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A COMPREHENSIVE MAPPING OF THE EUROPEAN-AFRICAN COOPERATION USING
SATELLITES AND POLICY PERSPECTIVES

Abstract

Cooperation between Africa and Europe in space activities has been marked by cooperation in meteorology, the “GMES for Africa” and “TIGER” initiatives, as well as other international and national activities which have successfully been conducted during the past decades. Africa is in need of maintaining these long-lasting partnerships and finding new effective instruments supporting its efforts to achieve sustainable development. Two ways of improving this situation could be on the one hand, on the micro level, furthering cooperation and calibration between decision-makers, prospective and experienced users and service providers. On the other hand, on the macro level, consolidating a comprehensive strategy, coherent coordination and thorough consultation of European and African stakeholders.

The European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) and Eurisy have joined in order to ensure that a Euro-African partnership in satellite applications is established and contributes effectively to the sustainable development of Africa. This project aims to provide a forum involving the relevant stakeholders in Europe and Africa in order to ensure an optimised use of space applications for sustainable development in Africa. The first phase of this project shall therefore prepare policy objectives.

In order to achieve this it is necessary to identify various actors, initiatives, programmes and partnerships in the field of space in Africa. The results and impacts of this cooperation will be assessed with an outlook for cooperation areas and mechanisms to fulfil the potential such inter-regional cooperation could have.

This paper will provide a comprehensive mapping of the different actors and how they operate in Africa. It will identify policy issues and will provide suggestions for a European-African roadmap.