nereus network of european regions using space technologies

RE-R Emilia-Romagna

Fifth Edition

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

October 22-23, 2026

Tecnopolo DAMA
B4 Pavillion, Bologna

October 22, 2026

08.30 - 09.00 Registration

09.00 - 10.00 Welcome and Institutional Greetings

Official opening remarks by regional authorities and network leaders.

- **Michele de Pascale** - President of Emilia-Romagna Region - Italy
- **Thierry Cotelle** - President Nereus, Occitanie Region - France
- **Vito Bardi** - VP Nereus and President of Basilicata Region - Italy
- **Tobias Gotthardt** - VP Nereus and State Secretary for economic affairs, regional development and energy of Bavaria Region - Germany
- **Anna Huk** - Member of the Board of the Podkarpackie Region - Poland
- **Francesco De Clementi** - - Head of Division XI – Policies for the Space and Defence Industry, Italian Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy
- Video message by **Andrius Kubilius**, European Commissioner for Defence and Space

Opening and Moderation by: **Roya Ayazi**, Secretary General - NEREUS

10.00 - 10.40 Keynote - Empowering Earth from Space: The Convergence of Satellite Data, AI, and Big Data

A strategic overview focusing on how supercomputing (HPC), Big Data technologies, and Artificial Intelligence are revolutionizing the management and exploitation of Copernicus and Satellite Data

- **Jørn Kristiansen** - Director of Forecasts and Deputy Director General - ECMWF
- **Luca Girardo** - Copernicus and DestinE Advanced Infrastructure Manager - ESA-ESRIN

Moderation by: **Anilkumar Dave,** Aerospace Senior Advisor at ART-ER

10.40 - 11.00 Coffee Break

In collaboration with:

AEROSPACE EMILIA-ROMAGNA · ART-ER ATTRACTIVENESS RESEARCH TERRITORY · enterprise europe network · simpler

11.00 – 12.30 Panel – Architects of the Future: How European AI Factories are Revolutionizing Space Data

A practical showcase featuring stakeholders from 5 European AI Factory projects (IT4LIA, HammerHAI, BSC AIF, PIAST AIF, Gaia AI Factory) illustrating how advanced computing infrastructures support regions and private players in managing massive volumes of space data.

Opening Address
AI Factories as Catalysts for Space Data Innovation
Marina Silverii, Executive Director – ART-ER and Nereus Management Board

Panel AI Factories:

- **Claudio Arlandini** – IT4LIA (Emilia-Romagna) – AI Factory Coordinator, CINECA
- **Ernesto Olivier Gonzalez** – BSC AIF (Catalonia) – Software Coordinator – AI Factory, BSC
- **Mikolaj Buchwald** – PIAST AIF (Wielkopolska) – Senior Research Fellow, PCSS Poznań
- **Qifeng Pan** – HammerHAI (Baden-Württemberg) – Research Scientist, HLRS Stuttgart
- **Martyna Gatkowska** – Gaia AI Factory (Malopolska) – Earth Observation Analyst & Business Developer, AGH University of Krakow

Moderation by: **Marina Silverii**, Executive Director – ART-ER and Nereus Management Board

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12.30 – 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 16.00 Panel – The "Typical" Regional Data Platform: looking for the *perfect Model*

Presentations from Public Administrations (sharing best practices and territorial needs) and Service Providers (showcasing Earth Observation projects, and how they collaborate with the PA in a constructive way), aiming to define the ideal model for regional data platforms.

