

Draft proposal for a Regional Unit/Center for Integrated Risk and Security Management for South East Europe (RURSE) – possible target European-Mediterranean Network

Joint Regional MS Capacity Building Program under GMES, GALILEO and the Danube Strategy



Draft proposal for a Regional Unit/Center for Integrated Risk and Security Management for South East Europe (RURSE)-European-Mediterranean Network



Joint Regional MS Capacity Building Program under the European Program GMES, GALILEO and the Danube Strategy



Rationale:

- **RURSE is proposed as the first - pilot bottom-up regional coordination structure as an element of a possible future European - Mediterranean network for integrated risk and security management; it support the balanced centralized & decentralized management of EO-GMES; it is based on harmonized and coordinated MS operational capacity; it is open towards reasonable integration with EU program GALILEO, the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and the Danube Strategy;**
- **The initiative was proposed in Bulgaria, during the EU12 operational capacity workshops in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2010 and 2012, organized by the Bulgarian government and joint consortium of research& educational, NGO's and business structures with the support of the European Commission – Directorate General “Enterprise and Industry”;**
- **The concept is under discussion and elaboration from a joint expert team, including experts from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, recently Greece; in cooperation with EC (DG Enterprise and Industry – GMES Bureau and the DG JRC-Institute for Protection and Security of Citizen). Participation from other EU MS, accession countries, as well as from ESA and EEA is welcomed;**

23.10.2011;



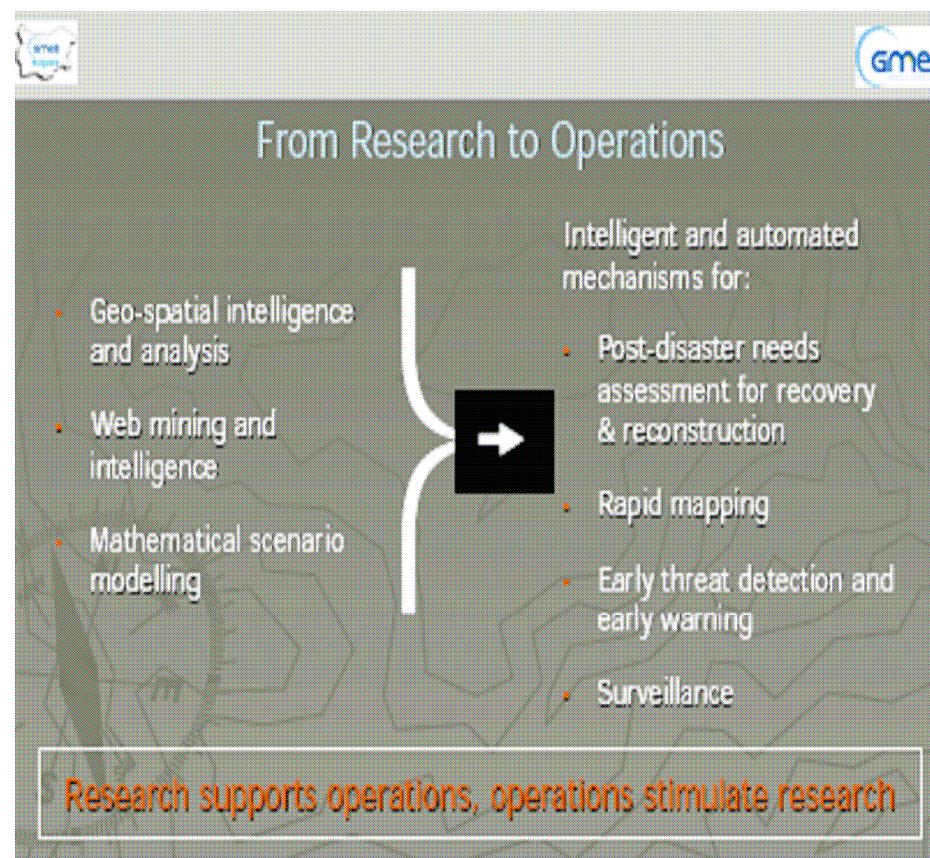
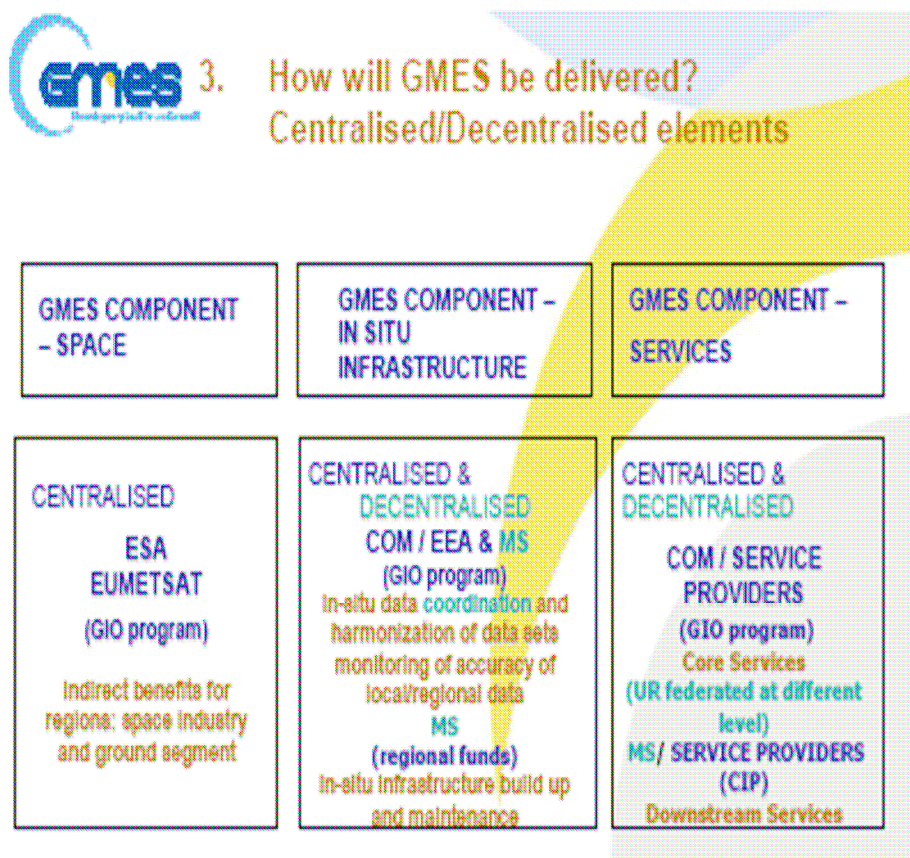
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Concept (based on EC representatives presentations (Mrs. Christine Berg – Head of GMES Office and Mr. Stephan Lechner- Director of JRC-IPSC) on the II GMES Operational capacity workshop , 17-18, March. 2011, Sofia)



