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International cooperation in using space for sustainable development: Towards a “Space2030” agenda (1)

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MAPPING OF THE WORLDWIDE ACTIVITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS WITHIN THE SPACE
GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL PROJECT GROUPS IN THE FRAME OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND SPACE2030 AGENDA

Abstract

One of the five pillars of the Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC) is represented by the the Project Groups (PGs). PGs are nine key thematic strategic teams. Each of it counts an average of 30 worldwide active members, for a total of at least 250 members. The PGs activities cover a wide range of topics, from space law and policy, to commercial space, disaster management, small satellites, space safety and sustainability, space exploration, Near Earth Objects, Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GNSS), to space medicine and life sciences. This wide spectrum allows SGAC to act as a global forum for university students and young professionals to discuss relevant subjects and exchange on subjects bringing forward their ideas. The result is a varied and multi-disciplinary view on current space-related topics.

One of the main strengths of the PGs is their ability to engage with external partners for ad hoc projects or for a more broad support. The collaborations set up by PGs, represent a symmetrical advantage for both PGs, and in a broader sense SGAC, and the partners themselves. Indeed, thee engagement with commercial or institutional actors, space agencies or academia lead to a series of outreach activities such as conferences (at global and national level), publications and webteaching, leading to solid capacity building within and outside the organisation.

Over the last year, the PGs strategy is tending to align these activities to the Space2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Leveraging on a large number of members with different backgrounds in different contexts, the PGs activities developed in the framework of the sustainable development and in the view of the Space2030 Agenda, are positively impacting on the young generations, raising awareness in regions, such as Africa where the young generations are the engine of the space sector.

The aim of the paper is to present the PGs activities and their impact on the capacity building initiatives of SGAC. In particular, the objective is demonstrating how the PGs can contribute to the young space generation around the world up to 2030. The central focus will be on the relationships between the PGs and their external partners, and their engagement with UN bodies (UNOOSA) or related agencies (UNICEF).