



# **GNU**

## **GMES Network of Users**



**GMES Land User meeting**

**22.-23. October 2007**

**IGN, Madrid**

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**Federal Environment  
Agency Austria**



- Learn from history??
- Long proposal history
  - From excellent proposal
  - 2,5 years & a lot of administrative hurdles
  - to contract
- Did it happen just by occasion?
- Official project start: 1. October 2007



# The fragmented GMES user community

- Many ongoing and past **GMES projects**
  - data providers, value adders, researchers, users collaborate
- **Segmentary approach**
  - topics: forests, spatial planning, air, ocean...
  - political level: European, national, regional
  - reflects complex environmental monitoring practices
- All these projects are **led by data/service providers**
- Several have **small user federations**
  - **isolated** from each other
- Results for users:
  - **impossible to jointly articulate our perspectives**
  - **not much of a lobby (other than industry)**
  - **overall process remains supply driven**



# The GNU approach (1)

- **„Network of Users“ (active) instead of „Networking the Users“ (passive)**
  - project led and run by users – call of commission renamed
  - first independent platform of users – i.e. independent of industry
  - focal point and mouthpiece of user perspectives
  - considering long-term socio-economic development of Europe
- **Structuring** and defragmenting the user community
  - horizontal integration of user segments
  - stand in for national and regional users
- Added value for existing projects by **transfer of experiences and practices**





## The GNU approach (2)

- **Harmonised, yet differentiated user requirements**
  - cross-linking the various documents
  - synergies, gaps, overlaps of previous GMES-projects
  - potential of data products for day-to-day work
  - prioritising the data products regarding their European Dimension
- **Systematic dialogue with stakeholders**
  - users, providers, policy
  - not all groups at the same time – inefficient
  - stakeholder-constellations: get-togethers in a made up way – purposeful
- **Links** with pertinent networks
  - EIONET, GEO User Interface Committee, EPA-Network, etc.





# Political Frame

- **GMES Action Plan 2004 – 2008**
  - ... response to data needs of public authorities...
  - ... dialogue amongst stakeholders...
- **European Space Policy – preliminary Elements**
  - ... identifying and bringing together user needs (...)
  - ... aggregating the political will in support of these ...
- **Orientations from the second Space Council**
  - ... benefits of using broadly supported European solutions ...
- **White Paper – Space**
  - ... continuous dialogue between providers and users...
  - ... federate user requirements at the European level...





