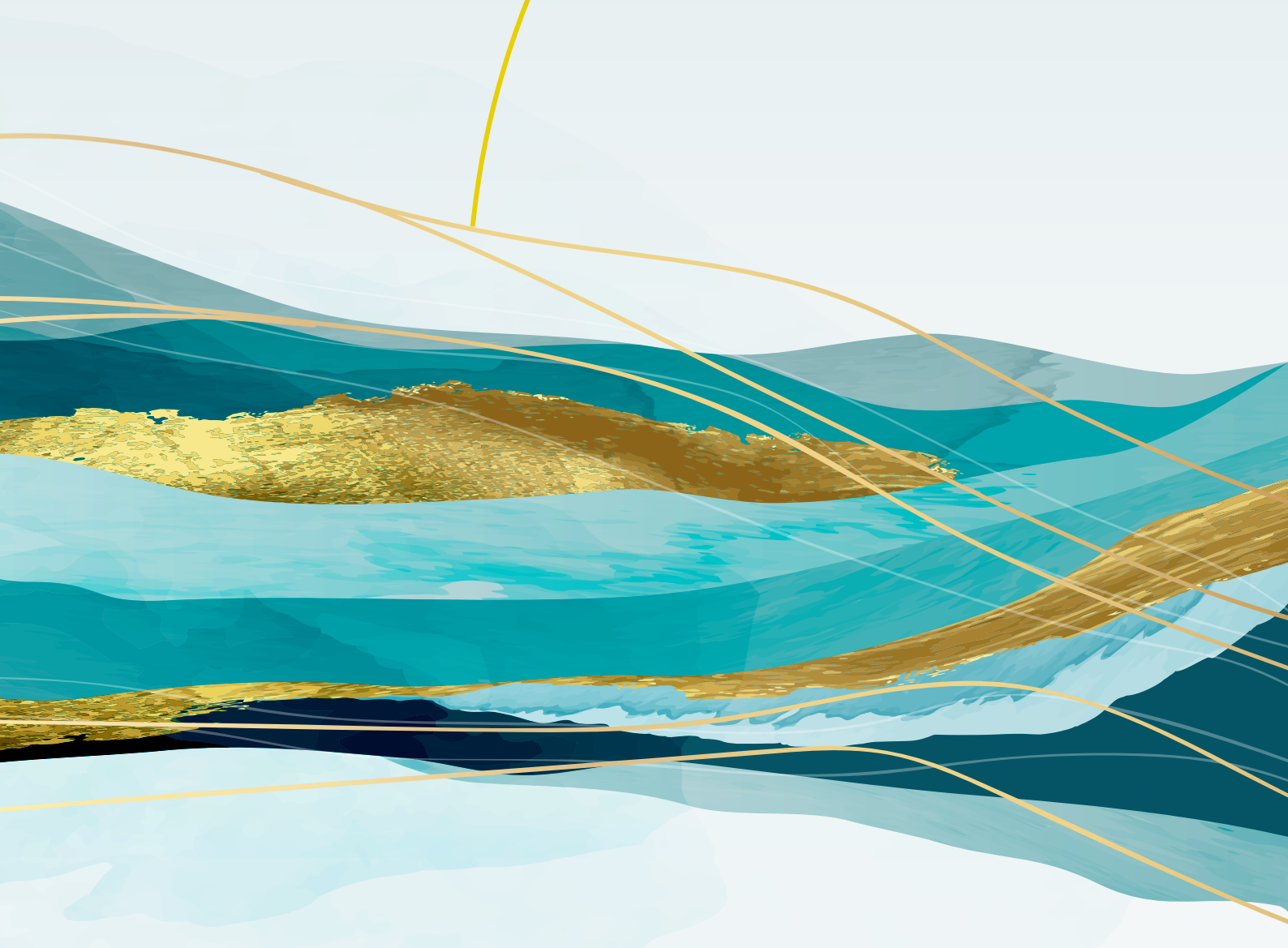


ANNUAL REPORT

2026





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Introduction

Space data may seem far away, but its benefits are closer than you think.

NEREUS's mission is to promote the use of space and demonstrate its benefits to regions and their citizens. At the same time, the Network works to leverage space-based solutions across a wide range of sectors, showcasing space as a driver of socio-economic development and innovation. By sharing knowledge, experience and best practices, NEREUS (the Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies) supports not only regional and local authorities but also their wider ecosystems, including universities, research organisations, SMEs and industry, helping them unlock the full potential of space technologies for society. Allow us to show you how we do it in this Activity Report 2025/2026.¹

BENEFITS OF JOINING NEREUS

Benefits for regions & stakeholders.² We empower/inspire you to achieve the following:

1. As a Brussels-based network, NEREUS advocates the interests of European regions as one voice within the European institutions, promoting the regional dimension in EU space policies and programmes and the take-up of space-based services across Europe.

2. Interregional collaboration/partnership: We foster robust European partnerships and launch (European Union (EU)/European Space Agency (ESA)-funded) initiatives across various sectors. Bringing together different regional stakeholders across Europe, we stimulate cooperation, knowledge

and best practice sharing and partnerships between regions. Through workshops and high-level meetings, local politicians, businesses, the research community and other key regional stakeholders can update themselves on new trends to boost and accelerate their businesses, research and innovation.

3. Strengthening your regional economic brand: We stimulate and support the development of regional space ecosystems by helping regions integrate space into their smart specialisation strategies and public policies, inspiring the use of space-based solutions across various domains to benefit citizens by meeting their needs. Moreover, we encourage interaction among public sector, industry and academic circles so that they can collaborate on space solutions to improve policy-/decision-making. Space data is a tool to benefit all other non-space sectors and to tackle challenges impacting citizens, such as climate change. In this context, sharing expertise from member regions helps you to contribute to regional growth and innovation.

4. Enhanced access to funding, projects and strategic foresight: By speaking with one voice at the EU level, NEREUS increases the visibility and influence of its members, giving them greater access to EU and European Space Agency (ESA) funding opportunities, projects and educational initiatives aimed at building consortia, also supporting its members in the whole project cycle by building up regional capacity and expertise. In parallel, members benefit from early insights into key policy developments as well as emerging funding instruments and

technological trends. This strategic foresight enables regions to anticipate changes, align priorities and position themselves proactively within Europe's dynamic space landscape.

5. Investing in future generations/capacity building skills/science community: Education/training is key for regional growth and development. NEREUS ensures that its members benefit and gain visibility from education/training programmes. With the support of the Earth Observation Working Group, which comprises academic and other space experts, members can gain access to numerous training methodologies and concepts that are tailor-made to meet the needs of their region. Having an educated workforce that knows how to use space data can ensure the sustainable development of the region.

6. Shaping regional solutions for global challenges: NEREUS considers space as a tool for impact, supporting public policies on climate action, energy transition, agriculture, crisis response and more. Our members co-develop solutions that address global challenges with local relevance, bringing concrete benefits to citizens.

¹ It covers the period from September 2025 to July 2026.

² From individuals to private/public entities - for the full list you may consult the statutes.

Message from the President

Dear NEREUS Community,

As President of NEREUS, I am proud to reflect on the accomplishments and milestones that have shaped our collective work throughout 2025/2026. Space has increasingly become recognised as a strategic asset for Europe, supporting competitiveness, resilience, security, sustainability and evidence-based policymaking. Against the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty, climate challenges and the preparation of the next European Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034), European institutions have reaffirmed the importance of investing in space infrastructure and services.

