



Annual Report 2014

Network of Regions Using Space Technologies

NEREUS aisbl

C/o Representation of the
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1. Introduction/General Overview

The year 2014 marked the beginning of a new decade. A new presidency for the NEREUS-network commenced along with a number of long-term initiatives. The EU-level saw a new political landscape (new Commission and a new European Parliament) and a new programme period for 2014-2020. For European space policy, 2014 marked a significant step ahead, with both European space flagships (Galileo and Copernicus) reaching the stage of operability.

Internally, Nichi Vendola, President of the Apulia region, was elected **President of NEREUS** and his proposed NEREUS work programme was adopted by the General Assembly in November 2014.

In line with EU-space policy developments, the NEREUS work programme focused on exploiting space for citizens' everyday life. Throughout 2014, many efforts were dedicated to promote **platforms of dialogue**. This initiative is important to strengthening the network as well as creating new collaborations among regions and other space players. To this end, high-level and international conferences in Bari and Rome were organised to reinforce the dialogue with EU, national and regional institutions. Focus also included dialogue with industry players on the fundamental role of space as a driver for innovation, along with a number of regional workshops in Bavaria, Brandenburg and Wallonia

Strengthening the **collaboration with the European Space Agency** was a critical achievement in 2014. A new project initiative, *"Improving Copernicus take-up among local and regional authorities via dedicated thematic workshops"* started in April 2014. This project fostered the dialogue between end-users and the supply-side with the objective to gain more information on the deployment of Copernicus services in the European regions.

Five management boards (January, February, July, October and November) and an annual General Assembly in November were organised in the reporting year.



2. The EIP-Space Initiative

European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) are a new strategic coordination approach to research and innovation support which has its origins in the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and the flagship initiative “Union for Innovation”. EIPs aim to bring relevant EU members together at both national and regional levels to share available resources, better cooperate, and align instruments and policies. The goal is to develop innovative solutions and bring inventive and original ideas to the marketplace.

There are currently 5 existing EIPs: Active and Healthy Ageing; Agriculture Sustainability and Productivity; Smart Cities and Communities; Raw Materials and Water.

Following the initiative of its member region Lazio throughout 2014, NEREUS has been promoting a better integration of the space sector to the existing EIPs, bringing space solutions to the different topics and challenges. A **cross-correlation analysis document** was compiled, which demonstrates space is a key enabler to existing EIPs and EU-policy objectives. The driving idea was that integrating space specialists to these structures and favouring a better cooperation between the space sector and non-space sector would benefit the development of business opportunities and thus the development of the downstream space application market.

The cross correlation analysis was part of a more detailed reference document titled **“Towards a focus area and an EIP on ‘Space’”** defining a focus area on space applications and outlining an EIP on space as an enabling tool to existing EIPs. The document was compiled by a task force of NEREUS members officially mandated by the Management Board. The main elements of the initiative were then summarised in the briefing paper **“EIP ‘space’ brief communication note”** which was also translated into the native languages of the network community. Both documents were approved by the Management Board and broadly disseminated amongst NEREUS membership, existing EIPs and relevant institutional players (EC-services, PermRep etc.).

As a further step, high-level and international conferences were organised to reinforce the dialogue with EU, national and regional institutions as well as industry players. A first event was organised by NEREUS in Brussels to debate and exchange **“Space – an enabling tool and facilitator for existing European Innovation Partnerships”** with relevant DGs from the European Commission and existing EIPs. The presentations of the 5 existing EIPs coupled with the discussion with representatives of the European Space Agency, CNES and European Commission showed that that space can bring an added value in each existing EIP and find resolutions to the societal challenges addressed by each partnership.

In September, a high level conference **“Space solutions to EU societal challenges”** was organised by the Lazio region and NEREUS, under the auspices of the Italian presidency of the Council in Rome. This political event brought together European, national and regional



institutions as well as the space community **to discuss how to best exploit space technologies as drivers for competitiveness, innovation and regional smart specializations.** EU ad interim Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, Ferdinando Nelli Feroci, particularly welcomed the idea of creating a new EIP on Space, emphasising the important bottom-up approach that had been taken so far.

Apart from this, NEREUS Secretary General Roya Ayazi accompanied by a member of the NEREUS-EIP task force, Lorenzo lo Cascio (Lazio region) **presented** the EIP on Space initiative at the **Council Working Group** in September. It represented an important opportunity to concretely receive feedback and identify the 28 EU member states' views. The initiative was positively received by the 28 member states and by representatives of the European Commission (EC) and met with a constructive and positive discussion afterwards. The topic was considered of great interest by the EC and member states, and discussions were held distinguishing between content and structure (instrument). Reservations and scepticisms were expressed about the (EIP) structure (tool).

One of the main outcomes of the meeting was the need to enhance the dialogue and **consensus building** at the level of EC, member states, Council, ESA, EP and in particular with relevant EC-services. To meet this need, a roadmap defining a series of actions and meetings has been developed by NEREUS EIP "task-force" and approved by the General Assembly in November.

3. A New NEREUS President: Nichi Vendola, President of Apulia Region



On 27-28 February, the Apulia region together with NEREUS and the Apulian Aerospace District organised the international conference **SPACE4YOU – Space, a driver for competitiveness and growth**. With more than 300 participants present and more than 800,000 followers via Twitter, it represented a unique event contributing to bring space closer to the citizens. On this occasion, Nichi Vendola, President of the Apulia region, highlighted the critical role space

technologies play in finding solutions for social and economic challenges of everyday life. He stressed the importance of exploiting space technologies for the benefit of citizens. The conference paved the way for Nichi Vendola's NEREUS presidency and demonstrated a strong commitment and interest to the cause of the network.

In July a board meeting was organised in Toulouse in the framework of the Toulouse Space show. On this occasion, Nichi Vendola presented the board his ideas and priorities for a NEREUS work programme mainly focused on the concrete exploitation of space technologies for citizens' everyday life. Three main objectives were defined in the proposed **NEREUS work programme 2014-2015**:

1. To strengthen the relationships between the network and the European Space Agency (ESA) and – with the contribution of the members- the National Space Agencies;
2. To build an agreement with the new institutional framework at the European level;
3. To increase the visibility of the network at the EU, national and local level, in order to foster the interregional cooperation among the network members and to attract new ones.

The work programme was approved by the board and Mr. Vendola was elected **ad interim President of NEREUS**. A festive ceremony for the passage of presidency at the presence of Martin Malvy, President of Midi-Pyrénées region, was then organised following the Management Board. After more than 5 years Mr Alain Bénétteau resigned from his position of NEREUS President. The members thanked Mr Bénétteau for the dedication to the cause of the network demonstrated in the past years with a warm and long applause. He was then elected third Vice-President, taking the responsibility to continue actively contributing to the activities of the network.

4. Collaboration with the European Space Agency (ESA)



With Galileo and Copernicus entering their operational phases, the development of new space-based applications and services is an upcoming reality and a concrete need across Europe. NEREUS' role of promoting the use of space technologies across all European regions is even more crucial. The collaboration with the European Space Agency, both at the political and operational level, is now more essential and strategic.

