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EXCELSIOR Project

| H2020-WIDESPREAD-2018-2020 Grant Agreement No 857510 | |
|--|--|
| Project full title: | ERATOSTHENES: Excellence Research Centre for Earth Surveillance and Space-Based Monitoring of the Environment |
| Project acronym: | EXCELSIOR |
| Work Package: | WP10 Dissemination and Exploitation |
| Deliverable: | D10.1 Report on the dissemination activities and Conference organisation |
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| Dissemination level: | Public |

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| Call / Topic: | H2020-WIDESPREAD-2018-01 / WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019 Teaming Phase 2 | |
| Project full title: | ERATOSTHENES: Excellence Research Centre for Earth Surveillance and Space-Based Monitoring of the Environment | |
| Project acronym: | EXCELSIOR | |
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| Start date of project: | 1 October 2019 | Duration: 84 months |
| Dissemination Level: | Public | |



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Document Sign-off

| Nature | Name | Role | Partner | Date |
|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|---------|------------|
| DRAFT | Eleni LOULLI, Maria PRODROMOU, Christiana PAPOUTSA | WP10 Participants WP10 Leader | CUT | 30/07/2021 |
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| REVIEWED | Diofantos HADJIMITSIS | Project Coordinator | CUT | 24/9/2021 |
| APPROVED | All partners | | | 29/9/2021 |

Work Package 10: Dissemination and Exploitation

D10.1: Report on the dissemination activities and Conference organisation.

| Sections to be protected | Description | Owner | Access Rights | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------|---------------|-------|
| | | | Period | Type* |
| None | | | - | PD |

*PD: Public dissemination CA: Confidentiality Agreement required for disclosure



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Executive Summary

This deliverable provides an extensive analysis of the dissemination activities and workshops organisation of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project. The analysis starts with the report on our participation in conferences (11) and how the project was promoted through it. Then, we explain about the participation of our team members in talks (17), workshops (7) and seminars (12) as invited speakers. The deliverable continues with a thorough presentation of the lectures by invited speakers (8), the webinar (1) and the workshops (2) organized by our team. Additionally, we document about our participation in other events (i.e., European Researcher's Night 2021 and SpaceUPCyprus 2021 Live). The last chapter provides the publications, journal papers, conference papers, and book sections for the reporting time period. The deliverable concludes by providing information on the outcome of the reported activities and how they have contributed to the progress of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project. It is concluded that there is a strong need to establish links in the EMMENA region and connect with them. This has not been achieved yet, but a strategy was prepared to raise awareness about the EXCELSIOR Project in the EMMENA region and establish partnerships, starting with targeted stakeholders' workshop in autumn 2021, where selected stakeholders from the region will be invited to be informed them about the project and provide them the space to discuss their needs and identify common scientific interests and ways of collaboration.



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Abbreviations

| | |
|-----------|---|
| CUT | Cyprus University of Technology |
| ECoE | ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence |
| EMMENA | Eastern Mediterranean Middle East and North Africa |
| EO | Earth Observation |
| EXCELSIOR | ERATOSTHENES: Excellence Research Centre for Earth Surveillance and Space-based Monitoring of the Environment |
| RS | Remote Sensing |



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1 Introduction

The EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project Phase 2 started on the 1st of October 2019. The ECoE and the Strategic partners organise and participate in several dissemination events in the format of targeted Workshops and scientific Conferences, as well as seminars and open-information days. These activities aim to promote the significance of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Project to the scientific community and the general public, and to attract stakeholders from different disciplines to engage with our team and identify opportunities to benefit from the project. Most importantly, we target in engaging with stakeholders from the EMMENA region, as we share similar needs and opportunities (e.g., aerosol and cloud monitoring, disaster risk reduction, etc). Working closely with stakeholders from the region will enable a fruitful knowledge transfer to achieve results that will have a multidimensional impact.

This report presents the Participation in Conferences and publication of scientific papers from 1 October 2019 until September 2021. Chapter 2 describes our participation in conferences to demonstrate the scientific worked develop in the framework of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project. Chapter 3 presents our invited participation in talks, workshops and seminars to promote the Project, its activities and its general vision. Chapter 4 analyses the lectures by invited speakers organised by our team to raise visibility of the project and the establishment of the ECoE, as well as to familiarize the general public with the broad range of applications of remote sensing and earth observation. Chapter 5 describes the organisation of our webinar with topic “Water Resources Management”, where we gathered 5 experts in this area to demonstrate their work and results. Chapter 6 presents the annual virtual EXCELSIOR workshops that are organised by our team with the aim to interact with existing and new stakeholders and strengthening the regional links. The main aim of the activities described in Chapter 4, 5 and 6 is to develop a regular series of Seminars and Webinars and design lectures and plan activities on subjects related to the ECoE thematic areas to inform and engage with the wider public, regarding the beneficial impact of the research conducted in the ECoE for the environment, the society and the economy. Chapter 7 shows other events we participated, (i.e., European Researchers Night and SpaceUP Cyprus). Chapter 8 gives extensive information about the publications, journal papers, conference papers, and book sections of our team. Chapter 9 summarizes the deliverable and provides conclusions.



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2 Participation in conferences

Members of the EXCELSIOR team participated in various conferences with the aim of expanding our network, disseminating the EXCELSIOR project outputs, promoting innovation as well as the activities of the ECoE. Through the attendance of the ECoE team in conferences as well as organisation of meetings with several networks, various Thematic Networks and Technological Platforms have been addressed for potential collaboration.

It is estimated that through our participation in 11 conferences, we reached out to 11 networks of academia (e.g., forest scientists, geoscientists etc), 6 networks of industries (e.g., construction, agriculture etc) and 4 networks of policy makers (e.g., cadastral agents, geoscientists etc).

Participation and presentation at the Iufro 2019 conference in Curitiba, Brazil (2/10/2019) and at the SilviLazer 2019 Conference in Iguazu Falls, Brazil (8/10/2019)



Ms Maria Prodromou published a conference paper and gave a presentation on Data Fusion for improved Forest Inventories and Planning at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)¹ conference in Brazil. In the framework of her presentation, she also presented the activities of the EXCELSIOR project.

IUFRO is a non-profit, non-governmental international network of forest scientists, which promotes global cooperation in forest-related research and enhances the understanding of the ecological, economic, and social aspects of forests and trees. During her stay in Brazil, Ms Prodromou also attended the SilviLazer 2019 Conference², where she gave a presentation on the development and application of laser scanning techniques to improve the understanding of forest ecosystem functioning and facilitate their sustainable management through improved forest assessment and inventory.

SilviLazer 2019 aimed to bring together research scientists and practitioners from around the world to share their experience in the development and application of lidar to improve our understanding of forest ecosystem functioning and facilitate their sustainable management through improved forest assessment and inventory.



¹ <https://www.iufro.org/events/congresses/2019/>

² <https://www.silvilazer2019.ipef.br/>



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Participation at the conference “Agrifood Innovation Setting the Context in Cyprus” in Limassol, Cyprus (22/10/2019)



On the 22nd of October 2019, Dr. Christiana Papoutsas joined the “Agrifood Innovation - Setting the Context in Cyprus” event at the Cyprus University of Technology premises and promoted EXCELSIOR through an info-kiosk. The conference was organized by the Research Group of Agricultural Microbiology & Biotechnology at Cyprus University of Technology and MAP Innovation, and addressed business representatives of the industry, academics and people interested in creating new innovative solutions for the industry and the general public.

Participation in the seminar “Possibilities and challenges of Copernicus products and services in marine industry, research and management” (23/10/2019)



Mr. Marios Tzouvaras participated in a seminar titled “Possibilities and challenges of Copernicus products and services in marine industry, research and management”³, where he presented the EXCELSIOR Project to local and regional stakeholders. The seminar took place on the 23rd of October 2019 at the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen, Norway. It was organised in the framework of the H2020 CopHub.AC project that aims to establish long-term Copernicus hubs to consolidate and sustain the Copernicus Academy as a knowledge and innovation platform.

³ <https://cordinet.net/resources/seminar-agenda.pdf>



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135th EuroSDR conference, Nicosia, Cyprus (13/11/2020)



On the 13th of November 2019, the Department of Lands and Surveys organized the 135th EuroSDR⁴ Board of Delegates 2019 Meeting, which took place at Cleopatra Hotel in Nicosia. During the meeting, the EXCELSIOR Project and the main objectives and activities of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence were presented by the Coordinator of the EXCELSIOR Project. Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis gave a presentation entitled “Overview of the Remote Sensing Applications in Cyprus and of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project: ERATOSTHENES: EXcellence Research Centre for Earth Surveillance and Space-Based Monitoring Of the Environment”. Dr Themistocleous (Project Manager of the EXCELSIOR project) also attended the 135th EuroSDR conference and he presented about “Digital Unblocking of Holy Islands: The Ecclesiastical Cultural Heritage Digitization Pilots for the Churches in the Area of Limassol, Cyprus”

Presentation at the 3rd Conference of Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis in Agriculture and the Environment in Athens, Greece (11/12/2019)



Prof. Phaedon Kyriakidis, participated at the 3rd Conference of Geographic Information Systems and Spatial Analysis in Agriculture and the Environment⁵ as an invited speaker, giving a lecture on “Spatial Analysis and Spatial statistics in Environment and Agriculture” and presented the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project. The Conference was organized by the Geographical Information Systems Research Unit of the Agricultural University of Athens and the Hellenic Society of Geographic Information Systems (Hellas GIS) and was held from the 11th to 13th of December 2019 at the Conference Amphitheatre of the Agricultural University of Athens. The conference covered issues related to all the above technologies in combination with spatial analysis and the creation of digital spatio-temporal observatories in different types of crops (vineyard, olive, large crops, aromatic and pharmaceutical, etc.) trying to extract useful

⁴ <http://www.eurosd.net/>

⁵ <https://www2.aua.gr/en/news-events/ekdiloseis/3rd-conference-geographic-information-systems-and-spatial-analysis>



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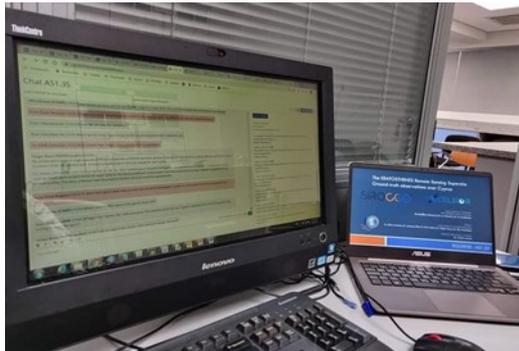


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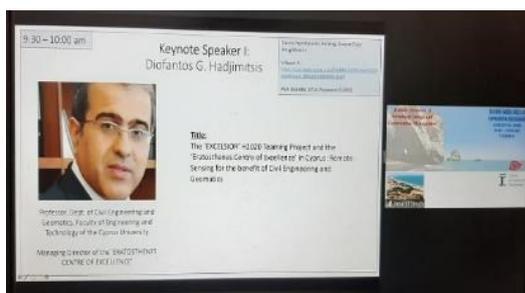
scientific as well as practical conclusions on a holistic digital farm management and tackling natural resource and natural phenomena management issues.

