



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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# INTRODUCTION



**UNLOCKING SPACE SOLUTIONS FOR THE CITIZEN AND REGIONS – THAT’S US! WE OFFER OUR EXTENSIVE NETWORK AND EXPERIENCE TO SUPPORT RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR REGION WITH INFORMATION COMING FROM SPACE!**


**SPACE DATA MAY SOUND DISTANT, BUT IT’S CLOSER AND MORE BENEFICIAL THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.**



**NEREUS** (Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies) isn’t just about space. It’s also about leveraging space solutions across all sectors to address citizens’ needs and to work on climate change adaptation. While our regions govern the Network, public and private entities or even individuals from diverse sectors can harness space data for their benefit.

At NEREUS, European regions work together to bring socio-economic benefits to society. At the same time, we highlight space as a solution and share our expertise and experiences with others to advance this mission. Allow us to show you how we do it in this Annual Activity Report 2023<sup>1</sup>.

## BENEFITS OF JOINING NEREUS

 **Benefits for regions & stakeholders (from individuals to private/public entities - for the full list you may consult the [statutes](#)). We empower/inspire you to achieving the following:**

- 1. Strong representation at the EU level.** We are 1 group of regions - 1 voice representing regional interests at the EU level. Being Brussels-based, we advocate for the crucial role of regions in driving demand for space-based services and products. In this respect, we strive to incorporate the regional dimension into European space policies and programmes by advocating to European institutions.
- 2. Interregional Collaboration/Partnership:** We foster robust European partnerships and launch initiatives across various sectors. Bringing together different regional stakeholders across Europe, we stimulate cooperation, knowledge sharing and partnership between different regions. Through workshops and high-level meetings, local politicians, businesses and 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 shape the regional space ecosystem by helping regions to integrate space into their regional and smart specialisation strategies and develop space policies/strategies to benefit various public domains. Moreover, we encourage interaction between the public sector, industry and academia so that they collaborate on space solutions to improve policy/decision making. For us, space data is a tool to benefit all other non-space sectors and to tackle challenges impacting the citizen, such as climate change. To this end, sharing expertise from member regions helps you to contribute to regional growth and innovation.
- 4. Facilitating EU/European Space Agency (ESA) funded projects:** By speaking as one voice, our members have more visibility and access to projects and can benefit from EU/ESA funded projects and educational initiatives to enhance capacity building skills.
- 5. Investing in future generations/capacity building skills:** 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 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.

1. It covers the period from January 2023 to March 2024

## WHAT NEREUS MEMBERS SAY

Regions are key players in the space sector! As major users of space data, they drive strategic approaches for utilising data from the flagship programmes COPERNICUS and GALILEO/The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS). Since 2019, regional space strategies championed by NEREUS have gained momentum. Our network bridges the gap between space and non-space sectors, unlocking new possibilities for economic, environmental and social advancement for all regional stakeholders



*“Over the next five years, NEREUS envisions a bold path (more satellites, more applications developed, more domains impacted) where regions harness the power of space technologies to drive local innovation and prosperity. Our vision is to empower our members as key players in the space ecosystem, fostering collaboration and using satellite data for sustainable development and resilience. We will also work to attract new members with the aim of doubling our membership. Together, we will forge a path where the unique strengths of each region contribute to a networked community, open to cooperation with regions outside the EU.”*

Thierry Cotelle, Occitanie region

*“NEREUS may leverage its great reputation and the commitment of the actual regional members in order to nurture more proactive collaboration among an increased number of European regions, to feed the evolution that the New Space Economy is facing, spinning in more and more technologies from traditional manufacturing industries to the space sector.”*

Marina Silverii, Emilia Romagna region

*“In the face of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the resulting growing tensions in the European arena, NEREUS should be a flexible organisation, proactively involved in supporting cooperation and developing innovation in the European space sector. Despite the many challenges and barriers, we should jointly uphold sustainable development and stable progress in research and technology, for the benefit of the European community.”*

Marshal Wladyslaw Ortyl, Podkarpackie region

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Reader,

As NEREUS President and Regional Councillor of the Occitanie region, I have great pleasure in sharing with you our achievements concerning the use of space for our European regions in 2023 in a wide range of sectors and policies.

To begin with, the second successful regional symposium by NEREUS regions was held in Matera/Basilicata, Italy, on 28 and 29 September, with the objective of celebrating cooperation and networking between regions. Public authorities and the private sector/academia had the great opportunity to explore how space data benefits the tourism and agriculture sectors, which are highly relevant for the local and regional levels. Congratulations to Basilicata's President and NEREUS Vice President Vito Bardi and his team for organising such a fruitful event. I am pleased to announce and extend a warm welcome to you all for the 3rd regional symposium on 2-3 October 2024, on water and energy topics. Preparations have already begun for the upcoming event, which will be hosted in Toulouse by my region, Occitanie, France!

Being part of NEREUS, you belong to a community which promotes space sustainability. Since its conception and as part of its mission, NEREUS has been a significant supporter of the space sustainability principle by using information/data from satellites for the benefit of regions and their citizens. In this respect, the Copernicus4regions initiative, a joint effort by NEREUS, the European Commission and the European Space Agency, illustrates the benefits of Copernicus satellite data at the regional and local levels.

At this point, I would like to express my gratitude to the Catalonia and Malopolska regions for their efforts in supporting the Copernicus4regions events at the European Parliament, both of which were exclusive to NEREUS members, who had the chance to promote their work.

Special thanks go to MEP Jordi Sole and MEP Adam Jarubas for hosting the Info session on 23 October and the Copernicus4regions lunch debate on 25 October. One of the attendees at the event was Younous Omarjee, a Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development (REGI), who invited me to present NEREUS activities at the European Parliament on 23 January 2024.

Being part of an organisation that is dedicated to sustainability and talks to politicians about this is something to be proud of. Moreover, the Network takes robust action by making substantial contributions to the objectives of the EU Green Deal and digital transition and supports other regions/organisations in developing their space strategies.

Looking further ahead in 2024, I would like to express my gratitude to the Management Board, the secretariat and the NEREUS community for their commitment and discipline in our mission to use space to improve our societies.

Yours,

**Thierry COTELLE**  
NEREUS President



# FOREWORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



The use of space data enhances sustainability by providing vital insights into a wide range of challenges, such as climate change. Moreover, the information obtained from satellite data can help policymakers build beneficial policies and create agendas for growth and development in their regions.

Through its main pillars of activities (political dialogue/advocacy, interregional collaboration, public outreach), NEREUS is contributing, with the use of space, to the betterment of society and is therefore establishing a sustainable brand. By facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange through these core activities, NEREUS is addressing sustainability challenges for regions and is highlighting the importance of the workforce of the future for regional growth. The impactful digital info sessions focusing on space security, resilience, safety, education and training is an example of this.

