



REGIONS AS KEY PLAYERS IN EUROPEAN SPACE POLICY

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF SPACE EXPLORATION THE SYNERGIES WITH THE SPACE4EARTH ROADMAP IN THE ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

MONDAY, 20TH MARCH (2:30-5:30 PM CET)
ESPAI CATALUNYA EUROPA
DELEGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CATALONIA TO THE EU
RUE DE LA LOI / WETSTRAAT, 227 - BRUSSELS

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE BY REGISTERING [HERE](#).

PROGRAMME

2:30 pm Welcome Address by Ignasi Centelles, Representative of the Government of Catalonia to the EU.

2:35 pm Opening Address by Thierry Cotelle, NEREUS President, and Lluís Juncà, DG for Innovation, Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship at the Government of Catalonia.

FIRST PANEL - Space Exploration in the Past and Present

Moderated by Lluís Juncà, DG for Innovation, Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship at the Government of Catalonia.

2:50 pm Dr Joan Oró, the Catalan Biochemist who Contributed to NASA's Early Efforts to Find Life Beyond Planet Earth, by Joan Anton Català, Curator of the events marking the 100th anniversary of Joan Oró's birth.

3:05 pm Women in Space Exploration: The Hypatia I Mission to the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah, by Mariona Badenas, Crew Commander.

3:20 pm Live in Space for a Sustainable Earth: MELiSSA (Micro Ecological Life Support System Alternative), a joint facility of ESA (European Space Agency) and UAB (Autonomous University of Barcelona), by Francesc Gòdia, Overall Manager of the MELiSSA Pilot Plant.

3:35 pm Q&A

3:45 pm Coffee Break

SECOND PANEL - Europe's Future of Space and the Role of Regions

Moderated by Roya Ayazi, Secretary General of NEREUS

4 pm EU Space Policy, by Paraskevi Papantoniou, Director for Space, DG DEFIS, European Commission, and Isabella Poldrugo, Deputy Head of Unit for Space Policy.

4:15 pm The Global Space4Earth Goals of ESA and the New Space Paradigm, by Francisco-Javier Benedicto Ruiz, Director of Navigation, ESA (TBC).

4:30 pm Panel on Regional Contributions to Europe's Space Strategy, by:

Jalil Benabdillah, Vice-President in charge of the Economy, Employment, Innovation and Reindustrialisation of the Occitanie / Pyrénées-Méditerranée Region.

Thierry Cotelle, NEREUS President.

Fulvia Quagliotti, President of the Piedmont Aerospace District.

Ignasi Ribas, Director of the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC).

•
5:10 pm Q&A

5:30 pm Closing Remarks

Networking

This event is part of our "Joan Oró Year" commemorations marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Joan Oró, the Catalan scientist whose research contributed to space exploration and led him to participate in several NASA missions.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, we have witnessed a renewed interest in space observation and exploration across society. European space infrastructures have grown increasingly mature, implying a new dimension of data availability, leading to more space solutions at the service of society. In other words, space data and applications are advantageous for business, government and people, helping them to better respond to major societal and policy challenges.

Regions are the key users and procurers of space-based applications, products and services. This is strongly the case in Catalonia, where the government approved in October 2020 a NewSpace strategy. This strategy is coordinated by the Government of Catalonia in collaboration with the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC), the i2cat Foundation, and the Cartographic and Geological Institute of Catalonia (ICGC), with the objective of boosting a NewSpace innovation hub in the region, globally connected.

At regional level space is increasingly recognised as a strategic asset and important driver for innovation, economic growth, high-level employment and but also as an important source of knowledge to be better prepared for adaption to climate change. In fact, many regions integrated the use of space into their regional economic and Smart Specialisation Strategies. Other regions follow the example of Catalonia and define their own space strategies. NEREUS (Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies) offers them a platform to exchange, develop joint positions and share information and knowledge. NEREUS represents the interests of European regions that use space technologies whilst simultaneously highlighting the regional dimension of European space policy and programmes.

This renewed interest in space activities has led the Government of Catalonia, NEREUS and IEEC to organise an event in Brussels to highlight the role of European regions in Europe's space policy.

The event "Regions as Key Players in European Space Policy" will take place on 20 March 2023, from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM, at the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia before the EU, in Brussels.

This event will be part of the series of events being planned in Europe and the USA on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Joan Oró (1923-2004), a Catalan biochemist whose research contributed to space exploration and led him to participate in several NASA missions. In this regard, the event in Brussels will begin with a panel that will introduce the legacy of the biochemist and will show up two experiments at the forefront of space exploration: the Hypatia I Mission to the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah; and the MELiSSA Pilot Plant, a key infrastructure led by ESA and devoted to develop life support systems for long- term space missions.

**PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE BY REGISTERING
HERE.**