

# ***OPTIMISING EUROPE'S BENEFITS FROM THE COPERNICUS PROGRAMME***

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# Context and Starting Point

- Earth Observation is moving to a new life-cycle phase:
  - All-round monitoring of the environment
  - Operational basis
  - Wide scope focus, also beyond environmental purposes
- **Copernicus** combines it all
  - Global Monitoring of Environment and Security (GMES)
  - Implemented by the EC and ESA
  - Integrated sets of environmental data and security information
  - Diverse stakeholders
- Status:
  - State-of-the-art system and steady progress
  - Yet: challenges and untapped opportunities remain

# ESPI Organised a Brainstorming Session

To reflect on:

- Issues that might merit further action, as recognised by the EO community

With a focus on:

- The programmatic and managerial aspects, not infrastructure or hardware

Aiming to come up with a proposal:

- On the premise that roles and responsibilities of the existing institutional actors involved are left unchanged

# Two Issues were Identified

## 1. Near Term:

- Copernicus will have many stakeholders and provide diverse sets of data and information
- How can the benefits be optimised?
- What has been fulfilled and what are the gaps?

## 2. Long Term:

- Copernicus will have a long term operational horizon (decades)
- How can it be assured that all relevant stakeholders join forces so as to optimise its long term performance and structure?
- Thus, how can stewardship be created?

# Maximising the Benefits

1. Data Policy: access, use and sharing of information and data on a full, free and open basis.

- Sensible decision, also to stimulate the development of downstream applications

2. Six Thematic Services:

- 4 operational, 2 under development / implementation.

Service	Status
Land Monitoring	Operational
Emergency Management	Operational
Atmosphere Monitoring	Operational
Marine Monitoring	Operational
Security	Under Development
Climate Change	Under Implementation

Issues:

- A high degree of decentralisation of operations.
- No holistic approaches towards data and information.
- The programme remains underexposed, even within the public sector.
- User uptake should grow more intensively, also beyond strict environmental purposes.

# Creating Stewardship of Copernicus

Two evolutions can be distinguished:

- The governance will become more centralised around the European Commission
  - But the specialised technical expertise is mostly with the entrusted entities.
  - The current set-up is not sufficiently capable of accommodating this trend.
- Copernicus will become a user-driven constellation
  - Users will formulate their requirements for data and services.
  - User Involvement mechanisms are now with the service and satellite operators (scattered)
  - Need for user involvement that is more transparent, open and integrated.

# Proposal: A Copernicus Task Force?

- Function of an institutional clearing house
- Lightweight structure, focus on programmatic aspects and operations
- Aggregate through centralisation mechanisms
- Generate critical mass in demand, exposure, expertise and authority
- Stakeholders should gather around the table (EC, ESA, EUMETSAT, EEA, EUSC, JRC)



**Thank you for listening**