

Communicating Earth Observation (EO)-based landslide mapping capabilities to practitioners

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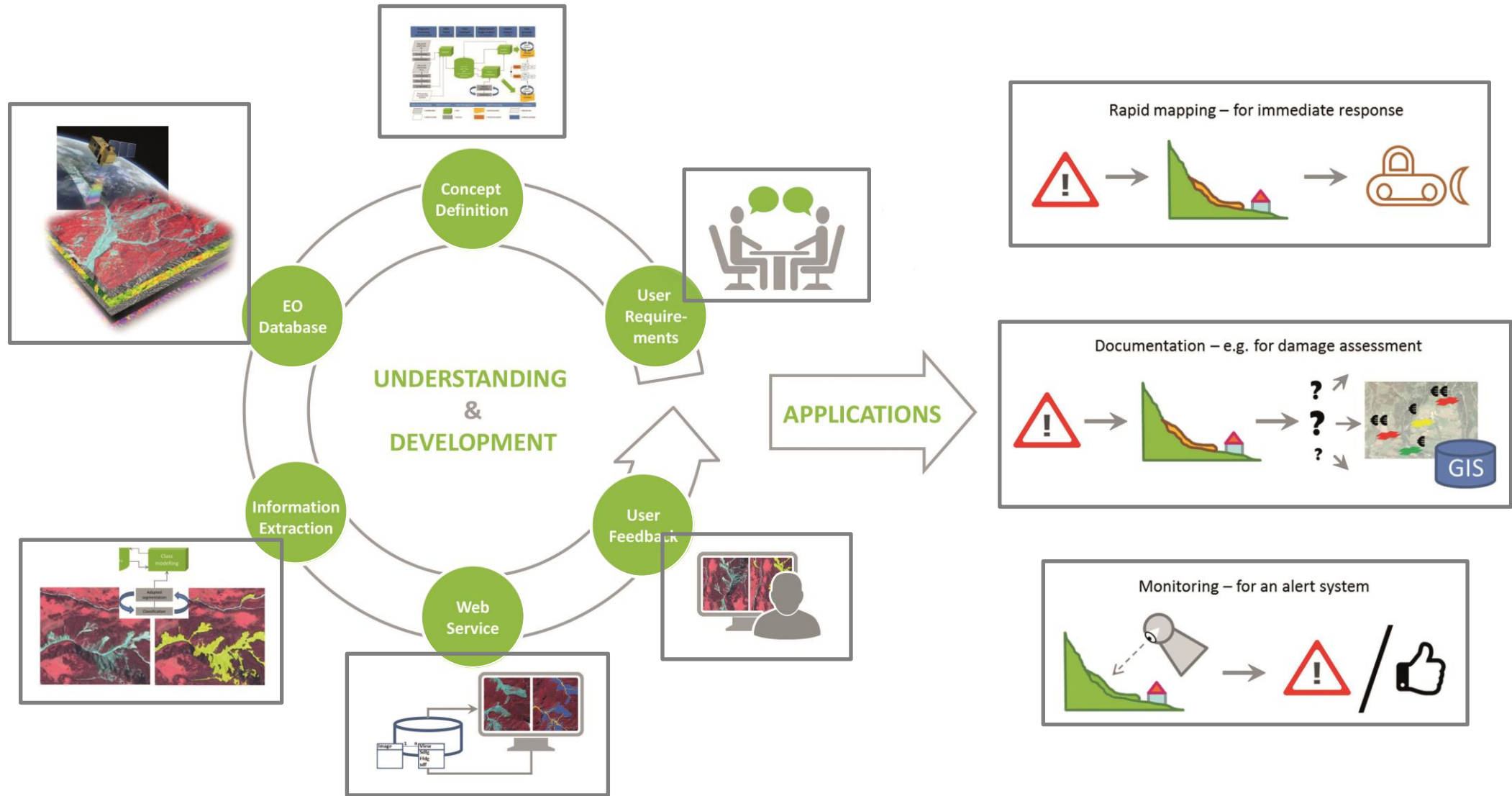
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EO-BASED LANDSLIDE MAPPING

From methodological developments to
automated web-based information delivery



Project Team:

Interfaculty Department of
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of Salzburg, Austria

GRID-IT – Gesellschaft für
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Austria

Geologische Bundesanstalt (GBA),
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Project Duration:

