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SPACE-BASED TOOLS FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS: THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN
UNION SPACE PROGRAMME

Abstract

This work aims at presenting to the general public the positive impacts of EUSPA's activities in Europe, through the analysis of current projects, case studies, and end-to-end solutions supported and carried out by the Agency. EUSPA operates mainly in Europe but also provides services to different communities around the World.

In this regard, the paper focuses on the role played by the European Union Space Programme in the sustainability of the EU economy and society. It analyses projects that promote sustainable solutions to a number of sectors, including maritime, forestry, smart cities, and disaster management. For instance, the SWIFTT programme, which uses satellites for wilderness inspection and forest threat tracking; and the 100k TREES, which aims at improving air quality, biodiversity, human well-being and reducing climate risks by planting more trees in our cities. These two projects showcase how the EU Space Programme can support towards their green transformation paths. It further draws on the CASSINI Prize for Digital Space Applications, a competition call on the solutions to detect, monitor, and remove the plastic in oceans and waterways, with the final goal to contribute to marine environment monitoring, marine surveillance, and transport.

The last part of the paper focuses on the evaluation of the positive impact of the EU Space Programme on society, business, supply chain, and communities. Indeed, a crucial aspect of EUSPA's activity is to support the development of downstream and applications based on Galileo, EGNOS, Copernicus, GOVSATCOM, IRIS2, SSA, through the Fundamental Elements funding mechanism, as well as Horizon Europe.