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THE COPERNICUS EARTH OBSERVATION PROGRAMME COOPERATION MODEL THE SECRET OF AN ENDURING SUCCESS

Abstract

In October 1998 European space actors (Agencies, EUMETSAT and the European Commission) drafted the Baveno Manifesto laying the foundations of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Programme. GMES has since evolved into today's Copernicus component of the European Space Programme. Copernicus is an operational, autonomous, user-driven, civil Earth observation (EO) system. Its main objective is to deliver accurate and reliable EO data, information and services to support the implementation of policies, in particular in the fields of the environment, climate change, marine, maritime, agriculture and rural development, preservation of cultural heritage, civil protection, infrastructure monitoring, safety and security, as well as the digital economy. Thanks to a structured cooperation model, that evolved and adapted over time, Copernicus managed to secure funding from multiple partners and thrive for over two decades. The model proved successful in initial development phases, in operational phases, and is now supporting a new evolutionary phase of the programme. This paper sets out to illustrate in detail the cooperation model adopted by the programme over time in an attempt to single out the key elements that proved instrumental to its enduring success.