

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

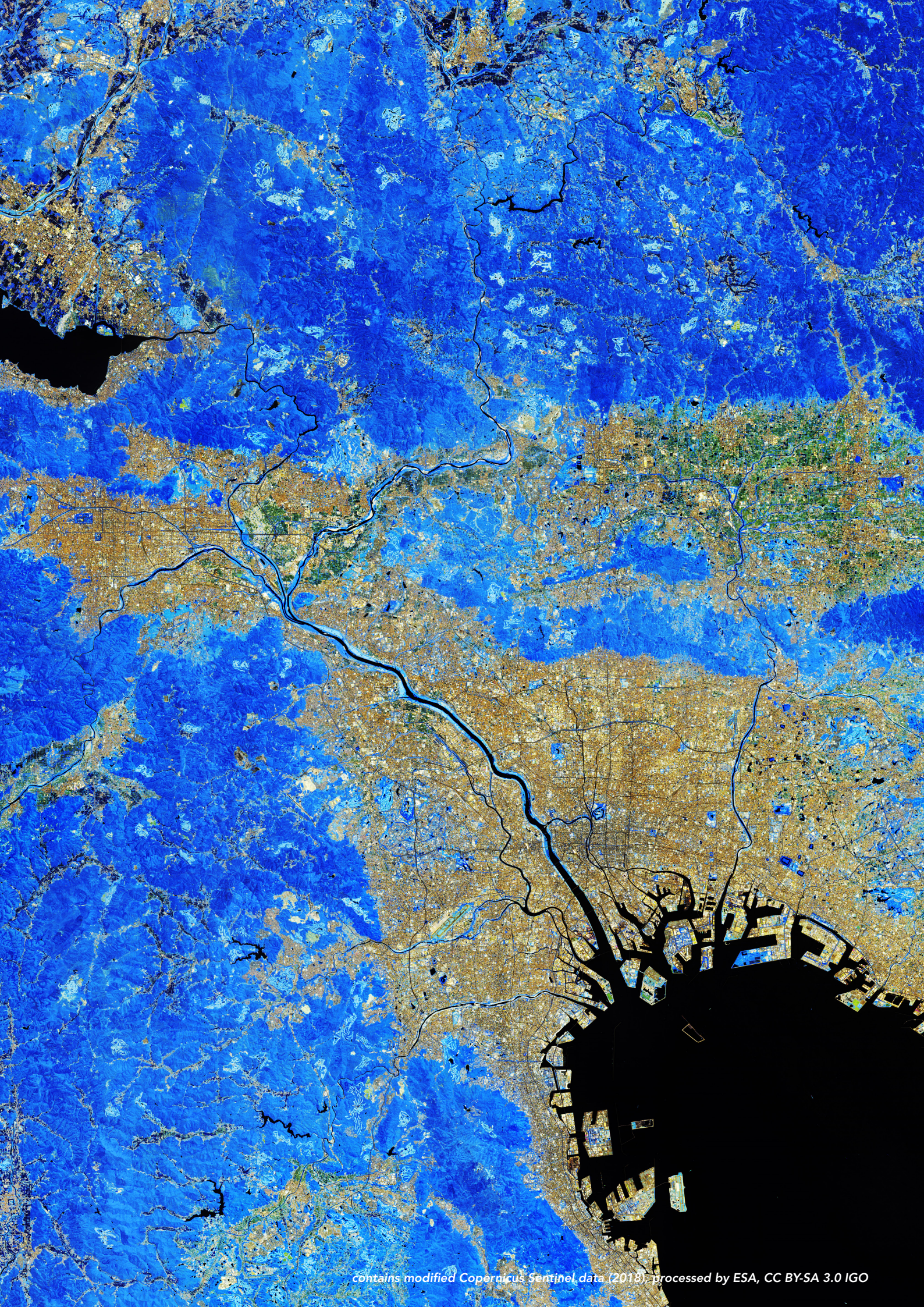




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INTRODUCTION



NEREUS (Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies) (<https://www.nereus-regions.eu>) is the only European association that represents the interests of European regions using space technologies while simultaneously highlighting the regional dimension of European space policy and programmes. The member regions are responsible for the governance of the Network.

Regions are major users and procurers of space-based applications, products and services and NEREUS is committed to underlining this. By providing a dynamic platform, the Network offers its readers an opportunity to gain more knowledge about the potential of space, in particular the two flagship programmes Copernicus (Earth Observation) and Galileo/EGNOS (satellite navigation), under the umbrella of the EU Space Programme. In this way, the use of space and its applications are associated with other non-space sectors for various economic, environmental, social and political purposes. This Annual Activity Report 2021 covers the period from January 2021 to February 2022.

"As a recently elected President, I have discovered, with considerable enthusiasm, all the opportunities that NEREUS offers its members. NEREUS will definitely take an active part in this dialogue by promoting its members' positions."

Mr Thierry Cotellet, Occitanie region (FR)

"Mainstreaming space applications' benefits on the ground requires commitment and passion. NEREUS is, with its strong network of committed regions, a key asset to make this a reality and to convince EU institutions of NEREUS's value in such a way that NEREUS can be at the top of its game on the global stage."

Ms Rozenn Maréchal, Brittany region (FR)

"Horizon Europe and the Green Deal show that space technologies and applications are some of the key technologies of the future to master the challenges of the transformation processes. We need a strong voice in Brussels representing the upstream and downstream market to help Europe find answers to cyberattacks, climate change and in the application of artificial intelligence and quantum computing. NEREUS unites Europe's space regions and gives them one voice."

Mr Wolfgang Wolf, Baden-Württemberg region (DE)

"The Apulia Region fully supports the important work of NEREUS and the Network's contribution towards promoting and disseminating the use of space technologies."

Professor Vito Albino, Apulia region (IT)

"NEREUS allows regions to be in the right place, at the right time and with the right impact."

Mr Francisco Wallenstein, The Azores region (PT)

"Data are unquestionably the new "gold" of space economy, but their use is still complex. Translating spatial data into useful and usable information for citizens and regions is a great challenge. Through the Nereus platform, our regions and their space stakeholders are collaborating to facilitate access, management, and processing of data and to overcome political, administrative, and technical obstacles, such as the lack of adequate "skills and knowledge" of the people who need to use them."

Mr Vito Bardi, Basilicata Region (IT)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NEREUS community,

I am happy to present you with this Annual Activity Report 2021! The reporting year sets the stage for promising and positive developments for the space sector: a new policy framework for the next decade, from 2021 until 2027, which brings all European space programmes under a common roof with enhanced governance structures; the launch of the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA), whose mission is to support the development of downstream and integrated applications based on Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus; the Space Entrepreneurship Initiative CASSINI, whose aim is to boost the growth of space-related businesses across the EU; and the European Commission's proposed space legislation for secure connectivity that would benefit citizens by providing high-speed internet, thereby ensuring cohesion amongst regions. This new setting particularly emphasises the link between space technologies and societal needs, highlighting that Europe's space assets must be translated into tangible and reliable services for European citizens. European regions can provide the impetus that could lead to the fulfilment of these ambitions.

Following the adoption of the NEREUS Roadmap at the General Assembly 2021, which sets the strategic framework for the coming years, the Network has been following this transition closely. This was done by a) showcasing the added value of the regions in the coordination and synthesis of EU space policies, b) promoting the use of space data and c) familiarising regions with targeted activities on space policy and programme novelties to lay the foundations for the following year's space projects.

In the wider context of the Green Deal and digital transition, the Network focused its efforts on boosting political dialogue and interregional cooperation by stimulating a process of reflection as to how space-based services and information can contribute to innovation-related policies and can reinvigorate the business and regional communities. Our flagship project, Copernicus4regions, featured new approaches that illustrated how Copernicus modernises regional and local administrations and thus improves the delivery of public policies and services.

In this respect, I had the pleasure of representing NEREUS at The Copernicus Horizon 2035 Conference organised by the French Presidency of the European Union in February 2022, where I emphasised our position with regard to Copernicus's positive contribution to climate change and regional growth. Looking further ahead in 2022, I invite you to join us in expanding the use of space to boost our regional ecosystems and grow our space capabilities.

