

2016 ACTIVITY REPORT



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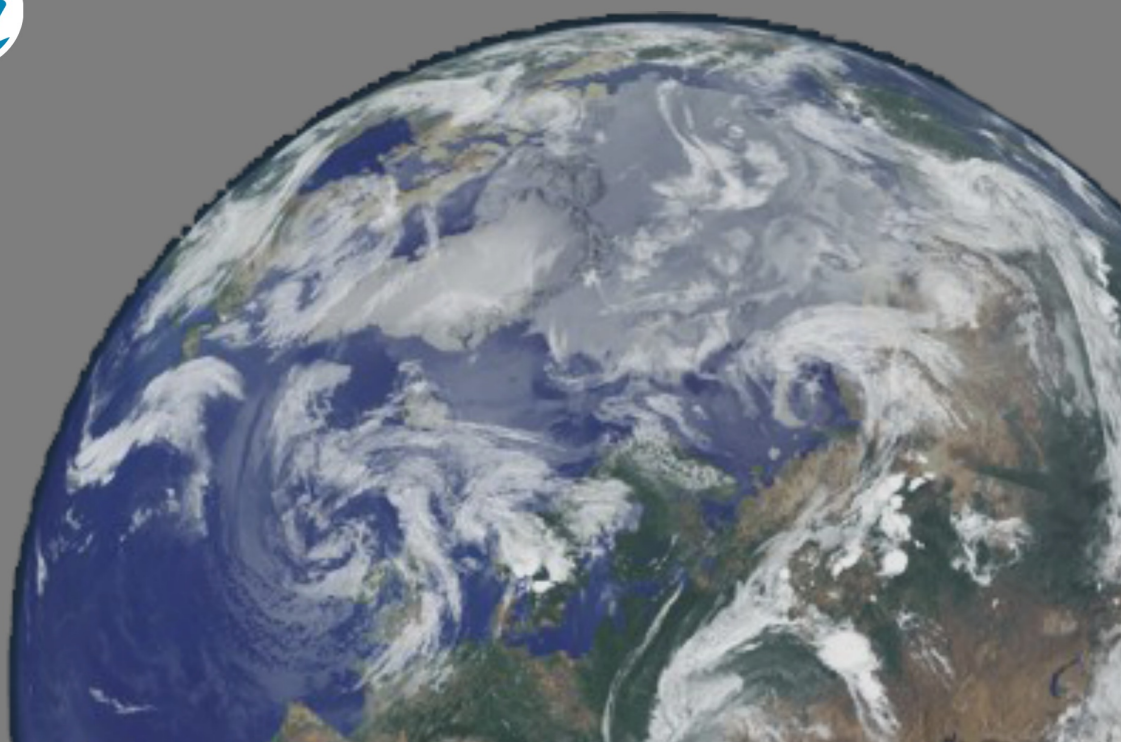
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1_Greetings from the Presidency



Dear NEREUS members,

2016 has been a crucial year for Europe's Space sector, both politically and for the operability of its space systems. By launching a Space Strategy for Europe, the European Commission (EC) set the stage for the future of space activities in Europe. This impacted on NEREUS' advocacy efforts: prior to its release, the network published a Position Paper which resulted from a broad interregional consultation process. It emphasized the regional dimension of future European Space endeavors but also contributed to further increasing the awareness and understanding of space at regional level. Our gratitude goes to all those who contributed with expert input to the compilation of a qualified reference document. In this respect, we particularly welcomed the specific mention of local and regional authorities made in the EC's proposal.

Through this Activity Report, we wish to share with you the results of last year's political dialogue as well as the outcomes of projects NEREUS has been involved in, supported by the European Commission, the European Space Agency and NEREUS Member Regions.

Increased opportunities come along with more responsibilities in order to fulfill the manifold expectations related to the network's involvement in such initiatives. For this reason, we want to make sure that each and every member is aware of the different ongoing activities so the network as a whole can respect its commitments and benefit from this growing recognition.

We look forward to meeting you in Brussels at the next General Assembly in May 2017, which will also include elections. We are confident that the upcoming months will provide us with many opportunities to jointly collaborate on NEREUS' core mission, bringing the benefits of space to European regions and their citizens.

Enjoy the read!



