



TAKEAWAYS & PATH FORWARD

It is well established that data obtained through Earth Observation satellites directly contributes to priority objectives across a number of policy domains. Among these, climate and agriculture policies are benefitting the most from economic and societal impacts generated by public infrastructures, such as Copernicus, and commercial missions alike. Yet, the analysis pursued in this study shows that a number of other policy domains, and potential use cases therein, remain under-addressed. Directly focusing on these can improve the uptake of space solutions, which has been called for across a number of assessments and strategies.¹

1 EXPANDING IMPACT BEYOND MONITORING FUNCTIONS

Addressing today's policy priorities requires operational solutions that are both ubiquitously available and easily accessible. The primary challenge lies in **moving beyond preventive and post-event monitoring towards real-time full stack architectures** directly supporting economic activity and public services.

2 HARNESSING THE CROSS-POLICY VALUE OF EARTH OBSERVATION

The ability of Earth Observation to deliver **benefits across a diverse range of policy objectives** leveraging the same datasets, remains underused. To unlock greater policy impact, broader diversification and customisation of solutions are needed. This includes adapting successful solutions to other use cases in different domains.

3 UNTAPPED POTENTIAL AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EUROPEAN POLICIES

All the identified top-priority domains and sectors – Energy, Agrifood, Digital, Peace & Security, Climate Resilience and Insurance – present distinct and varying opportunities for further contribution of Earth Observation solutions. In the **Energy** and **Digital Transition** domains, there remains a **noticeable gap**, coupled with **demonstrated potential** for dedicated Earth Observation solutions to address their core objectives.

4 INTEGRATING SPACE INTO POLICIES AS A DRIVER FOR IMPACT

A virtuous cycle has been identified and should be sustained: the growing number of impactful Earth Observation projects and the advocacy efforts by space actors raise awareness among policymakers on the existence and value of available solutions. In turn, **stronger integration of references to Earth Observation in policies creates opportunities for space actors to develop projects in alignment with policy priorities.**

¹ A Vision for the European Space Economy, EU, 2026; Accelerating the Use of Space in Europe (“Matosinhos Manifesto”) ESA, 2021; Special Report on EU Space Programmes Galileo and Copernicus, ECA, 2021.

FROM TAKEAWAYS TO POLICY ACTION

This report provides **quantitative outcomes to support the integration of policy priorities into current and future European Earth Observation systems.**

This study and a high-level workshop held at the Royal Society in London in April 2025 informed **A Policy Vision for Earth Observation.** Jointly released by ESPI and ESA, the Vision calls for a new era where the technological & scientific drivers for designing and developing new missions are complemented by a third pillar – directly responding to Europe's policy needs.

It calls on policy and thought leaders to guide and co-shape future Earth Observation programmes, and integrate derived solutions across the entire policy cycle. Where policy needs are most acute, space must follow, especially into uncharted territory.