



ATTRATTIVITÀ

RICERCA

TERRITORIO

# Nereus Symposium 2026

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# DAMA: Final Rendering



22-23 October 2026

The location of the Nereus Annual  
Symposium





# Data Center ECMWF

**20.500 m2 in total**  
**14.100 m2 built surface**



## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FORECASTING SYSTEM (AIFS)



1. Observe

2. Absorb

3. Model

4. Predict

Every day, we collect **800** observations of Earth's temperature, pressure, humidity, wind speed, and other atmospheric variables from the surface to the top of the atmosphere.

**60 million** quality-controlled observations are absorbed by our physics-based Integrated Forecasting System

They feed the **AIFS** new AI model, which predicts Earth's weather for the coming days

Now: **AIFS Single** one forecast at a time



**1st LEED PLATINUM certification in the world**

## Top 50 HPC in the world



FOTO: Visita Ass. Nazionale Cav.

# Signature of the UNU – Emilia Romagna agreement, December 2025



# World Network UNU

Headquarter:  
Tokyo, Japan

**14<sup>th</sup> location: ITALIA  
(Bologna)**

2x Germania (Bonn + Dresda)

2x Malesia (Putrajaya+ Kuala Lumpur)

Ghana (Accra)

Canada (Richmond)

China (Macau)

Belgio (Bruges)

Olanda (Maastricht)

USA (New York)

Venezuela (Caracas)

Portogallo (Guimaraes)

Finlandia (Helsinki)



**Tshildzi Marwala**

Rettore Università delle Nazioni Unite  
Sottosegretario Generale ONU





# The Trophy

At the entrance of the E-R headquarter, in the location of the Legislative Assembly. Will be there up to the Symposium in October.

On display is the **NEREUS Trophy**, a 1:2 scale replica of the **Kinéis satellite**. The Trophy represents the symbolic "baton" entrusted to the Region hosting the **European Symposium by NEREUS Regions**: in 2026 it will be the **Emilia-Romagna Region**.

### European Symposium by Nereus Regions: Data Valleys and AI Factories to empower Space Data

#### Fifth Edition of the European Symposium by NEREUS Regions Bologna, DAMA Technopole, October 22-23, 2026

The 2026 European Symposium, hosted by the Emilia-Romagna Region, will be held at the **DAMA Technopole - Botte B4** in Bologna on **October 22 and 23**. The main theme will be the use of **AI, HPC, and Data Management** for the advancement in the use of **Space Data**.

#### What is the annual European Symposium by NEREUS Regions?

It is an annual event established with the primary objective of strengthening interregional cooperation and networking among NEREUS Regions and their European partners, facilitating the dialogue between public administrations - based on citizens' needs - and the service providers, while promoting the joint development of technological applications and the strategic alignment between regional programmes and the new EU Space Act, for transforming European space excellence into concrete, shared value at the regional level.

#### NEREUS - Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies

It is a network of regions wishing to optimize the use of space applications for the delivery of efficient public policies for the benefit of citizens, acting as a crucial link between the use of space technologies and the specific needs of regional ecosystems.

Contact for further information:  
info.nerospace@art-er.it





Navigation bar with logos for nereus (network of european regions using space technologies) and RER (Emilia-Romagna) and menu items: Home, The Symposium, Programme, Location, Symposium venue.

## Programme

## Schedule

### October 22, 2026

🕒 09:00 AM - 9:40 AM	📍 DAMA Tecnopolo Data Manifattura Emilia-Romagna	Welcome Institutional Greeting
🕒 09:40 AM - 10:40 AM	📍 DAMA Tecnopolo Data Manifattura Emilia-Romagna	Keynote Speech
🕒 10:40 AM - 11:00 AM		Coffee Break
🕒 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	📍 DAMA Tecnopolo Data Manifattura Emilia-Romagna	Keynote Panel on AI Factory and their role in Space Data Management
🕒 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM		LUNCH BREAK

5th Eu  
Space  
Bologna  
TECNOP

# Title, Objective, and Keynote Focus



**Title:** 5th European Symposium by NEREUS Regions: *Space Data powered by Data Valleys and AI Factories*

**When & Where:** 22 & 23 October 2026 | DAMA  
Technopole, Bologna (Emilia-Romagna)

- **Core Objective:** The main theme will be the use of **AI, HPC, and Data Management** for the advancement in the use of Space Data, trying to find the “**perfect model**” that can empower the “**Typical**” **Regional Geographic Data Platform**. Of course, the perfect model is changing from ecosystem to ecosystem and in practice it does not even exist but sharing experiences by different regions and knowledge by different actors will be beneficial for all the participants.
- **A New Format:** Moving beyond traditional conferences, this symposium is being designed to maximize networking, and the sharing of best practices among regional ecosystems.

- **Program Highlight - The Frontal Session:** The event will open with a high-level **Keynote Panel on AI Factories and Data Valleys**. We will invite stakeholders from NEREUS regions currently hosting AI Factories (e.g., Emilia-Romagna, Baden-Württemberg, Catalonia) to present their projects and showcase how Artificial Intelligence and High-Performance Computing (HPC) are revolutionizing the management of satellite data.
- **Panel (Day 1 and 2) - The “Typical” Regional Geographic Data Platform: looking for the perfect Model**

PAs (Regions) + Service Providers presenting their models in a frontal way.

