

Short outlook on NEREUS activities

By Roya Ayazi, Secretary General &
Margarita Chrysaki, Comm/Policy/Project
officer



1. Introduction of different thematic groups

I. Interregional cooperations and partnerships:

- i) ***The Interregional Innovation Investment (I3)*** (invited speaker: Valentina Pinna, Programme and Policy Advisor at European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) - tbc)
- ii) ***Pilot Project: Capacity Building and Skills Development*** (Lucio Bernardini, Basilicata Region)
- iii) ***INTERREG Initiative "SATSDIFACTION" and future scenarios*** (Mirko Mazzarolo, Veneto Region)

II. Knowledge and Best Practice Sharing

- i. ***Approaches for Better Use of Space: NEREUS EO/Copernicus Working Group***, (Carlo Masetto, Veneto Region)
- ii. ***Regional Best Practices*** (Estefania Blanch and Davoud Omarzadeh, IEEC, Catalonia)
- iii. ***OCEANIDS and Future Maritime Cooperation and Partnerships*** (Betty Charalampopoulou)

Pilot Project: Capacity Building and Skills Development (Lucio Bernardini, Basilicata Region)

Advocacy/
political
engagement



*Visit of the NEREUS Delegation to
ESA/ESRIN on 24 January 2025*

Knowledge
sharing/
collaboration



INTERREG Initiative “SATSDIFACTION” and future scenarios (Mirko Mazzarolo, Veneto Region)



Approaches for Better Use of Space: NEREUS EO/Copernicus Working Group, (Carlo Masetto, Veneto Region)



Regional Best Practices (Estefania Blanch and Davoud Omarzadeh, IEEC, Catalonia)

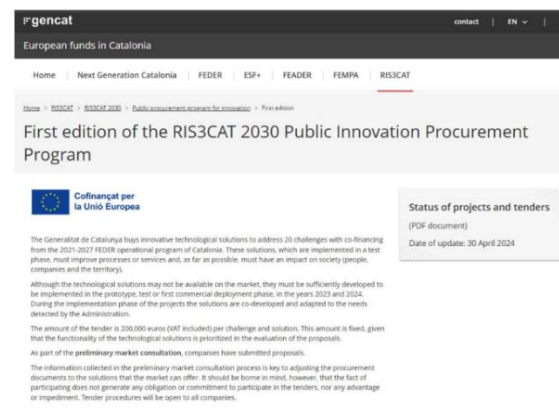
Knowledge sharing/
collaboration

Adoption of space-based services



Use cases to promote innovation from the public sector (total budget > 800k€, 2022-24)

1. Innovative public procurement (3 contracts, 200k €/contract) [+info](#)
2. Strategy use cases. Pilot projects
3. Challenges (3 prizes, 15k€/prize) [+info](#)
4. Open innovation EO services (5 prizes, 50k€/prize) [+info](#) (3 prizes 70k€/prize) [+info](#))
5. DCA Open innovation IoT-5G services (2 prizes, 50k€/prize) [+info](#)



Innovative public procurement to promote new space applications: rail transport & GNSS, agriculture & IoT/5G, livestock & IoT/5G



Open innovation service procurement to promote new space applications for the private sector



Capacity
building skills

OCEANIDS and Future Maritime Cooperation and Partnerships (Betty Charalampopoulou)



OCEANIDS
Final Project Event

Shaping the Future of Resilient and Inclusive Coastal Societies
through EU Cooperation

Secure your place and register here: 

 09 June 2026

Registration closes: 02 June 2026

 10:30 – 17:00
(Brussels time)

