



## Involvement of Italian regions in the European Network NEREUS

Roya Ayazi\*

NEREUS (Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies)

\* rayazi.nereus@euroinbox.com

### Abstract

NEREUS stands for Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies. The mission of the network is to spread the **use and understanding of space technologies**, namely EO/Copernicus, Global Satellite Navigation (Galileo/EGNSOS), Telecommunications and Exploration Technologies. The initiative brings together as Full Members 26 European Regions and 36 Associate Members (companies, universities, research organisations, regional networks etc.) from 9 Member States. The Italian regions (Veneto, Lombardy, Piedmont, Tuscany, Abruzzo, Basilicata, Lazio, Apulia) are the largest group on the platform with many Associate Members from Italy.

The network's activities are focused on three major strands:

- Political Dialogue and advocacy for matters of regional space use towards the European institutions and ESA as well as relevant Member State organisations
- Interregional Co-operations & Partnerships (partly EU and/or ESA-funded)
- Technological Trends and Developments relevant for future Space Solutions and User Needs

In this context outreach and promotion activities, making regional space activities and capabilities more transparent and identifying common interests is an important element for the interregional co-operations on the platform (e.g. producing publications and other promotional material to showcase regional space capabilities but also use cases and best practices). For the political dialogue data access and efforts to stimulate and improve the up-take of European space based services and products is in the centre.

With aiming at an optimal exploitation of European Space Systems the network activities centre on linking space with non-space sectors and activities as well as to raise awareness for the potentials of space for sectors outside the space sector. In this respect a strong focus is also put on linking space uses with other horizontal policies such as innovation policies/measures and SME-support policies at regional level. Amongst others the network serves as a forum for discussion and exchange how space and in particular the downstream sector could be better developed making better use of regional specificities and capabilities.

By the example of the participating Italian regions and their capabilities the interregional cooperation within the network and efforts will be explained, examples for network activities presented and demonstrated how regions can benefit from space.

**Roya Ayazi** - Holding for more than 15 years positions in European Affairs, Roya Ayazi is since 2009 Secretary General of NEREUS (Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies) and heading its the Brussels/Belgium based secretariat. Representing the network at EU-level, Roya's core responsibilities comprise advocacy and political interest representation towards the European institutions and the European Space Agency, international networking and collaborations as well as the overall coordination of the network activities such as EC/ESA-funded projects and key events. She is a trained German lawyer.