Strengthening political dialogue at both European and regional levels, while ensuring that regional perspectives are reflected in European space policy discussions, has remained a key priority for NEREUS. Firstly, at the successful NEREUS General Assembly 2026, I was pleased to welcome MEP François Kalfon, who stressed the need to improve the way in which regional perspectives are integrated into discussions within the European Parliament. Secondly, the Copernicus4Regions Breakfast Debate, hosted by MEP Andrea Wechsler at the European Parliament and co-organised by the European Commission, the European Space Agency and NEREUS, demonstrated broad political support for the programme and its future development. Thirdly, the 4th European Symposium by NEREUS regions, held in Ponta Delgada, Azores, co-organised by NEREUS and the Azores region, in cooperation with the Canary Islands, explored how new space technologies can contribute to resilience and sustainability in civil protection, the blue economy and defence & security. Fourthly, NEREUS supported the EU Space Act debate through political dialogue and stakeholder exchanges involving regional actors. It also collaborated with the European Committee of the Regions on the opinion drafted by Nadia Pellefigue (Vice-President of the region of Occitanie), which calls for stronger regional involvement and simplified SME access.

At the same time, developments in artificial intelligence and data governance are creating new opportunities to maximise the value of space data and support smarter public decision-making. In this evolving landscape, regions have an increasingly important role to play in ensuring that innovation translates into tangible benefits for citizens and territories. Building on this success, the next edition, the 5th European Symposium by NEREUS Regions, 'Space Data Powered by Data Valleys and AI Factories', will be held in Bologna, Emilia-Romagna, on 22-23 October 2026. The symposium will explore how space data, artificial intelligence and emerging European data infrastructures can support regional innovation, competitiveness and evidence-based policy-making.

Given the increasing focus on resilience, sustainability and innovation within the European space sector, I am also pleased to announce the Space Summit for a Resilient Future (SSRF), which will take place in Toulouse on 27-28 October 2026, with the support of the Occitanie region.

As we look to the future, I remain committed to strengthening interregional cooperation, promoting the take-up of space technologies across European territories and ensuring that regions continue to play a central role in shaping Europe's space ambitions.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Management Board, our members and the NEREUS Secretariat for their continued dedication, commitment and active contribution to our shared mission. Together, we will continue to demonstrate how space can deliver tangible benefits for regions and citizens across Europe.



Thierry Cotel,
NEREUS President

Foreword from the Secretary General

NEREUS brings together a prestigious network of leading European regions committed not only to showcasing the benefits of space technologies and satellite data to their citizens but also to integrating the dimension of space into their regional strategies and their smart specialisation strategies and to defining regional space strategies. In 2025-2026, through advocacy at the European level and interregional cooperation, NEREUS promoted the take-up of space-based solutions across a wide range of public policy areas.

This ambition is reflected in a wide range of NEREUS activities that promote the take-up of space technologies across sectors and policy domains. Through targeted digital information sessions and thematic exchanges, the Network explores how space-based solutions can address societal challenges ranging from climate adaptation and flood management to education, skills development and regional innovation. These activities not only raise awareness of space applications but also strengthen regional ecosystems by connecting public authorities, research organisations, industry and end-users around shared challenges and opportunities.

At the same time, NEREUS remains actively engaged in shaping European policy debates. In 2025, the network produced a position paper on the European Space Package, with a particular focus on the proposed EU Space Law from a regional perspective, and contributed to the European Commission's consultation on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Dedicated webinars on the EU Space Package, including the proposed Space Law and the Vision for a European Space Economy, also provided members with opportunities to discuss the future regulatory and economic framework of the European space sector and its implications for regions.

The cross-sectoral nature of NEREUS was particularly evident in its growing engagement with maritime and coastal stakeholders. With 18 of our 23 member regions being islands or coastal territories, maritime governance and the sustainable blue economy are strategic priorities for the Network. Through activities such as the OCEANIDS Final Event and related discussions, NEREUS highlighted the growing importance of space solutions in helping Europe protect marine ecosystems, strengthen coastal resilience, support competitiveness and maintain sustainable ocean governance.

As part of our growth strategy, in 2025 we were pleased to welcome three new members from across Europe: [Risk Space Technology Transfer Office \(RST-TTO\)](#), [Distretto Aerospaziale della Campania \(DAC\)](#), representing the aerospace cluster of the Campania Region, and [EMIS s.r.o., a geospatial company based in Slovakia](#). Their expertise further enriches the Network and reinforces collaboration between regions, industry, research and innovation actors.

Complementing these advocacy and networking efforts, the NEREUS Earth Observation Working Group, chaired by the Veneto Region, continues to foster the take-up of Copernicus and Earth Observation applications at scientific level.

We look forward to continuing this journey together and welcoming new partners who share our vision for a stronger regional space ecosystem!



Roya Ayazi,
NEREUS Secretary General



From regions to European Space Policy:

Security, maritime governance & strategic applications

Under the political dialogue pillar, NEREUS's activities in 2025 focused on the strategic role of space in supporting resilience, civil protection, the blue economy and security. These topics highlighted the contribution of space technologies as cross-sectoral enablers for public action, strengthening discussions on how space-based solutions can support safer, more sustainable and better-connected societies. This enhanced political dialogue at European and regional levels and was further materialised through three key events, which brought together policy-makers, regional representatives, industry and experts to exchange views, identify opportunities and advance cooperation.

European Regional Symposium on
2-3 October 2025 in Ponta Delgada,
Azores: Civil protection, the blue
economy, and defence and security



The **4th European Symposium by NEREUS Regions**, held in the Azores in cooperation with the Canary Islands, marked the first time that two NEREUS regions jointly organised the Symposium, further strengthening their bilateral

cooperation. The event further reinforced the Symposium series as a key forum for political exchange, interregional cooperation, and reflection on the role of space in European territorial development. Building on previous editions in Wallonia, Basilicata and Occitanie, the 2025 edition consolidated its position as a central meeting point for regions to translate space capabilities into practical solutions for resilience, sustainability, and territorial development.

Firstly, strong political engagement from NEREUS leadership and participating regions was a major feature of the event. Thierry Cotelte, President of NEREUS and Regional Councillor of Occitanie, stressed the importance of regional actors in shaping Europe's space ambitions and supporting their practical implementation. Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata Region and Vice-President of NEREUS, highlighted the value of cooperation between European regions in strengthening shared capacities and ensuring the long-term continuity of space-related initiatives. The host region, represented by Berta Cabral, Regional Secretary for Tourism, Mobility and Infrastructures of the Government of the Azores, underlined the strategic role of the Azores as an Atlantic gateway for space applications and international collaboration.



Secondly, the Azores edition highlighted the distinctive role of outermost and Atlantic regions in the European space landscape. The region demonstrated how its geographical positioning and institutional initiatives, including the Atlantic International Research (AIR) Centre, the Canarias-Azores collaboration framework and the Atlantic Spaceport Consortium contribute to positioning the Azores as a reference hub for Atlantic-oriented space cooperation and innovation.

Thirdly, the Symposium focused on the role of new space technologies in supporting regional resilience and sustainability with concrete applications in civil protection, the blue economy, and defence and security. Discussions highlighted the increasing use of space data by regional authorities for practical purposes such as maritime monitoring, environmental management and crisis response, underlining its growing relevance for operational decision-making at regional level.

The next edition of the 5th Symposium, entitled 'Space Data powered by Data Valleys and AI Factories', will take place in Emilia-Romagna in 2026, continuing the series and reinforcing the role of regions in Europe's evolving space policy landscape.

