

## Preface

The 33rd EARSeL Symposium entitled “Towards Horizon 2020: Earth Observation and Social Perspectives” was held in Matera, from 3 to 6 June 2013. It was jointly organized by EARSeL and Istituto di Metodologie per l’Analisi Ambientale, Istituto dei Beni Archeologici e Monumentali of the Italian National Council Research (CNR-IMAA, CNR-IBAM) in collaboration with the University of Basilicata.

As a whole, the EARSeL events have been conceived with the aim to facilitate discussions and debates on the use and future perspectives of Earth Observation technologies to address the needs of society. In this context, The Symposium was accompanied by four workshops and a rich proposal of new activities, such as a photographic exhibition of satellite data, educational courses and business opportunities which successfully contributed to address the main topic dealing of the Earth Observation technologies and Social Perspectives.

This volume presents around one hundred contributions of over 200 participants, coming from thirty countries of 4 continents presented to the following scientific sessions such as: Hidrology, Developing Countries, Space Technology and Missions, Radar Remote Sensing, Geologic & Seismic Applications, Urban Remote Sensing, Sea and Snow/Ice monitoring, Temporal Analysis, Land Use/ Land Cover, Land Use/ Land Cover, Forestry & Natural Environment, Forest Fire, Methods & Instruments, Cultural Heritage, Climate Change & Metereology.

A special session, jointly organized with CNES, was dedicated to Pleiades mission.

As keynote presentations, outstanding representatives of national and international space agencies and institution such as ESA, NASA, ASI, CNES, BELSPO, IEA, provided a focus on the past, present and future activities and opportunities.

We would like to thank the sponsors: European Space Agency, Italian Space Agency and Belgium Federal Science Policy Office.

We are looking forward to meeting you next year, at the 34 EARSeL Symposium in Warsaw , Poland.

Rosa Lasaponara, Nicola Masini, Marilisa Biscione

Editors of the 33rd EARSeL Symposium Proceedings