March 2015 – August 2017

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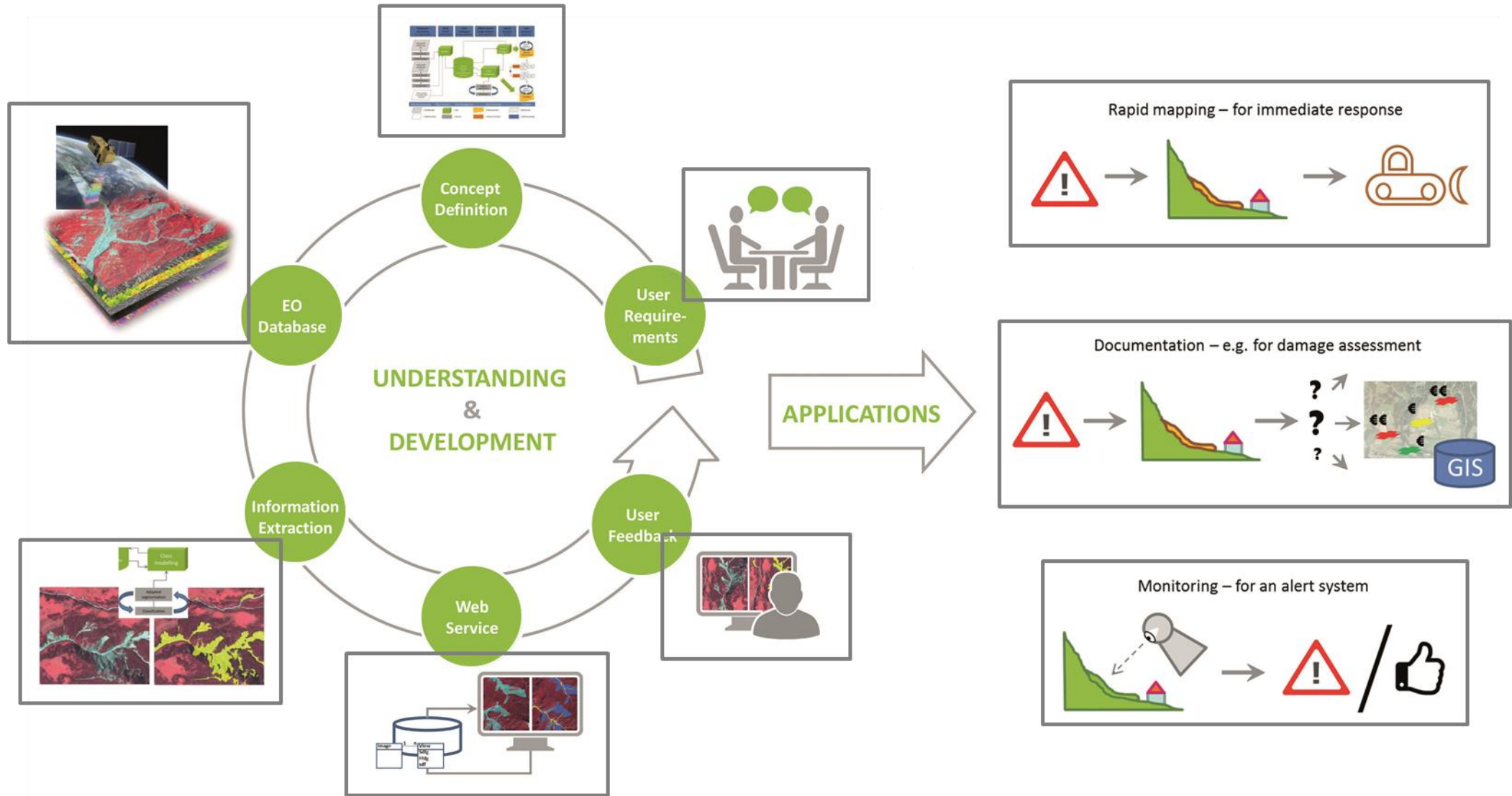
Website: <http://landslide.sbg.ac.at>



Funding:

Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
Austrian Space Applications Programme (ASAP)





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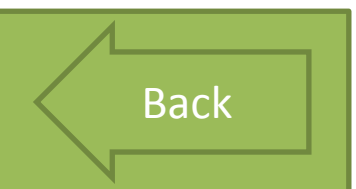
Communicating Earth Observation (EO)-based landslide mapping capabilities to practitioners

Florian Albrecht (1), Daniel Hölbling (1), Clemens Eisank (2), Elisabeth Weinke (1), Filippo Vecchiotti (3), and Arben Kociu (3)

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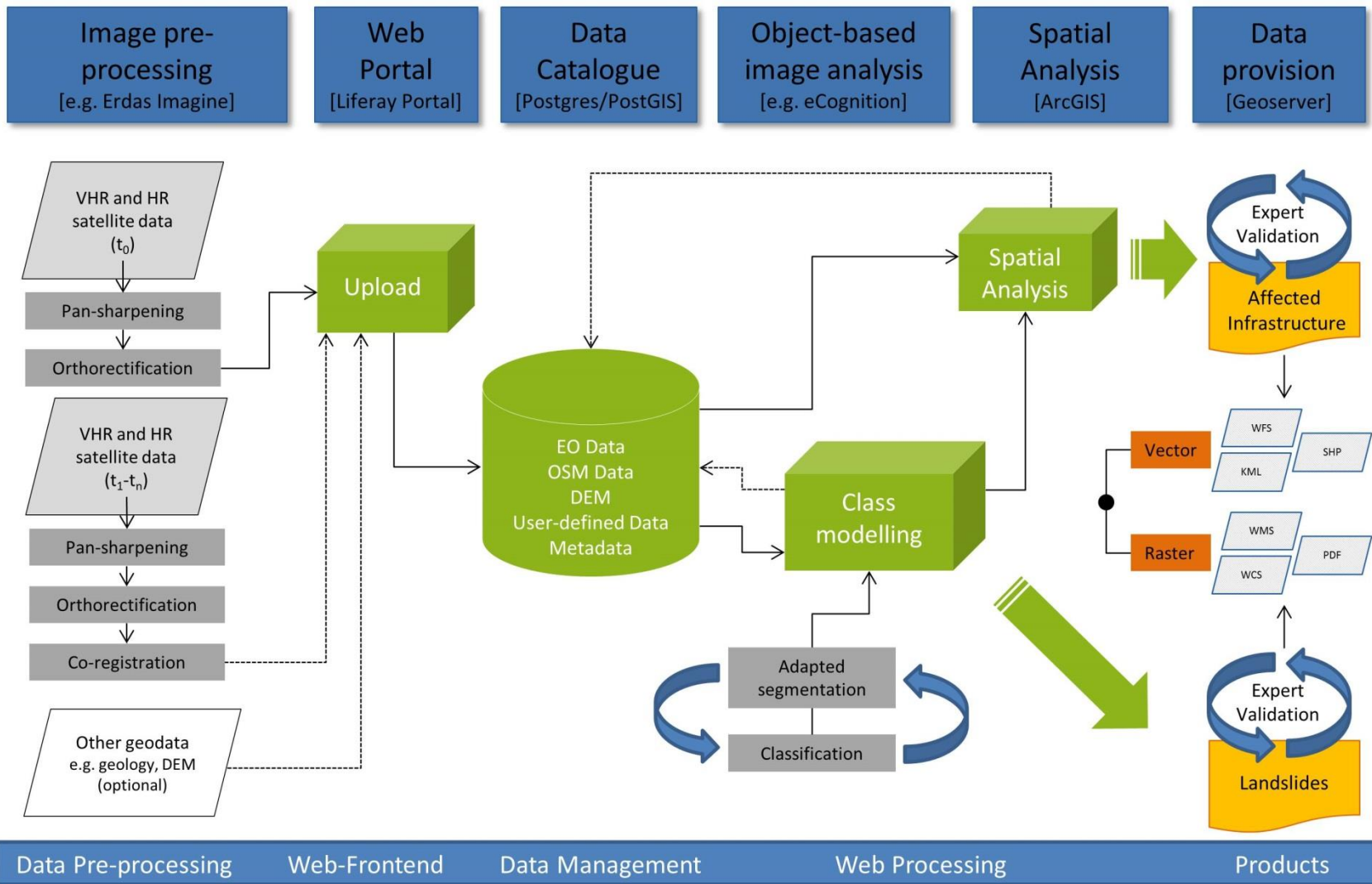
Current remote sensing methods and the available Earth Observation (EO) data for landslide mapping already can support practitioners in their processes for gathering and for using landslide information. Information derived from EO data can support emergency services and authorities in rapid mapping after landslide-triggering events, in landslide monitoring and can serve as a relevant basis for hazard and risk mapping. These applications also concern owners, maintainers and insurers of infrastructure. Most often practitioners have a rough overview of the potential and limits of EO-based methods for landslide mapping. However, semi-automated image analysis techniques are still rarely used in practice. This limits the opportunity for user feedback, which would contribute to improve the methods for delivering fully adequate results in terms of accuracy, applicability and reliability. Moreover, practitioners miss information on the best way of integrating the methods in their daily processes. Practitioners require easy-to-grasp interfaces for testing new methods, which in turn would provide researchers with valuable user feedback.