Looking across the past four editions of the Symposium, one message stands out clearly: our community continues to grow in both size and diversity. Participation has remained consistently strong, with attendance more than doubling compared to the first edition and stabilising at a significantly higher level in recent years. On average, more than 80% of participants came from NEREUS member regions and associate members, underlining the strength and commitment of our Network. At the same time, the Symposium has brought together a well-balanced mix of stakeholders, with regional and public authorities representing around 36% of participants, the commercial sector 23%, research organisations 11%, academia 8%, and clusters and associations 7%. This diversity is one of our greatest strengths, creating a unique forum where public institutions, industry, research and academia can connect, exchange ideas and work together to shape the future of the European space ecosystem.

Thierry Cotelle & Vito Bardi



Berta Cabral, Regional Secretary for Tourism, Mobility and Infrastructures representing the Government of the Azores

David Pérez-Dionis Chinea (Government of the Canary Islands)



Thierry Cotelle, NEREUS President



NEREUS Earth Observation Working Group



Dual-use in the space sector: what NEREUS members say

Security/dual-use in the space sector was a key element of the 2025 NEREUS Symposium. Traditionally, dual-use space has not been a central topic of discussion at the regional level, as security and defence have primarily fallen within the competence of national governments. However, evolving European priorities (including the publication of the [EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence](#) in 2023 or the Commission's proposal for five joint defence projects to strengthen Europe's industrial capabilities



 (EDPCIs)), highlight an increasing focus on resilience, civil protection, critical infrastructure and the integration of civil and defence capabilities. As a result, dual-use space applications have been pushed higher up regional agendas. While the role and mandate of regions differ across Europe, many are exploring how space-based solutions can strengthen public services, preparedness and socio-economic resilience. The perspectives below, shared by members of the NEREUS Management Board, illustrate the diversity of regional approaches and priorities in this evolving policy landscape.

"Space technologies are inherently dual-use. In light of European ambition to ensure sovereignty, strengthening the space sector is essential. NEREUS can support this opening by organising several dedicated sessions or activities related to the link between both sectors. This could be done in the framework of the financial perspectives to come, by organising specific policy dialogue with key EU stakeholders or by identifying specific EU funding calls linking both defence and space technologies." Thierry Cotellet, Occitanie region

"High-resolution Earth Observation and geospatial intelligence drive sustainable development and transparent, evidence-based policymaking and at the same time is the backbone of early warning against threats to our democracies and fundamental freedoms. NEREUS can bring together actors across Europe to address these emerging challenges and catalyse the cross-sector conversation that lets civilian innovators and security experts co-create responsible dual-use solutions." Tobias Gotthardt, State Secretary of the Free State of Bavaria

"The dual-use of space is now unavoidable and has become mainstream: practically all space applications now fall into this category. Although dual-use is primarily a national competence of EU Member States rather than a regional one, it is crucial for a network like NEREUS to acknowledge this trend, understand its origins and help steer it to foster and

maximise the benefits for civil applications." Marina Silverii, Emilia-Romagna region

"In a rapidly changing geopolitical environment, NEREUS plays an important role in strengthening awareness and facilitating dialogue on the opportunities and challenges of dual-use space technologies. By bringing together regional actors, it supports the exchange of experiences, alignment of approaches and cooperation on responsible use, security and regulatory aspects." Constanze Wolf, Baden-Württemberg region

"For the current geopolitical situation NEREUS should serve as a bridge between regional innovation ecosystems and EU institutions to advance discussions and cooperation on dual-use space technologies. As a platform representing many European regions, clusters, companies, universities and research centres, NEREUS is positioned to address the convergence of civil and security needs." Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata region



Bringing regional priorities into the European Space Policy debate: Copernicus4Regions at the European Parliament



The [Copernicus4Regions](#) initiative, which was launched in 2012, continues to serve as a key platform for showcasing the regional take-up of Copernicus data and for strengthening the interface between users and policy-makers. Over time, it has evolved into a structured mechanism for political dialogue, ensuring that the benefits of Copernicus are communicated not only in technical terms, but also in terms of governance impact and policy relevance.

"In Emilia-Romagna, we are investing heavily to integrate Copernicus data into our decision-making processes. A perfect example is the 'VERA project', our regional Digital Twin, which combines satellite and ground sensor data for predictive ('what if') simulations on air quality, mobility and decarbonisation. The Copernicus4Regions initiative allows us to share these best practices across Europe, demonstrating the tangible benefits of space technologies for efficient local public policies, creating and sharing tools that become indispensable for the daily governance of our territories." Marina Silverii, Emilia-Romagna region

"Copernicus4Regions helps Occitanie transform satellite data into concrete public action. From water resource management and climate adaptation to biodiversity monitoring and natural risk prevention, Earth observation provides our regional authorities with reliable evidence to make better decisions for our citizens." Thierry Cotellet, Occitanie region

"Copernicus4Regions is a fantastic initiative that showcases inspiring user stories of earth observation data across Europe. It highlights a wide range of opportunities, demonstrating how satellite data can

be used, i.e. to monitor crops, support the energy transition by assessing renewable energy potential, track afforestation and map air quality. This collection enables regions throughout Europe to learn from each other and maximise the benefits of space data." Tobias Gotthardt, State Secretary of the Free State of Bavaria

"Copernicus4Regions helps demonstrate how space technologies create measurable value in everyday life by turning earth observation data into practical solutions for citizens and communities. At the regional level, it provides policy-makers with the evidence and tools needed to design informed policies with direct societal impact." Constanze Wolf, Baden-Württemberg region

"The Copernicus4Regions initiative enables the Podkarpackie region to translate satellite data into tangible benefits, including through the optimisation of land consolidation processes, which are crucial given the high degree of fragmentation of agricultural land in the region. For the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, the Copernicus programme serves as a digital tool supporting spatial planning, drought monitoring and flood protection in the San river basin. Showing residents how satellites accelerate the demarcation of plot boundaries and the modernisation of villages raises awareness of the tangible impact of space technology on the development of local agriculture." Władysław Ortyl, Marshal of the Podkarpackie region

"While Copernicus4Regions demonstrates that regions successfully utilise the system, systematic take-up across Europe is still lacking. The Basilicata region proposes a pilot project to NEREUS. It is called 'Building Skills and Capacity for Earth Observation and Testing Space Solutions in European Regions' and focuses on regional testbeds as a potential game-changer. To achieve this, regions require targeted policies and innovative tools to empower public procurement, while aligning training and capacity building with concrete regional needs and

challenges.” Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata region

Copernicus has become a practical governance tool for European public administrations, enabling more informed, data-driven decision-making across regions and policy sectors. In this context, Copernicus4regions plays an increasingly important role in translating earth observation capabilities into political awareness and concrete public value, by bringing regional experiences directly into the European policy arena.

On 4 December 2025, NEREUS co-organised, together with the European Commission and the European Space Agency (ESA), the [Copernicus4regions Breakfast Debate at the European Parliament](#), hosted by MEP Andrea Wechsler (EPP). The event took place in the context of ongoing efforts to strengthen dialogue between regional users of Copernicus and European policy-makers.

The debate brought together Members of the European Parliament from across political groups, including Andrea Wechsler (EPP), Claire Fita (S&D), Elena Donazzan (ECR), Paulo do Nascimento Cabral (EPP), Michael Gahler (EPP) and Isabelle Le Callennec (EPP), alongside representatives of the European Commission and the European Space Agency, as well as regional authorities, industry and research stakeholders.

