

POSITION PAPER

Recommendations on adding a regional dimension to the European Space Strategy

prepared by NEREUS
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INDEX

Introduction

Trends and current challenges

Role of European Regions

Recommendations for a future European Space Strategy

Acting together



As voice of the European Regions, NEREUS serves as an advocate for the regions in matters of space uses and as a direct channel to regional users of space technologies, such as local and regional authorities, SMEs, universities, research institutes and citizens. The network is key interface between the regional level and European institutions such as EC and ESA.

NEREUS as a non-profit organisation, currently unites 25 European regions and 41 Associate Members with the objective to spread the use and understanding of space technologies across Europe for the benefit of regions and their citizens.

"Efforts in the next decade have to target an optimal exploitation of these infrastructures."

INTRODUCTION

Recent successful launches of satellites related to build up the two European flagship programmes Copernicus and Galileo/EGNOS, initiated a new era for Europe's citizens as these two systems have been designed in order to support users' daily life. Products, services and applications integrating space technologies are penetrating our everyday lives already. Space technologies and applications bear a huge potential for new businesses and innovation and thus for Europe's competitiveness and growth. While the Union's space endeavours in the past decade concentrated on developing, financing and implementing of space infrastructures, efforts in the next decade have to target an optimal exploitation of these infrastructures.

Thus this paper puts the European user at its centre

TRENDS AND CURRENT CHALLENGES AT EUROPEAN AS WELL AS REGIONAL LEVEL

Currently, economies transform towards digital and participatory economies while being confronted with a number of global challenges. Digitalisation sets the stage for new ways of doing business and introducing new growth opportunities and new ways to respond to societal needs. Resulting new data streams have the potential of a tangible public good and provide large volumes of information supporting both, public policies and commercial services and products.

Space technologies and infrastructures such as GNSS, EO and SatCom serve as the backbone for the development of innovative services and applications. They feed into the overarching objectives of the Europe2020 and Juncker priorities. Space-based and integrated applications and services contribute to the following sectors:

| Energy & Climate |

providing information and monitoring of weather conditions, sea ice zones, land surface motion and mapping of forest, water as well as soil for companies and public organisations in charge of e.g. energy efficiency, development of renewable energy sources.

| Agriculture & Food security |

providing location based services and products integrating space technologies in order to improve the food quality and security as well as resource efficiency in agriculture practices.

| Traffic, Transport & Logistics |

providing information to citizens, companies and public organisations in order to contribute to a safer and more efficient use of skies, seas, rails and roads, such as fleet management, road toll and commercial logistics.

| Health & Environment |

providing location based services for citizens, such as prediction of air quality or information on pollen with respect to allergies.

| Tourism & Leisure |

providing location based services for tourists, such as water quality for swimmers, weather forecast, and prediction of air quality in health resorts or snow conditions in the Alps.

| Safety & Security |

providing information and monitoring for public organisations in order to support (humanitarian) aid in crisis management, border control as well as monitoring critical infrastructures.

| Development cooperation |

providing information and monitoring data in order to support developing countries in various sectors.

Hence , NEREUS, the Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies, calls for a future European Space Strategy focusing on exploiting space for social utility, bringing forward Europe 2020 and the Juncker priorities for 2014-2020, in particular for economic growth, employment and innovation performance.

THE ROLE OF EUROPEAN REGIONS

The regional dimension is fundamental for bringing the added value of space to citizen and thus putting the user at the centre of a European space strategy. Regions and its stakeholders such as clusters, regional contact offices, local regional agencies, play an important role:

Regions are close to the public and have therefore broad outreach capabilities;

Regions are a privileged scale to identify and define societal needs and growth opportunities for space;

Regions are themselves a key user of space based services and products in vicinity to diverse user-communities;

Regions are close to service providers and various business communities, in particular to SMEs; thus an ideal lever for measures targeted at commercializing space;

Regions are close to the political level facilitating outreach to regional politics, but also public procurement processes;

Regions are the unique level to link space with territorial and regional development challenges;

Regions are able to channel space as an enabler into a wide range of non-space policies;

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A EUROPEAN SPACE STRATEGY

A European Space Strategy should:

I. Establish a strong vision of promoting space within Europe's societies, economies and public policies. The dimension of space has to be seen more and more prominent in the context of user-relevant policies, in particular with respect to territorial, regional and cohesion policies, but also with economic development policies. Therefore, efforts have to focus on integrating space into these multiple policy objectives.