Presentation at the EGU 2020 (4-8/5/2020)



Dr Rodanthi Mamouri and Dr Silas Michaelides participated at the EGU 2020 assembly⁶. Dr Mamouri gave a presentation on “The ERATOSTHENES Remote Sensing Supersite: Ground-truth observations over Cyprus”. Dr Michaelides participated as an author and as a convener at the assembly. He was a convener in the session on “Precipitation: Measurement, Climatology, Remote Sensing and Modelling”, and he also gave a presentation on “The "EXCELSIOR" H2020 Widespread Teaming Phase 2 Project: ERATOSTHENES: EXcellence Research Centre for Earth SurveiLlance and Space-Based Monitoring Of the EnviRonment”. Additionally, Dr Michaelides published a poster paper entitled “Cyprus enters the space arena with "EXCELSIOR " H2020 Teaming project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence: Why Cyprus? Why EXCELSIOR? What are the needs and opportunities?”. Several other papers from other funded projects of the CUT team have been presented as well.

Keynote Speech at the EURO-MED-SEC-3 conference, online (5/8/2020)



Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) gave a keynote speech at the EURO-MED-SEC-3 conference⁷ on “The EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming project: Remote Sensing for the benefit of Civil Engineering and Geomatics”. Additionally, Prof. Christis Chrysostomou (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project), gave a keynote speech on “Are we safe from earthquakes?”. At the same conference, Mr Andreas Christofi (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) gave a presentation on “Assessing aging in reinforced concrete using novel remote sensing techniques”.

⁶ <https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2020/EGU2020-21836.html>

<https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2020/EGU2020-21801.html>

⁷ https://www.isec-society.org/EURO_MED_SEC_03/



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Conference presentation at CAA-GR 2020 Sessions – “Greece, Cyprus, Turkey”, Online (9/10/2020)



Prof. Phaedon Kyriakides (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project), presented EXCELSIOR at the CAA-GR 2020 Sessions – “Greece, Cyprus, Turkey”. His presentation was entitled "Current Status and the Future of Digital Archaeology in the Eastern Mediterranean"⁸ and was presented under the Research and Innovation session. Dr Athos Agapiou (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) was a member of the organizing committee.

Conference presentation at EUROMED2020 conference, online (4/11/2020)



Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) was a keynote speaker at the EUROMED 2020 Conference⁹ with a presentation on “EXCELSIOR H2020 Widespread Teaming phase 2 project: Earth Observation & Geoinformatics Research and Innovation agenda for Cultural Heritage”. During the presentation, Prof Hadjimitsis elaborated ECoE’s research and Innovation agenda on the use of earth observation and Geoinformatics in cultural heritage. The contribution of earth observation to the Sustainable Development Goals was also presented.

40th EARSeL Symposium 2021, Virtual (8-10/6/2021)

The CUT & ECoE team had a strong participation with 10 presentations at the 40th EARSeL Symposium 2021¹⁰ that took place in June 2021 (see below).

EARSeL is a scientific network of European remote sensing laboratories, coming from both academia and the commercial/industrial sector, which covers all fields of geoinformation and earth observation through remote sensing.

EARSeL organizes yearly thematic workshops with the Symposium being the main meeting. The EARSeL Symposium focuses in highlighting the current trends in remote sensing and promotes the development of the association.

⁸ <https://gr.caa-international.org/2020/09/24/caa-gr-2020-sessions-greece-cyprus-turkey/>

⁹ <https://www.euromed2020.eu/>

¹⁰ <http://symposium.earsel.org/40th-symposium-Warsaw/home/>



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| Screenshots ¹¹ | Presenter | Title |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| | <p>Polina Sokratous (new PhD student at Excelsior)</p> | <p>Strategizing the “Smart City” model into an integrated system utilizing space technology and geoinformatics assets: A systematic approach to a resilient society: The study of Limassol, CY.</p> |
| | <p>Eleni Loulli</p> | <p>Calibration of Ground-based Data for Precipitation Estimation in the Area of Cyprus</p> |
| | <p>Maria G. Iordanidou (new PhD student at Excelsior)</p> | <p>Monitoring Common Agriculture Policy and Cross Compliance with Sen4Cap</p> |
| | <p>Maria Prodromou</p> | <p>Rapid Assessment of post fire forest regeneration based on burn severity gradient using the Google Earth engine</p> |

¹¹ Source: Own collection & <http://symposium.earsel.org/40th-symposium-Warsaw/photo-gallery/>



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| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <p>Iosifina Kountouri (new PhD student at Excelsior)</p> | <p>A Multi-disciplinary Integrated approach using Earth observation, GIG, Hydraulic Modelling for flood risk assessment in catchment areas in Cyprus.</p> |
| | <p>Despina Makri (new PhD student at Excelsior)</p> | <p>Imaging Spectroscopy of shallow coastal waters</p> |
| | <p>Marina Pekri</p> | <p>Estimation of mean sea surface height variability in Cyprus using Tide Gauge and Sentinel-3 Satellite Altimetry Data</p> |
| | <p>Kyriaki Fotiou</p> | <p>Space-based Deformation Monitoring of Coastal Urban Areas: The case of Limassol's Coastal front</p> |
| | <p>Dimitris Kakoulli</p> | <p>Considerations and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis for the Installation of Permanent Infrastructures for Continuous Space-based Monitoring of Natural Hazards</p> |
| | <p>Anastasis Evagorou</p> | <p>Earth Observation for an efficient water management in Cyprus</p> |



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3 Invited Talks, Workshops and Seminars

Presentation of the EXCELSIOR Project (15/10/2019)



Dr. Kyriacos Themistocleous (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) gave a presentation of the EXCELSIOR Project to M.Sc. students in Geoinformatics & Geospatial Technologies of the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatic (CUT). The aim of the presentation was to familiarize the students with the main idea and purpose of the project and to promote earth observation education.

Participation at the meeting “Cyprus Centres of Excellence funded by the H2020 Teaming Program” (17/10/2019)



Members of the EXCELSIOR team participated at the meeting “Cyprus Centres of Excellence funded by the H2020 Teaming Program”, organized by the Office of the Chief Scientist for Research & Innovation of the Republic of Cyprus. The meeting was attended by representatives of the six Centres of Excellence, based in Cyprus and co-funded by the H2020 Teaming Program. The event was held on the 17th of October 2019, at the Multipurpose room of the Ministry of Finance in Nicosia, Cyprus. The Office of the Chief Scientist organised this event to assess the priorities and needs of the six Centres of Excellence (established in Cyprus), in order to provide them with support on several administrative issues relevant to these priorities and needs. Furthermore, the event aimed at encouraging collaboration between the six Centres of Excellence, which will assist the transformation of the Republic of Cyprus to a regional innovation centre and highlighted the benefits of investing in Research and Innovation at the country level.



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Presentation of the EXCELSIOR Project at the 'Cyprus in Germany' event, attended by the German Ambassador in Cyprus (31/10/2019)



On the 31st of October 2019, Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) presented the EXCELSIOR Project at the “Cyprus in Germany” event. During the event, Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis and Prof. Phaedon C. Kyriakidis (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) had the opportunity to discuss with the German Ambassador in Cyprus issues related to the EXCELSIOR Project, including the strategic contribution to the project by the German organisations DLR and TROPOS (both are part of EXCELSIOR’s Consortium).

Sustainable Conservation of UNESCO and Other Heritage Sites, Egypt (11/12/2019)



Dr. Themistocleous (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) was invited to speak about “Monitoring cultural heritage sites affected by geohazards” during the Sustainable Conservation of UNESCO and Other Heritage Sites through Proactive Geosciences, held on the 11th of December 2019 in Aswan, Egypt. His presentation included the abilities of the EXCELSIOR project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence in monitoring cultural heritage geohazards in the EMMENA region.

Presentation of the EXCELSIOR Project during the 1st Workshop of the Marine Spatial Planning “THAL-CHOR 2” Project (12/12/2019)



On the 12th of December 2019, Mr. Christodoulos Mettas (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) participated in the first Workshop / open public presentation of the project “Cross-Border Cooperation for the Development of Maritime Spatial Planning (THAL-CHOR 2)”, which took place in Poseidonia Hotel, in Limassol.

The main objective of the project was the preparation of national or regional maritime spatial plans in Cyprus and Greece. The aim of the Workshop was to present the scope and the progress of the Project in Cyprus. During the Workshop, Mr. Christodoulos Mettas had the opportunity to present the purpose, the main



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idea along with the benefits of the EXCELSIOR Project for Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean Middle East North Africa (EMMENA) Region.

Presentation of Earth Observation applications, benefits of using CopernicusEU and the EXCELSIOR Phase 2 Project at the Gymnasium of Polis Chrysochous (17/12/2019)



On the 17th of December 2019, Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) gave a presentation about the EXCELSIOR Project to the students of the Gymnasium of Polis Chrysochous in Pafos. The purpose of his presentation was to promote to students and scientific staff in Cyprus the benefits of establishing the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, to familiarize them with the objectives and scope of the Project and the terms of Remote Sensing and Earth Observation. Prof. Hadjimitsis also highlighted the benefits of the use of Copernicus data along with the job opportunities that the project and the Centre of Excellence will offer to the new generation of scientists and engineers in the near future.

Presentation of the EXCELSIOR Project at the Alexander College (18/12/2019)



On the 18th of December 2019, Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator), presented an overview of the EXCELSIOR Project to the students and staff of the Alexander College in Pafos. The purpose of his presentation was to promote the benefits of establishing the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence to the academic sector including both education and research pillars as well as to the industrial, governmental and societal (organizations and citizens) sectors in Cyprus. Furthermore, his presentation aimed to promote the use of Remote Sensing and Earth Observation and familiarize the audience with the objectives and benefits of the EXCELSIOR Project.



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Presentation of the EXCELSIOR Project and Space Applications to the Gymnasium of Apostolou Pavlou, Pafos (20/12/2019)



On the 20th of December 2019, Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) and Mr. Christodoulos Mettas (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) presented the EXCELSIOR Project to the students of the Gymnasium of Apostolou Pavlou in Pafos.

The purpose of the presentation was to promote the benefits of establishing ERATOSTHENES Centre for the students and scientific staff in Cyprus as well to familiarize them with the main idea and purpose of the project. Furthermore, examples from several funded projects as well as Copernicus benefits were also presented to the students.

Presentation of the EXCELSIOR Project & ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and the benefits of the Copernicus data for Cyprus to the Esperino Gymnasium/Lyceum of Pafos (23/12/2019)



On the 23rd of December 2019, Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) and Dr. Christiana Papoutsas (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) gave a presentation of the EXCELSIOR Project to the staff and students of the Esperino Gymnasium/Lyceum in Pafos. During their presentation, the benefits of establishing the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence were elaborated.

Prof. Hadjimitsis and Dr. Papoutsas also highlighted the importance of being a member of the Copernicus Academy, presented the Sentinel Mission and promoted the benefits of the use of Copernicus data for Cyprus for the scientific community, the students and the society.