A central feature of the discussion was the presentation of concrete user experiences illustrating how Copernicus supports public administration across Europe. These included applications in environmental monitoring, water management, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity protection and emergency preparedness. The examples that were showcased demonstrated how earth observation data is increasingly embedded in regional and national governance practices, improving the capacity of public authorities to address complex territorial challenges.

The Breakfast Debate also contributed to broader discussions on future European priorities, particularly in relation to the Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034) and the role of space-based services in supporting Europe’s strategic objectives. The presence of representatives from the European Commission and the ESA underlined the institutional commitment to the continuity and development of Copernicus services, as well as to strengthening the European earth observation ecosystem.



MEP Andrea Wechsler



Michał Maciąg
(Podkarpackie
Region, Poland)



Thierry Cotelle,
NEREUS President



Pierre Potin, Head
of the Copernicus
Space Office at ESA



Aurore Delahayes
(French Ministry of
Ecological Transition,
Biodiversity,
Forestry, and Sea)



Elisabeth Hamdouch-
Fuehrer, European
Commission



Thomas Wolf (LUBW,
Institute for Lake
Research, Baden-
Württemberg)



Tobias Gotthardt,
State Secretary of the
Free State of Bavaria

By providing a dedicated forum for exchange between regional users and European decision-makers, the Copernicus4regions Breakfast Debate strengthens political awareness of the programme and reinforces its role as a core enabler of modern public administration.

To date, 37 user stories have been collected under the initiative, with the majority published through the [Copernicus4regions search engine](#). In addition, selected stories are also featured via the Digital Earth Architecture (DEA) platform, ensuring that regional experiences gain more visibility and are more accessible. Over the years, Copernicus4regions has established and strengthened a dedicated community of regions and users, creating a valuable network for sharing experiences, exchanging knowledge and identifying new ways in which Copernicus data and services can support regional challenges. Thanks to this growing community, the initiative is able to continuously capture new user experiences and showcase practical applications from across Europe. The [2nd call for articles](#) has been launched and invites both new contributors and authors of existing stories who wish to provide updates to submit their use cases.

A major objective of the initiative is to further expand this community across European regions, encouraging more regions to share their experiences and benefit from peer learning. In this respect, Copernicus4regions highlights the growing importance of Copernicus not only as a piece of

technological infrastructure, but as an operational governance instrument supporting evidence-based policy-making across Europe's regions. Building on more than 15 years of work supporting the take-up of Copernicus at regional level, the current edition of the initiative (2023-2027) continues to strengthen cooperation, knowledge exchange and the use of earth observation data for regional decision-making.

During the 2026 NEREUS General Assembly, MEP Kalfon highlighted the Copernicus4regions initiative as an important effort to promote the benefits of space to citizens across Europe.



Vito Bardì, François Kalfon, Thierry Cotellet (from the left)





Oceanids: Empowering maritime governance through space data and user-driven applications

NEREUS places maritime governance at the core of its strategic engagement in EU space policy, reflecting the fact that 18 out of its 23 member regions are maritime or coastal regions. In this context, the Network prioritises projects that directly address blue economy challenges and strengthen the interface between space technologies, regional governance and EU policy objectives. [OCEANIDS](#) is a clear example of this strategic orientation, translating earth observation and digital innovation into operational tools for coastal resilience and maritime spatial planning.



"For a Mediterranean region like Occitanie, earth observation is becoming an essential tool to protect our coastline and marine ecosystems. Space technologies help us monitor coastal erosion, water quality and the impacts of climate change, enabling regional authorities to make informed decisions that strengthen the resilience of our coastal communities." Thierry Cotellet, Occitanie region

"The blue economy is a top regional priority, present in the actual S3 strategy under the heading 'Blue Growth', to make the ecosystem grow harmonically, involving companies, research centres and institutions. We already use high-resolution satellite data to monitor coastal erosion, shoreline morphology, and storm surge impacts, just to give some examples, and, as Emilia-Romagna, we are also coordinating a new European network focused on 'Water Resilience'. Sharing these challenges within NEREUS helps us develop timely, operational solutions to enhance

coastal resilience and protect marine ecosystems. By integrating these satellite insights with artificial intelligence and predictive modelling, we can transition from simple monitoring to proactive risk management, fully supporting the broader European goals for a sustainable blue economy and biodiversity conservation." Marina Silverii, Emilia-Romagna region

"Earth observation data from space is an important tool for monitoring marine ecosystems, measuring coastal erosion and strengthening the resilience of coastal regions. They provide the factual basis to build resilient, sustainable maritime policies." Tobias Gotthardt, State Secretary of the Free State of Bavaria

"Protecting our oceans and coastal zones requires a space data-driven approach. Space technologies and earth observation bridge this gap by transforming massive, complex marine environments into clear, ready-to-use insights. By integrating this data, regional authorities gain the power to anticipate environmental risks, successfully transitioning from a mindset of passive crisis response to active, long-term resilience planning." Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata region

"Space technologies are essential for understanding and protecting our oceans and coastal areas at a large scale. Satellite-based earth observation supports marine conservation, pollution monitoring, sustainable resource management and informed spatial planning, complementing local measurements and operational activities." Constanze Wolf, Baden-Württemberg region

On 9 June 2026, NEREUS and the OCEANIDS consortium organised a conference entitled '[Shaping the Future of Resilient and Inclusive Coastal Societies through EU Cooperation](#)' at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the



European Union in Brussels. It was hosted by the Mazovia region, a member of NEREUS. The event took place at a high political level, with the participation of Wojciech Talko, Head of Communication and Public Diplomacy at the Permanent Representation of Poland to the EU, and representatives of the Mazovia region, alongside the European Commission and other EU institutional stakeholders. Their presence underlined the strong political anchoring of the discussions and the relevance of regional engagement in EU blue economy policy.

Key representatives of the European Commission (the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), the Directorate-General for Defence, Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD)) highlighted the strategic role of maritime spatial planning, the EU Ocean Pact and earth observation in advancing Europe's resilience, competitiveness and climate adaptation agenda. Thematic panels brought together port authorities, shipping operators and blue economy stakeholders to discuss operational and policy priorities. Discussions focused on port resilience, climate adaptation, environmental pressures and the integration of digital and space-based solutions into maritime operations and planning. A recurring message across both panels was the need to bridge the gap between technological innovation and operational take-up in the maritime sector.

Overall, the conference showcased the strategic importance of space-based tools and services to respond effectively to the needs of ports, regional authorities and industry for maritime governance and the blue economy in Europe. It further reinforced NEREUS's role as a political interface between regions and EU institutions, ensuring that regional maritime priorities are systematically reflected in the evolution of European space and ocean policy.



Betty Charalampopoulou, OCEANIDS Coordinator and CEO of Geosystems Hellas



Felix Leinemann (DG MARE, European Commission)



Hugo Zunker (DG DEFIS, European Commission)



Roya Ayazi, Secretary-General of NEREUS



(from the left to the right) Roya Ayazi, Wojciech Talko, Nina Malachowska, Margarita Chrysaki



Strengthening Europe's space ecosystem through regional leadership

Digital infosessions on new trends in the space sector

Capacity building skills in the space sector

In 2025-2026, NEREUS further strengthened its commitment to education, training and capacity building in the space sector through its bi-monthly [infosession series](#) dedicated to emerging skills, governance and regional ecosystem development. The webinars continued to provide an open platform connecting academia, research institutions, industry and regional authorities, with a focus on how education and knowledge transfer can be a driving force for a resilient and competitive European space ecosystem.

