



The 1st SpaceSUITE Dissemination Event: Skills Intelligence in the Estonian Downstream Space Sector

On 3 July 2024, the 1st SpaceSUITE dissemination event *Skills Intelligence in the Estonian Downstream Space Sector* took place at TalTech in Tallinn, Estonia, organised by the SpaceSUITE project partner Phasegrowth. The event introduced a comprehensive assessment of the existing skills and skills gaps in this sector, as current results of the SpaceSUITE work on skills intelligence, along with upcoming project activities.

Tiiu Treier, Head of International Cooperation and funding Office at Enterprise Estonia), introduced the Estonian space sector and the Estonian space strategy setting the stage for the exchanges among local stakeholders. **Maria Vittoria D’Inzeo**, Policy Officer at DG DEFIS, European Commission), presented the EU Space Policy and the role of skills, highlighting major goals of European Skills Agenda, and the close interlink between the latter and SpaceSUITE.

Milva Carbonaro (GISIG) introduced project activities, reaffirming the efforts to provide effective training opportunities for 4 occupational profiles in demand (so called “reactive response and to design core curricula for emerging occupational profiles (so-called “proactive response”). In more detail, **Gabriella Povero** (LINKS Foundation) explained the methodological framework to gather and map space-related skills in educational offers and professional demand in the space downstream sector. **Sven Casteleyn** (UJI) introduced the Body of Knowledge (BoK) and explained the BoK evolution towards the space downstream sector to be used as shared vocabulary in an ecosystem of tools aimed at bridging the skills gap. **Eva-Maria Steinbacher** (PLUS) introduced the first four personas designed with the aim to serve as foundation for the creation of demand-targeted training offers for space-related occupational profiles in the downstream sector.

The panel *Assessing the Skills Mismatch in the Estonian Space Downstream Sector*, moderated by Assoc. Prof. **Rosen Dimov** (Phasegrowth), discussed aligning educational curricula with industry needs. Experts **Danny Vandenbroucke** (KU Leuven), **Karoli Kahn** (KappaZeta), Prof. **Rivo Uiboupin** (TalTech), and **Agu Leinfeld** (Value Space) highlighted the need for a comprehensive educational approach in EO, which should be inherently cross-disciplinary. As the current curricula often fail to equip graduates with the necessary multidisciplinary skills, resulting in a mismatch. The discussion thus emphasised the importance of problem-oriented learning, integrated modules

combining theory and hands-on experience, as well as closer collaboration between academia and industry with the aim to provide students with practical problem-solving skills using space data.

Two breakout rooms addressed questions on skills mismatch in the European downstream space sector to gather first hands feedback. In the first breakout room entitled "Offers and Needs, the Perfect Match," representatives from industry, universities, and VET discussed essential skills for the sector, revolving around the need for both soft, including effective communication skills, and hard skills such as EO data integration into GI tools. Improved dialogue between academia and industry was deemed necessary, with open days, flexible programs, and apprenticeships identified as beneficial. The breakout room on current EO-based BoK introduced new concepts from two knowledge areas: Satellite Navigation (GNSS) and Satellite Communication (SatCom). The breakout group concluded that establishing thoughtful relationships with the existing concept in the BoK, avoiding duplications, and ensuring the content is practical, balanced, and appropriately granular, is key when preparing the new BoK.

The first SpaceSUITE Tallinn dissemination event therefore represented a fruitful opportunity to engage with and present the project's activities to the Estonian space sector, as well as to gather the feedback on the project's results so far.

For more information: <https://www.spacesuite-project.eu/>.