We introduce ongoing work towards an innovative web service which will allow for fast and efficient provision of EO-based landslide information products and that supports online processing. We investigate the applicability of various very high resolution (VHR), e.g. WorldView-2/3, Pleiades, and high resolution (HR), e.g. Landsat, Sentinel-2, optical EO data for semi-automated mapping based on object-based image analysis (OBIA). The methods, i.e. knowledge-based and statistical OBIA routines, are evaluated regarding their suitability for inclusion in a web service that is easy to use with the least amount of necessary training. The pre-operational web service will be implemented for selected study areas in the Alps (Austria, Italy), where weather-induced landslides have happened in the past. We will test the service on its usability together with potential users from the Geological Survey of Austria (GBA), various geological services of provinces of Austria, Germany and Italy, the Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control (WLV), the Austrian Federal Forestry Office (ÖBf), the Austrian Mountaineering Club (ÖAV) and infrastructure owners like the Austrian Road Maintenance Agency (ASFINAG). The results will show how EO-based landslide information products can be made accessible to responsible authorities in an innovative and easy manner and how new analysis methods can be promoted among a broad audience. Thus, the communication and knowledge exchange between researchers, the public, stakeholders and practitioners can be improved.



Concept Definition

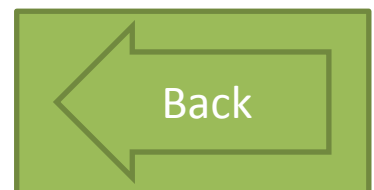
Preliminary architecture of an EO-based landslide information web service



The pre-operational service relies on a database of high resolution and very high resolution optical EO data from various sensors.

Semi-automated mapping routines that are adaptable to changing EO data and geographical settings enable the identification of landslides.

A web service gives access to EO data and integrates the mapping routines via a web processing chain. The user is able to map landslides and to identify landslide-affected infrastructure.



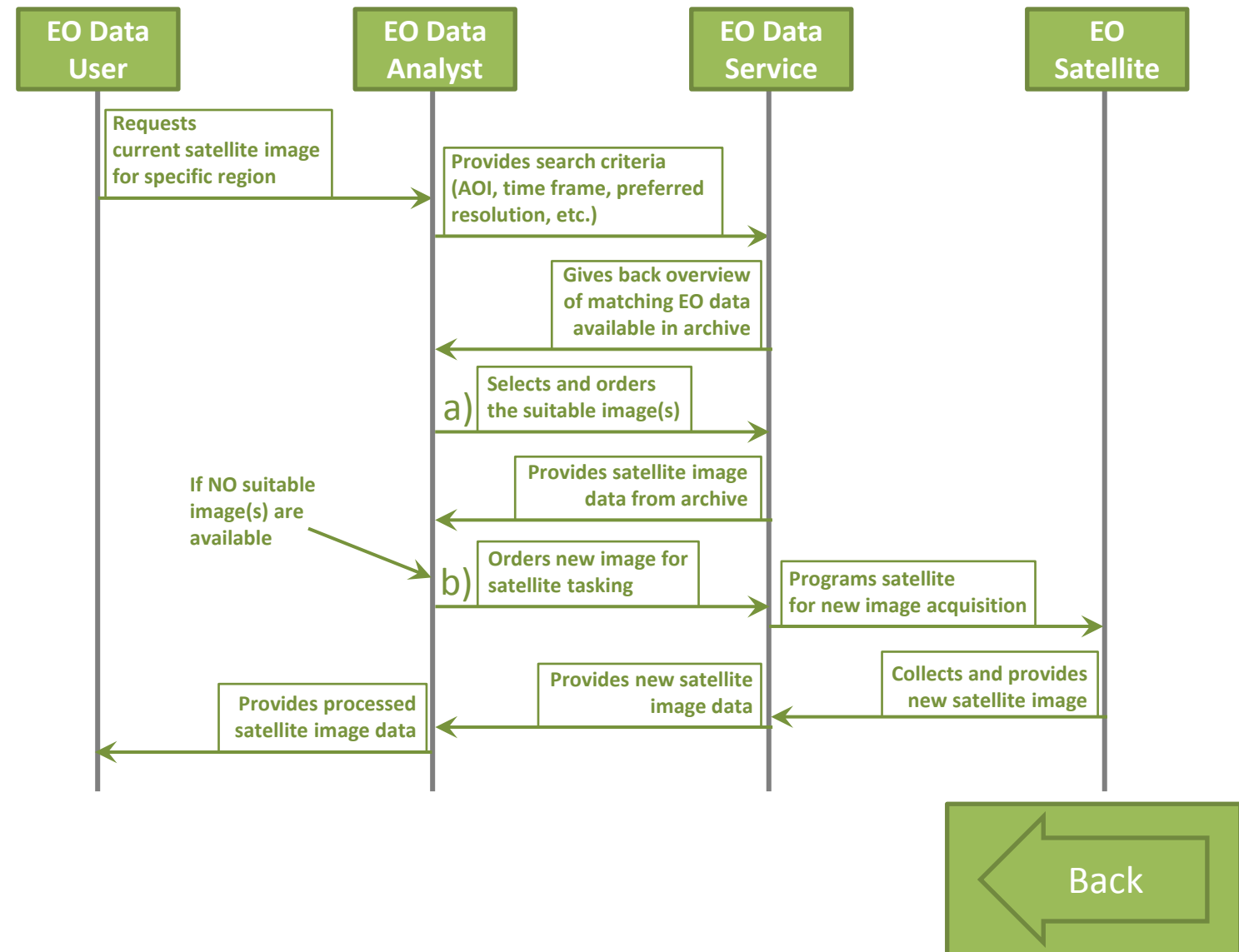
Satellites

- High Resolution
 - [Landsat](#)
 - [SPOT 4/5](#)
 - [Sentinel-2](#)
 - [RapidEye](#)
- Very High Resolution
 - [Quickbird](#)
 - [Worldview 2/3](#)
 - [GeoEye-1](#)

Other

- DEM data
- Etc.