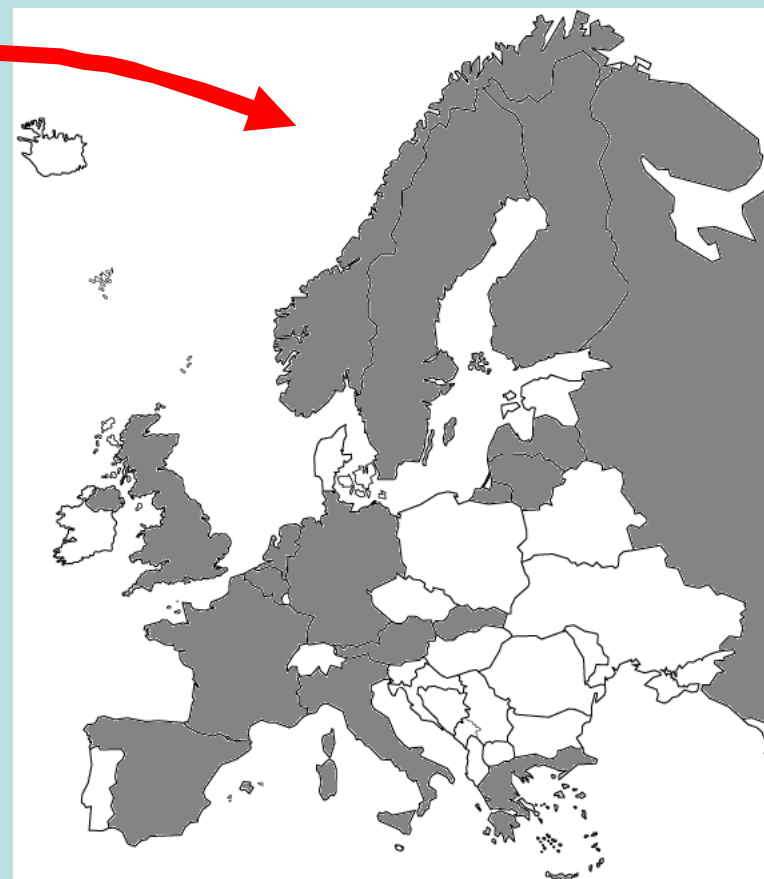
# Key administrative data

- **Coordination Action (CA)**
- **funded via FP6 by DG Enterprise**
- **budget 1,1 M€**
- **Start: 1.10.2007**
- **duration 3 years**
- **coordinated by Austrian Environment Agency**



# Partnership

- **Inner Network – Consortium**
  - 20 Users (of environmental data)
    - including 8 EPAs, 1 ETC
  - 4 Science Partners
- **Outer Network – various organisations (national or regional level)**
  - service providers
  - research institutes
  - networks, initiatives
  - further users
- **GMES projects**
- **European stakeholders – policy and decision makers**
  - EC, GMES Bureau, EEA, ESA...





## Partners (I)

Federal Environment Agency	Austria
Flemish Land Agency	Belgium
European Forest Institute	Finland
Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development	France
Federal Environmental Agency	Germany
Thuringian State Agency for Forests, Hunting and Fishing	Germany
National Observatory of Athens	Greece
Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services	Italy
Latvian Environment, Geology, and Meteorology Agency	Latvia
National Geological Survey, part of the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)	Netherlands
Norwegian Institute for Air Research	Norway





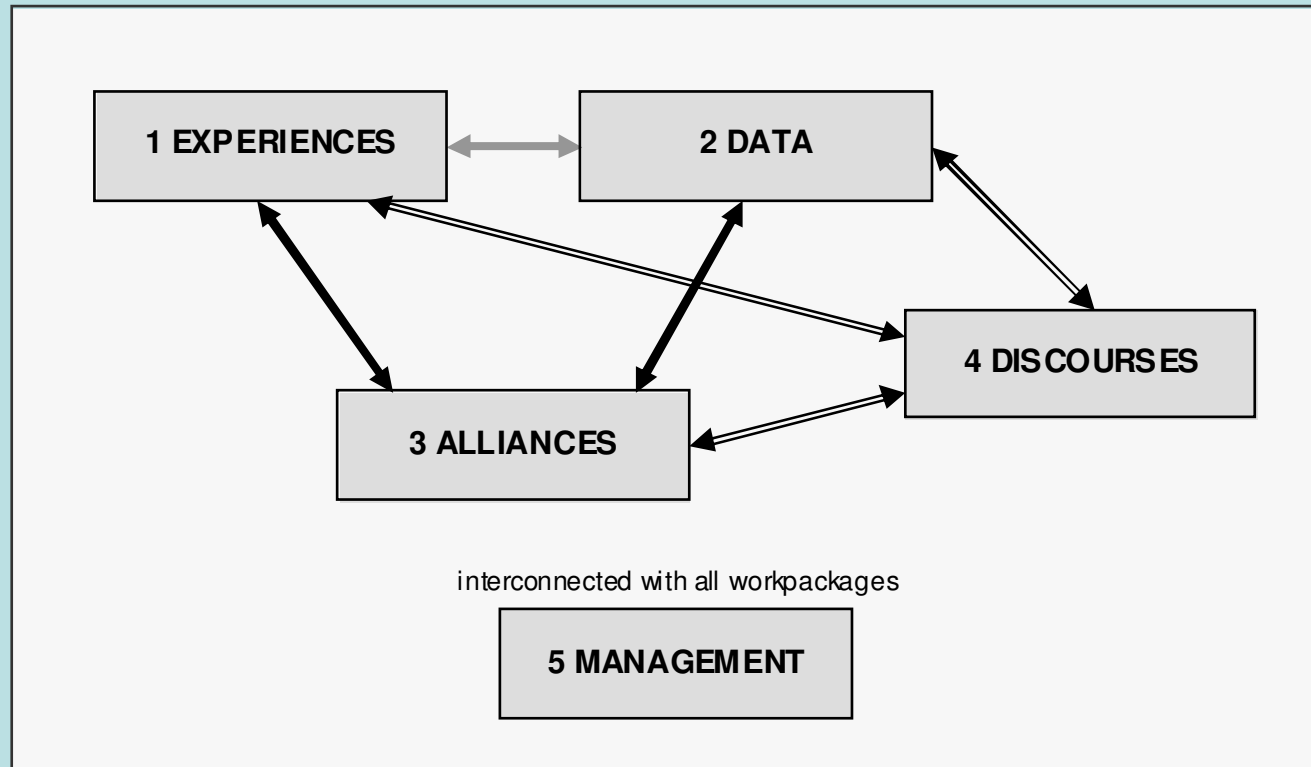
## Partners (2)

