



THE GMES ERS USERS

The role played by the European Union in Emergency Response and disaster relief is two-fold: the first mission is to protect the lives and property of European citizens. The second one, as part of the European solidarity, is to provide effective disaster and humanitarian assistance in other parts of the world. The operational implementation of the GMES Emergency Response Service is therefore driven by the needs and requests expressed by both the European and Member States Civil Protection entities, and the actors in charge of humanitarian assistance, including UN agencies and international NGO.

A mechanism is already in place to register the involved organisations, identify the points of contact and provide them with training and support to access to the GMES Emergency Response Service.

Within Safer, this role is handled by the Project User Board (contact: pub@emergencyresponse.eu) composed of representatives from both European Civil Protections and Humanitarian Aid agencies.

The linkER project is also part of this mechanism, dedicated to identifying the so-called "User Focal Points", who

are to ensure the interface between the ERS Service Focal Point and wider communities of registered users.

User Focal Points then act as the contact point in each country of the European Civil Protection Mechanism and in the EC services. They also assist in collecting the user needs and requirements from the Civil Protection community and EC services. During the initial project phase all User Focal Points will be supported in identifying, whenever needed, their capacity to:

- > convey information/mapping orders (area of interest, product type, constraints, maximum delivery times, tolerances etc.)
- > browse map/product catalogues
- > express alternative information/mapping needs
- > take responsibility for delivered map and information products by integrating them in the strategic, tactical and operational levels at European and national levels. At national levels this includes the first and second line responders

The User Focal Points will also facilitate the local organisation of training sessions offered by the Commission and the ERS service providers to the user community.



SPACE BASED PRODUCTS TO SUPPORT EUROPEAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE



PLEASE VISIT THE GMES
EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICE
WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
WWW.EMERGENCYRESPONSE.EU



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Europe has, over the last 10 years, prioritised investments in an ambitious and autonomous Space programme. One of the results is the Gmes programme, which is now moving into a pre-operational phase.

GMES AT A GLANCE

Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) is a European programme led by the European Union and implemented by the European Commission (EC) jointly with the European Space Agency (ESA). It is aimed at developing a European information service based on satellite Earth Observation and *in situ* (ground based) data. The objective of GMES is to monitor and forecast the state of the environment on land, sea and in the

atmosphere, to support the security of every citizen as well as the emergency services. The information provided by GMES will improve people's safety, e.g. by providing information on natural disasters such as forest fires or floods, and thus help to prevent the loss of lives and property. GMES is a user driven initiative and the information services provided will be freely and openly accessible to its users, mostly public authorities.



THE BENEFITS OF THE GMES EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICE

Major benefits from the use of the GMES Emergency Response Service products and services are:

- > Access to products and services for any geographical area worldwide, (satellite imagery can be acquired anywhere in the world);
- > Pre-disaster reference products covering major crisis areas worldwide;
- > GMES ERS is available 24/7
- > Timeliness of post-disaster information, available within 24 hours of receipt of request;
- > In-field information delivery, (delivery of the geo-information products to wherever they are needed by users, e.g. in-field, in crisis rooms, in coordination centres, etc.);
- > Support in all Emergency Response phases, as the GMES Emergency Response Service will produce pre-event, post-event and crisis follow-up products;
- > Customer support, providing software and hardware tools necessary to easily integrate GMES Emergency Response Service products in existing operational workflows.

THE GMES EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICE

The GMES Emergency Response Service will provide all actors involved in the management of humanitarian crises, natural disasters, and man-made emergency situations, with timely and high quality products derived from Space Observation for use in the response phase, such as:

- > preparedness, recovery and refugee / Internally Displaced Persons products (available in non-rush mode);
- > emergency response products (available in rush mode ; first products generated within 24 hours).

GMES Emergency Response Service is expanding its services towards the crisis prevention (pre-disaster) and post-disaster management by undertaking/developing hazard and risk analysis, forecasting and early warning products and services. Many types of disasters are being addressed: natural disasters (floods, fires, landslides, storms, earthquakes, etc.), technological accidents (oil spills, industrial accidents, etc.) and humanitarian crises (for instance famine after a severe period of drought). The GMES Emergency Response Service cooperates and coordinates with major initiatives in this field, for example with the International Charter "Space and Major Disasters".

