

ANALYSING THE IMPACT OF A SPECIALIZED DROUGHT VOCABULARY FOR DISCOVERING RESOURCES IN EUROGEOSS

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The research goal of the drought strategic area within the context of the EuroGEOSS project is to evaluate the feasibility of integrating local, national and multinational drought monitoring systems in Europe as a European contribution to a Global Drought Monitoring System.

For this purpose, an initial operating capacity (IOC) has been created involving the following tasks: creation of drought-relevant data (more than 210 datasets from regional, national, and local observatories); deployment of services for the portrayal and access to data; deployment of a metadata catalogue for the discovery of resources, which includes a metadata editor compliant with INSPIRE implementing rules and a Web application for searching and updating contents; and a Web portal to facilitate an integrated access.

One of the key components for the integration of resources from the systems provided by different observatories has been the annotation with a drought specialized vocabulary. This vocabulary, also an outcome of this project, is a lightweight SKOS-based ontology, which contains 103 concepts organized in groups and providing lexical terms in fifteen languages. The objective of this work is to study the usefulness and impact of this vocabulary for the improvement of information retrieval. Since the integration of this vocabulary in the IOC, an increased use of search terms coming from this vocabulary (instead of free text) has been registered. Additionally, the multidisciplinary interoperability with other thematic areas has been sought by matching this vocabulary with more generic controlled vocabularies like the GEMET thesaurus and the GEOSS Societal Benefit Areas taxonomy.

Keywords: Metadata, annotation, vocabularies, appropriateness, drought, GEOSS, INSPIRE