nereus

network of european regions
using space technologies

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025





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INTRODUCTION

SPACE DATA MAY SOUND DISTANT, BUT IT IS CLOSER AND MORE BENEFICIAL THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.

NEREUS (*Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies*) is not just about space. It is also about leveraging space solutions across all sectors to address citizens' needs and to work on climate change adaptation. While our regions govern the Network, public and private entities or even individuals from diverse sectors can harness space data for their benefit. At NEREUS, European regions work together to bring socio-economic benefits to society. At the same time, we highlight space as a solution and share our expertise and experiences with others to advance this mission. Allow us to show you how we do it in this Activity Report 2024/25[1] .

BENEFITS OF JOINING NEREUS

Benefits for regions & stakeholders[2]. We empower/inspire you to achieve the following:

1.Representing Regional Users of Space Technologies Across Europe. We are one group of regions — one voice representing regional interests at the EU level. Being Brussels-based, we promote the crucial role of regions in driving demand for space-based services and products. In this respect, we strive to incorporate the regional dimension into European space policies and programmes by advocating to European institutions.

2. Interregional Collaboration/ Partnership: We foster robust European partnerships and launch initiatives across various sectors. Bringing together different regional stakeholders across Europe, we stimulate cooperation, knowledge sharing and partnerships between regions. Through workshops and high-level meetings, local politicians, businesses, the research community and other key regional stakeholders can update themselves on new trends to boost and accelerate their businesses, research and innovation.

3. Strengthening your regional economic brand: We stimulate and support the development of regional space ecosystems by helping regions integrate space into their smart specialisation strategies and public policies, inspiring the use of space-based solutions across various domains to benefit citizens' needs. Moreover, we encourage interaction among the public sector, industry and academia so that they can collaborate on space solutions to improve policy/decision making. Space data is a tool to benefit all other non-space sectors and to tackle challenges impacting the citizens, such as climate change. To this end, sharing expertise from member regions helps you to contribute to regional growth and innovation.

4. Enhanced Access to Funding, Projects and Strategic Foresight: By speaking with one voice at the EU level, NEREUS increases the visibility and influence of its members, giving them greater access to EU and European Space Agency (ESA) funding opportunities, projects and educational initiatives aimed at building consortia, supporting its members in the whole project circle, regional capacity and expertise. In parallel, members benefit from early insights into key policy developments as well as emerging funding instruments and technological trends. This strategic foresight enables regions to anticipate changes, align priorities and position themselves proactively within Europe's dynamic space landscape.

5. Investing in future generations/ capacity building skills/science community: Education/training is key for regional growth and development. NEREUS ensures that its members benefit and gain visibility from education/training programmes. With the support of the Earth Observation Working Group, which comprises academic and other space experts, members can gain access to numerous training methodologies and concepts tailor-made to meet the needs of their region. Having an educated workforce that knows how to use space data can ensure the sustainable development of the region.

6. Shaping Regional Solutions for Global Challenges

NEREUS considers space as a tool for impact, supporting public policies on climate action, energy transition, agriculture, crisis response and more. Our members co-develop solutions that address global challenges with local relevance, bringing concrete benefits to citizens.

1 It covers the period from April 2024 to July 2025.

2 from individuals to private/public entities - for the full list you may consult the **statutes**

WHAT NEREUS MEMBERS SAY

Regions are key players in the space sector! As major users of space data, they drive strategic approaches for utilising data from the flagship programmes COPERNICUS and GALILEO/The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS). Since 2019, regional space strategies championed by NEREUS have gained momentum. Our network bridges the gap between space and non-space sectors, unlocking new possibilities for economic, environmental and social advancement for all regional stakeholders.

"My ambition for this new mandate is based on four key priorities: Ensuring the sustainability and stability of our network by strengthening our structure and governance to secure NEREUS's long-term continuity and resilience; Pursuing the expansion and openness of the network by attracting new European regions, fostering strategic partnerships and further promoting the skills and expertise of our members; Enhancing the impact of space technologies for local territories by calling for their integration into regional public policies as key to making our territories more resilient and facilitating access for local stakeholders; Exploring the potential of strategic technologies and cross-fertilisation to support their development in our regions and engage in dialogue with the EU in this area." Thierry Cotelle, Occitanie region

"Amidst the ongoing geopolitical instability in Europe, particularly at the Polish-Ukrainian border, NEREUS should further strengthen its role as a platform for solidarity and resilience through space technologies. The Podkarpackie Region, as Poland's one and exclusive aerospace intelligent specialisation and borderland area, contributes a crucial perspective on security, cooperation and innovation." Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region

"Over the next five years, NEREUS should aim to solidify the role of European regions in space technologies, leveraging cross-collaboration among regions and, in this way, promoting the integration of satellite data into regional policies: in particular, focusing on the use of AI and Big Data. In an evolving geopolitical landscape, the Network should help Europe to reach strategic autonomy and technology sovereignty, focusing on the benefits of space for citizens, supporting the development of strategic technologies, and strengthening inter-regional cooperation to address challenges like climate change and security." Marina Silverii, Emilia-Romagna region

"NEREUS has a role to play in the coming years, considering the geopolitical situation and the new EU Space Act, which aims to ensure the safety, resilience, environmental sustainability and competitiveness of the EU space sector. NEREUS and the members' regions should contribute actively to the creation of a single market for space, facilitating the regional aids and cross-border regional cooperation for companies, particularly start-ups and SMEs, and the interconnection of regional space ecosystems and value chains." Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata region

"As a representative of The Azores, I envision NEREUS strengthening regional cooperation and highlighting the strategic value of outermost regions in Europe's space agenda. In a shifting geopolitical context, NEREUS should foster territorial inclusiveness, resilience and innovation across all member regions. It must act as a key bridge between regional expertise and EU space policy, ensuring no region is left behind." Duarte Cota, The Azores region

"In light of the evolving geopolitical landscape in Europe and globally, the member regions of NEREUS have, by committing to NEREUS activities, the opportunity to move closer together over the next five years to become an even stronger alliance against international and global competition." Constanze Wolf, Baden-Württemberg region

"Our vision for NEREUS is to become an even more pivotal bridge between European regions and space policy, ensuring space solutions proactively address evolving geopolitical needs. We aim to empower regions to leverage space data for resilience and growth, calling for their essential role in shaping a sovereign and user-driven European space strategy." Carlos Romero, Madrid region

"In our changing and increasingly challenging geopolitical environment, earth observation plays an essential role. NEREUS is crucial in bringing together actors across Europe to address these emerging challenges. The issues that our societies face regarding climate change, climate adaptation and geopolitical security require joint efforts, and we are proud to be part of this network." Tobias Gotthardt, State Secretary of the Free State of Bavaria

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NEREUS Community,

As President of NEREUS, I am delighted to share with you the highlights of our collective work throughout 2024/25! These years have been pivotal for the European space sector, showcasing that space is no longer a niche domain, but a strategic asset across all sectors. That being said, the European Union is advancing its strategic autonomy through key developments such as IRIS², the successful launch of Ariane 6, the adoption of the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence and ongoing discussions towards a harmonised legal framework for the space sector. As highlighted in Mario Draghi's 2024 report on EU competitiveness, space is a driver of innovation for Europe's prosperity and global role.

