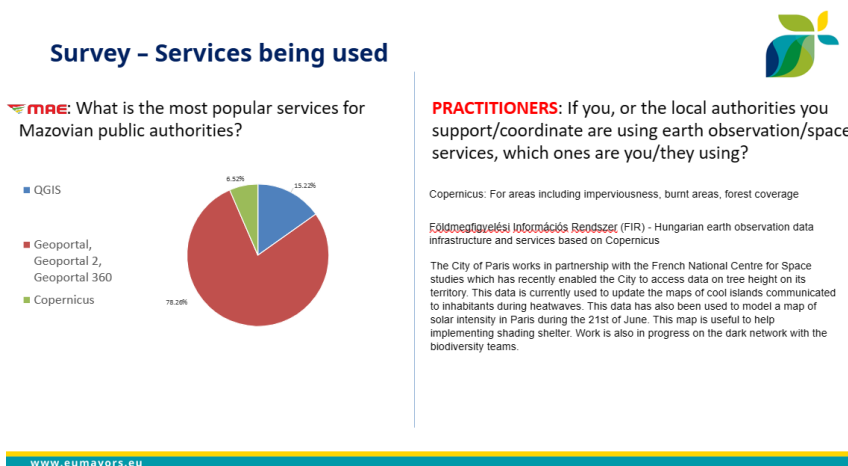
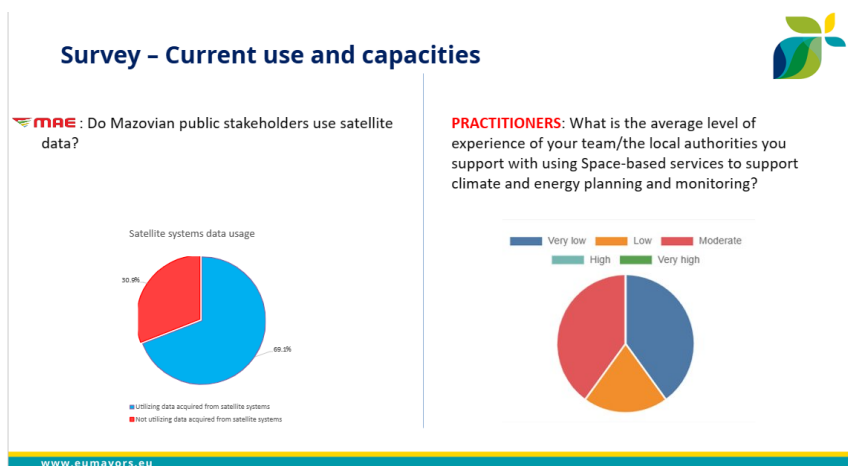


# EU Covenant of Mayors Practitioner Consultation on Space-based Services

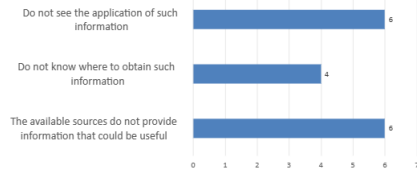
## Pre- Workshop Survey Results

- A short survey was sent to practitioners joining the workshop - 10 organisations.
- A second survey was developed at the initiative of Mazovian Energy Agency (MAE) in Poland and sent to 370 practitioners - 55 responses received.
- Questions from two surveys were not identical but covered similar themes.
- More importantly, while not large enough samples to be statistically significant, it provides us with a rough baseline of where this conversation is starting from.



## Survey - Barriers

**MAE:** Why do Mazovian public stakeholders not use satellite data?



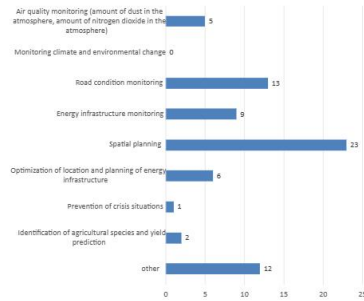
**PRACTITIONERS:** What do you think are the largest barriers local authorities face to using Space-based services?



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## Survey - Barriers

**MAE:** What is purpose of using satellite data for Mazovian public authorities



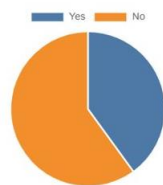
**PRACTITIONERS:** What are current climate and energy planning and monitoring data/information gaps that earth space-based services might be able to fill?



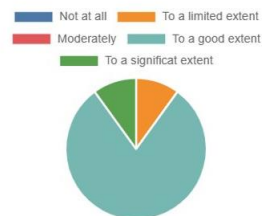
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## Survey - GIS Staffing and usefulness

**PRACTITIONERS:** Do you have GIS/Remote Sensing specialists in your team?



**PRACTITIONERS:** Would your team/the local authorities you support benefit from capacity building around potential space-based solutions?



