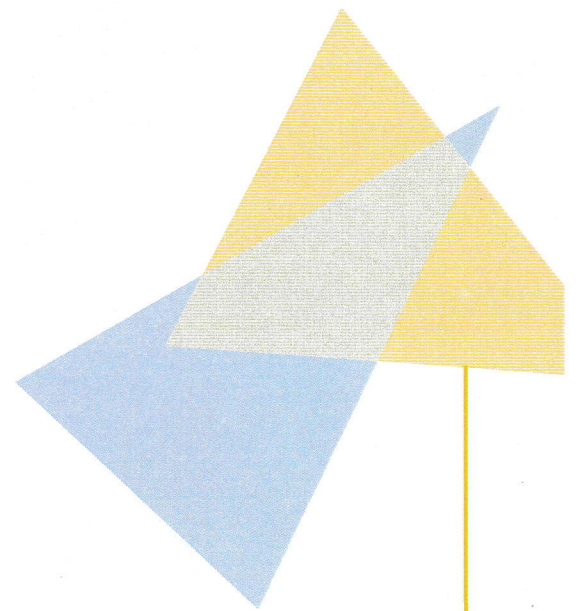


NEREUS – a network serving regions

JOINT DECLARATION on KEY POLITICAL PRIORITIES for 2018-2020

Brussels, 29th November 2017



As Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies, NEREUS offers a dynamic platform to all regions aiming at making a better use of space applications for the delivery of efficient public policies benefiting citizens. NEREUS serves as an advocate for regional concerns, voicing the regional dimension of European space policies and programs at a political level. Striving to be a key source of information on space matters for its members, NEREUS aims at increasing the awareness and understanding of space solutions for all public users.



NEREUS, since 2007.
Space on Earth, space for all.

www.nereus-regions.eu

INTRODUCTION

Since the inception of NEREUS in 2007, European space infrastructures have grown increasingly mature, implying a new dimension of data availability, leading to more space solutions at the service of society. Although “data is the new gold”, the reality is, however, that translating data into useful information to be used by citizens, companies and administrations, is still a great challenge. Much needs to be done to facilitate data access, management and processing to overcome policy barriers, governance difficulties, technical issues as well as a lack of skills and awareness.

The key mission, as unique thematic network

It is the key mission of NEREUS, as a unique thematic network for matters of regional Space Uses, to explore the benefits of space technologies for European Regions and their citizens as well as to promote the use of space and its applications.

A forum to facilitate this translation process

Therefore, it is expected to (i) serve as a forum to facilitate this translation process and to promote a broad uptake across Europe, and (ii) to ensure that upstream systems evolve to better serve the needs of the downstream users.

Now, two years prior to the launch of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027), is a crucial moment for (re)-positioning the network with respect to the next decade. Therefore, NEREUS is committed, within its network community, to bring the regional dimension into policy debates on priorities for the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

Main activities

NEREUS' main activities will focus on:

- Political Dialogue
- Interregional Co-operation & Partnership
- Technological Trends and Developments relevant for future Space Solutions and User Needs.

POLITICAL DIALOGUE

Putting the interests of regional Space Users at the centre, NEREUS will engage in political dialogue with relevant institutional players, such as the European Parliament, the European Commission and its agencies, the Committee of the Regions and the European Space Agency. NEREUS will continue its advocacy to underline the Regions' role in the implementation of the European Space Strategy and highlight the user dimension. In this pursuit, strengthening relations with other stakeholder organisations (such as EARSC, SME4Space, EUROGI, EURISY, GEO, EUROCEAN and Ocean Energy Europe) is considered vital to identify commonalities and joint political objectives.

In this context and amongst others, the network offers its members a platform to define political positions and a forum to discuss and exchange current technological and socio-economic/socio-technological evolutions.

The network emphasizes the meaning of Space across sectors addressing the relevant policy domains, regional strategies and programs. As a consequence, NEREUS has a two-fold approach: technology- and thematic-oriented, in order to ensure the convergence of upstream space technologies' development and citizen's best interests as well as addressing the impacts of Space on different application domains with high relevance for citizens and their regions.

In the spirit of a bottom-up approach, to get closer to the regional ecosystems, the network will commit to highlight space solutions in different application domains, while stimulating the exchange of experiences and showing how space-based information and new space applications can be exploited to complement public, regional and territorial policy objectives such as Growth, Employment, Skills, Innovation, Energy, Climate Change, Environment, Oceans, Migration, Safety and Security for the citizens, but also the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development etc.

The network considers of great importance to advocate for (i) optimal framework conditions for the development and uptake of Space applications in conjunction with publicly funded programs and initiatives, as well as (ii) globally competitive markets for Space based services and products that respond to the needs of society and serve public policy purposes.

At the center, the interest of regional Space Users

A two-fold approach: technology and thematic oriented

Get closer to the regional ecosystems

INTERREGIONAL CO-OPERATION & PARTNERSHIPS

*Intensify
networking,
building
partnerships,
fostering dialogue*

In order to bring regions and its stakeholders together, with the objective to adapt Space-based solutions to common problems and foster their use in new domains, NEREUS commits to intensify networking, building partnerships, fostering dialogue and knowledge exchange as well as stimulating cooperation within and between regions. Emphasis will be put also on extending the NEREUS network to new regions. Linking the Space community with other user communities and associations is vital in this process.

TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT FOR FUTURE SPACE SOLUTIONS AND USER NEEDS

*Triggering
regional
innovation
performance and
commercial
utilisation of
space*

NEREUS will address technology trends and developments and evaluate their adequacy to future user needs and societal challenges. To support its views, it will offer platforms for cross-sectoral discussion, organise thematic workshops and engage in political dialogue to foster the uptake of user-driven strategies. With respect to triggering regional innovation performance and commercial utilisation of Space (e.g. experiments on board of ISS, feedbacks of space technologies to other sectors, space tourism, commercial space transportation, space resources utilisation, in space servicing, etc.), NEREUS stakeholders will explore how direct and indirect outcomes from Space Exploration technologies and associated new commercial concepts can be better exploited for the benefits of citizens and regional economies.

Education/training and entrepreneurship stimulation

These actions are considered key for the development of innovative Space-based applications. The network will therefore strive to engage with the New Skills Agenda for Europe and contribute to building better skilled human resources and support an entrepreneurial culture in its regions.

Communication and Public Outreach

Promotion and awareness raising activities remain corner stones of interregional collaboration and an important fundament for political advocacy and dialogue.



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Governo dos Açores

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Danuta Cichon
Danuta CICHON
Head of Regional Development



REGIONE
TOSCANA



Roberto Ciambetti

Roberto CIAMBETTI
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