

Extending and strengthening of national remote sensing activities in the Nordic region via international networks

Anu Reinart⁽¹⁾ and Susanne Kratzer⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ *Tartu Observatory, Tõravere 61 602, Estonia; anu.reinart@aai.ee*

⁽²⁾ *Department of Systems Ecology, Stockholm University, S-106 91 Stockholm,
Sweden; suse@ecology.su.se*

Over the recent years, there have been many new developments in the Estonian space research & technology community. Based on the earlier achievements in Earth Observation, in collaboration with public authorities, a new generation of scientists has started several activities to link national interest in this field to the international space community. Complementary for long-lasting personal research contacts, two large capacity building projects have been funded by the European Community. At national scale, basic principles of the Estonian Space policy are formulated and Estonia is in the process to become a member of the European Space Agency in the near future. International collaboration has been one of the most important and effective factors to fuel new research ideas and business perspectives in the field which include remote sensing. In this talk we present an overview of two big international remote sensing networks in the Nordic region - the Estonian EstSpace program, as well as the Nordic Network for Aquatic Remote Sensing (NordAquaRemS).

The FP7 Regpot project “Expose the Capacity of Estonian Space Research and Technology through High Quality Partnership in Europe” (EstSpacE, 2008 March -2011 Feb, led by Dr. A. Reinart) is centered around Tartu Observatory. The main objective of the project is to create the necessary conditions for utilizing the existing and emerging research potential of Estonian scientific institutes in the field of space research and increase the level of international cooperation, furthermore to support closer cooperation with the European Space Agency and facilitating the participation of Estonian scientists in the activities of the FP7. More information is available in website www.estspace.ee.

The Nordic Network for Aquatic Remote Sensing (NordAquaRemS) /NordAquaRemS has recently been funded by NordForsk (October 2008 to October 2011, led by Associate Prof. S. Kratzer, Stockholm University). The network consists of ca. 50 researchers and PhD students from the Nordic and Baltic Sea region. The main focus is to improve Nordic collaboration as well as PhD training in aquatic remote sensing. Because of the geographical location, Nordic countries have a great challenge in the application of aquatic remote sensing; the use of standard processing of satellite data and global algorithms is inadequate (global products from NASA and ESA). Development of region-specific processing and algorithms is required (both for water and atmosphere). The planned events are listed on <http://nordaquarems.org/events>