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RURSE Priorities (agreed on the 4th of April, 2011, expert meeting in JRC-IPSC, Ispra, Italy):

- Natural (floods, forest fires, land slides& earthquakes) and anthropogenic disasters and crisis;
- Maritime surveillance – sea water pollution, ship tracking, illegal immigration;
- Strengthening in-situ infrastructure and real time data acquisition from space and in-situ components – possible integration with a capacity building program (ISECAD) under the Danube Strategy; Target – Ground satellite station – Bulgaria , as up-down link (GMES+GALILEO);
- Land cover&land use permanent monitoring – stressing on in-situ critical infrastructure and assets status; Real time data acquisition/ quality& Improving Data access and integration;

Two additional possible targets:

- SEE Regional strategy for sustainable territorial development and risk prevention; (BG and RO have started similar joint cross border project)
- Reference / Data Accuracy / Earth Monitoring Information System,

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- **Governance** (just an idea, proposal to be discussed and approved)
- **RURSE is proposed as a pilot element of an EU Regional coordination mechanism (decentralized management) for operational/services capacity on horizontal level** for a geographical region (SEE). **RURSE** unites states, not NUTS. **MS must develop their national operational capacity/services** and to provide their coordination, harmonization and transfer of information through a **single national structure, represented in RURSE** (note: in Bulgaria was discussed the idea of a directorate/commission to the Administration of the Council of Ministers (ACM), as the tasks are not limited in the area of capacity of one ministry).
- **RURSE must foster building and integration of the operational capacity, the user-based real-time data interpretation and value-added services** in the interest of the participating MS, European structures and the realization of EU 2020 strategy.
- **General coordination will be made with relevant EC services such as DG ENTR and DG REGIO** (potentially also DG ECHO and DG ENV). **RURSE is proposed to be managed by a Steering Committee**, uniting representatives from MS from SEE region and EU12. The coordination office is proposed to be placed in Sofia, Bulgaria. The presidency of the Steering Committee will be on an yearly rotary principle.
- **Funding has to be provided on European, Regional and National level.** There are possibilities of support from the Cohesion / Structural funds (example – the Danube Strategy mechanism); This task has to be developed jointly by all participants.
- **It is proposed that JRC provides research, methodological and technological support and coordination.** JRC is expected to cooperate with MS at non-operational matters to maintain the research and monitoring competence. Training of specialists and support to control mechanisms (example - DQA)

