



EOTEC DevNet Sustainability Plan

Background

EOTEC DevNet was launched in 2021 to bring together capacity building colleagues from across CEOS, GEO, UNOOSA, WMO and CGMS. The effort originated as a WGCapD deliverable of the CEOS Work Plan and through the pilot phase is being funded by WGCapD members NASA and EO College who support the EOTEC DevNet Secretariat and its activities. Other contributions include CEOS SEO supporting the development of some of EOTEC DevNet products and members of each partner network contributing their time and expertise as a part of the Global Task Team. To build on the progress achieved during the pilot phase and to continue strengthening the initiative, additional sources of support are required.

This document provides analysis and recommendations for achieving a more sustainable growth of the network, including clarifying resource requirements and potential contributions by different stakeholders. This draft plan is the result of initial discussions with the Global Task Team. It needs to be further refined and endorsed by all network representatives. The next step would be to agree which partner can contribute what and conduct consultations with space agency partners and other potential supporters to fill in the remaining gaps.

Recommendation summary

EOTEC DevNet will continue to function as an informal network of networks initiative, with each member network making a specific contribution (monetary or in-kind) towards achieving one or multiple of the program's goals and related deliverables. These contributions could include assigning or funding personnel, offering support for development of specific products and/or covering certain program expenses (i.e. marketing materials or costs of travel).

Additional outreach will be conducted to CoP members (starting with better resourced space agencies) in each of the four regions to support the part-time positions of regional CoP coordinators.

Finally, support will also be required to fund the position of a Global Coordinator. We propose funding by the network partners based on a rotating schedule.

Resource Requirements

Before securing partner commitments to support EOTEC DevNet, it is important to estimate the resources required to maintain and grow the program.

Initial basis of estimate [calculation](#) expected 38-60 hours of work per week during the pilot phase, an equivalent of 1-1.5 full-time equivalent (FTE).

The EOTEC DevNet operations model suggests 4 Communities of Practice (CoP) meeting quarterly, 2-3 thematic working groups meeting bi-annually in each region and coordination at the global level. The initial learning from the floods working groups start-up is that meetings likely need to take place more frequently until the core group is formed and can sustain activity with only two meetings per year. Emerging communities also require more support in between meetings. And some investment of time is required to help the CoP leads/co-leads learn their roles and assume responsibility.

For EOTEC DevNet to be sustainable, funding is required to meet the following program requirements:

Global Requirements:

- Engaging and convening Global Task Team and Annual Leadership Meeting, as well as any special meetings or activities
- Managing communications channels (website, newsletter, social media) and related infrastructure
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on progress towards metrics outlined in the ToC
- Raising funds/resources for the network
- Coordinating and supporting the four CoPs
- Managing relationships, contacting key stakeholders and identifying new partners and partnerships
- Providing strategic direction on and support of product development (i.e. trackers, guidance, etc)
- Mapping stakeholders and relationships across the networks
- Generating continued awareness and interest, such as promoting/representing EOTEC DevNet at relevant international convenings

Regional Requirements:

- Membership recruitment, retention and engagement
- Meeting support for CoP Task Team and regional working groups
 - Scheduling
 - Promotion
 - Drafting agendas
 - Preparing leads
 - Minutes and follow up
- Maintenance of and activity on communication platforms, including regional communications, support between meetings and social media

- Guiding the COP's work plan and supporting the development of products, such as creating templates/outlines and coordinating collaboration efforts
- Building linkages across the CoPs, especially within technical areas
- Promoting/representing EOTEC DevNet at relevant regional convenings

Secretariat staffing model to meet those requirements:

Two possible scenarios for staffing EOTEC DevNet Secretariat operations are:

1. Maintaining productive level of network engagement
 - Four 0.5 FTE regional coordinators supporting CoP Task Teams and thematic working groups
 - 75% of time on regional responsibilities
 - 25% of time on global responsibilities
 - One FTE for global coordination (either one person working full-time or two people working part-time)
2. Expanding engagement
 - Same as above but with 2 FTEs to expand global coordination/engagement and communication efforts

Other expenses:

- IT infrastructure (website hosting, video conferencing tools, communications platform, newsletter service, etc.)
- Travel, conference registrations, event sponsorships
- Expenses for marketing
- Hosting member meetings
- Grants to members to support product development?
- Potential legal and administrative expenses

