

**MedRIN Kick-off Meeting**  
**Chania, Greece, 13-14 July 2018**

**Venue:** Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania,

**EPICOUROS Room @ Conference Centre**



**Objective:** Following a series of discussions with European, African and American colleagues, we suggest to initiate a new regional information network for the Mediterranean Region. This would be a network, which may be coupled upon our joint decision and a formal request, with the framework of the Global Observations of Forest Cover and Land Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD; <http://www.fao.org/gtos/gofc-gold/>), and would serve as a liaison between land-cover/land-use change remote sensing scientists and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region. The Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN) will keep its members abreast with the latest advancements in Earth Observation applications based on NASA and ESA satellite data and data products. The Network will support tackling regional and local challenges, as described by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). MedRIN will not replace existing networks in the region but will leverage additional networking capacity and build on the existing networks and systems with actions and ways that may only be of support to a peaceful utilization of Earth Observation in citizen's everyday life. Specifically, the objectives may include (and to be discussed further at the meeting):

- a) better coordination and linkage of monitoring systems and databases across Mediterranean,
  - b) strengthening and upgrading regional/national EO networks,
  - c) alignment of multi-modal and multi-source data compliant to international norms,
  - d) utilization of Copernicus and relevant freely distributed services in the region by end users,
  - e) contribution to free publicly-available data through interoperable databases and services.
- These will be enriched and fine-tuned based on your experiences, wishes and needs for the MedRIN.

## AGENDA

### DAY 1 (13<sup>th</sup> July, Friday)

#### Welcome and information about NASA LCLUC Program (GOFC-GOLD), START, and regional networks' activities

Time	Topic	Presenter, Affiliation
9:15	Why we are here & thank you for joining	<b>Ioannis Manakos</b> (Associate Researcher at the Centre for Research & Technology Hellas)
9:25	Welcome note from the host: Key features for a successful network - Experiences from the half century CIHEAM network	<b>Georgios Baourakis</b> (Director of MAICH at the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies)
9:35	LCLUC Program in support of GOFC-GOLD activities	<b>Garik Gutman</b> (LCLUC Program Manager at NASA HQ)
09:50	Experiences from SCERIN network	<b>Jana Albrechtova</b> (Professor at Charles University of Prague & Lead of the SCERIN)
10:05	Land cover monitoring: a selection of expert networks and initiatives (reference to GOFC-GOLD, GFOI, GEO Global LC Task, GEO BON, Global Land Project, etc.)	<b>Brice Mora</b> (former GOFC – GOLD representative)
10:20	Seed Thoughts about Regional Networks & Short Discussion	<b>Chariton Kalaitzidis</b> (Research & Studies Coordinator at the Geoinformation in Environmental Management MSc, MAICH)

*10: 30 Coffee Break*

#### Present activity fields and preferences of EO engagement within MedRIN



##### *Cyprus representation*

10:45	'ERATOSTHENES: EXcellence Research Centre for Earth SurveiLlance and Space-Based MonItoring Of the EnviRonment in Cyprus and the East-Med Region' (Excelsior H2020 Teaming): Overview of Earth Observation Activities for the last 11 years & Prospects and Opportunities for regional collaboration and joining research-innovation-networking forces	<b>Diofantos Hadjimitsis</b> (Professor-Vice Rector of Academic Affairs at Cyprus University of Technology)
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11:00	Capitalize the Experience from the 'Athena' H2020 Twinning & 'Excelsior' H2020 Teaming projects for the regional benefit & Stakeholder Hub	<b>Andreas Christofis</b> (Research Fellow - Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics at Cyprus University of Technology)
11:15	Reflections and questions from the audience	Moderator: Diofantos Hadjimitsis (tbc)
<i>Coffee in the room</i>		
		
<i>Greece representation</i>		
11:30	Challenges and solutions for Cropland and Rangeland to cope with climate challenges utilizing EO in the context of SGDs 2, 6, and 15	<b>Georgios Zalidis</b> (Professor at the Faculty of Agriculture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Scientific Director at i-BEC, GEOSS High-Level Working Group Member)
11:45	The European Center of Excellence BEYOND for EO based management of DRR and its role in Copernicus and GEO	<b>Haris Kontoes</b> (Research Director at National Observatory Athens, National Contact Point for the Exchange of National Data in GEO, National Delegate of the H2020 SPACE Program Committee)
12:00	The Greek National Observatory of Forest Fires (NOFFi): prospects for regional cooperation against wildfires	<b>Ioannis Gitas</b> (Professor at the Faculty of Forestry & Natural Management, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
12:15	Improving future ecosystem benefits through earth observations: a path to follow?	<b>Ioannis Manakos</b> (Associate Researcher at the Centre for Research & Technology Hellas)
12:30	LCLUC monitoring to support sustainable urban development: lessons learnt from the URBANFLUXES project and future perspectives.	<b>Stavros Stagakis</b> (Researcher at the Remote Sensing Lab, Institute of Applied and Computational Mathematics, Foundation for Research & Technology Hellas - FORTH)
12:45	Reflections and questions from the audience	Moderator: Georgios Zalidis (tbc)

*13:00 Lunch & Coffee*



### Israel representation

14:00	The Role of the Mediterranean Soil Spectral Library within the GEO-CRADLE framework	<b>Eyal Ben Dor</b> (Professor at Geography & Human Environment Dpt., School of Environment & Earth Sciences, Tel Aviv University)
14:15	The Scientific Mission of the VENUS Program over the Mediterranean Region	<b>Arnon Karnieli</b> (Professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
14:30	Reflections and questions from the audience	Moderator: Eyal Ben Dor (tbc)



### Turkey representation

14:45	Remote Sensing for Agriculture, Forest and Applications: The case of forest cover change in Aegean- Mediterranean coast of Turkey	<b>Levent Genç</b> (Professor at Çanakkale University)
15:00	Earth Observing Applications of ITU CSCRS	<b>Irmak Yay Algan</b> (Istanbul Technical University, Research and Application Center for Satellite Communications and Remote Sensing – CSCRS)
15:15	Reflections and questions from the audience	Moderator: Levent Genç (tbc)

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*15:30 Coffee break*

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### Italy representation

15:45	Earth Observation research in the Mediterranean region and perspectives from new space missions	<b>Deodato Tapete</b> (Researcher at the Italian Space Agency)
16:00	Reflections and questions from the audience	Moderator: Deodato Tapete

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**16:30- 17:15 Wrap-up discussion** (Moderator: Garik Gutman)

**Adjourn**

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**DAY 2 (14<sup>th</sup> July, Saturday)**

**Observer**

09:30 Open source solutions for EO activities by **Brice Mora**  
CSSI (CS) France

**Discussions of plans**

*(Moderator: to be suggested from the participants)*

09:45 Discussions about research needs and collaborations

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*Coffee in the room*

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10:45 Formation of working groups/ suggestions

11:45 Path forward: Discussion about further steps for the MedRIN Network

12:15 Wrap-up & Adjourn

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**Optional: No host lunch at a city harbor restaurant & walk in the town**

Thank you for your participation and contribution!