To respond effectively to this evolving geopolitical context, I envision deeper political engagement across our network by involving more political representatives and I am actively working to implement this through current and future actions. Strengthening political dialogue at both EU and regional levels, thereby ensuring that space remains a top priority on the political agenda, has been a key achievement.

I am honoured to have been re-elected by the General Assembly 2025 as President for a second term, with a clear ambition to mobilise political leadership and raise awareness among elected representatives across NEREUS and other regions. I was especially pleased to engage personally with Secretary of State Tobias Gotthardt from the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy and to welcome Bavaria onto the Board, further highlighting our network's visibility and political outreach. The year 2024/25 was also a period of growth for our network, with new full and associate members joining NEREUS, such as the Canary Islands.

A key milestone in strengthening political dialogue was the 3rd European Symposium of NEREUS Regions, held on 2-3 October 2024 in Toulouse, Occitanie, in close collaboration, and hosted by my region. The event emphasised the vital role of regions as enablers of space solutions for society. I warmly thank the President of the Regional Council of Occitanie, Carole Delga for supporting and helping to amplify regional voices in the EU space agenda. Special thanks to Vito Bardi, NEREUS Vice-President and President of the Basilicata Region, for his presence and valuable support at the symposium in Toulouse! Looking ahead, I invite all members to the 2025 Symposium hosted by the Azores, in cooperation with the Canary Islands!

On 24 January 2025, NEREUS led a high-level delegation to ESA's Earth Observation Centre (ESRIN) in Frascati, engaging with Director Simonetta Cheli to present the capabilities of the regional ecosystems and future cooperation. I was also proud to attend the Sentinel-1C launch on 5 December 2024 in French Guiana alongside Director Cheli, underscoring the vital role of regions in delivering space benefits to citizens.

As we look ahead, I remain committed to continuing our work together in promoting sustainability and call for stronger interregional cooperation. I would like to thank the Management Board, our members and the NEREUS secretariat for their ongoing dedication to our shared mission and for actively shaping the future direction of the Network.



Thierry Cotelle,
NEREUS President

FOREWORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Space technologies are increasingly shaping Europe's regional ecosystems. At the heart of this transformation, NEREUS enables regions to unlock the full value of space through political advocacy, interregional cooperation and public outreach at the European and regional levels.

A key strategic priority is to broaden the use of space data and services across the full range of regional responsibilities, both at the policy level and in terms of operational implementation. This ambition is reflected in initiatives such as our targeted digital info sessions, which address societal themes including health, energy, agriculture and education or the Copernicus4regions initiative.

In parallel, NEREUS remains engaged in shaping European policy debates. This year, we submitted position papers on EU funding for civil protection and crisis response (1) and competitiveness, (2) as well as on Europe's Water Resilience Strategy (3). There, we emphasised the vital role of Copernicus and Earth Observation data in strengthening governance and advancing innovative tools, such as Digital Twins and monitoring based on IoT (the Internet of Things), to support sustainable, data-driven solutions at the regional level. Following the release of the European Commission's EU space package (Space Law and Vision for a European Space Economy) NEREUS is going to develop an advocacy strategy ensuring that local investment capacity, skills development and broad access to space data across all regions are fully reflected in Europe's future space policy.

1 2 3

As part of our growth strategy, we welcomed new members in 2024: the Canary Islands (4) (Full Member) with its newly launched space strategy, and two Associate Members from academia: Ignatianum University (5) (Malopolska region, Full member) and Rzeszow University of Technology (6) (Podkarpackie Region, Full member), joining our scientific community of university partners.

4 5 6

NEREUS proudly continues to lead the Copernicus4regions initiative (2023-2027), in close partnership with the European Space Agency and the European Commission. The initiative showcases the concrete value of Copernicus data for public administrations through high-quality regional use cases. These stories illustrate how space data enables smarter, more efficient governance across Europe. The 2025 event at the European Parliament will be a key opportunity to raise awareness among regional policymakers and MEPs.

Complementing these advocacy efforts, the NEREUS Earth Observation Working Group, chaired by the Veneto Region, continues to foster the uptake of Copernicus and Earth Observation applications at regional level. The group also contributes expert guidance to NEREUS's ongoing involvement in key European projects, including the INTERREG SATSDIFACTION and Horizon Europe's OCEANIDs initiative.

We encourage you to join our vibrant community and take an active role in advancing the regional space agenda across Europe!

Enjoy the read!



Roya Ayazi,
NEREUS Secretary General

REINFORCING THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE:
The role of the regional space ecosystems

Regional space ecosystems supported by local governments, universities, research centres and SMEs are dynamic innovation environments, strategic assets for territorial cohesion, economic resilience and societal well-being. At the same time, regions' space activities and strategies provide structure and direction, enabling these ecosystems to evolve, collaborate and advance. NEREUS acts as a bridge, ensuring that regional ecosystems are firstly, a) integrated into strategic discussions and that space remains a priority across subnational governance, and secondly, b) incorporated and aligned with a competitive and sustainable European space sector and agenda. The following activities illustrate how NEREUS, through political dialogue, reinforces the role of regions in shaping Europe's space regime throughout 2024-2025.

"Concerning the political dialogue, NEREUS should advocate with EU institutions in the legislative procedure by the European Parliament and the Council for the adoption of the EU Space Act, to recognise the "role of regions" in the development of the space sector through the planning and implementation of regional policies and funds in synergy with the EU's harmonised legal framework. The aim is to facilitate and contribute to safety, resilience, environmental sustainability, competitiveness of the EU space sector and education/training of space stakeholders." Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata region

"NEREUS fosters political dialogue to ensure regional voices are heard in European space policy. We promote interregional collaboration to share best practices and drive joint innovation. Our focus on growth strategy supports capacity building and strengthens the space ecosystem across all member regions, in particular insular regions like the Canary Islands, Madeira, and other European outermost regions." Duarte Cota, The Azores region

"As NEREUS, our vision should be to amplify regional voices in European space policy through robust Political Dialogue, both at local and communitarian level, ensuring regional priorities shape the EU agenda. This is particularly relevant in the next year, with the EU Space Law under discussion. Our Growth Strategy should focus on expanding membership but also on increasing dynamic Interregional Collaboration, facilitating knowledge transfer and joint project development among the members." Marina Silverii, Emilia-Romagna region.

European Regional Symposium on 2-3 October 2024 in Toulouse/Occitanie



The European Symposium by NEREUS Regions is a novel annual concept launched by NEREUS in 2021 to explore space-based solutions and share best practices. By fostering exchange and dialogue between public authorities and private actors/ service providers, the symposium showcases how the use of space strengthens regional ecosystems while presenting the capabilities and ecosystem of the hosting region.





The 3rd European Symposium by NEREUS Regions, held on 2-3 October 2024 in Toulouse, brought a new dimension to the series through two notable advances. Firstly, it established the symposium as a strategic forum for politicians to exchange on the role of regions in space governance. President Thierry Cotelle used the occasion to invite high-level politicians and stakeholders, elevating political dialogue within the network and giving visibility to the strategic importance of regions in the space sector. Nadia Pellefigue, Vice-President for Higher Education, Research, Europe and International Relations, and Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata region and NEREUS Vice-President, highlighted the fact that strong regional ecosystems are essential for building a competitive and inclusive European space sector. Fittingly, the link to the EU level was evident through Elisabeth Hamdouch, Deputy Head of Unit for Copernicus at the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), who called for regions to be used as testbeds for EU space activities.