One of NEREUS's primary objectives is to expand and enhance the value of space data and services in public policy domains along the whole spectrum of regional competences. With this goal in mind, we are pleased to announce the addition of two new associate members in 2023: the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment Agency (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, France), and the University of Agriculture in Krakow (Malopolska region (NEREUS full member, Poland). Energy and Agriculture are major user domains that are highly relevant for the political agendas of all partner regions and we strive to better interconnect them with space opportunities. We extend a warm welcome to these new members.

With the EU prioritising climate action through initiatives like the Green and Climate Transition, regions need to address climate change adaptation in their regional strategies and action plans. In this context, the strategic importance of Copernicus as a tool and source of information is being increasingly recognised by administrators and the political level. As part of its advocacy efforts promoting the regional dimension of the system, NEREUS is proud to continue its involvement in Copernicus4regions through the next edition 2023-2027, showcasing how Copernicus promotes the use of space for the benefit of citizens, administration and regions and fosters political dialogue within the Network. The Copernicus4regions lunch debate in 2023 raised awareness about Copernicus and its contribution to the Green Deal Agenda towards non-specialist audiences, such as regional politicians and Members of the European Parliament. Led by the Veneto region, the experts from the Earth Observation Working Group on the NEREUS platform continue, to promote the adoption and advancement of new Earth Observation (EO)/Copernicus applications within regional contexts.

In this Annual Report, you will explore how space data is used by our members and the benefits delivered through a diverse range of projects/activities across all sectors. In light of these initiatives, I cordially invite you to become part of our dynamic community!

Enjoy the read,

**Roya AYAZI**  
NEREUS Secretary General



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS



## EARTH OBSERVATION WORKING GROUP



At the initiative of the Veneto region, the [Working Group on Earth Observation](#), relaunched within NEREUS in late 2022, serves as a unique platform fostering the adoption and advancement of new Earth Observation (EO)/Copernicus technologies at the regional level. Facilitating dialogue between space experts in member regions and the wider space community, the group periodically advises the Management Board on Network activities. With a focus on publishing and exploring emerging EO trends, the group hosts regular meetings inviting EU and international experts to collaborate on the introduction of innovative technologies. Tasks include sharing experiences, tools and methodologies among European regions, conducting policy-related research and providing practical recommendations aligned with

regional stakeholders' needs. Chaired by the Veneto region, the group is continually evolving and welcoming new members. Its aim is to identify and address weaknesses whilst leveraging collaborative strengths, as demonstrated by the approval of its terms of reference document and initiation of activities in early 2023.

In 2024, the group is stepping up its endeavours to draft and release a publication focusing on the use of satellite data, specifically emphasising its relevance to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional capacity-building initiatives. Set for publication in an international scientific journal, the article seeks to spotlight regional experts' contributions while highlighting the significance of regions as pivotal entities within the space sector.



Group photo taken at the European Regional Symposium 2023



## ADVANCING REGIONAL COLLABORATION IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT: INSIGHTS FROM THE NEREUS MEETING WITH THE PODKARPACKIE REGION

Poland boasts a robust history within the realm of the aerospace sector. Specifically, the Polish regions of Malopolska, Podkarpackie and Mazovia host, on an annual basis, a plethora of activities that integrate space utilisation with various other industry sectors. In preparation for Vice President Władysław Ortyl's submission of an opinion paper to the Committee of the Regions, representing the Podkarpackie region, a [strategic meeting](#) was convened with NEREUS Secretary-General Ms. Roya Ayazi. The discussion focused on the European Drone Strategy 2.0 and its relevance with the significance of space

data. During their meeting, they delved into the prospects of fostering collaboration and facilitating exchange initiatives among regions concerning the deployment of space technologies, notably the integration of drones. The Drone Strategy 2.0 for a Smart and Sustainable Unmanned Aircraft Eco-System in Europe was published here ([link](#)). NEREUS's advocacy role can benefit more member regions to grow their strategies and increase their impact at local and regional level and all regional representatives are therefore welcome to conduct these meetings based on their interests and needs.



*Ms Roya Ayazi,  
NEREUS Secretary  
General and  
Władysław Ortyl  
– Marshal of the  
Podkarpackie Region*

# STRATEGIES AND POLICIES IN REGIONS



EUROPEAN REGIONAL SYMPOSIUM  
ON 28-29 SEPTEMBER 2023  
IN MATERA/BASILICATA, ITALY

*"The role of NEREUS will be increasingly important for member regions in building relationships and opportunities for both public authorities and innovative enterprises to develop and use new products and services based on space technologies." Vito Bavaro, Puglia region*

The European Symposium by Regions is a novel annual concept that was launched by NEREUS back in 2021 to discuss space solutions and exchange best practices. The discussion between public and private representatives in utilising space technology across various public sectors highlights the space capabilities and strategies of the hosting region.



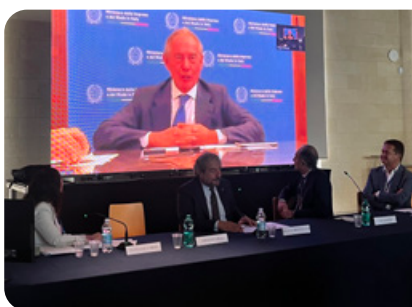
This year's second edition was focused on the intersections of space technology with tourism and agriculture, organised jointly by NEREUS in tandem with the Basilicata region in [Matera/Basilicata, Italy, on 28 and 29 September 2023](#). Looking forward, a new edition around the key topics of space uses for water and energy will take place on 2 and 3 October 2024, hosted by the Occitanie region in its capital, Toulouse, France.

The majority of NEREUS member regions have a strong public domain and industry in tourism and agriculture, with dedicated structural funds to preserve and advance these sectors. The symposium helped regional stakeholders to a) showcase their assets on tourism and agriculture and how space supports them, b) enhance interregional collaboration to better define strategic elements in the integration of space data, and c) serve as an exclusive and free forum for

members bringing together regional governments, industry and academia.

The core theme of the event for both days was a productive interaction reflected in several panels between regional directorates/authorities sharing their challenges in dealing with tourism/agriculture policies and service providers - companies, start-ups and universities presenting possible space-based solutions. Discussions also emphasised the significance of space data markets and the necessary skills for the space sector.

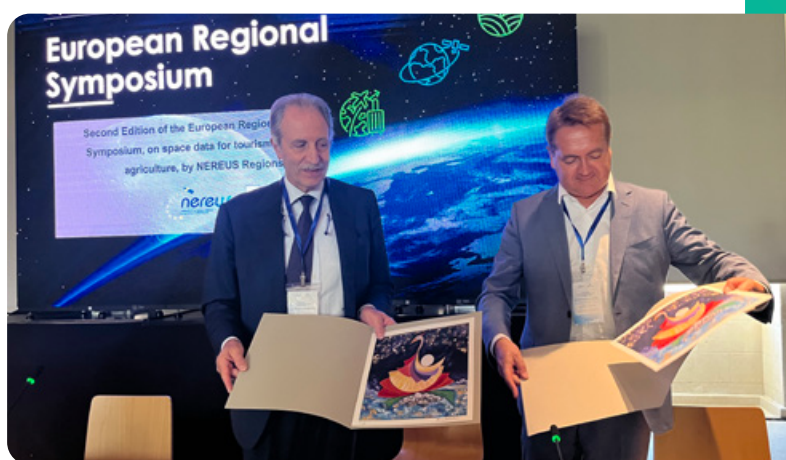
The symposium was enthusiastically supported at the political level as it featured distinguished institutional and political figures: Adolfo Urso, Italian Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy; Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata Region and NEREUS Vice President; Thierry Cotelte, NEREUS President and Regional Council Member of the Occitanie Region; and Luisa Riccardi from the Italian Ministry of Defence. They underscored the leadership role of regions in space initiatives, emphasised the significance of the space economy in fostering interregional collaboration and highlighted the advantages of earth observation in promoting sustainable tourism and facilitating environmental transitions.