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Additional basic ideas:

- Strengthening national operational capacity; harmonized data&services capacity between the participating states, based on user driven approach;
- Space and In-situ data integration – possible use of Ground satellite station (up-down link - existing infrastructure in Bulgaria, Sofia) for 24-hours access to near-real time actual&archive space data and harmonization between space and in-situ born data;
- Close to real time data interpretation, simulation, modeling and forecast/early warning prognosis;
- EC(DG ENTR)- coordination with GMES Services, JRC-IPSC – research & methodological & technical support;
- ESA and EEA will be invited to get involved in the management and work plan process.
- Other European countries with best practice and know-how in the priority areas can be invited as associated members to RURSE.
- Possible partnership with other countries from the region; Support to the accession countries - strengthening operational capacity;

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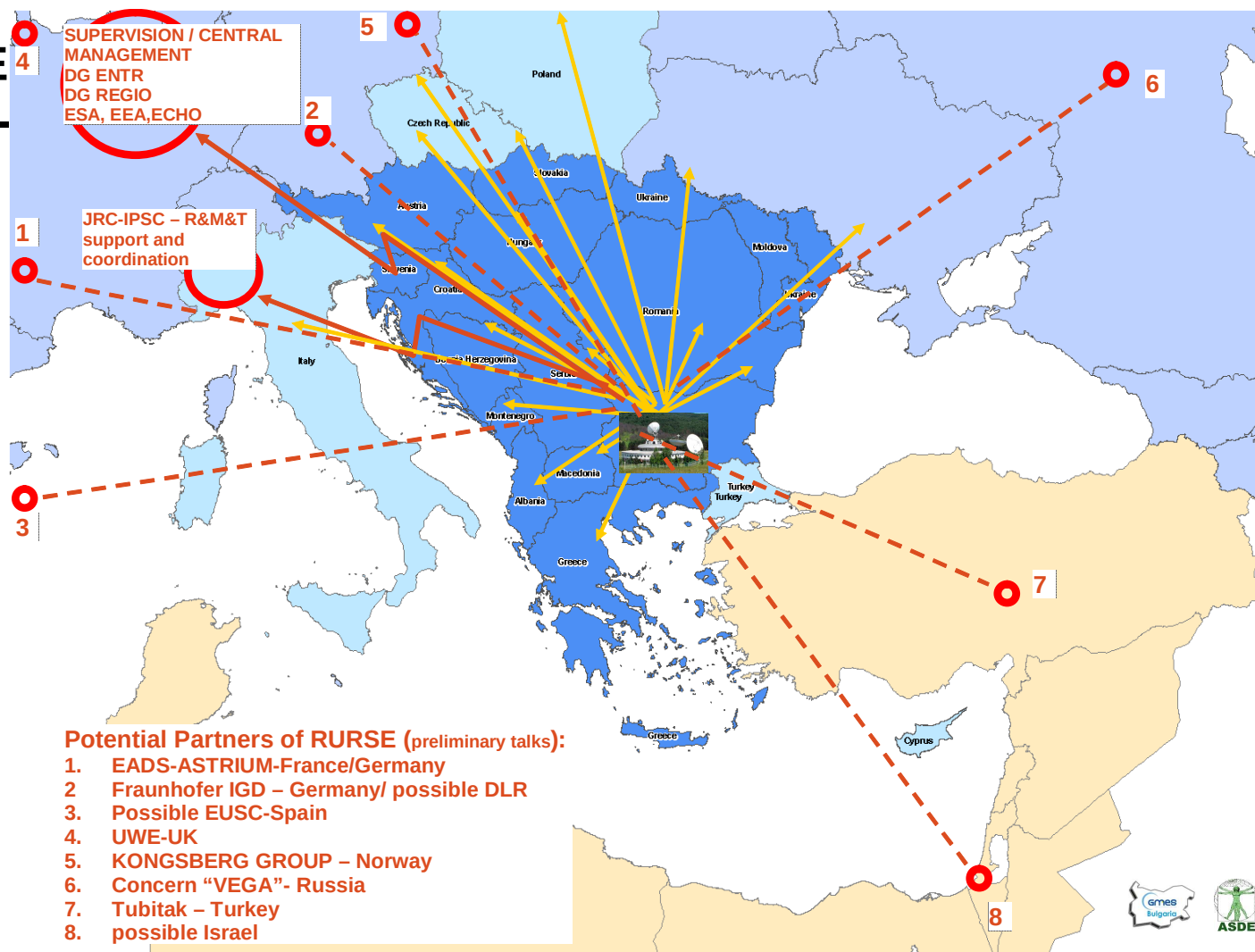


