



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DEFIS)

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

EU Space Networks

For all member roles including:

*EU Space Ambassadors, Copernicus Ambassadors, Galileo/EGNOS Ambassadors,
IRIS² Ambassadors, and SSA/STM Ambassadors.*

Open call

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Description of the initiative:

Background

Marking a significant milestone in the further development of the use of EU space data and services, the European Commission has launched the EU Space Networks. This initiative embodies a fresh and ambitious approach to harnessing the capabilities of Earth Observation (EO), satellite navigation, space communication technologies for a broad spectrum of applications, Space traffic management, as well as space debris mitigation. The establishment of the EU Space Networks signals the start of a new chapter in making EU space data and services even more accessible and developing their use across various sectors, fostering innovation, growth, entrepreneurship and collaboration at an unprecedented scale.

The journey to this point began with the European Union Earth Observation and monitoring programme, Copernicus, established under Regulation (EU) No 377/2014¹, which repealed Regulation (EU) No 911/2010² establishing the predecessor Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme. Copernicus laid the groundwork for a comprehensive approach to Earth Observation, providing important data for environmental management, disaster response, and climate monitoring through its [six thematic lines of services](#).

Following the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2021/696 of 28 April 2021, the EU Space initiatives, including Copernicus, were gathered under a single legal framework with the establishment of the European Union Space Programme. This regulation aims, inter alia, to foster the development of a strong EU Space economy.

To mirror this new organisation and governance, the EU Space Networks have been created with a broadened structure which addresses all components of the EU Space Programme. The EU Space Networks seek to build upon the successes of previous initiatives, expanding their scope from Copernicus to include roles focused on Galileo, EGNOS, IRIS², SSA, and STM.

This strategic alignment is designed to foster a vibrant community of stakeholders including universities, research institutions, industry players, and “New Space” entrepreneurs, as well as public authorities, all working collaboratively to promote the uptake and application of EU Space data and services in the EU and beyond.

Objective of the EU Space Networks:

The EU Space Networks, evolving from the Copernicus Networks, serve as an expanded framework to support the European Commission's mission in bridging any skills and data usage gaps, promoting EU space data and services, and facilitating their uptake in new sectors. This integrated network brings together various roles, including EU Space Ambassadors, Copernicus Ambassadors, Galileo/EGNOS Ambassadors, IRIS² Ambassadors, and SSA/STM Ambassadors under a single umbrella. Members, comprising European and international universities, research institutions, business schools, startups, and SMEs, as well as national authorities, collectively promote the EU Space Programme and its components

¹ Regulation (EU) No 377/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the Copernicus Programme and repealing Regulation (EU) No 911/2010 Text with EEA relevance <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/377/oj>

² Regulation (EU) No 911/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the European Earth monitoring programme (GMES) and its initial operations (2011 to 2013) Text with EEA relevance <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2010/911/oj>

across different territories, thematic areas, or industry verticals, encouraging the use of space data and services both within and outside the EU.

Roles and responsibilities of the members:

The EU Space Networks encompass a comprehensive structure aiming to advance the usage and understanding of EU space data and services across various sectors. The Networks comprise a series of Ambassadors, each playing a unique role within the broader EU Space Programme ecosystem.

Ambassadors in the EU Space Networks

The Ambassadors in the EU Space Networks, including EU Space Ambassadors, Copernicus Ambassadors, Galileo/EGNOS Ambassadors, IRIS² Ambassadors, and SSA/STM Ambassadors, each have expertise in their respective fields. They play an essential role in promoting the EU Space Programme and its components across various sectors and territories, helping to increase the uptake and use of space data and services.

EU Space Ambassadors promote the EU Space Programme as a whole and all its components across different territories and/or thematic areas and encourage the use of EU space data and services both within and outside the Union. They can present the programme at events and provide training, bringing the programme closer to its potential users.

Copernicus Ambassadors are experts in Copernicus and Earth Observation who specifically promote the Copernicus component, aiming to increase its visibility and encourage the use of Copernicus data, information and services. This includes activities such as integrating Copernicus data into curricula and research to enhance skills and foster innovation, promoting user uptake in Earth Observation, acting as local champions for Copernicus, and facilitating access to Copernicus data and services at thematic, regional, or national levels.

Galileo/EGNOS Ambassadors are specialists in EGNSS, promoting its benefits and encouraging the use of Galileo and/or EGNOS services. Their expertise fosters the adoption of these technologies, enhancing efficiency and safety in industries such as finance & insurance, transportation, agriculture, and emergency response.