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EXCELSIOR presentation at Hystore Tech Ltd premises and meeting with Korean experts in UAVs (9/1/2020)



On the 9th of January 2020, Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) met with Korean experts in UAVs, Professor Jae-Woo Lee and the CEO of Nexoms, Chihong Joo to discuss the EXCELSIOR Project and future collaboration. The meeting was organised by the Cyprus University of Technology and was held at the premises of Hystore Tech Ltd.

25th Copernicus User Forum - Brussels, Belgium (29/1/2020)



Dr. Themistocleous (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) gave an overview of the EXCELSIOR project during the 25th Copernicus User Forum that took place on 29/1/2020 in Brussels, Belgium.

Presentation to the undergraduate students (3rd year students) of the Department of Civil Engineering & Geomatics of the CUT (30/1/2020)



Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) gave a presentation of the EXCELSIOR Project to the undergraduate students (3rd year students) of the Department of Civil Engineering & Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology. His presentation aimed to inform the undergraduate students for the upcoming job opportunities capitalizing the benefits of the establishment of the new Centre of Excellence in Limassol.

He highlighted the benefits of establishing ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence for the students and research scientists in Cyprus. Furthermore, during his presentation he provided various examples related to funded research projects and applications that our team has participated during the past 10 years aiming to familiarize them with Remote Sensing and Earth Observation as well as to inform them about the



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research areas of ECoE and the objectives and opportunities arising from the EXCELSIOR Project.

Webinar - Copernicus Academy & Copernicus Relay (20/2/2020)

EXCELSIOR
 PLATONENHES: Excellence Research Centre for Earth Surveillance and Space-Based Monitoring of the Environment

The Creation of a Center of Excellence for Earth Observation in Cyprus

H2020-2018-2020 - Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation
 WIDESPREAD-01-2018-2019 Teaming 2 - (Coordination and support action)
 Total Budget: 15,000,000 € (Plus 15,000,000 € from Republic of Cyprus)
 7 Years (1 October 2019 - 30 September 2026)

CONSORTIUM
 Cyprus University of Technology, CUT, TROPOS, DEC

Copernicus Activities in Cyprus Copernicus Academy & Copernicus Relay presentation on 20/2/2020

Dr. Themistocleous (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) presented the EXCELSIOR project to the Monthly Copernicus Academy & Copernicus Relay presentation on the 20th of February 2020. The presentation included the current and future activities of the EXCELSIOR project, with the focus of how EXCELSIOR and Copernicus can work together throughout the course of the project.

Invited talk at the workshop on Computational approaches to archaeological site detection and monitoring (29/2/2020)



Dr. Athos Agapiou (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) was one of the invited speakers in a Workshop that was held at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge. The Workshop focused on Computational approaches to archaeological site detection and monitoring. Dr Agapiou talked about the potential of earth observation virtual constellations and big data: moving beyond current archaeological prospection practices.

Invited talk by Prof. Hadjimitsis at the ACTRIS IMP Kick-off meeting in Larnaca, Cyprus (2-6/3/2020)



From 2nd to the 6th of March 2020, the ACTRIS community gathered at the Sun Hall Hotel in Larnaca, Cyprus, to kick-off the ACTRIS Implementation Project (IMP). This week-long meeting was attended by over 90 participants, including remote attendees, and its aim was to present the goals and actions planned for the next 4 years to take ACTRIS to a new level of maturity and reach the operational phase, to the community. On the 3rd of March, two of the H2020 Teaming projects in Cyprus, 'EMME-CARE' & 'EXCELSIOR' have been presented by their coordinators Prof. Jean Sciare & Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis respectively.



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Presentation of EXCELSIOR project at the Limassol Chamber of Commerce & Industry (4/3/2020)- Invited Talk



The Limassol Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in collaboration with the Limassol Municipality and the Cyprus University of Technology, organized the event entitled “Research and Innovation in Space Technology and Geoinformation through the Horizon2020 Teaming EXCELSIOR Project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence”. The event took place at the premises of the Limassol Chamber of Commerce & Industry on the 4th of March 2020. Mr. Costas Galatariotis, President of the Limassol Chamber of Commerce & Industry, during his welcome speech, stressed out that the EXCELSIOR project will contribute to the development of new business ideas, attraction of new investments and creation of new jobs by supporting the economic development of Cyprus.

A welcome address was followed by the Mayor of Limassol, Mr. Nikos Nikolaidis. He stressed his support to the EXCELSIOR project and the benefits that the city of Limassol will have from the creation of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence. Finally, Mr. Nikolas Iordanou, Vice President of the Board of the Cyprus University of Technology, in his welcoming remarks emphasized that Cyprus University of Technology considers the EXCELSIOR project to be one of the most important successes in the short history of the University. The event concluded with the presentations of Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) and Dr Panayiotis Philimis, CEO of Cyprus Research & Innovation Center (CyRIC) and Gravity Ventures Incubator and President of the Cyprus Association of Research and Innovation Enterprises.



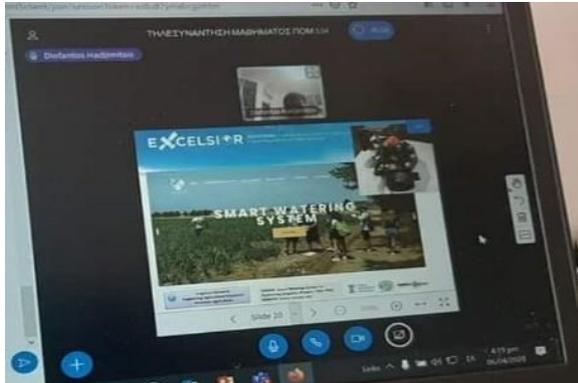
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Presentation to MSc students (6/4/2020)



Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) presented Earth Observation applications that are developed within the EXCELSIOR Project to the MSc students of the Civil Engineering and Sustainable Design course of the Cyprus University of Technology. Due to COVID-19 protection measures, the presentation was held online.

Co-organizing the ICOMOS-CYPRUS seminar (24/4/2020)-Invited Talk



In the context of the World Day of Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS Cyprus organized a webinar on "Digital Cultural Heritage: Technologies and Challenges". The seminar was held in collaboration with ICOMOS Cyprus with ETEK, the headquarters of UNESCO in Digital Cultural Heritage, the Cyprus University of Technology, the EXCELSIOR program. The EXCELSIOR Project was presented extensively by Dr. Kyriacos Themistocleous (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project).

Dr. Themistocleous presented about "Digital Cultural Heritage: Technologies and Challenges to the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Cyprus sector". His presentation focused on how the EXCELSIOR project can be used for monitoring cultural heritage sites. In addition, the presentation included discussions on how ICOMOS and EXCELSIOR can best work together.

Participation at the Copernicus Academy video conference (20/5/2020) (Invited Talk)



Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) presented the "EXCELSIOR" project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence during the Copernicus Academy Monthly online meeting, organised on the 20th of May 2020. During the online meeting, there was an attendance of more than 55 participants. Mr. Mettas and Dr. Tzouvaras (members of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) also joined the meeting.



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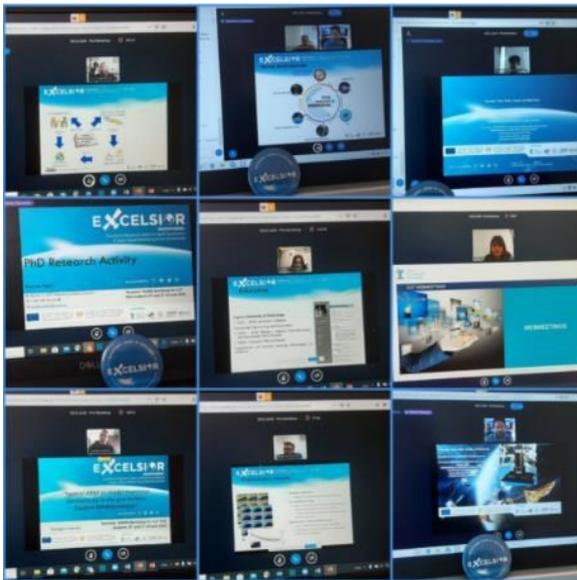


Presentation to the Chief Scientist (29/5/2020)



The EXCELSIOR Project and the up-to-date activities of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence were presented to the Chief Scientist of Cyprus (Dr Nikolas Mastrogiannopoulos) and the General Director of the Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) of Cyprus (Mr Theodoros Loukaides). The meeting was coordinated by Mr Christos Aspris, Mr Marios Giorgoudes and was supported by Dr Leda Skoufari and Ms Elena Poulli (officers at the RIF).

PhD workshop (4-5/6/2020)



On the 4th and 5th of June 2020, 20 PhD candidates of Cyprus University of Technology presented their PhD and their research activities (objectives, methodology, results, and future work) to the EXCELSIOR consortium. Each PhD candidate presentation was followed by an open-table discussion with the Advanced Partners of the EXCELSIOR project. This was the first two-day online workshop organized by the EXCELSIOR project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence. The workshop was attended by 55 researchers, including all Advanced partners of the EXCELSIOR Project.

Researchers and Permanent Staff Workshop (25/6/2020)



On the 26th of June 2020, 16 researchers and 5 permanent staff of the Cyprus University of Technology presented online their profile and their research activities to the EXCELSIOR Partners. During the workshop there was an active discussion between the participants.



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Presentation at the online event of NCP_WIDENET Talks (7/9/2020) (Invited Talk)



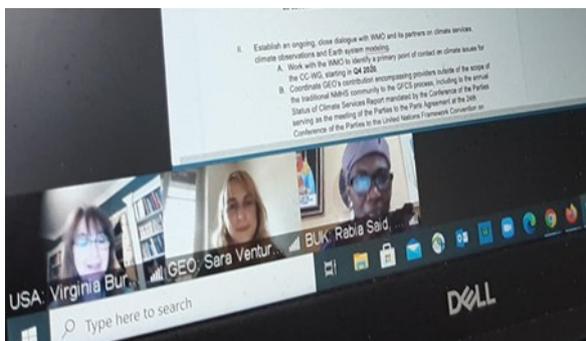
Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) presented at the online event of NCP_WIDENET Talks "European Digital Innovation Hubs & Widening Participation". His presentation elaborated on EXCELSIOR and ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence as a Digital Innovation Hub (DIH). The event was organized by the NCP.WIDE.NET and aimed to bring together different actors that contribute to digital transformation of regions through Digital Innovation Hubs. This event is available online under the following link: <http://tiny.cc/mj71tz>

Workshop "Strengthening the industry in Cyprus" (22/9/2020)



The EXCELSIOR Project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence were presented by Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) at the workshop "Strengthening the industry in Cyprus" organized by the Deputy Ministry of Research and Innovation and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Cyprus (held at Landmark Hotel in Nicosia).

GEO Work Programme & Synergies (20/10/2020)



On the 20th of October 2020, Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) participated online in the subgroup 1 of GEO: Coordination of climate issues across the GEO Work Programme & Synergies with key partners (including WMO). The co-chair of the event was Dr: Virginia Burkett, the Chief Scientist for Climate and Land Use Change at the U.S. Geological Survey.



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CERES Workshop in Cyprus (20/10/2020)



Three online presentations were made by the EXCELSIOR team at the CERES Earth Observation Workshop in Cyprus.

- EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project by Prof. Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator)
- Copernicus and Cultural Heritage and Tourism by Dr Themistocleous (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project)
- EO and Space initiatives in Schools by Ms Eleni Loulli (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project)

The workshop was organized online by the European Space Agency and the Department of Electronic Communications.

Nicosia Risk Forum (26/11/2020)



Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) participated online at the Nicosia Risk Forum, where he represented the EXCELSIOR Project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence in the framework of his presentation on Digital Innovation Hub for Earth Observation and Geospatial Information in Cyprus and the EMMENA region.

Presentation at the General Assembly of the Paphos Civil Engineers Association: Invited Talk (7/12/2020)



Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) was an invited speaker at the General assembly of the Paphos Civil Engineers Association. The Association is one of the 95 organisations that supported the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and the EXCELSIOR project.



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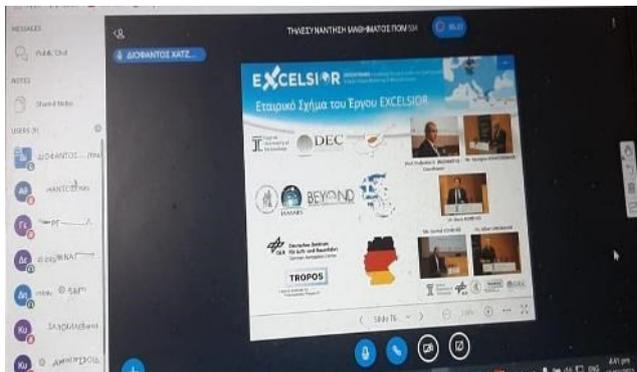


Final event of ARinfuse Erasmus+ Project: Invited Talk (29/1/2021)



Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) attended the final event of the ARinfuse Erasmus+ Project and made an online presentation on the "Integration of Geospatial Information and Augmented Reality to support the utility sectors and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence as a Digital Innovation Hub".

Presentation of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming project to the postgraduate students (15/2/2021)



On the 15th of February 2021, Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) presented the EXCELSIOR project as well as various research topics relevant to the EXCELSIOR project to the postgraduate students of the MSc course in Civil Engineering and Sustainable Design of the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology.

Presentation of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming project at the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics Evaluation (15-16/2/2021)



On the 15th and 16th of February 2021, during the external evaluation of the Department's MSc and PhD programmes, the EXCELSIOR project was highlighted as one of the great successes of the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics. Several funded projects were also presented by the EXCELSIOR team. This evaluation was monitored by the 'The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA).



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Invited Talk at the NASA-Mediterranean Regional Information Network Annual Meeting (25/2/2021)



On the 25th of February 2021, during the annual 2021 virtual meeting of the Mediterranean Regional Information Network of NASA, Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator and European Leader of the MEDRIN network) presented the EXCELSIOR project and highlighted the needs, opportunities and challenges for Space Monitoring of the Environment in the Mediterranean region. MedRIN was established following discussions with European, African, Asian, and American colleagues and is a new GOCF-GOLD network focusing on the Mediterranean region. MedRIN serves as a link between land-cover/land-use/change remote sensing scientists and stakeholders in the region. During the meeting, new members had the opportunity to present their fields of interest. Representatives from the existing members/partners, as well as new members, had the chance to discuss common interests, as well as current and potential collaborations between the interested parties.

OPHERA 1st Workshop (17-21/5/2021)-Invited Talks



Dr. Kyriacos Themistocleous and Dr. Nicholas Kyriakides (members of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) were invited as speakers on the Ophera 1st workshop held online between the 17th and 21st of May 2021. The 1st OPHERA Workshop focused on the digital technologies for knowledge and promotion of cultural heritage during the restoration & reconstruction process.



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Cluster meeting “Sustainable Agriculture and natural resources” organized by the European Research Executive Agency (REA), Unit C3 Widening Participation (20/5 2021)



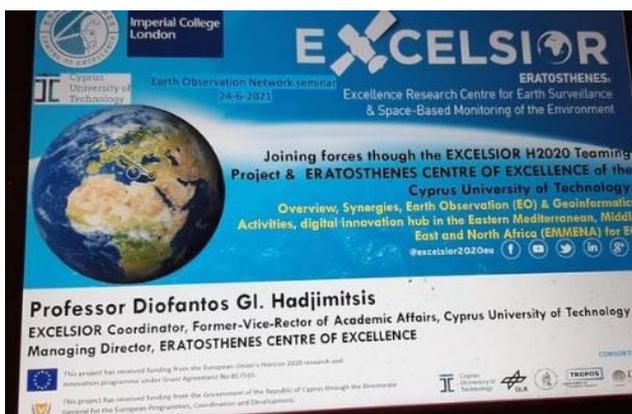
On the 20th of May 2021, Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) presented the EXCELSIOR Project during the online session on the Innovative Technologies in Agriculture, organised by REA.

“URBAN HERITAGE CLIMATE ONSERVATORY" organized by GEO (27/5/2021)



One of the thematic research topics of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence is Cultural Heritage and, hence, the EXCELSIOR project team participated at the "URBAN HERITAGE CLIMATE OBSERVATORY" organized by GEO on the 27th of April 2021.

Earth Observation Network seminar of the Imperial College London – (24/6/2021)



Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) was an invited speaker at the Earth Observation Network seminar of Imperial College London, held online on the 24th of June 2021. Prof Hadjimitsis presentation was titled” Joining forces through the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project & ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence of the Cyprus University of Technology: Overview, Synergies, Earth Observation (EO) & Geoinformatics Activities, digital innovation hub in the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa (EMMENA) for EO”.



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4 Lectures by Invited Speakers

CUT with the support of DEC-MTCW organised eight lectures (summarized in Table 1), where invited speakers presented a range of topics relevant to Earth Observation and Remote Sensing. The lectures were attended by researchers and EO/RS professionals in Cyprus, Europe, EMMENA region, Africa, Asia, and N. America.

Table 1 Summary of invited talks organised by CUT and DEC-MTCW

| Date | Topic | Speaker | Link |
|------------|--|------------------------------|---|
| 9/3/2020 | The European Research Infrastructure ACTRIS and the ERATOSTHENES Center of Excellence: Exploring the Importance of Atmospheric Sensing for the EMMENA Region | Dr. Ulla Wandinger | <i>Physical event – not recorded</i> |
| 9/7/2020 | Remote sensing for natural and cultural heritage: Data, Science and operational applications. | Prof. Rosa Lasaponara | https://youtu.be/1TWui6rOPfc |
| 16/11/2020 | Cities and Climate Change | Prof. Nektarios Chrysoulakis | https://youtu.be/pWcF4YfOtzU |
| 3/12/2020 | Landslide susceptibility mapping using satellite radar interferometry | Dr. Skevi Perdikou | https://youtu.be/HcuqooiXVJg |
| 10/12/2020 | The science of Meteorology and Remote Sensing applications | Dr. Kleanthis Nicolaides | https://youtu.be/1kOV96kdT9s |
| 26/2/2021 | Applications in Flood Risk Assessment - Rainfall-runoff estimation and forecasting using novel technologies in the Mediterranean Region | Prof. Evangelos Baltas | <i>The invited speaker did not consent to record the lecture</i> |
| 31/3/2021 | Remote Sensing, Land Use/Land Cover Data and Example of Their Harmonisation | Prof. Lena Halounova | https://youtu.be/GtdU7o_RXuU |
| 23/6/2021 | Developing quantitative InSAR tools for environmental monitoring | Dr. Philippa Mason | https://youtu.be/U1d8rD2XRyY |

Each invited lecture is elaborated below:

- Dr Ulla Wandinger (TROPOS, Germany) on “The European Research Infrastructure ACTRIS and the ERATOSTHENES Center of Excellence: Exploring the Importance of Atmospheric Sensing for the EMMENA Region” (9/3/2020).



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On the 9th of March 2020, the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology in cooperation with the EXCELSIOR Project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, organised an open scientific lecture, given by the internationally recognized senior researcher Dr. Ulla Wandinger. Prior to the lecture, the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Prof. Phaedon Kyriakides, addressed a brief greeting. The lecture entitled “The European Research Infrastructure ACTRIS and the ERATOSTHENES Center of Excellence: Exploring the Importance of Atmospheric Sensing for the EMMENA Region” was organized as part of the actions of the EXCELSIOR program for the transfer of know-how and enhancing Research and Innovation.

In her presentation, Dr. Wandinger referred to the importance and necessity of the ACTRIS European Research Infrastructure for the study of Atmosphere, Climate Change and Air Pollution as well as the strategic role of the Atmospheric Observatory Research Infrastructure for the area. It is worth noting that ACTRIS is a pan-European research infrastructure that provides short-lived atmospheric constituents and the processes that control their life cycles. In addition to the open lecture, a second lecture entitled “Ground-based remote sensing of aerosol and clouds: Lidar and radar measurements of climate-relevant processes in the atmosphere” was also delivered by Dr. Ulla Wandinger. This lecture targeted mainly doctoral candidates, MSc students and young researchers, and introduced the audience to new trends, techniques and methodologies for studying atmospheric and climate parameters. At the end of the lecture, the students had the opportunity to ask questions and talk to Dr. Ulla Wandinger on future research trends and opportunities offered through the newly established ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence.



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- Prof. Rosa Lasaponara (CNR IMAA, Italy) on “Remote sensing for natural and cultural heritage: Data, Science and operational applications” (9/7/2020).



The EXCELSIOR project, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology organized a virtual invited lecture by Prof. Rosa Lasaponara, held on the 7th of July 2020. Prof. Lasaponara is a researcher at IMAA-CNR and a member of the Board of Directors of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence. Her talk focused on the broader area of earth observation for cultural heritage. Cultural Heritage is one of thematic cluster research areas of ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence.

In total, there were 58 registrations for this invited lecture (from Greece, Germany, and Cyprus, Figure 1). Table 2 Organisations of registered persons (Rosa Lasaponara Invited lecture) Furthermore, the highest percentage of registrations came from the scientific community and a very small percentage from civil society and policy makers. Registrations from industry, media, investors, and customers were not recorded (Figure 2). Table 2 Table 1 shows the affiliation of the persons registered for this event.