A strong regional dimension ran through all sessions, demonstrating how European regions act as critical enablers of the integration of space policy and governance into academic curricula. For example, regional approaches to skills development, the growing importance of lunar and space resource activities and the role of women in shaping the future of the space sector were a few of the highlights in the discussions. High-level speakers from the European Space Agency, universities, research centres and industry enriched the discussions with multidisciplinary perspectives. Emphasis was placed on interdisciplinary training, combining engineering with policy, governance, sustainability and innovation management, as well as the need for stronger collaboration between universities, regional

authorities and European institutions to support long-term talent development.

Through these activities, NEREUS underlined its role as a European platform for knowledge exchange and capacity building, fostering dialogue between policy-makers, academics and regional stakeholders to prepare the next generation of space professionals and support the evolution of Europe's space ecosystem. In this respect, as part of the Network's broader education and training policy, NEREUS President Thierry Cotelte is a Member of the Advisory Board of [UNIVERSEH](#), an alliance of European universities that brings together seven leading institutions under the European Commission's flagship initiative to innovate space-related education.



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1. Dr. Dimitrios Stroikos, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Bologna, Head of the LSE IDEAS Space Policy Programme, and Editor-in-Chief of Space Policy
2. Professor Nicole Viola, Full Professor of Aerospace Systems at Politecnico di Torino and Coordinator of the Aerospace Center IDEAS
3. Cristina Ananasso, European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
4. Mathilde Reumaux, ESA Brussels Office - EU Relations Office
5. Professor Kai-Uwe Schrogl, ESA Special Adviser for Political Affairs and Professor at the University of Tübingen

5

TARGETED WORKSHOPS

328

PARTICIPANTS

21

SPEAKERS

124

YOUTUBE VIEWS

6,662

SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS

EU space governance, policy and funding opportunities



NEREUS has organised a dynamic series of [webinars](#) dedicated to the evolving European space policy framework, with a particular focus on the EU Space Package, the emerging EU Space Act and related funding and implementation mechanisms shaping Europe's future space economy. These sessions brought together representatives from European institutions, regional authorities, industry, academia and legal experts to discuss regulatory developments and their implications for stakeholders across the space ecosystem.

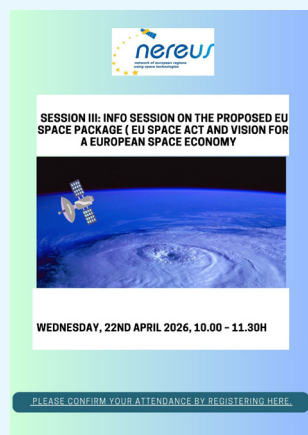
A central theme across the series was the need to ensure that regions, industry and research actors are actively involved in shaping and implementing Europe's space governance framework. Discussions consistently highlighted how regulatory evolution is closely linked to competitiveness, innovation and the development of a coherent European space single market.

The webinars were opened by representatives from the relevant European Commission services, who presented and explained the proposals included in the EU Space Package, providing participants with insights into the objectives and expected implications of the upcoming regulatory framework. This was followed by contributions from key institutional and stakeholder representatives, including Members of the European Parliament, such as François Kalfon and Giorgio Gori, representatives from the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee, as well as relevant stakeholder communities.

These contributions helped frame the political and institutional context of the EU Space Act negotiations and highlighted priorities such as market integration, regulatory harmonisation and strategic autonomy. Regional and industry perspectives played a key role in illustrating the practical implications of the proposed

legislation. Speakers such as Nadia Pellefigue, who is the rapporteur of the EU Space Package (Vice-President of the Occitanie region in charge of Higher Education, Research, Europe and International Relations, and member of the European Committee of the Regions), Michele Peterle (Aerospace Business Unit Director at AIR - Aerospace Innovation and Research (Veneto)), and representatives from ESA, EUROSPACE, and legal experts from European law firms and insurance firms contributed insights on how the EU Space Package could affect regional ecosystems, industrial competitiveness and legal frameworks. Academic perspectives, including contributions from Professor Tanja Masson-Zwaan, who further enriched the debate by addressing governance and international space law dimensions.

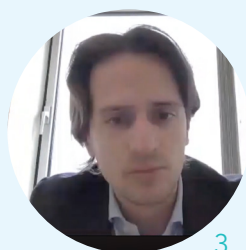
In parallel, the webinar series also introduced participants to related EU funding opportunities, including ESA programmes such as Business Applications and Space Solutions (BASS) and explored how these instruments can support innovation, sustainability and market take-up of space-enabled services across sectors. Across all sessions, participants engaged in interactive exchanges on political priorities and regulatory challenges, reflecting a shared recognition that the EU Space Act will significantly shape the future of Europe's space economy and its governance architecture.



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1. François Kalfon, Member of the European Parliament, IMCO Committee
2. Giancarlo Granero DG DEFIS (Space Economy)
3. Giovanni Baggio, on behalf of Elena Donazzan (MEP, ITRE Committee)
4. Nadia Pellefigue (Vice-President of Occitanie, CoR)
5. Roya Ayazi, NEREUS Secretary General

7

TARGETED WORKSHOPS

752

PARTICIPANTS

27

SPEAKERS

478

YOUTUBE VIEWS

5,487

SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS

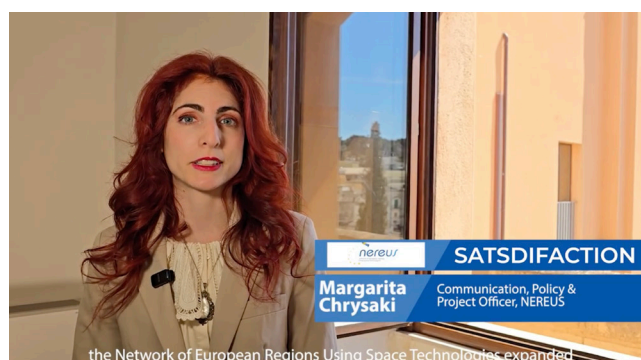
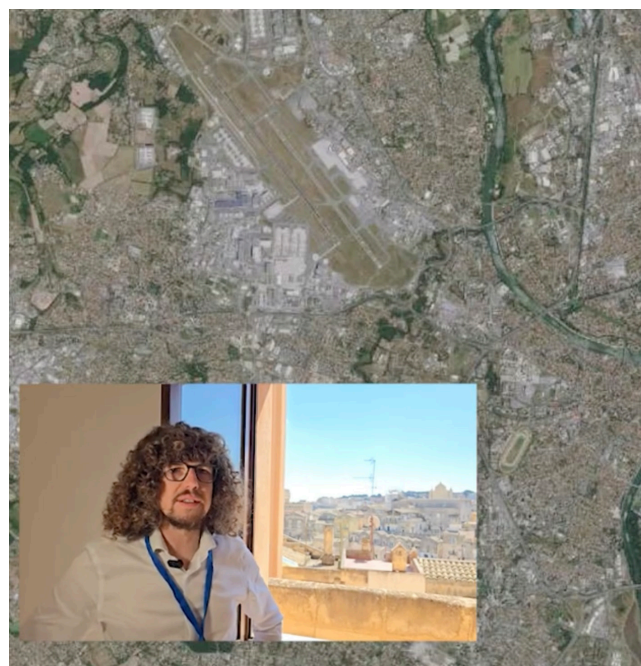


INTERREG Europe SATSDIFACTION: Improving regional policy instruments for an evidence- based governance framework



SATSDIFACTION is an interregional cooperation initiative that promotes the practical use of satellite data within local and regional spatial data infrastructures. Its objective is to strengthen regional policy instruments and public governance through evidence-based decision-making, supporting the effective integration of earth observation data into regional ecosystems. The consortium brings together several NEREUS member regions, including Basilicata, the Azores, Occitanie, Podkarpackie, Wallonia and Veneto, alongside the municipality of Riga. As advisory partner, NEREUS leads communication and dissemination activities, facilitates cooperation among participating regions and supports the long-term uptake of project results beyond the project lifetime. So far, **16 good practices** have been collected.

