



***Call for expression of interest (CEI) to provide assistance to the EEA in the production of the new Corine Land Cover (CLC) inventory, including the support to the harmonisation of national monitoring for integration at pan-European level***

**Reference:** Call for expression of interest EEA/SES/13/005-CEI

**Validity:** 10.9.2013 – 31.12.2014

**1. About the European Environment Agency (EEA)**

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is a European Union public body governed by Regulation (EC) No 401/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009<sup>1</sup>. The EEA role is to support the European Union in the development and implementation of environmental policy by providing relevant, reliable, targeted and timely information on the state of the environment and future prospects. The EEA also provides the necessary independent scientific knowledge and technical support to enable the Union and the member countries to take appropriate measures to protect and improve the environment as laid down in the Treaty and by successive Community action programmes on the environment and sustainable development.

The EEA is the hub of the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet), a network of around 350 organisations across Europe through which it collects and disseminates environment-related data and information, including European Topic Centres. The EEA and Eionet contribute to the European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), a distributed, integrated, web-enabled information system based on a network of public information providers sharing environmental data and information. It builds on existing e-infrastructure, systems and services in the Member States and EU institutions.

Further information about the work of EEA can be obtained on its website: <http://www.eea.europa.eu>.

---

<sup>1</sup> OJEU L 126 of 21.5.2009, p. 13.

## 2. Background information for this CEI

Copernicus, previously known as GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security), is the European Programme for the establishment of a European capacity for Earth Observation. Its primary objective is to provide information services which are built on accurate data in the field of the environment and security and which are tailored to the needs of the users.

It addresses a wide range of policies such as environment, agriculture, regional development, transport and energy at EU level, and European commitments to international Conventions. The service has entered its Initial Operations phase following the entry into application of Regulation (EU) No 911/2010 of 22 September 2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Earth monitoring programme (GMES) and its initial operations (GIO), 2011 to 2013<sup>2</sup>. It consists of three main components: global, continental (pan-European), and local.

Pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 911/2010, the European Commission is in charge of the overall coordination of the GMES/Copernicus program. Article 4(5) of that Regulation provides that the coordination of the technical implementation of the GMES/Copernicus services shall be entrusted to competent Union bodies or intergovernmental organisations. Within the land monitoring service the coordination of the pan-European continental and local components, as well as the necessary dissemination activities, was entrusted to the EEA.

Among others, and as described in its work programme 2013<sup>3</sup>, the EEA is in charge of organising the production of the new Corine<sup>4</sup> Land Cover (CLC) inventory, including the support to the harmonisation of national monitoring at EU level, namely by providing support to Member States to harmonise their national land cover activities and improve synergies with pan-European land cover activities.

The land monitoring service implementation process, especially the pan-European continental component, will be supported by accompanying measures for harmonizing national activities for European monitoring. This activity aims at making better use of national image processing and land-cover monitoring activities by enabling a coherent and consistent integration with and in pan-European datasets, and at developing methods and concepts for post 2013 operational land monitoring, taking into account the requirement for coherent information needed to underpin policies at pan-European scale.

This activity focuses on:

1. Improving the cost efficiency of pan-European land cover monitoring by harmonizing decentralised approaches; and
2. Cross-checking the ability of proposed decentralized approaches to ensure coherence of land cover information once transformed or generalised to European land cover information.

The activity is mainly triggered by the work of the EAGLE<sup>5</sup> working group, an initiative of the National Reference Centres (NRCs) for land cover of Eionet<sup>6</sup>, coordinated by the European Topic Centre for Spatial Information and Analysis (ETC/SIA)<sup>7</sup>. It is also foreseen in the 2013 Annual

---

<sup>2</sup> OJEU L 276/1 of 20.10.2010

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eea-annual-management-plan-2013>

<sup>4</sup> Corine stands for 'Coordination of Information on the environment'.

<sup>5</sup> Eionet Action Group on Land monitoring in Europe, <http://sia.eionet.europa.eu/EAGLE>.