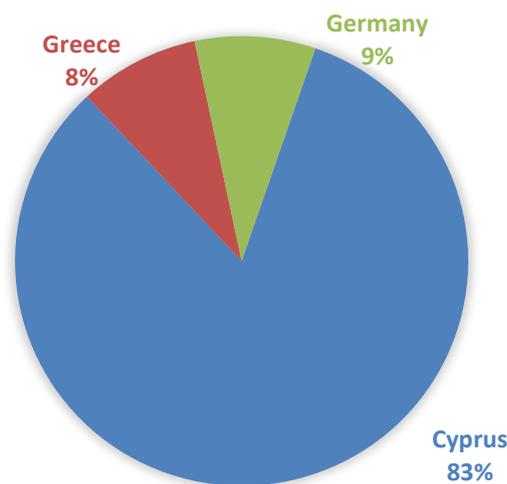


Figure 1 Registrations per Country (Rosa Lasaponara Invited lecture)



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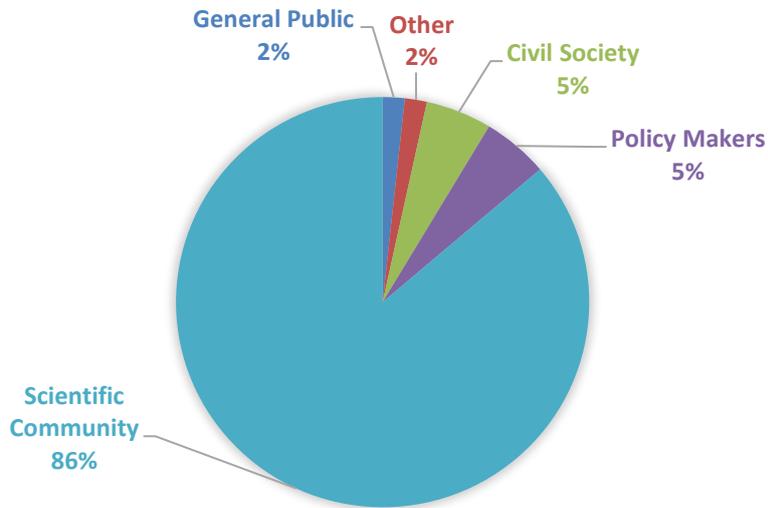


Figure 2 Registrations per Organization Type (Rosa Lasaponara Invited lecture)

Table 2 Organisations of registered persons (Rosa Lasaponara Invited lecture)

| Organisation | Country |
|---|---------|
| Association of Cypriot Archaeologists | Cyprus |
| Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus | |
| Cyprus University of Technology | |
| Department of Lands & Survey | |
| Department of Electronic Communications | |
| Government | |
| Individual | |
| Pascal English School Larnaca | |
| SBLA | |
| University of Cyprus | |
| German Aerospace Center | Germany |
| Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research e.V. | |
| Institute for Mediterranean Studies / Foundation for Research and Technology Hellas | Greece |
| National Observatory of Athens | |
| Technical University of Crete | |
| University of Athens | |



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 857510.



This project has received funding from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus through the Directorate General for the European Programmes, Coordination and Development.



- Dr. Nektarios Chrysoulakis (FORTH, Greece) on “Cities and Climate Change” (16/11/2020).

EXCELSIOR
ERATOSTHENES: Excellence Research Centre for Earth Surveillance and Space-Based Monitoring Of the Environment
www.excelstor2020.eu

14 NOV. 2020
MONDAY
11:30 CYP TIME

WEBINAR

Invited Talk
“Cities and Climate Change”

Dr. Nektarios Chrysoulakis
Director of Research at FORTH / IADM
Member of the Board of Directors of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence

FORTH
THE NATIONAL OBSERVATORY OF ATHENS

CONSORTIUM
Cyprus University of Technology
DLR
TROPOS
DEC

REGISTRATION
http://tiny.cc/EXCELSIOR_NC

The EXCELSIOR, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology organized a virtual invited lecture by Dr Nektarios Chrysoulakis, held on the 16th of November 2020. Dr. Nektarios Chrysoulakis is a Director of Research at FORTH and Head of the Remote Sensing Lab (<http://rslab.gr>), operating Flux Tower Infrastructures in the city of Heraklion (http://www.rslab.gr/heraklion_eddy.html). In total, there were 159 registrations from 89 different organizations, from 16 countries. The highest registration rate was from Cyprus with 76 persons registered (46%) and Greece with 34 persons registered (21%). There were also registrations from India, Italy, Spain, Indonesia, Pakistan, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Albania, Belgium, USA, and the Netherlands as shown in Table 3 and Figure 3. Furthermore, the affiliations of the registered persons are shown in Figure 4. The main proportion of registrations was from the scientific community.



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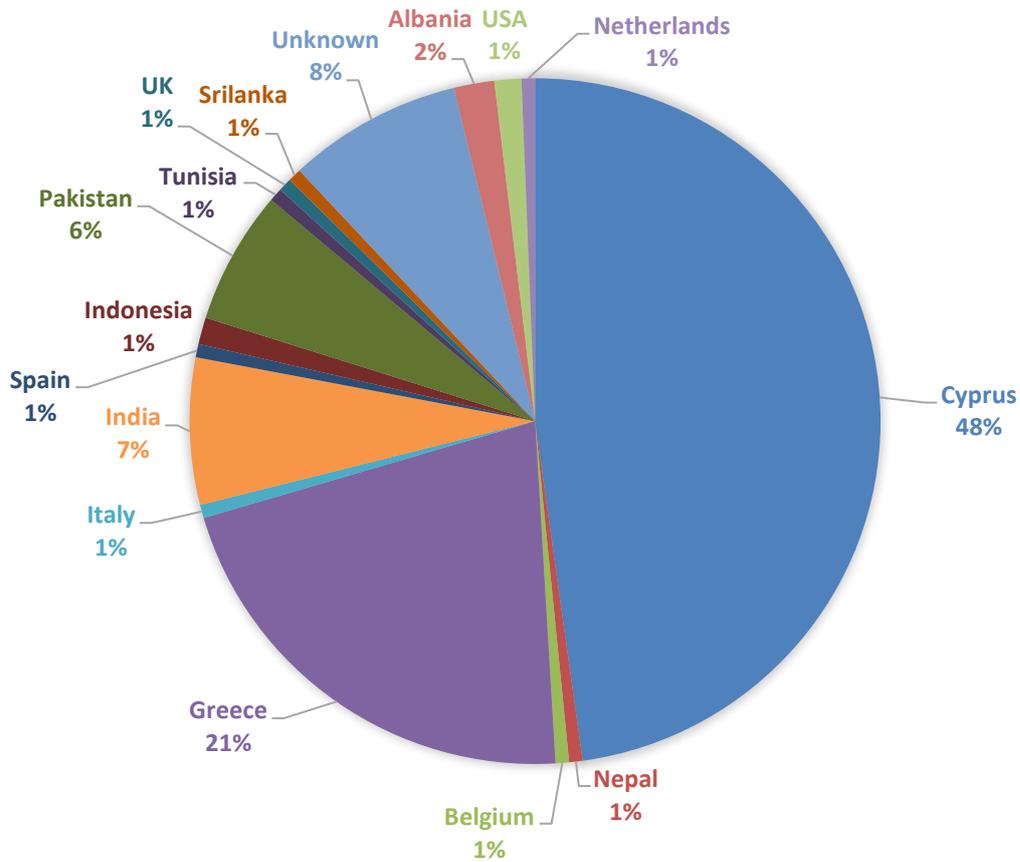


Figure 3 Registrations per Country (Nektarios Chrysoulakis Invited lecture)

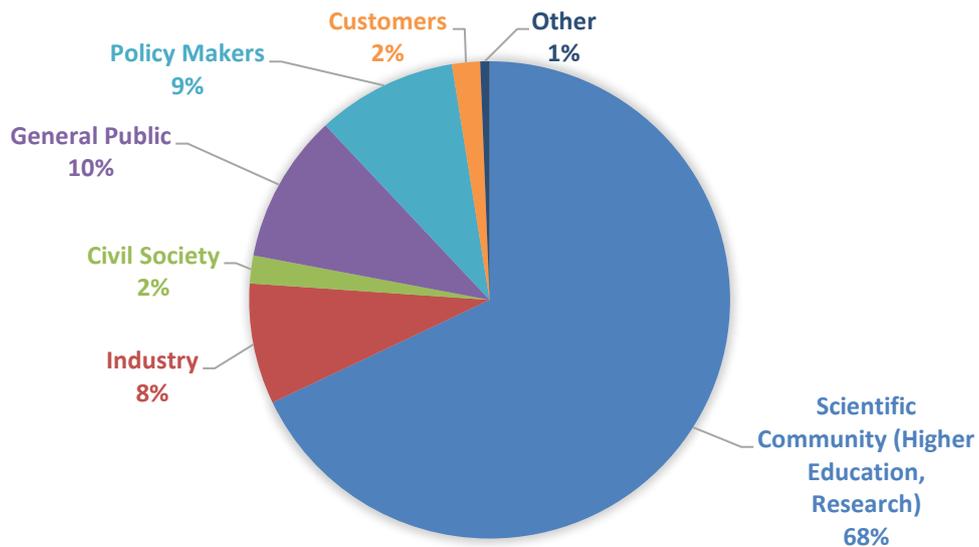


Figure 4 Registrations per Organisation Type (Nektarios Chrysoulakis Invited lecture)



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Table 3 Organisations of registered persons (Nektarios Chrysoulakis Invited lecture)

| Organisation | Country | |
|--|---------|--------|
| University of Tirana | Albania | |
| UT, FHF Master GIS I Aplikuar | | |
| Young Friends of the Earth Europe | Belgium | |
| ATLANTIS Environment and Innovation | Cyprus | |
| C2 Architects | | |
| CELLOCK LTD | | |
| Cyprus Energy Agency | | |
| Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health | | |
| Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute | | |
| Cyprus Organization for Standardization | | |
| Cyprus University of Technology | | |
| CyRIC Ltd | | |
| Department of Lands and Surveys | | |
| EMTech Space | | |
| ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence | | |
| Frederick University | | |
| GMCY | | |
| Holy Bishopric of Limassol | | |
| Hystore Tech Ltd | | |
| Innovation Consultant | | |
| Isotech Ltd | | |
| Ministry of Education | | |
| NCT | | |
| RICS | | |
| Self-employment | | |
| Symmoxia Politon | | |
| The Cyprus Institute | | |
| University of Cyprus | | |
| Vcw | | |
| Aristotle University of Thessaloniki | | Greece |
| Beyond Center Of Excellence | | |
| entopiseto | | |
| ETAM SA | | |
| FORTH | | |
| Geographer | | |
| GSH | | |
| Harokopio Panepistimio (BA student) | | |
| Harokopio University | | |
| Hellenic Fire Service | | |
| Hua university | | |
| Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania | | |
| Municipality of Athens | | |
| National and Kapodistrian University of Athens | | |



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| | |
|---|----------------|
| National Meteorology Agency of Ethiopia | |
| National Observatory of Athens | |
| NCSCM | |
| Student | |
| University of Patras | |
| University of Thessaly | |
| University Student | |
| A N D K P G College Babhnan Gonda UP | |
| Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra | |
| Government Arts college means kumbakonam. | |
| Bharathidasan university trichy | |
| IIT KANPUR | |
| lit Mumbai | |
| IITR | |
| Jadavpur University, Kolkata | |
| Jessami Hr. Sec. School | |
| Kerala State Disaster Management Authority | |
| Mangalore University | |
| SHUATS PRAYAGRAJ (U.P) | |
| Environmental Agency | |
| Universitas Muhammadiyah Kendari | Indonesia |
| University of Bologna | Italy |
| Tribhuvan University | Nepal |
| Utrecht University | Netherlands |
| Government College University Faisalabad | |
| Govt. Postgraduate College Gojra Pakistan | |
| Higher Education Department Punjab Pakistan | |
| Institute of Space Technology | |
| University of Karachi | |
| University of the Punjab | |
| Bax & Company | |
| PS Sri Lanka | |
| Faculty of Science Human and Social of Tunis | Spain |
| OGC | Sri Lanka |
| Department of Geography and Environmental Studies | Tunisia |
| Education | United Kingdom |
| University of Wisconsin–Madison | USA |



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 857510.



This project has received funding from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus through the Directorate General for the European Programmes, Coordination and Development.



- Dr. Skevi Perdikou (Geofem Ltd, Cyprus) on “Landslide susceptibility mapping using satellite radar interferometry” (3/12/2020).



The EXCELSIOR project, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology and Geofem Ltd. organized a virtual invited lecture by Dr. Skevi Perdikou, held on the 3rd of December 2020. Dr Skevi Perdikou is an expert on satellite remote sensing and geotechnical engineering at the consultancy Geofem Ltd. In total, there were 139 registrations from 30 countries. The top 3 countries with the highest registration rate were Cyprus (38%), Greece (19%) and India (7%) (Figure 5 and Figure 6). In addition, based on the organization type, the largest percentage of registrations were from the scientific community (61%) and industry (19%). For the policymakers, the general public and civil society, the following percentages were recorded respectively: 9%, 9%, and 2%. There were no registrations from media, investors, or customers.(Figure 7). Table 4 provides detailed information regarding the affiliation of the persons registered.



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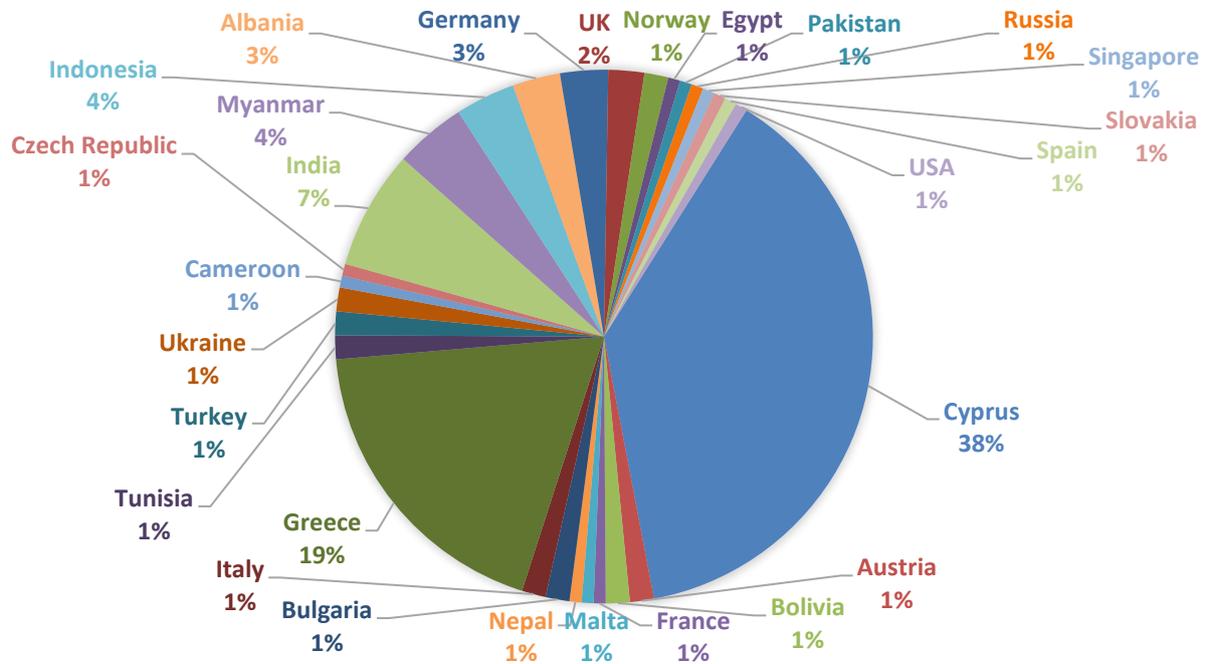


Figure 5 Registrations per Country (Skevi Perdikou Invited lecture)

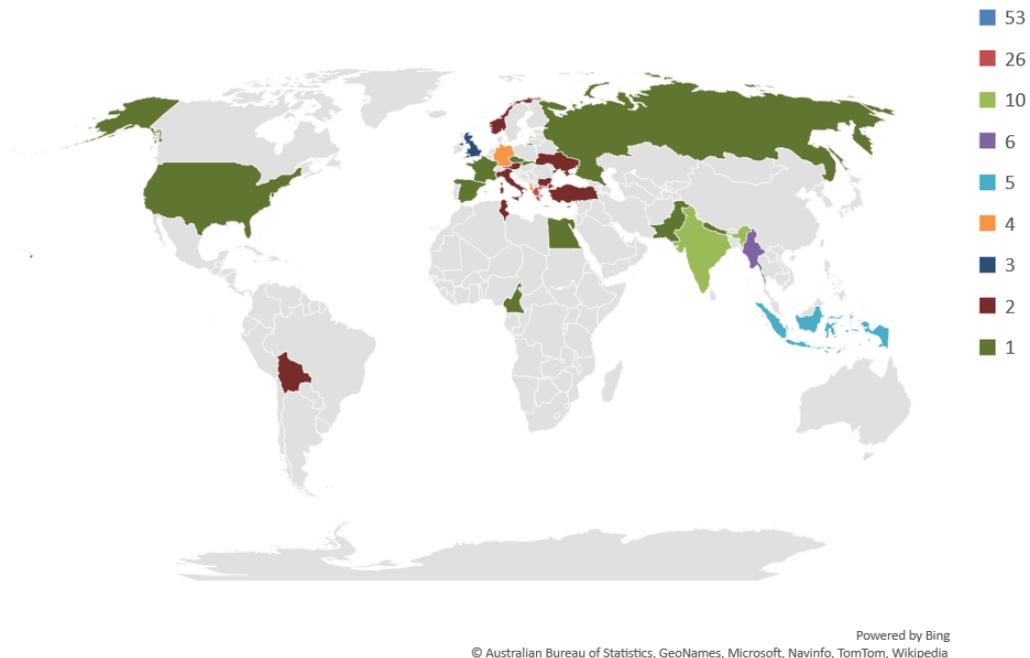


Figure 6 Map of Participations per Country (Skevi Perdikou Invited lecture)



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This project has received funding from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus through the Directorate General for the European Programmes, Coordination and Development.

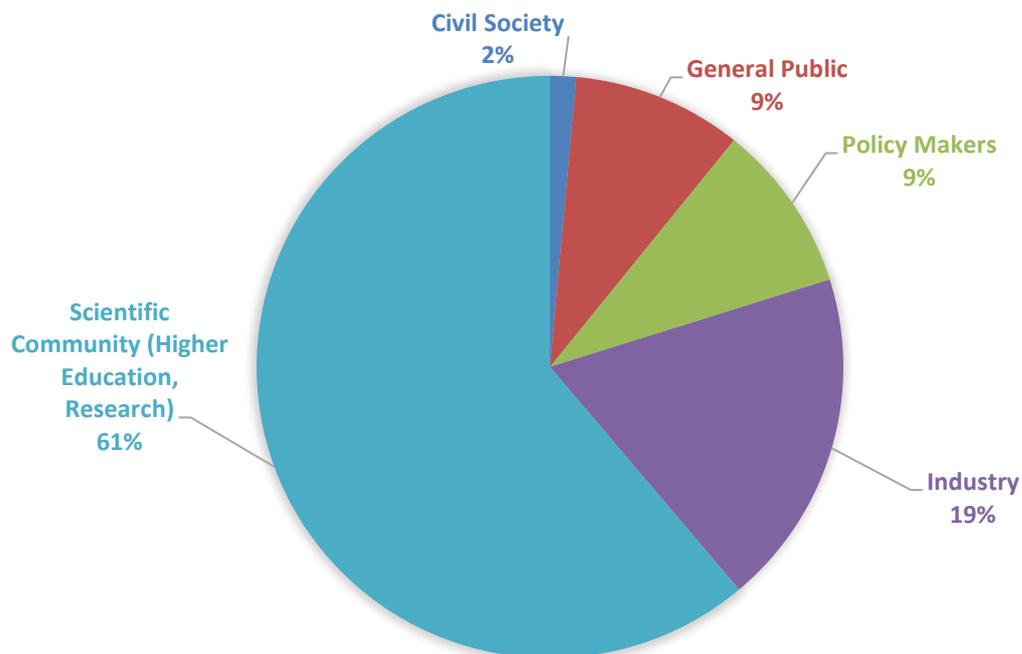


Figure 7 Registrations per Organization Type (Skevi Perdikou Invited lecture)

Table 4 Organisations of registered persons (Skevi Perdikou Invited lecture)

| Organisation | Country | Organisation | Country |
|---|----------|---|---------|
| University of Tirana | Albania | BhuSatyam Technologies | India |
| University of Salzburg | Austria | DMG, JHARKHAND | |
| San Simon University | Bolivia | Gangadhar Meher University | |
| Umss | | GSI | |
| National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography | Bulgaria | Jessami Hr. Sec. School | |
| SRTI-BAS | | M.phil.Researchscholar in geography. Government Arts college means kumbakonam. Bharathidasan university trichy. | |
| Center of Geological and Mining Research, Garoua | Cameroon | NCSCM | |
| Cyprus Geological Survey Department of Cyprus | Cyprus | Nil | |
| Cyprus Marine and Maritime institute | | Shuats | |
| Cyprus Police | | PT. Fajar Surya Swadaya | |



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| Organisation | Country | Organisation | Country | | |
|---|---------|--|-----------|-----------------------|----------|
| Cyprus University of Technology | | Sepuluh Nopember Institute of Technology | | | |
| CyRIC Ltd | | Tensar International | | | |
| DLS | | University | | | |
| ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence | | CNR | | Italy | |
| Frederick University | | La Sapienza | | Malta | |
| Geofem Ltd | | University of Malta | | | |
| KIOS | | Education | | Myanmar | |
| Lawyer | | Ministry of Education | | | |
| Panath Construction Ltd | | Ministry of Organization | | Nepal | |
| University of Cyprus | | Tribhuvan University | | | |
| VCW | | DNv gl | | Norway | |
| Water Development Department | | Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research | | | |
| CTU in Prague | | Czech Republic | | University of Karachi | Pakistan |
| Freelancer | | Egypt | | Innopolis University | Russia |
| IRT St Exupéry | France | Bentley.com | Singapore | | |
| European Space Imaging | Germany | Sas | Slovakia | | |
| GeodataWIZ | | University of Surrey | Spain | | |
| German Aerospace Center | | AVIONAV | Tunisia | | |
| KIT Uni | | University | | | |
| Aristotle University of Thessaloniki | Greece | AKU | Turkey | | |
| Ekpa | | TÜBİTAK | UK | | |
| Geosystems Hellas | | Atkins | | | |
| Harokopio university / student | | Haider Consultancy | | | |
| Individual | | University of Plymouth | Ukraine | | |
| Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania | | Acted | | | |
| MSc Forest Manager | | National university of Kyiv-Mohyla academy | | | |
| National Observatory of Athens | | University of Wisconsin–Madison | USA | | |
| National Technical University of Athens | | | | | |
| Planetek Hellas | | | | | |
| Postgraduate student | | | | | |
| Self Employed | | | | | |
| University of Thessaly | | | | | |



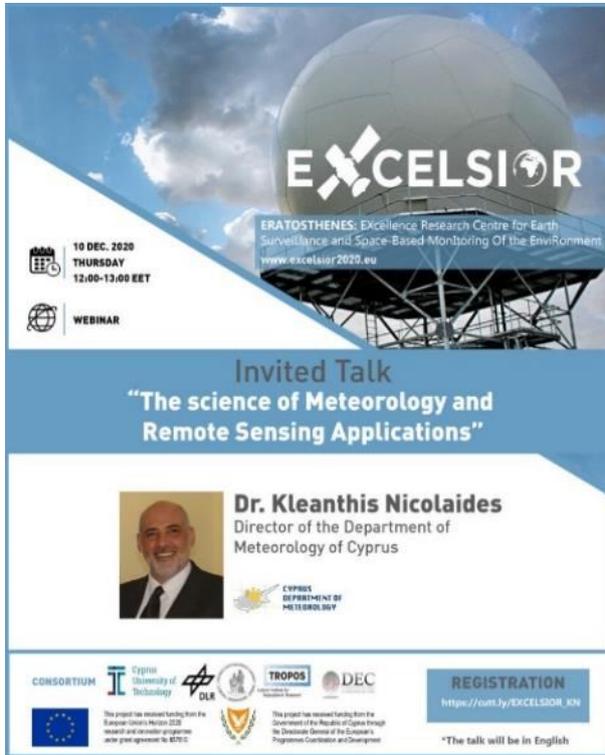
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 857510.