Searching and tasking EO satellite data



Back



Quickbird-2

Location: Haunsberg, Salzburg, Austria

Date: 28.04.2002

Resolution: 0.6m (pan), 2.4 (ms)

Bands: blue, green, red, infrared

Availability: commercial

Operator: DigitalGlobe

Reseller: European Space
Imaging



Online Archive:

<http://iohs.euspaceimaging.com/smartsearch>



Switch to
Landsat-7

0 250 500 m

0 25 50 m

Back

GeoEye-1

Location: Montafon, Vorarlberg, Austria

Date: 05.08.2015

Resolution: 0.5m (pan), 2.0 (ms)

Bands: blue, green, red, infrared

Availability: commercial

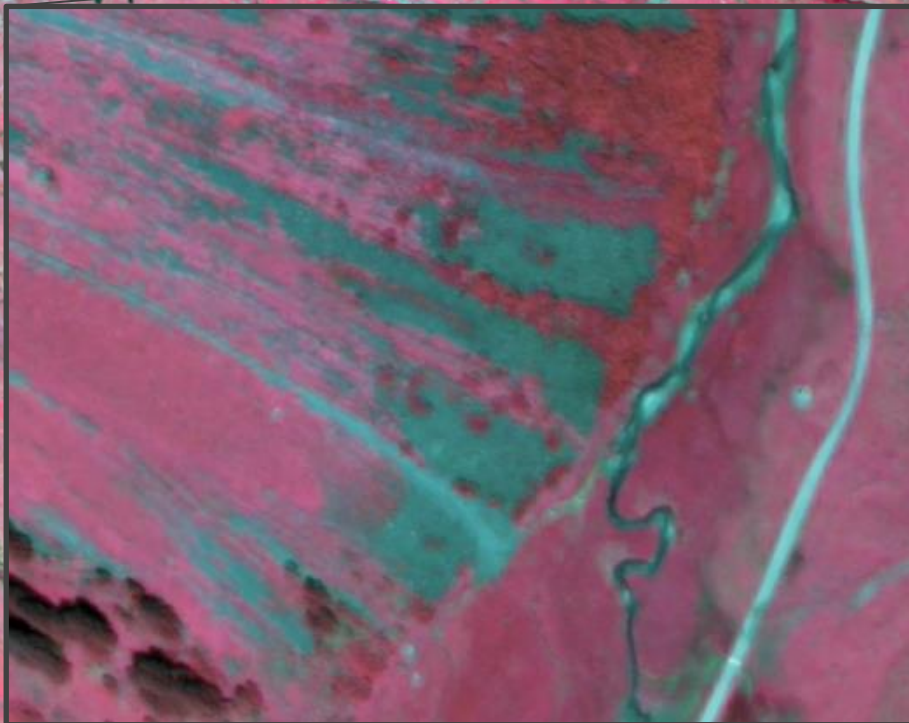
Operator: DigitalGlobe

Reseller: European Space
Imaging



Online Archive:

<http://iohs.euspaceimaging.com/smartsearch>



WorldView-2

Location: Montafon, Vorarlberg, Austria

Date: 29.08.2015

Resolution: 0.5m (pan), 2.0 (ms)

Bands: blue, green, red, infrared

Availability: commercial

Operator: DigitalGlobe

Reseller: European Space Imaging

Online Archive:

<http://iohs.euspaceimaging.com/smartsearch>

DigitalGlobe

EUROPEAN
SPACE
IMAGING



0 1 000 2 000 m

Landsat-7

Location: Haunsberg, Salzburg, Austria

Date: 28.07.2002

Resolution: 15m (pan), 30m (ms)

Bands: blue, green, red, infrared, swir1, swir2, tir

Availability: free download

Operator: NASA

Provider: United States Geological Survey

Online Archive:

<http://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>



Switch to
Quickbird-2

See also Quickbird-2



0

1.000

2.000 m

Back

Rapideye

Location: Taxenbach, Salzburg, Austria

Date: 06.08.2013

Resolution: 5.0m (ms)

Bands: blue, green, red, red-edge,
infrared

Availability: commercial

Operator: BlackBridge



BlackBridge
a Planet Labs Company

Online Archive:

<http://eyefind.rapideye.com/>



Switch to
SPOT

Switch to
Sentinel-2

0 1.000 2.000 m

0 200 400 m

Back

SPOT-5

Location: Taxenbach, Salzburg, Austria

Date: 10.09.2011

Resolution: 2.5m (pan), 10.0m (ms)

Bands: green, red, infrared, swir (20m)