2021 was also a year of change for the NEREUS Presidency as I had the privilege to take office as NEREUS President on behalf of the French region, Occitanie. Seizing this opportunity, I would like to thank the Management Board and the network community for their trust and support. I am committed to moving the Network forward.

Looking forward to welcoming you to one of our next activities.

Yours,

Thierry COTELLE
NEREUS President



FOREWORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

2021 highlighted the growing dynamism of the space sector, which also had an impact on the Network and its community: new space players; expansion of applications and services in domains with high relevance for citizens and public policies; growth of high-level employment and business opportunities, in particular in the downstream segment; new public funding and private investment stimulating European and interregional co-operation; new European regions getting interested in space solutions; the recent launching of numerous private communication satellites.

The Network's activities focussed on making these opportunities accessible for its membership and facilitating the participation of its members in these developments. Despite the pandemic, our previous experience with digital formats boosted the strength of the cooperation and exchanges with our members across the three pillars of Network activities¹. NEREUS put special focus on introducing its members to new funding opportunities and programmes as well as open calls by holding specific information sessions.

The organisation of the Copernicus4regions webinars (<https://bit.ly/3KPs6bL>) contributed to the dissemination of new user stories whilst increasingly bringing these experiences into public policy debates related to the green and digital transition in Europe. These online discussions reached out to new user communities and politicians and drew them into exploring the benefits of the system.

Promoting the Copernicus4regions collection and sponsoring the mobile photo exhibition Space4OurPlanet (<https://bit.ly/3kK4IHl>) for 2021 and 2022, NEREUS highlighted regional best practices as to how space technologies contribute to innovation, economic growth, sustainable development and gender equality. Both initiatives aim at emphasising the societal value of space applications and space-based information within overarching policy agendas such as the European Green Deal Agenda or the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), with tangible experiences of citizens.

Building new partnerships and enhancing the dialogue with key EU stakeholders and communities were again at the centre of Network's activities. Through publicly funded pan-European projects such as IMPRESSIVE (<https://bit.ly/3wcdBt0>) or EO4GEO (<https://bit.ly/3FpRELA>); the network stressed the tangible benefits of space associated with the maritime and education/training sectors.

NEREUS's new approaches to feature space in the context of innovative ideas and applications in different user domains has attracted much attention and new partners. We are therefore glad to extend our warm welcome to three new Associate Members that joined NEREUS last year: LR BW - Forum Luft- und Raumfahrt (Baden-Württemberg, Germany – a Full Member region), Technopôle Brest-Iroise (Brittany, France, a Full Member region) and DTA - Distretto Tecnologico Aerospaziale (Apulia, Italy, a Full Member region).

Taking stock of the above, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to work in the best interests of our regions and their stakeholders.

Have a pleasant read.

Roya AYAZI
NEREUS Secretary General



¹ Advocacy/political dialogue, interregional partnerships and co-operation, new trends/outreach.

PILLAR I:

POLITICAL DIALOGUE/ADVOCACY 2021-2022

INTERNAL NETWORK AFFAIRS

One of the most important developments in 2021 was the publication of the NEREUS Roadmap, a document which outlines the strategic orientation of the Network's space activities and launches an internal debate on NEREUS's strategy organisation and governance for the future. The NEREUS Roadmap originally proposed by Mr Bernard Plano (Occitanie region), the previous NEREUS President, aims to revive the Network's policies related to the concrete use of space technologies in view of the policies ahead: a) the new space programme and budget allocated for the period from 2021 to 2027, b) the Green Deal plans to make the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities, c) the digital transition in which the EU aims to become a global role model for the digital economy, d) the socio-economic challenges of the Covid pandemic.

Moreover, the NEREUS Roadmap provides the necessary framework to help ensure that there is a better understanding of the common needs and differences in regional ecosystems and to boost engagement with the European institutions to bring the Network's ideas forward with concrete projects.

BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION IN RESPONSE TO NEW EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY INITIATIVES

One of NEREUS's core missions is to engage in political dialogue with European institutional players such as the European Commission, the European Parliament or the Committee of the Regions with the aim of promoting and demonstrating the regional dimension of space. The Network is successful in doing so by a) providing the platform to its members for tapping into the key issues concerning opportunities for growth: space entrepreneurship, green and digital transition, regional funding, etc., b) participating in the discussions and exchanges with key representatives from the European institutions and the European Space Agency, c) launching a series of info sessions to experience, first-hand, the know-how with regard to the new developments and trends so that they can, in terms of their policies, plan ahead and implement their activities at local and regional levels speedily.

Space entrepreneurship is a key EU priority given that the new space programme has an allocated budget of €14.88 billion, of which €1 billion is dedicated to CASSINI, an initiative aiming to boost EU start-ups in the space industry; and, developing

new technologies and attracting private investment. NEREUS's goal is to bring initiatives that would facilitate the growth of business communities, achieve a high level of employment and scale regional space activities up to the attention of regions and their stakeholders.

In this respect, the Network organised an online breakfast meeting with the European Commission (DG Defence, Industry and Space) for its members in March 2021. The digital event focused on relevant matters such as a) how the European Commission would support space entrepreneurship under the Cassini initiative (2021-2027) through new markets; improving business skills; investment readiness; capital markets and b) how the initiative would strengthen current and future critical infrastructure to support demand from public users (<https://bit.ly/3KODHrE>).

Next, the Network organised an online meeting for its members with representatives from the European Commission (DG REGIO) to explore how the new instrument, namely the I3-instrument (Interregional



"NEREUS's presence in the discussion of the EU Space Programme during 2021, close to the main European institutions, has ensured that the regional perspective is taken into account. In efforts to set up the Strategy of Azores for Space, where New Space plays a major role, we are counting on NEREUS's networking experience and expertise."

Mr Francisco Wallenstein, The Azores region (PT)

"The political dialogue that we engage in will be more important than ever as the EU is initiating a new era for Space."

Mr Thierry Cotelte, Occitanie region (FR)

"EU space policy has switched up a gear recently and NEREUS is there to lean in to make the journey beneficial for our territories and ecosystems."

Ms Rozenn Maréchal, Brittany region (FR)



Innovation Investments) could be applied in the context of space. The current and upcoming calls for the period from 2021 until 2024 aim to support partnerships of researchers, businesses, civil society and public administration to identify and refine common areas of investment. In view of this, the Network promotes interregional collaboration amongst its members and supports them in the whole application process (<https://bit.ly/3MYzZNB>).

The Green Deal is one of the most significant EU policy agendas and funding opportunities for NEREUS members. In this context, NEREUS members actively emphasise the key role of space data and applications to respond to a wide range of regional challenges such as climate change and economic growth and contribute towards inspiring better public policies.

One example relating to the political dialogue with the Committee of the Regions concerns NEREUS Vice-President Władysław Ortyl, who is a member of the ENVE Commission (Commission for the Environment, Climate change and Energy) of the Committee of the Regions.

Mr Ortyl has engaged in an exchange with the Green Deal Going Local Working Group of the Committee of the Regions and promoted uses of space and NEREUS activities towards his fellow politicians in the ENVE Commission. Organising a dedicated meeting with the 'Green Deal Going Local' group, whose objectives focus on accelerating the green transition at the local and regional level, Władysław Ortyl illustrated how satellite-based information and services feed into the public policy domains addressed by the Green Deal Going Local Agenda.

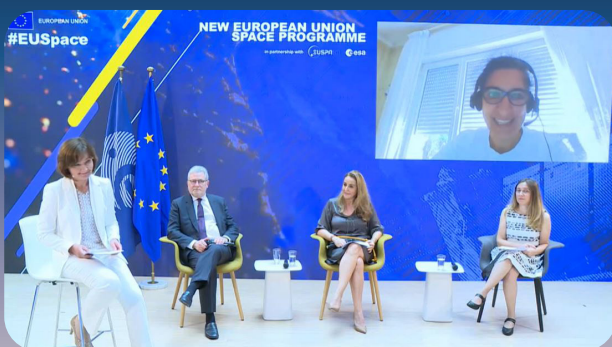
The group is led by Juan Espadas, Mayor of Seville and Chair of the ENVE Commission of the Committee of the Regions.