Michele EMILIANO,
NEREUS President



Christian BRUNS,
NEREUS Vice President



Baerbel DEISTING,
NEREUS Treasurer



Mark LESTER,
NEREUS Vice President



Bernard PLANO,
NEREUS Vice President

2_Report from the Secretary General



Dear NEREUS community,

Activity Reports enable us to take stock of our efforts and share with all members (we are now 25 Regions and 37 Associate Members distributed across 12 countries) ongoing opportunities.

In 2016 the network made a strategic shift in its activities: from being technology oriented, NEREUS members started privileging dedicated thematic initiatives. As a consequence, NEREUS reached out to new user communities as well as to other organizations and stakeholder groups.

Four thematic communities of interest consolidated around the following issues:

- Space for Agriculture and Rural Development,
- Space for Maritime purposes,
- Space for Development Cooperation
- Space for Cultural Heritage.

A series of activities, such as regional workshops or position papers, have been planned in collaboration with partners such as Mercator Ocean (for Maritime) or COPA COGECA (for Agriculture). Such partnerships led to knowledge circulation as well as exchange of opportunities for experts on our platform. We look forward to further consolidating such relationships in order to broaden our scope of action and spreading the uses of space technologies towards new target groups.

As reference point for voicing regional concerns at a political level in Europe, NEREUS was involved in projects funded by the European Commission and the European Space Agency. In 2017, new opportunities will open up for our members to grasp.

In the following pages, you can find some highlights of the past year, as well as an outlook on 2017, when the network will celebrate the 10 years from the signature of the Political Charter in Toulouse and hold new elections.

I hope you will share these highlights with your Regions.

Roya AYAZI,
NEREUS Secretary General



COPERNICUS USER UPTAKE FRAMEWORK CONTRACT European Commission

Spreading the uses of space technologies lies at the heart of NEREUS' mission. The European Commission's increased attention to raise awareness among potential users and stimulate the uptake and the development of the downstream market is particularly welcomed by our community.

Being part of the successful consortia implementing the multiannual (4 years) Copernicus User Uptake Framework Contract funded by the EC, was welcomed by NEREUS network partners as an opportunity to provide regional expert input to specific contracts.

A first step was the compilation of a pan-European study on Copernicus uptake initiatives, paving the way to a comprehensive Copernicus User Uptake strategy. Published in April 2016, the report comprises specific recommendations targeting local and regional authorities and recognizes the importance of the regional dimension when it comes to Copernicus deployment.

Moreover, NEREUS experts have been invited to provide public user perspectives at Copernicus User Workshops: this has multiplied opportunities for the NEREUS community to share its experience in different and new arenas.

Thirdly, the European Commission has launched a series of Copernicus Training and Info Sessions across Member States. NEREUS has been tasked to develop a specific module on "Copernicus for Local and Regional Authorities" and has been involved in developing video material to be distributed publicly. The Copernicus Training and Info Sessions are yet another opportunity to reach out to new communities with concrete user-case studies showcasing how Copernicus supports informed decision-making and long-term planning.



Copernicus InfoSession
Athens, Greece
7 October 2016

Copernicus for Local and Regional
Authorities,
by Roya Ayazi

Photo: courtesy of Planetek Hellas

IMPROVING COPERNICUS AMONG LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

European Space Agency

Under the auspices of MEP Patrizia Toia, the final event of the joint NEREUS-ESA initiative "Improving Copernicus Uptake among Local and Regional Authorities" was a milestone for the network: putting the Regions in the spotlight at the European Parliament, it fuelled into the political debate the broad panorama of public approaches to Copernicus deployment across Europe. Concrete experiences were presented by regional representatives, demonstrating the variety of levels of maturity in using Copernicus. Different types of roadblocks were discussed: regardless if they were political, technical, social or economic, the fact that Regions overcame them enabled them to deliver proposals on how to improve Copernicus uptake in Europe. A moderated debate with the audience followed the regional presentations, in presence of Members of European Parliament, representatives from the European Commission and ESA as well as the President of the Committee of the Regions. Through this experience, NEREUS Member regions strengthened their visibility, multiplied their opportunities for international exchange and participated in a pan-European debate on how Copernicus uptake can be improved among local and regional authorities. The material produced in the course of the project is available for your appreciation on the NEREUS website. We look forward to developing new initiatives together with the European Space Agency in 2017.