IRIS² Ambassadors promote IRIS², particularly as it moves closer to operational deployment, by spreading awareness, supporting user uptake in Europe and Africa, and enhancing the understanding of the unique role of IRIS² in ensuring secure, resilient connectivity.

SSA/STM Ambassadors are specialists in the use of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) for monitoring space objects and space weather or in Space Traffic Management (STM), which can promote safe operations for all users of space. They raise awareness about best practices in Europe and internationally, notably in the context of the adoption of the EU Space law in 2024, to help manage the increasingly crowded orbital environment and mitigate any natural or anthropogenic threats to the European space infrastructure.

This integrated approach enables Ambassadors to:

- Promote the EU Space Programme and/or one or several of its components across different territories, thematic areas, or industry verticals.
- Foster skill development and support the creation of training materials and programmes as part of their educational role.
- Act as dedicated representatives, providing technical assistance, organising activities to foster awareness, and promoting the use of space data for public services and commercial applications.

Opportunities for members of the EU Space Networks:

Membership in the EU Space Networks provides a range of benefits that include both professional and collaborative opportunities. Members become part of a diverse community that includes universities, research institutions, industry players, public authorities, and “New Space” entrepreneurs, fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and joint initiatives across Europe and internationally.

In addition to these collaborative benefits, the members of the EU Space Networks will have access to existing communication tools such as product portfolios, market reports, informational brochures on funding instruments applicable to space-related activities, data access flyers, success stories, etc., and would be consulted for the design of future instruments, tools, and resources to be developed by the European Commission, enabling them to contribute directly to the development of new opportunities and capabilities within the EU Space Programme.

Participation in the EU Space Networks offers significant potential for knowledge enhancement, reputation building and capacity growth. Members benefit from cross-fertilisation and sharing of best practices with other members of the Networks. Furthermore, they can leverage a direct and strong link with the EU Space Support Office, which serves as a key resource in promoting and supporting the use of space data and services.

The Networks span a wide range of economic sectors, including climate action, environmental management, transportation, and other industries benefiting from space data. Through engagement with components such as Copernicus, Galileo, EGNOS, IRIS², SSA, and STM, members play an active role in driving the uptake of space applications and contributing to innovation across multiple domains.

Examples of possible activities:

The members of the EU Space Networks play a key role, on a voluntary basis, in any number of the following actions. Some of these actions are more suited for some member roles or profiles than others, and the following is not an exhaustive list:

- **Developing publications and reference lectures for training** on the use of EU Space Programme data and services.
- **Including** material and modules that cover the use of data and services from various components of the EU Space Programme in existing courses and curricula.

- **Strengthening the synergies and cooperation between members** through knowledge sharing, promotion of best practices, engagement in research and applications related to EU space data and services, and by enabling innovations to ‘hit the market’ as quickly as possible.
- **Establishing dedicated vocational training and thesis scholarships** coordinated in the framework of cooperative arrangements between universities delivering higher educational programmes, public institutions supporting career training in partnership with universities, or private business actors. Involvement of start-ups is prioritised for thesis scholarships in order to create a virtuous cycle of innovation.
- **Building a knowledge culture** and a virtual **strategic think-tank** around the benefits of the various components of the EU Space Programme and their potential to address both public service needs and societal challenges.
- **Developing a synergistic relationship** with members of the other networks of the EU Space Programme through coordination with the European Commission.
- **Contributing to the development of the ecosystem** that the European Commission is building around space data with a focus on matching the needs of the market and promoting a strong EU space sector.
- **Coordinating activities at the local level.** Ensuring the coordination of space-related activities developed in their respective areas of influence.
- **Distribution of promotional material.** Ensuring appropriate and effective distribution of promotional material for the various components of the EU Space Programme as provided by the European Commission.
- **Creating and running an information hotline.** Develop helpdesks for their respective regions for anyone interested in obtaining information about their area of expertise.
- **Promoting EU Space Programme services and data at relevant events.** Presentation of EU space services and data at relevant events organised at national and regional levels.
- **Organising promotional events.** Develop promotional strategies adapted to their local needs and implement them by organising events.
- **Organising targeted training sessions.** Provide training opportunities to relevant stakeholders which could benefit from EU space data and services.
- **Development of Information Points.** The set-up of local or regional Information Points that provide end users of EU space data and services with help and guidance.