Secondly, the symposium highlighted Occitanie as a leading example of how regions can leverage space to address water and energy challenges. As one of Europe's most advanced space ecosystems, Occitanie provided an ideal setting, bringing together a strong and diverse space industry, a vibrant academic and research landscape, and a newly launched regional space strategy developed in close partnership with CNES (Centre national d'études spatiales, the French national space agency). The region stood out as a model of regional leadership, offering a blueprint for others as to how regional ecosystems can drive innovation and policy impact and demonstrating how coordinated action at the territorial level can turn space policy into concrete tools for sustainable development. Participants had the opportunity to experience this first-hand through visits to the Aerospace Valley cluster, a major innovation and collaboration hub, and to the Cité de l'Espace, a space museum and educational centre, further underlining Occitanie's role as a gateway between policy, science, industry and citizens.

Beyond political dialogue, the symposium catalysed community-building: over 160 participants, including policymakers, scientists, industry leaders and space experts, deepened cooperation across regions. The event also marked the 17th anniversary of NEREUS, offering a moment of reflection on the Network's journey and its rising political relevance, updating the role of regions within Europe's evolving space policy landscape. The symposium concluded with the announcement of the 4th edition focused on how New Space technologies enhance resilience and sustainability in critical sectors such as Civil Protection, the Blue Economy and Defence & Security, to be hosted by the Azores in cooperation with the Canary Islands in 2025, continuing NEREUS's mission to bring regional space ecosystems to the forefront of Europe's space dialogue.

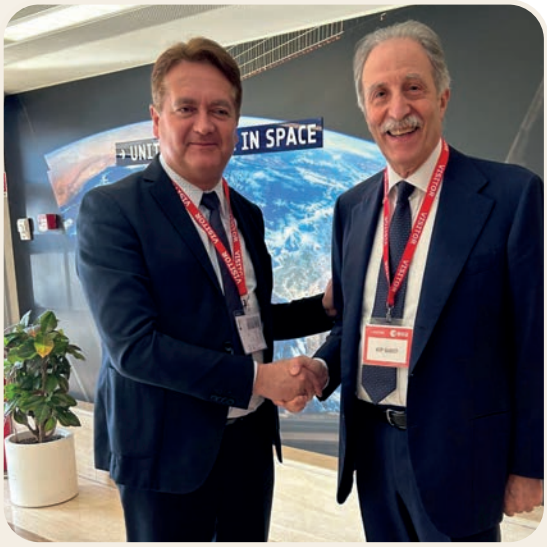




Visit of the NEREUS Delegation to ESA/ESRIN on 24 January 2025: Reinforcing Dialogue at a European level

"I think that Copernicus4regions and SATSDIFACTION projects are very important initiatives for us because, in the vision for the European Space Economy, a skilled workforce is a cross-cutting enabler. We should support lifelong learning, upskilling and reskilling and VET (Vocational Education and Training) for space stakeholders. For this reason, during the NEREUS visit of the ESA ESRIN site in Frascati, I proposed to launch a pilot project, in the framework of the ESA/NEREUS initiative Copernicus4regions, considering that also for the regional administrations a skilled workforce able to use space technology and solutions is fundamental to implement the digital administration and to promote innovation, development and the space economy." Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata region

The ESA visit reflects NEREUS's commitment to stronger EU partnerships and political dialogue. By engaging directly with ESA, NEREUS promoted the role of regions as key drivers of space demand and ensured that their voice is heard in EU space policies.



NEREUS President Thierry Cotelle and Vice-President Vito Bardi, (from the left)

The visit of the NEREUS delegation to ESA/ESRIN on 24 January 2025 marked a significant milestone in the Network's political dialogue with the European Space Agency. Led by NEREUS President Thierry Cotelle and Vice-President Vito Bardi, the delegation brought together regional politicians, senior public officials, researchers and cluster representatives. The visit strengthened the strategic partnership and established a deeper collaboration over the next five years.

The day featured substantive exchanges with ESA's Director of Earth Observation (EO) Programmes, Simonetta Cheli, focusing on aligning regional and European priorities, fostering pilot initiatives and amplifying the socio-economic impact of Copernicus and EO data. Thematic discussions, supported by regional use cases on water management, urban sustainability and disaster resilience, illustrated how regional capabilities contribute to European objectives. Additionally, the exchange of best practices highlighted the crucial role that regional space ecosystems play in unlocking the full potential of the Copernicus programme. In turn, ESA offered valuable technical insights and confirmed its commitment to closer engagement with regional actors. Presentations and well-thought roundtable interventions from regions (Apulia Region, Azores Region, Baden-Württemberg Region, Basilicata Region, Brittany Region, Catalonia Region, Emilia Romagna Region, Hesse Region, Occitanie Region, Podkarpackie Region) provided a comprehensive view of regional innovation potential, while the participation of guest regions, such as Campania and Sardinia, showed the expanding interest in the NEREUS-ESA dialogue. The visit also served to bolster the Copernicus4regions initiative and prepare for upcoming events with the European Parliament and Committee of the Regions.

On 5 December 2024, NEREUS President Thierry Cotelle was invited by ESA to attend the historic launch of Sentinel-1C, highlighting the essential role of regions in turning European space missions into tangible benefits for citizens and communities.

NEREUS Secretary General Roya Ayazi, NEREUS President Thierry Cotelle, ESA's Director of Earth Observation (EO) Programmes, Simonetta Cheli, and Vice-President Vito Bardi, (from the left)



Echoing regional needs/policies to the EU and regional level

"Through political dialogue, NEREUS will intensify its advocacy for regional interests within EU space policy, emphasising the user dimension and bottom-up innovation. We will strengthen interregional collaboration by fostering joint projects and best practice exchange, driving a growth strategy focused on tangible benefits from space applications for citizens and regional economies." Carlos Romero, Madrid region

"Political dialogue and cooperation across borders to address common concerns is essential for Europe's stability and shared progress to ensure that we utilise the advantages that space resources have to offer. NEREUS offers the option to exchange best practices and innovative solutions to common challenges. This fosters sustainable development, economic resilience and long-term prosperity across regions." Tobias Gotthardt, State Secretary of the Free State of Bavaria

Stronger political representation on the NEREUS Board has boosted the Network's ability to advocate regional interests at the EU level and promote interregional collaboration. This momentum helps to raise the visibility of regional space innovation and to better align local priorities with EU strategies.

On 27 January 2025, the Representation of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen to the EU hosted a high-level evening debate in Brussels entitled 'How to Strengthen Europe's Space Ambitions in a Global Competition and Geostrategic Context', held prior to the European Space Conference, a significant conference for Europe's space policy. Moderated by Roya Ayazi, Secretary General of NEREUS, the discussion explored Europe's ability to remain competitive, autonomous and collaborative in space. It also underscored the importance of aligning regional engagement to shape a forward-looking European space policy. Such high-level exchanges provide valuable opportunities for NEREUS members to support one another and to showcase their regional space ecosystems. This was the case for Bavaria, for example represented by Mr. Gotthardt, a region with one of the most dynamic and innovative space ecosystems in Europe. For example, one in three aerospace professionals in Germany are based in the region. In this respect, NEREUS Vice President Tobias Gotthardt, State Secretary of the Free State of Bavaria, who was invited by Bremen, had the opportunity to engage in discussions with key European space leaders, including ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher and Christoph Kautz, Director at the European Commission's DG DEFIS.

