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'Understanding volcanoes and society: the key for risk mitigation'



The GEO Geohazard Supersites initiative - GSNL 2.0: open science for better risk reduction

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The Geohazard Supersites and Natural Laboratories initiative began in 2007 as an outcome of the 3rd International Geohazards workshop, and was officially formalized in the 2010-2015 Work Plan of the Group on Earth Observation (GEO). Its main goal is to improve the scientific understanding of the processes causing geological disasters, eventually benefiting Disaster Risk Reduction. The GSNL goal is pursued promoting broad international scientific collaboration and open access to a variety of space- and ground-based monitoring data, focusing on areas with important scientific challenges and high seismic/volcanic risk levels: the Supersites. Today GSNL is a stable partnership with a clear sharing of commitments: the world's space agencies provide satellite imagery at no cost for scientific use, the in situ monitoring agencies provide open access to ground data, and the global scientific community exploits these data to generate scientific results which should be openly shared in digital format. GSNL has promoted new scientific developments by providing a framework for an easier access to EO and in situ data, and a way to increase funding for research. Its evolution, GSNL 2.0, aims to improve the direct societal benefits of the research work in the specific areas. To obtain this the coordination of each Supersite should be attributed to a local scientific institution having an operational role in providing authoritative geohazard information to national decision makers. This ensures that the new knowledge generated and openly shared within the Supersite scientific community, can be rapidly summarized by the coordinator and provided to the local end-users for a more efficient uptake, ultimately benefiting hazard assessment, disaster monitoring and response actions. The status of the initiative and the future developments of GSNL 2.0 will be presented at the meeting and discussed with the volcanological community.