EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)
Earth Observation Applications and Economic Benefits (5)

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ASI EARTH OBSERVATION FOR EUROPE. A PROJECT FOR INVESTIGATING THE CONSISTENCY OF THE ITALIAN SPACE AGENCY EO RESOURCES WITH THE INSPIRE DIRECTIVE AND THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS FROM ADOPTING AN INSPIRE COMPLIANT DATA POLICY

Abstract

Earth Observation is a pillar of the Italian Space Agency strategy. ASI owns major EO assets and has developed a considerable resources portfolio, including raw and high level data, services and applications. Developers and end-users, either institutional or commercial, are mostly framed by the national perimeter or by government bilateral co-operation agreements. Data policies are not unique and respond to projects specific needs.

European stakeholders have made major investments in the on-going development of a European Infrastructure of Spatial Data, through the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive, and on the GMES Program. GMES is based on remote sensing data coming from multiple sources. INSPIRE will represent the backbone of GMES, ensuring harmonization and interoperability of data and applications.

The Joint Research Centre is a major player in both activities, being the overall technical coordinator of INSPIRE and by providing technical advice for GMES data specifications and user requirements.

ASI and the JRC Institute for Environment and Sustainability signed an agreement assigning a position of Visiting Scientist to ASI for a project consisting in the development and implementation of activities for investigating the consistency of the ASI EO resources with INSPIRE and their potential applications in the European context, primarily in the fields of environment and sustainability.

The project, named "ASI Earth Observation for Europe", started in November 2011 and its one-year plan is built in three phases. Phase I consists of a survey of the ASI EO resources and their review in the INSPIRE perspective. Specifically, a thoroughly assessment on the level of compliance of the ASI portfolio with regulation ensuing from INSPIRE is carried out. Phases II and III investigate on the possible integration of the ASI EO resources in the frame of GMES and on possible downstream applications to European projects.

By implementing the plan, it is expected that ASI benefits from: acquiring know-how on INSPIRE Directive and related Implementing Rules and Technical Guidance Material; improving EO resources traceability by developing INSPIRE compliant metadata; checking current status of compliance with relevant INSPIRE Implementing Rules; preparation of plans to future compliance; identifying and setting the stage for potential exploitation of EO resources in the European context.

The paper illustrates the project objectives and plan and the up-to-date implementation status, including description of major products; outcomes from resources survey and compliance verification; proposed follow-up plans for improving consistency; potential applications in the European frame; considerations and preliminary conclusions.