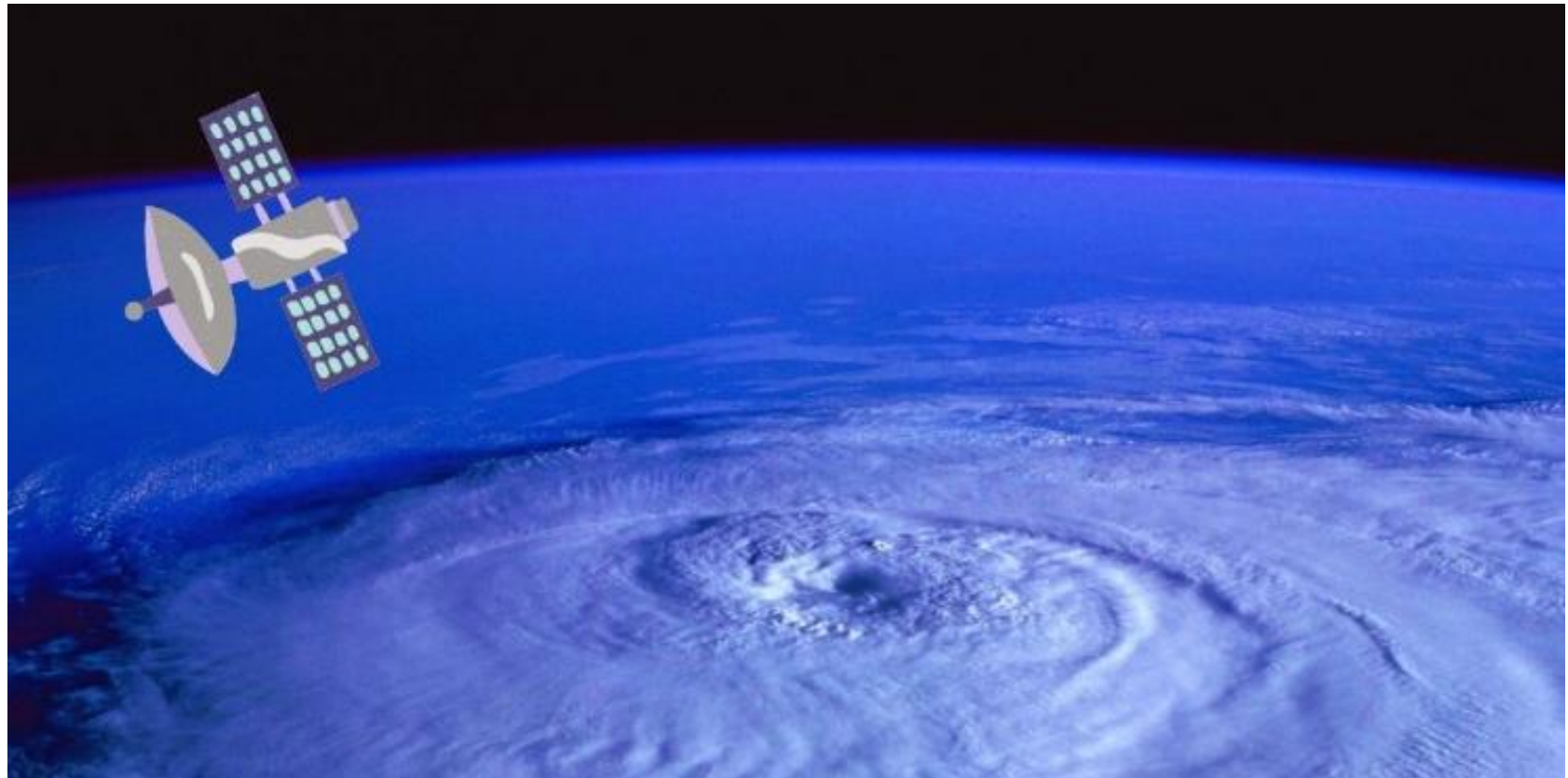
 In-person event
Brussels, Belgium
Avenue de Cortenbergh 16

 Project funded from the EU HE research and innovation
programme under GA No. 10112919
www.oceanids-project.eu

