Winding up after an exciting EGU2018 week in Vienna

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Sunny days and blue sky in Vienna welcomed over 15 thousand people at the European Geoscience Union General Assembly this April.

We, as EPOS researchers, scientists and developers, participated with presentations, demos, posters and main convenors of a session dedicated to “Integrating data and services in solid Earth sciences”.

The EPOS booth has been very busy during the whole week, hosting a series of presentations where the functionalities of the EPOS framework were showcased, fuelling lively discussions about future development and opportunities for further integration.

Representatives from all of the ten Thematic Core Services (TCS) that collaborate in EPOS were present, including Volcano Observations, Seismology, Geological Information and Modelling, GNSS Data and Products, Geomagnetic Observations, Anthropogenic Hazards, Satellite Data, Geo-Energy Test Beds for Low Carbon Energy, Near Fault Observatories and Multi-scale Laboratories.

EPOS is a truly multidisciplinary framework and addresses all aspects related to the integration of data and services for geoscience. Data governance, policy and ICT experts are delving into the earth science world and applying their knowledge for developing a fully integrated system offering data and services to help researchers understand Planet Earth’s life and activities.

EPOS is in the middle of the Implementation Phase, successfully heading towards the Operational Phase that will start in 2020. It is gaining momentum and attracted a lot of interest during the EGU 2018 week: many people stopped by the booth asking questions and joining discussions, and also at the poster session discussions were very lively.
As last year, the oral session was well attended and saw high quality presentations. The overall theme of data and service integration in larger scale infrastructures was also covered in various other sessions. This is now already leading to increased interaction across various domains, and resulted, for example, in a joint proposal of an ‘infrastructure integration’ session for the next American Geophysical Union (AGU) meeting in fall of 2018.

Even at the ENVRIplus co-organised booth many visitors had the opportunity to get to know EPOS and its services in particular on Wednesday 11th, EPOS co-organised the lunch-break talks around the grand challenges and on the theme Extreme Event inviting Fabrizio Romano (from INGV) to present Japan's Tohoku 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami and Kristin Vogfjord (IMO) to present the 2010 eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull.

Being at EGU also gave EPOS the opportunity to organise TCS meetings to set a plan for the collaboration with the IT team, Legal team and between TCSs to discuss how to harmonise data and metadata.

The work behind EPOS is huge, a massive amount of data is collected and putting together the expertise of scientists from different domains and disciplines requires wise coordination on a daily basis. Thousands of emails, videoconferences and calls keep the good work going and allow this pan European effort to make constant progress.

Despite being in the era of Internet and living in an ever-connected society, we still value meeting face to face among collaborators and with users and potential users. Discussions at EGU 2018 have been extremely useful for EPOS to continue on the right path towards a successful Operational Phase.

Thank you EGU for giving us this opportunity: we are already looking forward to #EGU2019!

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