

## Highlights of SDN Advisory Board Report 2013 Lucca

Once again, the Advisory Board, AB, was impressed with the accomplishments of the Project during the last year. Of particular note:

- A) There are more SDN data centers connected, providing more data and adding value through products. **It was important for the entire group to hear the data centers describe their challenges this year.**
- B) There have been technology improvements to conform to standards, facilitate data exchange, moving toward machine-to-machine connections.
- C) There has been capacity building through shared technologies across the partners.

### Even with the progress, there continue to be challenges such as:

- A) There is still a varying degree of configuration, capacity and connectivity across the centers. Examples were given and possible solutions were raised. **Of note was a suggestion by Roy Lowry for a Forum to match up people with similar hardware, software and connectivity issues to share and develop solutions.**
- B) There continue to be issues of legal governance and risk management. The AB has doubts if the three possible solutions that were discussed are viable.

It was noted that there are a few key nodes in the SDN partners, such as the NERC vocabulary server, and the CDI server at Maris, that are single points of failure. **We think SDN should have plans that will allow it to respond quickly if one of these nodes stops functioning, including documentation to restart systems.** It was suggested that a mirroring service of the nodes by another partner might be considered.

- C) The AB reminds SDN that WP8.9 has a deliverable at month 28 of **standard(s) to be submitted to the IODE/JCOMM Ocean Data Standards and Best Practices, ODSBP.** This is an opportunity for SDN to present its work to the wider audience of IODE and JCOMM. We would like to see a list of what is planned, and a tentative schedule for submission.

From our perspective, the top three priorities for the next year are as follows:

- A) The translation of data to information knowledge (as discussed by Manzella) should be high on the list. There is a need to **strengthen communication with user communities that range from municipality level to marine spatial planning to scientists.** SDN needs to show examples of the availability of data and tools such as the product EU Marine Atlas described by Barale. Key organizations and individuals in new communities will need to be engaged directly with the terminology of their professions, not just the traditional scientific viewpoint that most SDN partners use. This will be critical for sustainability.
- B) Further steps to **enable partners to make the transition from manual to more automated processes.**
- C) Continued **development of best practices and interoperability.**

Additional comments:

1. **ODIP is an important step in broadening the reach of SDN.**
2. The AB had suggestions for the EU Review:
3. The duplicates and QC work that has been carried out is good, but it will need to be repeated periodically.
4. A project with a four-year work plan will need to be agile in adjusting to new technical opportunities that develop during the project. However, the AB suggests there be a **process by which the choice to opt for a new development is vetted among the partners** before it enters as an amendment to the Work Plan.

5. There should be **clear protocols on how to deal with data which are the responsibility of one country but held in another**, such as happens with joint cruises.
6. Tools to verify the correct functioning are clearly important.
7. Products such as climatologies, or aggregated data sets need to be very clear how they are produced, especially whether all data or only non-restricted data are used.
8. The AB was impressed by the metadata inclusion now in ODV.
9. **SDN needs to clearly communicate it's impact on the user communities with download statistics, and with compelling case studies.**