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

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CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ITALIAN SPACE AGENCY
TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Abstract

The Italian Space Agency (ASI) is tasked by the Italian Government with the promotion, development and dissemination of scientific and technological research applied to the space and aerospace sectors. ASI pursues this also through international cooperation and capacity-building initiatives, both at bilateral and multilateral level. A quality education in space disciplines allows for all STEM disciplines to be addressed and contribute to the search for indigenous and longer-lasting responses to several sustainable development challenges. This paper presents some examples of capacity-building initiatives that ASI is carrying out at international level, which span from the provision of scholarships to Kenyan students and the provision of experts to the Argentinean Gulich Institute for advanced space studies, to the promotion of the International Space Forum at Ministerial Level initiative, in collaboration with the International Astronautical Federation. Although the most important benefits of capacity-building initiatives may be achieved only in the long-term, this paper highlights the results that can be already measured and evaluated.