

SATCULT

SATELLITE DATA FOR HERITAGE PROTECTION



REACHING FOR THE STARS: CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION IN EUROPE



Admittedly, we have broken new ground with the topic of 'cultural heritage protection from space', and with us, many cultural heritage managers and geoinformation professionals. The possibilities offered by Earth observation and satellite data are slowly finding their way into the field of cultural heritage protection.

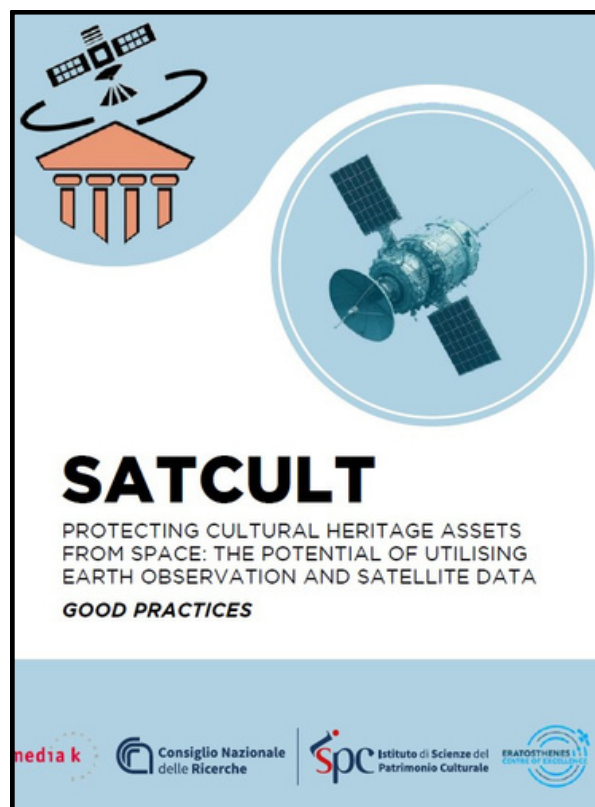
How and why? Please read more about this in this newsletter which is aimed equally at **cultural heritage managers and geoinformation experts!**

12 GOOD PRACTICES – 12 UNIQUE STORIES

It would be pointless to ask cultural heritage managers to start incorporating satellite data into their work immediately. It would be equally difficult for engineers and technicians from the geoinformation sector to apply their knowledge to the protection of cultural heritage. Both sectors must first understand how the other sector works and what requirements it is subject to.

Twelve inspiring Good Practices from across Europe have been compiled in a **SATCULT brochure, accompanied by additional explanations, analyses, and expert opinions.** Each good practice also describes the qualification requirements that were necessary to implement the practice successfully.

The brochure can be downloaded free of charge in three languages (English, German and soon in Greek) from the **SATCULT** homepage: <https://satcult.eu/about/information-material/>



In short: What is geoinformation? What is cultural heritage?

Geoinformation is a sector focused on **collecting, storing, processing, and displaying spatial data (data with a geographic or location component)** to create intelligent maps and systems that support decision-making across various fields like urban planning, environmental protection, and logistics. This sector involves technologies such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, and GPS, integrating them with modern advancements like Artificial Intelligence and cloud computing to provide location-based insights for public and private sectors.

Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes that a society inherits from past generations and passes on to the future. It includes tangible items like buildings, monuments, and artworks, as well as intangible aspects such as traditions, folklore, language, and knowledge.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

After reading the **SATCULT** Good Practices, you will probably feel the same way we, the **SATCULT** team, did: We were fascinated by the possibilities of Earth observation and satellite data analysis! At the same time, it was clear that in order to take advantage of these opportunities, cultural heritage experts need additional qualifications that are not taught in university courses or in accompanying vocational training programmes. So we asked ourselves: **What exactly are these qualifications, and how can they be obtained?** These questions gave rise to two surveys – one for cultural heritage managers and one for geoinformation specialists.

This is our big request: **Please take part in these surveys**, depending on which sector you belong to! By participating, you will help to develop **a tailor-made qualification programme that will address the needs of the cultural heritage sector** and fill all the information gaps that are currently not covered in training.



Here are the **survey links** in four languages:

ENGLISH

For cultural heritage managers:

<https://forms.gle/Gr4QdajwESC1fbr48>

For geoinformation experts:

<https://forms.gle/PLfWnBhafncPu9iN6>

ITALIANO

Per i gestori del patrimonio culturale:

<https://forms.gle/hXtTqYwrv4JBHlyk6>

Per i professionisti del settore della geoinformazione:

<https://forms.gle/b6KFjrtZzFGPbFQXA>

DEUTSCH

Für Kulturerbe-Manager*innen:

<https://forms.gle/bJv5MhSpC5dUswt78>

Für Expert*innen aus der Geoinformation:

<https://forms.gle/ai5PfAauHxDGeIVp9>

Ελληνικά

Για διαχειριστές πολιτιστικής κληρονομιάς:

<https://forms.gle/kSCMECsZ6miFpsD98>

Για ειδικούς στον τομέα της γεωπληροφορικής:

<https://forms.gle/D1AzjM1Ofg4R9lwq6>

Deadline: February 28th, 2028

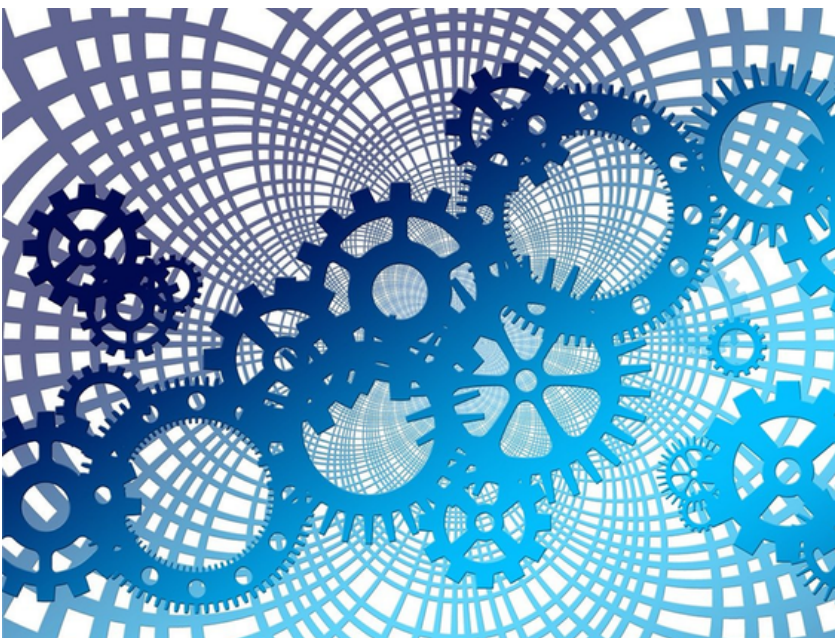
WANTED: SUPPLIERS OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Once a year, the European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC) surveys companies offering services using Earth observation data. The results serve as a forecasting tool for the industry and a compendium of information for policy makers. The survey covers sectors such as agriculture, the environment, energy, infrastructure, defence, fisheries, forestry, insurance and financial services, oil, security and emergency services, urban development and society. The cultural heritage sector is not included (yet).

So **where are the companies that can help cultural heritage managers use satellite data?** There are plenty of providers of such services, but hardly any specialising in cultural heritage protection. Why is that? 'Is this even a valid market with sufficient economic potential?' is one of the questions that arises when approaching companies that utilise and process satellite data. What a question!

The economic power of the cultural heritage sector

According to the European Commission, cultural heritage is an important resource for economic growth, employment and social cohesion. It helps to revitalise urban and rural areas and to promote sustainable tourism. In the European Union, **around 8.1 million people are employed in the cultural heritage sector** or have jobs indirectly related to cultural heritage (e.g. restoration, hospitality, interpretation and security) which covers **$\approx 3.8\%$ of EU workforce. The estimated value is € 199 billion ($\approx 2.0\%$ of EU business economy).**



THE “HEIDELBERG WHITEPAPER ON CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION FROM SPACE”: 7 DEMANDS ON POLITICS, EDUCATION, AND BUSINESS

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The **Heidelberg Whitepaper**, created with the support of participants in the **SATCULT** workshop on 23 September 2025 at Heidelberg Castle / Germany, is aimed at elected officials in politics (e.g. members of committees dealing with cultural heritage protection and related fields), decision-makers in the fields of cultural heritage protection and geoinformation, and training institutions in both fields. It articulates seven demands:

1. Strengthening and encouraging cultural heritage institutions to use satellite data
2. Encouraging the geoinformation sector to collaborate with the cultural heritage sector
3. Networking between the cultural heritage sector and the geoinformation sector
4. Promoting practice-oriented application projects
5. Preparing information tailored to specific target groups
6. Promoting knowledge transfer
7. Coordination at national level



The full paper can be viewed here:

<https://satcult.eu/about/information-material/>. Your comments and possible additions are welcome!



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WATCH OUT FOR THE INTERDISCIPLINARY SATCULT EXPERT POOL FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND GEOINFORMATION SPECIALISTS

It is important to bring together the cultural heritage sector and the geoinformation sector. To achieve this, **SATCULT** is setting up a pool of experts. If you

-represent the field of cultural heritage protection and are open to collaborating with specialists and companies from the geoinformation sector, or

-represent the geoinformation industry and are willing and able to take on assignments in cultural heritage protection, then please express your interest in the **SATCULT** survey.

In spring 2026, a meeting will be held with the aim of establishing the pool of experts and initiating joint projects.

This activity is strongly linked to the European Commission's "Pact for Skills" and the **SATCULT** coordinator is a proud member of the initiative:



An initiative of the European Commission



GET IN TOUCH WITH US!

SATCULT partners:

- **media k GmbH** is a German social enterprise that has been actively involved as enabler, facilitator, and service provider in cultural heritage protection activities and the development of respective training for more than 25 years.
- **Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) – Istituto di Scienze del Patrimonio Culturale** (ISPC – Institute of Heritage Sciences) is the CNR's Italian hub for research, innovation, training, and technology transfer in cultural heritage.
- **ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence (ECoE)** is a multidisciplinary research and innovation centre based in Limassol, Cyprus. It specialises in Earth Observation (EO), space-based monitoring, and related digital solutions that leverage cutting-edge engineering and expertise to address critical global challenges, including climate change, environmental sustainability and cultural heritage preservation.

Interested to stay in touch? Please ask to be included in our communication activities:

<https://www.satcult.eu>;

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13118904/>

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(Picture credits: Pixabay CC)

The high-class **SATCULT** European Advisory Board

Additional expertise from Germany, Italy and Cyprus is involved:

- **Patricia Alberth** is Director of State Palaces & Gardens Baden Wurttemberg / Germany
- **Daniele Gardiol** is an astronomer and researcher at INAF – Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica in Turin / Italy.
- **Margherita Sani** is a project coordinator at NEMO – Network of European Museum Organisations and is based in Italy
- **Chrysanthos Pissarides** is president of the Cyprus Branch of ICOMOS.



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