2.1.1 Network Inaugural Meeting VARNA

Date   :   13 September 2012

Place :   Varna (Bulgaria)

Participants: 42 persons from 19 institutions

General purpose of the meeting: ESNET Project Inaugural Meeting's main aim was to discuss and to have a consensus developing an agreement on creating a platform for long-term cooperation among the stakeholders in the participating countries, TR, RO, BGR and MLD in the fields of preventing, monitoring and intervention in case of earthquakes.

In the discussions was clarified the aimed platform that will take the form of a network tools:

- A web portal

- A monitoring and early warning software

- A communication tool (e-group)

With this purpose in order to make sure that the network will be operational on long term, an agreement draft was presented to the participants to be signed by all project partner and the stakeholder Institutions that involved to the project providing clear commitment concerning the active participation to the network activities to become official network's members, e.g., supply of data, information and documents.

General discussions of the meeting: The meeting was opened by the Prof. Dr. Nikolay MILOSHEV, Director of the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography - Bulgarian Academy of Science with a welcome speech.

The ESNET Project main objectives and activities were presented by Dr. Stefan BALAN from NIEP (Romania National Institute of Research Development for Earth Physics).

Dr. Vasile ALCAZ presented the main activities of the IGS as a principal institution dealing with earthquakes and seismic risk evaluation in Moldova.

Principal content and the main chapters of the ESNET Network Agreement were presented and discussed in 4 sessions as follows:

Network agreement definitions (Convener: Dr. Vasile ALCAZ, IGS)

Network tools (Convener: Ms. Nalan UKER, IBC)

Software and data (Convener: Dr. Dragos TATARU, NIEP)

Timeframe and maintenance (Convener: Dr. Petya TRIFONOVA, NIGGG)

Participants from the Turkish Technical Deputation Institutions KOERI and IPCU have realized technical presentations. First, presentation was given by Mr. Fikret AZILI (Deputy Director, IPCU) Republic of Turkey İstanbul Governorship Special Provincial Administration, IPCU) – "ISMEP project". Second, Assoc. Prof. Eren UÇKAN, Boğaziçi University Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute, realized a presentation titled "Seismic Risk of TransEuropean Energy Corridors and Critical Infrastructures". Last technical presentation in the meeting was about "Marine Geohazard Project" by Dr. Radu Dimitriu from Romania GeoEcoMar.

Results:

The establishment of a network (one of the most important and emergent e-science technology) is of high practical importance for knowledge dissemination and use in order to be able to make high quality monitoring of seismicity, real-time data processing and data exchange. The Network infrastructure will contribute to establish a regional network of well-coordinated specialists that will provide much needed solutions for seismic safety applications in Black Sea region.

In the Network comprised e-tools will be: -

- ➢ B/S Seismic Monitoring and EWS Basis Software
- ➢ Seismic Safety Net(work) Web Portal
- ➢ B/S Safety Network Communication Tool set-up as an e-group the compromised network e-tools will contain at the following goals in the in the effective ways by means of making use of internet and web technologies.
- ➢ Evaluating and making predictions for probable destruction potentials as a result of earthquakes by emphasizing on the grade of seismic earthquakes and the effect of earthquakes at fields of intervention,
- ➢ Generating supplemental seismic observation and intervention plans,

- Developing the capacity of local departments and emergency units in the target field towards joint operation in case of a probable natural disaster,
- Sharing vast experience and information from participating countries about issues regarding earthquake,
- Make local authorities prepare a comprehensive report on earthquake issues and share plan suggestions via a portal,
- Making use of means of communication via a portal in order to increase cooperation between actors in the field of earthquake observation in participating countries,
- Developing and constantly updating the portal in order to increase the use of modern and effective observation tools,
- Evaluating data from earthquake observation and early warning systems on the portal, and generating online (e-group) services for constant communication between the parties to the project along with sharing information and experiences,
- Generating training support on the portal for professionals in the earthquake sector with regard to observation, early warning and intervention,
- Providing that the structure of the portal is able to be developed constantly in order to increase the capacity of emergency units.

NETWORK Integration Applications : The information to be decided to take place in the frame of the ESNET Project shall be provided from other databases or content servers via web services and integration, maintenance and protection of these systems shall be provided by the Project Management. Furthermore, any modifications, corrections and developments deemed necessary during the term of the project shall be implemented in compliance with the requests of the Project Management.