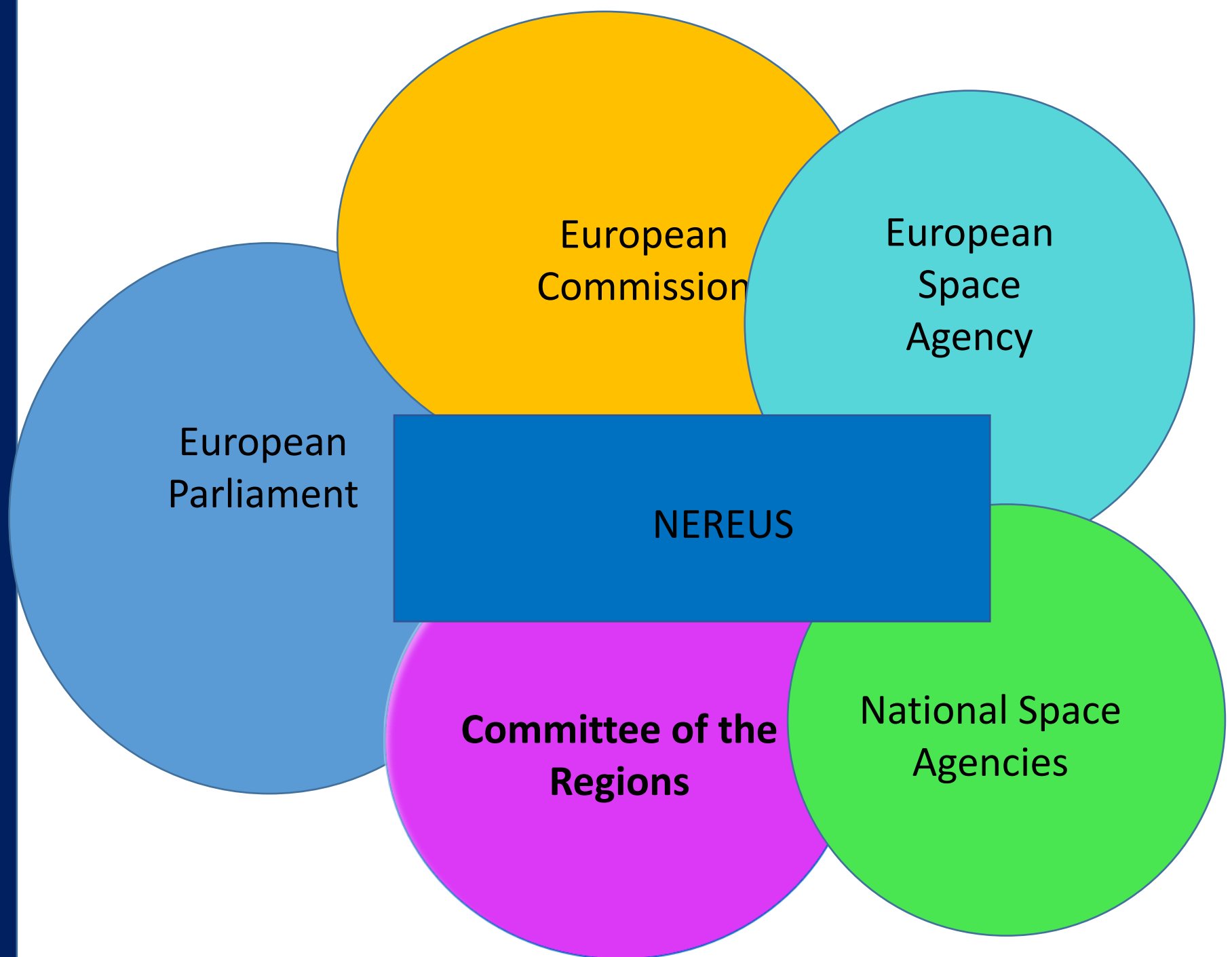
II. Short outlook on NEREUS activities

NEREUS promotes the use of space and its applications and brings the benefits of space for the European Regions and their citizens.

Mission



Strategic Partners





What does NEREUS offer its members ?

Access to
discussions with
EU decision-
makers

Policy
influence

Knowledge
exchange/best
practices

Interregional
collaboration

In the growing space
sector- NEREUS gives you
visibility at the EU level

Empowerment of
regional space
ecosystems

Project
partnerships/ESA-
EU opportunities

Events/webinars



**13 webinars,
40 Speakers**
and almost **1000**
participants!

**3 in-person
events: 300
participants**

**MORE THAN 6 TOPICS OF
DISCUSSION BASED ON
MEMBERS INTEREST:**

- 1.Space law
2. Education/capacity building skills
- 3.Agriculture
- 4.Health
5. Energy
- 6.Horizon Europe Cluster 3

