Disaster Risk Management Workshop- ROMANIA - Bucharest, 26th Nov. 2024- Dq Tilmans

Mr. Crunteanu, Director General of ROSA

Dear Rodrigo da Costa, Executive Director, EUSPA

Mr. Costoiu, Director of Polytechnical University of Bucharest

Dear Colleagues and experts,

It's an important workshop we have today a workshop which concern us so much: how to avoid disasters disruptions? how to manage them?

Thank you, Rector, for agreeing to host our meeting at your university

I'll start with 1 question:

Why do we organize this series of workshops all around Europe?

Because the facts are clear. Very few, too few political, decision- makers are aware of how much satellite technology can be a valuable ally, a life-saving tool when facing disasters.

The problem of climate change presents huge challenges to European ecosystems, economies, and communities.

The high frequency of adverse events at both national and European levels highlights the urgent need for a cooperative mechanism and fortunately this mechanism exists.

- to support EU member states,

- to increase Europe's resilience to floods, earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, and man-made catastrophes. T's the Copernicus Emergency Management Service

Space not only plays a crucial role in optimising the responses to emergencies,

but it also has a crucial role in all phases of the disaster risk management cycle. From prevention and preparedness to response and recovery.

And today, we are here to inspire this perspective.

As I said, not everyone knows that space technologies can help us face those challenges.

You must be convinced that space technologies are no longer just the domain of engineers and technicians: today, through applications, anyone can use the data obtained from space solutions. The proof? Everyone uses between 5 or then space applications every day! And I'm particularly happy to see many experts, public authorities, and researchers, coming from different domains, from the space and non-space sectors in this room...

Our aim today is:

- To raise awareness for all decisions makers at all levels about the benefice of space solutions
- To challenge you with new perspectives
- To inspire and support a wider integration of satellite services into national activities devoted to disaster risk management.

Now, let take a look to the national context,

As a territory, Romania faces several emergencies, mostly related to floods, landslides, wildfires and also earthquakes.

Last September, central Europe experienced record-breaking rainfall, leading to severe floods that also impacted Romania.

The widespread disruption caused by these floods has been vast with the total costs for the region estimated at around €2.2 billion.

During these events, the **Copernicus emergency management service** was activated in Romania, providing vital information on the flood's extent, on the maximum water depth as well as on the flood's temporal evolution, this highly supporting Romanian authorities in evacuation activities.

Did you know that since 2012, the **Copernicus Emergency Management Service** has been activated in Romania 10 times? Of which eight were for flooding.

Romania unfortunately, is also one of the countries in Europe with the highest seismic risk, alongside Turkey, Greece, Albania and Italy. Bucharest, located near the Vrancea seismic fault, is considered the most earthquake-prone capital of the European Union

Since 1900, there are about 1,700 earthquakes recorded on average per year in Romania: (Vulcano Discovery)

In the past 7 days, Romania has had 36 earthquakes of up to 3.3 magnitude:

Given the increase in the number of natural and man-made disasters, the Copernicus Emergency Management Service is destined to be used more and more.

And this is precisely a crucial focus point.

As we look to the future, it is clear that space technology has a critical role to play in disaster risk management.

The reason why we are going all around Europe to raise awareness about its benefits and explain our presence in Bucharest.

The role of Eurisy which is mandated by national space agencies is to raise awareness among public administrations and the general public about the benefits of these technologies.

At the policy level, the European Commission is making giant steps forward to harmonize how Member States can work together to tackle and reduce the impact of disasters.

First of all through

- continuous support for research and innovation in the disaster and risk management domain.

And secondly by

- a continuous coordination of resources and expertise within the **Union Civil Protection Mechanism**, which relies on satellite mapping by Copernicus, facilitating and supporting civil protection operations.

On their side, EUSPA and Eurisy, together, are working to facilitate the use of space solutions to make them accessible, to make them understandable.

This workshop falls directly within that mission.

Again, be convinced that our event is a real opportunity for local decision-makers and stakeholders to meet, discuss and exchange about best practices and sector-specific needs,

It is also the perfect opportunity to learn about hands-on demonstrations of national capabilities enabled by satellite data,

I conclude

As politicians and stakeholders, we have an important responsibility towards our country and our citizens, they are expecting that we are taking the decisions to save their lives and the lives of their beloved.

Space technologies cannot make everything but they have

- the potential to transform the way we manage disaster risks and respond to emergencies, to help you to take the best decisions.
- the potential to support National Civil Protection Corps

We must never forget that space technology is an incredible ally,

- an ally, in meeting both solidarity and cooperation between states during disaster events
- an ally, I meeting specific national needs in terms of security and autonomy.

Thank you