<sup>6</sup> European Environment Information and Observation Network, <http://www.eionet.europa.eu>

<sup>7</sup> <http://sia.eionet.europa.eu>.

Management Plan (AMP) of the EEA to conduct support activities of decentralised land cover mapping methodologies with a view of a future pan-European land cover concept.

The EAGLE group was set up to respond to the growing need to find solutions for a better integration and harmonisation of national mapping activities with the European land monitoring initiatives (i.e. CLC), following the principle of a bottom-up approach. The objective of this working group is to consolidate the future-oriented conceptual solution that answers the following key questions: 1) how to describe the earth's surface in a conceptual way?; 2) how to store that descriptive information on land cover and land use separated from each other in a comprehensive and consistent data model?; 3) what role do remote sensing methods have in this setup?

The EAGLE concept aims at implementing a semantic transformation tool that is applicable at European, national and sub-national level that can translate between different LC/LU classification systems as a thematic meta-language and is suited for application in future land monitoring initiatives.

The current draft of the EAGLE concept is presented in two forms: a UML model (EAGLE data model); and a cross table (EAGLE matrix) whose elements can be used to describe a certain land unit and are aggregated in three main descriptive blocks which reflect existing land cover and land use specifications (i.e. INSPIRE, CORINE, LUCAS, ISO-LCML, national nomenclatures):

1. Land cover components (LCC);
2. Land use attributes (LUA);
3. Further characteristics (CH) (e.g. status, pattern, parameters, ecosystem types).

The EAGLE matrix and model contain the same information and are based on the same considerations and concept elements, one in the form of an excel table, the other in the form of a UML model chart. The development of both occurred in parallel and reflects the same state-of-play of the EAGLE concept.

### **3. How the Call for expression of interest works?**

A call for expression of interest (CEI) invites experts to put themselves forward as candidates in advance of public procurement operations. Interested natural or legal persons established in one of the 33 EEA member countries, or in a third country which has a special agreement with the European Union in the field of procurement, are invited to submit an application in accordance with the provisions stated in these terms of reference.

The EEA will draw up a list of candidates meeting the criteria outlined in section 9 below. This list will be updated as necessary throughout the validity of the CEI.

Each time the EEA intends to conclude a contract relating to one or more of the tasks described in section 5 below, a selection, based on objective and non-discriminatory criteria, of all or some of the candidates on the list will be made, followed by an invitation to the selected candidates to submit a tender in accordance with the tender documents for a particular contract. Should the EEA have to set a maximum number of candidates who will be invited to submit a tender for a given contract, the number is 20 (twenty).

Inclusion on the list entails no obligation on the part of the EEA to send an invitation to tender to the candidates or to award them a contract.

#### 4. Purpose of the Call for expression of interest

With reference to the above-mentioned support of decentralised land cover mapping activities in a view of the future pan-European land cover concept, the main aim of this CEI is to provide a “proof of concept” that will allow the theoretical considerations implemented in the data model and matrix to be deployed in real applications.

Therefore a project idea has been developed encompassing different aspects/stages which will allow the land monitoring community to better prepare for the upcoming future monitoring periods and which involves applying the matrix against different nomenclatures and applying the data model on real data input.

#### 5. Scope of the work

This CEI covers the implementation of the following tasks:

- Draft explanatory documentation for the EAGLE concept (model/matrix) – description of content details of the data model elements and production of guidelines having in mind possible role in the context of a future European land monitoring framework;
- Fine tune the draft EAGLE data model towards established existing approaches;
- Describe the EAGLE concept by using the Universal Mark-up Language (UML) as a technical implementation language, in line with the conceptual data model of INSPIRE and taking into account relevant ISO standards;
- Perform a semantic cross-check of EAGLE data model and matrix against the nomenclatures of current European Inventories (e.g. CLC, High Resolution Layers<sup>8</sup> (HRL), LUCAS<sup>9</sup>, Urban Atlas<sup>10</sup>) and several national or regional inventories and land cover/land use (e.g. LCCS (FAO), SIOSE (Spain), DLM-DE (Germany), LISA (Austria), AR50 (Norway), LCM (UK), SLICES (Finland));
- Create and implement a database that can be filled with vector or raster data containing land cover/land use information. This database should allow the storage of data from national or international datasets on land cover/land use and be based on the EAGLE concept data model;
- Populate the EAGLE database with real data from selected sites where national data, CLC and HRL data exist, which allows for comparison of approaches as well as the derivation of European data from national data sets following the concept of bottom-up approach;
- Revise the CLC nomenclature guidelines and propose the guidelines enhancement by analysing the CLC nomenclature regarding semantic gaps, overlaps or inconsistencies in the definitions of classes by applying the decomposition method within the EAGLE matrix;
- Create a commonly agreed set of rules for data generalisation and aggregation methods of vector or raster data, which allows for the derivation of coarser resolution European data sets from high resolution national data sets (following a bottom-up approach);

---

<sup>8</sup>[http://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/gio-land-high-resolution-layers-hrls-2013-summary-of-product-specifications/at\\_download/file](http://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/gio-land-high-resolution-layers-hrls-2013-summary-of-product-specifications/at_download/file)

<sup>9</sup> [http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/lucas/documents/Nomenclature\\_LUCAS2009\\_C\\_3.pdf](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/lucas/documents/Nomenclature_LUCAS2009_C_3.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.eea.europa/data-and-maps/data/urban-atlas>

- Analyse commonalities and differences in interpretation or implementation of CLC guidelines of land monitoring initiatives in neighbouring countries and propose a strategy for harmonisation of the different initiatives;
- Assess advantages and disadvantages of the “grid approach”, with the aim to find out how feasible it is to store land cover information in a regular grid, taking into account different scales of level of details;
- Revise the High Resolution Layer (HRL) concept by applying the EAGLE data model and make a proposal for the enhancement of the HRL technical specifications;
- Develop a web-based online tool for: populating the EAGLE matrix using the bar coding method to decompose land cover classes in an easy to understand and easy to handle way; for comparing the land cover classes with each other; and for extracting reports regarding what kind of components, attributes and characteristics are present for a specific class or a collection of classes;
- Develop an online tool for implementing a common European generalisation and aggregation rule set;
- Elaborate other possible connections and cross reference to other existing code lists and nomenclatures (EUNIS habitats, LUCAS, etc...) or standards and also cross check differences and commonalities with ISO LCML. Collect the user requirements of main European stakeholders (e.g. EEA, EUROSTAT, JRC, DG AGRI, DG ENV). Set up cases to assess what information on landscape is needed and which can be extracted from existing data sets.

For the purpose of the proper implementation of the tasks listed above, it is required that applicants have access to commonly used off-the-shelf GIS software, GML/UML editors and standard office software packages.

## **6. Validity of the list resulting from this CEI**

The compiled list will remain valid until 31.12.2014 from the date of dispatch of this CEI to the Publications Office of the European Union.

Applications may be submitted at any time during this period with the exception of the last 3 (three) months (as per post mark, courier or hand deliveries at the EEA premises, i.e. by 30.9.2014 at the latest). Applications received after this date will not be considered. Applications shall be submitted by post or hand delivery; applications submitted by fax or email will not be accepted.

Please note that this is the responsibility of the candidates to inform the EEA immediately of any changes to their administrative, technical or financial details, which would result in a change of their original application.

## **7. Value of contracts**

The list resulting from this CEI will be used exclusively for public contracts of the following type:

- Service contracts under Annex IIA to Directive 2004/18/EC<sup>11</sup>, except for research and development contracts in category 8 and telecommunications services in category 5 of that Annex, worth maximum EUR 130'000.00 (hundred thirty thousand euro).

---

<sup>11</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:134:0114:0240:EN:PDF>, page 162.

Candidates included in the list, if successful during the specific procurement procedures launched under this CEI, may be offered several contracts but the value of each of them may not exceed the above-mentioned threshold.