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SCHEME – RURSE Regional Space/In- situ data infrastructure capacity



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RURSE - Scheme and first steps

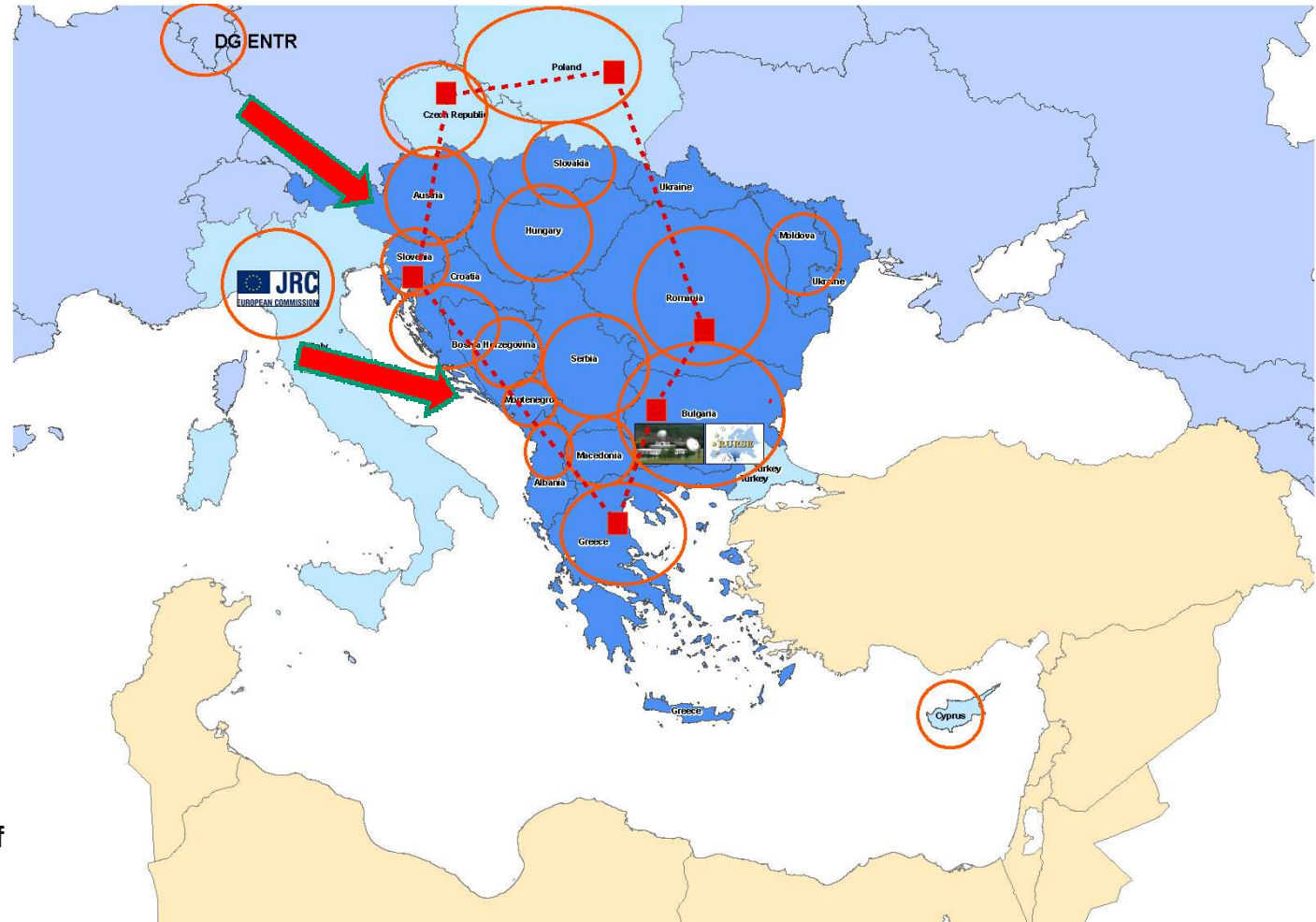


First steps :

