

## Earth Observation Connection Node

*Despite the recent proliferation of readily available earth observation (EO) data, for example from satellites and drones, the knowledge and experience of working with and interpreting that data remains largely isolated within organizations. While earth observation holds great potential value for environmental monitoring and as decision support to evaluate and promote sustainability, only a fraction of it has been realized on a societal scale - and many experts have valuable knowledge to unlock it. New initiatives are needed to build an ecosystem and create contact points between experts and use case owners, and to promote mutual understanding across disciplinary and organizational boundaries (public agencies, research institutes and universities, and SMEs).*

*As a first step, we need to systematically identify and reach out to relevant experts and organizations within Sweden, to understand the competencies of different actors and how they relate to different EO initiatives. Today, people within RISE are already working closely with many Swedish agencies and experts from academia. The activities could include hosting thematic workshops, working proactively to identify and reach out to different actors of interest, connect practitioners with applications across disciplinary boundaries (for example remote sensing, Copernicus expertise, data processing, AI/machine learning, forest, agriculture, and ocean), and working proactively to translate cutting-edge research into innovation and new services.*

*Important outcomes of these activities also include new educational material to disseminate this knowledge to different audiences, created for Swedish conditions and context.*

*The costs are estimated to 1.5-3 million SEK/year, with a duration of 2-3 years, to fund an inter-disciplinary team within RISE.*

*RISE, Research Institutes of Sweden AB, has as main goal to strengthen Swedish public sector, industry and research, and be a leading innovation partner. Today, RISE has an initiative together with Rymdstyrelsen that is called Digital Earth Sweden (DES) which is a platform that further refines and hosts Earth observation (EO) data. The DES platform is the national knowledge and data hub to provide services for Swedish and international stakeholders working with EO data. RISE has a privileged position between industry and academia which makes it suitable to have this EO connection node.*

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