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Datum 11 oktober 2011
Betreft Support letter Maps 4 Science

Onze referentie
236360

Kopie aan
S. Mesu

Dear professor Van Oosterom,

With great interest we learned about your initiative to develop a large scale research facility, Maps4Science, in the fundamental and interdisciplinary field of geo-information sciences. The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I) welcomes this initiative and supports the application of this program for the NWO 'National Roadmap for Large Scale Research facilities' funding program.

The Ministry of EL&I has a great interest in the availability of suitable geodata for policymaking, implementation and maintenance. Examples of use of geo-information and geo-ict range from rural development, nature conservation and agriculture to biobased economy, safety and crisesmanagement. In general a trend is visible that volumes of geodata involved is rapidly increasing. This trend is fueled by the introduction of sensor networks (local, airborne, spacedbased), voluntary geographical information (social media) and increasing dynamics and complexity of the mentioned themes. Through 'precision farming' farmers are experimenting with new production methods to reach more sustainable ways of farming. These new production methods are more and more dependent on satellite and other sensordata. The referenced developments lead to an abundance of diffuse geodatasources and huge, dynamic datavolumes.

Together with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment we are working on the implementation of a National Infrastructure for Geo-information. This infrastructure includes a system of base-registrations, a national distribution and access point for geo-information (PDOK, Public Services on Maps, National GeoRegister) and a Shared Service Organisation Geo-information (SSO-Geo). This national infrastructure is not designed for handling the described developments. In future we will need a complementary infrastructure which is able of managing diffuse, high volume data and make it available for users in a practical manner. This is a next step in the evolution of geo-information structures. Science has to make advancements to bring this to reality. We believe that Maps4Science can fulfill this need.



As Maps4Science delivers new techniques for collecting and distribution of data and abstract and visualize information from it many scientific disciplines can benefit from this initiative. Since geo-information is increasingly used in research areas as agriculture, epidemiology, history, biodiversity, watermanagement, spatial planning and architecture this is a significant step.

Directie Kennis en Innovatie

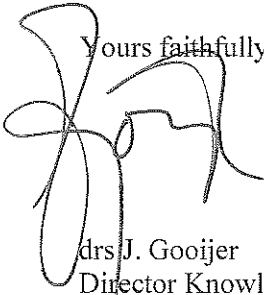
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Together with the Netherlands Space Office (NSO) the Ministry of EL&I is taking an initiative to implement a National Satellite Database in anticipation of the availability of Remote Sensing data from the European program GMES. This facility will become available as Open Data for private companies and for the scientific and educational sector. We think the National Satellite Database can contribute and profit from the Maps4Science proposal.

In the further preparation and implementation of Maps4Science we encourage the authors to work closely together with the ongoing public initiatives. A strong collaboration between the scientific, public and business sector is vital for the goals of Maps4Science. The Ministry of EL&I willingly offers the consortium partners her cooperation on this promising initiative.

Yours faithfully,



drs. J. Gooijer
Director Knowledge and Innovation (acting)
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation