

EO4GEO High level capacity building Workshop – regional roll-out under the auspices of Isabelle BOUDINEAU (Vice-president of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Council, and President of the COTER committee at the CoR) organized by NEREUS on 24th October 2019 in the Committee of the Regions

Better Skills for Space Geo-Information and Copernicus User Uptake

“Discussing the EO4GEO Sector Skills Strategy and its Recommendations (Brussels-based edition)”

Agenda

Thursday, 24 th October 2019	
09.00	Registration and Welcome Coffee
09.30	Opening Session: Views of regional politicians from interested regions on ERASMUS+ and Education/Training in the Geoinformation sector :
	Welcome by Isabelle BOUDINEAU (Vice-president of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Council, and President of the COTER committee at the CoR) Introduction: “Setting the stage” (Introduction into workshop and its objectives, role of regions in EO4GEO,etc.) by NEREUS-President Bernard Plano Representative of Emilia-Romagna
10.00	Introduction to the ERASMUS + Sectorial Skills Alliance: the EO4GEO-partnership (<i>Towards and innovative strategy for skills development and capacity building in the space geo-information sector supporting Copernicus user uptake</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impulse Statements by the European Commission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dinka Dinkova, European Commission, DG Growth, Unit: Space Data for Societal Challenges & Growth ▪ Felix Rohn, European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Unit E.2 – Skills and qualifications ▪ Presentation of the EO4GEO-partnership and its Sector Skills Strategy– by Maria Saudade Pontes (KU Leuven) on behalf of EO4GEO
	Dialogue with space community: Moderator: Roya Ayazi, NEREUS Secretary General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impulse Statement by the European Space Agency (ESA) – Martin Ditter ▪ Debate with representatives of the space community: Martin Ditter (European Space Agency-ESA), Andre Jadot (European Association of Remote Sensing Companies-EARSC), Luis Miguel Oliveira Estanqueiro (The European Association of Aerospace Students-EURAVIA), Sweety Pate (Young Professional in Space)

	Concluding remarks
11.30	End of the event and Networking Coffee

Background:

The workshop is as an outreach activity embedded in the ERASMUS+-funded initiative **EO4GEO** (*Towards an innovative strategy for skills development and capacity building in the space geo-information sector supporting Copernicus user uptake*). As an Erasmus+ Sector Skills Alliance supported by EACEA (The EU Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency) under the Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills schema, **EO4GEO** gathers 26 partners from 13 EU countries, most of which are part of the Copernicus Academy Network. Be they from academia, public or private sector, they are all active in the **education and training fields of the space / geospatial sectors**. The project involves also a strong group of **Associated Partners** mostly consisting of associations or networks active in space/geospatial ecosystem. The project started on January 1st, 2018 with a project duration of 4 years.

EO4GEO aims to help bridging the skills gap in the space/geospatial sector by creating a strong alliance of players from the sector/community reinforcing the existing ecosystem and fostering the uptake and integration of space/geospatial data and services. EO4GEO works in a multi- and interdisciplinary way and will apply innovative solutions for its education and training actions including: case based and collaborative learning scenarios; learning-while-doing in a living lab environment; on-the-job training; the co-creation of knowledge, skills and competencies; etc.

NEREUS is a European network of regions, currently comprised of 25 Member regions¹and 39 Associate members. The mission of the network is to spread the use and understanding of space technologies, in particular space based information. NEREUS offers its members a platform for networking and sharing information and knowledge but also to mobilize model projects and learn more about the potentials of space.

Objectives of the Workshop:

The workshop has a special focus on regions and regional communities. It has the overall objective to promote the EO4GEO sector skills alliance towards representatives of European regions present in Brussels, regional stakeholder associations and university communities and to get their views on the initiative. Thus it will introduce the participants to the EO4GEO sector skills alliance, present and debate the Sector Skills Strategy with particular focus on strategic stakeholders. In a nutshell:

- **Raise awareness on the EO4GEO initiative:** Introduction of EO4GEO Sector Skills Alliance to European regions, regional and universities communities present in Brussels;
- **Promotion of the EO4GEO Sector Skills Strategy (SSS):** Present the EO4GEO SSS to a European audience present in Brussels.
- **Gather input and feed-back from the regional space and university community on the EO4GEO SSS;**
- **Presenting and discussing the Long-Term Action Plan and overall sustainability of the Blueprint Alliance;**
- **Learn more about approaches, best practices, methods in France at regional/national level to build develop EO/Geospatial capabilities etc.;**