



## NEREUS Position Paper

on

the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive Europe

April 2011

*As **voice of the European Regions**, NEREUS not only 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 (such as local authorities, SMEs, universities and research institutes and citizens). The network is the key interface between the regional level and national and European institutions. NEREUS currently unites 26 European regions and 33 Associate Members with the common objective **to spread the use and understanding of space technologies** across Europe for **the benefit of regions and their citizens**.*

**Regions and Space are important partners for making Europe 2020 a reality.** As the closest level to the citizens and in charge of an array of relevant public policies, regions contribute significantly to the ambitious **Europe 2020 objectives**<sup>1</sup> as well as current societal and global challenges. For this reason NEREUS wishes to introduce the **regional perspective** into the debate over the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). As the two Flagship programmes of the EU, GMES and EGNOS/Galileo, move into providing operational services, the involvement of regions is essential to ensure maximum user uptake and return on European investments already made.

### The uses of space for European Society

As a key driver for the **Innovation potential** of the Union, space has an outstanding role and touches upon a wide array of public policies that are crucial for increasing growth, creating employment and managing territories such as

- **Sustainable development and agriculture (CAP, ERDF, EAFRD,)**- by making agricultural practices more effective and environmental friendly
- **Cohesion for growth and employment (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, EFF,)** - by providing new business opportunities, especially for SMEs, and professional jobs, space helps to reduce economic and territorial disparities among European regions
- **Intelligent Transport Systems** – by making sea, land and air traffic more effective, safer and secure
- **R&D** - a dynamic research environment contributes to making regions an attractive location for enterprises and citizens
- **Digital Agenda for Europe (CIP)** – by connecting Europe’s remote areas with satellites
- **The right skills for tomorrow’s workforce (ESF)** – regions need highly qualified human resources that keep Europe competitive – space offers not only interesting professional but also various study and training opportunities
- **Fisheries (CFP)** - better monitoring of fish fleets for efficient and sustainable fishing
- **Tourism** – through more precise weather forecasts and other location based services derived from satellite technology
- **Safety of the citizens and territory** – by contributing to Emergency Management before and after natural and man-made disasters.

Space technologies also generate knowledge and information that are desperately needed to respond to major societal and global challenges such as

- **Climate Change** ranks among the most pressing ones – regions need GMES data in order to monitor and understand their territory and the factors that determine climate change, adapt to it and design environmental policies as well as technical best practices of adaptation and mitigation.
- **Energy supply and storage** – by contributing to **energy efficiency and savings** and advancing **new and renewable energy supplies** including new supply forms and sun based technologies
- **Demographic changes of an aging society that have less resources** – by giving an impulse to health including telemedicine as well as manned and unmanned exploration including robotics

Space technologies help to modernize industrial processes<sup>2</sup>, making them more efficient, environmental friendly and innovative. As a result, space technologies generate new approaches to turn excellent research results into new commercial and public products and services to the satisfaction of customers and the benefit of citizens.

<sup>1</sup> „Europe 2020 A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth“ COM(2010)

<sup>2</sup> With the adoption of its Communication on Industrial Policy (October 2010 “An Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era – Putting competitiveness and sustainability at centre stage” COM(2010) 614) the Commission recognized space as an important factor for radically strengthening Europe’s industrial capabilities.

## The role of the regions

Space and regions are inextricably linked. Regions are a fruitful base for innovation bringing together a mix of different economic and professional end-user groups as well as diverse industry communities that are necessary to ensure the uptake and development of space applications. Above all, regions and their citizens across Europe are a key market for uses of space technology. Today, regions need modern space products and services to manage their territory and enhance regional development. Regional authorities are a key reference for the elaboration of the National Reform Plan or the definition of priorities for future operational programs linked to ERDF. Thus the regional level is a good scale for connecting the EU 2020-strategy bottom-up with a social, economic, territorial reality and advancing the local implementation of the flagship initiatives.

## Recommendations

Against this background NEREUS wishes to underline the following for the next programming period:

- The views of regions should be introduced in the decision making process, governance of European Space programmes and activities linked to infrastructures and applications
- With GMES and GNSS moving increasingly into the operational phase resulting in applications and services closer to the market, **new paths for funding need to be explored**. NEREUS calls for **creating real synergies between the structural funds and other thematic financial instruments<sup>3</sup>** to have the critical mass needed to allow the European space market to grow.
- NEREUS calls for a cohesion policy endowed with an ambitious budget reaching all regions across Europe.
- A future EU-space programme should develop and promote space uses at regional level whilst acknowledging end-user needs. Regions are the channel to make citizens aware of the benefits of space services.
- Space should be acknowledged in the future funding programme for Innovation/Research as a horizontal European challenge to tackle major societal and global challenges. Europe needs to have the necessary scientific and technical expertise at its hand to exploit its space systems and set up synergies to other key technologies.
- Given the new dedicated space competence introduced by Art. 189 and the Council Resolutions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Space Council, the Union has to demonstrate that the two flagship projects of the Union: GMES and EGNOS/Galileo will be realized according to the planned schedule, capitalizing on investments already been made and are ready for optimal exploitation by European citizens and enterprises.

Given its significant impact for the scope and pace of technological innovation in Europe, space is a substantial tool for realising the Europe2020 vision and its seven flagship projects whilst being an **integral part of the strategy to succeed with smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**. The costs for running the two flagship projects GMES and EGNOS/Galileo are about **1.8 -2 billion EUR** per year. NEREUS calls for focusing substantial financial resources with a **long term perspective** on a **consequent and timely implementation of these two flagship projects of the European Union**. **Additionally systematic synergies across EU funding schemes of different portfolios have to be established to support the development of space applications, infrastructures and the downstream sector.**

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<sup>3</sup> Funding for research and innovation, the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIFP), Life+, Leonardo da Vinci, etc.,...