Availability: commercial

Operator: Airbus Defense & Space

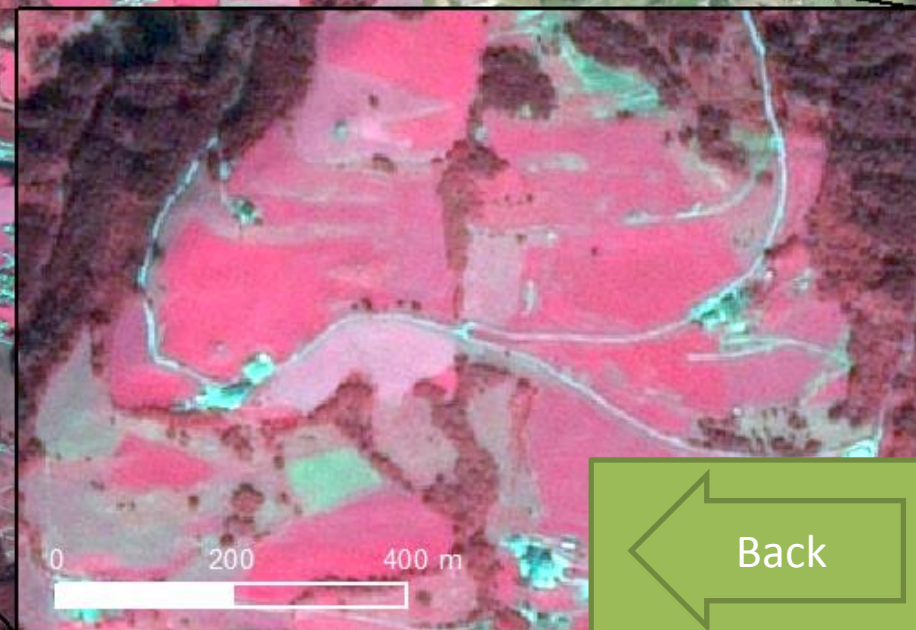
Online Archive:

<http://www.geo-airbusds.com/geostore/>



Switch to
RapidEye

Switch to
Sentinel-2



Back

0 1.000 2.000 m

Sentinel-2


Location: Taxenbach, Salzburg, Austria

Date: 18.08.2015

Resolution: 10.0m, 20.0m, 60.0m

Bands: 12 bands, multispectral

Availability: free download

Operator: European Space Agency 

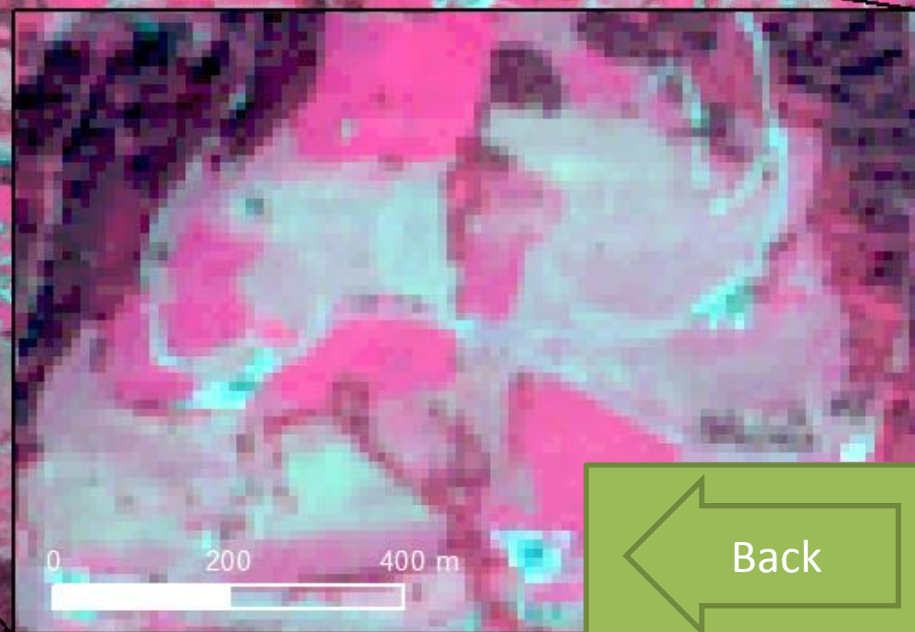
Online Archive:

<https://scihub.copernicus.eu/>



Switch to
RapidEye

Switch to
SPOT

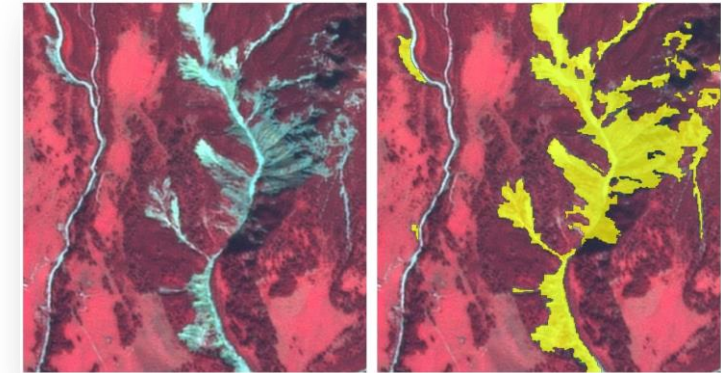
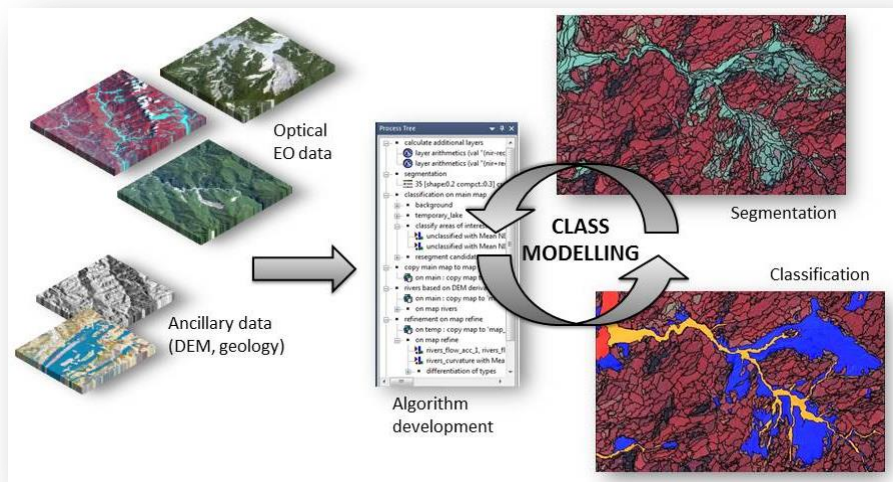


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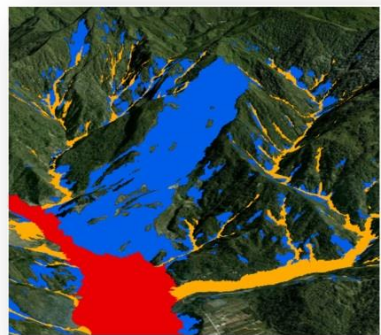
0 1.000 2.000 m