**7 meetings
Earth
Observation
and Liaison
Groups**

Copernicus4regions Breakfast Debate

4 December 2025

Advocacy/
political
engagement



Advocacy/
political
engagement

EUROPEAN REGIONAL SYMPOSIUMS BY NEREUS REGIONS



 | 

In collaboration with
 

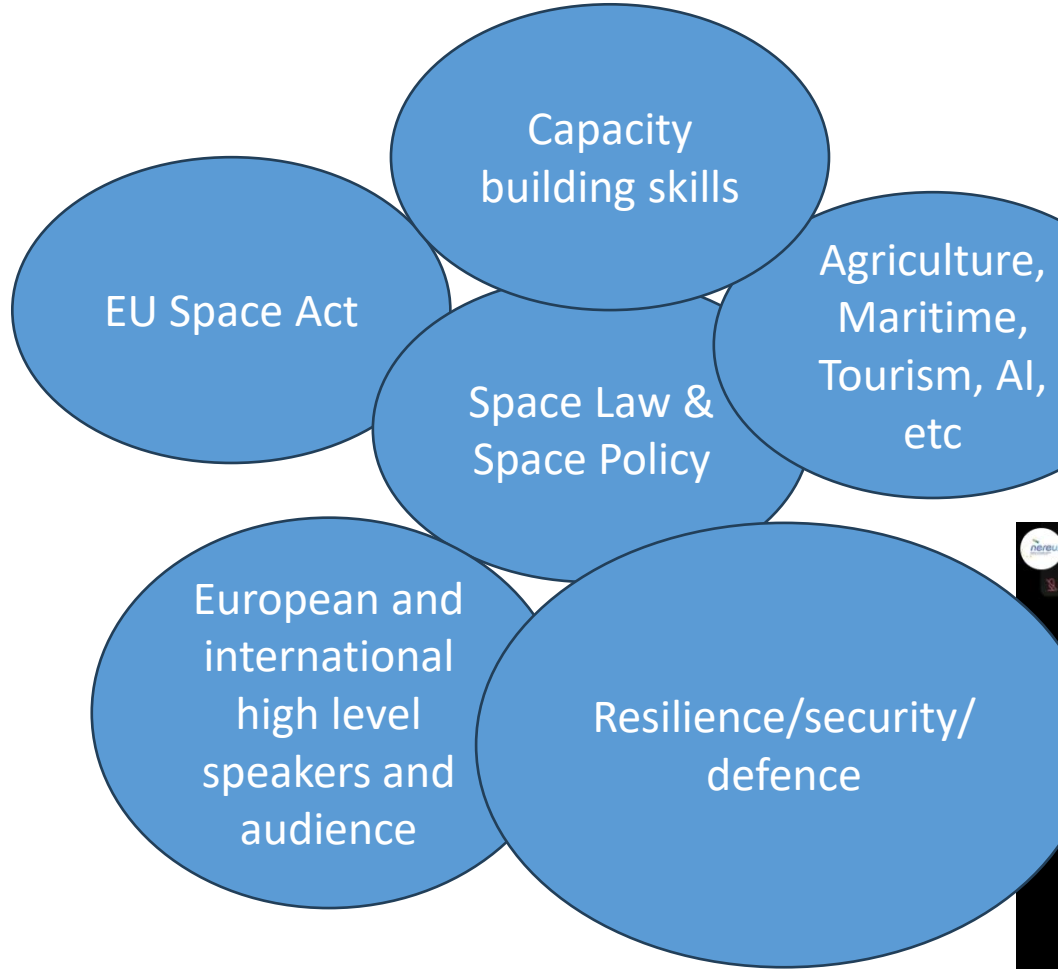
Save the date 

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

 October 22-23, 2026
DAMA Technopole
B4 Pavilion, Via Stalingrado 84/3
Bologna (Emilia-Romagna, Italy)

Hosted by the Emilia-Romagna Region and co-organized by ART-ER and the European network NEREUS.

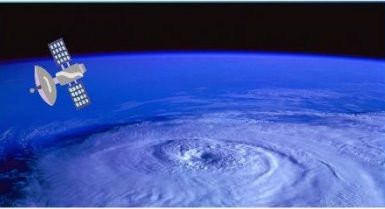
Knowledge
sharing/
collaboration



Online monthly sessions: NEREUS on the frontline of space developments



SESSION II: INFO SESSION ON THE PROPOSED EU SPACE PACKAGE (EU SPACE ACT AND VISION FOR A EUROPEAN SPACE ECONOMY)



WEDNESDAY, 11TH MARCH 2026, 10.00 - 11.30H

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE BY REGISTERING HERE.



