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DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY: C-SPACE
PROJECT RESULTS

Abstract

The current paper aims to present the European research project C-Space (Conditions for Space Policy and related Action Plan Consolidation in Europe). C-SPACE is a European Commission funded project (FP7): it lasted 18 months (until September 2011); it was conducted by a European team of six partners and focused on the implementation and enhancement of the European Space Policy. The article will start by establishing the aim of the C-Space project in a context in which global challenges and endeavours, such as climate change or space exploration, will benefit highly from a strong European contribution through a structured space policy and effective international cooperation. The article will explain how the C-Space project has provided European Union decision makers, institutions and the public with a comprehensive vision of the European Space Policy (ESP), with the aim of supporting its elaboration and implementation, as well as facilitating its acceptance by European citizens. The article will also give details on the change drivers and trends in the space domain in Europe, identified by the C-Space project, while assessing the current orientations and potential future directions for the European Space Policy. Such analysis is performed in different sectors including European relevant policies, services, exploration and science, international cooperation, industrial and institutional challenges. It will also be highlighted what the project recognized as available resources and opportunities for the implementation of the European Space Policy, and what it has ascertained as the potential ways forward. The paper will focus on the outcomes of the C-Space project and will briefly present some of the major deliverables, such as the European Space Policy Reference Book, which was conceived as a reference manual for the different actors and stakeholders of the European Space Policy that tried to answer three important questions: Why is Europe interested in the space domain? What is the role of the EU in the space domain? How is space being used in Europe? Finally, it will conclude with the presentation of the high level concepts, highlighted by the research, for a successful European Space Policy development and implementation.