

Call for Representatives to join CoRdiNet's "Copernicus European Regional Strategy Panel"

In the framework of the Horizon2020-funded project "[CoRdiNet](#) - *Copernicus Relays for digitalisation spanning a Network*" - [NEREUS](#) (Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies) invites suitable representatives from relevant organisations to join the project's "Copernicus European Regional Strategy Panel (CERSP)" as a member on a voluntary basis.

Objective and roles

The objective of the CERSP is to increase digitalisation by use of EO/Copernicus data in order to push market and business development on a regional, cluster and Copernicus Relay level.

The role of the members of CERSP is to support the design of policies, to address gaps within the current European policy objectives and introduce new measures to foster Earth Observation / Copernicus - based applications and services. Here the regional view is seen as an essential element to better help develop this market which sees a merging of space applications and digital processing: Regional stakeholders are close to both sides, the local demand often very specific for a region and the local offer side.

Work of the Panel will consist of delivering expert inputs in drafting and commenting documents, identifying key elements, key actors and especially expertise on better supporting markets and business generation in their regions and also contribute success stories. The objective is to formulate a roadmap and recommendations to the European Commission on practical advice for other Copernicus Relays how to effectively support the generation of business and how to increase the degree of digitalisation based on EO/Copernicus data. Results streamlined by meetings will be published in a small guide booklet. In order to ensure a suitable working atmosphere, the number of Panel members is set to a maximum of about twenty. Most of the Panel's work will be done via exchange of emails or virtual meetings.

The call invites representatives from regional institutions external to the CoRdiNet consortium to become associated partners to CoRdiNet. (The CoRdiNet beneficiaries and institutions/regions, which supported the CoRdiNet proposal via a Letter of Support will be offered a membership to the CERSP, in addition to an EC and an ESA representative) The composition of the CERSP will be made public as well as the outcome of its work.

Currently, two physical meetings of the CERSP are envisaged, the first one on Thu., 11 July 2019 and one in 2020, both preferably in Brussels. Participants might decide to focus on sectoral working groups, if this is seen as opportune. Only limited funds (about max of 750 € per travel per person) are available for reimbursement of travel and overnight costs upon presentation of original receipts. No working hours will be reimbursed.

Requested profile of regional representatives:

- a) Candidates distinguish themselves through their involvement and expertise in innovative regional support activities related to fostering Earth Observation /

Copernicus or data processing markets. This is demonstrated through affiliation with relevant organisations and institutions with a coordinating role in this field, e.g. Copernicus Relays.

- b) The composition of CERSP should ensure a well-balanced geographic coverage, a balance of type of organisations and closeness to users as well as providers of services. Members of new, innovative user/demand groups are welcome. Membership in the CERSP should not lead to a conflict of interest. Each representative is required to name a maximum of three application sector focuses of his/her region.
- c) The quality of the outputs and outcomes of CERSP depends on a proper preparation of the meetings as well as on the timely inputs of its members. Members commit themselves to timely inputs and contributions to the agenda of the Panel.

Eligibility criteria

- a) Only applications by candidates affiliated with legal entities from Copernicus-participating countries (EU-countries and Norway and Iceland) or third countries that signed a bilateral cooperation arrangement with the European Commission, are eligible. [Copernicus Relays](#) from above countries are preferred.
- b) The regional and local level (Nuts II/Nuts III) are the targeted levels of the activities subject of the call. In individual cases, depending on the Member State, proposals by Nuts I entities will be accepted.

Selection criteria for CERSP member:

- a) Applicants degree of expertise (at least two years) in regional support activities related to fostering Earth Observation or data processing markets
- b) Innovativeness of the regional support mechanism run by affiliated institution/organisation in the relevant fields
- c) Extent of coordinating role of affiliated organisation/institution of at least five years of track record in the field
- d) Closeness to users as well as providers of relevant services, while being neutral and not a representative of sole business interests, Copernicus Relays are preferred
- e) Balanced geographic coverage
- f) Diversity of Earth Observation application fields brought into the group
- g) Balance in type of organisations; including new, innovative user/demand groups.

Each application received will be forwarded to the CoRdiNet Evaluation Board. It will evaluate the received proposals on the base of predefined criteria and by ranking the proposals select the most suitable members. Each of the above criteria will be ranked on a scale starting from 1 (poor) up to 10 points (outstanding). The highest scored profiles will be selected.

The deadline for the submission of applications is **16 June 2019**. Please use the online link to submit your application.

Civil/dual use scenarios/GDPR/Gender Equality in H2020:

Please note in case of proposed dual use scenarios only the part referring to civil use might be supported. The CoRdiNet consortium is funded under the H2020-program and therefore committed to the sole support of civil purpose related activities.

With the application the applicant confirms that the applying organization complies with EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The CoRdiNet partners are committed to promote and support equal opportunities and a balanced participation of women and men in their project work this call is part of.

CoRdiNet project

CoRdiNet is an open network of five very diverse Copernicus Relays with a facilitating function on local, regional, cluster and national level, supporting, promoting and stimulating digitalization and new business solutions based on Earth Observation (EO) i.e. Copernicus data. This support action bundles the local expertise in the civil use of EO, close to the needs and offers of citizens, administrations and businesses, and will share them with other Copernicus Relays, the Copernicus Academy and new EO players. Joint outreach and dissemination activities facilitate embedding of its work in national and EU activities. CoRdiNet enjoys support of the European Association of Remote Sensing Companies (EARSC), the Caroline Herschel Framework Partnership Agreement, the Copernicus Support Office, and six external regions.