

Welcome from the Prime

By Mathias Schardt, Joanneum Research

Dear EUFODOS Users and project partners, we are happy to present the first issue of the FP7 EUFODOS Newsletter. The EUFODOS project was initialised within the SPACE call SPA.2010.1.1-01 - "Stimulating the Development of Downstream GMES Services". EUFODOS is focusing on the development of operational downstream services on forest degradation issues. The consortium encompasses partners and end users from 6 EC member states. The project has recently started and we are looking forward to a successful cooperation.

EUFODOS - Improved Information on Forest Structure and Damages

By EUFODOS Coordination Team, Joanneum Research

Forests play a key role in the European economy and environment. This role incorporates ecological as well as economic functions which can be affected by the occurrence of insect infestations, storms or windfall events. Local, regional and national authorities thus require detailed information on the degradation status of their forests to be able to take appropriate countermeasures against forest damage and to ensure sustainable forest management. The EUFODOS project will use state-of-the-art satellite and laser scanning technology to provide forest authorities with cost-effective, timely and comprehensive information on forest structure and damage. EUFODOS is carried out within the GMES programme and is scheduled to run from January 2011 to the end of 2013.

The main goals

The European Earth Observation Programme GMES provides data useful in tackling a range of issues including climate change and citizens' security. The purpose of GMES is to deliver information which corresponds to user needs. The Forest Downstream Services (FDS) to be developed within EUFODOS include in particular the assessment of forest damage and the measurement of functional parameters for commercial and protection forests. These monitoring services urgently required by regional European forest authorities will be developed to an operational level by a consortium of research organisations and commercial service providers from Austria, Germany, Finland, Italy, Bulgaria and Poland.

The benefits

The use of space- and air-borne sensor platforms allows data to be acquired at short time intervals, in a cost effective way and over large areas. The Forest

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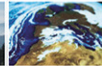
Downstream Services will thus provide fast and reliable information for effective damage assessment and sustainable forest management. The data can be utilized by users in a wide range of applications:

- *Effective damage assessment and countermeasures:*
identification of damaged areas – due to storm, fire or insect infestations – in order to enable proper countermeasures, compensation payments and reforestation planning.
- *Sustainable management of protection forests:*
targeted management of protection forests in order to maintain and enhance their protective function against natural hazards.
- *Sustainable management of commercial forests:*
wood procurement planning and strategic investment planning for commercial forests.
- *Reporting:*
revision of forest maps and inventories, compilation of regular reports and annual statistics (e.g. changes in forested area), establishment of forest damage information systems.

EUFODOS involves an extensive user community well connected to other related GMES User Groups. This construction will facilitate the roll-out of the services and will create a strong socio-economic benefit.



EUFODOS users and project partners at the kick-off meeting, 18 January 2011 in Graz, Austria.



User Engagement in EUFODOS

By Stefanie Linser, Environment Agency Austria

UEB formation

At the EUFODOS kick-off meeting in January 2011 a User Executive Body (UEB) was composed in order to involve the users more in the activities of the EUFODOS project. The UEB chairperson H. Schüssler and the UEB secretary S. Linser were both derived from dedicated EUFODOS user organisations.

Terms of References

The tasks of the UEB comprise i.a. to contribute to service network reviews and relevant reports, to identify and collate user needs and priorities for the service portfolio evolution, to coordinate with the service providers and by representing the user community, contribute to the promotion for EUFODOS.

So far the UEB has already reviewed the template of the User Requirements Questionnaire to maximize its focus on the respective user needs.

Newsletter

The EUFODOS Newsletter was initiated to serve all partners in bringing regular and updated information on the user activities as well as any new developments in EUFODOS. The Newsletter will be produced on a quarterly basis. It is intended to start with an article of general interest to all EUFODOS users followed by short articles written the users in cooperation with their service providers about the respective services. This issue puts however the spotlight on a general introduction in the EUFODOS project and its UEB.

All EUFODOS partners are invited to contribute actively to the UEB activities including the newsletter, provide inputs and comments and share experiences with all partners. I look forward to your valuable participation to ensure the sustainability of this network "by the users - for the users".



EUFODOS users at the kick-off meeting, 18 January 2011 in Graz, Austria.



EUFODOS Prime Mathias Schardt and REA project officer Florence Beroud at the kick-off meeting, 17 January 2011.

Upcoming events

34th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment, 10-15 April 2011 in Sydney, Australia
<http://www.isrse34.org/>

Lets embrace space - FP7 space conference, 12-13 May 2011 in Budapest, Hungary
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/newsroom/af/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=4845&tpa_id=1004&lang=en

31st EARSeL Symposium, 30 May - 2 June 2011 in Prague, Czech Republic
<http://www.earsel.org/symposia/2011-symposium-Prague/>

1st EARSeL SIG Forestry workshop: Operational remote sensing in forest management, 2 – 3 June 2011 in Prague, Czech Republic
<http://www.earsel.org/SIG/Forestry/call.php>

4th European Conference for Aerospace Sciences - EUCASS, 4 July 2011 in St. Petersburg, Russia
<http://eucass.ru/cs/index.php/eu/2010>

3rd International Colloquium - Scientific and Fundamental Aspects of the Galileo Programme, 31 Aug – 2 Sept 2011 in Copenhagen, Denmark
<http://www.congrex.nl/11a12/>

Note from the editor

I hope that you find the articles in the newsletter interesting and informative. If you have ideas or materials for articles I would be happy to be contacted.