## **8. Legal form for groups of economic operators/consortia**

Application may be submitted by two or more applicants grouped in a consortium which, if included in the list and invited to tender, may tender as a consortium. The applicants shall specify in their application and offer the natural or legal person who would act as coordinator for the consortium and will interface with the EEA. Each consortium member must fulfil the conditions for participation specified in section 9 below. The exclusion criteria will be assessed in relation to each applicant individually, whereas the selection criteria will be assessed in relation to the combined capacities of the service providers as a whole (i.e. on consortium level).

If a consortium is awarded a contract, it may be required to adopt a legal form by incorporation or partnership enabling it to contract as a single entity if such change is necessary for the proper performance of the contract.

If awarded a contract, the members of the consortium will have an equal standing towards the EEA in executing it and they will be jointly and severally liable to the EEA.

## **9. Criteria for inclusion on the list**

No candidate may apply twice for this CEI and it is not permitted to be entered twice into the list resulting from this CEI, e.g. submitting an application both as a natural person and a legal person or as a single applicant and as part of a consortium. Disregard of this rule leads to exclusion of all applicants concerned.

### **9.1. Exclusion criteria**

To be eligible to participate in this CEI, candidates must not be in any of the exclusion situations referred to in Article 106 and 107 of the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union<sup>12</sup>. To that effect, candidates are required to submit a declaration on honour (see annex 2) in accordance with Article 143 on the rules of application of the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union<sup>13</sup>.

Under the same provision, the selected candidates to whom a contract is to be awarded will be required to provide evidence confirming their prior declaration on honour unless the EEA waives this obligation (for instance in cases where the selected candidates have already submitted evidence for another contract in the last 12 (twelve) months and the evidence remains valid).

### **9.2. Selection criteria**

#### *9.2.1. Legal capacity*

---

<sup>12</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25.10.2012, OJEU L 298/1 of 26.10.2012, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:298:0001:0096:EN:PDF>.

<sup>13</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29.10.2012, OJEU L 362/1 of 31.12.2012, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:362:FULL:EN:PDF#page=3>.

Applicants are required to prove that they are authorised to perform a contract under national law, as evidenced by inclusion in a trade or professional register, or a sworn declaration or certificate, membership of a specific organisation, express authorisation, or entry in the VAT register.

To that effect, each applicant (including any member of a consortium) is required to submit a legal entity form (see annex 3) duly filled out and signed, accompanied by a copy of inscription in trade register and/or a copy of inscription in VAT register, where applicable. Natural persons shall provide a copy of their identity card or, failing that, of their passport or equivalent.

### *9.2.2. Economic and financial capacity*

Each applicant is requested to provide evidence of economic and financial capacity by (one or more of) the following documents:

- Appropriate statements from banks or evidence of professional risk indemnity insurance; or
- Balance sheet or extracts from balance sheets for at least the last 2 (two) years for which accounts have been closed, where publication of the balance sheet is required under the company law of the country in which the candidate is established; or
- A statement of overall turnover during the last 3 (three) financial years.

If, for some exceptional reason, which the EEA considers justified, an applicant is unable to provide (one of) the references requested above, he may prove his economic and financial capacity by any other means which the EEA considers appropriate.

### *9.2.3. Technical and professional capacity*

Evidence of the technical and professional capacity of candidates shall be furnished on the basis of the following documents:

- CVs detailing the educational and professional qualifications of the applicant documenting a minimum of 5 (five) years of professional experience in relation to the tasks listed under section 5 above and including information on language skills;
- A list of recent publications;
- Details of major projects lead by and/or executed by applicants, and/or contracts awarded to the applicants relevant to the services required by the EEA under the following two categories: (1) projects/contracts currently undertaken; and (2) projects/contracts that have been undertaken over the last 3 (three) years, indicating the value, brief description of the services undertaken, specific role of the applicant, and recipients of the services (public or private);
- A description of the applicant's environmental policy specifying the status of implementation (e.g. accreditation held or requested).