Published on the website of the Committee of the Regions (<https://bit.ly/3M26ni9>)

Following the exchange with the group, Vice-President Władysław Ortyl continued his efforts to raise the awareness of regional and local authorities about the potential of space to help solve regional challenges. To quote an example, during the 146th Plenary Session of the Committee of the Regions, NEREUS Vice-President Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region (Poland), highlighted the importance of Copernicus for the policy ambitions of the Green Deal and for raising awareness about the use of space to strengthen local resilience for regional policy challenges such as the impact of recent disasters on regions and cities (<https://bit.ly/3Fmbt4>).





Roya Ayazi, NEREUS Secretary General

Furthermore, at the launch of the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA), the Network was invited to give a statement about the relevance of its mission and to engage in a dialogue with the European Commission. Representing NEREUS, Ms Ayazi highlighted the important role of regions in boosting entrepreneurship and how the European Commission can promote space as a vehicle for resilience and recovery in a post-pandemic world, both at the local and regional level. Addressing the issue of resilience and recovery, the European Commission stressed how the pandemic demonstrated the added value of the space programme. It also emphasised the need for its close collaboration with the EU regions (<https://bit.ly/3yh3HZQ>).



Next steps: The Network aims to strengthen its collaboration with the EU institutions even more, with the objective of aligning the regional dimension with current new space developments. For example, the proposal for space secure connectivity is highly relevant for protecting citizens and for well-functioning societies and economies. In this respect, the maintenance of critical infrastructure and crisis management are of vital importance. In this regard, the Network will organise, in 2022, a series of webinars in cooperation with Eurisy, a European space association, to discuss, with EU representatives, the research & business community and other regional stakeholders, how the use of space can contribute to the monitoring and maintenance of critical entities (<https://bit.ly/3MRaTA4>).



THE USE OF SPACE FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC POLICY: COPERNICUS4REGIONS, OUR FLAGSHIP PROJECT

"I am proud that NEREUS succeeded in building a lively Copernicus4regions community bringing together a wide range of stakeholders throughout Europe."

Mr Thierry Cotelle, Occitanie region (FR)

"The programme makes the link between space and earth. It unleashes many potentials in regions through the use of technologies orbiting kilometers above the territories."

Ms Rozenn Maréchal, Brittany region (FR)

"Copernicus4regions has shown how space technologies can make a difference in helping regions address climate change and other environmental challenges. This is particularly true for the Apulia region, which suffers from drought and fires. In this regard, the programme has real added value for regional decision-makers and for citizens and businesses."

Professor Vito Albino, Apulia region (IT)

"As the impact of the climate crisis increasingly affects our countries, it is essential to develop novel ways in which space data can be used to both prevent and mitigate these effects."

Professor Mark Lester, East Midlands region (UK)

In 2021, NEREUS implemented a wide range of activities supporting the transformation of the EU space landscape. The Network gained momentum by preparing high level events engaging European and regional policy-makers from different geographical and political backgrounds. The immediate and positive response from these participants to join these events showcased that NEREUS is well equipped to play a pivotal role in promoting the use of space in regions. Moreover, it demonstrated that the Network is highly valued as a significant player that can efficiently facilitate the use of space in the years ahead.



COPERNICUS4REGIONS WEBINARS

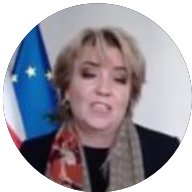
In the context of the political dialogue, the Copernicus4regions joint initiative between the European Commission (EC), the European Space Agency (ESA) and NEREUS reflects the importance of Copernicus data, services and applications for improving public policy, thus benefitting citizens. Significantly, it is considered by European representatives, politicians and public users as a principal asset in support of the goals of the Green Deal and the digital transition in regions. Equally, it creates a framework for enhancing the uptake of Copernicus by users in regions with future cutting edge activities. NEREUS has been involved in the Copernicus4regions initiative since 2012, focusing on how public administrations use Copernicus successfully (<https://bit.ly/2SgEHij>). In 2021-2022, NEREUS brought different politicians into the limelight, giving them the chance to express their views on Copernicus and the Network's interregional initiative. Achieving political and geographical balance, inclusivity and diversity, NEREUS approached numerous EU, regional and local politicians engaged in development policies related to the use of space.



Dr Susete Amaro,
*the Secretary of Culture,
Science and Digital Transition
of the Regional Government of Azores,
The Azores/Portugal*



Juan Espadas,
*Mayor of Seville, Chair of the
Committee of the Regions'
working group "Green Deal
Going Local", Seville/Spain*



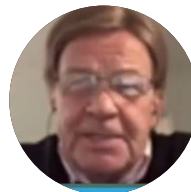
Hana Zdanowska,
*Mayor of Łódź, Member of the
Committee of the Regions' working
group "Green Deal Going Local",
Ambassador on the Climate Pact
Łódź Voivodeship/Poland*



MEP Isabel Carvalhais,
*Member of the Committee
on Agriculture and Rural
Development and Member of the
Committee on Fisheries, Portugal*



MEP Jutta Paulus,
*Member of the EP-Committee on
Environment, Public Health and
Food Safety, Hesse/Germany*



MEP Mauri Pekkarinen,
Suomen Keskusta/Finland



MEP Tsvetelina Penkova,
*Member of the ITRE and
REGI Committee, Sofia/Bulgaria*



Theodoros Papadopoulos,
*Mayor of Thermi
Central Macedonia region/Greece*

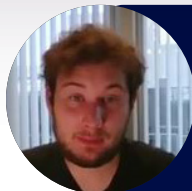
Due to the restrictions put in place because of the pandemic, NEREUS and its cooperation partners increasingly worked with digital formats to boost exchanges and linkages between members across Europe and to reach out to new partners and communities. In early 2022, the initiative therefore concluded a series of five webinars that began in 2021 (<https://bit.ly/3PsqYhC>). These were concerned with the Green Deal agenda and the part played by Copernicus in Europe's green and digital transition. The webinars (23rd of September 2021- 3rd of February 2022) were aimed at providing a follow-up to the 2018 publication regarding public user stories as well as exploring the extent to which the Copernicus solution has advanced public administrations. In addition, the webinars illustrated a) what the benefits for the regions and public policy are, and the future outlook and b) why Copernicus is a game-changer in the development of sustainable practices.

NEREUS's efforts in terms of coordinating regional space policies over the years have been recognised by a large number of key stakeholders. As a result, the Network has witnessed the growing involvement of actors who were eager to take part in the webinars and share their views, including local and regional politicians, European regional representatives, public users and Members of the European Parliament. In the context of these webinars, NEREUS invited public users to provide an update of their stories, which revolved around the use of Copernicus in the key domains for regions, such as forestry, water management, biodiversity, prevention and preparedness for natural disasters and innovation in public policies.





A remarkable feature of the webinars was the wide participation of the discussants: 19 user stories from 17 different regions across Europe (Devon-UK, Brittany-France, Iceland, Slovenia, Central Macedonia-Greece, Sardinia-Italy, Catalonia-Spain, The Azores-Portugal, etc). Copernicus4regions is one of the few EU initiatives to have succeeded in capturing the attention and interest of such a large number of regional and European policy-makers: 12 European and regional politicians from nine different European countries (Finland, Germany, Portugal, France, Bulgaria, Greece, etc.). Moreover, all of them share the same objective: Copernicus is an indispensable tool to plan and implement their public policies for the benefit of the citizens. The importance of Copernicus and the Copernicus4regions initiative for a wide range of EU policies was obvious from the numerous political statements (<https://bit.ly/3sBYJ6f>), such as the following:



"Copernicus is a great programme. It works very well not only for biodiversity but also with climate change with the changes that we see in the world and it really helps us to develop the best politics possible."

MEP Niklas Nienass
(Alliance 90/The Greens, Germany)



"The data provided by Copernicus on coastal areas, oceans and forests let us plan for and implement the policies which will be employed in the medium and long term."

MEP Younous Omarjee (The Left group in the European Parliament - GUE/NGL, Réunion (France))



You can watch the full statements from all policy-makers here (<https://bit.ly/3sBYJ6f>). These videos were produced as part of the initiative.



"They (satellite services) can support the Green Deal in many ways. For LRAs, this is especially important in areas in which they have competences, such as promoting sustainable mobility or looking for zero pollution."