Over the past year, SATSDIFACTION continued its exchange of best practices through two Learning Deep Dive (LDD) events, showcasing how satellite data can address regional challenges and contribute to sustainable development.





The [6th Learning Deep Dive](#), hosted by the City of Riga in September 2025, explored how satellite data can support the UN Sustainable Development Goals through urban planning, environmental monitoring and smart governance. The meeting highlighted Riga's growing space ecosystem and showcased innovative applications related to climate resilience, nature-based solutions, forest monitoring and sustainable urban development.



The [7th Learning Deep Dive](#), organised by the Basilicata region in March 2026 in Matera, focused on the use of satellite technologies for cultural heritage, environmental resilience and regional innovation. Discussions addressed earth observation applications for heritage preservation, forest management, flood-risk assessment and early-warning systems, while a visit to the Matera Space Centre showcased the region's expanding role within the space sector.

In parallel, NEREUS continued to play a strategic role in supporting the project's governance and long-term impact. Within this context, and in its capacity as advisory partner, NEREUS launched a call for an Independent External Evaluator to assess the project results and prepare the Final Assessment Report, ensuring an objective evaluation of the project's achievements and policy impact. The project will conclude in 2027 with a final event organised by NEREUS at the premises of the European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) in Prague, confirmed for 4 February 2027. The choice of Prague and EUSPA is closely linked to the project's deliverables and objectives. NEREUS sees a strong alignment between the SATSDIFACTION results and EUSPA's mission, particularly regarding the promotion



([the production of the second and final video](#)) and take-up of EU space data and services. Hosting the final event at EUSPA will provide a unique opportunity to connect European space policy objectives with their concrete implementation at regional and local level, showcasing how satellite data can effectively support public governance across Europe.



RESEARCH ARTICLES

Vol. 6, Issue 2, 2026 - July 13, 2026 EDT

Enhancing Capacity Building in Earth Observation: Education and Training Tools for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by European Regions

Margarita Chrysaki, Carlo Masetto, Roya Ayazi, Silvano De Zorzi, Umberto Trivelloni

policy regional governance regions Earth Observation (EO) sustainability
geospatial technologies Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) capacity building

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Regional anchoring of the space sector

Advancing earth observation capacity building through the NEREUS Earth Observation Working Group

The NEREUS Earth Observation (EO) Working Group, chaired by the Veneto Region, continued to play a leading role in promoting the take-up of Copernicus and Earth Observation (EO) applications at scientific and regional policy level. Bringing together experts from regional authorities, academia and research organisations, the Working Group serves as a unique platform for knowledge exchange, the dissemination of best practices and the development of innovative approaches to strengthen the use of EO data in regional governance. It also provides scientific guidance to NEREUS's participation in European initiatives, including the INTERREG Europe SATSDIFACTION project.



A major achievement during the reporting period was the publication of a scientific article in the [Space Education & Strategic Applications Journal](#), highlighting the expertise and collaborative work of the EO Working Group. The article demonstrates how European regions are developing innovative Earth Observation training tools and methodologies to strengthen capacity building and support the implementation of the United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Drawing on practical regional use cases, it showcases how EO applications contribute to sustainable urban development, climate action, biodiversity protection and natural resource management, while reinforcing the role of regional authorities as key actors in evidence-based policy-making.

The publication further emphasises the importance of regional cooperation in bridging the gap between technological innovation and public policy implementation. By promoting peer learning, sharing operational experiences and developing practical capacity-building tools, the EO Working Group continues to support European regions in exploiting the full potential of Copernicus and EO data for sustainable territorial development. Through its multidisciplinary composition and strong collaboration between public authorities, universities and research centres, the Working Group reinforces NEREUS's mission of fostering regional excellence and strengthening the European Earth Observation ecosystem.

Reference

Chrysaki, M., Masetto, C., Ayazi, R., De Zorzi, S., & Trivelloni, U. (2026). *Enhancing Capacity Building in Earth Observation: Education and Training Tools for*

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by European Regions. **Space Education & Strategic Applications**, 6(2). <https://doi.org/10.18278/sesa.6.2.4>



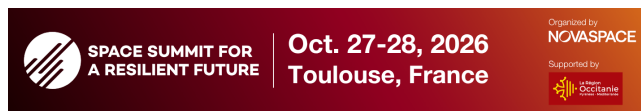
NEREUS is also pleased to support a series of key European events that highlight the growing strategic importance of the space economy and its role in strengthening regional ecosystems, innovation capacity and cross-sectoral collaboration across Europe.



The [Space Economy Congress \(9-10 July 2026, Barcelona, Catalonia\)](#), organised by Catalonia (NEREUS member region), brought together experts, companies and policy stakeholders to explore how space can serve as critical infrastructure for resilient societies and economies. Discussions focused on climate intelligence, secure systems, technological sovereignty and industrial continuity across sectors. The participation of delegations from other European regions, such as Emilia-Romagna, further reinforced the value of interregional cooperation and knowledge exchange within the European space ecosystem.



In Italy, the [BEX - Beyond Exploration Expo](#) (23-25 September 2026, Rimini), promoted by the Emilia-Romagna region (Full NEREUS member), will provide a multidisciplinary B2B platform connecting industry, academia, start-ups and institutions. By bridging traditional space value chains with sectors such as health, mobility, agriculture and manufacturing, the event underlines the broad societal impact of space technologies. NEREUS welcomes such initiatives as they strengthen regional anchorage while opening pathways to international collaboration and emerging business opportunities.



Finally, the [Space Summit for a Resilient Future](#) (27-28 October 2026, Toulouse), organised by Novaspace with the support of the Occitanie region (NEREUS Member), will gather stakeholders from across the space value chain to discuss resilience, sustainability and innovation. As an ecosystem partner, NEREUS supports this initiative, which fosters direct exchange between end-users, decision-makers and solution providers, while promoting practical cooperation through networking and field-based learning experiences in the region.

