Dear SAON friends

Participating organisation and initiative are two different relations towards GEO, which are in no way competing.

PO means for SAON to have a membership in GEO overalla governance. Being a participant in the GEOCRI (Cold Regions Initiative) or even being the focal point and start of a new specific ArcticGEOSS means being active in GEO activities and coordinating .

The latter is usually the first step into GEO, but for supranational activities it is very usual to also engage with GEO on the overall governance level.

ArcticGEOSS is on the other hand a question whether we want to raise the Arctic to a more visible and higher profile in GEO. GEO has lately added a new regional level to its program with EuroGEOSS, AmeriGEOSS. Asia and Oceania GEOSS and AfriGEOSS. Within GEOSS this has activated more implementation actions than trying to do these actions globally. The same is envisioned with a new ArcticGEOSS and it should be in SAONs interests to raise its activities like this. GEOCRI is not seen as being very successful from the GEO secretariat point of view. It has lost its support from GEO members to sponsor a secondee to the secretariat and I am quite alone in the Executive Committee now that Barbara is retiring to get at least some resources for Cold Region activities.

ArcticGEOSS could be giving the activity a much clearer and more attractive heading so that GEO members that traditionally help in GEO resources could be more inclined to focus there resources for this (Norway, Sweden, Germany and European Commission are supporting money or secondments). China was the reason for a third Pole and Cold Region heading, but they have since many years now withdrawn their interest.

As Hannele and Peter amiably try to keep GEO CRI delivering, I do understand their hesitation. I would suggest for them to shift their efforts as well to ArcticGEOSS to make the SAON mission find more resources within GEO. Reporting requirements are not heavy in GEO, so I don't think these would really make a big difference and in a case of having both GEOCRI and ArcticGEOSS, the same reporting can be used for the SAON parts for sure.

I am not able to participate tomorrow to the teleconf as I have to organize logistics for my 3 kids. I hope this

Cheers

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