Markku Markkula (President of the Helsinki Region, former President and current Member of the Committee of the Regions, Finland)



In the final webinar (<https://bit.ly/3kNbwyT>), the organisers of the Copernicus4regions initiative (Matthias Petschke, Director for Space, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DEFIS), European Commission, Simonetta Cheli, Director of Earth Observation Programmes, European Space Agency, and Thierry Cotelle, NEREUS President), highlighted two key messages: the first is the crucial role of Copernicus in supporting public authorities to find solutions and critical information to common challenges, such as civil protection and water management. The second point highlighted was the essential role of regions for the greater success of the programme and the need for a Copernicus regional uptake strategy.

Equally, policy-makers highlighted that Copernicus plays a vital role in the sustainability of many application domains impacting regional ecosystems; serves as an indispensable tool for the planning and implementation of public policies; and supports the Green Deal strategy and its objectives.



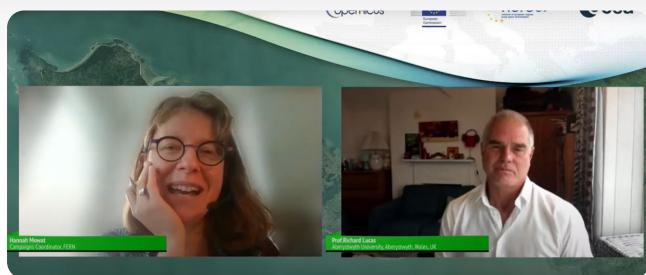
Matthias Petschke



Simonetta Cheli



Thierry Cotelle



Thanks to the online format of the events, NEREUS reached a broader audience of new user communities encompassing public administrations, environmental agencies, space agencies, national ministries and SMEs. The debate was moderated by experts and multipliers from major European and international organisations and associations (e.g. European Landowners' Organization, UN Environment Programme Brussels Office, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, etc). In conclusion, participants had the chance to ask the speakers questions and explore how regional ecosystems can benefit from the shift to a more sustainable Europe and be at the forefront of the global response to climate change thanks to Copernicus.

5 WEBINARS



40 SPEAKERS



1000
REGISTERED
PARTICIPANTS

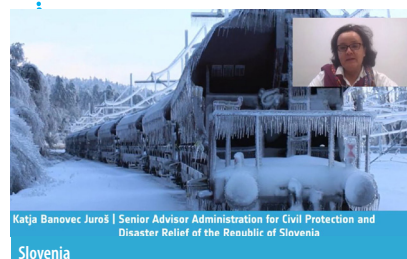
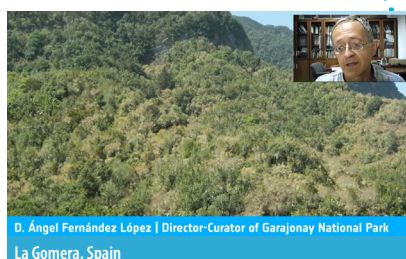
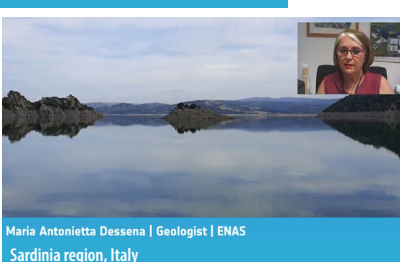
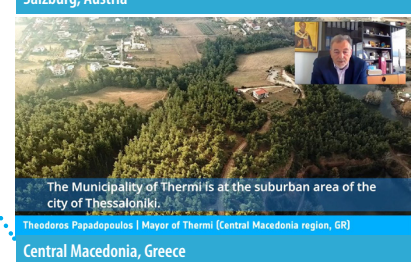
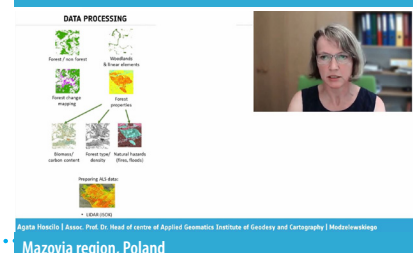
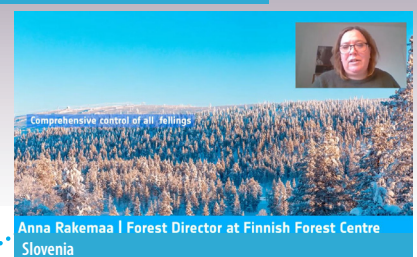
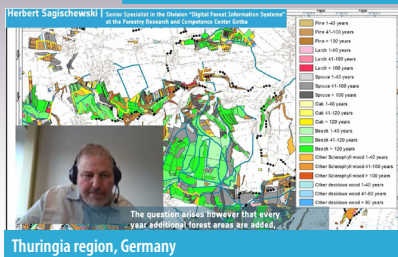


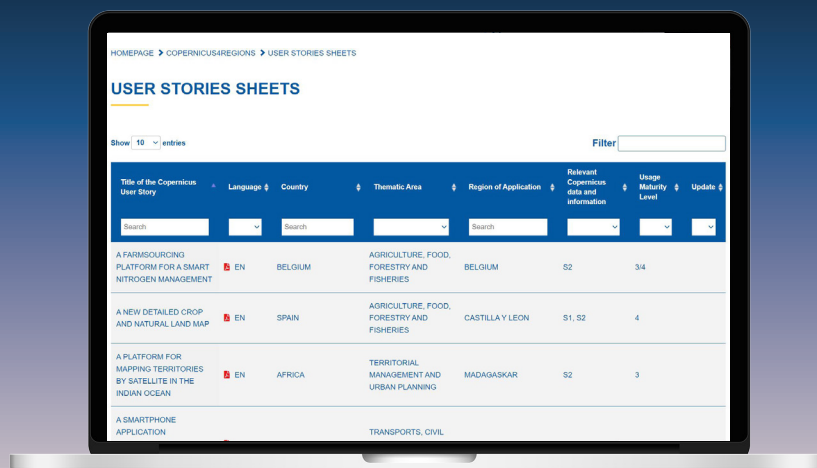
THE VIDEOS/ UPDATED USERS' STORIES



Part of this effort was the production of a remarkable number of video interviews by regional users. In particular, NEREUS produced 16 users' (<https://bit.ly/3MPDqW>) videos in which the following elements were highlighted:

- the geographical and professional diversity of the initiative amongst the users: users working in many different domains of applications, from the management of agriculture to air pollution etc, across 15 European regions;
- the multilingual nature of the initiative given the translated videos;
- and the commitment and voluntary efforts of all participants to convey key messages about the importance of Copernicus for their daily work.





NEREUS also engaged in an update activity on the collection of 99 user stories to explore whether or not progress has been made in the use of Copernicus in these particular use cases in the last two or three years. More specifically, the aim of the updated infosheets is to highlight the extent to which Copernicus has made major progress in contributing to innovation relating to public administration since 2018, when the publication first came out. These updated infosheets will be available for downloading from the search engine. This search engine is based on eight updated selective parameters, such as the choice of the language, the user maturity level of the story and now the 'update' of the story (<https://bit.ly/38UhLOQ>).

Next steps: These updated infosheets will be published, one after the other and at different times, in 2022. A final report will be also available, analysing and summing up the outcomes of the users' consultation with respect to the publication containing 99 users stories and produced in 2018. This report will summarise key findings on the use of Copernicus in public administrations based on the authors' responses. Consequently, NEREUS's efforts to promote the ever evolving use of Copernicus in public administrations have been reflected in the initiative over the years. As a result, the positive impact of this undertaking will continue to inspire and support users at regional and local levels with its cases.



"Copernicus4Regions is a very important initiative showing how to support regional development through the use of satellite data. I hope that, in the new financial perspective 2021-2027, we will jointly implement projects using the experience from Copernicus4Regions, which will contribute to the implementation of the EU Recovery Plan, Green Deal and Digital Transformation."

Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region (PL).

"It is important to keep showing how the Copernicus programme contributes significantly to life on Earth at local and regional levels. In times of trade conflicts and geopolitical frictions, space projects help to strengthen European collaboration and resilience. Moreover, with Copernicus4regions, we can raise the visibility of the space industry and convince policy-makers to demonstrate their commitment to the space sector."

