

# HELM

## Harmonised European Land Monitoring

### TOGETHER FOR BETTER LAND MONITORING IN EUROPE

In Europe, land monitoring is performed both at local, national and European levels. More coordination of efforts is needed, and HELM addresses this challenge.

Monitoring of the land surface and its use is important when assessing the state of the environment, and human impacts on it. In order for such monitoring to be well managed, it is necessary to regularly generate up to date information, which may be refined and take the form of thematic maps, based on the interpretation of areal photography, satellite imagery and further sources. Such maps aid efforts to foster the sustainable development within a range of fields, such as spatial planning, nature protection, agricultural policy, forestry, tourism, and water catchment area management.

In order to address the risk of duplication between actors at local, national and European levels, and exploit the potential that exists for enhanced mutual cooperation,

HELM is set to initiate the establishment of a coherent European land monitoring system. The project, which comprises a network of authorities concerned with land monitoring, will initiate efforts in order to increase the maturity of European land monitoring by means of enhanced knowledge exchange, identification of possible joint tasks, technical harmonisation of systems, and better data sharing.

The objective of this project is to pave the way towards an effective European land monitoring system, which combines the broad range of specific expertise and resources that exist in EU Member States, enabling the exploitation of give and take between the different actors, and harvesting the potential of coordinated and interoperable approaches to land monitoring in Europe.



**HERBERT HAUBOLD**  
IS PROJECT COORDINATOR



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**A network of European authorities responsible for land monitoring, HELM will enhance coordination between sub-national, national and European actors in this field.**

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

#### What do you want to achieve with this project?

We will initiate a move that will make European land monitoring more productive. National and sub-national level land monitoring endeavours will be enabled to collaborate more than they do now, to support each other and to jointly contribute to a coherent European data set.

#### Why is this project important for Europe?

One of the major shortcomings of GMES is the lack of systematic bottom up participatory processes. HELM will be a first attempt to install a lasting participatory process in the field of land monitoring and thereby transform the pertinent GMES core service.

#### How does your work benefit European citizens?

Managing the land surface in a sensible way is a prerequisite for human well-being, we live on it after all. Knowledge about its state and changes thereof aids drawing a balance between land use by settlements, agriculture, traffic etc, and preserving ecosystems humans depend on.

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### LIST OF PARTNERS

- Environment Agency Austria, Austria
- CENIA –Czech Environmental Information Agency, Czech Rep.
- Finnish Environment Institute, Finland
- Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing, Hungary
- European Centre for Research and Financing, Israel
- Geoville Environmental Services, Luxembourg
- Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute, Norway
- Portuguese Geographic Institute, Portugal
- National Geographic Institute, Spain
- ETC Land Use and Spatial Information, EU
- European Forestry Institute, EU
- FOTEC Research- and Technology Transfer, Austria
- Flemish Geographical Information Agency, Belgium
- Remote Sensing Application Centre, Bulgaria
- GISAT S.R.O., Czech Republic.
- French National Mapping Agency, France
- Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany
- Informus, Germany
- National Land Survey, Island
- Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, Italy
- European Academy Bozen/Bolzano, Italy
- Stichting Service for Agricultural Research, Netherlands
- Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development, Romania
- Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland
- Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research, Switzerland
- Specto Natura, United Kingdom

### COORDINATOR

**Environment Agency Austria, Austria**

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### PROJECT INFORMATION

Harmonised European Land Monitoring (HELM)

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