


## OBSERVE Quick Facts Sheet

Acronym	
Full Title	<b>Strengthening and development of Earth Observation activities for the environment in the Balkan area</b>
Funding scheme	Coordination Action
Theme	ENV.2010.4.1.4-1 Identification and Networking of EO activities in the Balkan area
Starting Date	November 1, 2010
Duration	24 months
Funding	<b>999.465 €</b>
Coordinator	<b>Prof. Petros Patias, The Aristotle University, GR</b>

No.	Participant organization name	short name	Country
1	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	AUTH	Greece
2	Institute of Geodesy and Photogrammetry - ETH Zurich	ETHZ	Switzerland
3	University of Ljubljana	UL	Slovenia
4	Geolmaging Ltd	GEO	Cyprus
5	Infometria Ltd	INF	Greece
6	Istanbul Technical University	ITU	Turkey
7	University of Haifa	HU	Israel
8	University of Belgrade	FTTE	Serbia
9	University of Architecture, Civil Engineering & Geodesy	UACEG	Bulgaria
10	Polytechnic University of Tirana	UPT	Albania
11	University of Sarajevo	UNSA	Bosnia Herzegovina
12	GEOSAT Ltd	GSAT	Croatia
13	The Remote Sensing Technology Institute - German Aerospace Center	DLR	Germany
14	GISDATA Ltd	GDATA	Serbia
15	Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje	SCMU	FYROM

## The concept

Balkan countries do not have a coherent and continuous approach towards the challenge of implementing integrated Earth Observation (EO) applications in environmental monitoring and management. It should be mentioned that the Balkan countries, except Greece, are not ESA members. Besides, Albania, Serbia, Bulgaria, FYROM, Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina are also not members of the GEO.

The defect in the implementation of EO applications and their use in the environmental decision making are manifested through the limited synergies among national and regional institutions, ineffective technological means and discontinuous record of participation to international organizations and committees.

On the other hand, the increasing importance of a common approach towards effective environmental monitoring practices, for the benefit of the societal web of the broader Balkan region, calls for immediate action, setting as a starting point the built up of regional institutional capacity and spillage of technology transfer.

The aim of the **OBSERVE** project is to collect and compile all the necessary information for delivering an integrated analysis on the current status of EO activities and networks in the Balkans regarding environmental monitoring, the potential benefit from the full exploitation of an integrated capacity development strategy and the prospect of creating a relevant permanent EO Community in the broader region. **OBSERVE** project has the ultimate goal to raise awareness and establish firm links with the regional decision making bodies on the importance of a mutual and enhanced EO application network on environmental monitoring according to the principles of the GEO.

An additional key objective is to ensure a focused and strong dissemination strategy in the Balkan region. This includes EO and environmental decision makers, as well as national and regional government decision makers, the international research community, local stakeholders, the media and other valuable "multipliers".

The **OBSERVE** project consortium consists of:

- **15** institutions from
- **13** different countries,
- **8** of which belong to the Balkan region.
- **10** of the partners are Universities/Research Organizations while the other
- **5** are from private sector.

## The Vision

**OBSERVE** has the vision of establishing a new Balkan EO community of multilevel stakeholders that will make use of state of the art technological developments, products and knowhow from the existing European EO community and industry.



December 2010: **OBSERVE** kick off meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece, with the participation of 25 people and a representative of the EU. From ISPRS the following members participated :

- Petros Patias, OBSERVE Coordinator
- Orhan Altan, ISPRS President
- Amatzia Peled, ISPRS 2<sup>nd</sup> VP
- Emmanuel Baltasvias, ISPRS Fellow



*Photos from kick off meeting*