

Earth Observation Training, Education, and Capacity Development Network
Communities of Practice
Regional Lead Guidance

The regional communities of practice (CoPs), the key drivers of EOTEC DevNet's work, will be managed by a regional task team steered by a lead or co-leads. The CoPs will also support regional thematic working groups focused on capacity building within specific themes, such as flooding and drought.

The regional leads are capacity development experts from the region who are passionate about connecting subject matter experts, training professionals, and data providers to identify resources and needs within the region.

The role of regional lead is a best-efforts position. The term length is dependent on the needs of the region and the resources available to the regional lead. Ideally, this term would be 2 years.

Responsibilities of the regional leads, to be accomplished with the regional task team, may include:

- Help launch and support thematic working groups, including identifying thematic working group leads and members and assisting them in developing a work plan. Sustain work of the thematic working groups via online engagement, collaboration, and ad hoc meetings.
- Garner active membership in the regional task team and help coordinate periodic meetings. These could take place quarterly or every two months, at the discretion of the lead(s).
- Contribute to EOTEC DevNet global work products. These work products currently include:
 - Theme-specific "trackers" on existing tools, associated capacity development and training resources, and gaps and needs
 - Guidance on capacity development needs assessment methodologies by theme
 - Use cases showcasing successful methodologies and approaches tool
- Communicate capacity development gaps at regional or national levels.
- Identify new topics for thematic working groups, as needed. As regional COPs strengthen and develop needs assessment capacity, they may continue to align with EOTEC DevNet global themes, select their own initiatives, and/or intersect with themes identified by other regions.
- Help coordinate twice-yearly regional meetings where thematic working groups within the region can report on progress, exchange information, plan future work, share needs assessments, and conduct deeper investigation into relevant thematic areas.
- Participate in annual EOTEC DevNet meetings at the global level, report on regional progress.

Ideal qualifications for a regional lead include:

- Knowledge of EO training, education, and capacity development within the region.
- Strong connections to other EO professionals, including subject matter experts, researchers, data providers, and educators in the region.
- Interest and passion for supporting and growing this pilot.
- Strong leadership and organizational skills in contributing to meeting planning, supporting efforts between meetings, and facilitating communication.
- Ideally, the regional leads will be affiliated with one of the networks in the EOTEC DevNet leadership team (WMO, VLab, CGMS, UNOOSA, GEO CD-WG, and CEOS WGCapD).

During the pilot phase (2021-2023), the EOTEC DevNet Secretariat will provide initial management support for the CoPs. This might include organizing meetings, identifying thematic working group leads, and supporting start-up of the communications infrastructure. As the regional CoPs grow and strengthen, regional leads and thematic working group leads can assume management.

Thank you for your commitment to EO capacity development and community exchange!

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Communities of Practice

Thematic Working Group Lead Guidance

The regional communities of practices (CoPs), the primary drivers of EOTEC DevNet's work, will be steered by regional leads and a task team and supported by thematic working groups. The thematic working groups identify and coordinate work within specific topics; currently: disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and climate mitigation. As the regional CoPs strengthen and develop experience, they may continue to align with global EOTEC DevNet initiatives, identify their own themes, and/or intersect with work in other regions.

The role of thematic working group lead is a best-efforts position, and term length is dependent on the needs of the region and the resources available to the lead. Ideally, this would be at least 1 year.

Responsibilities accepted by the thematic working group leads may include:

- Contribute to EOTEC DevNet global products, including its theme-specific trackers, guidance documents and use cases.
- Sustain work within their thematic working group with online engagement, collaboration, and ad hoc meetings.
- Coordinate communication and meeting cadence within thematic working groups.
- Organize a group report-out at twice-yearly regional meetings where thematic working groups within the region can share progress, plan future work, discuss needs assessments, and conduct deeper investigation into relevant thematic areas.
- Identify opportunities for thematic collaboration across regions.
- Collaborate with the regional task team and leads in fostering institutional partnerships at regional and country level to help sustain and strengthen the regional community of practice.

Ideal qualifications for thematic working group leads include:

- Knowledge of resources, data, tools, and training resources in particular subject matter areas.
- Strong connections to other subject matter experts, researchers, and data providers within the thematic area.
- Interest and passion in supporting and growing this pilot; able to support collaboration between meetings, gather and respond to needs in the thematic area, and develop useful products and partnerships in the thematic area.

We are currently seeking thematic working group leads in the following regions/topics:

Africa, Americas, Asia/Oceania, and Europe:

- *Floods*
- *Drought*

During the pilot phase, the EOTEC DevNet Secretariat will provide initial management support for the CoPs, including the thematic working groups. This might include organizing meetings, identifying thematic working group leads, providing additional subject matter expertise, and supporting start-up of the communications infrastructure. The thematic working groups, as they grow and strengthen, can assume self-management. Ideally, this transition will occur before March 2023.

Thank you for your commitment to EO capacity development and community exchange!