Irkutsk Regional Agency of Forest Management	Russia
International Socio-Ecological Union	Russia
Slovak Environmental Agency	Slovakia
European Topic Centre on Terrestrial Environment	Spain
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Sweden
Swedish Rescue Services Agency (subcontractor of SEPA)	Sweden
British Geological Survey	UK
Environment Agency of England and Wales	UK
<b><i>Science Partners</i></b>	
Joanneum Research	Austria
Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy	Germany
Siberian Centre for Environmental Research and Training ECOLOGIC	Russia Austria



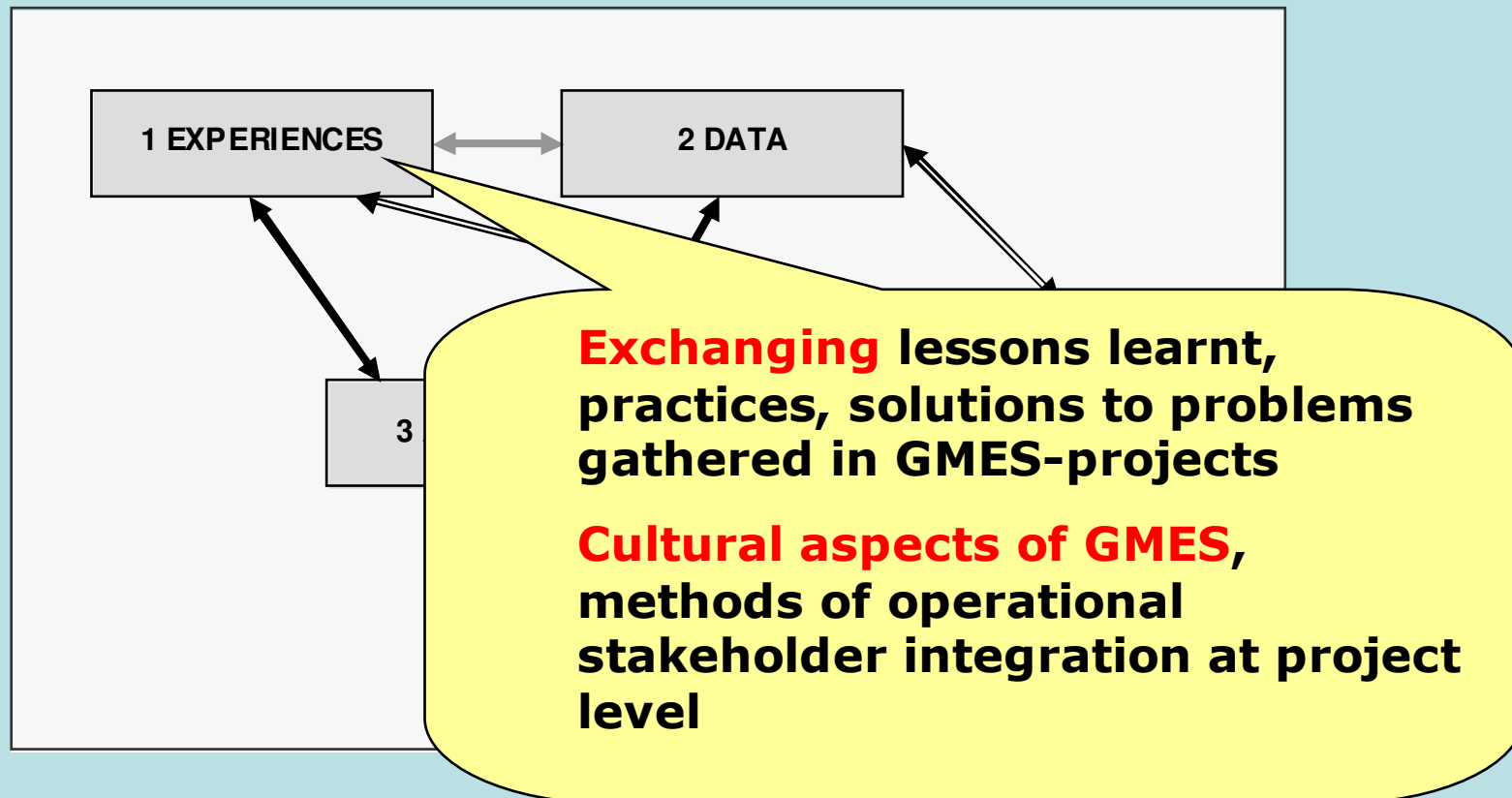


# Work plan



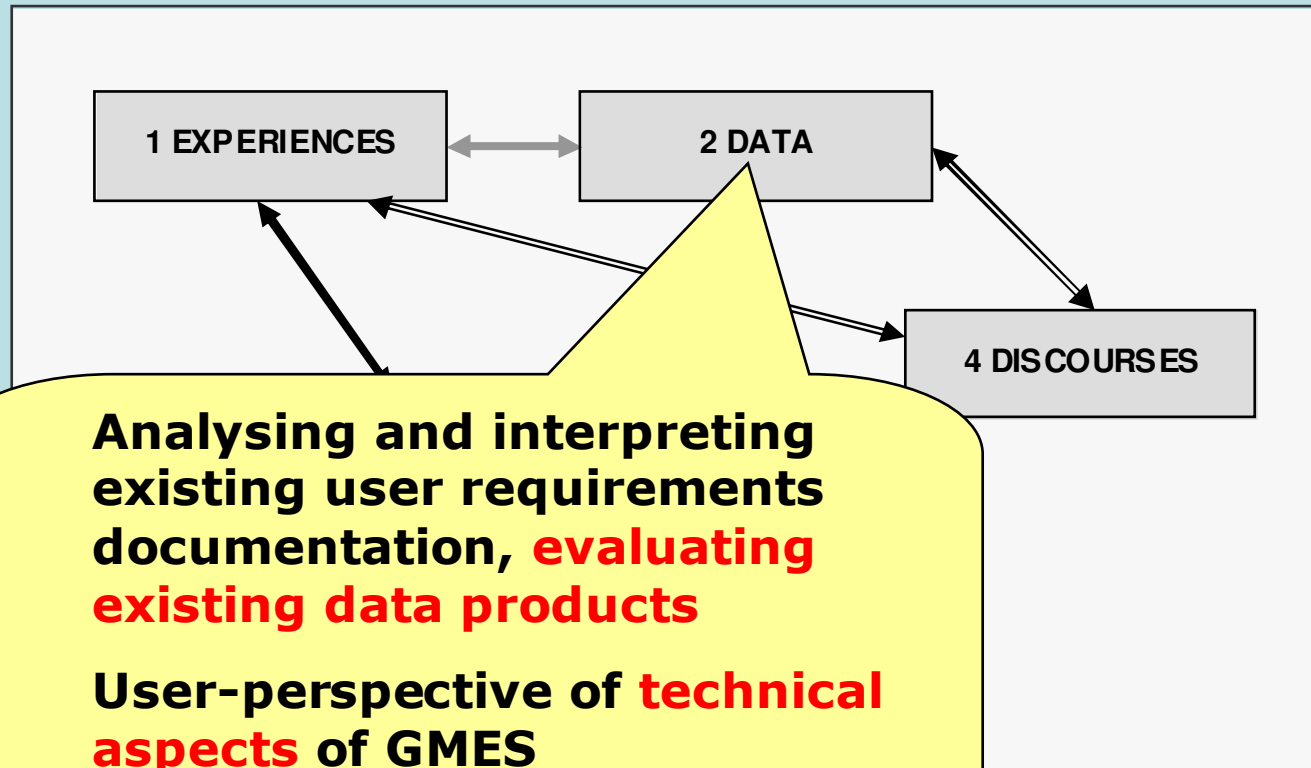


# Experiences



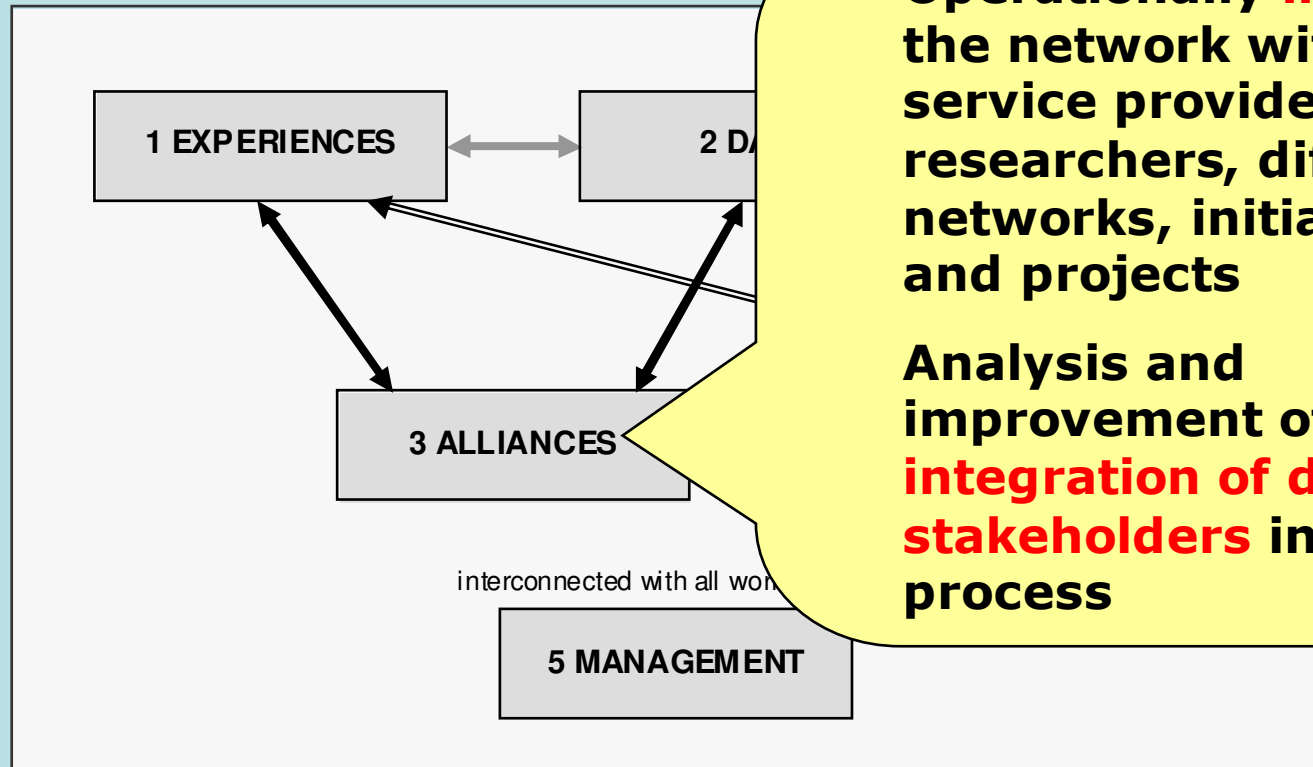


# Data





# Alliances



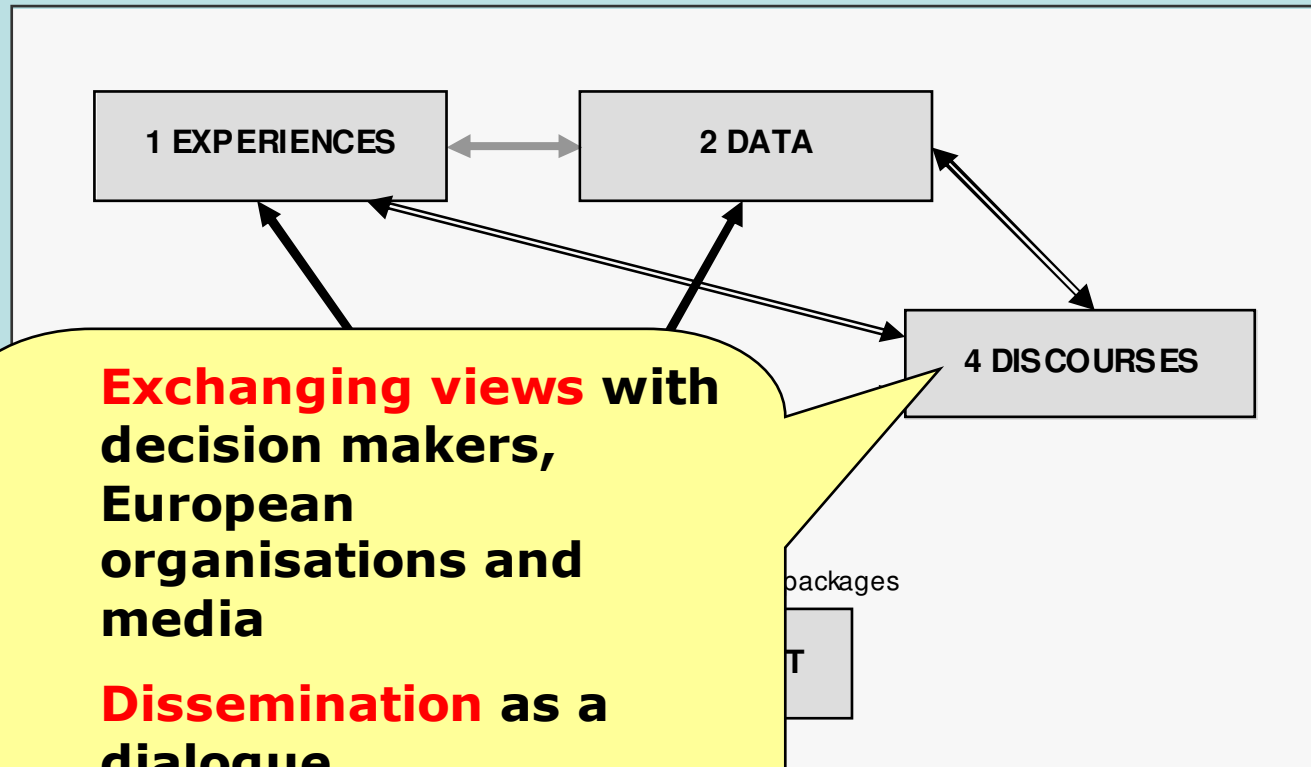
Operationally **linking** the network with service providers, researchers, different networks, initiatives, and projects

Analysis and improvement of the **integration of different stakeholders** in overall process





# Discourses





## Quotes from the review (independent reviewers appointed by commission)

- “(GNU) is (...) **relevant to the GMES Action Plan** and other political decisions”
- “The proposed CA is of **vital nature to the current state of GMES.**”
- “**This is what GMES needs** nowadays to move ahead.”





# How to pronounce „GNU“

- derives from Khoikhoi **language**
  - resembles grunting sound of animal when chewing, with audible G
- must be **distinguishable from „new“**
  - if g is not pronounced it is not
- famous **GNU-Song** by Flanders & Swann:
  - I`m a G-nu, how do you do?



# Summary



- GNU is the **first and only independent network of GMES users**
- GNU aims at **defragmenting and structuring** the GMES user community
- GNU will focus on the **national and regional users**
- GNU will
  - **exchange experiences** among its partners
  - **evaluate data products** of various projects
  - set up alliances with different **stakeholders** and
  - perform discourses with **European organisations and decision makers**
- GNU should be pronounced **G-nu**