General Concept (regarding data sharing and other related issues) –

Terms Definitions : ESNET Project is a cross-border project being implemented in four countries by four institutions and a dedicated stuff. It represents a wide range of varied interests, backgrounds, knowledge bases and objectives. Due this varied diversity; individual scientists, technical advisors, students and stakeholders in many instances are confronted with challenges and conflicts of interest (e.g. issue concerning data acquisition and use within the project and with other interest groups, issue of intellectual property rights during project execution, data collection and publication of scientific and non-scientific findings).

Definitions: As a precursor to developing a policy guideline for the project, there are general terminologies and concepts that must initially be stated and agreed upon to guide the process. In doing this, and in order not to reinvent the wheel, this chapter borrows extensively from the

Alternatives to Slash and Burn (ASB) project policy and other existing guidelines on intellectual property rights (see references). There will be 4 key principles that underlie a data sharing policy.

➢ Data created with use of public funds should be recognized as a public resource and remain publicly accessible.
➢ Quality assurance of scientific data is required for sound decision making.
➢ Use of information and communication technologies (ICT) should ensure open access and transparency essential for the effective use of data by researchers and decision makers.
➢ Scientific methods need to be documented in order to be replicable.

Project Interest Groups: A project such as the ESNET project has a long list of interest groups. The groups and their areas of interest are described in the following subsections:

Partners / Partners Associates: These are normally participants who support the project to produce information that can be converted to knowledge through accepted statistical analysis, organization of the data or otherwise by participating in project design and data collection strategies.

Participating institutions: These are institutions that are either interested in the outcomes of the project because they have invested their personnel, resources or intellect into the project. They gain through enhanced capacity for their staff, royalties, or any other tangible or intangible benefits that could accrue from the project.

Stakeholders: These are individual governments, nongovernmental organizations, National agencies and bodies and other parties that have agreed to invest public or private money to enable the project realize its objectives. The funding bodies are normally interested in the promised outputs and outcomes of the project. They use the outcomes to justify their investment of their time and financial resources in the project. They sometimes demand that their investments are paid back by royalties or intellectual property rights emanating from the project.

Individual Researchers: These are the individuals with the technical know-how who play lead positions and are as such the executioners of most parts of the project.

These individuals are normally rewarded either through direct payments for their efforts or through intellectual fulfillment they derive by participating or publishing when participating in the project.

Involved communities: These are normally the people who are to be affected directly by the activities of the project. They include communities who directly derive benefits or promised benefits from the project.

General public: Members of the public are the tax payers who are responsible for indirect investments into the project. They can sometimes question the rational or beneficial gain arising from financing certain projects using their tax money. They influence the politics of many governments and funding agencies. Sometimes members of the public participate in project as private companies by directly contributing project funds or even participating in some project activities.

The project itself: The project has its own calendar and plan of work and expected outputs that it must meet in order to be judged as being a successful project. It therefore has an interest in itself by setting milestones; ensuring that activities go on uninterrupted, conducting internal and external reviews and producing expected outputs. The project's survival and continuation is therefore based on these cardinal concerns that put it in its forward motion.

ESNET Project position in the aimed Network: There are 2 broad models for sharing data: centralized and decentralized. Centralized access refers to the allocation of all data sharing resources to one particular office or partner that provides the data archiving and sharing service to all the others. The main characteristics of a centralized model include control, efficiency and economy. The decentralized model gives individual partners autonomy over their own data sharing resources (FTP sites, websites, databases, etc.) with flexibility, empowerment of the partners and service orientation.

In ESNET Project case each model is suitable to a certain type of data shared. Raw and processed seismic data should remain the property of partner institution that own the data and only be used as already analyzed data in the dedicated project software to be developed.

All other project information and findings (project activities, photos, relevant docs) should be centralized in the project web portal database and became public available. In the network it has been agreed that the parties shall first attempt in good faith to resolve their dispute informally, or by means of commercial mediation, without the necessity of formal proceeding. Any controversy or dispute arising out of or relating to the Network Agreement, or the breach thereof, which cannot otherwise be resolved as provided above, shall be resolved by the European Community Law and the National Law.

In end of the meeting the very first draft of Network Agreement copies were shared with the participated Institutions' representatives. After finalization of Network Agreement it is decided to

present the Network Agreement to Project Stakeholders acceptance and submit it to be signed by all the involved Institutions within the ESNET Project in Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria and Republic of Moldova.