From left to right: Patrizia Toia (Member of European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the ITRE Committee), Josef Aschbacher (Director of Earth Observation, European Space Agency), Ekkehart Siering (Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, Bremen - On behalf of NEREUS Presidency)



From left to right: Nathalie Stephenne (ISSEP, Wallonia Region), Elżbieta Wołoszyńska-Wiśniewska (UNEP/GRID, Mazovia Region), Prof. Manfred Schroeder (bavAIRia e.V., Bavaria Region), (Moderator), Nelson Simoes (Regional Director of Science and Technology, Azores Region), Silvia Fabrizi (CGS Spa, Lombardy Region), Folco Ciulli (Lombardy Region, Brussels Representation Office).

SPACE POLICY SPACE INDUSTRY DIALOGUE Bavaria Region, Third Edition

In view to the publication of the Space Strategy for Europe by the European Commission, bavAIRia e.V. together with NEREUS organized the third edition of the Space Policy Space Industry Dialogue.

This series of events aims at connecting the space industry with politics and agencies fostering an open and fruitful discussion on the future of the sector. The implications of Europe's Space Strategies for the space community were addressed, looking into the next steps and discussing the needs of the industry as well of those of ESA.

Bringing the European political debate on the space sector to NEREUS Regions is crucial: on the one hand, this contributes to bridging the gap between the European institutions and agencies and the local level; on the other, it fuels regional needs into the political debate at European level.



From left to right: Nicolas Peter (DG GROW, European Commission), Jens Kauffmann (SME Office, European Space Agency), Prof. Dr. Lesley Jane Smith (Weber-Steinhaus & Smith, Leuphana University of Lüneburg), Roya Ayazi (NEREUS Secretary General), Dr. Heike Bach (VISTA Geowissenschaftliche Fernerkundung GmbH), Eva Maria Aicher (Tesat Spacecom).

Photos: courtesy of bavAIRia e.V.



SPACE FOR AGRICULTURE Basilicata Region, Regional Workshop

The EO/Copernicus WG, chaired by Prof. Valerio Tramutoli (University of Basilicata) and Branka Cuca (Politecnico of Milan), compiled a collection of 26 concrete examples illustrating how space technologies support Agriculture and Rural Development. The broad distribution of the publication confirmed that this sector is particularly suited for the development of new markets where larger industries but also small and micro enterprises using Earth Observation/Copernicus can address local and individual needs of farmers and cultivators.

This shared interest led TeRN Consortium, together with NEREUS, to the organization of a regional workshop in Matera (Basilicata Region), with the patronage of Basilicata Region and in collaboration with COPA COGECA and ERIAFF. The aim was to explore the importance and potential of Europe's space systems, Copernicus and EGNOS/Galileo, to overcome the current and future challenges faced by the agricultural sector. The workshop got a strong response and brought together almost 150 participants from different sectors and countries, amongst which numerous representatives of public administrations.

As an outcome of the event workshop conclusions with the key takeaways were compiled serving as a basis for a joint position paper to be published in 2017.



From left to right: Mark Lester (NEREUS Vice President), Roya Ayazi (NEREUS Secretary General), Luca Braia (Regional Minister for Agriculture, Basilicata Region), Roberto Cifarelli (Regional Councillor, Basilicata Region), Roberto Battiston (President of Italian Space Agency)



From left to right: Teodora Secara (Deputy Director, EURISY), Mark Jarman (Satellite Applications Catapult), Daniel Azevedo (Senior Policy Advisor, COPA COGECA)

SPACE FOR MARITIME

Many of the Regions on the NEREUS platform are concerned by maritime issues: from the Azores to Apulia, passing by Bremen and Brittany, maritime is a transversal thematic that links local and regional authorities together as they share needs as well as potential space-based solutions.

For this reason, NEREUS partners set up a series of operational breakfast meetings aiming at presenting their respective space capabilities, exchanging best practices and identifying topics for joint collaborations. In this context, NEREUS liaised closely with Mercator Ocean and CPMR in order to explore common interests. Contacts with Mercator Ocean concretized in the signature of a Memorandum of Cooperation followed by the definition of a joint 2017-2018 activity plan focusing on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).