Communication tools

16 newsflashes
& newsletters
with more than
1000
subscribers

Linkedin:
- 1586 followers
- 28000 impressions
- 60 posts

- 1 Annual report
- Infosheet for
politicians translated
to 5 languages
- 4 position papers



Bringing the benefits of space uses
to regions & their citizens



**NEREUS: Network of European Regions
Using Space Technologies**

Since 2007, NEREUS has been the only European association led by regions that is focused on spreading the use and understanding of space-based solutions by empowering regions to better participate in European Space policy and programs. Its strong partnership of currently 23 regions is supported by a growing number of Associate partners', a great ecosystem of universities, SMEs, space agencies, etc.

Why Space data?



Space data is the new gold—a vital resource of information for economic growth, environmental compliance with EU legislation, and public safety/civil emergency. This knowledge can help you build your political agenda to drive innovation, boost security, and improve citizen's life in your region. NEREUS is about applying space in local and regional contexts while stimulating the development of space ecosystems.



Image source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Tz0FFz8b8>

NEREUS Positions, Opinions & Dialogue



The opinion on the EU Space Act by the Committee of the Regions (authored by Nadia Pellefigue (FR/PES), Vice-President of the Region of Occitanie) has been adopted during the plenary on 11th December 2025. To ensure effective territorial uptake, the CoR calls for reinforced EU support instruments, including an expanded Copernicus4Regions initiative

- EU funding for competitiveness (Apr 2025)
- EU funding for civil protection & crisis response (Mar 2025)
- European Water Resilience Strategy feedback (Mar 2025)
- Consultation on the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)

Communication indicators 2025-2026

25,533
individual
visitors!

Almost
1,500.000
views!

Updated Copernicus4regions Search Engine
hosting more than **120** stories from your regions with videos and translated material!

EU Policy/Directive		Thematic Area		Language	Year of publication	Usage Maturity Level
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Title of the Copernicus User Story	Country of Application	Region of Application	Relevant Copernicus data and information			
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>			
 A FARMSOURCING PLATFORM FOR A SMART NITROGEN MANAGEMENT	Belgium	BELGIUM	Sentinel-2 3/4			
 A NEW DETAILED CROP AND NATURAL LAND MAP	Spain	CASTILLA Y LEON	Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2 4			
 A PLATFORM FOR MAPPING TERRITORIES BY SATELLITE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN	Africa	MADAGASKAR	Sentinel-2 3			
 A SMARTPHONE APPLICATION DELIVERING METEO-MARINE DATA TO THE PUBLIC	Malta, Italy	MALTA, SICILY	CMEMS 5			
 A SPACE-BASED SOLUTION FOR OIL SPILL DETECTION	Greece	CENTRAL MACEDONIA	Sentinel-1, CMEMS 4			

Copernicus4regions: a wealth of best practices & new calls

Knowledge sharing/
collaboration

Picks from the new user stories

SATELLITE DATA FOR THE CHARACTERIZATION OF URBAN AREAS

The service utilizes Sentinel-2 satellite data to distinguish between natural and artificial surfaces in Tuscany, providing a basis for identifying anthropic materials with the aim of supporting efficient land management and informed administrative actions in territorial planning.

Use of Sentinel-2 data improved both the quality and processing time of artificial surface identification, providing valuable support for sustainable urban planning.

Iaria Tabarrani, Tuscany Region

[→ GO TO LINK](#)



Classification map of the urbanized territory of the city of Lucca (Italy) overlaid on an RGB orthophoto. The semi-transparent red areas represent the "artificial surfaces" class. Copernicus Sentinel 2L-2A (2024)
Credits: Tuscany Region – Regional Territorial Information Base, pursuant to Article 55 of Regional Law 65/2014.

Picks from the new user stories

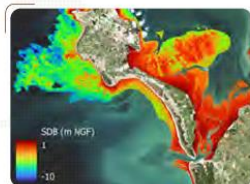
INNOVATIVE, SCALABLE SATELLITE SOLUTIONS FOR NOIRMOUTIER'S COASTAL RESILIENCE

Mapping Noirmoutier's shallow waters is complex due to the dynamic nature of its sediments and frequent tidal exposure. By harnessing Copernicus imagery and deep learning, we deliver accurate bathymetry and habitat classification. This scalable, cost-effective solution supports informed decision-making for coastal management and policy.

This project is a key step toward sustainable coastal management, helping to track sediment shifts and strengthen the island's resilience.

