

Topics (T)

The Social, Communications, Economic and Cultural Dimensions of Environmental Change (9)

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USING EFFECTIVE SCIENCE COMMUNICATION TO INCREASE THE UPTAKE OF EARTH
OBSERVATION DATA IN CLIMATE POLICYMAKING

Abstract

Climate science assessed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the scientific basis for climate policies worldwide. This scientific knowledge is based on Earth Observation data. In the policy community and beyond, awareness about climate change is largely based on reports from the IPCC Working Group I. Therefore, space underpins the climate policymaking process. However, the use of space to support climate policies did not reach its full potential and remains underused. Based on a study conducted by the European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) in cooperation with the European Space Agency's Climate Change Initiative, this article aims to provide an assessment of social and communications issues that affect the uptake of EO data in the climate policymaking process in European countries. The paper will first provide an assessment of the perception of a divide between science and policy based on a survey sent to stakeholders involved in the climate policymaking process in ESA Member States. Then, it will look into the literature related to science communication and the role it plays in the integration of scientific and space-based data into climate policies. Finally, the paper will provide recommendations on how to increase the use of space in climate policymaking through science communications activities.