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Contribution of Space Activities to Solving Global Societal Issues (2)

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GALILEO AND COPERNICUS FOR ALL MANKIND

**Abstract**

The benefits of Space exploration are already all around us. In fact, our life depends on a world that we cannot see, but is there for us. Space is being use by mankind for more than 50 years and today, more than ever, can has an important role in addressing global challenges, like energy, security and safety, sustainable development, environment. European Union has a mandate on Space since 2007 although it was funding research for space based applications before; this was the moment that a European Space Policy became a reality. European Union Space Programmes, Galileo for satellite navigation and Copernicus for Earth Observation, are helping people all over in the world: making them safer and their businesses more efficient, becoming more eco-friendly, saving lives. These two space programmes have unique features and performances for example, Galileo high accuracy service and Copernicus data, both provided for free. Galileo and Copernicus bring add value to the solutions being developed to address the challenges that the world is facing. Agriculture, transport, smart cities, energy, response to emergencies are only some of the areas where Galileo and Copernicus are bringing solutions. The European Union space programmes do support the efforts for a more sustainable development not only in Europe but worldwide. The paper proposed will describe the unique features of the European Space Programmes; how Galileo and Copernicus are contributing to solving global societal challenges and how they are supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Finally it will give an overview of the specific instruments European Union Space programmes are making available to promote the development of solutions using space-based technology to address these societal challenges and the Sustainable Development Goals.