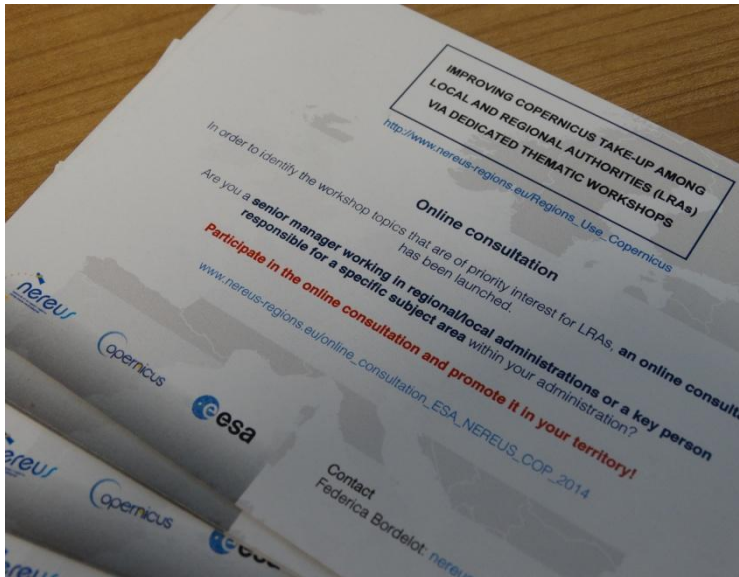
In 2014 the collaboration with ESA was reinforced and a new joint initiative ***“Improving Copernicus take-up among Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) via dedicated thematic workshops”*** was launched. A series of thematic workshops shall foster the dialogue between end users (mainly regions and LRAs) and the supply side with the objective to gain more information about the factors that are behind a slow Copernicus uptake and potential roadblocks. Taking up the findings of the 2012-NEREUS/ESA publication ***“The growing use of GMES across Europe’s regions”***, the current project wants to learn more about the deployment situation at the regional level.

This two-year project kicked off in April with the launch of a ***Europe-wide online consultation*** aimed at identifying the workshop topics that are of priority interest for LRAs. The consultation, available in 5 languages, was exclusively addressed to senior managers working in local/regional administrations or key persons responsible for a specific subject area in the administration. Closed on 15 December, the consultation gathered 175 replies from regions belonging to the NEREUS-network and beyond. The following three workshops topics were selected:

1. Spatial Planning (hosted by Midi-Pyrénées)
2. Environmental Planning and Management (hosted by Azores)
3. Natural Resource Management (hosted by Bavaria)

The workshops will take place throughout the year 2015.

NEREUS contribution to the ESA initiative ***“Copernicus (formerly) GMES application factsheets and animations: Data processing and production”*** also continued in the



short time the key benefits of Copernicus in a specific area. NEREUS' role was to advise the project consortium by providing feedback, inputs and graphic material from a regional perspective to the Copernicus briefs. In 2013/2014, 11 briefs have been published and NEREUS experts contributed to 4 of them - on fire, volcanism, Costa Concordia and coastal zones.

The **ESA/NEREUS dialogue at the political level** was also fostered in 2014. On the 14th of November

the NEREUS President Nichi Vendola visited the ESA/ESRIN site in Frascati and met with Volker Liebig, ESA Director for Earth Observation Programmes and Head of ESRIN, ESA's Centre for Earth Observation. Both parties affirmed their interest in cooperation and exchange, recognising the important role of regions in fostering the use of Copernicus applications and services.

5. Interregional Collaboration Programmes

NEREUS has been instrumental in acting as a platform for members to facilitate EU-funded projects and initiatives.

NEREUS FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

THE ISSUE (*Traffic-Health-Environment. Intelligent Solutions Sustaining Urban Economies*) brought together research clusters from 5 NEREUS regions and was qualified as NEREUS flagship project. Aimed at using intelligent traffic management to boost competitiveness of transport-related economies at urban, regional and local levels, the project combined diverse technologies and research applications to tackle these traffic management issues.