Even though regional symposia are organised by regions for regions, visibility at the EU level plays an important role in promoting their policies and shapes the European space agenda to underscore their needs. As it convened representatives from various institutions, including the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), European Space Agency and the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), the event underscored the crucial role that regions play in fostering effective EU space governance. It was widely acknowledged that regions can enhance this governance framework by integrating space data into their workflows and advocating for the sustained expansion and upkeep of the Copernicus Sentinel-satellites mission.

Networking opportunities continued during a social dinner, fostering partnerships for sustainable development. Participants also visited the Italian Space Agency's 'Giuseppe Colombo' Center for Space Geodesy and attended a social event organised by the SPARKme Space Academy, showcasing outcomes from the SPARKme Project. Overall, the symposium and subsequent events attracted over 130 participants, representing various sectors, underscoring the broad interest and engagement in utilising space technology for regional development.

Moreover, Vito Bardi and Thierry Cotelle identified key challenges for NEREUS regions, including supporting research and innovation, enhancing regional demand for space services, aligning smart specialisation strategies and addressing administrative barriers. In this context, the symposia hold significance aiming to act as a catalyst and to inspire the initiation and advancement of space strategies. NEREUS President Cotelle presented Occitanie's forthcoming vote on its space strategy in autumn 2023, following earlier dialogues with other members who have already formulated their regional space strategies.



SPARKme Space Academy

*In a symbolic gesture, NEREUS President Thierry Cotelle presented a satellite trophy to Basilicata, acknowledging their role as hosts. In return, Vito Bardi, President of the Basilicata Region and NEREUS Vice President, presented a commemorative postal stamp to NEREUS, symbolising Basilicata's resurgence through space-enabled stability.*

## THE GROWTH OF THE REGIONAL SPACE STRATEGIES: THE CASE OF OCCITANIE AND HESSE

*"The Occitanie region was the first local authority in France to adopt a space roadmap in 2008, when it also joined NEREUS. In 2024, the region is renewing its strategy with a roadmap focusing on the sustainability of space activities, helping industrial, educational and research players to: a) direct innovation capacities and the development of key technologies towards a more responsible and sustainable space sector (WG on decarbonisation of space activities, eco-design, circular economy, new earth observation services), b) stimulate the emergence of in-orbit services such as SSA - Space Situational Awareness."* Thierry Cotelte, Occitanie region

*"Emilia-Romagna Smart Specialization Strategies opened up the regional path to Aerospace, including this sector as the one with high growth potential for regional development. In parallel, the pact for work and climate (2020) paves the way to the S3 regional strategy, aiming at generating new quality jobs, considering ecological and digital transition. In the S3, concepts such as Energy, Climate Change, Circular Economy and Sustainability are pervasive and involve all the sectors, including aerospace."* Marina Silverii, Emilia Romagna

*"Apulia Smart Specialization Strategy, in which the space sector plays a key role, promotes technological development to create an innovative ecosystem that brings advanced services through the creation of new skills, the production of effective, efficient and low environmental impact platforms."* Vito Bavaro, Puglia region

*"Our regional space strategies and smart specialization strategies (S3) are aimed at using space technologies and expertise to meet the challenges of sustainable development, promote economic growth and improve environmental management."* Marshal Wladyslaw Ortyl, Podkarpackie region

The recent development of regional space strategies signifies a shift towards local autonomy and decision-making. Accompanied by the establishment of new public administration departments and the growth of regional space communities, these trends are shaping the European space strategy on a broader scale. Aligned with national strategies, regional plans focus more specifically on innovation, economic growth and partnerships of the respective territory, addressing both regional and global priorities. In this respect, NEREUS supports these policy initiatives and organises internal meetings to advocate and bring regions together to learn from each other, in some cases serving as models to inspire others etc. Furthermore, NEREUS helps other regions/organisations to build their own strategies or integrate use of data in their own strategy. During the last reporting period, two regions promoted their strategies by organising two Brussels-based events in collaboration with NEREUS.

Firstly, at the ["Hessen in Space"](#) event on 13 November 2023, the focus was on leveraging space technology to combat climate change. Professor Dr.-Ing. Johann-Dietrich Wörner, the Hessian space coordinator, emphasised the crucial role that space plays in observing climate shifts and called for proactive data processing to drive effective climate action. Wörner highlighted that 50% of changes to the climate can only be observed from space, underscoring the need for active utilisation of space data for informed decision-making.

The event, co-hosted by Hessian Minister for Federal and European Affairs Lucia Puttrich and EUMETSAT's Director General, Phil Evans, highlighted the significance of space data for European regions and their security. In relation to the recently published space strategy, European State Secretary Uwe



"Hessen in Space" event, 13 November 2023

Becker emphasised the key roles of EUMETSAT and the European Space Operations Centre (ESOC) in Hesse's space landscape, reflecting the state government's efforts to bolster these organisations as part of the 2021-2027 space programme. The discussion emphasised the importance of an 'open data' approach to maintain the momentum of the space market and accelerate research.

Roya Ayazi, Secretary General of the NEREUS Network, emphasised the need for strategic approaches in processing space data, underlining the value of collaborations between regions. Before the event, expert discussions centred on Hesse's partnerships with other regions developing their space strategies. Elisabeth Hamdouch from the Directorate-General for DG DEFIS outlined the Commission's current and upcoming activities for 2024, with a focus on the Copernicus earth observation programme. Wörner reiterated the significance of the NEREUS Network in fostering regional cooperation and knowledge exchange in space endeavours, emphasising its role as a vital link between regions. The full report is published in German here [\(link\)](#).

Secondly, in tandem with NEREUS, the Occitanie region hosted an event entitled '[Occitanie's Space Strategy: Paving the Way for a Sustainable Future of EU Space](#)' at its representation office on 24 January 2024. The event, marking the launch of Occitanie's regional space strategy, aimed to facilitate dialogue with the European Commission (EC), the European Space Agency (ESA) and similar regions. Structured into two panel debates, the event delved into different aspects of Occitanie's space strategy and regional cooperation in the EU space sector, with active audience participation.