NEREUS Regions will have privileged access to CMEMS resources (via Information and Training activities) and will be able to provide input ensuring that their user requirements are taken into consideration into CMEMS' continuous improvement. Thirdly, expert exchange and circulation is planned in the coming years.

SPACE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

2018 will be the European Year of Cultural Heritage: it will highlight what the EU can do for conservation, digitization, infrastructure, research and skills development related to the cultural heritage sector.

Due to the fact that local and regional authorities provide in situ data, make policies and are a key user of space applications, their role is recognized as crucial for the monitoring and management of cultural heritage.

Thus, NEREUS Working Groups launched a discussion on how space technologies can contribute to assess damages to cultural heritage as part of post-disaster and post-conflict recovery measures and agreed to develop a joint position paper serving for advocacy purposes.



"We also need to plan for the reconstruction of many destroyed wonders. We will share satellite imagery to take stock of damage and plan reconstruction. We will provide finance and expertise to assess damage and think for the day after."

Federica Mogherini,
High Representative of the
European Union for Foreign
Affairs and Security Policy

European Culture Forum 2016

SPACE FOR DEVELOPMENT AID

Several Regional innovation agencies and SMEs located in NEREUS Member Regions have consolidated interest to explore the African market for Earth Observation product and services.

For this reason, NEREUS got involved in a joint action together with GiZ Bremen Office and the Representation of Bremen to the European Union, in order to stimulate a series of encounters on "Space Applications and Development Cooperation" aiming at exploring the potentials of Earth Observation for sustainable development in Africa.

NEREUS made efforts to ensure that regional stakeholders involved have a fruitful exchange with European institutions and agencies in order to be aware of EU and ESA funded programs.



From left to right: Roya Ayazi (NEREUS Secretary General), Christian Bruns (NEREUS Vice President) and Martin Foth Feldhusen (Director, GiZ Office Bremen)

Photos from the Workshop held in Brussels, at the NEREUS Premises on the 8th of December 2016.





2017 will be a symbolic threshold for NEREUS, as the network will celebrate the 10 years anniversary since the signature of the Political Charter in Toulouse when 23 founding regions agreed on the core mission and the scope of their mutual cooperation. After 10 years, NEREUS remains the only regional association focusing on space uses.

In 2017 we will pursue our efforts in promoting the NEREUS Position Paper by engaging in the discussion with the Committee of the Regions and the European Parliament in order to bring space closer to regional policies across sectors.

Copernicus uptake is at the core of NEREUS' activities: 10 out of 58 selected Copernicus Relays are located in NEREUS Member Regions, and as many are part of the Copernicus Academy Network. We see this as an important step for the development of a more localized strategy to raise awareness and understanding of the potential of Copernicus-derived products and services in our territories.

We have been looking into innovative actions fostering user uptake: Pre-Commercial Procurements (a specific financial instrument especially targeted to Regions supported by the European Commission) as well as hackathon experiences from Austria and Italy were shared during the 2016 General Assembly. NEREUS Members were invited to take advantage of the broad spectrum of instruments at their disposal for the development and uptake of space applications. In 2017, we will keep up with our efforts so Regions can better involve their local communities.

We are looking forward to reuniting the NEREUS community in Brussels in May 2017: during the next annual General Assembly we will hold elections for the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Management Board of the Network. We welcome regional candidacies and invite all interested applicants to get in touch with the Secretariat for further information.

Wishing you all the best for the year to come, we thank you for your dedication to the network!

EVENTS

NEREUS
ANNIVERSARY



SPACE
FOR



BECOMING A
NEREUS MEMBER



TAKING ACTION
General Assembly
Management Board
Standing Committee
Working Groups



EUROPEAN ADDED-VALUE

PROMOTING SPACE USES

SPACE FOR REGIONS
Strengthening regional anchorage
through local events



RAISING AWARENESS
Projects, publications, videos



ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP



EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES
Programmes, projects and policy
tools for space applications, such
as PCP, PPI, Horizon 2020 and EFSI

SPACE GIRLS
SPACE WOMEN
in
NEREUS REGIONS





We wish to thank all our Full Members that make the network so vital...



As well as our rapidly growing group of Associate Members ensuring a significant industry, SME and research representation