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## Breakout Group Exercise

All workshop participants were broken into four groups, with the focus on practitioner responses to the three guiding questions. Below were the key messages/themes emerging from each group.

### Question 1: What are some of local practitioners' currently unmet information/data needs?

- While there will always be a need for new services, there was a strong sense that right now, local authorities do not necessarily need more data services, but instead they should be supported to **start using what already exists**, in a smart and coherent way.
- Overall, consensus was that there was a mismatch exists between what space-based service providers understand the needs of local authorities to be, and a similarly, **a lack of awareness on the side of municipalities on what services already exist**.
- Another commonly stated unmet need is less around the data itself, and more around the **tools to be able to make sense of the data**, so as to inform policies and which actions within SECAPs to prioritise. The data and tools should also be capable of supporting monitoring of implemented actions to see if they are improving the situation, especially in adaptation.
- Finally, a clear need was articulated for **data at much higher levels of resolution** to support planning and implementation around areas such as urban heat.

### Question 2: What are the key considerations for how space-based/EO services need to be designed and presented to overcome some of the current local authority limitations to using them

- There was consensus across the groups that there is actually a lot of data generated within and outside of municipalities, but it not always usable as **disaggregated in diverse ways** by different departments because of issue of siloing.
- As indicated in the previous question, one of the main issues raised was around **data resolution**. The need to zoom in on different parts of the cities is critical. So, **questions raised on whether data can be provided at a higher resolution than 300m**, e.g. for urban heat.
- The other commonly raised issue was that there was **insufficient knowledge of what space-based services exist to support energy and climate planning**. Part of the challenge is that in fact there are **so many services**, so it is very difficult for a local or regional authority to understand **which ones might best suit their needs**.
- As European municipalities exhibit great heterogeneity, with variable levels of capacity, data services need to be designed so as to be **accessible and useable by non-technical experts**. Currently, many of these services require **too high a level of technical expertise to make sense of them**. This is particularly related to **translating the data from these services into information that can be acted on**.
- Another mentioned barrier was that **most of these services only being in English**.

### Question 3: Reflections on how to take this exercise forward? What are some low-hanging fruits? What else should we focus on first?

- Overall, there was a strong sense that we should **be realistic and practical** and start with helping our CoM-munity **understand what services are out there, for what purposes and at what levels of granularity/resolution**. That would be a great start. It would address the issue of both a lack of awareness of what services exist, and the issue of there being so many services that local authorities find it difficult to understand which ones might best meet their data needs.
- Many participants raised or concurred with the idea of **identifying a few priority areas** into which we could dig deeper in terms of understanding user needs, common barriers, existing services, associated support tools, levels of resolution and then finally remaining gaps. The end product would be a kind of **inventory to help guide users quickly to the most suitable products, as well as then identify potential new areas for development**. Such areas regularly raised by practitioners were **urban heat/heat island effect, vegetation cover and space availability for photovoltaics**.
- As such, a suggested next step is to **work with the space-based service partners to explore exactly what services exist to support the provision of data in each of these areas**. For each area, the analysis should also explore how such services could be more easily accessed/used and what is still missing in terms of resolution. This may or may not lead to a need for new services or tools to eventually be developed.
- A complementary stream of work may be around **increasing local authority awareness more generally about the potential value of space-based services** and the broad range of services available to address their priorities.
  - Part of this could be **increased communication on best experiences of municipalities on using data**. This may eventually lead to the creation of a **space for exchange on these topics** (potentially through the existing Smart Cities Marketplace Focus and Discussion Groups platform).
- It was felt by many that data services could/should mirror a kind of multi-level governance process in that national authorities using this data for national level policy and monitoring processes should also be engaged in this process. This process could explore which and how national data could be used at the regional level. The regional level might then be best placed to provide what is relevant down to their municipalities.
  - Noted by numerous practitioners was the very important role for CoM supporters/coordinators (e.g. regions, regional energy agencies, technical NGOs) on this topic. Given the reality that the majority of European local authorities are relatively small with limited staffing, technical and budgetary capacities, these intermediary organisations are possibly best placed to hold the skills and knowledge in how to use these services, and then support their local authorities in integrating data emerging from these services into local SECAPs.
- Finally, it was suggested that it could be interesting to tap into existing opportunities for municipal engagement in space-based service development such as ESA's pilot projects. Another option is to support CoM signatories to get involved in other EU projects on this topic as a way of building their capacities as well as ensuring new services are designed to meet user needs.

- Other capacity building opportunities, such as participation in conferences such as ESA's URBIS24 or other service provider webinars or training, should also be strongly promoted by the CoM office