This project has received funding from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus through the Directorate General for the European Programmes, Coordination and Development.



- Dr. Kleanthis Nicolaidis (Cyprus Meteorological Service, Cyprus) on “The science of Meteorology and Remote Sensing Applications” (10/12/2020).



The EXCELSIOR project, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence (ECoE), and the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology organized a virtual invited lecture by Dr. Kleanthis Nicolaidis, held on the 10th of December 2020. Dr Nicolaidis is the Director of the Department of Meteorology of Cyprus (since August 2016), while he was employed by the Department since February 1988. In total 116 persons from 26 different countries registered to the event, with the major percentage coming from Cyprus (48%) (Figures 8 and 9). Furthermore, the majority of the registrations were from the scientific community. More specifically 78% were from the scientific community, 11% from industry, 6% from policymakers, and 3% from the general public. There were no registrations from Civil society, media, investors, and customers but 2% of the persons registered stated as their organization type as "other" (Figure 10). Table 5 shows more information about the affiliation of the registered persons.



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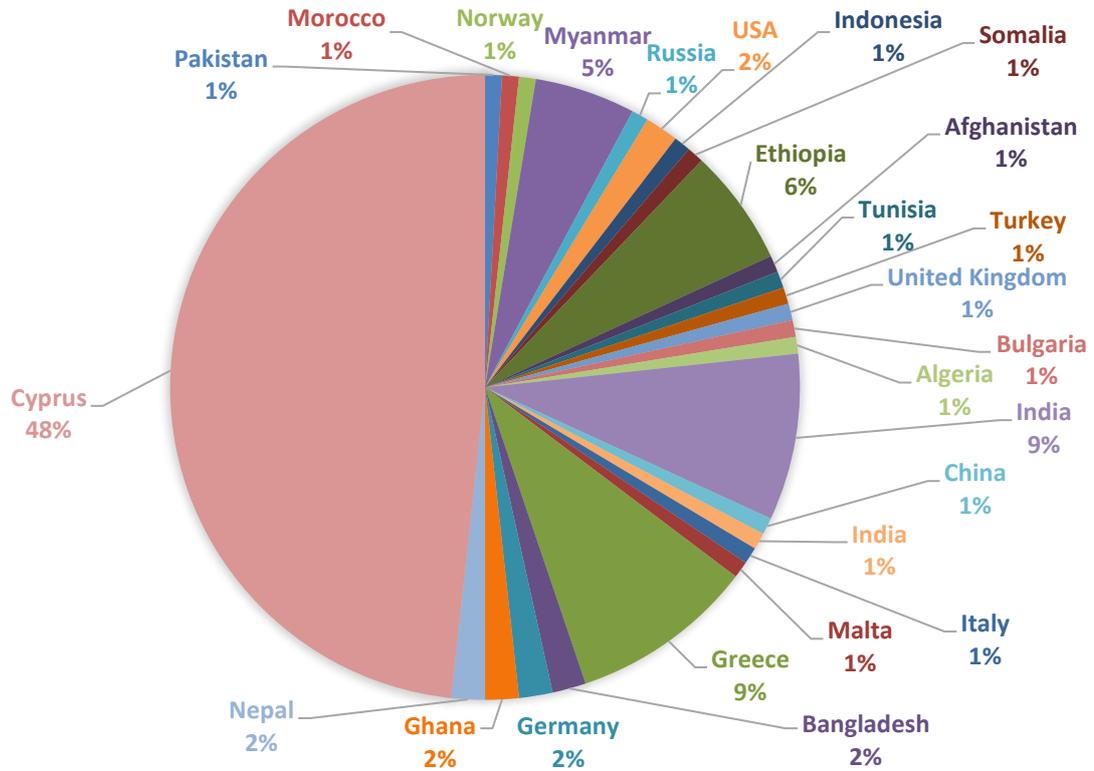


Figure 8 Registrations per Country (Kleanthis Nicolaidis Invited lecture)

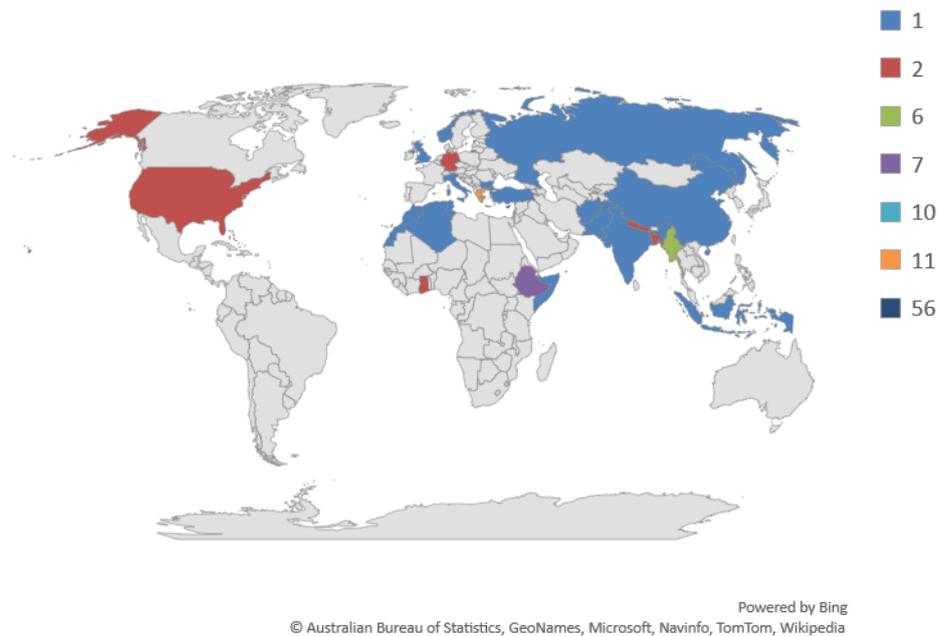


Figure 9 Map of Participations per Country (Kleanthis Nicolaidis Invited lecture)



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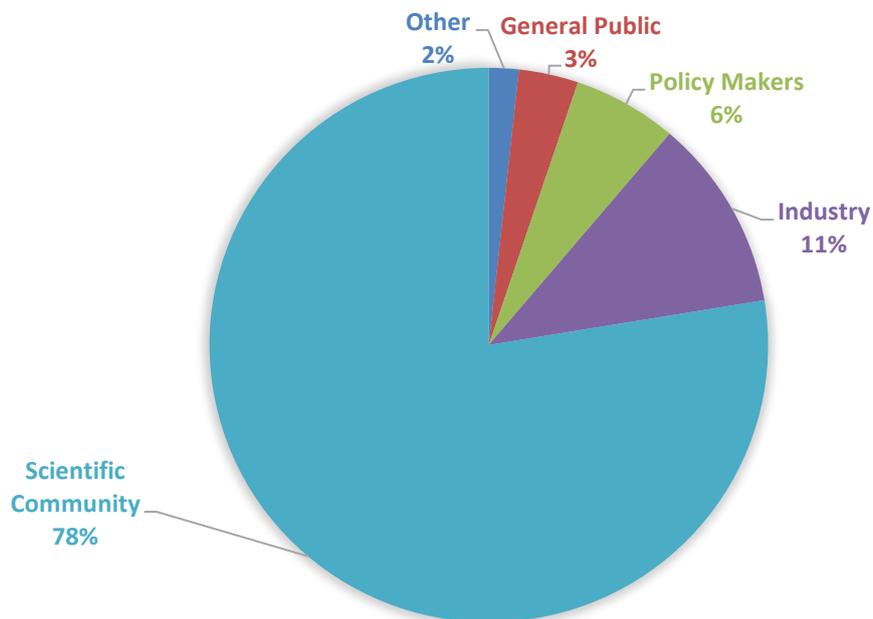


Figure 10 Participations per Organization Type (Kleanthis Nicolaides Invited lecture)

Table 5 Organisations of registered persons (Kleanthis Nicolaides Invited lecture)

| Organisation | Country |
|---|-------------|
| Kabul University | Afghanistan |
| University of Batna | Algeria |
| BSMRMU | Bangladesh |
| Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Chittagong | |
| SRTI-BAS | Bulgaria |
| Zhejiang University | China |
| CARE-C, The Cyprus Institute | Cyprus |
| Cyl | |
| CYNET | |
| Cyprus Energy Agency | |
| Cyprus Institute | |
| Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute | |
| Cyprus Organisation for Standardisation | |
| Cyprus University of Technology | |
| Department of Electronic Communications, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy | |
| Department Of Fisheries And Marine Research | |
| Department of Meteorology | |
| Elmeni Quarries Ltd | |
| ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence | |
| Frederick University | |



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| Organisation | Country |
|--|-----------|
| Galatariotis Technical Ltd | |
| Geofem Ltd. | |
| Innovation Consultant | |
| Lands & Surveys Department | |
| Private Sector | |
| The Cyprus Institute | |
| University of Cyprus | |
| University of St Andrews | |
| Cyprus National Security Authority | |
| Debre Tabor University | |
| EIAR | Ethiopia |
| Sebre Tabor university | |
| TROPOS | |
| University Bremen | Germany |
| University of Energy and Natural Resources | Ghana |
| Aristotle University of Thessaloniki | |
| Autg | |
| Fitce | |
| Individual | |
| MSc Forest manager | Greece |
| National Observatory of Athens | |
| NTUA/MMM | |
| Technical University of Munich | |
| University of Nicosia (Electrical Engineering student) | |
| BhuSatyam Technologies | |
| Doon university | |
| Gangadhar Meher University | |
| Jessami Hr. Sec. School | |
| National institute of technology karnataka | |
| Nil | India |
| Pondicherry University | |
| Pooja associates | |
| Reliance Jio infocomm limited | |
| Government Arts college Means Kumbakonam. | |
| Bharathidasan University Trichy | |
| University | Indonesia |
| CNR | Italy |
| University of Malta | Malta |
| SMS University | Morocco |
| Department of Geography | |
| Education | Myanmar |
| University of Mandalay | |



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| Organisation | Country |
|--|----------------|
| Agricultural and Forestry University | Nepal |
| Research Center of Hydrology and Meteorology | |
| DNV GL | Norway |
| University of Karachi | Pakistan |
| Innopolis University | Russia |
| Secco | Somalia |
| AVIONAV | Tunisia |
| AKU | Turkey |
| HR Wallingford | United Kingdom |
| UW Madison | USA |

- Prof. Evangelos Baltas (NTUA, Greece) on “Applications in Flood Risk Assessment – Rainfall-runoff estimation and forecasting using novel technologies in the Mediterranean Region” (26/2/2021).

