

SPACE TECHNOLOGIES RESPOND TO SOCIETAL CHALLENGES OF HORIZON2020

- 📍 Brussels, 6th March 2013
- 🕒 14.30 – 17.30
- ✉ Representation of Lazio Region (Conference room / 8th floor)
Rond Point Schuman 14, B-1040 Brussels

The European Network NEREUS organized within the “EU Science: Global Challenges & Global Collaboration” Conference a debate on the role of Europe’s space flagships (Galileo and Copernicus) to accomplish breakthroughs in the societal challenges of Horizon 2020. Invited Speakers from the European Parliament, Commission, European Space Agency, European Science Foundation and regional research organisations and universities from NEREUS-regions demonstrated with illustrative examples, partly from FP7-funded projects, how space uses can contribute as a strategic tool to advance in many scientific and research domains.

“Given the complex economic situation Europe is currently facing, Galileo and Copernicus play a key role in the process of developing effective strategies to respond to societal challenges” stated Member of European Parliament Antonio Cancian when he opened the session. Bringing together more than 80 participants from all over Europe, the event led to an animated debate that was moderated by NEREUS-Secretary General Roya Ayazi. Reporting on the latest EU-policy developments, she informed the audience that the European Council had reached an agreement on 7/8 February 2013 regarding the MFF 2014-2020 which earmarked 6.300 Mio/EUR for Galileo and 3.786 Mio/EUR for Copernicus and apart from that, 71 Billion EUR for the Horizon2020 program. Now a round of negotiations will follow in the European Parliament.

The role of space in the new program as an enabler for the second pillar “societal challenges” was underlined by Mauro Facchini, EC-DG Enterprise, Head of Unit Space Research who gave an outlook on the ideas of the Commission for the up-coming Horizon2020-program. Josef Aschbacher (Head of the ESA-GMES-Office) who represented the Agency highlighted the potentials and capabilities of the system in many areas of vital importance for regions and their citizens. Referring to the current economic climate in Europe he underlined that for every €1 spent by the European tax payer on GMES, brings up to 10 Euros back to the European society –in addition to an array of strategic advantages which cannot be accounted for. The science community is a key beneficiary of space-based information.

NEREUS-representatives from East Midlands (Prof. Alan Wells, University of Leicester), Lombardy (Paola Carrara, CNR-IREA) and Veneto (Pierpaolo Campostrini, CORILA) brought into the debate concrete FP-7-funded projects that demonstrated the dimension of space for societal needs, such as Intelligent Traffic Solutions, Smart, Green and Integrated Transport; Food-Security, Health, Sustainable Agriculture, Efficient Energy. Ms. Paola Carrara, CNR-IREA, DORIS_Net Coordinator stressed the impact of the RCO-network to raise awareness for the benefits of Copernicus in regions across Europe and contribute considerably to get more regional stakeholder involved. Prof. Dr. Frans G. von der Dunk, ESSC/ESF concluded the session and emphasised that the benefits of Europe's space systems have to be seen in terms of strategic benefits towards other global powers like the US, China and India; actual benefits for different application areas but also the dimension of education and a highly trained workforce.

NEREUS (Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies) currently unites 24 European regions and 40 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. Further to this, NEREUS provides its members with a dynamic platform to mobilize public funded projects, develop space applications and share experience and knowledge.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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FURTHER INFORMATION / ATTACHMENTS

1. Concept paper
2. Programme
3. Participant list and presentation
4. NEREUS Presentation
5. NEREUS-ESA Publication *The Growing Use of GMES across Europe's Regions* :

<http://esamultimedia.esa.int/multimedia/publications/NEREUS/>