Via these events, NEREUS acts as a supporter and facilitator of regional engagement in the European space sector. By connecting regions, institutions and industry, the Network contributes to strengthening regional anchorage and serves as a source of inspiration for further initiatives that attract the international community and reinforce Europe's position as a leading space actor.



space economy congress 2026
where space becomes business

9-10 July 2026
La Llotja de Mar, **Barcelona**

SIGN UP

Cambra de Comerç de Barcelona | **Generalitat** de Catalunya

Invited Ecosystem: **RER** (Emilia-Romagna) | **i2cat** | **ICGC** (Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya) | **IECC** (Institut d'Estudis Espacials de Catalunya) | **KIM3CN**

With the collaboration of: **i2cat** | **ICGC** | **IECC** | **KIM3CN**

Governance

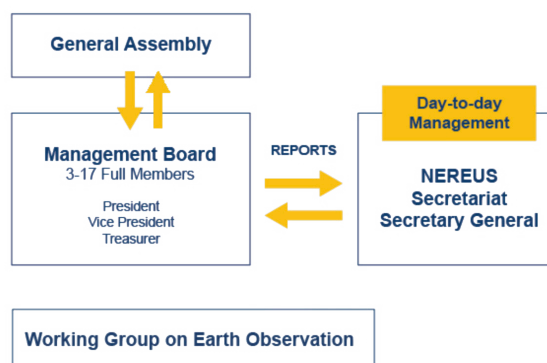
Full members



Associate members



NEREUS aisbl Structure



The General Assembly represents all NEREUS Full and Associate Members

The General Assembly represents all NEREUS full and associate members. The General Assembly is the organisation's key decision-making body and its supreme authority. NEREUS is a network of regions in which full members are the key players and have full voting rights, while associate members may only express views in a consultative role and participate in the General Assembly in a non-voting capacity. Only the regions (full members) may nominate representatives to sit on the Management Board.



The [NEREUS General Assembly 2026](#) was an in-person meeting held on 15 April 2026. The Management Board met in September, October, December 2025 and April, March, July 2026 (ongoing). The Management Board, which is the Network's steering committee, decides on strategy and monitors the implementation of the work programme. It is entrusted with overall responsibility for managing the association, appoints the Secretary General and engages in a regular exchange with the Secretariat on the Network's three main areas of work: political dialogue, interregional cooperation/partnership and technological trends and developments relevant to future space solutions and user needs. Below, you can read more about our current Management Board as of 15 April 2026:

NEREUS PRESIDENT

Thierry Cotelle (Occitanie region) graduated as an Engineer in Industrial Chemistry (Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers). He has managed several SMEs (Small and Medium Industries) in the aeronautics sector for 25 years and is currently General Director of a Business Unit at Satys Aerospace. In terms of political commitments, Thierry Cotelle was Deputy Mayor of Toulouse in charge of employment, economic development, space and aeronautics between 2008 and 2014. Thierry Cotelle has been Regional Councillor since 2016 and was previously President of the regional agency for renewable energies (AREC). Since 2021, he has been First Vice President for the Commission entitled 'Economy, Em-



ployment, Re-industrialisation' and belongs to the following thematic commissions: 'Climate Emergency' and 'Water and Risk Prevention'. Thierry Cotelle was elected NEREUS President in December 2021. He has also been a member of the Board of the NEREUS associate member Cité de l'Espace for 20 years.

NEREUS Vice-President (Basilicata region)

Vito Bardi was elected President of the Basilicata region in April 2019 for a first term and has been confirmed for a second term in April 2024. He was former Deputy General Commander of the Guardia di Finanza, a special financial police corps in Italy, and he spent most of his life pursuing a military career. He was promoted to Colonel in December 1995 and commanded the Legion of Florence in Tuscany. He was appointed Brigadier General in January 2001 and Head of the 1st Department of the General Command. He was promoted to Major General in January 2005 and was assigned as Regional Commander of Campania. As General in the Army Corps, promoted in February 2009, he held the posts of Interregional Commander of Southern Italy and then Inspector for Educational Institutes. He was appointed Deputy Commander General of the Guardia di Finanza from September 2013 until September 2014. Vice-President Bardi holds four degrees: in economics, law, international and diplomatic sciences, and financial economic security sciences.



NEREUS Vice-President (Bavaria Region)

Vice Minister Tobias Gotthardt began his studies in Political Science and German Studies at the University of Regensburg. After completing these basic studies, he transferred to Freiburg.



Additionally, Gotthardt worked as a student assistant in the European Parliament. This was an important step, as it emerged subsequently. A few weeks after graduating, he began his professional career in September 2003 as a Parliamentary Assistant to Member of the European Parliament Emilia Müller. Just over two years later, in November 2005, he moved to the German Bundestag in Berlin, working as a Research Assistant to the Deputy Chairwoman of the Parliamentary Group and later Vice President of the Bundestag, Gerda Hasselfeldt. The third stage of his professional development took him to the Chemical Employers' Association as an officer for Education and Public Relations in October 2006. There, he organised university taster days for students, conducted management seminars, designed exhibitions and trade fair presentations, and co-managed political representation with the State government and parliament. In January 2010 – after four years in Munich – Gotthardt returned to active politics, back to Brussels: There, he took over the office management for Member of the European Parliament Martin Kastler and, after Kastler's departure in 2014, transitioned to working with Member of the European Parliament Arne Gericke. In 2018, he was elected to the Bavarian State Parliament for the Free Voters, became their Spokesperson for Federal and European Affairs and became the Chairman of the European Affairs Committee. After his re-election to the Bavarian State Parliament in 2023, he was appointed to the position of Vice Minister in the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy as a member of the Bavarian State Government. Moreover, he has been deputy member of the European Committee of the Regions for the Free State of Bavaria since 2019.

NEREUS Vice-President (Podkarpackie region)

Władysław Ortyl is an engineer and experienced public servant, currently serving as the Marshal of the Podkarpackie region (since 2013). He holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rzeszów University of Technology, specialising in aircraft design. A long-standing member of the European Committee of the Regions, he is the European Conservatives and Reformists Group coordinator on the Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER) and a member of the Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE). He also chairs the Carpathians Interregional Group. Previously, he was a Senator of the Republic of Poland and



served as Secretary of State at the Ministry of Regional Development. He was appointed to the Territorial Self-Government Council by the President of Poland and is Vice President of the Union of Provinces of the Republic of Poland.

NEREUS Treasurer (Apulia region)

Vito Bavaro has been in charge of the Digital Transformation Section at the Economic Development Department of the Apulia region since 2021. He holds a degree in electronic engineering from the University Federico II of Naples (2001), a Master of Science in aerospace systems from Kingston University in London (2003) and a Ph.D. in electronic engineering from Roma Tre University (2008). In 1995 he joined the Italian Air Force Academy of Pozzuoli. From 2001 to 2009 he worked as avionics system test engineer at the Italian Air Force Flight Test Centre in Pratica di Mare (Rome). In this period he was involved in several experimentation campaigns and testing activities of avionics and communication systems. In 2002 he attended the 35th Aerosystems Course at the Royal Air Force College in Cranwell. Since 2009 he has been working for Apulia's Regional Government. He was in charge of the Digital Systems, Technology and Infrastructures Section of the Healthcare Department until 2020. Today, within the framework of the Apulia region's smart specialisation strategy, his activity focuses on supporting the digital transformation of public local institutions and private companies and the regional aerospace sector.



NEREUS Board Member (Baden-Württemberg region)

Constanze Wolf is a lawyer specialising in international and comparative law and economics. For over a decade, she was responsible for small and medium-sized enterprises, foreign trade and law in the cross-sectoral industry association of Baden-Württemberg before moving to the Forum Aerospace Baden-Württemberg. As Managing Director, she is now responsible for all matters relating to Baden-Württemberg's aerospace sector and representing Baden-Württemberg's aerospace community. Since the summer of 2023, Ms. Wolf has also been contributing her expertise to the aerospace strategy of the State of Baden-Württemberg, whose office is provided by the Forum Aerospace.



In addition, Ms Wolf also provides project management, legal advice and support for other cluster organisations on a part-time basis.

