

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF NEREUS PROJECTS

NEREUS has been involved in many projects, as an association or via its members. Here is a brief overview of them.

## 2007

Signature of the **Political Charter** in Toulouse by 23 Regions representing 9 countries.



### NEREUS POLITICAL CHARTER

#### CHARTER ON THE CREATION AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEREUS, THE NETWORK OF EUROPEAN REGIONS USING SPACE TECHNOLOGIES

##### PREAMBLE

Space Technologies play a key role in Europe in supporting the enlarged Union to achieve its main objectives to increase economic growth, industrial competitiveness and job creation, enhance scientific research and innovation, and promote greater social economic cohesion and sustainable development.

We are now entering a new era of space technologies, where one aim is to develop and improve operational systems. The increase of European capabilities in telecommunications, earth observation and satellite navigation, timing and positioning will boost applications, opening new markets that will be very significant on the world trade scene, with large economic and social benefits.

The European Commission's White Paper on Space "A New European Frontier for an Expanding Union" (2003) called for an extended space policy orientated to users' needs, able to put space technologies and entrepreneurial skills at the service of the enlarged Union and of its citizens. Both, GMES Conferences in Graz on April 2006 and in Munich on April 2007 have highlighted the importance of the creation of a European network at the regional level on space

- The regions contribute significantly to the creation and support of clusters and competitiveness zones that bring together manufacturers (also SMEs), higher education institutes and scientific research. They play a major role in the processes of innovation and technology transfer.

- The regions host the installation, development and maintenance of space infrastructure concerning launchers, satellite integration, equipment and software and, in general, "ground segment" infrastructure.

The representatives of the European Regions adopt this resolution on the founding principles and aims of the Association of European Regions, named NEREUS – Network of European Regions Using Space technologies.

##### 1 - SCOPE OF COOPERATION

- To introduce the regional level into the elaboration and development of European space programmes and activities linked to infrastructure and applications.

## 2009 - 2010

The FP7 funded **PEGASE** project provided GSA Agency with expert knowledge on request as well as guidance in all the fields related to EGNOS and Galileo. A GNSS Regional Advisory Board (GRAD) was set up, chaired by Alain Bénêteau (former NEREUS President) and included 6 experts from relevant networks amongst which NEREUS. The project was coordinated by FDC and Capital High Tech

## 2011 - 2012

The European Commission (DG REGIO) tasked NEREUS to deliver a mini study report on the topic of "**Smart Specialisation in Space: the economic potential of space technology and downstream services for Europe's regions**". The document was produced by CEON GmbH (Bremen Region) and served as reference document for the development of the RIS3 as part of the upcoming EU2020 strategy for growth.

## FEB 2011 - JAN 2013

The **DORIS\_NET** is the first EU-funded project that was mobilized on the NEREUS platform. In the framework of an FP7 Coordination Action, 13 NEREUS partners were brought together to establish the first network of Regional Contact Offices (RCOs) . The overall aim was to support regional users and service providers in using Copernicus data as well as setting up an Observatory Platform including a wealth of knowledge on the downstream sector.

The project resulted in the set up of a network of 7 RCOs (Lombardy, Bremen, Midi-Pyrénées and Aquitaine, East Midlands, Azores, Basilicata, Bretagne) which was operational beyond the duration of the project

## 2011 - 2014

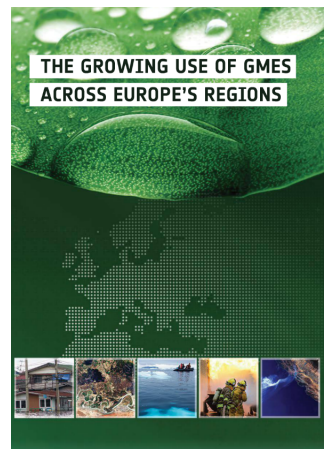
Bringing together 5 research clusters from NEREUS Member Regions, **THE ISSUE** (Traffic-Health-Environment. Intelligent Solutions Sustaining Urban Economies) aimed at using intelligent traffic management to boost competitiveness of transport-related economies at urban, regional and local levels as well as to deliver innovative solutions to traffic management operations, to reduce traffic emissions and improve air quality locally.

Specialized and less specialized regions developed interregional collaborations in the frame of the Regions for Knowledge call.

## 2012

Together with the **EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY** NEREUS published "The Growing uses of Copernicus in European Regions", showcasing for the first time 67 short descriptive case studies of different services provided in Europe at regional level for a more sustainable territorial management

The publication targeted a non specialized audience.

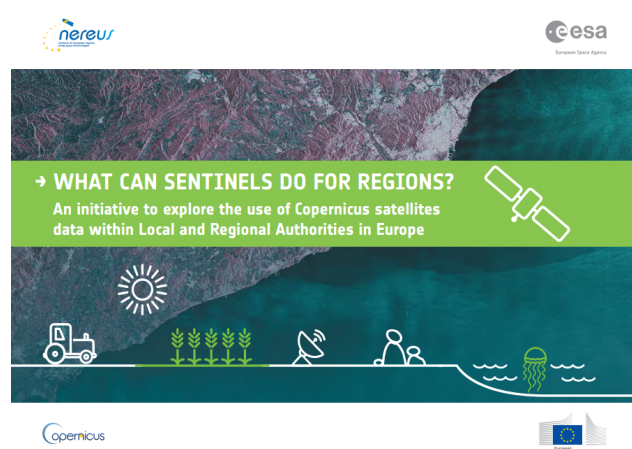


## 2013 - 2014

The **FORMAT-EO** Summer School in Earth Observation, funded under the ERASMUS program, was implemented by 8 NEREUS partners from 7 Member Regions. Approximately 50 students took part in the two editions, aiming at increasing their exposure to research and industry, providing practical experience of specialist software and tools for the analysis of satellite data as well as encouraging interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches to solving EO problems

## 2014 - 2016

Together with the **EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY** NEREUS implemented a joint initiative aiming at looking into the state-of-art of Copernicus uses among Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) across Europe, identifying roadblocks to Copernicus uptake as well as ways to overcome them. Project activities comprised an online consultation, three regional workshops, a scientific analysis and a final event at the European Parliament in Brussels



## 2017

Together with the **EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY** and the **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**, NEREUS will publish a second version of the publication on Copernicus uses across Europe's Regions.

## 2012 - 2014

The **SABER** project (Satellite Broadband for European Regions) aimed at exploring how broadband satellite technology can help to reduce the Digital Divide in Europe. Coordinated by Piedmont Region and comprising 6 other NEREUS Member Regions, the initiative looked into regional experiences of public authorities using satellite solutions for broadband access. This led to the development of guidelines for deployment, along with sharing of best practices and dissemination of information to regions across Europe. NEREUS' role was to give policy recommendations as well as supporting the promotion and dissemination activities.

## 2014 - 2015

The European Space Agency published a set of **COPERNICUS BRIEFS** aiming at presenting concrete applications of the European Earth monitoring programme.

NEREUS experts contributed to the task in several ways, by providing case studies, as well as peer review and proofreading.

## 2015 - ONGOING

NEREUS is part of the successful consortia selected by the European Commission to take part in the **COPERNICUS USER UPTAKE FRAMEWORK CONTRACT**. Under specific contracts, the network's experts have been tasked to contribute to studies and workshops bringing the public user perspective to the discussion, develop training modules on Copernicus for Local and Regional authorities and participate to the overall discussion on Copernicus Academy and Relays networks. The Framework Contract will last four years.