Bavaria

- Bridging Needs and Solutions: The Bavarian Service Providers' perspective

Laura Holstein, bavAIRia e.V. – Moderator
Markus Probeck, Chief Business Development Officer, GAF Geospatial GmbH
Karolina Krauss, Governmental Solutions, OroraTech GmbH
Stefan Mühlbauer, Senior Innovation/ Project Manager, EOMAP GmbH & Co. KG

Abstract: As regional geographic data platforms become increasingly important for public administrations, close cooperation between public authorities and service providers is key to ensuring that these platforms meet real operational needs. In this session, we will challenge three leading Bavarian Earth Observation companies and ask them to share their experiences from working with public-sector customers and implementing EO-based services in practice.
Based on concrete projects and collaborations, the speakers will discuss what public administrations are looking for, which challenges commonly arise during implementation, and what has proven successful in creating effective solutions. The session brings together complementary perspectives from geospatial intelligence and environmental monitoring (GAF Geospatial), space-based thermal intelligence and wildfire management (OroraTech), and water quality and aquatic ecosystem monitoring (EOMAP).
Particular attention will be given to lessons learned, recommendations for public administrations, and ways to strengthen collaboration between users and service providers.
By showcasing different approaches and experiences from industry, the session aims to contribute to the discussion on what could make regional geographic data platforms useful, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of public administrations.

Basilicata

- Sharpening the Future of Regional Governance: Integrating ESA Copernicus Satellite Data and AI Super-Resolution into the Basilicata Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure

Michele Busciolano, Director General for Digital Administration of Basilicata Region

Abstract: The Basilicata Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure is evolving through the integration of ESA Copernicus Sentinel-2 data and Artificial Intelligence. The 18-month project will establish an automated pipeline for the acquisition, processing, enhancement, and publication of satellite imagery. Sentinel-2 images will be enhanced using deep-learning super-resolution models trained on high-resolution orthophotos. The system is designed to improve spatial resolution from 10 meters to approximately 2.5 m, with a future target of 1 m. The enhanced imagery will be published as a dynamic base layer on the Basilicata Geoportal through OGC WMS services. AI-based analysis will support the continuous monitoring of key environmental and territorial issues, including illegal dumping, landslides, floods, Xylella, quarrying activities, and coastal erosion. The resulting information will be automatically delivered to the relevant regional authorities, supporting faster responses and more evidence-based decision-making. The initiative will turn the Geoportal into a high-fidelity digital twin of the region and a pioneering model for smarter, more proactive territorial governance.

- The Development of myDEWETRA platform for daily monitoring, forecasting, and managing of natural hazards for the Italian Civil Protection System

Carlo Glisci, Civil Protection Operations Center Management Office of Basilicata Region

Abstract: MyDEWETRA is an integrated web-based GIS platform developed by Fondazione CIMA for the Department of Civil Protection and the Functional Centres network. myDEWETRA serves as a real-time operational platform for monitoring, forecasting, and managing natural hazards. It provides a single access point to meteorological, hydrological, environmental, satellite, and impact-based information coming from multiple national and international sources. The platform enables users to visualize, integrate, compare, and analyze observations, forecasts, and risk scenarios, supporting the assessment of floods, landslides, droughts, wildfires, and other natural hazards. Designed to support daily operational activities, myDEWETRA facilitates shared situational awareness, early warning procedures, bulletin production, and coordinated decision-making among the Department of Civil Protection and the Regional Functional Centres. Over time, the platform has evolved into a comprehensive compliance and decision-support system, continuously updated to meet operational needs and international standards.

Occitanie

- Open, Shared, Actionable: Occitanie's Approach to Biodiversity Data Governance and Satellite-Based Habitat Mapping

Marie Soret, Spatial data Analyst and Project Manager at Region Occitanie
Florent Sourisseau, LULC Project Manager at OPenIG tbc

Abstract: Région Occitanie is building a shared, open knowledge base on biodiversity to support territorial planning and ecological restoration. GAIA PREDICT, backed by France 2030 and the Fonds Vert, combines satellite imagery and field data to produce regional habitat maps (EUNIS nomenclature) and predictive species distribution models, serving as decision-support tools. This project shows how shared data and governance across public and private actors turn space-based data into a replicable model for territorial action in European regions

Veneto

- From Spatial Data to Integrated Geo-Services: Enabling Collaborative Regional Governance in Veneto Region

Umberto Trivelloni and **Carlo Masetto**, Veneto Region
Massimo Fabris, University of Padua

