EPOS involved in the process of open standards implementation for the scientific community

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BRGM et ATOS, active members of the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), organised and sponsored the 106th Technical Committee of OGC in Orléans, from March 19 to 23, 2018.

OGC is an international industry consortium of more than 530 companies, government agencies, and universities participating in a consensus process to develop publicly available interface specifications. OGC standards support interoperable solutions that “geo-enable” the Web, wireless and location-based services, and mainstream IT.

The OGC Technical Committee meetings play an important role in assisting the establishment of standards used by the scientific community.

A number of EPOS representatives attended to contribute to working groups in their respective areas, thus showing strong support and involvement in the implementation of open-standards process for the geoscience community. Interoperability issues indeed are a concern when trying to facilitate access to data and services through such a huge platform as EPOS.

During this Technical Committee, the "GeoScience DWG***, involving several EPOS TCS members held a full morning session (on 22/03/2018).

Agenda included updates on the two on-going “Interoperability Experiments” (I.E.), announcing that the Borehole IE charter was approved by the OGC Open Architecture Board and enter a Call for Participant phase.

Then the first draft of the charter of the second IE about 3D-4D model discovery was also presented and discussed. Both IE aim at pushing and enhancing EPOS WP15 approach for borehole and 3D-4D models.

These are the first steps towards international standardization.

Finally, a presentation session called “Exploring GeoScience DWG horizons” was proposed. Seven different topics involving geoscience were presented and discussed (see http://external.opengis.org/twiki_public/GeoScienceDWG/WebHome).
Among them, two presentations on seismology and volcanology were provided by representatives of EPOS WP8 and WP11. This demonstrated that the outputs of the GeoScienceDWG works do not only feed and support WP15 activity, but also foster connections between other WP and the geoscience community.

This “OGC TC OpenDay” entitled: “From space to underground, data and services for managing the territories” was designed to illustrate the state of the art and answer to societal needs, to explore ways and means to facilitate the creation of a numerical ecosystem to serve territories management.

Throughout the day, a succession of presentations, demonstrations and round tables encompassed the possibilities and achievements for enabling interoperability of data and processes/services based on standards and technologies, a subject to which OGC is indeed a major contributor. A process that also requires mobilizing all the stakeholders, institutional devices to facilitate collaboration, balanced business models, or even setting up territorial/regional platforms in order to make sharing and exchanging easier for the private and public actors.

All challenges EPOS is equally facing and tackling as presented in the session addressing “Innovative technologies and new data and service infrastructures”. J.B. Roquencourt (BRGM) exposed the architecture of EPOS infrastructure, and constraints it has to answer and overcome in order to enable searching data across the various geosciences areas and transforming data into services delivered through the platform.

*Domain Working Group