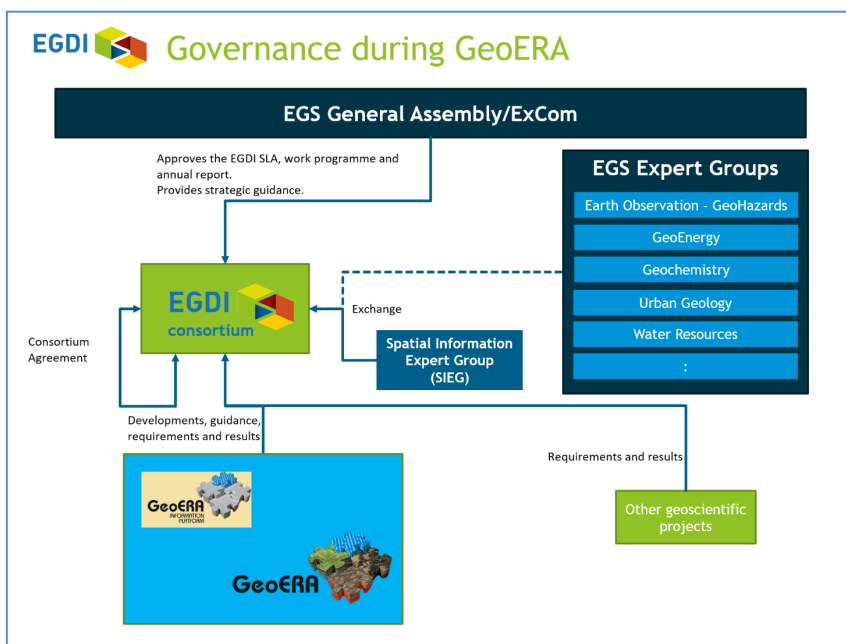


1.3 Governance while GeoERA was running.

EGDI was chosen in 2018 as the underlying data infrastructure for the GeoERA projects and the specific GIP-project was established. This had the consequence that the EGDI developments from then on were governed by the needs of the GIP-project and other GeoERA projects, to a very high degree.

The operations and the basic maintenance was still funded by EGS, and therefore the system with SLAs and yearly work programmes continued. There were also still results from non-GeoERA projects to be included in EGDI.

The model can be illustrated like this:



1.4 EGDI in the CSA

The CSA will primarily support the European Green Deal through research and innovation activities on the geoscientific topics raw materials, geogeneity, groundwater, coastal vulnerability and general geological mapping. EGDI has in the CSA, just like in GeoERA, been chosen to be the underlying data infrastructure for the geospatial and other results of the research, and a specific work package will be established to support that.

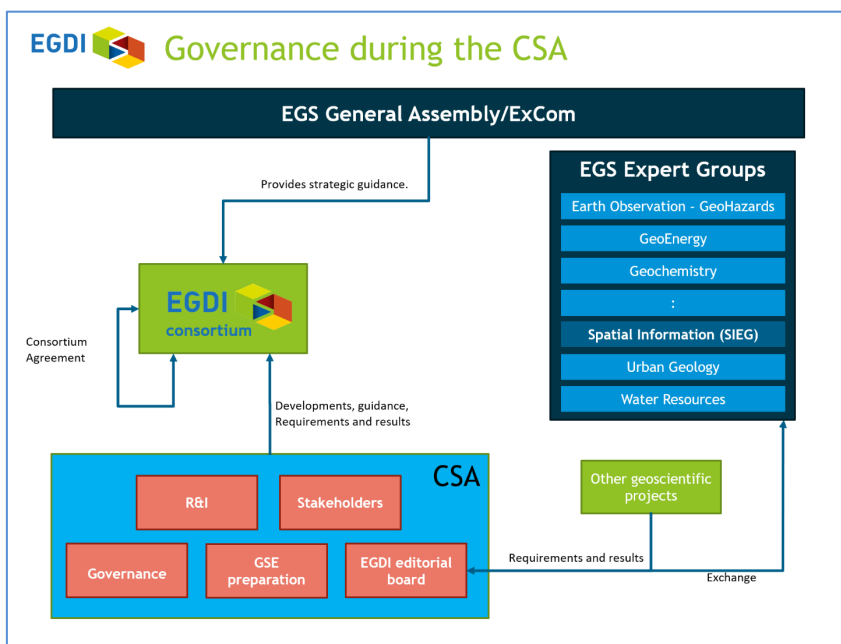
This work package will deal with extending the system to support the research and innovation activities of the CSA and with connecting EGDI to external infrastructures but also with the operations and basic maintenance of EGDI. Because the operations and basic maintenance in this period is paid by the CSA project, a SLA between the EGDI Consortium and EGS is not needed.

The CSA will have a strong focus on the time after the completion of the project. A specific work package is dedicated to exploring how a Geological Service can be governed and funded. As EGDI will be a cornerstone of the GSE the governance of EGDI in the time after the CSA is very much dependent on what this work results in.

Another focus point will be the interaction with external stakeholders, be it end users of the information or representatives of the infrastructures that EGDI must connect to.

Finally, it is a suggestion by the GIP-project that an Editorial Board is created with the role of ensuring the quality of metadata, that the appropriate standards are followed by the data providers and the content in EGDI is the most relevant in order to be able to contribute to the European Green Deal data space.

The model can be illustrated like this:



1.5 EGD under a GSE

The overall purpose of the CSA is to establish a Geological Service for Europe (GSE) which will be a new way of organising the collaboration between the National Geological Surveys (the members of EGS). Which form this will take is, at the time of writing, unclear and the relation between the GSE and the current EGS similarly unclear.

It is therefore also currently very unclear how EGD shall fit into this picture and which other governance elements will be relevant. But it is important that the proposal for the future governance of the GSE will take into account the needs of EGD in order to ensure the quality and content of EGD information. This is an essential step to ensure the contribution of EGS members to the European Green Deal data space.