With support from the political level, Vice President of the Occitanie Region, Mr. Benabdillah, and NEREUS President and Occitanie's Regional Councillor, Mr. Cotelte, emphasised the importance of interregional collaboration for sharing best practices as well as the sustainability promoted through the development of robust regional strategies. Moderated by Ms. Ayazi, the second roundtable, entitled 'Regions as Drivers in the EU Space Agenda', explored the significance of European cooperation for regions enhancing their space capabilities. Christoph Kautz from the European Commission discussed the development of EU space law to align with sustainability goals, while Pierre Potin from ESA emphasised NEREUS's facilitation in understanding regional needs. From the side of the regions, Dr. Peter Doepgen highlighted Hesse's coordinated regional strategy for effective space ecosystem management, and Ignasi Ribas emphasised Catalonia's focus on regional challenges and key technologies.

Finally, the event hosted MEP Christophe Grudler, who underscored the pivotal role of the regions in shaping space policy and proposed doubling the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) budget for space. Overall, the event showcased Occitanie's commitment to advancing space initiatives, emphasised the importance of regional cooperation in shaping the EU space agenda and highlighted the benefits of exchanging strategies among NEREUS regions.



"Launch event of the Occitanie's Space Strategy: Paving the Way for a Sustainable Future of EU Space", MEP Christophe Grudler



"Launch event of the Occitanie's Space Strategy: Paving the Way for a Sustainable Future of EU Space", NEREUS President and Occitanie's Regional Councillor, Mr. Cotelte and Vice President of the Occitanie Region, Mr. Benabdillah

Over 70 participants from various regional entities, space associations and companies attended the event.

# NEREUS AS A CARRIER OF SPACE SUSTAINABILITY



*"I see the Copernicus4regions and SATSDIFACTION initiatives as key in providing European regions with evidence-based knowledge and sharing of experiences, or adaptation of good practices in the context of common challenges faced by the regions, to the extent that they exploit the potential of earth observation tools and access to up-to-date satellite data, which can facilitate key decision-making, while promoting sustainable development in many economic sectors." Marshal Wladyslaw Ortyl, Podkarpackie region*

*"Emilia-Romagna considers the use of satellite data of paramount importance to make data-driven decisions, fostering efficient governance and informed policy-making across diverse sectors, and for this reason supports both these projects, and is running in its territory several activities related to digital twins, where data coming from space are managed (exploiting the huge computing power located in Bologna) in order to predict a lot of behaviour in the territory (from air quality to traffic routes, from tourism to agriculture applications, etc.)." Marina Silverii, Emilia Romagna region*

The increasing urgency of sustainability in light of climate change highlights the importance of stepping up development efforts to improve the way in which society functions for the betterment of its citizens. This section aims to present specific activities through which the association spearheads strategic initiatives promoting and implementing space sustainability.

*"One of the main results of Copernicus4regions with the 'User Stories' is to provide tangible evidence of how space technologies can contribute to improving the everyday lives of European citizens" Vito Bavaro, Puglia region*

Since 2012, the Copernicus4regions initiative has been increasing awareness as to how different regions throughout Europe have addressed shared challenges in their public administration by utilising data from Copernicus satellites. Numerous regional departments as well as service providers (companies, universities, etc) worked towards this mission led by NEREUS.



[Copernicus4regions](#) aligns its mission with the goals of the Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies (NEREUS), aiming to advocate for the use of space for the welfare of citizens and regions. Over the past 12 years, NEREUS has observed Copernicus's advantages in supplying crucial data for areas like agriculture, regional development and environmental management, aiding informed decision-making.



## COPERNICUS4REGIONS NEW EDITION

*"Last year we again celebrated, at the European Parliament, the stories collected through the Copernicus4regions initiative. As the impacts of climate change become more tangible at the local and regional level, we have more satellite imagery and more ideas on how to use it. However, we are still far from a systematic use of Copernicus opportunities in our public administrations in Europe. Therefore, with the renewed partnership with ESA, we will continue to deepen the work already started within the project. I look forward to continuing our fruitful interregional cooperation in the coming years and helping to expand the Copernicus4regions community." Thierry Cotelle, Occitanie region*

As more regions recognise Copernicus's strategic importance for problem-solving, the Network continues its collaboration with the European Commission (EC) and the European Space Agency (ESA) to promote wider adoption. With climate change impact and the EU's Green and Climate Transition policy goals in mind, the 2023-2027 edition aims to integrate new user experiences into the current policy landscape. It provides users, service providers and political decision-makers with a platform through which to discuss these challenges collectively.

The [Copernicus4regions lunch debate](#) at the European Parliament represented the starting point for exploring new dynamics at the policy level and for raising awareness of European and regional politicians about the system's public policy dimension





MEP Adam Jarubas

to facilitate the path for increased uptake at the level of public administrations across Europe. Since its inception, the European Parliament has been crucial for policymaking on European issues affecting citizens. Therefore, efforts to raise awareness and reach out to the European Parliament are vital to incorporate Copernicus into policy debates beyond the space sector. The discussion highlighted Copernicus's role in shaping EU policies, particularly in advancing the objectives of the Green Deal and the sustainability agenda.



Myriam Moysset, Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya, Spain

Hosted by MEP Adam Jarubas, the event emphasised the widespread use of Copernicus across European regions. MEP Jarubas demonstrated significant interest in Copernicus and its potential benefits for Polish and European regions, pledging support for future activities of Copernicus4regions. The event was attended by regional representatives associated with the NEREUS Network, who not only engaged the hosting MEP but also sought support from numerous other MEPs representing various political factions, many of whom have constituents in the respective regions.



Agata Hoscilo, Institute of Geodesy and Cartography, Poland

Bringing illustrative and tangible user experiences to the Parliament showcased regional empowerment through the use of Copernicus, a joint European infrastructure allowing data access to all European citizens and companies. Poland's participation was evident in a compelling user story showcasing the implementation of forest monitoring with Sentinel-2 data.



Italian National Fire and Rescue Service



Additionally, the [Italian National Fire and Rescue Service](#) demonstrated their use of the data in emergency response, while the [Catalonian delegation](#) highlighted their water management challenges and how Copernicus Sentinel-1 data aids in addressing them.



The event's widespread appeal was clear from the fact that it was attended by over 100 participants, which included representatives from EU organisations such as the Commission and ESA, EUMETAT, trusted entities like Mercator and the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), regional and national representatives, as well as stakeholders from the space industry. They all actively contributed to the debate through their statements and questions. Moreover, with the support of its Catalonian member region, NEREUS organised the inaugural [Copernicus Information Session](#) for MEPs' assistants, aiming to prepare them for and promote the lunch debate. Hosted by MEP Jordi Sole, the session highlighted Copernicus's alignment with EU policies like the Green Deal, emphasising carbon neutrality, climate monitoring, civil protection and disaster management. Facilitated by the EC, ESA and others, these sessions also aimed to



raise awareness among younger generations about Copernicus technologies.

