

New Space for multiple challenges: RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

Call for best practices to address **Civil Protection**, **Blue Economy** and **Defence & Security** at local and regional levels

Description and Background:

The upcoming European Symposium by NEREUS regions 2025 will address the challenges faced at regional and local levels, focused on how **New Space** technologies enhance resilience and sustainability in critical sectors such as **Civil Protection, Blue Economy and Defence & Security**.

1. Civil Protection

Ensuring the safety of populations is more critical than ever. Civil protection efforts rely on risk minimization and coordinated responses to natural disasters, accidents, and emergencies. **Satellite data** has become an essential tool, enabling the **monitoring of environmental phenomena, disaster prediction, and optimized response and recovery strategies**.

This theme will be explored through three key discussion panels:

- **Climate Change**
- **Extreme Events**
- **Natural Hazards**

European regions play a vital role in mitigating risks through **local policies, disaster preparedness strategies, and cross-border cooperation**. Given Europe's diverse geography and climate, tailored solutions are required to address region-specific vulnerabilities. **Satellite technology** provides invaluable support by offering real-time data for **climate monitoring, risk assessment, and disaster response**, ultimately strengthening regional resilience.

2. Blue Economy

The Blue Economy is fundamental to Europe's economic growth, job creation, and environmental sustainability. With its extensive coastline, the EU depends on

maritime industries such as fisheries, shipping, offshore energy, and coastal tourism. Satellite data enhances these sectors by providing:

- **Real-time monitoring** of marine environments
- **Predictive analytics** for sustainable resource management
- **Early warning systems** for pollution, illegal fishing, and extreme weather events.

European regions face significant challenges in ocean governance, maritime safety, coastal tourism, and fisheries management due to:

- **Overfishing, pollution, and climate change**
- **Conflicting EU and non-EU regulations**
- **Illegal maritime activities**
- **Rising sea levels and extreme weather events affecting coastal infrastructure**

Satellite-based technologies such as **Copernicus Earth Observation Program** and **Galileo GNSS** provide precise tracking of vessels, **early detection of oil spills, and marine ecosystem monitoring.** These technologies enhance sustainability, improve decision-making, and strengthen governance efforts across national and regional boundaries.

3. Defence & Security

European regions are increasingly vulnerable to challenges in **Defence, Cybersecurity, and Critical Infrastructure Protection** due to:

- **Rising geopolitical tensions**
- **Frequent cyberattacks**
- **Evolving hybrid warfare tactics**

Satellite technology plays a crucial role in:

- **Real-time surveillance of military movements**
- **Securing communication networks in remote/conflict zones**
- **Monitoring and protecting critical infrastructure** such as energy grids, transport networks, and communication systems

By integrating **space-based data** into their security strategies, regional and local authorities can **enhance resilience, mitigate cyber threats, and safeguard critical infrastructure.**

Symposium objectives

The symposium aims to **connect regional and local authorities** with **service providers, including companies, startups, research institutions, and universities**, to explore how space-based solutions address these challenges.

The program will feature:

- **State-of-the-art discussions** on New Space technologies
- **Future reflections and best practices** at the regional level
- **Insights from local and regional authorities** on their challenges and needs

Call for Contributions

We invite local and regional authorities to share best practices and success stories in the following thematic sessions:

- Session 1: Best Practices in **Civil Protection** (Climate change, Extreme events and Natural hazards);
- Session 2: Best Practices in **Blue Economy** (Ocean governance and Safety, Coastal and marine tourism, and Marine fisheries & aquaculture);
- Session 3: Best Practices in **Defence & Security** (Defence, Communications & Cybersecurity, and Critical infrastructures).

All NEREUS partners are invited to identify public authorities with responsibilities in these sectors to participate.

Submission Guidelines

- Submit a **half-page summary** of your best practice to rayazi.nereus@euregions4space.com and mchrysaki.nereus@euregions4space.com by **16 June 2025**.

Presentation Opportunity for Public Authorities

Selected authorities will be invited to:

- **Showcase their regional profile** and strategic initiatives
- **Share insights on regional challenges and innovations**
- **Discuss potential applications of satellite-based services**
- **Exchange views on public procurement strategies**

Benefits of participation

Public authorities will gain:

- **Visibility** for regional strategies and innovations
- **Opportunities to exchange knowledge** on space data applications
- **Access to best practices and success stories** in space solutions
- **Networking opportunities** to foster new collaborations within the NEREUS network

NEREUS partners are encouraged to **promote this call within their networks** and help identify **successful use cases of space-based solutions** in Civil Protection, the Blue Economy, and Defence & Security.

We look forward to your contributions and participation!