



Impulse Statement on NEREUS-position:

Recommendations on adding a regional dimension to the European Space Strategy

by NEREUS-Vice-President Christian Bruns

Introduction/Background

- European space systems grow increasingly operational - now step from building infrastructure to making use of space based data by society and economy and translating them into knowledge, information and products
- Space sector in transition: step from an institutional market to a more diverse market with many SME, start-ups, spin-offs, young entrepreneurs
- European Space Strategy paves the way for the future European Space policy and spending post 2020 (next MFF)

Key Messages of NEREUS-position (1)

- Future European Space Policy and endeavours need to be **USER-CENTRED** and focused on ensuring an optimal exploitation of Europe's space infrastructure for social utility, bringing forward Europe2020 and Juncker priorities for 2014-2020, in particular for economic growth, employment and innovation performance (Emphasis on User-Dimension)
- **Acting together:** Joint efforts of all relevant European stakeholder is needed to make the European Space Strategy a success

Key Messages of NEREUS-position (2)

- Being closest to the citizens, regions are a crucial point of reference for connecting space with society, businesses and public policies
- Strong vision of promoting space within Europe's societies, economies and public policies (user-relevant policies)
- Improved public understanding of the tangible benefits of space based products and services at all levels of society

Key Messages of NEREUS-position (3)

- Smart interplay of space with relevant policy objectives (regional and smart specialisation strategies (s3-strategies) etc. to set the stage to exploit regional policy instruments for space uses
- Set-up of strategic partnerships between institutional player and player close to user-communities
- Reliable and rapid data access at all levels of society
- Closing digital divide

Process (1)

- Proposal of a European Space Strategy part of the EC-work program for 2016
- NEREUS-Management Board recognized importance of strategy and took decision beginning of 2016 to elaborate a NEREUS-position
- NEREUS-position paper was compiled in the frame of a broad inter-regional consultation involving the Management Board and Steering Committee
- Management Board approved position paper
- Position was broadly promoted at EU and regional level

Process (2)

- Position was broadly promoted at EU and regional level
 - Meeting with EC at the level of Director Brunet
 - Meeting with the CoR at the level of Secretary General
 - Letter to presidents of NEREUS-regions

- EC released on 26th October 2016 its European Space Strategy

NEREUS-Feed-back to EC-Com (1)

- NEREUS is pleased to see that the strategy puts the **users in its centre** while recognizing their crucial role in shaping and driving the demand of space-based products and services;

NEREUS-Feed-back to EC-Com (2)

- NEREUS welcomes the fact that the European Space Strategy includes specific mentions to the regional level, namely:
 - With the European Structural Investment Funds, the Commission will support research and innovation in Regions which have identified "space" as a priority in their Smart Specialization Strategies, and will facilitate cross-border cooperation among research and innovation actors;
 - Awareness-raising campaigns will be organised at regional level, including the set up of support networks such as the Copernicus Relays and the Copernicus Academy network;
- ⇒ A number of NEREUS-network partners have been accepted as Copernicus Relays (Azores, East Midlands, Lombardy and others)

NEREUS-Feed-back to EC-Com (3)

- NEREUS welcomes the fact that the European Space Strategy includes specific mentions to the regional level, namely:
 - The Commission will provide technical support in using innovative and cross-border procurement for space solutions, specifically targeted to the public sector;
 - The Commission will explore alternative business models (public-public, public-private partnerships or buying services) where this may be more efficient and would leverage available funding. This will provide manifold opportunities for SMEs and networks of entrepreneurs in NEREUS-regions;

NEREUS-Feed-back to EC-Com (4)

- NEREUS welcomes the fact that the European Space Strategy includes specific mentions to the regional level, namely:
 - As part of the New Skills Agenda for Europe, the Commission will launch a dedicated Sector Skills Alliance for Space/Earth Observation. Key stakeholders from public authorities, university, research and industry can gather to tackle new skills requirements in the sector.
 - The Commission will upgrade user consultation processes and set up dedicated user platforms to ensure that developments are driven by user needs;

Open Questions

- Prioritisation?
- Concrete measurer/actions?
- Financial envelop? Impact on next MFF?

Role of NEREUS (1)

- Actively promote the use of space and space technologies in European regions
- Use clusters, regional contact offices and local regional agencies of NEREUS-member regions and other regions as base to connect to and link cross-user communities and industries
- Support ESA and EC with respect to public understanding, education & training and knowledge transfer in the fields of space technologies

Role of NEREUS (2)

- Stimulate space policy industry dialogues at regional level and especially dialogues about industrial policies including special support actions for SME's at regional level.
- Initiate structured dialogues between key players in the regions and EC, ESA (collect user needs)
- Launch reflections how the data-dissemination architecture and mechanisms of Europe could be aligned to exploit synergies between existing infrastructures at regional level and to experiment with new forms of data sharing.

Thank you for your
attention