Wolfgang Wolf, Baden-Württemberg region (DE)



PILLAR II:

A-INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP: ADVERTISING THE SPACE CAPABILITIES OF REGIONS TO THE EU AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY

"NEREUS will definitely take an active part in this dialogue by promoting its members' positions. NEREUS's project opportunities are also an asset to support the uptake of space applications in our regional communities. It's up to us to share it with as many people as possible."

Mr Thierry Cotelle, Occitanie region (FR)

"Regarding NEREUS's project and activities in 2021, the Region was pleased to open the IMPRESSIVE conference, which focused on how space technologies can contribute to further developing the region's sea ports. The Apulia region has a strong maritime tradition and a significant part of the region's economic activities depends on the sea. The use of space technologies has helped the region to further develop its activities in this field."

Professor Vito Albino, Apulia region (IT)

The growing EU space sector offers a wide range of projects to benefit public and private stakeholders at European and global levels. In 2021, NEREUS was involved in EU projects with strategic importance for regions for domains of application such as the maritime sector with the aim of a) raising the profile of its members' space capabilities, and b) offering cutting edge products and experience in relation to the use of space. NEREUS is a partner of three EU-funded projects – IMPRESSIVE, EO4GEO and The EU Global Action on Space initiative.

INTEGRATED MARINE POLLUTION RISK ASSESSMENT AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE IN PORTS AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS (IMPRESSIVE)



impressive

Marine ports real time sustainability assessment and pollution preventing program

In the framework of the EU's Blue Economy and the Green Port Strategies, NEREUS supports its coastal, island and outermost regions (13 out of 22 members) by being involved in targeted projects that contribute to scale up their maritime space infrastructure. For example, the EU-funded Horizon2020 project IMPRESSIVE aims at the development of a universal relocatable geoportal which tracks the marine pollution events in the ports of the European Union and their areas of influence (<https://bit.ly/3LTiFcH>).

Regions with ports can benefit from this low-cost web application as it provides them with all the information needed to monitor and deal with pollution incidents; better and sustainable port management; and, opportunities for growth and businesses, at local, regional and national levels.

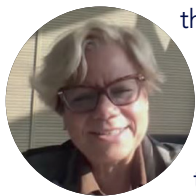
The project started in 2019 and concluded in 2021, with a conference organised by NEREUS (<https://bit.ly/3wcdBt0>). The online conference entitled





‘Sustainable port management through Copernicus: the space-based IMPRESSIVE platform’ was organised on the 27th of October with the following objectives - amongst others - : a) showcasing this innovative commercial tool, b) exploring how regional stakeholders can benefit from the IMPRESSIVE solution, and c) bringing together politicians and experts from European institutions, port authorities, regions having ports, the maritime industry and other key maritime stakeholders in order to identify opportunities for further cooperation.

The policy element was made obvious following NEREUS’s long-term relationship with regional politicians committed to promoting space.



The Apulia region is one of those NEREUS members that has a port and a very strong maritime and aerospace community. In this regard, the participation of Ms Loredana Capone, President and Member of the Regional Council of the Apulia region, highlighted the economic growth resulting from such applications. In particular, she emphasised that innovative technologies such as the IMPRESSIVE platform can support efficient port management and enhance the economic sector at regional and national levels. The European Commission also

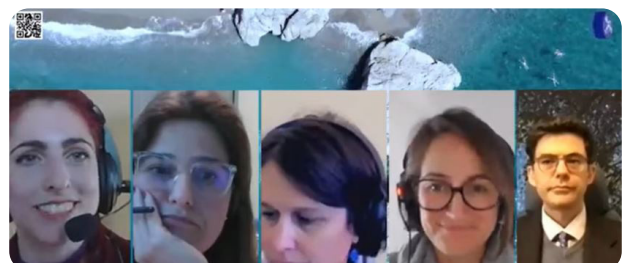


took part in the discussion: Mr Casto Lopez Benitez, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport Maritime Safety (DG MARE), emphasised that the IMPRESSIVE project is aligned with the Marine Strategy Directive as it plays an important role in the sustainability of the marine environment.

The Network organised the online event in the format of a debate hosting three round tables of high level speakers: a) from local and regional authorities (including port authorities), b) from industry and c) other maritime stakeholders. The debate will help policy-makers understand current and future needs in terms of maritime services and the potential of Earth observation for boosting local and regional economies. Given the challenges of the different legislative procedures, the type of governmental structures and technological advancement in each region, a key takeaway from the discussion was the increasing need for further promotion towards the right stakeholders in order to improve the uptake of such tools.

In all, more than 350 participants from the maritime and space sector joined the online conference and were invited to take part in the discussion.

Next step: NEREUS continues to emphasise the ever growing use of space technologies reflected in the maritime example of IMPRESSIVE. This is done by acting as the institutional bridge connecting IMPRESSIVE partners and NEREUS members to explore how to start using the platform and how to make the most of it.



EU GLOBAL ACTION ON SPACE

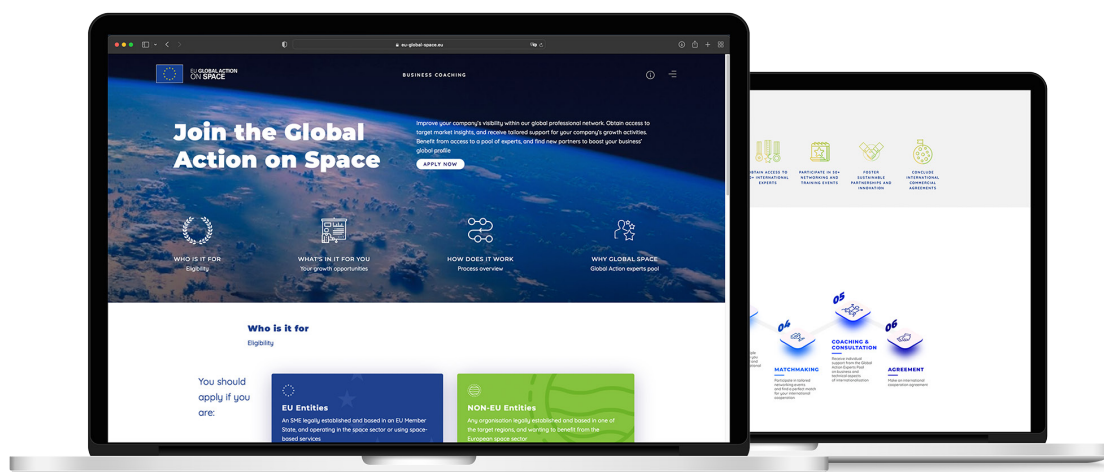


The EU Global Action on Space (<https://bit.ly/3siY3CJ>) is a new initiative of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS) and is financed via the Foreign Partnership Instrument. It aims at promoting, on a global basis, the socio-economic benefits that the EU Space Programme and its flagship components, Copernicus, Galileo and EGNOS, have to offer. The Global Action deploys its activities through three action strands: space diplomacy (i.e. outreach, meetings and events); market intelligence; and a business-coaching strand. As a result, it encourages collaboration between EU and non-EU companies in different regions of the world (e.g. Africa, Asia, US, European Neighbourhood) using space data and services in a broad range of domains.

The role of NEREUS is to promote the initiative towards its membership and to identify suitable space enterprises, clusters, networks and aerospace districts in its network which would like to get involved and expand their businesses at a global level. In particular, NEREUS supports these promotional activities of the consortium by organising targeted webinars. For example, in February 2022, key experts presented the open calls for European SMEs and how they can receive funding and join upcoming webinars (<https://bit.ly/382ZCy0>).



Next step: In 2022 the Network will organise even more promotional activities in support of its members' businesses to apply for suitable funding opportunities. NEREUS is a subcontractor to the successful consortium led by Roland Berger consultancy and the EU Global Action on Space is a framework contract over four years.