Starting in 2024 with the appointment of the Copernicus4regions Community Manager, NEREUS aims to uncover new Copernicus stories, strengthening and expanding the existing community. This includes engaging with diverse public users to share experiences and mobilise new stories, especially from local and regional authorities. These efforts will be reflected in a new search engine, showcasing user stories from European regions addressing challenges with Copernicus. NEREUS will issue a call for new user stories to all regions, concurrently establishing a data

pool of Copernicus4regions authors and reviewers. Additionally, the Network will launch a pan-European call for articles, update use cases and enrich our user story collection throughout the project, ensuring the community's vitality and growth.

Copernicus4regions emphasises continuous community building to foster close links between public users of Copernicus, politicians and service providers. It should therefore be viewed as a comprehensive initiative with a long-term perspective, built on voluntary efforts from partnership organisations and all regional stakeholders and representatives.

## NEREUS PRESENTATION AT THE REGI COMMITTEE, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON 23 JANUARY 2024



On January 23, 2024, NEREUS showcased its efforts in promoting sustainability during its presentation [REGI Committee](#) of the European Parliament, hosted by MEP Younous Omarjee. NEREUS President Thierry Cotelle expressed gratitude for the invitation, highlighting the Network's dedication to fostering sustainability through space technologies. Cotelle emphasized the connection between space technology and sustainability, citing examples from the Copernicus4regions publication to illustrate their impact on societal challenges. This event, in conjunction with the Copernicus4regions gathering on October 25th, facilitated dialogue and emphasized the importance of space technologies for regional growth. MEP Younous's invitation to non-European regions further demonstrated NEREUS's commitment to inclusivity and European cooperation in advancing sustainability through space technology. The session served as a crucial moment for cooperation between NEREUS, the European Parliament, and stakeholders, promoting the use of space technologies for sustainable regional development globally.





## ADVOCATING EARTH OBSERVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AND REGIONAL GROWTH IN THE MALOPOLSKA REGION

NEREUS, the Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies, played a pivotal role in two noteworthy events, emphasizing the significance of Earth Observation. Firstly, during the EU Space Programme success stories networking meeting in Brussels on May 24th, 2023, on behalf of the Network, Ms Roya Ayazi, NEREUS Secretary General, seized the opportunity to not only celebrate the 550th anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus but also to spotlight Poland's advancements in space technology. The event served as a platform to explore funding opportunities for research and innovation projects under the European Space Programme and Horizon Europe. Secondly, at the [Earth Observation Forum 2023](#) (FOZ 2023) hosted in Kraków, Poland, NEREUS, represented by Ms. Roya Ayazi, took center stage to highlight Earth Observation's vital role in regional development and citizen welfare. With a focus on a bottom-up approach, NEREUS highlighted how Earth Observation aligns with EU policies, fostering sustainable growth and addressing societal challenges. These events not only showcased NEREUS's dedication to promoting space technology but also provided valuable insights into leveraging Earth Observation for the benefit of European regions and beyond.





# PROJECTS



*“For the Occitanie region, SATSDIFACTION brings together major regional challenges that need to be tackled comprehensively - including adaptation to climate change - with an academic and economic sector that can provide solutions based on satellite imagery. In this sense, the project makes interdisciplinary work more fluid and easier, thanks in particular to a network of experts who can be mobilised around topics of interest. The exchanges within the consortium are already providing us with feedback that we can study and adapt for our region.”* Thierry Cotelte, Occitanie region



## INTERREG Europe: SATSDIFACTION, Satellite data and Spatial Data Infrastructures for an evidence-based form of regional governance



Co-funded by the European Union



NEREUS stands as the only space organisation facilitating a platform for regions to convene and advance space initiatives. Furthermore, as a component of its interregional collaboration endeavours, it spearheads impactful projects, such as [SATSDIFACTION](#). This distinctive initiative seeks to foster the sharing and application of insights concerning satellite data within local and regional spatial data infrastructures. Its overarching goal is to enhance the efficacy of regional policy tools, thereby enabling more informed governance of territorial regions based on robust evidence. Most of the partnership is composed of NEREUS member regions, except Riga: Basilicata, The Azores, Occitanie, Podkarpackie, Wallonia, Veneto and Riga (municipality). NEREUS as the advisory partner deals with the management of the communication and outreach strategy, facilitating cooperation amongst the regions also after the project ends while establishing connections between regions and other regional communities outside the consortium.



During the previous months, partners successfully provided the consortium with new developments on the progress of improving policy instruments. The Veneto Region, led by the Territorial Planning Directorate, spearheaded the SATSDIFACTION project, organised the first Capacity Building

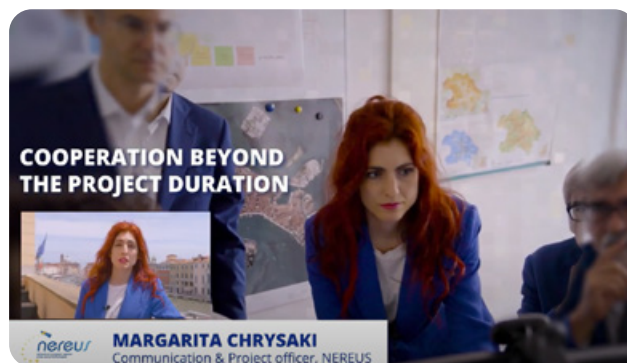
Bootcamp in Treviso, Italy, featuring training sessions and workshops, and keynote addresses focused on co-designing good practice criteria and improving roadmaps. As a result, evidence-based policies on real data from the European Copernicus sensor and satellite network were successfully described in the publication of three best practices related to the improvement of the policy instrument 'Regional Law 11/2004'<sup>2</sup>.

Next, the Podkarpackie Region hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Learning Deep Dive for the SATSDIFACTION project, focusing on utilising satellite data to advance renewable energy sources. Regional policymakers and partners emphasised regional collaboration in harnessing space technologies for sustainable development. Sessions delved into modern applications of space technologies in agriculture, public administration and renewable energy management. Study visits included tours of cultural heritage sites and renewable

energy facilities, showcasing regional initiatives. The partner region was tasked with publishing three best practices to improve their policy instrument called 'The Regional Program for the Development of Renewable Energy Sources'<sup>3</sup>, which promotes the sustainable growth of renewable energy sources in the Podkarpackie Region.

All best practices can be found here ([link](#))

Each of the partners shares more information about the policy instrument that they want to further develop in the 1<sup>st</sup> [video](#) developed under the management of NEREUS. During the next semesters, partners will continue to showcase their activities and best practices through special capacity-building bootcamps and learning deep dives (site visits, observation of practice, masterclasses and workshops).



2 The law establishes criteria, guidelines, methods and content of land planning tools, aiming to promote sustainable development, protect cultural heritage, rural landscapes, and natural areas, and mitigate seismic and hydrogeological risks.

3 The Regional Programme for the Development of Renewable Energy Sources for the Podkarpackie Region was approved by the Sejmik of the Podkarpackie Region on 24 February 2014. This program aimed to address issues related to renewable energy development in the region and provide guidance for its future direction.