1.Registration of the Initiative Task force group – BG, CZ, PL, RO, SL, recently Greece; in coordination with DG ENTR-GMES Bureau and JRC-IPSC;

2.Letters to EC; MoU between the MS, supporting RURSE; MoU open for other MS and AC from the region;

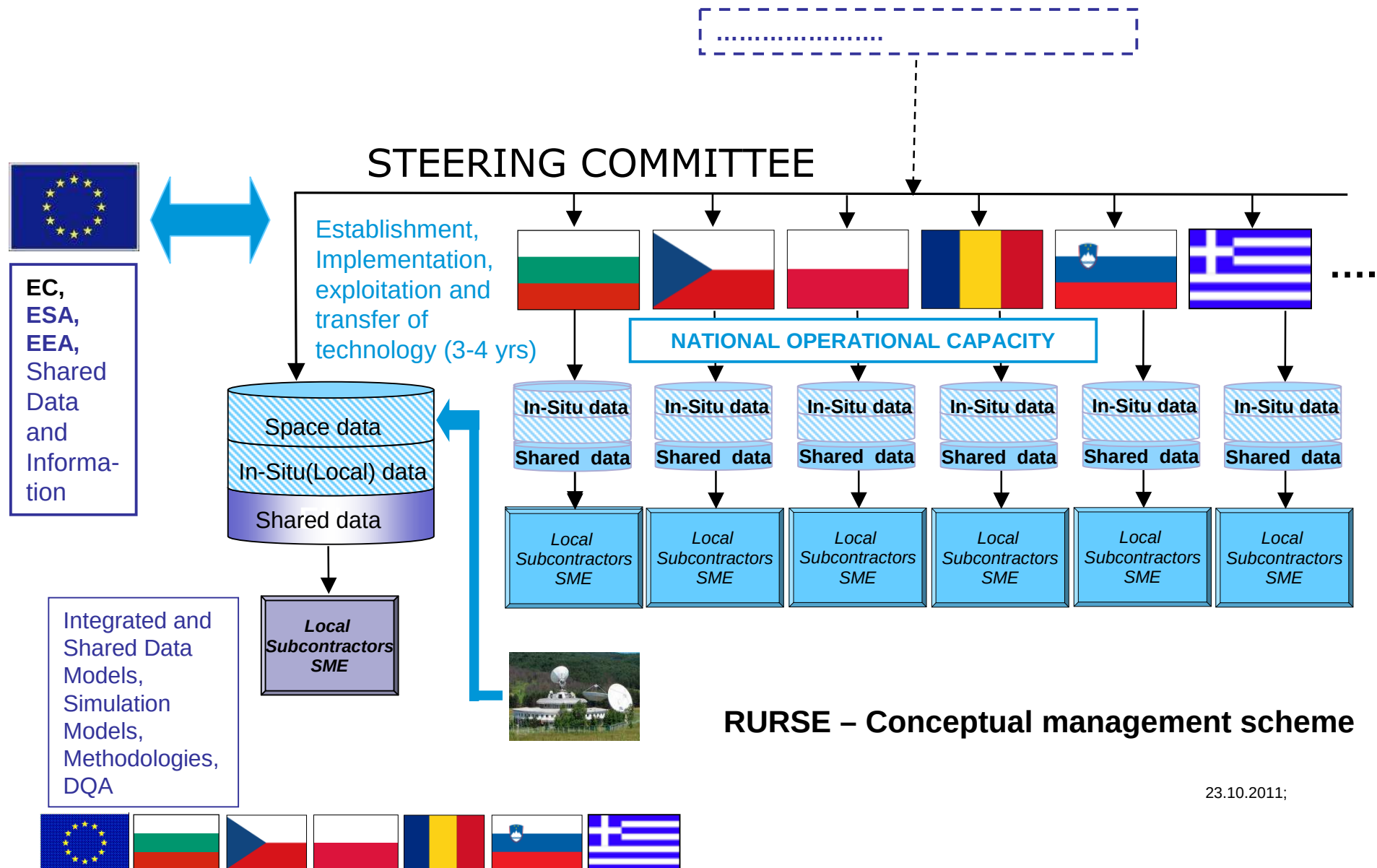
3. Negotiation process- till end of 2012; Bulgarian government has approved (resolution 826 from the 16.11.2011) the start of the negotiation process with the EC and MS's;



