How can EuroGEO support the European In-Situ Ecosystem?

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Background

As a direct contribution to the implementation of the EuroGEO initiative, analyse how **EuroGEO could serve as a facilitator in the context of the complex European in situ data landscape**
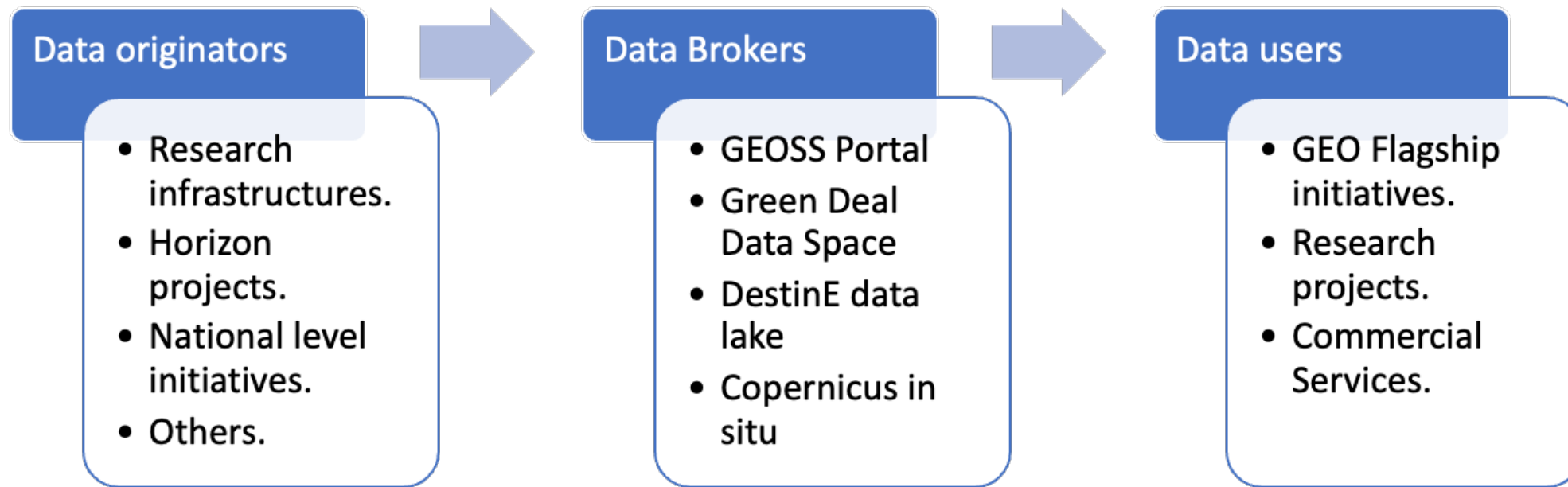
InCASE: In-Situ Showcases

Services supporting the European Environment Agency's (EEA) activities in the context of the EEA-RTD Service Level Agreement on Mainstreaming GEOSS data sharing and management principles in support of Europe's environment

In-Situ Initiatives within Europe

Data originators
- Research infrastructures.
- Horizon projects.
- National level initiatives.
- Others.

Data Brokers
- GEOSS Portal
- Green Deal Data Space
- DestinE data lake
- Copernicus in situ

Data users
- GEO Flagship initiatives.
- Research projects.
- Commercial Services.

Common Issues Encountered

- Sharing data openly seen as a lot of work for little benefit.

- Worries about loss of ownership and lack of credit.

- Not clear where open data should be placed.

- Unclear how data provided will be subsequently maintained.

- No pressure to share (or even incentives not to) from funding or governance bodies.

- Not clear what data is available, or where to find out more.

- Data provided in multiple formats, requiring significant work to use it.

- Data quality not always addressed.

- No guarantee that data streams will continue or that existing data will be maintained.

- Not clear what are the conditions on using data.

Potential actions that EuroGEO could take.

1. Develop a database matching user needs with available data.

   - Possible evolution of the G-Reqs tool developed under InCASE.
   - Issues around hosting and data curation would need to be addressed.

2. Ensure availability of a suitable repository for providers to make their data available.

   - Give inputs to repositories to ensure compatibility with needs of users and data providers.
   - Give guidance to data providers in selecting a repository and loading their data.

G-reqs

Potential actions that EuroGEO could take.

3. Develop templates for data sharing policies and licenses.
   - At the moment the underlying principles are clear (FAIR, GEO DMP) but there is a lack of specific templates.
   - Would need buy in from the different stakeholders, including funding bodies.
   - Should this be addressed at a global level?

4. Provide a forum for key players to coordinate actions.
   - Connect users, providers and intermediaries.
   - Would need to be seen by the relevant organisations as having real value and not just a talking shop.

Some open issues

- Who is this being done for? Should it be seen mainly as a European contribution to GEO or as addressing specific needs within Europe?

- Where can EuroGEO really add value and where would it overlap with existing efforts?