## OCEANIDS, EU GLOBAL ACTION ON SPACE, UNIVERSEH

NEREUS is also a partner with a symbolic contribution to two European projects with a strong dimension on sustainability across different sectors for regions:



### 1) OCEANIDS

Maritime issues are key for NEREUS given that 18 out of 22 members are maritime, island and outermost regions. In this respect, the Network examines sustainable solutions through the use of space and its applications to meet the diverse challenges present in various regions. One way to achieve this is through its participation in [OCEANIDS](#), the EU Horizon2020 maritime project with a duration of 32 months. The Azores (PT) and Brittany (FR) regions, including their ports, are project partners and end users of this initiative.

OCEANIDS is dedicated to developing user-driven tools and applications, with a focus on Climate-Informed Maritime Spatial Planning and integrated seascape management, all geared towards fostering a resilient and inclusive Blue Economy. The overarching goal of the project is to create tools and applications that facilitate the development of a more resilient and inclusive society in coastal regions by enhancing seascape management through informed decision-making. At its core, the project aims to gather, standardise and manage existing climate data services, ensuring accessibility, reusability and interoperability to support the formulation of effective local adaptation strategies.

The kick-off meeting took place on 12-13 December in Athens, Greece, and marked the commencement of the OCEANIDS project. Led by project coordinator Geosystems Hellas S.A., the meeting initiated a collaborative endeavour of over 30 participants from 26 partner organisations across 11 European countries aimed at nurturing a robust and inclusive Blue Economy. The launch shed light on the primary objective of OCEANIDS: the creation of user-centric applications and tools for Climate-Informed Maritime Spatial Planning. The meeting underscored a shared dedication to integrating seascape management, thereby uplifting coastal regions through a unified access platform including the two main tools. NEREUS will organise the first policy workshop in 2025 to showcase the first results of the tools and pilot tests in the ports targeting local and regional authorities, the shipping industry and decision-makers.





## 2) EU GLOBAL ACTION ON SPACE



The [EU Global Action on Space](#), an initiative led by the European Commission's Directorate-General for the Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS) and financed through the Foreign Partnership Instrument, aims to enhance global awareness of the EU Space Programme's solutions and applications. Its objectives include fostering cooperation, sustainable development and promoting digitalisation worldwide. Through published calls, the project supports European SMEs and entities outside Europe, facilitating their engagement in international business ventures. As part of a successful consortium, NEREUS acts as a subcontractor tasked with promoting these calls to its members, which include enterprises, clusters, networks and aerospace districts.

Over two years of global events and matchmaking sessions under the 'European Union Global Action on Space' initiative have yielded 29 Letters of Intent between EU and non-EU space companies, with more in progress. The project aims to utilise EU space assets for growth across sectors like agriculture and transportation, supporting digitalisation and green transition goals. Through tailored business coaching, eligible entities find international partners, leading to agreements addressing specific needs worldwide. The initiative targets over 90 countries, offering market reports to identify opportunities. Success stories include agreements in hydrography in Mozambique, ground station development in Mauritius and forest monitoring in Colombia, showcasing the impact of EU space technologies globally.



## 3) UNIVERSEH



In line with NEREUS education/training policy, since 2021, NEREUS President Thierry Cotelle has joined the advisory board of [UNIVERSEH](#), which brings together five European universities under the European Commission's 'European Universities' initiative, aimed at innovating space-related education. Leveraging diverse expertise and strong ties with the space industry and European space institutes, UNIVERSEH swiftly tailors a teaching & learning environment to European space education needs. In 2023, the ESA Academy partnered with UNIVERSEH 2.0, offering entrepreneurial courses through SpaceHack, fostering innovation in the space sector. Representatives from UNIVERSEH recently visited ESA Academy's facilities in Redu, Belgium, discussing collaborative activities for students. Additionally, UNIVERSEH and ESA Academy have initiated the Luxembourg DeepTech Challenge & Excellence programme, promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in areas including space. This partnership aims to nurture the next generation of space entrepreneurs, providing comprehensive support through the offices of partner universities' disability services. [A new flyer](#) contains details of partner universities, disability service contacts, available support descriptions and access instructions. It is a crucial resource for students with specific needs considering study at partner universities, encouraging them to reach out to the disability services' office for tailored support.





# EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE SPACE SECTOR, NEW TRENDS, PARTNERSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

## DIGITAL INFOSESSIONS: RESILIENCE AND EDUCATION/TRAINING IN THE SPACE SECTOR

NEREUS organises digital info sessions with the main goal of updating member regions about the latest developments in safety, security, resilience and education about the use of space. These sessions also serve as a gateway for the broader space and non-space communities, providing an opportunity to showcase the space capabilities of our regions and to foster meaningful partnerships. Consequently, numerous newcomers have shown keen interest in joining our association, while EU representatives from various institutions have found it beneficial to participate in these sessions, offering firsthand analysis of Europe’s new policies and agendas.

as the conflict in Ukraine. This series is prepared and moderated by NEREUS’s Secretary General, Ms. Roya Ayazi.

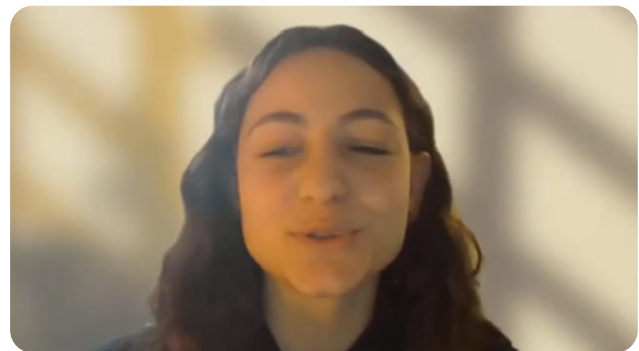


In response to the evolving landscape of space activities, NEREUS convened a [series of webinars](#) to explore the intersection of space technology with safety, security and resilience domains, inviting high-level speakers. The session, held on 14 March 2023, focused on the role of space technologies in fostering innovation within the defence sector. Notably, Dr. Giorgio Cioni from NATO introduced the DIANA Programme, offering bidding opportunities for SMEs and companies in the defence sector, while Mr. Volker Bäcker of the European Commission outlined the European Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS), a two billion euro investment scheme supporting critical technologies. These sessions provided insights into how space technologies can stimulate innovations in defence, emphasising the pivotal role of SMEs and regional clusters.