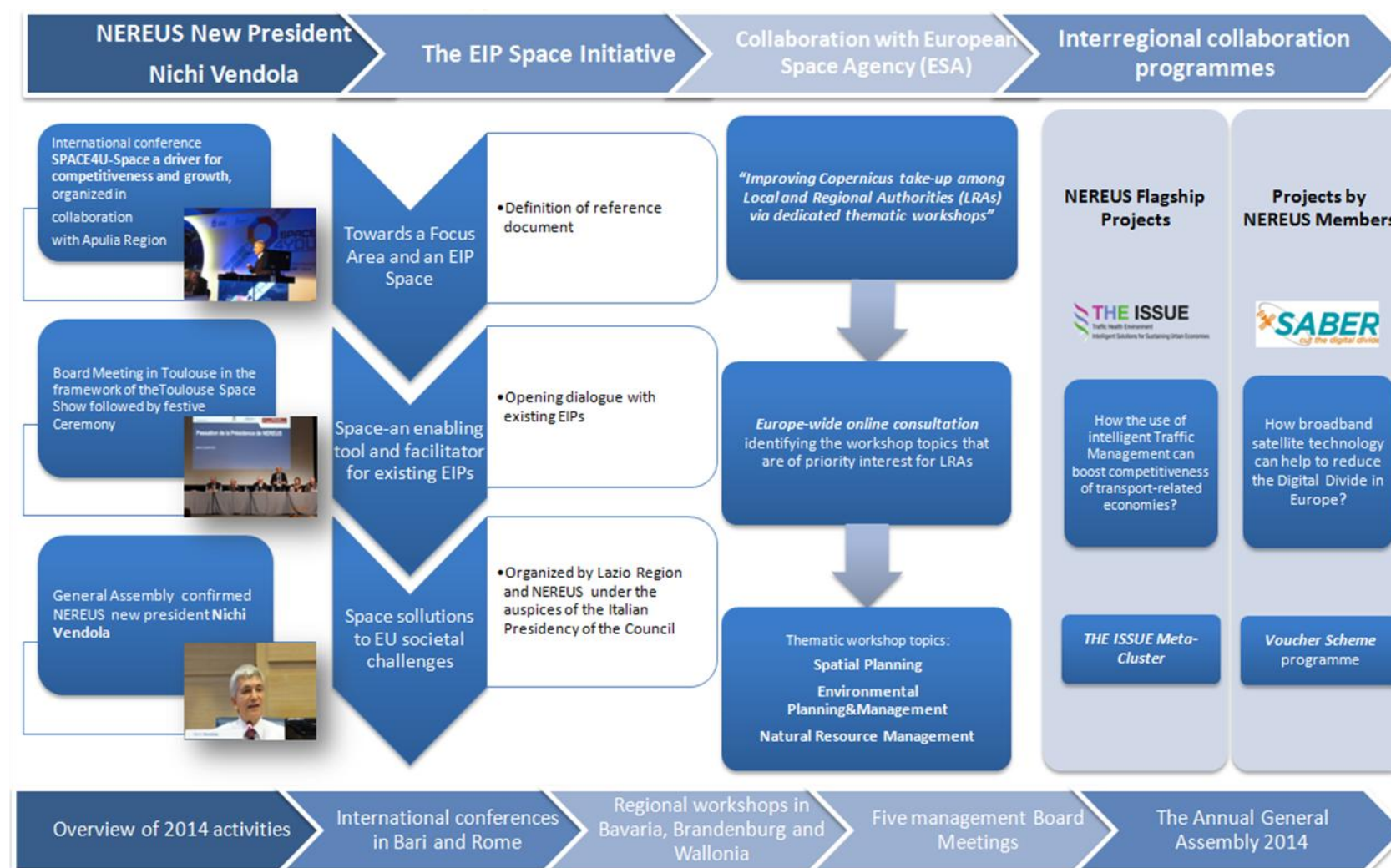
The 3-year FP7 project ended in November 2014 with a final conference in Brussels. While having identified strong research and technological capabilities across THE ISSUE network, a much clearer understanding of the key problems facing cities and regions in terms of the impact of transport on the economic, environmental and social health of these areas was found. One of the main outcomes of the project was the publication “Space and ICT applications supporting smart, green, integrated transport and urban mobility” produced in collaboration with NEREUS.

Following the end of the project, 11 regions of the consortium committed to support the establishment of ***THE ISSUE Meta-Cluster***: a platform for sustaining THE ISSUE network and taking forward the priority project proposals identified in the project. This new association will collaborate with NEREUS to better promote the use of space technologies for intelligent mobility purposes.

PROJECTS BY NEREUS MEMBERS

2014 marked the end also of the ***SABER*** (Satellite Broadband for European regions) thematic network. The main project objective was to explore how broadband satellite technology can help reduce the digital divide in Europe and to produce a set of guidelines and best practices to use these technologies. As one of the main deliverables, the consortium proposed the idea of a ***Voucher Scheme*** programme as an effective approach to raise awareness of the satellite broadband solution. On the occasion of the final conference in September, at the presence of representatives of EU and regional institutions as well as industry players, the project consortium suggested the adoption of the Voucher Scheme programme to work as an overarching programme with regional implementation, administration and delivery.