PILLAR II:

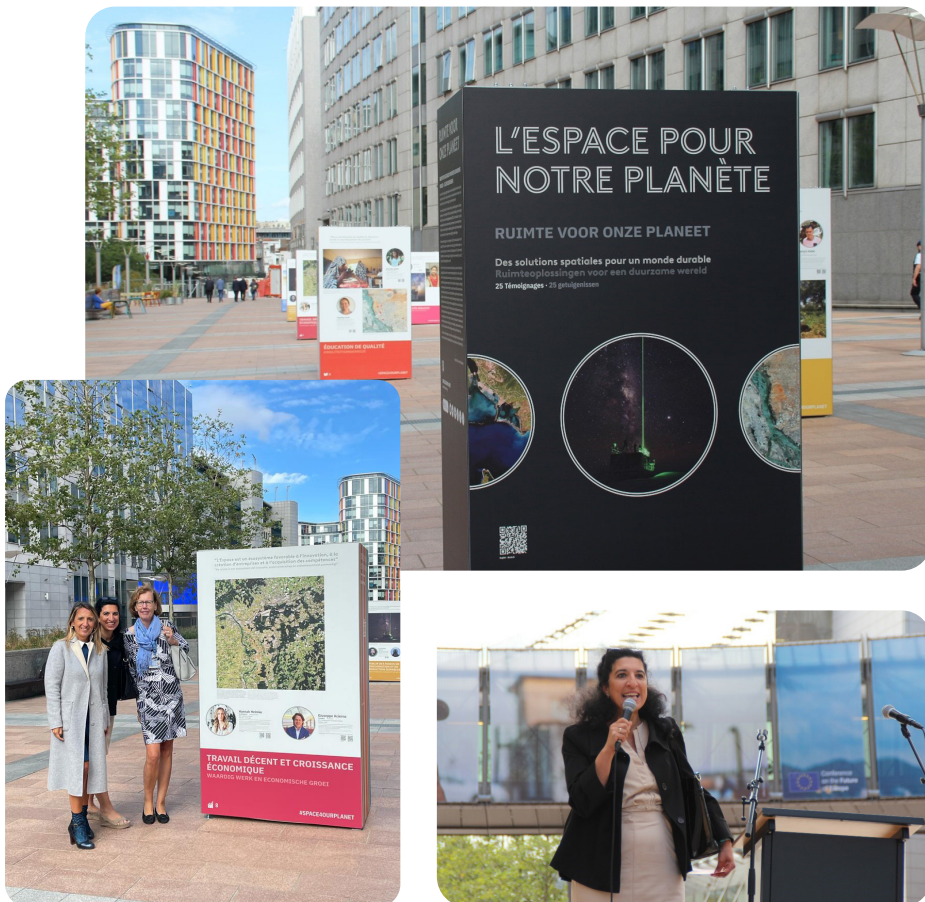
B-INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP: LINKING THE EU PRACTICES AND KNOWLEDGE WITH THE REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER

"Dedication, enthusiasm and change in continuity were the key elements in 2021 at NEREUS with the new board and ongoing useful activities."

Ms Rozenn Maréchal, Brittany region (FR)

"All initiatives undertaken by the NEREUS network in the field of using satellite data are very important for increasing economic resilience, global recognition and spreading knowledge in this area. The role of regions in this matter is to create good conditions for functioning and stable development."

Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region (PL)



Another way that NEREUS highlights the regional and local dimension of space capabilities at an EU level is by organising targeted events/webinars in its member regions. Additionally, these activities offer regions the chance to benefit from many European opportunities for the upscaling and up-to-date training of their administration. Moreover, it enhances the element of interregional collaborations as people from regions and key stakeholders from the space sector will interact with each other and exchange useful insights in a broad range of sectors, such as education. Finally, the aim is that this would contribute to empowering the economic development of space, sustainability and gender equality at regional and local levels.



SPACE FOR OUR PLANET



NEREUS is a co-sponsor for the Space4OurPlanet initiative (<https://bit.ly/38et6J0>), a mobile photo exhibition of 25 portraits of interviewees from different domains, who share their stories on how space technologies, through the use of satellite data, contribute to the ecological transition towards a more sustainable future and thus the fulfilment of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



NEREUS's role is to promote the regional dimension in this sustainable transition (<https://bit.ly/3kK4IHl>). Moreover, NEREUS members (Hesse (DE), Apulia (IT) and Occitanie (FR)) contributed to identifying stories that feature how space contributes on a local and regional scale to boost the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals. To quote just a few examples from NEREUS member regions, a) Hannah Helmke, a female entrepreneur from Hesse who contributed to regional economic growth and innovation by developing space-based services to monitor climate change (<https://bit.ly/3kRehyl>), and b) Benoit Meyssignac, a climatologist working at the CNES (Centre national d'études spatiales), the French space agency (Occitanie region), whose research with the help of space technologies focuses on the evolution of global water and energy cycles as part of efforts to understand climate change (<https://bit.ly/3w86mma>).



The exhibition is organised under the patronage of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), with the support of leading space actors including the European Commission's Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS); the European Space Agency, and CNES, the French space agency. NEREUS is privileged to be among the sponsoring partners.

The inauguration, which took place in the European Parliament in Brussels, attracted the participation of high-level policy-makers (Matthias Petschke, Director for Space at DG DEFIS, Damian Boeselager and Niklas Nienaß, Members of the European Parliament; Simonetta Cheli, European Space Agency Director for Earth Observation programmes; Charlotte

Gugenheim, Deputy Head of the Representation of the European Commission to Belgium), who underlined the importance of Earth observation in achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Ms Ayazi represented the Network, emphasising the uses of regional space in creating a more sustainable future.

Next step: NEREUS was a sponsor/partner of the Space Girls Space Women joint mobile exhibition that finished at the end of 2020. The exhibition took place in more than 13 different NEREUS regions and received very positive feedback (<https://bit.ly/2R6SYhk>). The new SpaceForOurPlanet-exhibition is also scheduled to be presented in many European regions in the coming months. NEREUS co-owns the image rights, NEREUS members therefore own the exhibition as an item of joint infrastructure and they are now invited to bring the exhibition to their regions and include their contribution in this itinerary. Please contact the secretariat for further information.





EO4GEO- INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR EARTH OBSERVATION/ GEOINFORMATION TRAINING

The EO*GI (Earth Observation*Geo-information) sectors are developing rapidly and there is considerable potential for them to support many European, national and regional policy domains. In particular, the data provided by Copernicus is used for a range of applications such as in agriculture or natural disaster management and for climate change observations, marine weather forecasts and other applications whose purpose is to benefit citizens and society. The increasing involvement of regional and local authorities and their stakeholders in the development of EO*GI skills will boost job creation and advance technology across the EU's regions. Despite this growth, it has been identified that the public and private sector encounter difficulties finding suitable candidates in the market for specific jobs. Moreover, there is a gap between what the industry is looking for in their workforce and the education/ training model prepared by universities to meet that need. In addition, the range of geo-information career paths has become extremely diverse and there is a need for ongoing training.



For this reason, NEREUS is participating in the biggest education/training initiative, EO4GEO (<https://bit.ly/37rbn0Q>), funded by the Erasmus+ Sector Skills Alliance, which is implemented under the umbrella of the blueprint for sectoral cooperation on skills agenda. The initiative aims at supporting the upskilling and reskilling of the workforce in the EO*GI sector and fostering the uptake and integration of EO*GI data and services in a broad range of application domains. EO4GEO is focussing on building education and capacity skills in the Earth Observation/Geo-information sector (<https://bit.ly/37rbn0Q>) in the framework of this pilot sector, implemented by 26 partners from 13 EU countries. The projects runs for four and a half years and ends in June 2022.



In 2021, the project partners had developed a plethora of training tools and webinars to support public authorities, academia, companies and small and medium enterprises as well as EO*GI experts.



More concretely, these can support the public sector in terms of upgrading the skills of their staff, helping training/education providers create and find educational offers at all levels, helping companies/ employees/students explore which curriculum vitae meets the most recent needs of the business world in these sectors or determining what are the right skills to hire the most appropriate professionals in the EO*GI sectors.

This was a unique opportunity for the Network to explore the benefits of such training developments at first hand. NEREUS therefore brought together its regional stakeholders and the EO4GEO partners with the objective of fostering better skills development and capacity building in the EO*GI fields. As a part of the project, NEREUS organised the final three virtual workshops to present the tools and identify the right EO*GI occupational profile for the businesses in regions and the current and future needs in EO*GI educational training for business activities/ administrations (<https://bit.ly/3FpRELA>). The involvement of regions at policy level was particularly highlighted in all high-level workshops.