## 10. Additional information

The full list of information, formalities and documents to be supplied by interested applicants can be found in the application form which can be downloaded from the EEA website: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/tenders/calls-for-expression-of-interest>.

The EEA shall not be liable for any compensation with respect to applicants whose applications have not been accepted, nor shall it be so liable if it decides not to list them on the CEI list.

## 11. Submission of applications

Applications shall be submitted in accordance with the double envelopes system: the outer envelope or parcel should be sealed with adhesive tape and signed across the seal and carry the following information:

- The call for expression of interest reference No EEA/SES/13/005-CEI
- The call for expression of interest title *“assistance to the EEA in the production of the new Corine Land Cover (CLC) inventory, including the support to the harmonisation of national monitoring for integration at pan-European level”*
- The name of the applicant
- The indication *“Application - Not to be opened by the internal mail services”*
- The address for submission of applications (as specified below)

The inner envelope or parcel must contain one signed original (unbound/unstapled) and two copies and shall include the following:

- The application form drawn up in accordance with the template in annex 1;
- The declaration on exclusion criteria as required under section 9.1, drawn up in accordance with the template in annex 2;
- The legal entity form as required under section 9.2.1 (legal capacity) drawn up in accordance with the template in annex 3;
- The financial identification form drawn up in accordance with the template in annex 4;
- The evidence and documentation demonstrating the fulfilment of the selection criteria as required under section 9.2.2 (economic and financial capacity) and 9.2.3 (technical and professional capacity).

Applications shall be drafted in one of the languages of the EEA member countries, preferably in English, as it is EEA’s working language.

Applications must be submitted:

1. Either by post or courier no later than 30.9.2014, in which case the evidence of the date of dispatch shall be determined by the postmark or the collection date;
2. Or delivered by hand not later than 16:00 CET on 30.9.2014. In this case a receipt must be obtained as proof of submission, signed and dated by the receptionist of the EEA who accepts delivery. The reception at the EEA is open from 9:00 to 17:00 Monday to Thursday and from 9:00 to 16:00 on Friday. It is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and official holidays;



to the following address:

European Environment Agency  
Procurement services (ADS2)  
Reference No EEA/SES/13/005-CEI  
Kongens Nytorv 6  
1050 Copenhagen K  
Denmark

It is important that applications are presented in the correct format and include all documents necessary to enable the evaluation committee to assess them. Failure to respect these requirements will constitute a formal error and may result in the rejection of the application.

## **12. Confidentiality and protection of personal data**

Processing your application will involve the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name, contact details and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, your replies to the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate your application in accordance with the terms of reference of the call for expression of interest and will be processed solely for that purpose by the EEA. Under Regulation (EC) No 45/2001, you are entitled to obtain access to your personal data on request and to rectify any such data that is inaccurate or incomplete. If you have any queries concerning the processing of your personal data, you may address them to the EEA. You have the right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor for matters relating to the processing of your personal data.

For further detailed information on the processing of your personal data in the framework of this call for expression of interest, please consult the privacy statement available at the following address: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/tenders/privacy-statement>.

## **13. Environmental Considerations**

The EEA runs a certified environmental management system (EMAS) and aims to minimise the environmental impact of all its activities, including those carried out under contract. The selected candidates will, therefore, be requested to consider the EEA environmental management guidelines in the implementation of the contract, in particular, those relating to business travel, electronic means of communication, paper and energy consumption. Further information on the EMAS system can be found on the EEA homepage: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/documents/emas>.

Moreover, it is strongly recommended that applications are submitted in an environmentally friendly way, e.g., by choosing a simple and clear structure, double-sided printing, limiting attachments to what is required in the terms of reference (no additional material) and avoiding plastic folders or binders.

#### **14. Annexes**

Annex 1: Application form

Annex 2: Declaration on exclusion criteria

Annex 3: Legal entity form

Annex 4: Financial identification form