

29th IAA SYMPOSIUM ON SPACE POLICY, REGULATIONS AND ECONOMICS (E3)  
Regional cooperation in space: policies, governance and legal tools (1)

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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ESA SMALL MEMBER STATES SPACE POLICIES, STRATEGIES  
AND GOVERNANCE IN THE FRAME OF EUROPEAN SPACE INTEGRATION

**Abstract**

The European Space Agency (ESA) has twenty-two Member States with a variety of governance structures and strategic priorities regarding their space activities. The objective of this paper is to provide an up-to date overview and a holistic assessment of the national space governance structures and strategic priorities of the eleven smaller Member States (based on annual ESA contributions). A link is made between the governance structure and the main strategic objectives. The specific needs and interests of small and new Member States in the frame of European Space Integration are addressed. The first part of this paper focuses on the content and analysis of the national space strategies and indicates the main priorities and trends in the eleven smaller ESA Member States. The priorities are categorised with regards to technology domains, the role of space in the areas of sustainability and the motivators for space investments. The second part of the paper focuses on the national space governance structures in the eleven smaller ESA Member States. The governance models for the eleven smaller Member States are identified including the responsible Ministries and the entities entrusted with the implementation of space strategy/policy and programmes. In a third and final part, attention is given to the specific needs and interests of the smaller Member States in the frame of European Space Integration. It is demonstrated how ESA instruments are tailored to facilitate the needs and interests of the eleven smaller and/or new Member States.