The final three virtual workshops took place in 2021 in cooperation with:

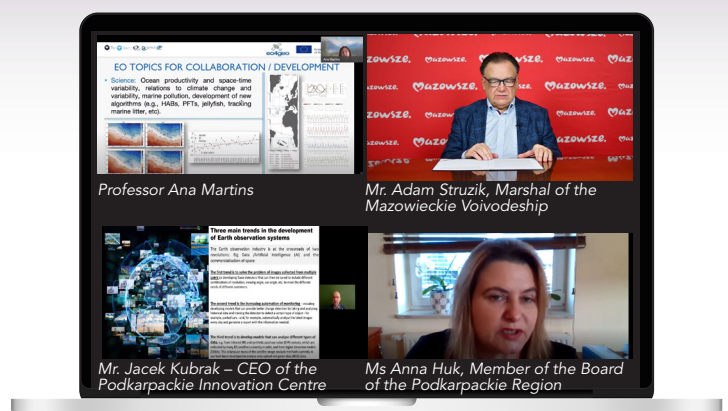
- The University of The Azores (Portugal). The workshop received strong support from the regional government/regional administration of the Azores, whose Regional Director of Sea Affairs, Mr Pedro das Neves, gave a committed intervention and contributed to mobilise representatives from the public sector. Four representatives from academia, LRAs, industry and other maritime initiatives gave an overview on the current and future working skills needed for the Coastal/Marine Earth Observation activities in the Azores. A key outcome of the



workshop was the fact that Earth Observation and Copernicus play a key role in the growth of agricultural, maritime and tourism activities. Education/training is therefore necessary for a well-equipped workforce to meet the economic and social needs of the region's citizens and public administration. More than 60 participants followed and participated in the discussion;

- b) The regions of Podkarpackie and Mazovia (Poland). The virtual workshops on 'Shaping the future workforce of EO*GI sector in Poland: EO*GI Skills needed & EO4GEO solutions' initiated the discussion on the current and future needs of EO/GI skills in business and education activities in Poland. Moreover, Ms Anna Huk, a Member of the Board of the Podkarpackie Region, and Mr Adam Struzik, Marshal of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship, gave a committed intervention and contributed to mobilising representatives from the public sector. High-level speakers from academia, industry and Polish associations debated how the EO4GEO solution can fit into the needs of LRAs, academia and companies in Poland and emphasised that regions also need to be updated in the development of an appropriate educational framework that will provide the right skills and competencies for the future development of human resources.

More than 120 registered participants for each online workshop had the chance to follow the discussion.



Next steps: After the end of the project, the EO4GEO Alliance will implement their Sector Skills Strategy through new initiatives and collaborations. Regions will be able to benefit by joining the Alliance to enhance their educational and training activities at a local and national level; create partnerships with major training institutions, EO*GI companies and relevant associations; strengthen their visibility, and shape future training activities of the Alliance according to their educational needs.

SATELLITES & SCHOOLS

NEREUS is committed to promoting space awareness in education/training not only at the university level but also at primary education level. In 2021, the Network organised, only for its members, the 'Satellites & Schools' webinars (<https://bit.ly/3LTHnth>). These six webinars aimed at stimulating interregional cooperation by sharing best practices and knowledge on initiatives related to bringing space to schools. The meetings hosted high level speakers from the space sector, including space agencies such as ASI (the Italian space agency) and national academies. Moreover, the objective of the webinars was to generate discussion with schools from different regions and to motivate younger generations to explore space and follow a relevant career path.



PILLAR III:

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

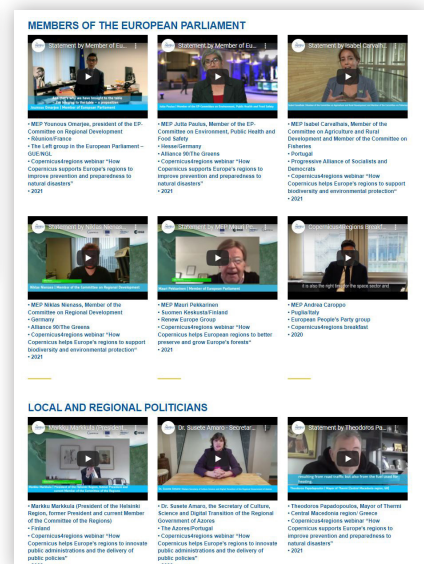
"The Copernicus4Regions initiative truly helped in making the point about the usefulness of Copernicus as a powerful source of information for applications in all areas, available for all kinds of users."

Mr Francisco Wallenstein, The Azores region (PT)

UPDATED COPERNICUS4REGIONS WEBPAGE

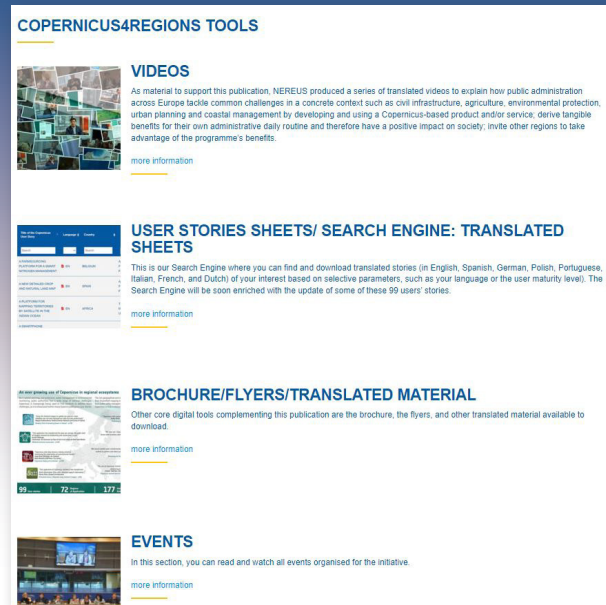
Part of NEREUS's mission is to promote its regional space activities towards the space community –European and global. NEREUS's website and other supportive digital tools (newsflash, social media) serve this purpose. Indeed, our website has become a platform for bringing together different Copernicus user communities. This is also because of Copernicus4regions, a positive exemplary project that showcases regional space activities and the innovative impact of services and applications on public administrations. For this reason, NEREUS has expanded and advanced its Copernicus4regions webpage on which users can navigate new and updated sections. These include our rich collection of users' and politicians' translated videos; the numerous recorded events, as well as an area from which to download the publication; the translated info sheets, and the brochure available in many EU languages.

- **About:** The first section provides the reader with a storyline that helps to illustrate the objectives and scope of the joint initiative with the European Commission and the European Space Agency (<https://bit.ly/3yxl0H>).
- **Publication:** This is the place where you can download the publication entitled 'The Ever-Growing Use of Copernicus across Europe's Regions', which contains the 99 use cases from the public sector (<https://bit.ly/3OZTqqZ>).
- **Views on Copernicus:** In this section, you can find a broad collection of statements by politicians and other EU representatives, who share their views on the importance of Copernicus in regions (<https://bit.ly/3sBYJ6f>).





- **Copernicus4regions tools:** This is the largest section of our website. During the initiative, a rich collection of digital tools and translated material (e.g. brochures, info sheets) was made available for a variety of groups such as public users, Copernicus and other experts, policy-makers and many others. Here, you will find all translated users' videos produced from 2018 until 2021, presenting different regional challenges across Europe and how public administrations managed to overcome them with the use of Copernicus. Furthermore, a teaser of the whole initiative is available in eight languages. Additionally, a search engine with new translated stories in the format of info sheets and new parameters such as the maturity level makes it easier for the user to look at the story that interests them and to download it. Finally, the section includes all events organised virtually and physically at the European Parliament (<https://bit.ly/3MPDaqw>).



- **Updates:** This is the section where a user can find the latest news about Copernicus4regions project (<https://bit.ly/3w1Vmq8>).

NEWSFLASH/NEWSLETTER/TWITTER

In response to the demand for more digital solutions, the Network continues to produce, on a weekly basis, targeted newsflashes for its membership to report on the latest space developments and opportunities with the objective of keeping members at the forefront of the news. In 2021, the total number of newsflashes reached a new high of 65 news flashes!

The newsletter is another tool that advertises NEREUS's activities towards external audiences. A growing number of more than 1,500 experts from space and other sectors at global and European levels receive our newsletter, which is published on a quarterly basis (<https://bit.ly/3FkWhX7>).