Information Extraction

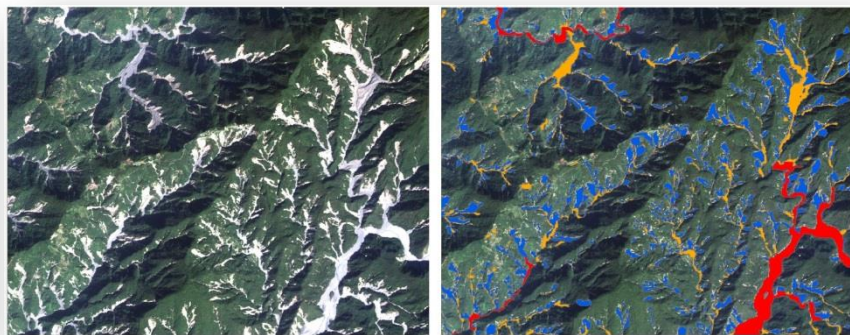
Getting from raw EO data to landslide information



SPOT-5, Austria



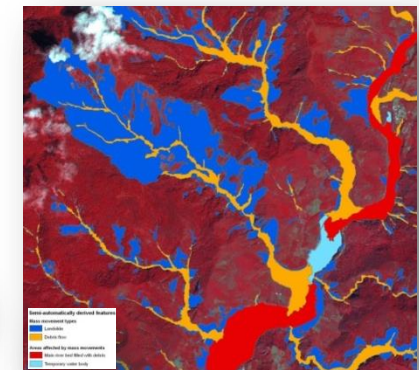
SPOT-5, 3D visualisation
in Google Earth



Formosat-2, Taiwan



WV-2, Taiwan



SPOT-5, Taiwan

Back

Semi-automated mapping routines that are adaptable to changing EO data and geographical settings enable the identification of landslides.





A web service gives access to EO data and integrates the mapping routines via a web processing chain. The user is able to map landslides and to identify landslide-affected infrastructure.

User Interface Layer

A collection of user stories is available that describes the interactions that the user wants to perform with the service, e.g. running a ruleset for landslide information extraction on a satellite image, or displaying extraction results in a map view.

Web Server Layer

The web server hosts the basic functionality of handling geodata, including EO satellite images, and extended functionality for the processing of geodata. Through the user interface layer, it receives the user input for performing processes. It reads and writes the specified data from the database layer.

Database Layer

The database stores all the required data, structured by a comprehensive data model. It includes (but is not limited to) EO data, other geodata, metadata, indices, classification rulesets, etc.



Performed user involvement

- Interviews for user requirements gathering
- Follow-on discussion on preliminary results

Planned further steps of user involvement

- Conduct tests for defined cases
- Perform tests with their own images/data
- Give feedback via an online validation form
- Participate in a validation workshop



