

European GNSS Agency (GSA) Annual Activity Report 2020



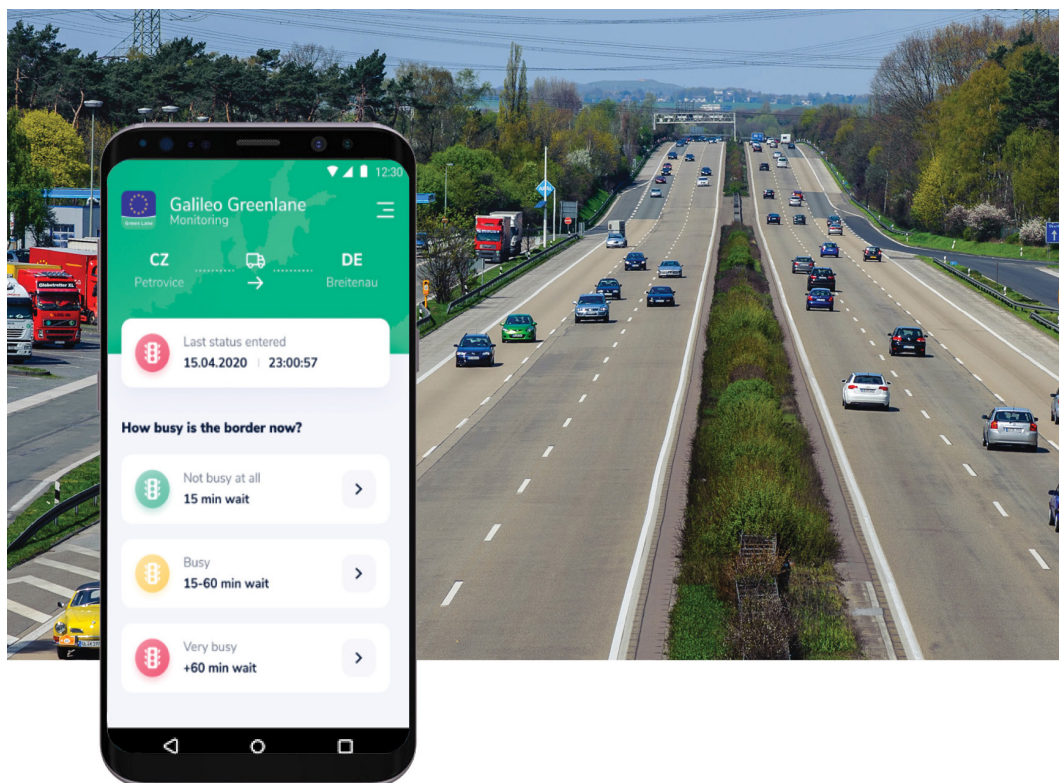
2020 Highlights

For everybody, including the European GNSS Agency (GSA), 2020 was a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Agency put measures in place to ensure the safety of its staff, and engaged EGNSS (Galileo and EGNOS) in mitigating the impacts of the pandemic on European society. Specifically, the “Galileo Green Lane” app was developed to ease pressure at the EU’s internal borders and enable the efficient transit of critical goods, keeping EU borders open to freight at this critically important time.

Other highlights from the year included the launch of a key Galileo differentiator - the Galileo Return Link Service and the upgrade of the Galileo Search and Rescue ground facilities to support the International COSPAS-SARSAT programme’s transition towards MEOSAR completion. 2020 also saw the entry into service of the EGNOS GEO-3 payload, and the start of Galileo Security Monitoring Centre (GSMC) dual-site operations with the new GSMC site in Spain.

During 2020, the GSA was responsible for a range of activities, including ensuring the security accreditation of Galileo and EGNOS, through its independent Security Accreditation Board (SAB) and ensuring the operation of the Galileo Security Monitoring Centre (GSMC). The Agency was also responsible for certain tasks related to access to the Galileo Public Regulated Service (PRS) and promoting and marketing of Galileo and EGNOS services.

In addition, the GSA performed other tasks related to the implementation of the Galileo and EGNOS programmes, including operational activities, development and deployment, promoting the development of applications and services based on the systems, and raising awareness of these applications and services. Other tasks included promoting the development of Fundamental Elements, such as Galileo-enabled chipsets and receivers, preparatory activities for GOVSATCOM, including related to the GOVSATCOM hub, and fulfilling defined tasks related to the management of projects under the Horizon 2020 framework programme for navigation applications research and innovation.



