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Satellite Remote Sensing for Cultural and Natural Heritage: Assessing Copernicus Sentinels and Contributing Missions Added Value

Guest Editors

Dr. Branka Cuca branka.cuca@polimi.it

Dr. Francesca Cigna f.cigna@isac.cnr.it

Dr. Iulia Dana iulia.dana@rosa.ro

Dr. Cristian Moise cristian.moise@rosa.ro

Dr. Deodato Tapete deodato.tapete@asi.it

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Special Issue Information

Cultural and Natural Heritage (CNH) has a critical value in building the local identity and strengthening the regional growth and development, and is included in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There is a wide consensus about the usefulness of satellite technologies to support the study, documentation and systematic monitoring for protection and sustainable maintenance of CNH. Copernicus satellite data from the Sentinels and Contributing Missions, as well as their derived products, satisfy CNH user requirements and prove high potential to stimulate substantial growth of the Cultural Heritage downstream applications and market. Furthermore, various initiatives have been launched by ESA and national space agencies to support the development of downstream applications in the CNH sector.

In this context, this Special Issue would like to explore how the community including EO scientists, CNH experts and institutional bodies has progressed in the scientific exploitation of Copernicus satellite data. In particular, the focus will be given to the combination with cutting edge technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to provide further benefits to professionals involved in the field of CNH but also to larger interested public, education and research sector. Therefore, papers on the above topics are welcome, including full articles aiming to expand the presentations made during the thematic session on Cultural and Natural Heritage held at Living Planet Symposium 2022 (LPS22).

