

# The impact of data availability on firm performance: an exploratory study on the Earth Observation downstream sector in Italy

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The increasing availability of Earth Observation (EO) data on planet earth is contributing to the proliferation of firms that provide innovative services and applications in a wide range of fields from climate change monitoring, natural disasters management, resource efficiency, and human health prevention to mention a few. In this paper, we explore the benefits stemming from the availability of earth observation data, accruing for these firms in terms of innovation and overall economic performance. Our analysis draws on a survey carried out with a sample of Italian firms representing around 74% of the national population of the EO downstream sector. Results show that EO data contribute to fostering innovation and economic performance to a different extent among firms, and we explore the causes of this heterogeneity.