Qualid Rahmani, CCIN's Coastal Risk Protection Department

[→ GO TO LINK](#)



Satellite-Derived Bathymetry around Noirmoutier Island 2024 bathymetric map of Noirmoutier derived from a collection of Sentinel-2 Level-2A images acquired throughout the year. The method retrieves depths down to -8m NGF and highlights the seabed diversity: rocky and vegetated platforms, sandy and muddy intertidal zones with tidal channels, and dynamic sandbars. Areas not covered were affected by limiting environmental conditions (e.g., turbidity), preventing reliable depth retrieval. Bathymetry: derived from Copernicus Sentinel-2 data [2024], Level-2A, processed by ESA. Background image: Copernicus Sentinel-2 (08/08/2024), Level-2A, ESA

Thematic area
TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT AND URBAN PLANNING

Region of Application
TUSCANY

Sentinel mission used
S2

Copernicus Service used

Usage Maturity Level
4

Thematic area
TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT AND URBAN PLANNING

Region of Application
PAYS-DE-LA-LOIRE

Sentinel mission used
S1, S2, S3

Copernicus Service used

Usage Maturity Level
5

USER STORIES

Show 10 entries

Title of the Copernicus User Story	Country of Application	Region of Application	Relevant Copernicus data and information	Usage Maturity Level
A FARMSOURCING PLATFORM FOR A SMART NITROGEN MANAGEMENT	Belgium	BELGIUM	Sentinel-2	3/4
A NEW DETAILED CROP AND NATURAL LAND MAP	Spain	CASTILLA Y LEON	Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2	4
A PLATFORM FOR MAPPING TERRITORIES BY SATELLITE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN	Africa	MADAGASKAR	Sentinel-2	3
A SMARTPHONE APPLICATION DELIVERING METEOROLOGICAL DATA TO THE PUBLIC	Malta, Italy	MALTA, SICILY	CMEMS	5

Communication tools

7 meetings
Earth
Observation
and Liaison
Groups

1 EO WG article-
accepted for publication
in the International
journal of



4 Projects
submissions in
H2020 and ESA calls

38
Copernicus4region
s stories

Upcoming funding opportunities

Name of Call	Deadline (2026)	Type / Programme	Budget (indicative)	Who Can Apply	Official Link
HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-11: Reinforcing EU autonomous access to space	3 Sep 2026, 17:00 CEST	Horizon Europe – Cluster 4 (Space - RIA / IA)	€22.59m	Consortia (≥3 from ≥3 EU/associated states)	https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/accessing-space-horizon-europe-space-2026-calls_en
HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-31: Digital enablers for EO & satellite telecom	3 Sep 2026, 17:00 CEST	Horizon Europe – Cluster 4 (RIA)	€12m	Consortia (≥3 from ≥3 EU/associated states)	https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/accessing-space-horizon-europe-space-2026-calls_en
HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-32: Demo missions for EO & satellite telecom	3 Sep 2026, 17:00 CEST	Horizon Europe – Cluster 4 (IA)	€26m	Consortia (≥3 from ≥3 EU/associated states)	https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/accessing-space-horizon-europe-space-2026-calls_en
HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-61: Scientific analysis & exploitation of space data	3 Sep 2026, 17:00 CEST	Horizon Europe – Cluster 4 (RIA)	€3.92m	Consortia (≥3 from ≥3 EU/associated states)	https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/space-sciences-and-exploration-horizon-europe-space-2026-calls_en
HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03-81: Radiation Hard FPGA on 7nm	3 Sep 2026, 17:00 CEST	Horizon Europe – Cluster 4 (RIA)	€12.74m	Consortia (≥3 from ≥3 EU/associated states)	https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/boosting-space-through-eu-non-dependence-critical-space-technologies-horizon-europe-space-2026-calls_en