This will be **2 frontal moments** (2 hrs 1st day and 1hr 2nd day) to present **local data management models**, examples of **specific services, experiences**, etc.



To ensure concrete outcomes, the symposium features two distinct interactive formats tailored to different types of problem-solving:

## **B2G (Business-to-Government) Matchmaking:**

- *Focus:* **Specific Challenges**.
- *Format:* Scheduled 1-on-1 meetings between Public Administrations (PAs) and Service Providers.
- *Mechanism:*
  - a. PAs will present specific, concrete challenges they face in their territories. In response, Service Providers will pitch targeted solutions leveraging Earth Observation (EO) and space data to solve these specific regional needs.
    - i. **end of April Form for Challenges** will be shared with regions, to be completed by PA before the **end of June**
    - ii. **in July** all the challenges gathered will be sent to the service providers. This action will be managed by the Regions.
    - iii. end of September deadline to receive candidacies for the B2G by the Service Providers

## **Cooperative Round Tables:**

- *Focus:* **Systemic Challenges**.
- *Format:* Working groups of 15-20 participants per table, guided by a **Facilitator**.
- *Mechanism:* Open networking and discussion on broader, system-level topics (e.g., the "perfect model" for a Regional Geographic Data Platform, Data Spaces, Civil Protection). Insights and structural challenges will be debated.

Each table will have a different topics.

# Call to Action for NEREUS Regions



To make the interactive sessions—especially the B2G phase—a success, we need the active participation of all NEREUS regions. We ask all the Regions to start taking action now:

- **Define Regional Challenges:** Work closely with the Public Administrations in your regions to identify and define concrete "**challenges**". Bringing specific, real-world problems to the B2G phase will heavily stimulate the participation of service providers and lead to actionable, innovative solutions for your territories.  
  
Shortly a **Form for Challenges** will be shared, in order to provide such information.
- **Engage Your Ecosystem:** Start identifying and involving the key players in your region. We need your **Research Centers and Service Providers** to join us in Bologna and showcase their capabilities during the B2G and the cooperative tables.
- Ideally each Region should come with a **small delegation of stakeholders** that can be involved in the tables and in the B2G moment.
- **Prepare Service Providers:** Encourage your regional service providers to look at the challenges proposed by PAs and to be prepared for direct interaction with European PAs.



# Form for Challenges

A simple Form to update your input on Challenges

Sezione 2 di 2

Create a New Challenge



mettere il link ad una pagina web con una challenge tipo.

Title of the Challenge \*

Testo risposta breve

Description of the Challenge \*

Testo risposta lunga

Your Challenge in just one question \*

Shorten your challenge in a single question to be posed to the community of Service Providers.



## Call 4 Challenges

5th Edition European Symposium by Nereus Regions: **Space Data powered by Data Valleys and AI Factories**

Public Administrations in the Region should identify and define concrete "**challenges**". Bringing specific, real-world problems to the B2G phase will heavily stimulate the participation of **service providers** and lead to **actionable, innovative solutions** for the **territories**.

These challenges will serve for matchmaking activities, to facilitate the contact and the experience sharing between Public Administrations and service providers.

Il nome, l'indirizzo email e la foto associati al tuo Account Google verranno registrati quando caricherai i file e invierai questo modulo

\* Indica una domanda obbligatoria

Email \*

Il tuo indirizzo email

Organization launching the challenge



## Symposium program

### Structure of the Bologna 2026 Symposium

The 2026 European Symposium, hosted by the E-R Region, will take place at the **DAMA - Botte B4** technopole, in Bologna, on October 22-23.

The Symposium is structured over two days, combining frontal sessions and interactive **networking**, and including a **B2G moment**.

The main theme will be the use of **AI, HPC**, and **Data Management** for the advancement in the use of Space Data, trying to find the “**perfect model**” that can empower the “**Typical**” **Regional Geographic Data Platform**. Of course, the perfect model is changing from ecosystem to ecosystem and in practice it does not even exist but sharing experiences by different regions and knowledge by different actors will be beneficial for all the participants.

A first draft will be soon uploaded in the website:

<https://www.nereus-er.it>

Soon will also be available the [Form For Registration](#) to Symposium.



## Symposium program - Day 1

- **Welcome & Institutional Greetings**
- **Keynote Speech**
  - (i.e. from ESA Esrin, ECMWF, DG Connect, etc.)
- **Keynote Panel on AI Factory / Giga Factory and Data Valley**
  - Different EU AI FACTORIES, will provide their case studies and experiences.
- **Panel 1 - The “Typical” Regional Geographic Data Platform: looking for the *perfect Model***
  - PAs + Service Providers presenting their models
- **Interactive Part - B2G**
- **Gala Dinner**



## Symposium program - Day 2

- **Welcome**
- **Keynote Speech**
  - (i.e. from Copernicus User Forum, DG Defis, etc.)
- **Panel 2 - The “Typical” Regional Geographic Data Platform: looking for the *perfect Model***
  - similar to day 1 but with different PAs + Service Providers presenting their models
- **Interactive Part - Discussion Tables with facilitators**
- **Visits (whole afternoon)**

14:00 - 15:00 (parallel and alternative visits)

**Leonardo HPC** + AI Factory IT4LIA (DAMA technopole) or **ECMWF Data Center** (DAMA technopole)

15:00 - 18:30 (for all)

[Medicina Radio Astronomical Station](#) (including bus connections in the schedule - visit at the station from 16:00 to 17:30)



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