II. Aim at an improved public understanding of the tangible benefits of space based products and services at all levels of society for promoting a positive image of space and stimulating the demand for mass-market applications.

III. Call for concerted actions towards political decision makers, not only at national and European level but also at regional and local level.

IV. Highlight the importance of a smart interplay of space with relevant policy objectives. Various regions across Europe already included the dimension of space applications in their regional and smart specialisation strategies (s3-strategies), setting the stage for exploiting regional funds such as ESIF (European Structural and Investment Fund) for space-based solutions.

V. Include the dimension of the user of space technologies to a larger extent, thus generating an improved and stimulating environment for uptake and market development.

VI. Contain the set-up of strategic partnerships among institutional players on the one hand, and players that distinguish themselves through the closeness to the users on the other hand, with the objective to define a joint vision. The partnerships should comprise structures for reflections, discussion as well as collaborations, stimulating an active involvement of the users.

VII. Stipulate a reliable and rapid data access at all levels of society. Data access policies should target at guaranteeing to users at Member State level as well as to users at regional and local level to access satellite data easily. In this respect, policies around data access should consider how existing infrastructures can be pooled and shared across Europe, how effective exploitation platforms can be set up, but also how the exploration of new IT-solutions can be integrated.

VIII. Promote European solutions for closing the digital divide, in particular access to high-speed Internet and securing telecommunications networks.

*strong vision of
promoting
space*

*improved public
understanding*

concerted action

*smart interplay
of space with
relevant policy
objectives*

*the user
dimension*

*set-up of
strategic
partnerships*

*reliable and
rapid data
access*

*closing the
digital divide*

ACTING TOGETHER

To make the European Space Strategy a success and respond to the described challenges, a joint European effort is needed. All stakeholders at various levels need to interact in a co-ordinated way within their institutional roles.

The European Commission

The European Commission (EC) is in a unique position and should bring this process forward by:

Developing support actions focused on activities related to the regional dimension of space uses, i.e. linked to clusters, regional contact offices and local regional agencies, to encourage adoption of space-based products and services in cross-sectoral industries.

Sharing "good user arguments", e.g. use cases, and success stories that facilitate the take-up of space technologies and especially the resulting products and services as part of the regional development strategies and policies across Europe.

Supporting platforms for a societal dialogue on the use of space technologies and their contributions to well-being, job creation and economic growth.

The European Space Agency

The European Space Agency (ESA) could set a strong impulse by:

Developing support actions focused on activities related to the regional dimension of space uses, i.e. linked to clusters, regional contact offices and local regional agencies, to encourage adoption of space-based products and services in cross-sectoral industries.

Provide and support near real-time and fast access to satellite data in order to enable businesses to build added-value services on top.

Prepare the technologies for the next generation of space systems and ensure the free and independent access to space for Europe.

The role of NEREUS

As the voice of the European regions, NEREUS serves as an advocate for the regions in matters of space uses but also as a direct channel to the regional users of space technologies.

Being closest to the citizens, regions are a crucial point of reference for connecting space with society, businesses and public policies.

Hence, NEREUS advocates the regional dimension of European Space Policy as an integral part for gathering user requirements and feedback as well as for active involvement of users on all levels. NEREUS is the interface to the regions and its users.

NEREUS sees its role in this respect as a facilitator to

users needs

- Communicate user needs to EC, ESA and collect feedback;

space uses

- Actively promote the use of space and space technologies in European regions;

*cross-user
communities*

- Use clusters, regional contact offices and local regional agencies as base to connect to and link cross-user communities and industries;

*public
understanding*

- Support ESA and EC with respect to public understanding, education & training and knowledge transfer in the fields of space technologies.

*space policy
industry
dialogues*

- Stimulate space policy industry dialogues at regional level and especially dialogues about industrial policies including special support actions for SME's at regional level.

*structured
dialogues*

- Initiate structured dialogues between key players in the regions and EC, ESA.

*new forms of
data sharing*

- 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.

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REGIONE
ABRUZZO



Regione Puglia

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POITOU-CHARENTES



Governo dos Açores



Baden-Württemberg



REGIONE BASILICATA