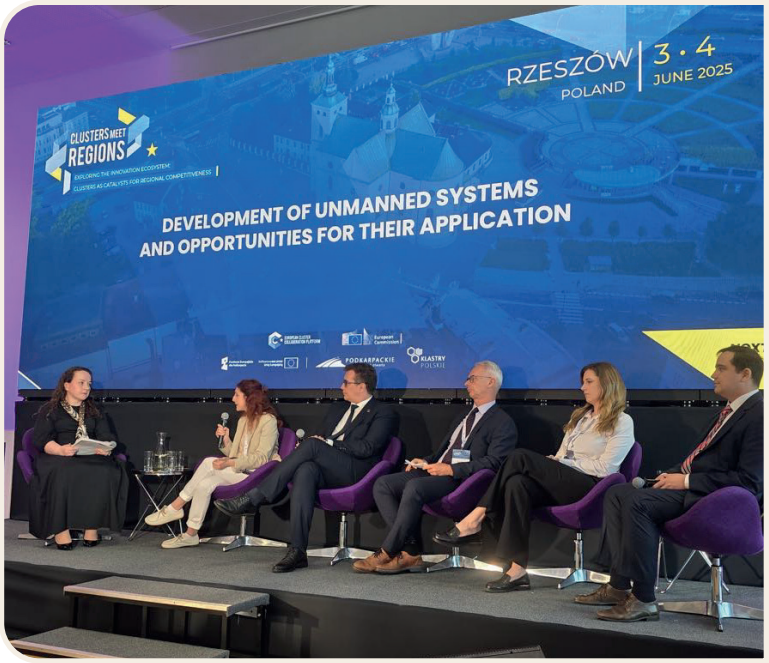
On 7 May 2025, NEREUS took part in the official launch of the Canary Islands Aerospace Strategy, reinforcing its mission to empower regions as active stakeholders in the European space ecosystem. Representing NEREUS, Secretary General Roya Ayazi and Communication/Policy Officer Margarita Chrysaki joined regional and national leaders at the IACTEC (Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, Canaries' Astrophysics Institute) space facility in La Laguna, showcasing the Network's support for regionally driven space strategies. With strong messages from NEREUS President Thierry Cotelle and Board Member Duarte Cota, the event highlighted the importance of interregional cooperation and best-practice exchange within the NEREUS network, citing examples such as Occitanie, The Azores and Catalonia. The Canary Islands' strategic vision is anchored in EU cooperation, innovation and sustainable economic development. This illustrates how regional initiatives can, when supported by networks like NEREUS, effectively connect local assets with European funding instruments and policy priorities.







In June 2025, NEREUS actively contributed to two editions of the European Commission's *Clusters Meet Regions* initiative, highlighting the importance of space technologies in regional innovation ecosystems. At the Podkarpackie edition in Rzeszów (3-4 June), Margarita Chrysaki emphasised the value of interregional cooperation and the strategic integration of space solutions in regional development. The event, hosted under the Polish EU Presidency, also featured NEREUS Vice-President Marshal Władysław Ortyl's announcement of a dedicated Drone Valley, positioning Podkarpackie as a future hub for unmanned systems. Later that month in Foligno (Umbria), Secretary General Roya Ayazi took part in a panel on industrial sustainability, showcasing the contribution of Earth Observation and Copernicus data to Europe's renewable energy planning. Referencing the Copernicus4regions case study on energy transition, she underlined how space-based information can enhance the quality of public decision-making. Both events demonstrated how, as part of an ecosystem, clusters can bridge local innovation with broader EU green, digital and industrial transformation agendas with the support of NEREUS.





Next, since the adoption of Catalonia's NewSpace Strategy in 2020, the region has systematically advanced its ecosystem through targeted actions in innovation, talent, infrastructure and service uptake, consolidating its leadership role in Europe's evolving space landscape. Catalonia further strengthened its position as a frontrunner in Europe's New Space Economy through the successful organisation of the Newspace Economy congress, which celebrated its fourth edition in 2025. Held at La Llotja de Mar in Barcelona, the event was jointly led by the Government of Catalonia and the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, with NEREUS as an official collaborator. This edition brought together over 900 participants, 74 speakers and representatives from more than 15 nationalities, confirming the growing international scope of the initiative. The programme highlighted the crosscutting value of space technologies in sectors such as water management, climate monitoring, disaster response and urban planning. The Occitanie region and its ecosystem was represented by Mr. Jalil Benabdillah, Vice President for Economy, Employment, Innovation and Reindustrialisation of the Occitanie Region. It contributed to the institutional welcome, and supported and guided B2B meetings and cross-sector workshops.





REINVIGORATING REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACROSS STRATEGIC SPACE DOMAINS

"NEREUS has been actively managing the Copernicus4regions initiative as a masterpiece of the Network for many years, showcasing how Copernicus data addresses regional challenges and fosters a wider community of users. It is very important to increase the number of use cases, which are inspirational for other local administrations. SATSDIFACTION is also of paramount importance for regional Public Authorities, in order to facilitate the use of space data as a source of knowledge to improve informed decision making (in this regard there is a strong and beneficial connection with Copernicus4regions). Lastly, OCEANIDS has a similar purpose but connected to the Blue Economy, which is a very important sector also for Emilia-Romagna and this project will help in taking informed decisions related to Maritime Spatial Planning and the resilient Blue Economy. These projects exemplify NEREUS's commitment to empowering regions through space technologies." Marina Silverii, Emilia-Romagna region

"Through NEREUS, we can jointly shape the future of European space policy by reinforcing interregional cooperation. Podkarpackie is actively engaged in knowledge exchange, implementing smart specialisation strategies, and supporting projects that foster the development of regional innovation ecosystems like the Interreg Europe SATSDIFACTION project." Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region

"Our initiatives have intensified interregional collaborations, as seen in projects like SATSDIFACTION and OCEANIDS. We have optimised the use of space data for innovative projects, notably through Copernicus4Regions, our flagship project with ESA, and we have amplified our influence with European institutions. The expansion of our network and the reinforcement of synergies have been significant achievements that we can all be proud of." Thierry Cotelle, Occitanie region

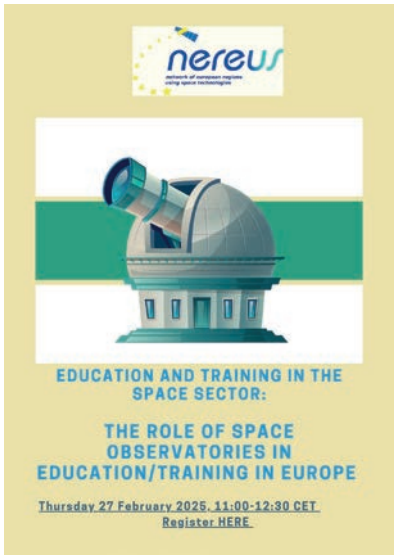
"Together, these initiatives demonstrate how space-based solutions can empower regions, especially outermost and coastal ones, to tackle their specific challenges while contributing to broader European goals." Duarte Cota, The Azores region