It is also important to highlight here that NEREUS members are strongly encouraged to promote their projects, flagship initiatives or events through our platform. All members can send the NEREUS team all relevant information (in English) that they would like to be published.

Last but not least, you can read a shorter version of our news on our Twitter account (@NEREUSaisbl) - our main social media tool, where you can interact and exchange opinions with over 2,300 of our followers (<https://bit.ly/3P0ObYa>).



GOVERNANCE

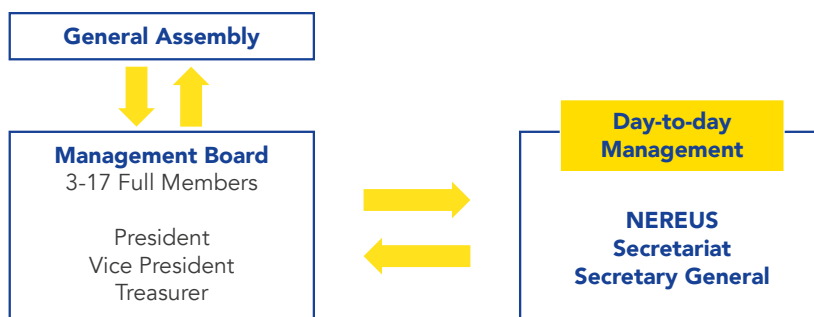
FULL MEMBERS



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



NEREUS aisbl Structure



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 Assembly 2021 was held online on the 5th of May 2021. The Management Board met in January, February, March, May and in December 2021. 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. You can read more about our Management Board below:

NEREUS PRESIDENT Thierry Cotelle (Occitanie region)



Thierry Cotelle graduated as an Engineer in Industrial Chemistry (Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers). He has managed several SMI (Small and Medium Industries) in the aeronautics sector (over a period of 25 years) and is currently General Director of a Business Unit at Satys Aerospace. In terms of political commitments, Thierry Cotelle was 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: the Climate Emergency Commission and the Water and Risk Prevention Commission. Thierry Cotelle was elected President of NEREUS in December 2021. He has also been a member of the Board of NEREUS via the 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* (Army Corps), has been elected President of the Basilicata Region on 24/03/2019 with 42% of consensus. He leads the regional government since 16/04/2019. He started his long military career in *Guardia di Finanza*. He was promoted Colonel in December 1995 and he 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 he was assigned as Regional Commander of Campania. As General in the Army Corps, 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 5/09/2013, until 4/09/2014. President Bardi holds a degree in economics, law, international and diplomatic sciences, financial economic security sciences.

NEREUS Vice-President (East Midlands region)



Mark Lester is Professor of Solar Terrestrial Physics at Leicester University. He has over 40 years of experience working on space plasma physics with personal research interests in ionospheric and magnetospheric physics and has published nearly 350 academic papers. He has also worked with a variety of spacecraft data sets and is currently working on a project involving various spacecraft on the planet Mars. As a Professor at one of the UK's leading universities involved in space research, he also passionately believes in the training and education of the next generation of space scientists and engineers.

NEREUS Vice-President (Podkarpackie region)



Władysław Ortyl is Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region, Poland (elected in May 2013) and a member of the European Committee of the Regions (Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) and Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER)). In the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) he is also the President of the Carpathian Inter-Regional Group, rapporteur on the Carpathian macro-regional strategy and the CoR spokesperson on regional airports. He is currently the Vice-President of the Union of Regions of the Republic of Poland and the President of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group in the European Committee of the Regions.

NEREUS Treasurer (Baden-Württemberg region)



Senator Wolfgang Wolf studied economics at the Eberhard-Karls-Universität in Tübingen. Wolfgang Wolf has been working for the Baden-Württemberg-based Industry Association (LVI) since 1980. He was appointed to the management of the LVI in 1981 and became a member of the Executive Board of the LVI in 1994. He headed the founding of the Aerospace Forum in Baden-Württemberg (LR BW) in 2005 and, since then, has been Managing Director of LR BW. He is also a Managing Director and board member of other associations and clusters and holds numerous honorary offices in economically oriented institutions.

NEREUS Board Member (Apulia region)



Vito Albino is a Professor of Innovation and Project Management at the Politecnico di Bari in Italy. At the same university, he is the founder of the Knowledge Management Lab, where he chaired the Dipartimento di Ingegneria Meccanica e Gestionale (Mechanical Engineering and Management Department) for six years and served as Vice-Rector for research and technology transfer. Vito Albino is now President of the Agency for Technology and Innovation (ARTI) of the Apulia Region (Italy). His research fields are related to innovation processes in production chains and industrial clusters with a particular focus on environmental aspects and, more recently, on the new space economy.

NEREUS Board Member (The Azores region)



Francisco Luís Wallenstein Faria e Maia de Macedo graduated in Economics (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, 1994) and in Biology (Universidade dos Açores, 2002) and has a PhD in Marine Biology (Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2011). He spent ten years conducting research on the coastal ecosystems of the Azores and five years working as a Project Officer in the Fisheries and Science & Technology Departments of the Regional Government of the Azores. In 2017 he became a Board Member of the [Azores Mission Structure for Space](#) after being appointed to represent the Azores Government in the NEREUS and Copernicus Relays networks. Since 2018 he has been a coordinator for the Scientific Council of [RAEGE Açores](#), a position that he holds alongside that of being Chairman of the Board.



NEREUS Board Member (Brittany region)



Rozenn Maréchal has been in charge of research and innovation, transport and social affairs at the Delegation of the Brittany Region to the EU since 2020. She holds a Masters in International Management from Kedge Business School, France (1998), and a Masters in European affairs from Louvain La Neuve University, Belgium (2004). After starting her career in the IT sector in Belgium, she worked at the European Commission in the External Relations Directorate for three and a half years. She then spent 15 years in public affairs/lobbying and marketing/communication for two European industry associations (EVA - vending; Orgalim- Technology industries, including its consulting services). Among her key roles in the past, she has been Secretary to the MSSI Electrical initiative and Deputy Secretary General of the European Association for the Taps and Valves Industry (CEIR). Rozenn was also an *ad personam* member of EURAMET (metrology) Research Council. She is also a Board Member of the Kedge Business School Alumni Association and the coordinator of its alumni network in Belgium.

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 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.

NEREUS Board Member (Madrid region)



Eugenio Fontán has a Master's in Science (MSC) in telecommunications from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. He is currently the General Director of Cooperation with the State and International Affairs in the Madrid Regional Government. He has extensive experience in the fields of telecommunications, space industry and political management, both as a senior consultant for European public administrations and private companies. His experience includes being the principal advisor for telecommunications, space and aeronautics for the Prime Minister of Spain, José María Aznar. He has also been a partner in and coordinator of a significant number of projects in Horizon 2020, Erasmus and Interreg calls for tender.

NEREUS Board Member (Mazovia region)



Ewa Janczar holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Engineering and is Deputy Director of Spatial Information and Digital Innovation, Department of Digitisation, Geodesy and Cartography in the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship in Warsaw. She is the Chairwoman of the Spatial Planning Commission in the Council of the Capital City of Warsaw, Vice-President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) and a member of the Management Board of Polish Counties. In her work, she deals with issues relating to geodesy, spatial data infrastructure, digitalisation and the use of new technologies, including satellite products.

NEREUS SECRETARIAT



The permanent NEREUS Secretariat is run by Ms Roya Ayazi, the NEREUS Secretary-General, and Ms Margarita Chrysaki, the NEREUS Communication/Project Officer. The secretariat is responsible for the daily management of the association, the coordination of the Network and political representation to the European institutions (<https://bit.ly/3P4xn2z>).



Ms 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 lawyer in Germany and over 20 years of work in European affairs, her core responsibilities are advocacy at the European, regional and local level as well as positioning and coordinating the Network with respect to 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.



Ms Chrysaki collaborates with the Secretary General in the overall management and promotion of the Network's activities, including being tasked with the communication of pan-European/ European Space Agency (ESA)-funded initiatives and managing the website and other communication tools. Her work experience and in-depth knowledge of politics, communication and space studies, which are underpinned by her Masters' degrees, clearly emerged in her publication entitled 'The Sustainable Commercialisation of Space: The Case for a Voluntary Code of Conduct for the Space Industry' in the world's leading academic journal, *Space Policy*.



www.nereus-regions.eu
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