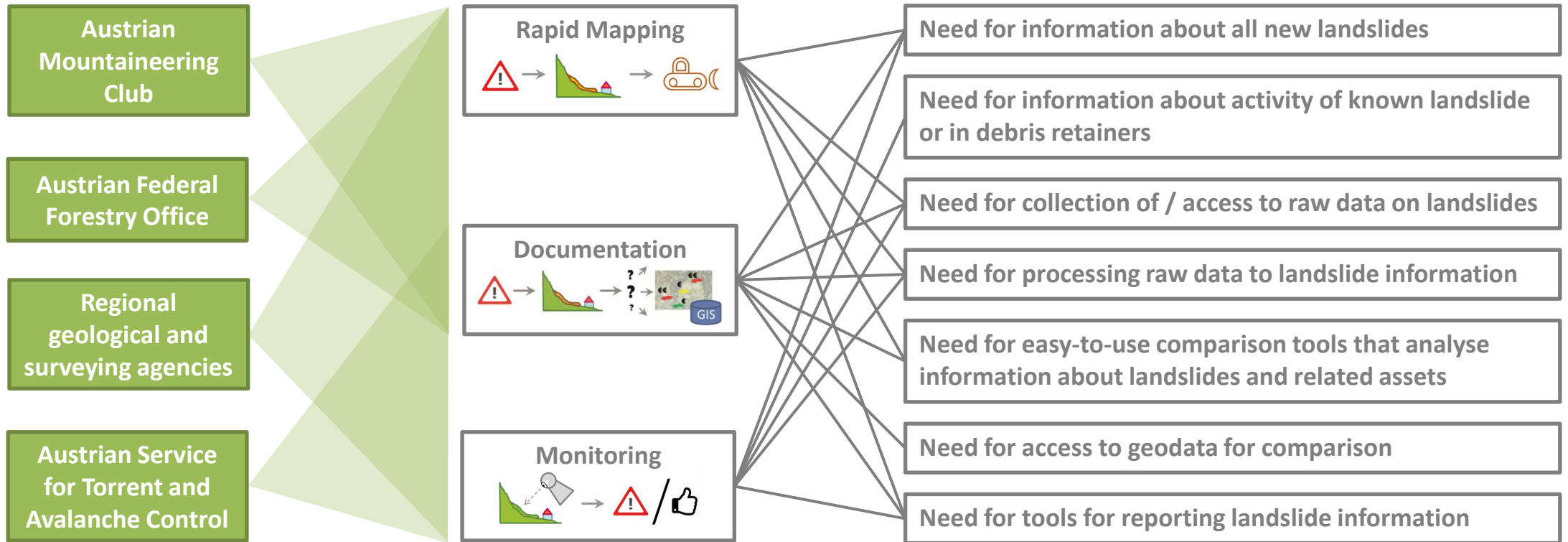
User Requirements

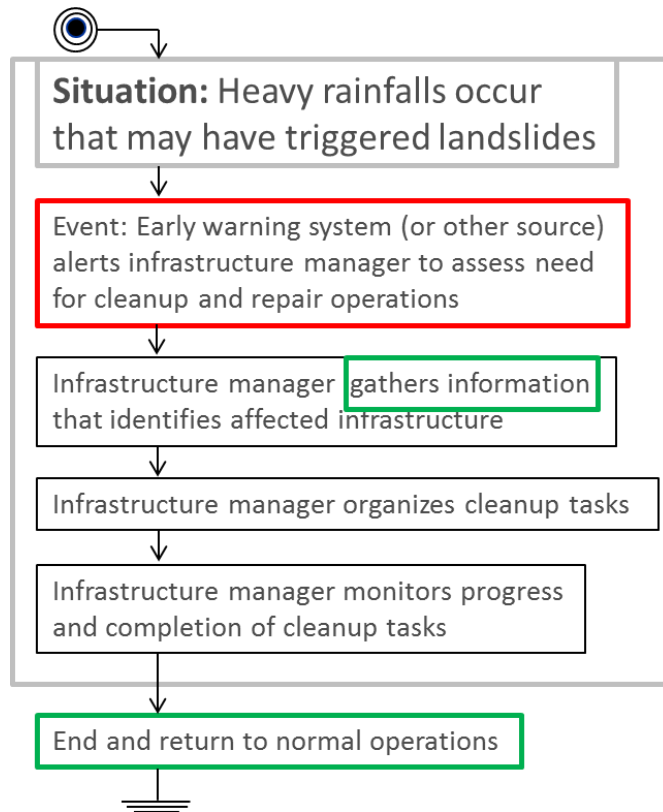
Identified needs of users within their scenarios

Users

Scenarios

Needs & Requirements





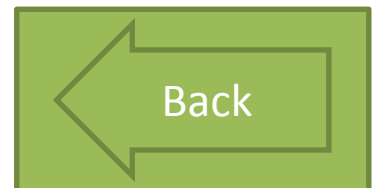
Specific User Scenarios	Users
Infrastructure damage assessment for planning/coordinating maintenance activities	ÖBF, Austrian Federal Forestry Office; ÖAV, Austrian Alpine Association Geol-Südtirol, Office for Geology and Building Materials Testing of South Tyrol, Italy
Planning emergency and recovery activities	VermVBG, Vorarlberg State Office for Surveying and Geoinformation, Austria Geol-SBG, Geological Agency of the State of Salzburg, Austria
Timely provision of post-event orthophotos	VermVBG; Geol-Südtirol

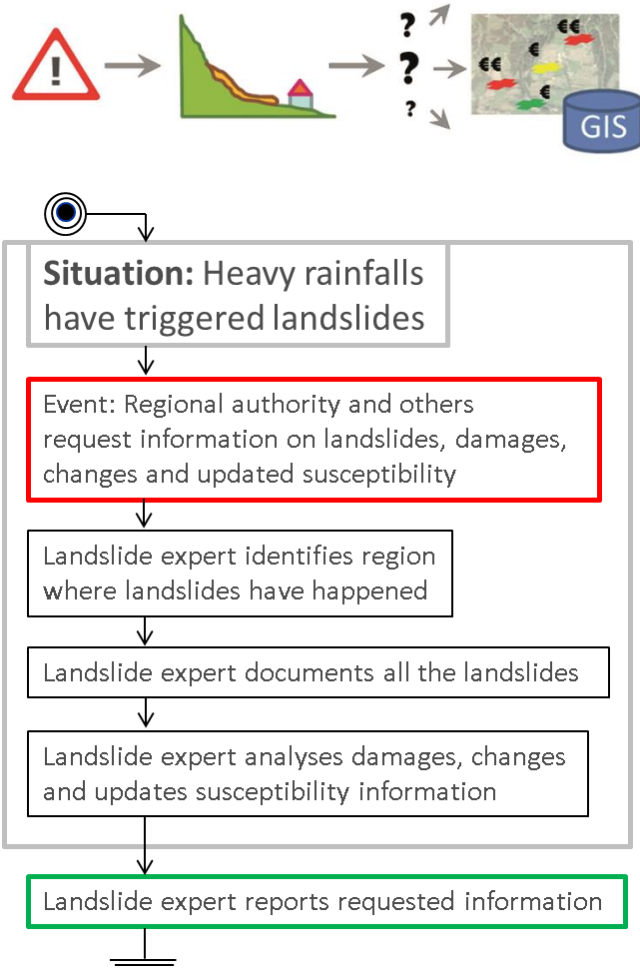
User's expectation to EO data:

- EO data may help in providing a more comprehensive overview for prioritizing cleanup activities

Selected user requirement – the issue of time

- EO data acquisition and landslide mapping as soon as possible after the event (best case: within 48 hours, if info is not available within 7 days, it has very limited added value; existing reporting workflows provide full information for organizing cleanup within 14 days)





Specific User Scenarios	Users
Management and planning of infrastructure that is (potentially) affected by landslides, and planning of protective measures	ÖBF, Austrian Federal Forestry Office; Geol-SBG, Geological Agency of the State of Salzburg, Austria, WLV-OÖ, WLV Upper Austria, Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control,
Management of planning objectives for landslide-affected forestry stands	ÖBF
Update of maps (hiking maps, geological maps)	ÖAV, Austrian Alpine Association Geol-Südtirol , Office for Geology and Building Materials Testing of South Tyrol, Italy
Publish official reports/documentation on major landslide events	VermVBG, Vorarlberg State Office for Surveying and Geoinformation, Austria; Geol-Südtirol; Geol-Bayern, Geological Survey of Bavaria, Bavarian Environment Agency, Germany
Generate/update and share a (standards-conform) regional landslide inventory	Geol-Südtirol, GBA, Geol-Bayern
Landslide susceptibility mapping and establishing an appropriate basis for it	Geol-SBG, WLV-OÖ, GBA