"Initiatives like Copernicus4regions, SATSDIFACTION and OCEANIDS are crucial for demonstrating the tangible benefits of space data at the regional level. They exemplify how NEREUS facilitates practical uptake of Copernicus data, improves spatial data infrastructures and supports resilient solutions for critical sectors, showcasing concrete value for regions across Europe." Carlos Romero, Madrid region

"Copernicus4regions is a fantastic initiative that showcases inspiring user stories of earth observation data across Europe. It highlights a wide range of opportunities, demonstrating how satellite data can be used to monitor crops, support the energy transition by assessing renewable energy potential, track afforestation and map air quality. This collection enables regions throughout Europe to learn from each other and maximise the benefits of space data. Building on this, the SATSDIFACTION project further enhances the use of satellite data to improve local and regional decision-making, environmental management and public services." Tobias Gotthardt, State Secretary of the Free State of Bavaria

This section highlights how NEREUS promotes regional use of space-based solutions in areas like climate, agriculture, energy and maritime. Through projects such as OCEANIDs, Copernicus4regions and SATSDIFACTION, the Network supports innovation and policy implementation. The Earth Observation Working Group further strengthens this by sharing tools and expertise to promote open science and sustainability at local and regional levels.







María del Carmen Muñoz Rodríguez, Universidad de Jaén



Antonio Cabrera Lavers (Gran Telescopio Canarias)



Federico Zoppas (CEO of Zoppas Industries, President of the Veneto Aerospace Cluster AIR)

Digital Infosessions

NEREUS regularly hosts digital information sessions to update member regions on the latest developments in key space application domains, as well as on education and training governance in the space sector. These sessions act as a bridge between space and non-space communities, engaging with new members, providing a platform to showcase regional space capabilities and to build strategic partnerships. Open to all participants, they promote inclusive dialogue, enabling everyone to take the floor and contribute. Recordings and presentations are available on the website. Our members take the floor as invited speakers to share their views or present the activities of their respective organisations.

Capacity building skills in the space sector

In 2024-2025, NEREUS reinforced its role in promoting space education and training by organising a diverse series of bi-monthly info sessions, each designed to explore how academia, research and knowledge transfer from the universities can build robust space ecosystems. Key themes included financing research and entrepreneurship in space, and new educational trends, such as space psychology and planetary science. The sessions also addressed the educational functions of space observatories, regional engagement through competitions and start-up hubs, and governance challenges in emerging fields, such as space law.

High-level speakers enriched the sessions with expertise from across disciplines and institutions, interacting with members. Among them were Anouk Lafortune (European Commission, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)), Federico Zoppas (CEO of Zoppas Industries, President of the Veneto Aerospace Cluster AIR), Dr. Jacek Bielas (Ignatianum University), Antonio Cabrera Lavers (Gran Telescopio Canarias), Gancho Kolaksazov (ITTI Bulgaria), and representatives of EU-funded initiatives, such as UNIVERSEH, Professor Emmanuel Zenou (ISAE-SUPAERO). By creating an open and inclusive forum, the Network underlines its mission to empower the next generation to shape the future of Europe's space landscape.

As part of the Network's broader education and training policy, NEREUS President Thierry Cotelle rejoined the Advisory Board of UNIVERSEH, a European Universities alliance that brings together five leading institutions under the European Commission's flagship initiative to innovate space-related education.

7	520	20	220	4,000
TARGETED WORKSHOPS	PARTICIPANTS	SPEAKERS	YOUTUBE VIEWS	SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS

Sustainable tourism, health, energy and others

NEREUS has hosted a dynamic series of webinars showcasing how space technologies support sustainable tourism, energy, health, agriculture and civil security, and underscore the growing importance of cross-border collaboration in leveraging space innovation for societal impact. Furthermore, this series was the turning point in terms of building new projects and consortia with members and tapping into new funding opportunities. The *Sustainable Tourism* webinars explored how Copernicus and satellite services enhance tourism planning amid climate challenges. Speakers from regional agencies and SMEs, as well as from the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) and ESA, underlined the value of EO in balancing economic growth and environmental responsibility in tourism-heavy regions.

The Space Data for Energy webinar, building on insights from NEREUS's October 2024 Symposium, explored how Earth Observation (EO) and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technologies can strengthen Europe's energy resilience and sustainability. Mina Syriou (ESA) outlined new funding opportunities focused on green hydrogen, digital energy systems and space weather services. The session emphasised the essential role of space data in driving the green transition and equipping regional authorities with smart, climate-aligned tools.

Subsequent webinars on Space4Health and Space4Agriculture showcased the expanding use of EO for health and food security. Cristina Ananasso (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)) introduced the Copernicus Health Hub, while Gerda Kuum (EUSPA) presented GNSS-supported applications in healthcare. In the agriculture session, Livia Peiser (Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)) shared insights from the joint FAO/UNOOSA (United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs) report on satellite-driven food security, complemented by practical examples from Wallonia and Apulia using Sentinel data for crop monitoring. Additionally, a dedicated Horizon Europe Cluster 3 info session offered guidance on EU civil security funding, featuring input from NORCE (the Norwegian Research Centre) and the Research Council of Norway on how space-based technologies can enhance climate resilience, cybersecurity and emergency response.

Members are encouraged to contact the Secretariat to propose and co-develop new webinars aligned with their interests and priorities.




Mina Syriou (ESA)


Cristina Ananasso (European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)


Line Marie Sørsdal, Research Council of Norway



7	600	18	241	4,500
TARGETED WORKSHOPS	PARTICIPANTS	SPEAKERS	YOUTUBE VIEWS	SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS

Copernicus4regions updates: New high-quality use cases & Early Breakfast Meeting at ESA Living Planet Symposium 2025

As more regions across Europe acknowledge the strategic value of Copernicus in addressing societal and environmental challenges, NEREUS is pursuing — through the Copernicus4regions initiative — its collaboration with the European Commission (EC) and the European Space Agency (ESA) to highlight the programme's growing relevance for public administrations. Anchored in the EU's climate and green transition agenda, the 2023-2027 edition focuses on integrating fresh user perspectives into the policy landscape, offering a collaborative platform for dialogue among public users, service providers and decision-makers.

In this new phase, the initiative seeks to expand its existing collection of user stories but also to narrow the criteria for publication, receiving only high-quality submissions. The first call for best practices brought together 36 new submissions. covering themes such as biodiversity, territorial management and other key policy areas. These are currently under expert peer review, with the majority ready to be published on the NEREUS website. A dedicated group of volunteer reviewers ensures the scientific and technical integrity of the content. To further support accessibility, a newly enhanced search engine has been launched, complete with improved filtering capabilities.

