



THEME [ENV.2010.4.1.4-1]
[Identification and Networking of EO activities in the Balkan area]
Coordination & Support Action



OBSERVE

*Strengthening and development of Earth Observation activities
for the environment in the Balkan area*

OBSERVE COMPETITION GUIDE

Promoting **use of Earth observation data in the Balkans.**



www.observe-fp7.eu

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This document describes the objectives and rules of the OBSERVE competition and outlines the participation and registration procedure, the evaluation of the entries, and the selection the winner

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION

The **OBSERVE** project, a project funded by the European Union under its FP7 programme, is organising a competition which aims at the intensified use of Earth observation data in the Balkans.

Participants from the Balkans are invited to analyse given **air quality data** sets and to report their findings to the organisers of the competition. The analysis results shall describe typical phenomena that are contained in the data such as pollution levels, their spatial relationships, temporal evolutions, etc.

The competition results will be reviewed by a committee and a first prize and two runner-up prizes will be awarded together with a certificate to the best submissions.

The prize winners will be given the opportunity to present their results during an event organised by the **OBSERVE** project. Additional travel funding will be offered to the prize winners by the **OBSERVE** project.

COMPETITION THEME



Each participant shall select air quality data from the website of the **PROMOTE** project:

http://wdc.dlr.de/data_products/projects/promote/IAQ/

and analyze the selected data. Typical examples could be comparisons of regional air quality conditions, comparisons between Balkan countries, similarities and dissimilarities of the concentrations of chemical constituents, the temporal evolution of concentrations, or the discovery of physical and chemical relationships contained in the air quality data.

We expect that the participants from different countries will have interest in distinct thematic areas. Typical areas of interest to our **OBSERVE** member institutions are the characteristic signatures of industrial areas versus non-industrial areas, the transport of air pollution over large distances, the mapping accuracy of pollution images, the analysis

of dynamic events within image time series, and the search for characteristic air quality descriptors that can be recognized by simple computer programs.

For instance, a typical case study could compare the air quality of two or more selected areas with respect to pollution levels within a given time period.

Typical results to be expected are maps, plots and numerical results describing environmental phenomena such as locations and levels of air pollution, expected and unexpected events, detected features and patterns, neighbourhood relationships, variations, change rates, and their dependence on daytime, season, weekdays, etc. The results shall be described and submitted to the organisers.

The Balkan countries probably show common as well as individual features that can be used to predict and improve the current and future air quality and every citizen living in a Balkan country can profit from improved environmental conditions.

DATA SETS AVAILABILITY

The primary air quality data to be analysed shall be downloaded from the PROMOTE website via the internet by every participant. In addition, every participant is allowed to use additional data from publicly available sources such as meteorological data archives; however, the use of any additional data shall be clearly described by the participants.

Every participant is required to register in order to get access to the air quality data and to accept the rules of the PROMOTE website hosting the air quality data (see above).

The available air quality data of PROMOTE are hourly updated air quality forecast maps of Europe containing ground concentrations of ozone (O_3), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), and particulate matter (PM_{10} , i.e., fine dust). The data sets can be downloaded as netCDF files (readers are provided). In addition, daily overview data are available as annotated GIF images.

Likewise, the results obtained by a participant have to be submitted electronically to the organisers.

ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

Every person with permanent residence in one of the following countries is allowed to participate: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, and Turkey.

Participants will compete as individuals; however, they may receive assistance from other persons. Any individual may participate only once.

The minimum age of a participant is 18 years.

OBSERVE consortium individuals and their family members are not allowed to participate.

By taking part in the competition, a participant accepts the terms and conditions listed in this invitation.

EVALUATION PROCESS / COMMITTEE

The evaluation committee will be comprised of the WP3 Leader, the Coordinator and one advisory board member. The committee will evaluate the submissions and will inform the participants about their scoring and ranking.

As the committee has no means to verify personal details of the participants or any support provided by other persons, there are no categories such as age groups, educational level, number of persons involved, or professional background.

The criteria to give scores to the participants are:

- Selection of the phenomena to be analysed (e.g., rationale)
- Approach taken to solve the problem (e.g., clarity and originality of the method)
- Quality of the description of the results (e.g., understandability)
- Impact of the findings on the Balkans (e.g., societal benefit)

Within each category up to 10 points will be awarded. The overall score determines the winners.