Selecting funding model

Several [funding models](#) were considered by the Global Task Team with the summary of potential pros and cons listed below:

- Parent Organization + Funding by Sponsors
 - Not the right match for the network of networks program
 - No clear home for the program among current partners
- Multi-donor Trust Fund Model
 - Too complex and bureaucratic for the current state of the initiative
- Dues-paying membership
 - Membership hard to define
 - Creates barrier to entry
 - Challenge of collecting funds
- Users paying for services/products that also cover secretariat work
 - Does not fit with the current operating model
 - EOTEC DevNet is not currently planning on conducting its own trainings or charging for access to its resources

- **Work funded independently by members**
 - Probably most realistic in the near-term
 - Does not require establishing a new entity or exchanging funds across partner organizations
 - Additional coordinated donor-targeted fundraising could further augment the joint effort

Further analysis on who is funding different capacity building initiatives will be helpful in understanding the funding landscape, ensuring that network partners do not approach the same funders with similar requests, and ideally, coordinating joint appeals.

Current commitments/contributions to EOTEC DevNet

Below are the ways EOTEC DevNet partners are currently supporting the initiative:

- NASA (a member of both CEOS and GEO) - supporting part-time members of the Secretariat for the total of one FTE - Erin Martin at 50% FTE, Yasha Moz at 40% FTE, Sydney Neugebauer at 10% FTE
 - NASA's commitment is confirmed through March 2023
- EO College - supporting part time member of Secretariat - Martyna Stelmaszczuk-Górska at 50% FTE, Robert Eckardt at 10% FTE, funding stakeholder mapping analysis and EOTEC DevNet's standalone website development
 - EO College commitment is confirmed through fall of 2023
- CEOS - SEO personnel supporting the development of flood tools tracker
- Other networks - participation in Global Task Team meetings, helping reach members in respective networks, securing enabling environment and encouraging members to engage

Securing additional commitments from partners

Based on the proposed staffing and resources needs identified above, several key stakeholders need to confirm their willingness to support EOTEC DevNet after the pilot stage ends in March 2023.

- Partners supporting regional coordinators for the period of 1-2 years
 - Americas - potential partners include Mexican Space Agency, NOAA, NASA
 - Africa - potential partners include SANSa, NASDRA or EgSA
 - Europe - potential partners include EO College, ESA, DLR, ASI
 - Asia-Oceania - potential partners include ISRO, JAXA, Australian Space Agency
- Partners supporting global coordinator position, ideally for 2 years
 - NASA (TBC)
 - ESA (TBC)
 - Other network partner (TBC)

- Current network partners

Exchanging funds between agencies would likely be too complicated logistically, but partners can be expected to provide tangible contributions towards program goals and deliverables. Each network representative is asked to consult with their organization and secure support, leveraging existing mechanisms within each network to find ways to support the proposed staffing structure and/or contribute to the program in other ways. Some examples of such contributions are provided below for illustrative purposes only as actual commitments need to be considered and proposed by the partners themselves.

 - CEOS
 - SEO support for EOTEC DevNet products
 - NASA to extend support to Secretariat through March 2024
 - UNOOSA
 - Providing SME support for DRR-related products
 - Host annual meeting, possibly fund participation from developing countries
 - Support an EOTEC DevNet intern
 - WMO ETR
 - WMO Global Campus Resource contributions (TBC)
 - GEO
 - Collaborate on network mapping
 - Cooperation on Knowledge Hub and engagement with regional GEOs
 - Offer to jointly look for funding to support joint capacity building efforts
 - WMO Space Programme
 - Seeking a specific project with demonstrable impact to work on jointly and contribute resources to
 - Possibility of funding participants from developing countries (Vlab members) to attend meetings
- Other possibilities
 - Applying for joint grants with partner organizations, i.e. EO4GEO
 - Expanding initial group of partners to include other groups that have capacity to contribute

Next Steps

Following consultations with their respective networks, EOTEC DevNet Global Task Team members would identify ways for partner networks to make specific contributions (monetary or in-kind) towards achieving one or multiple of the program's goals and related deliverables.

Additional outreach will be conducted to CoP members (starting with better resourced space agencies) in each of the four regions to support the part-time positions of regional CoP coordinators.

Further analysis on who is funding different capacity building initiatives will be helpful in understanding the funding landscape, ensuring that network partners do not approach the same funders with similar requests, and ideally, coordinating joint appeals.