The initiative received strong visibility at ESA's Living Planet Symposium 2025 through two dedicated activities. On 23 June, a poster presentation on Copernicus4regions showcased how satellite data supports climate resilience, water management and urban planning at the local level. The expert audience engaged enthusiastically, asking insightful questions and confirming their interest in engaging with the initiative's activities. The following day, 24 June, a joint NEREUS-ESA Early Breakfast Meeting brought together over 30 participants — Copernicus users, service providers, institutional actors and contributors — for an interactive exchange.

The session began with welcoming remarks by Alessandra Tassa (ESA) and Roya Ayazi (NEREUS), who introduced the initiative's evolution and its focus on community-building through Copernicus. Guest speaker Eliza-Maria Link (UIV Urban Innovation Vienna GmbH) offered a practical perspective on using Earth Observation to advance Vienna's digital transition and urban innovation. This was followed by a dynamic exchange with public authorities and service providers, and an update by Margarita Chrysaki on the review process and new stories, including a demonstration of the revamped Copernicus4regions search engine. Simon Seminari (European Commission) reaffirmed the EU's commitment to empowering regions through Copernicus and space policy.

Looking ahead, NEREUS remains dedicated to facilitating dialogue and supporting public users in leveraging Copernicus for improved data-driven governance. A high-level event at the European Parliament is scheduled for 4 December 2025 to unveil the new stories and spark debate between political actors and public authorities.



Alessandra Tassa, Hendrick Hamacher, Roya Ayazi, Margarita Chrysaki, Maciek Mislywiech (from the left)





NEREUS Secretary General Roya Ayazi



Eliza-Maria Link (UIV Urban Innovation Vienna GmbH)



NEREUS Communication, Policy, and Project Officer, Margarita Chrysaki





Simon Seminari (European Commission)

INTERREG Europe: SATSDIFACTION, Satellite data and Spatial Data Infrastructures for an evidence-based form of regional governance

This unique initiative aims to promote the exchange and practical use of satellite data within local and regional spatial data infrastructures. Its main objective is to strengthen the effectiveness of regional policy instruments by supporting evidence-based decision-making and governance. The consortium is primarily composed of NEREUS member regions, including Basilicata, the Azores, Occitanie, Podkarpackie, Wallonia and Veneto, alongside the municipality of Riga. As an advisory partner, NEREUS leads the communication and outreach strategy, fosters collaboration among participating regions and helps build long-term cooperation with regional communities beyond the project's scope.

During the previous months, partners successfully provided the consortium with new developments on the progress of improving policy instruments and best practices in the following regions. In June 2024, the SATSDIFACTION project held its third Learning Deep Dive (LDD) in Ponta Delgada, Azores, where regional stakeholders met to explore innovative strategies in energy, environment and space infrastructures. Organised by the Azores region, the event featured expert presentations on the Azorean Energy Strategy, carbon neutrality, spatial data infrastructures and live EO demonstrations. Moderated by NEREUS and Veneto representatives, the sessions underlined the value of satellite applications for policy improvement. A field visit to the Ribeira Grande Geothermal Powerplant and the Caldeira Velha Natural Monument further showcased the Azores' leadership in sustainability and climate action.

The 4th Learning Deep Dive (LDD) of the SATSDIFACTION project, held from 10-12 December 2024 in Montpellier and hosted by the Occitanie Region, highlighted the powerful role of spatial data infrastructures in advancing regional climate resilience. The event commenced with opening remarks by Marie-Thérèse Mercier, Regional Councillor, who emphasised Occitanie's leadership in spatial technologies. NEREUS contributed to the opening session and actively supported the exchange throughout the programme, which combined high-level panels, field visits and interactive workshops demonstrating the importance of hands-on collaboration in tackling environmental challenges.

The fifth LDD, hosted by the Wallonia region in April 2025, focused on flood risk management and demonstrated the critical role of EO technologies in disaster resilience. Notably, NEREUS organised and moderated the final day of the programme, dedicated to the project's mid-term review and strategic reflection. This included the integration of satellite data into regional ecosystems, coordination with the Joint Secretariat and discussions on project sustainability and monitoring.

The initiative will end in 2027 with the final event organised by NEREUS.






SATSDIFACTION
Use of space data in
Atlantic regions:
a perspective from the Azores
SATSDIFACTION – 3rd Learning
Use of space data in
Atlantic regions:
a perspective from t

Oceanids: Creating tools and applications driven by users

Maritime matters are of strategic importance for NEREUS, as 18 of its 23 members are maritime, island or outermost regions. In this context, the Network actively explores how space-based solutions can support sustainability and address the specific challenges faced by these territories. One concrete example is NEREUS's involvement in the Horizon 2020 project OCEANIDS, a 32-month EU initiative focused on maritime innovation. Within this project, the regions of the Azores (PT) and Brittany (FR), along with their ports, participate as key partners and end users.

On 11 March 2025, the Port of Antwerp hosted the first OCEANIDS workshop, bringing together public authorities, industry leaders, academics, the port authorities and maritime professionals to explore how digital transformation, earth observation and climate resilience can shape the future of sustainable port and coastal management. Organised by NEREUS and CDP, this high-level workshop featured opening remarks from Vice-Mayor Johan Klaps, who spotlighted Antwerp's smart port evolution, and Eleni Hatziyanni from the Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), who underlined the value of Copernicus data in maritime planning. NEREUS Secretary General Roya Ayazi emphasised the transformative role of space-enabled innovation at the regional and local levels, aligning the port community's needs more closely with the space sector.



Eleni Hatziyanni
(European Commission)



Vice-Mayor Johan Klaps







The dynamic panel discussions showcased how climate resilience, AI and digital tools are reshaping ports into innovation hubs. Speakers from ports, academia and industry shared cutting-edge practices — from ocean intelligence to maritime robotics — and called for stronger cross-sector collaboration.

The panel discussion, moderated by Roya Ayazi, highlighted the importance of sustainable maritime development: Óscar Bergasa López (Las Palmas Port Authority) underlined the integration of local knowledge into regional maritime planning and called for tailored climate resilience strategies. Jesus Pena Martin (Puertos del Estado) and Piotr Krasnicki (ESPO- European Sea Ports Organisation) emphasised the importance of aligning policy frameworks with operational realities and called for user-driven, evidence-based tools. Joeri Vandeperre (Port of Antwerp-Bruges) showcased how AI, Digital Twins and smart technologies are enhancing port efficiency and sustainability. Muriel Lux (Mercator Ocean International) highlighted the critical role of ocean intelligence in maritime spatial planning, pointing to its value for both environmental protection and logistics. All speakers underscored the need for space-based solutions to build resilient, future port ecosystems across Europe.

The OCEANIDS Advisory Board, led by Margarita Chrysaki, gave expert input on enhancing the project's user-driven tools. The workshop concluded with a clear message: Europe's ports must embrace space-based solutions and integrated planning to build more resilient and sustainable coastal ecosystems. In 2026, NEREUS is tasked with holding the final event in Brussels.