Security Accreditation

The Security Accreditation Board (SAB) maintained its ability to take essential security accreditation decisions throughout the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, the SAB maintained the statement regarding the authorisation for the programme to provide initial operations of the Galileo system. It also undertook various programme-relevant analyses.

The SAB continued the accreditation activities of the EGNOS system and approved the principles for the site accreditation approach in particular for the RIMS site assurance. At the end of 2020, the EGNOS Security Accreditation Strategy was ready for approval.

Public Regulated Service

The Agency carried out the PRS activities entrusted to it. In particular, the Agency worked on implementing the arrangement concluded between the EC and the Agency. This included implementation and maintenance of all tasks, such as PRS information handling etc., that the Agency is required to perform to ensure compliance with the PRS framework, in addition to the implementation and maintenance of the functionalities for the performance of activities in support of Competent PRS Authorities (CPAs).

Galileo Security Monitoring Centre Operations

With respect to GSMC operations in 2020 the Agency demonstrated its capability – despite COVID-19 – to sustain 24/7 service provision for Galileo Security Monitoring and PRS Access Management whilst executing the migration to the new Galileo Security Facility for Enhanced Services.

In addition, the GSA supported the main programme activities, including the back-up site operations to ensure dual site capability readiness following the Hosting Agreement signature between Spain, the European Commission and the GSA in 2019.

Promotion and Marketing

In 2020, the Agency continued working to further strengthen Galileo and EGNOS market uptake all over the Union and worldwide with almost 2 billion users reached by the end of the year.

The Agency also progressed with its strategy for the implementation of added-value application offerings to leverage the Galileo Open Service in the short term and then the Open Service Navigation Message Authentication (OS-NMA). Work continued on the competitions and prizes supported by the Agency.

In 2020, the GSA also published the third issue of the GNSS User Technology Report and held the online editions of the European Union Space Week and User Consultation Platforms, with over 3000 participants.





Galileo

In 2020, Galileo service provision was carried out in line with the service declaration. Among the main highlights of 2020, Galileo service provision was outstanding despite COVID-19, and the Return Link Service was declared operational in early 2020. A key milestone was achieved in the fourth quarter with the handover of further maintenance activities to the GSA/GSOp.

EGNOS

EGNOS services were maintained and remained resilient to the COVID crisis in 2020. Key Agency activities undertaken in 2020 include preparations for the next EGNOS Service Provision phase, for the EGNOS V3 and EGNOS V242 system evolutions and operational transition, among others.

GOVSATCOM

In 2020 an initial network of GOVSATCOM users was built, consisting of representatives from 12 Member States and 7 EU Agencies, under the GSA lead. The GSA contributed to the consolidation of the GOVSATCOM Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action (CSA) grant project ENTRUSTED and has been working to ensure the timely availability of ENTRUSTED deliverables. The Agency has also undertaken key preparatory activities in the framework of the GOVSATCOM HUB procurement.

Horizon 2020

The EC delegated activities for implementing the Horizon 2020 - Framework Programme for Research and Innovation to the Agency. In 2020, the Agency managed a portfolio of 79 projects from Horizon 2020's first, second, third and fourth calls.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

March 2011: EGNOS Safety-of-Life Service certified for use in civil aviation

July 2012: EGNOS Data Access Service becomes available

September 2012: GSA moves to Prague

January 2014: GSA takes on responsibility for EGNOS services

May 2016: First LPV-200 approach implemented

December 2016: Galileo Initial Services declared operational

May 2016: Galileo recognised as part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System

September 2017: First dual-frequency GNSS receiver for smartphones

September 2018: certification strategy is confirmed integrating E-GNSS for train signalling

November 2018: U.S. FCC approves use of Galileo signals in United States

2018: the first multi-purpose IoT tracker supporting Galileo is launched

September 2019 – One billion Galileo-enable devices on the market

January 2020: Galileo Return Link Service declared operational

February 2020: EGNOS GEO-3 payload enters into service



The European Union Agency for the Space Programme

The European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) provides safe and secure European satellite navigation services, promotes the commercialization of Galileo, EGNOS, and Copernicus data and services and coordinates the EU's forthcoming governmental satellite communications programme GOVSATCOM. EUSPA is responsible for the security accreditation of all the EU Space Programme components. By fostering the development of an innovative and competitive space sector and engaging with the entire EU Space community, EUSPA contributes to the European Green Deal and digital transition, the safety and security of the Union and its citizens, while reinforcing its autonomy and resilience.

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