

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INVESTMENT SYMPOSIUM (E6)
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MAPPING THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION AND FINANCE SPACE COMMUNITY

Abstract

With capacities in place and the arrival of European flagship programmes Galileo and Kopernikus, there is a need for new applications or services using space assets to emerge to fully exploit this infrastructure. An example are mobile services rapidly growing with the advanced broadcasting of multimedia content (mobile TV etc.) and other navigation related services. However to generate sustainable services, users, suppliers and financiers have to be better connected. In the context of the 2009 economic turmoil, but also of the European year of creativity and innovation, the downstream segment of the space value chain can notably contribute by creating and maintaining future knowledge based jobs. Mechanisms of stimulation, support networks are in place but many “space” entrepreneurs recognize not knowing or using them. Though identifying the major innovation and finance stakeholders and their procedures to get advice or to raise funds is an advantage and could lead to successful partnerships and projects. Therefore, in the context of the INNOVA initiative the European Commission commissioned a mapping of the major actors and this paper presents an update of this work as this environment is constantly evolving. It concludes with a network graph or actor network of this community in the EU both from the public and private sectors, at the European level and down: support networks, support programmes and innovation service providers. The selected entries were surveyed and confirmed their approval for inclusion in this mapping, a tool for educating space entrepreneurs.