Furthermore, subsequent sessions delved into the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence and highlighted initiatives such as the EU Space4Ukraine, which aims to provide technological solutions for humanitarian aid. Presentations from experts, such as European Space Policy Institute (ESPI) Research Fellow Mathieu Bataille and European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA) Space Downstream Research & Innovation Officer Vasileios Kalogirou underscored the importance of satellite technologies in enhancing safety, security, resilience and collaboration, particularly in crisis situations such



*Florent Mazurelle,  
ESA Principal Security Strategy Officer Foresight,  
Strategy & Coordination Department*



*Lucie Lachkar,  
EDA Space Policy*



*Mathieu Bataille,  
Research Fellow and Lead on Security & Defence, ESPI*

# Galileo-powered drones for search-and-rescue ops



Roya Ayazi,  
NEREUS Secretary General



Vasileios Kalogirou,  
EUSPA



Ahmad Alobaidi,  
Spatial Services GmbH

<b>5</b> TARGETED ONLINE WORKSHOPS	<b>340</b> PARTICIPANTS*	<b>17</b> SPEAKERS	<b>403</b> YOUTUBE VIEWS	<b>9,300</b> SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS
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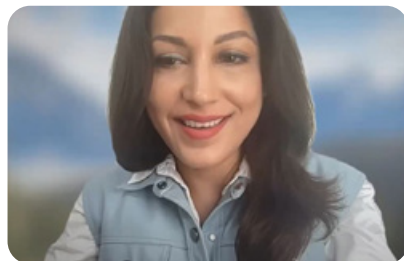
\* EU Institutions, space agencies, regional authorities, universities, individuals, space associations



The [webinars on education and training](#) in the space sector aim to promote the work of our member universities/research centres and invite young generations to incorporate space into their education/work and to showcase education opportunities in the space sector. Last year, NEREUS addressed pivotal aspects of space education, including policy skills and gender equality. The webinar featuring Ms. Simonetta Di Pippo, the former Director of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and current Director of the Space Economy Evolution Lab (SEELab), offered invaluable insights into the critical role of policy skills in propelling the space industry forward.

Moreover, NEREUS's commitment to fostering gender equality in the space sector was evident in

dedicated sessions that explored women's roles and contributions. These sessions emphasised the combination of education, mentorship and regional support in addressing gender imbalances. Insights from regional agencies, such as the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energy Environment Agency, highlighted the integral role of education in promoting sustainability goals and fostering innovation within communities. Other sessions delved into areas like commercial markets, space data commercialisation and international relations, where the discussion underscored the need for robust policy frameworks to drive innovation and economic growth within the space economy. Through collaboration and knowledge-sharing, NEREUS continues to drive forward-thinking sessions that contribute to the discussion of current/future space education.



*Dr Novi Dewan, digital health expert*



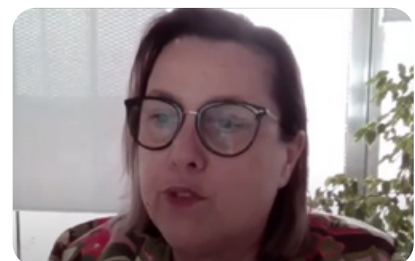
*Christine Leurquin, Member of the Board of Directors at CICE, Luxembourg, and a Senior Expert in Satellite Communications Strategy*



*Juan B. Pedro, the CTO and Co-Funder of EarthPulse*



*Anilore Banon, French sculptress and future-oriented artist*



*Simonetta Di Pippo, Director of the Space Economy Evolution Lab (SEELab)*

**6**  
TARGETED WORKSHOPS

**433**  
PARTICIPANTS\*

**22**  
SPEAKERS

**477**  
YOUTUBE VIEWS

**10,460**  
SOCIAL MEDIA VIEWS

\* EU Institutions, space agencies, regional authorities, universities, individuals, space associations)





Furthermore, Ms. Margarita Chryski, NEREUS's Communication/Project Officer, was designated to represent the Network's education activities at the [6th Space Resources Conference](#) held on 15 and 16 May 2023, at AGH University in Kraków, Poland. This event took place under the patronage of Marshal Witold Kłozłowski, a full member of NEREUS, and at AGH, the hosting venue, an associate member of NEREUS. The conference provided an open forum for discussion on the state-of-the-art technologies applicable to current challenges in the region and research results of space exploration and the use of space resources to improve the living conditions of humans and to protect Earth's natural environment. Professor Tadeusz Uhl, the Head of the Mechanics and Robotics Department, opened the conference by highlighting the significant role of the university in space research. The conference included keynote speakers, such as Vice Rector for Cooperation of AGH UST, Prof. Rafał Wiśniowski – and the Secretary of the Małopolska Voivodeship – Mr. Wojciech Piech. Students and professors also had the chance to discuss the challenges and opportunities of pursuing a space-based career with reserve astronaut Sławosz Uznański.



# GOVERNANCE



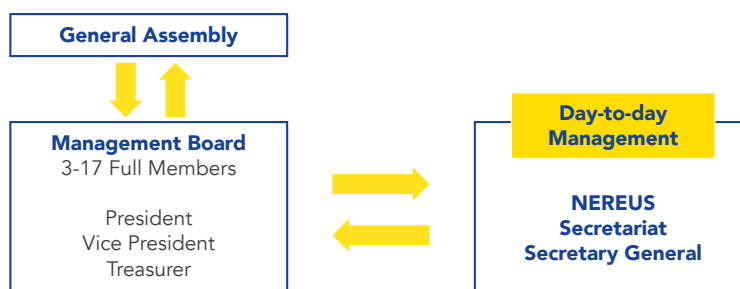
## FULL MEMBERS



## 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 2023 was an in-person meeting held on 20 April 2023. The Management Board met in February, April, June and in October 2023. 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. You can read more about our current Management Board as of 20 April 2023:

### NEREUS PRESIDENT Thierry Cotelle (Occitanie region)



Graduated as engineer in industrial chemistry (Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers), Thierry Cotelle has managed several SMIs (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 has been 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 'Economy, Employment, 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 NEREUS associate member Cité de l'Espace for 20 years.

### NEREUS Vice-President (Basilicata region)



Vito Bardi, former Deputy Commander General of the Guardia di Finanza (Army Corps), was elected President of the Basilicata Region on 24 March 2019 and he leads the regional government for five years, since 16 April 2019. Bardi was proclaimed President of The Basilicata Region for the second time on 24 May 2024. He is currently working on the creation of the new regional government after the proclamation of members elected to the Basilicata Regional Council. He started his long military career in the Guardia di Finanza. He was promoted to the post of Colonel in December 1995 and commanded the Tuscany Region of Florence. He was appointed Brigadier General in January 2001 and Head of the 1st Department of the General Command. He was promoted 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 then appointed Deputy Commander General of the Corps (Guardia di Finanza) from 5 September 2013, until 4 September 2014. President Bardi holds a degree in economics, law, international and diplomatic sciences, financial economic security sciences.

### NEREUS Vice-President (Podkarpackie region)



Władysław Ortyl is Marshal of the Podkarpackie Region, Poland (elected in May 2013) and a member of the European Committee of the Regions (Commission for the Environment, Climate Change and Energy (ENVE) and Commission for Territorial Cohesion Policy and EU Budget (COTER). In the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) he is also the President of the Carpathian Inter-Regional Group, rapporteur on the Carpathian macro-regional strategy, as well as on regional airports and on the Drone Strategy 2.0. He is currently the Vice-President of the Union of Regions of the Republic of Poland and the first Vice-President of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group in the European Committee of the Regions.