Abstract: Regional Geographic Data Platforms are evolving from traditional, static spatial repositories into collaborative ecosystems capable of organizing multiple domain knowledge for public decision-making. The presentation illustrates this transition, emphasizing the role of the Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure, which acts as an enabling framework to connect core public geographical data with specialized workflows. This is a fundamental key to ensure a scalable and effective multi-level governance.
As a practical case study, we illustrate the collaboration between the Veneto Region and Padua University focused on monitoring land subsidence in the Po Delta — a highly vulnerable territory demanding advanced, geomatic approaches. By leveraging university research alongside regional planning priorities, this synergy demonstrates how a Public Administration can integrate high-level scientific analysis into territorial governance

Moderation by: **Kai-Uwe Schrogl,** European Space Agency

16.00 - 16.15 Coffee Break

16.15 - 18.15 Space Solutions for Local Needs: The B2G Matchmaking Arena

Interactive Part: Business2Goverment
The format features scheduled one-to-one meetings where PA representatives present concrete territorial needs and challenges, while solution providers propose targeted applications based on Earth Observation (EO) and space data to address these specific local demands.
Following the closing of the Call for Challenges, 17 territorial challenges have been successfully collected from the public administrations of NEREUS partner regions.

At **THIS LINK** it is possible to read the **17 territorial challenges**
Detailed individual schedules for the in-person B2G meetings have been shared with the participants at the interactive part.

Conclusion of Day 1

Roya Ayazi, Secretary General - NEREUS
Lorenza Badiello, Director of the Delegation to the EU, Emilia-Romagna Region

19.00 Social Dinner

Palazzo Pepoli
Museo della storia di Bologna - Via Castiglione, 10

October 23, 2026

08.30 - 09.00 Registration

09.00 - 09.15 Welcome

Vincenzo Colla - Vice President with responsibility for Economic Development and Green Economy, Energy, Vocational Training, University and Research - Emilia Romagna Region, Italy

Opening and Moderation by: **Roya Ayazi**, Secretary General - NEREUS

09.15 - 10.00 Keynote - Beyond Next-Gen EU: Ensuring Operational Continuity and Daily Impact of Europe's Space Assets

A deep dive into the post-Next Generation EU landscape, discussing how to ensure the operational continuity of strategic space assets and how to successfully ground these advancements into day-to-day applications for regional ecosystems.

- **Apostolia Karamali**, Andrius Kubilius's Cabinet, European Commission
- **Andrea Taramelli**, IUSS Pavia | Italian Delegate to EU at Copernicus User Forum

The core focus of the session will be the transition into the post-Next Generation EU landscape. In recent years, significant Recovery and Resilience Plan investments have fueled the development of critical space assets in Earth Observation (i.e. IRIDE satellite constellation and the Space Factory network in Italy). The panel will discuss how to guarantee the operational continuity and long-term sustainability of these strategic infrastructures in the next years. Crucially, the keynote will address how to successfully "ground" these technological advancements, transforming the newly developed satellite data capacities and AI tools into concrete, day-to-day applications that deliver continuous, actionable solutions for Public Administrations and regional ecosystems.

Moderation by: **Lorenzo Calabri,** ART-ER

10.00 – 11.00 Panel – The "Typical" Regional Data Platform: looking for the *perfect Model* part 2

A continuation of the active dialogue between Public Administrations and Service Providers, sharing further experiences on applying Earth Observation tools to support public policies, leveraging on regional experiences on daily impact of Space Assets for the sake of citizenship.

