FABSPACE 2.0: STIMULATING GEODATA-DRIVEN INNOVATION

The geodata world is going through an important stage at the European level, with substantial efforts allocated to making the data accessible to all. The Fabspace 2.0 project had made this its mission in a project funded by European Commission under the Horizon 2020 program. The aim is to get civil society – students, researchers, technicians, organizations, public authorities, involved by bringing the culture of satellite data to sectors normally focusing on other issues. After more than two years the project has already obtained several achievements: courses, events, challenges, free training have been organized in each of the 6 countries participating (France, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland). Moreover, one-stop shops for information have been opened which, in some cases, received more almost 300 visitors per year. Started with an initial number of 6 Fabspaces, during the project the number expanded with 14 new FabSpaces located in various countries worldwide. Indeed, both initial and new partner universities are centers of excellence in research in the field of geomatics and space based information. They are not only offering a highly-qualified human capital likely to generate innovation, but also providing open access to data generated within previous research works. Thus the FabSpace 2.0 project can be a particularly relevant opportunity for research teams to make a step forward towards Science 2.0. The founder FabSpaces and the new FabSpaces are part of the international FabSpace 2.0 network that will be launched at the beginning of 2019, and its legal status will be defined according to the results of the report on European and Non-European initiatives with which FabSpace 2.0 can create synergies. Given the particular added value of Earth Observation data and Satellite Navigation services in countries with less ground infrastructures (i.e. developing countries) specific attention will also be given to the developing countries as much business markets are expected to grow. In the end, the network will be extended worldwide. In the context of the project some use cases have been produced in various fields of applications which will be also presented.

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