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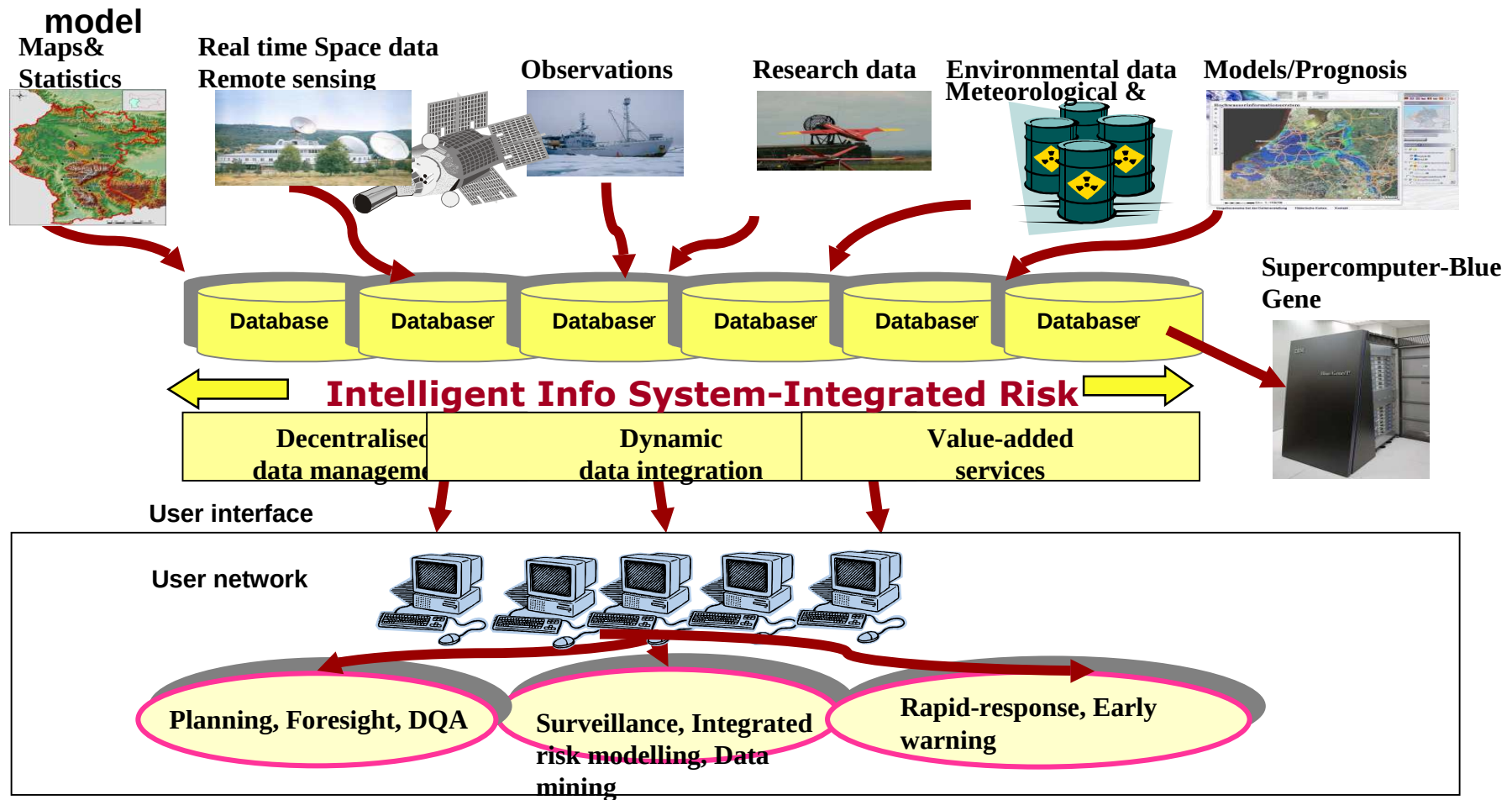
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RURSE - Technology



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RURSE- POSSIBILITY for REGIONAL SPACE INFRASTRUCTURE and INTEGRATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS ; RURSE can provide strong support to core/downstream services in GMES, GALILEO- GNSS, DANUBE STRATEGY - through the integration of an existing satellite ground station and developed operational capacity for East Europe, including East Mediterranean area

