IAF SPACE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH SYMPOSIUM (E1)
Space Education Outreach and Workforce Development for Emerging Communities (10-E11.2)

Author: Mrs. Gruszecka Kinga
Polish Space Agency (POLSA), Poland

Mrs. Jolanta Orlińska
Polish Space Agency (POLSA), Poland
Mr. Radosław Gurdak
Polish Space Agency (POLSA), Poland
Dr. Adam Dabrowski
Astronika, Poland

EN ROUTE TO EDUCATING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Abstract

Space data and technology might be utilized by public administrations (local, regional, national) in various fields, including but not limited to spatial planning, agriculture, silviculture, or maritime economy. The Polish Space Strategy recognizes Earth Observation (EO) data, as well as navigation and positioning services as enabling factors for sustainable operation and economic, and data-driven decision-making. The public administration was identified as the main user of these technologies and potential space workforce. However, there is a lack of understanding of specific applications. Raising awareness and educational activities are crucial to changing the status-quo.

This paper summarizes a plethora of activities implemented by the Polish Space Agency (POLSA) targeting Polish and international public administration officials. The Agency coordinates various educational pursuits: demonstrations of EO applications and satellite communications, workshops lecture campaigns, publications (a handbook), e-learning platforms dedicated to the use of EO data, and satellite communications. Such efforts have been rarely used in this context so far. Lessons learned from ventures in the years 2019-2023 contributed to a discussion on how to influence public administration attitudes to foster the uptake of space technologies.

Based on evaluation and observations, the authors conclude that education campaigns are insufficient, as they represent a soft regime while changing behavior requires a legal framework. On the opposite side, they enable interaction between end users and technology developers to foster a better understanding of possibilities and needs, which drive innovations.

Successful activities may be a benchmark for organizing similar operations in other countries and even sectors. Additionally, components of POLSA programs can be customized and tailored for developing the space workforce of the future. Presented findings can be used by educators across the world, especially those beginning of their space voyage.