Pascal Schichor
Vice President Sales
European Space Imaging
Antoine MASSE
Earth Observation project Director IQHI
Samuel Fonseca
Business Development Manager
Grupo Cofesa
Pau Guach
Chief Executive Officer
SeaBots
Clery Fletcher
PhD Researcher, Centre for Research on Environmental and Social Change
University of Antwerp


Moderator
Speaker 1
Speaker 2
Speaker 3
Speaker 4
Speaker 5

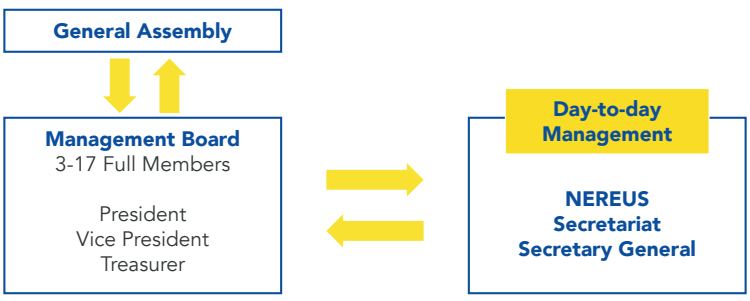


GOVERNANCE

Full members

Associate members

NEREUS aisbl Structure



THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTS ALL NEREUS FULL AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The General Assembly represents all NEREUS Full and Associate Members. The General Assembly is the organisation's key decision-making body and its supreme authority. NEREUS is a network of regions in which full members are the key players and have full voting rights, while associate members may only express views in a consultative role and participate in the General Assembly in a non-voting capacity. Only the regions (full members) may nominate representatives to sit on the Management Board. The NEREUS General Assemblies 2024 and 2025 were in-person meetings held respectively on 11 June 2024 and 20 April 2025. The Management Board met in January, March, April, June, November 2024 and February, March, June, July 2025 (ongoing). The Management Board, which is the Network's steering committee, decides on strategy and monitors the implementation of the work programme. It is entrusted with overall responsibility for managing the association, appoints the Secretary General and engages in a regular exchange with the Secretariat on the Network's three main areas of work: political dialogue, interregional cooperation/partnership and technological trends and developments relevant to future space solutions and user needs. Below, you can read more about our current Management Board as of 20 April 2025:

NEREUS PRESIDENT
Thierry Cotelle
(Occitanie region)



Graduated as engineer in industrial chemistry (Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers), Thierry Cotelle has managed several SMIs (Small and Medium Industries) in the aeronautics sector for 25 years and is currently General Director of a Business Unit at Satys Aerospace. In terms of political commitments, Thierry Cotelle has been Deputy Mayor of Toulouse in charge of employment, economic development, space and aeronautics between 2008 and 2014. Thierry Cotelle has been Regional Councillor since 2016 and was previously President of the regional agency for renewable energies (AREC). Since 2021, he has been First Vice President for the 'Economy, Employment, Re-industrialisation' Commission and belongs to the following thematic commissions, 'Climate Emergency' and 'Water and Risk Prevention'. Thierry Cotelle was elected NEREUS President in December 2021. He has also been a member of the Board of NEREUS associate member Cité de l'Espace for 20 years.

NEREUS Vice-President
(Basilicata region)



Vito Bardi. former Deputy Commander General of the Guardia di Finanza (militarised law enforcement agency), was elected President of the Basilicata Region on 24 March 2019. He has been leading the regional government for five years, since 16 April 2019. Vito Bardi was proclaimed President of The Basilicata Region for the second time on 24 May 2024. He is currently working on the creation of the new regional government after the proclamation of members elected to the Basilicata Regional Council. He started his long military career in the Guardia di Finanza. He was promoted to the post of Colonel in December 1995 and commanded the Tuscany Region of Florence. He was appointed Brigadier General in January 2001 and Head of the 1st Department of the General Command. He was promoted Major General in January 2005 and was assigned as Regional Commander of Campania. As General in the Guardia di Finanza, promoted in February 2009, he held the posts of Interregional Commander of Southern Italy and then Inspector for Educational Institutes. He was then appointed Deputy Commander General of the Corps (Guardia di Finanza) from 5 September 2013 until 4 September 2014. President Bardi holds a degree in economics, law, international and diplomatic sciences, financial economic security sciences.

Vice-President (Bavaria Region)



Vice Minister Tobias Gotthardt began his studies in Political Science and German Studies at the University of Regensburg. After completing his basic studies

there, he transferred to Freiburg. Additionally, Gotthardt worked as a student assistant in the European Parliament. This was an important step, as it turned out later: A few weeks after graduating, he began his professional career in September 2003 as a Parliamentary Assistant to Member of the European Parliament Emilia Müller. Just over two years later, in November 2005, he moved to the German Bundestag in Berlin, working as a Research Assistant to the Deputy Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Group and later Vice President of the Bundestag, Gerda Hasselfeldt. The third stage of his professional development took him to the Chemical Employers' Association as an officer for Education and Public Relations in October 2006. There, he organised university taster days for students, organised management seminars, designed exhibitions and trade fair presentations, and co-managed political representation with the state government and parliament. In January 2010 — after four years in Munich — Gotthardt returned to active politics, back to Brussels: There, he took over the office management for Member of the European Parliament Martin Kastler and, after Kastler's departure in 2014, transitioned to working with Member of the European Parliament Arne Gericke. In 2018, he was elected to the Bavarian State Parliament for the Free Voters, became their Spokesperson for Federal and European Affairs and became the Chairman of the European Affairs Committee. After his reelection to the Bavarian State Parliament in 2023, he was appointed to the position of Vice Minister in the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy as a member of the Bavarian State Government. Moreover, he has been deputy member of the European Committee of the Regions for the Free State of Bavaria since 2019.

NEREUS Vice-President (Podkarpackie region)



Władysław Ortyl is an engineer and experienced public servant, currently serving as the Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region (since 2013). He holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rzeszów University of Technology, specialising in aircraft design. A long-standing member of the European Committee of the Regions, he is the coordinator of the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) and a member of the Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE). He also chairs the Carpathians Interregional Group. Previously, he was a Senator of the Republic of Poland and served as Secretary of State at the Ministry of Regional Development. He was appointed to the Territorial Self-Government Council by the President of Poland and is Vice President of the Union of Provinces of the Republic of Poland.

NEREUS Treasurer (Apulia region)



Vito Bavaro has been in charge of the Digital Transformation Section at the Economic Development Department of the Apulia Region since 2021. He holds a degree in electronic engineering from the University Federico II of Naples (2001), a Master's degree of science in aerospace systems from Kingston University in London (2003) and a Ph.D. in electronic engineering from the University Roma Tre (2008). In 1995, he joined the Italian Air force Academy of Pozzuoli. From 2001 to 2009, he worked as avionic system test engineer at the Italian Air Force Flight Test Center in Pratica di Mare (Rome). In this period, he was involved in several experimentation campaigns and testing activities of avionics and communication systems. In 2002, he attended the 35th Aerosystems Course at the Royal Air Force College in Cranwell. Since 2009, he has been working for Apulia's Regional Government. He was in charge of the Digital Systems, Technology and Infrastructures Section of the Healthcare Department until 2020. Today, within the framework of the smart specialisation strategy of the Apulia Region, his activity is focused on supporting the digital transformation of public local institutions and private companies and the regional aerospace sector.

