

### *What is the Working Group on Capacity Building and Data Democracy?*

Created in 2011, WGCapD undertakes activities based on the four pillars of the Data Democracy Initiative Mission and aims to unify CEOS efforts toward:

- Providing wider and easier access to Earth Observation data
- Increasing the sharing of software tools such as the use of open source software and open systems interface
- Increasing data dissemination capabilities and transferring relevant technologies to end users
- Providing intensive capacity building, education, and training (including awareness and outreach) for enabling end users to gather the information they need and for increasing communication on achieved results

### *What is the Land Surface Imaging Virtual Constellation?*

LSI-VC aims to maximize the value derived from CEOS Agencies land surface imaging assets and activities by providing an overarching coordination role in enabling access to fundamental measurement products in support of confirmed/validated requirements linked to CEOS priorities. These priorities are typically derived from scientific users and key stakeholders, such as UN agencies/programs and GEO.

Specifically, the LSI-VC applies a CEOS multi-agency perspective to the following activities:

- Assessing land surface imaging data requirements, identifying the fundamental measurements that are required from land surface imaging assets to meet them, and undertaking gap analyses.
- Facilitating the coordination of mission development to ensure space assets are optimized, within the supplying organizations' abilities and constraints, to support the overall package of validated data requirements.
- Harmonizing, based on inputs received, periodic acquisition planning to optimize asset use; helping to resolve competing requirements; and promoting resilience and redundancy of the Virtual Constellation.
- Support the coordination of the retrieval and reprocessing of historical products to fill gaps in archives where required to support validated time series analysis requirements.
- Support the coordination of the implementation of consistent calibration and pre-processing approaches so that observation data are used to produce comparable fundamental measurement products for user benefit.
- Support the implementation of CEOS land surface imaging data processing, distribution and analysis capabilities (such as those being developed by the CEOS Systems Engineering Office (SEO) and the Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS)), which enable the broadest user access to fundamental measurements for generating derived products.

*Past collaborations between the two working groups include:*

- None, though CEOS WGCapD provided training events on agriculture, which is related to GEOGLAM AHT, which is now part of LSI-VC.

*Opportunities for current and future collaborations include:*

- *Planned joint deliverables:*
  - CB-44: CARD4L Awareness Webinar
  - CB-50: Capacity Development Guidance Document for GEOGLAM (relates to LSI-VC GEOGLAM subgroup)
- *Future CB Deliverables of interest to LSI-VC:*
  - CB-56: SAR training for forest and rice monitoring
  - CB-58: CB support to AGEOS on forest monitoring
  - CB-60: Regional training in South Asia on forest biomass
- *Planned LSIVC deliverables that might be of interest to WGCapD*
  - VC-X6: CEOS Paper on the Interplay of Industry and CEOS ARD (CEOS ARD Strategy – Item 2.4)
  - VC-X5: CEOS–Industry ARD Workshop (CEOS ARD Strategy – Item 4.2)
  - VC-X7: Communication with CEOS ARD Users (CEOS ARD Strategy – Item 4.6)