



Baveno, 20 June 2018

20 years of the Copernicus Programme

Today in Baveno, Italy we celebrate 20 years of the EU Copernicus Programme, the leading provider of Earth observation data across the globe. It all started in 1998 with the Baveno Manifesto - a document proposing the creation of a European environment-monitoring programme. 20 years later and with seven satellites in orbit, Copernicus is a flagship programme of the European Union. It provides six operational services and collects tens of Terabytes of data every day.

Copernicus Programme has an open data policy. A domain which was traditionally reserved for governments, large companies and scientists is thanks to the EU Programme available for free to all citizens.

It provides access to data in six areas: land monitoring, marine monitoring, atmosphere monitoring, climate change, emergency management response and security. It already helps save lives at sea, improves our response to natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, forest fires or floods, and allows farmers to better manage their crops.

In more concrete terms, Copernicus data and information were used to show the extent and magnitude of damage caused by forest fires (Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal), earthquakes (Mexico), hurricanes (countries hit by hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria), and floods (Ireland, Germany) and helped rescue teams deal with these natural disasters.

The high resolution data produced by Copernicus are already being used by innovative businesses to create satellite-enabled products and services, creating highly qualified jobs in Europe.

To further develop Copernicus services, the European Commission announced on 6 June the new Space Programme, including a budget of €5.8 billion for Copernicus development. Over 2021-2027 Copernicus will expand existing services to meet emerging needs, adding new observation capacities for CO₂, and other greenhouse gas emissions monitoring, land use monitoring in support of agriculture, observations of the Polar regions, as well as security needs to improve detection of small vessels in support of border and maritime surveillance, the fight against illegal trafficking or the needs for EU external actions.

Today Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska announced another important milestone for Copernicus - the new Data and Information Access Services (DIAS). DIAS is an answer to the growing users' base of Copernicus data, which is using 12 terabytes of data produced by Copernicus every day. DIAS will centralise and standardise access to these data and processing tools through five cloud-based platforms. Through DIAS, all Copernicus data users can discover, manipulate, process and download data without the need to connect to multiple websites and downloading large files. This should significantly reduce costs of starting a business based on Copernicus data. The DIAS provides the tools for companies, scientists, and public users to develop new applications and take the full benefit of the European Union's investment in Copernicus.

Thanks to the DIAS launch and new investments in the Programme, the European Commission expects that Copernicus will generate €67 to €131 billion in benefits to the European Society between 2017 and 2035, which is 10 to 20 times the cost of the Programme. The number of Copernicus users has doubled every year since 2014. In May 2018, there were 150,000 users.

More information: www.copernicus.eu