## NEREUS Treasurer (Baden-Württemberg region)



Senator Wolfgang Wolf studied economics at the Eberhard-Karls-Universität in Tübingen. Wolfgang Wolf has been working for the Baden-Württemberg-based Industry Association (LVI) since 1980. He was appointed to the management of the LVI in 1981 and became a member of the Executive Board of the LVI in 1994. He headed the founding of the Aerospace Forum in Baden-Württemberg (LR BW) in 2005 and, since then, has been Managing Director of LR BW. He is also a Managing Director and board member of other associations and clusters and holds numerous honorary offices in economically oriented institutions.

## NEREUS Board Member (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's degree of science in aerospace systems from Kingston University in London (2003) and a Ph.D. in electronic engineering from the University Roma Tre (2008). In 1995, he joined the Italian Air force Academy of Pozzuoli. From 2001 to 2009, he worked as avionic system test engineer at the Italian Air Force Flight Test Center 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 smart specialisation strategy of the Apulia Region, his activity is focused on supporting the digital transformation of public local institutions and private companies and the regional aerospace sector.

## NEREUS Board Member (Brittany region)



Rozenn Maréchal has been in charge of research and innovation, transport and social affairs at the Delegation of the Brittany Region to the EU since 2020. She holds a Master's degree in international management from Kedge Business School, France (1998) and a Master's degree in European affairs from Louvain La Neuve University, Belgium (2004). After starting her career in the IT sector in Belgium, she worked at the European Commission's Directorate-General for External Relations for three and a half years. She then spent 15 years in public affairs/lobbying and marketing/communication for two European industry associations (EVA -vending; Orgalim-Technology industries incl. its consulting services), she was notably Secretary to the MSSSI Electrical initiative and Deputy Secretary General of CEIR. Rozenn Maréchal was also an ad personam member of EURAMET's (metrology) Research Council. She is also a Board Member of the Kedge Business School Alumni Association and the coordinator of its alumni network in Belgium. In addition, she is a Board member and treasurer of the Bretons of Belgium association (UBB).

## NEREUS Board Member (Catalonia region)



Dr. Josep Colomé is the Director of the Catalonia Space Office at the Institute of Space Studies of Catalonia (IEEC). He holds a degree and PhD 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 roles of responsibility, 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 –, and he has been leading the Catalonia Space Office since 2022, 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)



ART-ER Executive Director and a former ASTER Director, Marina Silverii has an honour's degree in statistics and economics. She has spent the last 10 years in charge of the Resource Center for Guidance and Employment promoted by the Ministry of Labour and the European Commission, through which she led several initiatives concerning vocational training and development of human resources. In October 2020, she was elected member of the Technical Scientific Committee of the Italian Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE). Since January 2020, she has been member of the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the European Innovation Ecosystem (EIE) Shadow Program Committee as Italian Delegate Alternate designated by the Ministry of University and Research under the new European Horizon Europe Framework Programme 2021-2027; in March 2021 she was confirmed as Full Member Expert in the National Task Force of the Italian Delegation. Since July 2022 she has been Vice President of the ECOSISTER Foundation – Territorial Ecosystem of Innovation of Emilia-Romagna region focused on sustainable transition, established under Mission 4 – Component 2 – Investment 1.5 of the NRRP – National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

## NEREUS Board Member (Hesse region)



Perdita de Buhr has been Head of Unit for 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 Passau University as well as at Münster University. After qualifying as a German lawyer and after obtaining a PhD in law in 1993, she started her professional career at the Saxon State Ministry of Science and Art. From there, she moved to other positions related to economics and science, including the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin.

## NEREUS Board Member (Madrid region)



Eugenio Fontán has a Master's degree in Science (MSC) in telecommunications from the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. He is currently the General Director of Cooperation with the State and International Affairs in the Madrid Regional Government. He has extensive experience in the fields of telecommunications, space industry and political management, both as a senior consultant for European public administrations and private companies. His experience includes being the principal advisor for telecommunications, space and aeronautics when José María Aznar was Spain's Prime Minister. He has also been a partner in and coordinator of a significant number of projects in Horizon 2020, Erasmus and Interreg calls for tender.

## NEREUS Board Member (The Azores region)



Duarte Cota has a BEng degree in Computer Engineering and is currently finishing an MSc in Computer Engineering and Web Technology. He is a technical and scientific consultant for the Portuguese delegation of the European Space Education Resource Office (ESERO) of the European Space Agency (ESA) for several educational projects in the aerospace sector and a member of the Technical Evaluation Board of the European Rocketry Challenge (EuRoC), an initiative of the Portuguese Space Agency. He has two decades of experience teaching high school students. Since 2022, he has been a member of the Azores Mission Structure for Space, and responsible for the implementation of the Azores Space Strategy, and is also a member of the executive board for RIS3 Azores (Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization in the Azores) for the strategic sector of space.

## NEREUS SECRETARIAT



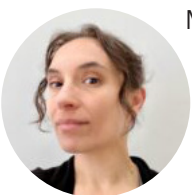
The permanent NEREUS Secretariat is run by Ms. Roya Ayazi, the NEREUS Secretary-General, Ms. Margarita Chryski, the NEREUS Communication, Policy, and Project Officer, and Ms. Emmanuel Lambert, the NEREUS Administrative and Financial Assistant. The Secretariat is responsible for the daily management of 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 lawyer in Germany and over 20 years of professional experience in European affairs, her core responsibilities are representing NEREUS and advocacy at the European, regional and local level 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 Chryski collaborates with the Secretary General in the overall management and promotion of the Network's activities, including being tasked with the communication and project activities of NEREUS and pan-European/European Space Agency (ESA)-funded initiatives. With her work experience and in-depth knowledge of politics, communication and space studies, which are underpinned by her Master's degrees, she authored a notable publication on space commercialisation and sustainability. In 2023, she was appointed as a mentor of Space4Women, an initiative of 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.

the 1990s, the number of people with a mental health problem has increased in the UK, and the number of people with a mental health problem who are in contact with mental health services has also increased (Mental Health Act 1983, 1990).

There is a growing awareness of the need to improve the lives of people with a mental health problem, and to reduce the stigma and discrimination that they experience. This has led to a number of initiatives, including the development of mental health services that are more user-centred and more focused on the needs of people with a mental health problem (Mental Health Act 1983, 1990).

One of the key areas of focus is the need to improve the lives of people with a mental health problem who are in contact with mental health services. This includes people who are in contact with mental health services through the criminal justice system, and people who are in contact with mental health services through the health care system.

The aim of this paper is to explore the experiences of people with a mental health problem who are in contact with mental health services through the criminal justice system, and to explore the experiences of people with a mental health problem who are in contact with mental health services through the health care system.

The paper is divided into two main sections. The first section explores the experiences of people with a mental health problem who are in contact with mental health services through the criminal justice system. The second section explores the experiences of people with a mental health problem who are in contact with mental health services through the health care system.

The paper is based on a review of the literature, and on interviews with people with a mental health problem who are in contact with mental health services through the criminal justice system, and with people with a mental health problem who are in contact with mental health services through the health care system.

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