

THE ITC GEONETCAST TOOLBOX: A GEO CAPACITY BUILDING COMPONENT FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION AND GEO-INFORMATION PROVISION TO SOCIETY

C.M.Mannaerts, B.P.M.Maathuis, M.Molenaar & R.Lemmens
ITC, Int'l Institute for Geo-information Sciences & Earth Observation
Enschede, the Netherlands

Abstract

In many countries throughout the world, the use of earth observation data for environmental or societal purposes still remains under explored, in spite increasing EO data provision. The root cause is mainly a still inadequate generic knowledge to properly use remote sensing data and derive information products. The GEONETCast data dissemination system of GEOSS, the Global earth observation system of systems, is steadily working towards removing barriers for EO data access and use. Efficient processing and analysis tools, accessible by end-users, need to be urgently developed in order to exploit the full potential of this global data dissemination and information system.

The ITC GEONETCast Toolbox, a free and open access earth observation data retrieval and application development environment is presented here. A number of examples for climate, water and environment are shown, to illustrate its use as both a professional as well as a didactical learning software environment. It can act as gap filler in the knowledge transfer chain from EO data providers to the local end-users in the different societal benefit areas of GEOSS.