NEREUS Board Member (Catalonia region)

Dr. Josep Colomé has been leading the Area for the Promotion of the Space Sector of Catalonia at the [Institut d'Estudis Espacials](#)



[de Catalunya](#) [Catalonia's Institute for Space Studies] (IEEC) since 2022. He holds a degree and Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Barcelona (UB) and has been involved in space technology and research projects since 2002, when he joined the IEEC. He obtained a permanent position at the Institute of Space Sciences (ICE-CSIC, IEEC) in 2007 and, since then, he has had different responsibilities, with roles as project manager (Cherenkov Telescope Array, Warwick 1-m Telescope, CARMENES instrument) and unit director (Director of the Montsec Observatory at the IEEC, Head of the Advanced Engineering Unit at the ICE-CSIC, Head of the Knowledge Transfer Office at the IEEC). He is currently the Spanish national project manager for two missions of the European Space Agency (ESA), Ariel and LISA. Since 2022, he has been leading the Area for the Promotion of the Space Sector of Catalonia at the IEEC, one of the key instruments in Catalonia for the promotion of the space sector and the implementation of the NewSpace strategy, in collaboration with other partners and under the leadership of the Catalan Government.

NEREUS Board Member (Emilia Romagna region)

Experienced leader in the coordination of technology transfer, research valorisation and talent attraction initiatives. Over a decade of proven expertise in designing and managing strategic programmes at the intersection of innovation, education and labour policies. Served for ten years as Head of the European Resource Centre for Guidance, an initiative promoted by the Italian Ministry of Labour and the European Commission. Currently Executive Director of [ART-ER](#) - Attractiveness Research Territory, the consortium company of the Emilia-Romagna region that promotes sustainable regional growth by fostering innovation, knowledge development, internationalisation and territorial attractiveness. The consortium operates with the



strategic involvement of key stakeholders, including the Emilia-Romagna Regional Government, local universities and leading national research institutions. Marina Silverii is also Vice President of [Fondazione Ecosister](#). A former member of the Scientific and Technical Committee of [APRE](#), the Agency for the Promotion of European Research, she joined its Board of Directors in June 2024. Appointed by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR), she has been serving as alternate to the national delegate in the EIC and EIE Programme Committee Task Force within Horizon Europe 2021-2027. Finally, Marina Silverii is Vice President of [ABD - Big Data Association](#).



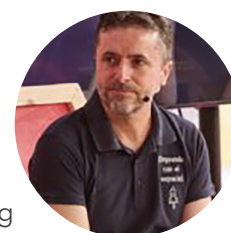
NEREUS Board Member (Hesse region)

Perdita de Buhr is Head of Unit Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing at the Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union since 2011 and became a Member of the Management Board of NEREUS in 2015. She grew up in the Netherlands and read law at the Passau University as well as Münster University. Once qualified as a German lawyer and additionally holding the legal doctorate in 1993, she started her professional career in the Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art, from where she moved to other positions related to economics and science, among them the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.



NEREUS Board Member (Madrid Region)

Carlos Romero is a Telecom Engineer (MSc, UPM) and has an Executive MBA (IE Business School). He is currently managing ESA BIC Madrid Region, the incubation programme of the European Space Agency and Comunidad de Madrid, led by Fundación para el Conocimiento madri+d. Previously he was Managing Director of Madrid Aerospace Cluster and Head of Incubation at Demium. Carlos has considerable experience in sales and project management. He is Business Mentor Certified and has collaborated for more than 15 years in different programmes to support entrepreneurship and innovation. Carlos currently coordinates the working group on Space at the Official College of Telecommunications Engineers and is a member of the Space Committee at the Spanish Institute of Engineering.



NEREUS Board Member (The Azores region)

André de Lima Medeiros da Silva Craveiro holds a degree in International Relations from the University of Minho and has extensive professional experience in strategic areas such as space, external relations, employment and youth. He currently serves as Coordinator of EMA-Space and represents the Autonomous Region of the Azores within the NEREUS network. Between 2022 and 2025, he worked as a Senior Officer in the Space sector (EMA-Space), having previously held responsibilities in European Affairs and External Cooperation, as well as serving as Assistant to the Deputy Regional Secretary of The Presidency for External Relations. His career also includes leadership and coordination roles, notably as Head of Division at the Agency for Qualification and Employment in Ponta Delgada, Coordinator of the Eurodisney programme and Adviser of EURES network. Throughout his professional career, he has actively participated in committees and working groups, consolidating a trajectory marked by commitment to regional development and international cooperation.



Pseudo-Satellite Platforms and aerial R&D operations for innovative solutions EO, Security, Defense and Telecom (a Canary Islands programme). He has received multiple institutional and tourism sector awards for his contributions, and he has recently been nominated, by the Canary Islands Government, for the Coordination Regions Committee of the Spanish Space Agency.

NEREUS Board Member (The Canary Islands Region)

Eduardo Pereira is an Aerospace Engineer specialised in Airports and Air Transport from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, with advanced training in Business Administration and Financial Management. As a member of the Spanish State Aeronautical Engineer Corps, he has built a distinguished career in the Spanish airport sector, combining technical expertise with high-level public and private sector leadership. He worked for over 15 years at AENA, a Spanish company in charge of airport management, holding key positions at the airports of La Coruña, Santiago de Compostela and Fuerteventura, where he served as CEO for more than a decade. He led the €500 million expansion of Fuerteventura Airport, which, under his management, became the 8th busiest airport in Spain. He was also a member of the strategic committee responsible for the development of airport infrastructure across the country. He currently serves as CEO of the Fuerteventura Technology Park SA MP (public company), where he leads groundbreaking initiatives such as the Canarias Stratoport for HAPS & UAS and the Canarias Geo Innovation Program 2030, focused on Unmanned Aerial Systems, High-Altitude



NEREUS Secretariat

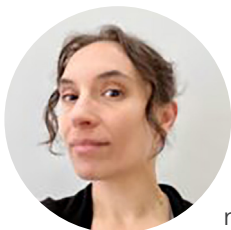
The permanent NEREUS Secretariat is run by Ms. Roya Ayazi, the NEREUS Secretary General, Ms. Margarita Chrysaki, the NEREUS Communication, Policy and Project Officer, and Ms. Emmanuelle Lambert, the NEREUS Administrative and Financial Assistant. The Secretariat is responsible for the daily management of the association, the coordination of the Network and political representation to the European institutions ([link](#)).



Ms. Roya Ayazi heads the Brussels/Belgium-based Secretariat and is the main interface for the association at the European level. Backed up by her training as a German lawyer and over 20 years of professional experience in European affairs, her core responsibilities are representing NEREUS and advocacy at the European, regional and local levels as well as positioning and coordinating the Network concerning space policy developments. As a member of different advisory councils of EU-funded projects, Ms. Ayazi supports NEREUS members' activities by representing the regional dimension in EU space developments and following relevant legislative procedures.



Ms. Margarita Chrysaki leads NEREUS's communication and project activities, playing a key role in enhancing the Network's visibility and outreach. She coordinates pan-European and ESA-funded projects, ensuring that regional perspectives are well represented. Drawing on extensive professional experience and advanced academic training in politics, communication and space studies, she has authored a notable publication on space commercialisation and sustainability ([link](#) & [link](#)). In 2023, she was appointed as a mentor for Space4Women, an initiative of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).



Ms. Emmanuelle Lambert is a proficient Administrative and Financial Assistant with academic experience in modern languages and business management. She plays a vital role in the successful completion of the administrative/financial activities of NEREUS, facilitating smooth logistical operations between the Secretariat and NEREUS members.





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