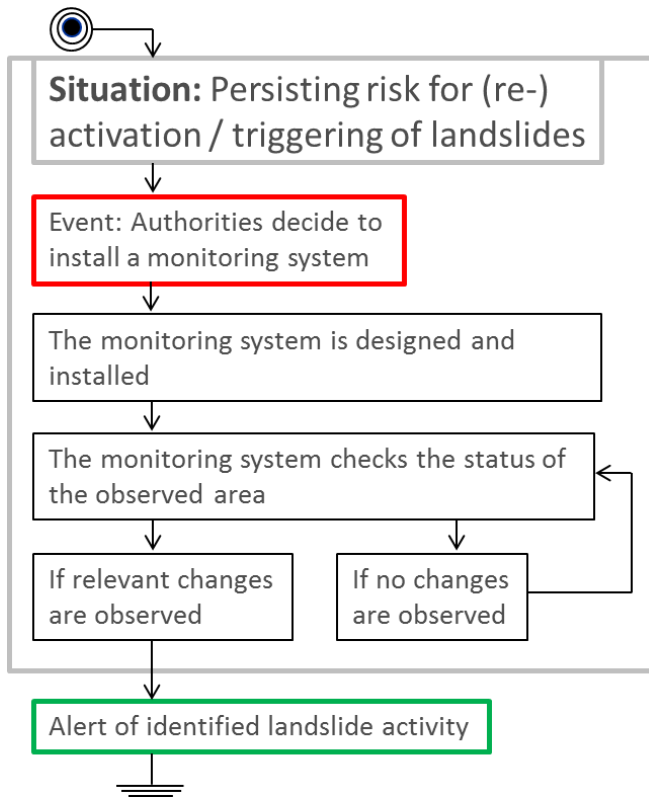
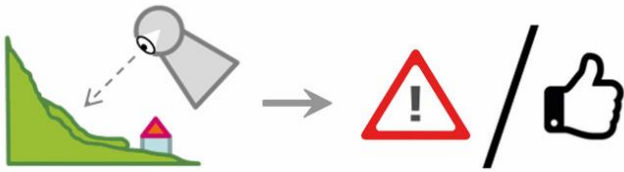
User's expectation to EO data:

- EO data can provide a comprehensive coverage of the mapped region and thereby may improve the completeness of landslide documentation

Selected user requirement – the issue of time

- EO data acquisition as soon as possible after the event (best case: landslides have not yet been cleaned away), landslide information product available within 6 months





Specific User Scenarios	Users
Monitoring the status of debris retainers	WLV-OÖ, WLV Upper Austria, Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control;
Monitoring of slow-moving landslides and reactivated landslides that endanger infrastructure/people	VermVBG, Vorarlberg State Office for Surveying and Geoinformation, Austria; WLV-OÖ; Geol-SBG, Geological Agency of the State of Salzburg, Austria

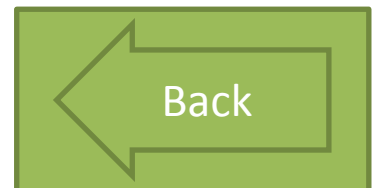
Opportunity
for
Sentinel-2

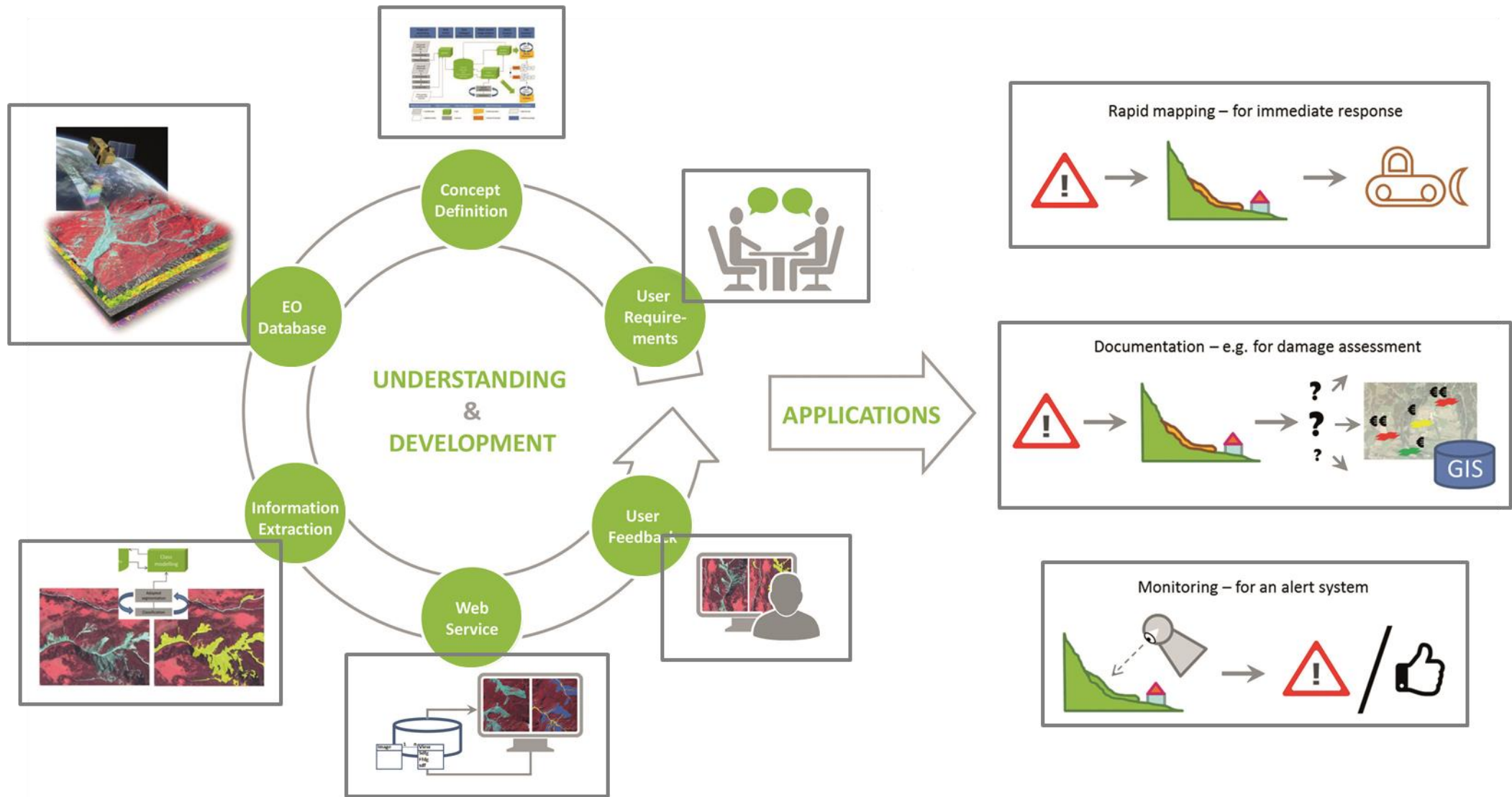
User's expectation to EO data:

- EO data may also be able to identify relevant changes that result in a need for an alert

Selected user requirement – the issue of time

- Identify changes that indicate reactivation of old landslides or indicate new landslides;
e.g. through regularly repeated EO data acquisition for the identification of changes in surface reflectance





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