The European Commission further encourages the development of innovative, sustainable, and reliable tools and practices that enhance the connection between EU space data producers and the diverse communities of end-users. This initiative is designed to not only facilitate the uptake of open and free space data and information products but also to cultivate the development of professional skills necessary for leveraging this data effectively.

Terms of membership of the EU Space Networks:

Acceptance of terms

By submitting an application to join the EU Space Networks, the applicant agrees to abide by these Terms of Membership.

Yearly survey requirement

Members are required to complete an annual survey detailing their past activities and future plans within the context of the EU Space Networks. This survey is crucial for assessing the relevance, impact, and alignment of member activities with the objectives of the Networks. It is also critical to identify the need for new promotional, support, or funding instruments.

EU Space Networks Code of Conduct

Members must comply with the *EU Space Networks Code of Conduct*, which sets out the standards and principles all members must follow. This includes:

1. **Ethical Compliance:** Acting in accordance with EU laws, policies, and ethical standards, and ensuring that all activities are conducted with honesty, transparency, and integrity. Members are expected to protect the standing and reputation of the EU Space Networks and the European Commission in all related activities.
2. **Professionalism and Participation:** Actively engaging in the Networks' activities, including attending relevant events (e.g., monthly videoconferences, the General Assembly), contributing to discussions, and responding promptly to communications.
3. **Non-Promotion:** Members shall not use their roles for personal, commercial, or organisational self-promotion. The primary focus should remain on supporting the broader objectives of the EU Space Networks, rather than for individual or corporate gain.

Termination of membership

The European Commission reserves the right to terminate membership at any time, with or without cause. This includes situations where a member's activities do not align with the objectives of the EU Space Networks or when there is a violation of the *EU Space Networks Code of Conduct*.

Declaration of interests

Members are required to declare any financial or business interests or positions that could give rise to a conflict of interest.

Transparency and accountability

Members are expected to uphold transparency and accountability in their activities. This includes providing clear reports on their activities and contributions to the EU Space Networks and being open to scrutiny by the European Commission.

Amendment of terms

These Terms of Membership and the *EU Space Networks Code of Conduct* may be amended by the European Commission from time to time. Members will be notified of any amendments, and their continued membership will constitute acceptance of the amended terms.

Expression of interest:

Process

Relevant stakeholders are invited to complete the online application form to express their interest in joining the EU Space Networks under any of the available member roles. Applications will be assessed and reviewed by the European Commission in cooperation with the respective national delegations within 35 working days of their reception, and the applicant will be informed by the European Commission of the decision reached regarding their application.

Please note that the European Commission may request a letter of recommendation from a national authority for any applications from outside of the EU. These applications will be evaluated by the European Commission together with the EU Delegation based in their respective country. Governmental bodies or established and internationally recognised institutions are not required to provide such a letter.

The procedure is concluded when the European Commission sends an email to the applicant to inform them of its decision. In case of a positive outcome, the member will receive an onboarding email from the EU Space Support Office to organise a mandatory onboarding call.

The European Commission may decide to revert its decision and to remove any Member at any time.

Selection criteria:

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Qualitative criteria	Point value
Methodological Competency: This evaluates the clarity, relevance, and completeness of the proposed methodology or approach by the applicant, assessing their capability to fulfil the tasks required by the call effectively. It focuses on the technical and operational proficiency in executing the designated roles within the EU Space Networks.	20
Field Experience: This measures the applicant's prior experience in developing and/or coordinating events or activities related to the specific field of expertise required for the member role they are applying for. This criterion ensures that members have a proven track record and legitimacy in their domain.	20
Strategic Motivation: This evaluates the applicant's drive to implement an ambitious yet realistic approach to achieve the objectives outlined by the call. It looks for members with a clear vision and motivation to contribute significantly to the goals of the Networks.	20

Network Synergy: This assesses how well the applicant's profile complements the existing members within the Networks, focusing on the addition of new services or thematic areas to enhance its diversity and avoid duplication. It encourages a harmonious integration that leverages the unique strengths of each member to benefit the collective objectives of the EU Space Networks.	20
Reach: Assesses the applicant's capacity to significantly contribute to broadening the audience of the Networks and ensuring the widespread promotion and uptake of EU space data and services.	20
Total number of points	100

Each application is assessed according to the above qualitative criteria and the point value applicable to each criterion.

Scoring

Please note that applications that receive:

- less than 65% of the overall points (< 65 points), or
- less than 50% of the points possible in a single criterion, (< 10 points)

will be automatically excluded from the selection process.