Catalonia

- Fostering research and innovation towards space based services

Jordi Corbera, Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya (ICGC)

Abstract: National mapping agencies are increasingly challenged to move beyond data production and become active enablers of innovation ecosystems. In Catalonia, the Cartographic and Geological Institute of Catalonia (ICGC) plays this role by combining its responsibilities in Earth observation, geoinformation services, quality assurance and public-sector mission with the promotion of downstream space-based applications. Through the Catalan Space Strategy 2030, ICGC contributes to bridging research, operational needs and market opportunities, fostering the uptake of satellite-derived information across public and private sectors.
A representative example is SPASCAT, a company supported through innovation procurement mechanisms aimed at stimulating the exploitation of Earth Observation data and the development of value-added services. In this collaboration, ICGC acts not only as a public buyer and user of geospatial information, but also as a trusted intermediary providing scientific and technical guidance, validation datasets, quality control procedures and operational requirements.
The partnership focuses on the generation of coastal and marine intelligence products derived from satellite imagery, including Satellite-Derived Bathymetry and other indicators supporting the understanding of coastal ecosystem dynamics.
The SPASCAT experience illustrates how mapping agencies can leverage their role as providers of trusted geospatial infrastructures, quality standards and operational services to strengthen the space downstream sector, accelerate innovation uptake and enhance the societal impact of Earth Observation technologies.

- From fostered local collaboration to global space-based services

Roger Huerta, SPASCAT

Abstract: Strong local public-private partnerships can turn Earth Observation innovation into operational services with international reach. Experience developed and validated in Catalonia, thanks to public-private collaborations, provides the basis for transferring solutions and building collaborations across Europe and beyond

Emilia-Romagna

- Margherita – The Big Data and AI paltform for the Public Administration

Eleonora Verdini and **Andrea Iacobucci** - Emilia-Romagna Region
Anna Lisa Minghetti – Lepida
Marco Mantovani – Iconsulting

Abstract: MarghERita is the Big Data and Artificial Intelligence platform of the Emilia-Romagna Region, designed to support public administrations and institutions in the strategic use of data for evidence-based policymaking. Developed through the collaboration between the Emilia-Romagna Region, Lepida the in-house digital development company of the Emilia-Romagna Region, and Iconsulting, a leading Data & AI company bringing expertise in data engineering, advanced analytics, artificial intelligence, and modern data platform architectures, MarghERita has become a comprehensive ecosystem for data management, advanced analytics, and AI. Powered by a scalable and open architecture integrating a data lakehouse, data science tools, and dedicated GPU resources, the platform has recently been enhanced to support Generative AI, Large Language Models, and advanced satellite data analytics. The presentation will illustrate how this collaboration has enabled the creation of an innovative platform supporting territorial planning, environmental monitoring, and data-driven decision-making across the public sector.

Moderation by: **Kai-Uwe Schrogl**, European Space Agency

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee Break

11.15 - 12.45 Systemic Challenges, Collective Answers: Interactive Round Tables on Space Data Applications

Interactive Part: Business2Goverment
Facilitated group discussions focusing on high-level and wide domains (Systemic Challenges), where participants will debate and co-design collaborative regional models for space data usage.

At **THIS LINK** it is possible to read the **topics of the 5 tables**
Cooperative Round Tables to discuss on Regional models in the use of Space Data.
There will be a Facilitator, helping the discussion to evolve.

Conclusion of Day 2

Thierry Cotelle - President Nereus, Occitanie Region
Gianluca Baldoni - Responsible for export promotion, Emilia-Romagna Region
Roya Ayazi, Secretary General, NEREUS

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 - 18.30 From Supercomputing to Deep Space: Program of Technical Visits

An exclusive technological tour to explore Emilia-Romagna's premier space and computing assets. Registered delegates will have the opportunity to visit either the Leonardo HPC or the ECMWF Data Center at the Tecnopolo DAMA, followed by a joint visit to the Medicina Radio Astronomical Station. Due to unforeseen logistical constraints, data centers visit capacity is further restricted. Direct emails will be sent to confirm availability based on registration timestamp.

14.00 - 15.00 (parallel and alternative visits)
- **Leonardo HPC + AI Factory IT4LIA by Tecnopolo DAMA**
- **ECMWF Data Center by Tecnopolo DAMA**

15.00 - 18.30
- Medicina Radio Astronomical Station including bus connections in the schedule
- Visit from 16:00 to 17:30.
- Meeting point: outside the Simposium Main Hall.