Based on all submissions received in due time and their scoring, the committee will select the winners of the competition.

The committee shall document the selection of the winners based on their individual scoring. The selection of winners shall be completed within one month after the submis-

sion deadline. After the selection of winners, the committee will notify all participants of the competition about its outcome. The notifications will be sent via mail and/or e-mail within one week after the selection of winners. If a winner does not respond to this notification within 14 days, the committee may select another winner to obtain the prize and to be invited to an event organised by **OBSERVE**.

Any questions arising during the competition shall be addressed via e-mail to:

competition@observe-fp7.eu.

Questions and answers that could be of interest to other participants will be posted on the **OBSERVE** website.

PRIZES

The competition results will be reviewed by a committee and a first prize and two runner-up prizes will be awarded together with a certificate to the best submissions:

- First prize
- First runner-up prize
- Second runner-up prize

The prize winners will be given the opportunity to present their results during the final event of the OBSERVE project that will be organized October 2012 in Thessaloniki, Greece. Travel funding (air tickets, accommodation and registration fee, for OBSERVE's final event in Thessaloniki) will be offered to the prize winners by the OBSERVE project.

Furthermore the prize winners' contributions will be published to SEE-J-EOG (South-Eastern European Journal of Earth Observation and Geomatics).

IMPORTANT DATES

Submission Deadline:

30-04-2012

Winners Notification:

1-6-2012

TEMPLATES

Each submitted entry has to include (in a single Word or PDF file):

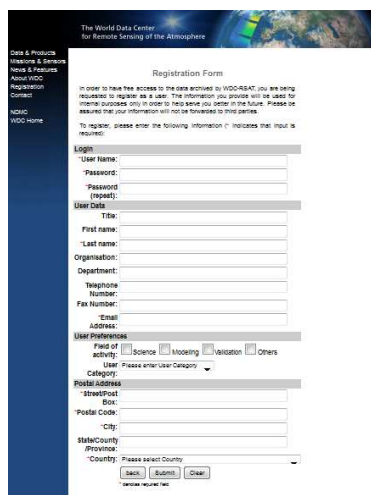
- A title page including a title of your entry, the first and second name of the participant, the participant's affiliation and e-mail addresses, and a declaration to accept the rules of this competition.
- Up to fifteen pages of text and illustrations describing the studied topics, the selected approach, the obtained results, and references

Incomplete submissions are not eligible to win.

A template can be downloaded from the **OBSERVE** website at www.observe-fp7.eu at the competition section

REGISTRATION / SUBMISSION PROCESS

The steps to be taken by a participant require registration to **PROMOTE** online facility through its website to obtain data access: http://wdc.dlr.de/wdc_login/register_form.php



Once logged in and authenticated the user will obtain a password to access the air quality data. Every participant can browse the data archive and download data sets of interest. The downloaded datasets shall then be analyzed. Finally, the analysis results shall be described in English.

Results must be submitted via e-mail to:

competition@observe-fp7.eu prior to April 30, 2012 at midnight (Central European Time).

LEGAL ASPECTS

The terms and conditions given in this invitation shall not be governed by the law of an individual country; however, local laws must be respected by every participant, in particular laws applicable to prize winning contests. The participants agree that any disputes

shall be resolved in an amicable manner. The selection of winners by the committee shall not be subject to appeal by the participants. Prizes are not transferable to other persons.

In particular, the participants agree that their submitted entries as well as their personal details can be published and distributed freely by the organisers of the competition in order to promote the use of Earth observation data in the Balkans. the participants are responsible for not submitting any copyrighted or protected material and they will hold harmless **BSERVE** from any claim. **BSERVE** plans to distribute a CD-ROM containing the most important results of the project, among them results from the competition, personal details of the participants, and photographs or videos taken at the event. All these data shall also be uploaded to the **BSERVE** website. The **BSERVE** project reserves the right to cancel the competition in case of a major unforeseen event.

BSERVE is not liable for any loss or damage occurring during the participation. Prize winners are responsible for any taxes to be paid by them and their travel documents to attend the event. The details of travel support will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

The participants are responsible for keeping the organisers informed about any change of their contact data.



**Join our Competition and
present your results during
the final event in Thessalo-
niki, Greece in October 2012
for free.**