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ACTIVITIES (D5)

Knowledge management for space activities in the digital era (2)

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KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN SOCIO ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDIES OF ESA
SPACE ACTIVITIES

Abstract

For the last couple of years some socio-economic impact assessment studies have taken place within ESA and are still taking place today to assess the benefit at a social and economic level of ESA space programmes. While carrying those studies, some lessons learned were drawn, notably in the methodology of assessment, and some knowledge for future studies has been capitalised upon. A "socio economic" indicator framework is being drafted at ESA to ensure a harmonised approach to the knowledge gathering and sharing within ESA and to serve as a reference for future work on socio-economic analysis of ESA activities. This paper will focus on how this knowledge out of the socio economic benefits studies is drawn: First, it will concentrate on the scope of the studies and the methodological approach used, among others looking at the identification statistical analysis of stakeholders (Member States, industry, etc.) as well as the tools used and their suitability, such as reference databases. Then, considering some assumptions for carrying out the assessment (timeframe, technology development level etc.), it will look at the way the study was conducted and what issues were encountered. Notably, it will emphasize the rigorousness of data collection, consolidation, analysis and interpretation of results, the neutrality in data reporting and the challenges associated with the communication on the study results. Last, the importance of the consistency in the way all this knowledge has been managed and some practical examples relative to issues encountered in the management of the outcome data of those studies will be addressed, and some best practices proposed.