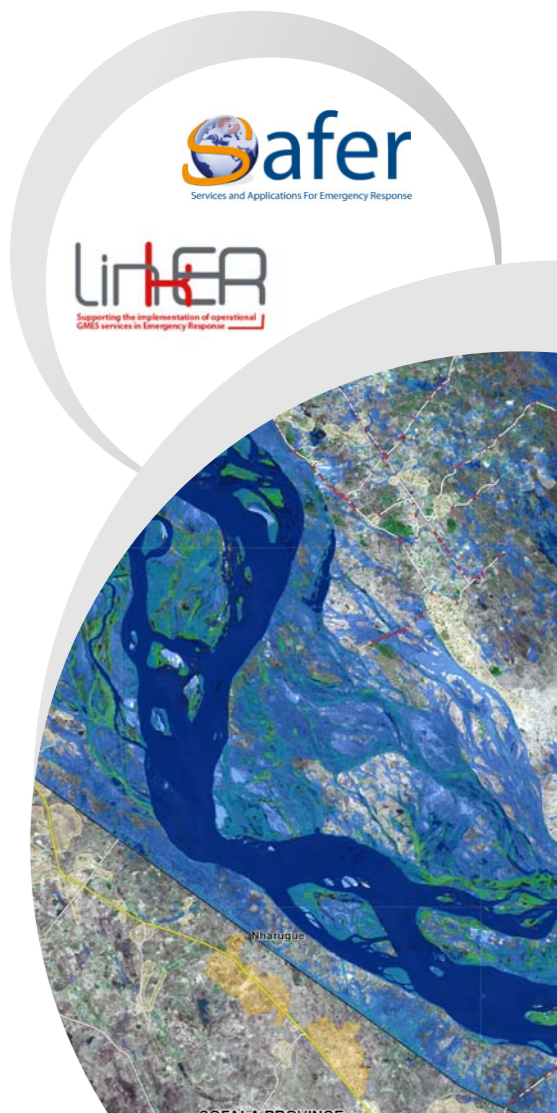
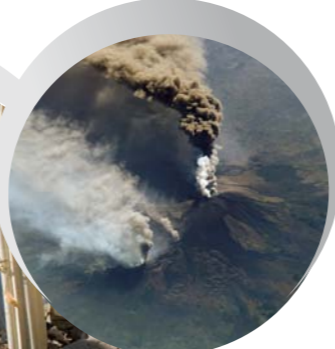
TWO AMBITIOUS PROJECTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GMES EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICE

In its pre-operational phase the GMES Emergency Response Service will be "powered" by two EC funded complementary Projects: SAFER and linkER.

SAFER, an FP7 project, is in charge of developing user friendly space-based geo-information products in order to strengthen European information capacities in response to emergency situations: fires, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, humanitarian crisis, etc. SAFER has covered more than 50 real emergency situations as of October 2010. It is based on this operational experience that the project is building the production lines and delivery mechanisms, coordinating user requests and consolidating the GMES Emergency Response service, the mapping and analysis Service portfolio and scaling up a European service network. A wide set of consolidated thematic products covering both the Civil Protection and the Humanitarian Aid domains will be delivered during

"normal" and rapid response conditions, while new thematic domains will be addressed and innovative solutions developed over time.

linkER, a Service Contract financed by the EC, is the Preparatory Action intended to support the operational use of GMES Emergency Response Service products across the European Union. This goal is being reached through customised tools installed within each national or EC user community, represented by its own National User Focal Point (FP) as well as the EC Focal points in the DG ECHO/MIC (Civil Protection), DG RELEX (Delegations) and DG ECHO (Humanitarian Aid). All User Focal Points will have direct access to GMES Emergency Response Service products and will be supported to easily integrate them into the respective operational workflows of each Participating State. Both technical and procedural developments will be supported by adequate training and exercises in cooperation, when applicable, with DG ECHO/MIC.



Safer
Services and Applications For Emergency Response

linkER
Supporting the implementation of operational GMES services in Emergency Response