

TERRASCOPE: Sentinel data now readily available for all Belgian users



The European Commission designed its Copernicus programme for a better understanding of our environment. A key element of the programme are the Sentinel satellites which are being developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) to provide detailed maps of our planet. The images acquired by the Sentinel satellites are freely available for all: industry, government, academia and the private citizens.

Not everyone, however, easily finds his way to these images. Moreover, the use of standard imagery is not always as user-friendly as could be. That's why individual European member states can set up a so-called "Collaborative Ground Segment" in consultation with ESA. These are meant to ensure a low-threshold access to satellite imagery and to transform satellite imagery in ready-to-use information for interested users.



BELSPO (the Federal Science Policy Office) has just launched TERRASCOPE (<https://www.terrascope.be>), the Belgian Collaborative Ground Segment. It takes advantage of existing infrastructure that Belgium built up for the SPOT-VEGETATION and PROBA-V missions. From now on TERRASCOPE will offer its users following products and services:

- Sentinel imagery;
- Information products derived from Sentinel imagery;

- Computing power for third parties to use to generate their own information products.

TERRASCOPE aims to be a flexible and dynamic platform which should allow for new developments resulting from collaboration between Belgian partners in dialogue with BELSPO.

BELSPO is dedicated to encourage Belgian users to work with Sentinel data. To better understand which products our Belgian users need and how they would like to see TERRASCOPE evolve, we invite each of you to complete the TERRASCOPE survey (<https://www.terrascope.be>).