



# Copernicus4regions

**Dear Author, we welcome your contribution!**  
**Please make sure you read carefully the following instructions for Authors**

1. Articles shall be prepared by filling the form within the ConfTool online software and by strictly following the template requirements both in format and content. Authors should be inspired by the MOCK-UP of the final editing provided in Annex 2.
2. Articles shall be written in English<sup>1</sup>
3. The activity is funded by the European Union. There is no publication fee to Authors.
4. Articles shall feature EO-derived solutions that are based, entirely or partially, directly or indirectly, on Sentinels or Copernicus Contributing Missions data. Submitted papers that do not make any use of these data sources (not even indirectly) will be discarded.
5. Lead Authors (i.e. first authors) shall be from institutions, entities or companies from Copernicus Participating States<sup>2</sup>.
6. Multiple authors are welcome but only Lead Authors shall act as contact point for the Community Manager and take full responsibility for ensuring that all Co-authors agree to the contents of the article (see Point 11).
7. Authors shall be aware that in order for the reviewers to assess the suitability of the submitted contributions

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<sup>1</sup> The project language is English and interactions with the Editors will be in English. Requests for handling non-English versions could be accepted only in exceptional cases (e.g. request from high-level LRA staff directly authoring the articles) and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Interested parties can email (in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Polish) to [copernicus4regions@euregions4space.com](mailto:copernicus4regions@euregions4space.com). Emails shall have the following title in English "REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTION TO COPERNICUS PUBLICATION IN NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE".

<sup>2</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

for the Copernicus4regions User Stories, the criteria listed below will be used. They shall all be met.

- The described challenge corresponds to a concrete need of regional<sup>3</sup> policy making and/or enforcement, ideally on regional responses to EU or national directives, within Copernicus Participating States;
  - The described Copernicus-based solution is sound and mature
  - The Copernicus-based solution is actually used by a local or regional authority (NUTS 2 or NUTS 3) within Copernicus Contributing Countries and in a semi-operational way (corresponding to the Usage Maturity Levels from 3 to 5)<sup>4</sup>;
  - The active involvement/interest of the public authority is apparent (e.g. ideally, via co-authoring or as a minimum via an explicit user statement relevant to the technical solution addressed in the story);
  - There are clear and well-described benefits on society<sup>5</sup>, policy making<sup>6</sup>, economy<sup>7</sup> or environment, preferably expressed through effective indicators or estimates. – PDF -
  - The submitted paper is complete. It follows the template and coherently addresses the various sections;
  - The submitted paper is well written in a clear and concise language, understandable by a non-technical audience (i.e. policy makers and general public);
8. Authors shall be aware that the contributions will be screened by a team of anonymous Reviewers selected by NEREUS, ESA and the EC. Personal data provided by authors (name, surname, email address, and affiliation) is only disclosed with reviewers after they get assigned to an article
9. Authors shall be aware that External Reviewers and Project partners (namely, ESA and NEREUS and the EC) will pay particular attention on identifying Copernicus use cases eligible for enhanced outreach actions (such as, the presentation of the Copernicus user story at the European Parliament and having it filmed professionally). In this respect, we particularly welcome contributions addressing:
- Outstanding examples showing the benefits of Copernicus for public administrations and citizens and society and clearly addressing EU or national policies and/or EU directives;
  - Innovative solutions through which Copernicus has effectively contributed to improve the administration processes and to increase its performances (e.g. increased cost-efficiency, better response to long-standing regional problems);
  - Examples of exploitation experiences within EO/Copernicus new-comers.
10. Lead Authors shall specify the name of the (NUTS2 or NUTS3) region/municipality that will be used to feature the article and indicate it in the Declaration on intellectual property rights. This should be in principle the region/municipality where the Copernicus-based solution is deployed. Articles describing cases of interregional cooperation are also of interest.

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<sup>3</sup> The notion of “region” or “regional” is used to encompass the different administrative levels below the national one.

<sup>4</sup> Please refer to the following definition of the Usage Maturity Level: Usage Maturity Level **UML 1 Explorer**: The LRA has never really made use of the Copernicus-based solution but it has planned ad-hoc tests to assess its potential benefits (e.g. as a project user). **UML 2 Ad-hoc user**: The LRA has used the Copernicus-based solution ad hoc in some specific cases but without an explicit interest to trial repeated usage (e.g. the test followed the initiative of single individuals within the organisation).

**UML 3 Pilot/Experimental Tester**: The LRA has already used the Copernicus based solution in one or more trials and is concretely considering its integration within its standard practices. **UML 4 Early Adopter**: The LRA has confidently used the Copernicus-based solution and is working to incorporate it as part of its processes (e.g. update of internal procedures, staffing, training...). **UML 5 Operational User**: The LRA is using the Copernicus-based solution and it has integrated it within its standard processes. The related resources (i.e. staff, budget, facilities) are allocated or readily deployable. Source: <https://www.nereus-regions.eu/copernicus4regions/>

<sup>5</sup> An impact on society can be assumed if e.g. the presented Copernicus-use contributes to improve living conditions or comes with a learning effect and distinguishes itself as valuable teaching or promotion material.

<sup>6</sup> An impact on policymaking could be e.g. if the showcased Copernicus-example provides information that give input to the policy decision making process or alerts of risks.

<sup>7</sup> Portrayed Copernicus-uses which are underpinned by economic indicators and entrepreneurial success-stories.

11. Lead Authors shall register on the software system at the following address <https://www.conftool.org/copernicus4regions/> and submit the items listed below via the same system. The INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS RELATED TO THE software tool (Annex 5) should be of support.
  - Fill the online FORM within the ConfTool online software
  - 2 images pertinent to the article, in .tiff or .png formats with a 300dpi resolution
  - DECLARATION ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND PRIVACY OF THIRD PARTIES (ANNEX 3) – signed
12. Lead Authors are entitled to sign the DECLARATION ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (Annex 4) in full representation of all co-Authors. Lead Author shall sign, scan and upload the Declaration on the software system with the other requested documents (see point 10).
13. The Community Manager is the sole interface for the authors. Interaction with the Community Manager will take place exclusively via the software system and the email [copernicus4regions@euregions4space.com](mailto:copernicus4regions@euregions4space.com).
14. Communications related to the project will take place via the NEREUS website (mainly on the project webpage <https://www.nereus-regions.eu/copernicus4regions/> , but not exclusively).
15. Authors should expect feedback within about 2 months from the Closure Call. They might be requested to provide further clarifications or refinements of the article as needed. They will be asked to confirm the final version before publication. Excessive delays in providing clarifications to the Community Manager hampering the timely delivery of the publication could imply that the article will be delayed or, in extreme cases, discarded.
16. Authors of the previous NEREUS/ESA publications “The Growing Use of GMES across Europe’s Regions” and The Ever Growing Use of Copernicus across Europe’s Regions publication (2018) are particularly invited to submit an up-date of their Copernicus-case, showcasing the journey of these cases to the market and their further evolution up to today, provided they meet the criteria set out in this Call. In this regard, Authors shall consider the following criteria to establish if they are submitting a new story or an update:
  - stories with the same user and application shall be considered as updates of an old story (even if the service provider has been changed)
  - stories in which the user is different (e.g. same service provider with a different customer) shall be considered as new stories.

Any further question, please address to [copernicus4regions@euregions4space.com](mailto:copernicus4regions@euregions4space.com)

#### **List of Annexes**

1. Instructions for the Authors (on the Call for Articles)
2. **Articles** Mockup
3. Declaration on IPR and privacy of third parties
4. Instructions for the Authors (software tool)
5. Privacy notice