

# THE EVALUATION OF THE STEREO II PROGRAMME

STEREO Team

*BEODAY – Lier*  
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# STEREO II: Resources and Output

## Resources

- Budget: 25,85 m€ (2006 – 2014)
- STEREO – team: 4,5 persons

## Output

- 6 calls for proposals
- 104 proposals submitted
- 63 projects of which:
  - 11 big thematic projects
  - 27 small 'satellite' projects
  - 12 Development of products and services in public/private partnership
  - 10 shared cost projects (call + no call)

# STEREO II Output (cont'd)

## Output

- 126 project promoters
- 120 international STCom members
- 378 peer reviewed papers thus far and counting
- Acquisition of almost 300 satellite images
- Organisation of 5 dedicated airborne campaigns
- Promotion and valorisation
  - Websites [eo.belspo.be](http://eo.belspo.be) and [eoedu.belspo.be/](http://eoedu.belspo.be/)
  - 8 Beodays
  - Exhibitions + Posters
  - ...

# Objectives of the evaluation

- Assess the performance of STEREO II
- Transversal analysis of the programme (best practices, international visibility, partnerships, SWOT, ...)
- Provide recommendations for SRIII

# KEY CONCLUSIONS

- Programme relevance
- Programme implementation (efficiency)
- Programme output (effectiveness)
- Longer term impacts

# PROGRAMME RELEVANCE

*(Societal significance of programme)*

- + Programme and activities highly relevant
- + Right form of support for research community
- + Four thematic areas: relevant
  - *Lack of support for applications and exploitation of results*
  - *No Belgian niche*
  - *Weak coherence and linkage between projects*

## PROGRAMME RELEVANCE cont'd

- + SRII covers broad spread of competences
- + SRII complements other EO programmes in Belgium and abroad
- Added value STEREO over other programmes:
  - + Lower administrative burden
  - + Higher degree of flexibility
  - + Relevance of topics
- *Not enough links with other programmes and international EO activities*

# PROGRAMME RELEVANCE cont'd

- EODesk

- + activities relevant and effective

- + services good quality

- + BEODay efficient to bring community together

- *Need for educational activities?*

- *More focus on uptake of research results by public or private sector*



# PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (Efficiency)

*(Management processes + ratio effects/costs)*

- + Efficient management
- + Relationship between BELSPO and stakeholders
- + Cost/benefit ratio of participation
- + Strong networking and support
- + Chances for young talents
- *Other activities by STEREO members*
- Factors for project's success
  - + 2 step selection process
  - + International steering committee
  - + Possibility for international partners

# EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMME

*(to what extent the programme achieved its objectives)*

## + Support of scientific output

- + direct scientific results

- + PhD theses

- + Training

- + Publications

- + Successful networking both nationally and abroad

## ■ STEREO network

- + dense and effective

- + most prolific scientists involved

- + reinforcement of key researchers + participation in international projects



# EFFECTIVENESS OF PROGRAMME

+ International visibility

- *Practical applications and exploitation of research results*

■ EODesk

+ Contribution to knowledge of RS

# LONGER TERM IMPACT

- + Knowledge, expertise and scientific capabilities in new and familiar research fields
- + Improved network and enhanced visibility
- + Collaborative research benefits new research
- + Improved access to further funding (more chances in international programmes)

# LONGER TERM IMPACT

- + Steering committee catalyst for international projects
- + Share of Belgian STEREO publications in field of remote sensing: from 20 % in 2007 to 72% in 2011
- + STEREO publications more than twice as much cited than field average
- + Quality of the journals above the field average
- *Little impact on improvement of business opportunities*
- *Results projects insufficiently turned into applications*

# SWOT ANALYSIS: STRENGTHS

- Objectives achieved
- Excellent scientific results
- Freedom in scientific focus
- Support of young scientists
- Effective management
- Improved international reputation
- International partnering
- Steering committee

# SWOT ANALYSIS: WEAKNESSES

- Development of applications
- Link with other programmes and int. activities
- Information sharing between projects limited
- No explicit Belgian niche
- Career opportunities PhD students



# SWOT ANALYSIS: OPPORTUNITIES

- Setting more strategic research priorities
- Facilitate partnerships research - industry
- Adapt BEODays
  - More active participation of stakeholders
  - Connect industry with graduate students – job market
- Stimulate toolbox
- International branding
- External links (Horizon 2020)
- (Facilitate creation of spin-offs)

# SWOT ANALYSIS: THREATS

- Belgian political situation
- Victim of own success if complacent
- Job opportunities researchers

# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. DEVELOP STRATEGIC ROADMAP
  - *Formulate long-term targets based on needs*
2. ALLOW FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY AS REGARDS TYPE OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED
3. BETTER INTEGRATE USERS AND STAKEHOLDERS
4. IMPROVE DISSEMINATION AND BRANDING
5. DEVELOP STRATEGY FOR EODESK

*Thank you for your attention*