NEREUS Board Member (Baden-Württemberg region)



Constanze Wolf is a lawyer specialising in international and comparative law and economics. For over a decade, she was responsible for small and medium-sized enterprises, foreign trade and law in the cross-sectoral industry association of Baden-Württemberg before moving to the Forum Aerospace Baden-Württemberg. As managing director, she is now responsible for all matters relating to Baden-Württemberg's aerospace sector and representing Baden-Württemberg's aerospace community. Since the summer of 2023, Ms. Wolf has also been contributing her expertise to the aerospace strategy of the state of Baden-Württemberg, whose office is provided by the Forum Aerospace. In addition, Ms. Wolf also provides project management, legal advice and support for other cluster organisations on a part-time basis.

NEREUS Board Member (Catalonia region)



Dr. Josep Colomé is the Director of the Catalonia Space Office at the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC). He holds a degree and PhD in Physics from the University of Barcelona (UB) and has been involved in space technology and research projects since 2002, when he joined the IEEC. He obtained a permanent position at the Institute of Space Sciences (ICE-CSIC, IEEC) in 2007 and, since then, he has had different roles of responsibility, as project manager (Cherenkov Telescope Array, Warwick 1-m Telescope, CARMENES instrument) and unit director (Director of the Montsec Observatory at the IEEC, Head of the Advanced Engineering Unit at the ICE-CSIC, Head of the Knowledge Transfer Office at the IEEC). He is currently the Spanish national project manager for two missions of the European Space Agency (ESA) – Ariel and LISA –, and he has been leading the Catalonia Space Office since 2022, one of the key instruments in Catalonia for the promotion of the space sector and the implementation of the NewSpace strategy, in collaboration with other partners and under the leadership of the Catalan Government.

NEREUS Board Member (Emilia Romagna region)



ART-ER Executive Director and a former ASTER Director, Marina Silverii has an honour's degree in statistics and economics. She has spent the last 10 years in charge of the Resource Centre for Guidance and Employment promoted by the Ministry of Labour and the European Commission, through which she led several initiatives concerning vocational training and development of human resources. In October 2020, she was elected member of the Technical Scientific Committee of the Italian Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE). Since January 2020, she has been member of the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the European Innovation Ecosystem (EIE) Shadow Program Committee as Italian Delegate Alternate designated by the Ministry of University and Research under the new European Horizon Europe Framework Programme 2021-2027; in March 2021 she was confirmed as Full Member Expert in the National Task Force of the Italian Delegation. Since July 2022, she has been Vice President of the ECOSISTER Foundation – Territorial Ecosystem of Innovation of the EmiliaRomagna region focused on sustainable transition, established under Mission 4 – Component 2 – Investment 1.5 of the NRRP – National Recovery and Resilience Plan

NEREUS Board Member (Hesse region)



Perdita de Buhr has been Head of Unit for Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing at the Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union since 2011 and became a Member of the Management Board of NEREUS in 2015. She grew up in the Netherlands and read law at Passau University as well as at Münster University. After qualifying as a German lawyer and after obtaining a PhD in law in 1993, she started her professional career at the Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art. From there, she moved to other positions related to economics and science, including the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

Board Member: Carlos Romero (Madrid Region)



Carlos Romero is Telecom Engineer (MSc, UPM) and Executive MBA (IE Business School). He is currently managing ESA BIC Madrid Region, the incubation programme of the European Space Agency and Comunidad de Madrid, led by the Fundación para el Conocimiento madri+d. Previously he was Managing Director of Madrid Aerospace Cluster and Head of Incubation at Demium. Carlos has considerable experience in sales and project management. He is Business Mentor Certified and has collaborated for more than 15 years in different programmes to support entrepreneurship and innovation. Carlos currently coordinates the working group on Space at the Official College of Telecommunications Engineers and is a member of the Space Committee at the Spanish Institute of Engineering.

NEREUS Board Member (The Azores region)



Duarte Cota holds a BEng and an MSc in Computer Engineering, with a specialisation in Web Technology. He serves as a technical and scientific consultant for the Portuguese delegation of the

European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO), a programme of the European Space Agency (ESA), contributing to various educational projects in the aerospace sector. He is also a member of the Technical Evaluation Board of the European Rocketry Challenge (EuRoC), an initiative of the Portuguese Space Agency. With over two decades of experience teaching high school and university students, Duarte has been actively engaged in science and technology education. Since 2022, he has been part of the Azores Mission Structure for Space, where he is responsible for implementing the Azores Space Strategy. In addition, he serves on the executive board of RIS3 Azores (Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation in the Azores), representing the strategic sector of space.

Board Member: Eduardo Pereira (The Canary Islands Region)



Eduardo Pereira is an Aerospace Engineer, specialised in Airports and Air Transport from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, with advanced training in Business Administration and Financial Management. As a member of the Spanish State Aeronautical Engineer Corps, he has built a distinguished career in the Spanish airport sector, combining technical expertise with high-level public and private sector leadership. He worked for over 15 years at AENA, a Spanish company, in charge of airport management, holding key positions at the airports of La Coruña, Santiago de Compostela, and Fuerteventura, where he served as CEO for more than a decade. He led the €500 million expansion of Fuerteventura Airport, which under his management became the 8th busiest airport in Spain. He was also a member of the strategic committee responsible for the development of airport infrastructure across the country. He currently serves as CEO of the Fuerteventura Technology Park SA MP (public company), where he leads groundbreaking initiatives such as the Canarias Stratoport for HAPS & UAS and the Canarias Geo Innovation Program 2030, focused on Unmanned Aerial Systems, High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite Platforms and aerial R&D operations for innovative solutions EO, Security, Defence and Telecom (a Canary Islands programme). He has received multiple institutional and tourism sector awards for his contributions and he has recently been nominated, by the Canary Islands Government, for the Coordination Regions Committee of the Spanish Space Agency.

NEREUS SECRETARIAT

The permanent NEREUS Secretariat is run by Ms. Roya Ayazi, the NEREUS Secretary-General, Ms. Margarita Chrysaki, the NEREUS Communication, Policy and Project Officer, and Ms. Emmanuel Lambert, the NEREUS Administrative and Financial Assistant. The Secretariat is responsible for the daily management of the association, the coordination of the Network and political representation to the European institutions (**link**).



Ms. Roya Ayazi heads the Brussels/Belgium-based Secretariat and is the main interface for the association at the European level. Backed up by her training as a German lawyer and over 20 years of professional experience in European affairs, her core responsibilities are representing NEREUS and advocacy at the European, regional and local level as well as positioning and coordinating the Network concerning space policy developments. As a member of different advisory councils of EU-funded projects, Ms. Ayazi supports NEREUS members' activities by representing the regional dimension in EU space developments and following relevant legislative procedures.



Ms. Margarita Chrysaki leads NEREUS's communication and project activities, playing a key role in enhancing the network's visibility and outreach. She coordinates pan-European and ESA-funded projects, ensuring that regional perspectives are well represented. Drawing on extensive professional experience and advanced academic training in politics, communication, and space studies, she has authored a notable publication on space commercialization and sustainability (**link** & **link**) . In 2023, she was appointed as a mentor for Space4Women, an initiative of UNOOSA.



Ms. Emmanuelle Lambert is a proficient Administrative and Financial Assistant with academic experience in modern languages and business management. She plays a vital role in the successful completion of the administrative/financial activities of NEREUS, facilitating smooth logistical operations between the Secretariat and NEREUS members.



nereus
network of european regions
using space technologies

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