Upcoming funding opportunities

Name of Call	Deadline (2026)	Type / Programme	Budget (indicative)	Who Can Apply	Official Link
HORIZON-CL4-2026-S PACE-03-82: GaN MMICs & SiC substrate capabilities	3 Sep 2026, 17:00 CEST	Horizon Europe – Cluster 4 (RIA)	€6.86m	Consortia (≥3 from ≥3 EU/associated states)	https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/boosting-space-through-eu-non-dependence-critical-space-technologies-horizon-europe-space-2026-calls_en
HORIZON-CL4-2026-S PACE-03-85: Irradiation test facility deployment	3 Sep 2026, 17:00 CEST	Horizon Europe – Cluster 4 (IA)	€3.92m	Consortia (≥3 from ≥3 EU/associated states)	https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/boosting-space-through-eu-non-dependence-critical-space-technologies-horizon-europe-space-2026-calls_en
HORIZON-WIDERA-20 26-02: Twinning	9 Apr 2026	Horizon Europe – WIDERA (Widening)	<i>See WP document</i>	Universities, research orgs, public bodies	Horizon Europe / WIDERA Work Prog 2026–27 (info) https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-work-programmes_en
HORIZON-WIDERA-20 26-05: ERA Fellowships	9 Sep 2026	Horizon Europe – WIDERA	<i>See WP document</i>	Research institutions hosting fellows	Horizon Europe / WIDERA Work Prog 2026–27 (info)
HORIZON-WIDERA-20 26-01: Teaming Synergies	24 Sep 2026	Horizon Europe – WIDERA	<i>See WP document</i>	Research institutions & partners	Horizon Europe / WIDERA Work Prog 2026–27 (info)

Upcoming funding opportunities

Name of Call	Deadline (2026)	Type / Programme	Budget (indicative)	Who Can Apply	Official Link
HORIZON-CL4-2026-S PACE-03-81: Radiation Hard FPGA on 7nm	3 Sep 2026, 17:00 CEST	Horizon Europe – Cluster 4 (RIA)	€12.74m	Consortia (≥3 from ≥3 EU/associated states)	https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals/boosting-space-through-eu-non-dependence-critical-space-technologies-horizon-europe-space-2026-calls_en
EDF Work Programme 2026 Calls (multiple topics)	~29 Sep 2026 <i>(expected for open calls)</i>	European Defence Fund (EDF)	~€1 billion total (2026)	Industry & research consortia (≥3 EU MS)	https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/edf-work-programme-2026_en

Upcoming funding opportunities

INTERREG PROGRAMME	Regions covered	Submission deadline
Interreg Europe	– (Satsdifaction project already running; no new calls)	N/A
b-solutions	All partner regions (cross-border issues only)	<p>until 30 June 2026. The b-solutions initiative is not a traditional project funding scheme like Interreg. Instead, it provides:</p> <p>help to solve a specific cross-border obstacle: A public authority or organisation identifies a concrete cross-border problem (e.g. legal barriers, administrative mismatches between countries) If selected, they receive: A fixed grant (around €20,000–€30,000) & Support from an external expert https://www.b-solutionsproject.com</p>
Interreg North-West Europe (NWE)	Bremen, Brittany, South Holland	<p>Only Capitalisation call (scaling up, transferring, or exploiting results from existing projects): 28 May 2026</p> <p>Next call: A second capitalisation call is expected December 2026 – May 2027 (dates indicative and to be confirmed) https://www.nweurope.eu</p>

Upcoming funding opportunities

INTERREG PROGRAMME	Regions covered	Submission deadline
Interreg North Sea	South Holland (Netherlands), Wallonie (Belgium), Brittany (France)	Call 6 expected: December 2026 https://www.interregnorthsea.eu
Interreg SUDOE	Azores (Portugal), Canarias (Spain), Catalonia (Spain), Madrid (Spain), Nouvelle Aquitaine (France), Occitanie (France)	Restricted calls – existing projects only https://www.interreg-sudoe.eu
Interreg Euro-MED	Emilia Romagna (Italy) Basilicata (Italy) Tuscany (Italy) Veneto (Italy) Piedmont (Italy) Catalonia (Spain) Nouvelle Aquitaine (France) Occitanie (France)	Late 2026 (capitalisation call, planned) https://interreg-euro-med.eu

Upcoming funding opportunities

INTERREG PROGRAMME	Regions covered	Submission deadline
Interreg NEXT MED	Malopolska, Mazovia, Podkarpackie (Poland), Apulia Basilicata Emilia Romagna Piedmont Tuscany Veneto (Italy)	Late 2026 / 2027 (expected) https://www.interregnextmed.eu
Interreg IPA ADRION	Basilicata, Emilia-Romagna, Puglia, Veneto (Italy)	Late 2026 (expected) https://www.interreg-ipa-adrion.eu
Cross-Border examples	Italy-Croatia, Italy-Slovenia	Most calls closed; possible final calls in 2026

THANK YOU!

www.nereus-regions.eu



Network of European Regions Using Space