

Fostering Euro-African Partnership for Sustainable Development in Africa through the Use of Satellite Applications

Rationale

Africa is in need of effective instruments supporting its efforts to achieve sustainable development. Satellite applications have already demonstrated their tremendous benefit for achieving this goal - through Eumetsat, ESA TIGER Initiative, national institutions or via the UN Programme on Space Applications - but still remain largely underexploited. Two ways of improving this situation could be on the one hand, on the micro level, furthering cooperation and calibration between decision-makers, prospective and experienced users and service providers. On the other hand, on the macro level, consolidating a comprehensive strategy, coherent coordination and thorough consultation of European and African stakeholders.

This project aims to provide a forum involving the relevant stakeholders in Europe and Africa in order to ensure an optimized use of space applications for sustainable development in Africa. The first phase of this project shall therefore prepare policy objectives. The start of the Belgian EU Council Presidency in July 2010 will be a first milestone on the occasion of which first results will be presented to the public. This should then translate into an impetus for three regional conferences in the North, the Centre and the South of Africa between autumn 2010 and autumn 2011 aimed at stimulating cooperation on the operational level and at gathering bottom-up feedback for African and European stakeholders.

The Project Partners

- The **European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)** is the European think tank for space policy. Its mission is to provide decision-makers with an independent view and analysis on mid- to long-term issues relevant to the use of space. Through its activities, ESPI contributes to facilitate the decision-making process, increases awareness on space technologies and applications with the user communities, opinion leaders and the public at large.
- **Eurisy**, the European association promoting the benefits of space for society has substantial experience in supporting public and private actors in exploiting the benefits of satellite information and services. Through its grass-roots work with user communities Eurisy has gathered detailed knowledge about user needs and the barriers which obstruct a better exploitation of satellite services.

Objectives

Both organisations will bring together their unique knowledge and complementary approaches to provide a forum for decision-makers, users,

service providers and development experts from both Europe and Africa, in order to strengthen cooperation between European, Mediterranean and African actors in the supply and use of satellite services. Specific objectives include:

- Drafting a comprehensive strategy for Euro-African cooperation on satellite applications,
- Setting up coordination mechanisms,
- Stimulating capacity building with regard to satellite applications,
- Mapping user needs and service provider capabilities,
- Enhancing user empowerment,
- Providing feed back to decision-makers and space infrastructure stakeholders with the objective to further the development of services in support of sustainable development policies in Africa.

Activities

A wide range of events will be conducted during 2010-2011. The series will start with three events on the European continent before two regional Conferences will be held in North and Central Africa. The final Conference will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, during the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in October 2011.

- **10 February 2010:** Euro-African Roundtable (at the occasion of the UNCOPUOS Scientific-Technical Subcommittee meeting) at ESPI in Vienna
- **26 May 2010:** Workshop on drafting policy perspectives (strategy and coordination) at ESPI in Vienna
- **July 2010:** Presentation of the policy perspectives to the EU Council Presidency in Brussels
- **14-15 October 2010:** Conference "Development and cooperation in the Mediterranean region using satellite services", Rabat (Morocco), led by Eurisy
- **April 2011:** Conference, Central Africa led by Eurisy
- **October 2011:** Conference, during the International Astronautical Congress 2011 taking place in Cape Town (South Africa), Eurisy, ESPI, IAF

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