Concept Note

I. Introduction

GMES & Africa is a 30 Million Euro Earth Observation (EO) programme co-funded by the European Commission through the funded Pan African Envelope and the African Union Commission. GMES and Africa will be implemented through Grants open to EO-based institutions in Africa. Towards this end, the AUC launched a Call for Proposals, in May 2017 for the implementation of the GMES & Africa Support Programme. Following the close of the Call and the selection of institutions, the African Union Commission plans to organize an Award Ceremony for the winning institutions on the 25 November 2017 during the AU-EU Summit in Abidjan, Cote d’ivoire. The event will also coincide with the unveiling of the GMES and Africa official logo, which was developed through an open Call for entries from young people across the African continent. In the same vein, the African Union Commission will organize a capacity building program for the winning consortia from the 26 to 29 November 2017.

II. Rationale

1. The Grant Award Ceremony and unveiling of the GMES and Africa Logo

The bulk of the implementation work will be done by consortia of regional institutions led by the RICs that will apply for the grants. Each of the five regions of the continent will have at least two RICs to coordinate technical execution of the Action. Since it is a competitive process, the winner consortia will be officially recognized and awarded by AUC and EC senior managers. It is also an opportunity for AUC and EC to unveil the GMES & Africa.

2. Capacity building

The GMES and Africa Grants will be managed in accordance with the AUC principles, methods and standards of grants management,. The AUC grants management system outlines the responsibilities and obligations of the contracting authority, the applicants and their partners. It is therefore necessary to take advantage of the AU-EU convergence to organize a capacity building program for the winning consortia of the GMES and Africa Grants, to enable them execute the above responsibilities.

III. Objectives

1. The Award and unveiling of the Logo ceremony

The ceremony is conceived to attain the following objectives:
• Underline the transparency characterizing the entire process in officially marking the effective conclusion of the Call process, and the beginning of the Grants implementation as well as revealing the GMES & Africa official Logo
• Recognize the efforts of applicants institutions
• Provide visibility and strengthen the GMES and Africa brand

2. Capacity building

The capacity building program seeks to achieve the following key objectives:

• Enable the winning consortia discharge their contractual obligations effectively and efficiently.
• Alleviate potential drawbacks in the implementation of the Grants that could arise as a result of limited understanding of the grants management system on the part of consortia
• Set the work of the RICs on a sound and solid administrative footing

IV. Expected Outcomes

1. The Award and unveiling of the Logo ceremony

It is expected to yield the outcomes outlined below:

• An official list of winning institutions of the GMES and Africa Grants
• Extensive media coverage of the ceremony
• A well-publicized logo to serve as the brand icon and identity for GMES, and Africa and be used in all official correspondence and branding

2. Capacity building programme

The program is intended to generate the following outcomes:

• A productive platform for exchange of ideas on the AUC grant management system
• Well-equipped institutional representatives informed about the scope and breadth of AUC grants management rules and procedures
• RICs empowered to competently carry out their contractual responsibilities and obligations

V. Modalities of:

1. The Award and unveiling of the logo ceremony

The Ceremony will take the form of a public event to be characterized by:

• Opening remarks by AUC and EU officials
• Complimentary remarks of mutual appreciation and commitment from the winning institutions
• Live streaming of the unveiling of the GMES and Africa Logo
• Dissemination of event information, logo and other brand products to participants.

2. The Capacity Building Program
It will be structured as follows:

a. Instructive presentations on the AUC grant management system, rules and procedures by AUC officials
b. Discussions, brainstorming and exchange of ideas
c. Sharing of training materials, guides, documents and program information and outcomes to participants and media

VI. Participants

The following are expected to participate in the event:

1. AUC and EC officials, and GMES and Africa Technical Assistance Team
2. Winning Consortia and other participants in the GMES and Africa
3. African Union Member States and Regional Economic and development Communities
4. Private Sector, and service providers, scientists and academic institutions
5. Journalists and media, non governmental organizations and civil society