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International Cooperation for the benefits of developing countries and emerging space nations (1)

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DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SPACE GOVERNANCE AND POLICY TRENDS IN MEMBER
STATES OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

Abstract

The European Space Agency (ESA) has twenty-two Member States with a variety of governance structures and strategic priorities. Recently, many new emerging actors from Europe are developing and integrating their national space capabilities with ESA. A number of countries engage exclusively through ESA, while others conduct also their own space programme. Some countries consider ESA as their space agency and others have additionally their own national agency. The evolution of national budget priorities and policies of Member States provides an insight into a future development of the European Space Sector. The main objective of this paper is to present the result of ‘Countries Overview: Info Notes on Member States’ analysis provided by ESA in 2014 and 2017. Comparing these two periods provides ability to identify the change and trends in space policies and public budget priorities. This brings a comprehensive understanding of motivations and programmatic priorities for space activities across the ESA Member States. Furthermore, the methodology created for the data collection and analysis of the two ESA overviews represents effective tool for capturing the complexity of national space policies and interests. From the results of the analysis, three important trends emerge. First, the number of Member States engaging in space is increasing with common interest in science, Earth observation and integrated applications. Second, the economic and international aspects of space continue to be the main motivators for public policies. Third, the interest to support through space communications, transport and security are among the top areas of technology domain interest.