6. Annual Timeline of Activities 2014



7. List of members

THE NEREUS REGIONS – FULL MEMBERS (*)

1. Abruzzo (Italy)
2. Andalusia (Spain)
3. Apulia (Italy)
4. Aquitaine (France)
5. Azores (Portugal)
6. Baden-Württemberg (Germany)
7. Basilicata (Italy)
8. Bavaria (Germany)
9. Brandenburg (Germany)
10. Brittany (France)
11. East Midlands (United Kingdom)
12. Free Hanseatic City of Bremen (Germany)
13. French Guiana (France)
14. Hesse (Germany)
15. Lazio (Italy)
16. Lombardy (Italy)
17. Madrid (Spain)
18. Mazovia (Poland)
19. Midi-Pyrénées (France)
20. Provinces-Alpes-Côted’Azur – PACA (France)
21. South Holland (Netherlands)
22. Tuscany (Italy)
23. Veneto (Italy)
24. Wallonia (Belgium)

NEREUS ASSOCIATE MEMBERS (*)

1. AIPAS (Lazio)
2. Airbus Defence and Space (Midi-Pyrénées)
3. ALTEC SpA (Piedmont)
4. Compagnia Generale per lo Spazio CGS SpA (Lombardy)
5. Centre d’Etudes et d’Expertise sur les Risques, l’Environnement, la Mobilité et l’Aménagement CEREMA (Rhône-Alpes)
6. Centre National d’Etudes Spatiales, CNES (Midi-Pyrénées)
7. Centro de Vulcanologia e Avaliação de Riscos Geologicos, CVARG (Azores)
8. Centro Interdipartimentale Studi e Attività Spaziali, CISAS, «G. Colombo» (Veneto)

9. Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie du Gers, CCI Gers (Midi-Pyrénées)
10. Cité de l'Espace (Midi-Pyrénées)
11. Consorzio per la Gestione di Coordinamento delle Attività di Ricerca Inerenti il Sistema Lagunare di Venezia, CORILA (Veneto)
12. Consorzio per le Technologie per le Osservazioni della Terra e dei Rischi Naturali, TeRN (Basilicata)
13. EDISOFT SA (Azores)
14. EURAC Research European Academy (South Tyrol)
15. European Satellite Service Provider, ESSP (Midi-Pyrénées)
16. EUTELSAT, (Ile de France)
17. Fundación Aragonesa Para el Desarrollo de la Observación de la Tierra, FADOT (Aragón)
18. FFG, Austrian Research Promotion Agency (City of Vienna)
19. Geoville Information Systems (Innsbruck)
20. GIS Bretagne Télédétection (BreTel) (Brittany)
21. Institute for Electromagnetic Sensing of the Environment, IREA CNR UOS, Milan (Lombardy)
22. Interbalkan Environment Center, i-BEC (Lagadas, Greece)
23. Italian Cluster for Aerospace Technologies (Lazio)
24. Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées (Midi-Pyrénées)
25. Network della Meccanica Molfettese, NEMO (Apulia)
26. Pole Mer Bretagne (Brittany)
27. Politecnico di Milano, B.E.S.T. Department (Lombardy)
28. Politecnico di Torino (Piedmont)
29. Società Aerospaziale Mediterranea, SAM (Campania)
30. SELEX Galileo (Lombardy)
31. SES SA (Luxembourg)
32. Spanish Association of Telecommunication Engineers, AEIT (Madrid)
33. STAE Foundation (Midi-Pyrénées)
34. TECHNAPOLI (Campania)
35. TELESPIAZIO FRANCE (Midi-Pyrénées)
36. TéSA Laboratory (Midi-Pyrénées)
37. Tele-Rilevamento Europa, T.R.E. (Lombardy)
38. Thales Alenia Space
39. Toscana Spazio (Tuscany)
40. University of Turin (Piedmont)

*As of December 2014