The EXCELSIOR project, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology organized a virtual invited lecture by Prof. Evangelos Baltas, held on February 26, 2021. Evangelos Baltas is a Professor at the School of Civil Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens. He co-established the Center of Hydrology and Informatics (CHI) constituting of the NTUA meteorological network, the database of the hydrological information and the experimental basin.

In total, there were 95 registrations from 18 countries. They mainly came from Cyprus (54%) and Greece (20%) and their majority came from the scientific community (

Figure 11 and Figure 12). Registrations from the media, investors, and customers were not recorded. Regarding policymakers, general public, industry, and civil society, the following percentages were recorded respectively: 6%, 4%, 8% and 2% (Figure 13). Table 6 provides information about the affiliations of the registered persons



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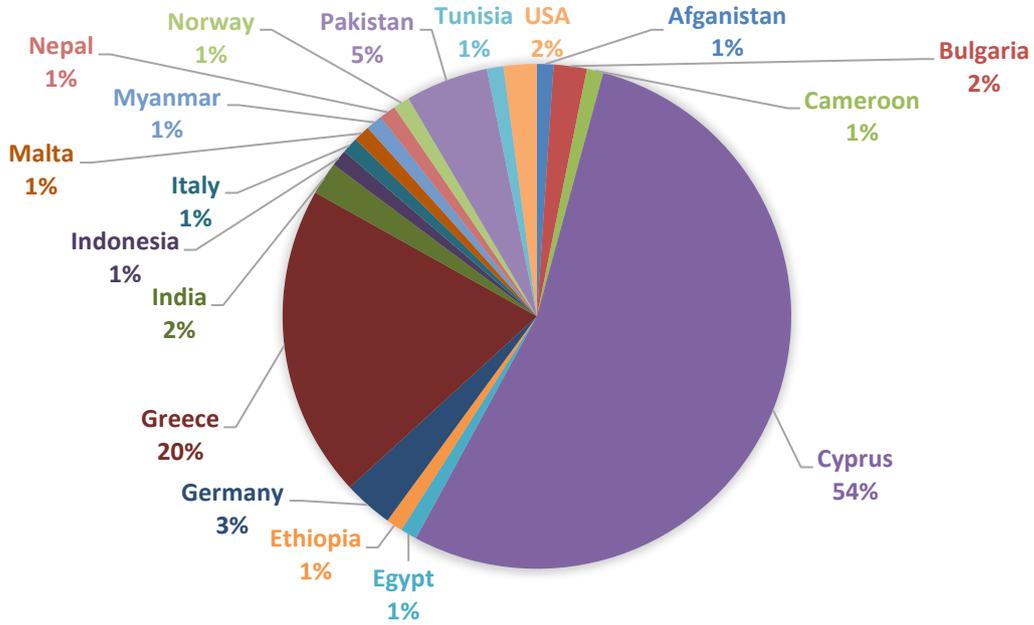


Figure 11 Participations per Country (Invited lecture Evangelos Baltas)

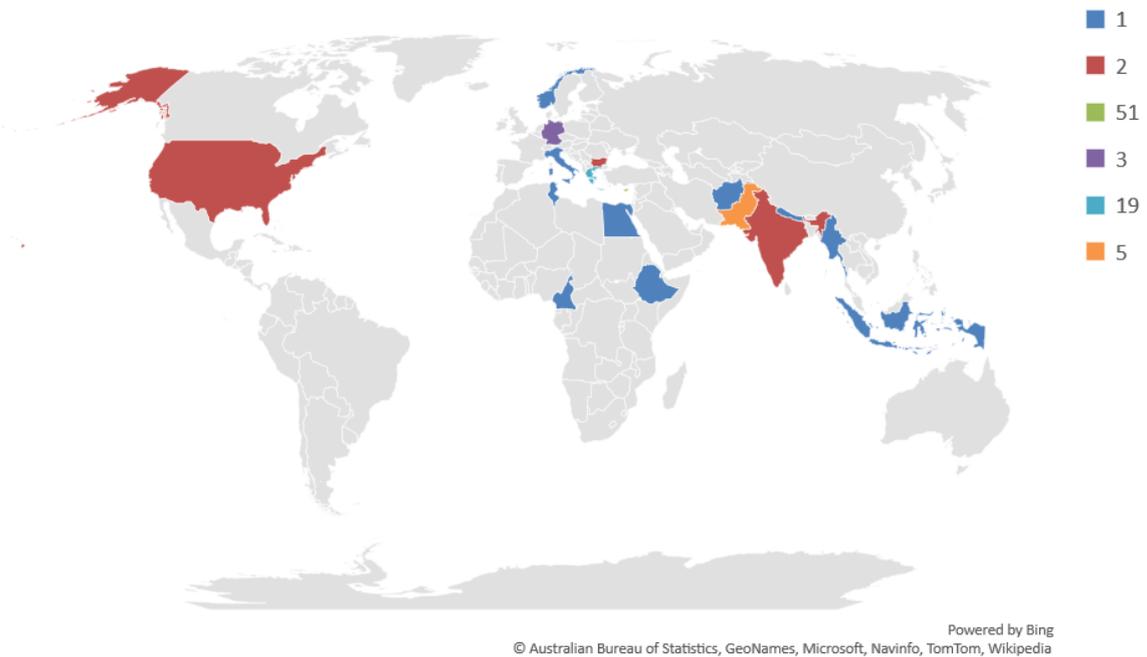


Figure 12 Map of Participations per Country (Evangelos Baltas Invited lecture)



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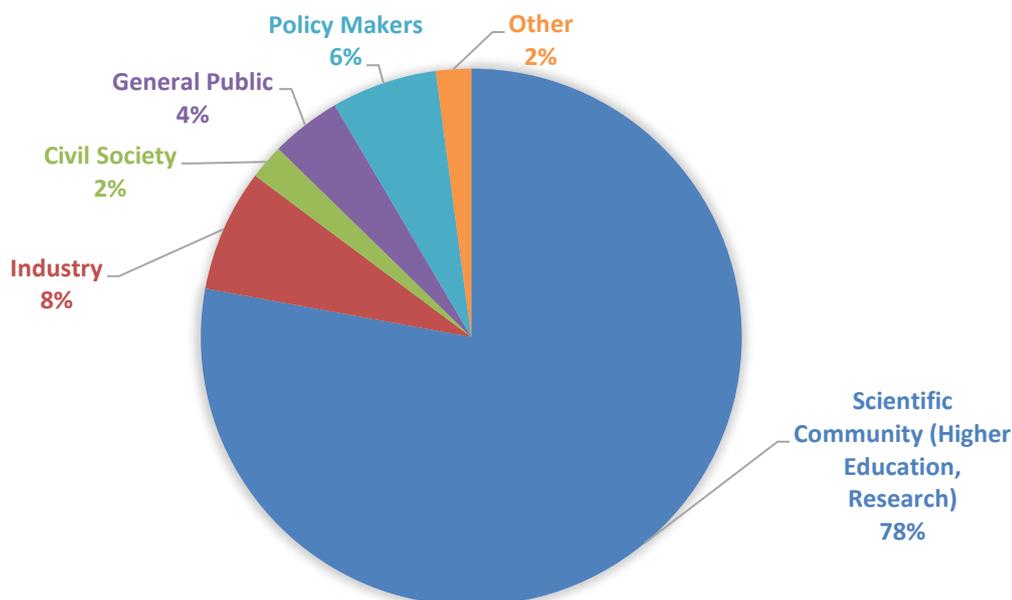


Figure 13 Registrations per Organisation Type (Evangelos Baltas Invited lecture)

Table 6 Persons registered' Organisations (Evangelos Baltas Invited lecture)

| Organization | Country |
|--|-------------|
| Kabul university | Afghanistan |
| National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography | Bulgaria |
| SRTI-BAS | |
| Center of Geological and Mining Research | Cameroon |
| Cellock ltd | |
| Cyprus Energy Agency | |
| Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute | |
| Cyprus University of Technology | |
| Cyta | |
| Department of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science and Engineering | |
| EA | |
| ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence | Cyprus |
| EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY CYPRUS | |
| Frederick University | |
| Freelance Geotechnical Engineer | |
| Holy Bishopric of Limassol | |
| KPO | |
| lawyer | |
| The Cyprus Institute | |
| Unic | |



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| Organization | Country |
|--|-----------|
| University of Cyprus | |
| Water Development Department, Division of Hydrology and Hydrogeology | |
| Freelancer | Egypt |
| National Meteorology Agency | Ethiopia |
| DLR | |
| KIT | Germany |
| TROPOS | |
| Agricultural University of Athens | |
| Aristotle University of Thessaloniki | |
| CERTH | |
| HAROKOPIO UNIVERSITY | |
| INDIVIDUAL | Greece |
| National Observatory of Athens (NOA) | |
| NTUA | |
| Private sector | |
| School of Forestry and Natural Environment, AUTH | |
| BhuSatyam Technologies | India |
| Pooja Associates | |
| PT. Fajar Surya Swadaya | Indonesia |
| NHAZCA S.r.l. | Italy |
| University of Malta | Malta |
| Ministry of Education | Myanmar |
| Tribhuvan University | Nepal |
| DNV | Norway |
| Govt. Postgraduate College Gojra | |
| Institute of space and technology (IST) | Pakistan |
| Space and technology University Islamabad | |
| University | Tunisia |
| UW Madison | USA |



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- Prof. Lena Halounova (Czech Technical University, Prague) on “Remote Sensing, Land Use/Land Cover Data and Example of Their Harmonisation” (31/3/2021).

The EXCELSIOR project, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology organized a virtual invited lecture by Prof. Lena Halounova, held on the 31st of March 2021. Since graduation from the Czech Technical University in Prague (Faculty of Civil Engineering), Lena Halounová remained within its walls during her Ph.D. at the Department of Hydrotechnics, and then moved to the Remote Sensing Laboratory of the Department of Mapping and Cartography, which she is heading today. For this invited lecture, there were 117 registrations from 27 countries. The registered persons came mainly from Cyprus (44%) and Greece (21%) (see Figure 14 and Figure 15). Additionally, based on the organization type, the majority of the registered persons were from the scientific community (67%). The registrations per organization type are shown in Figure 16. Table 7 gives an overview of the affiliations of the registered persons.



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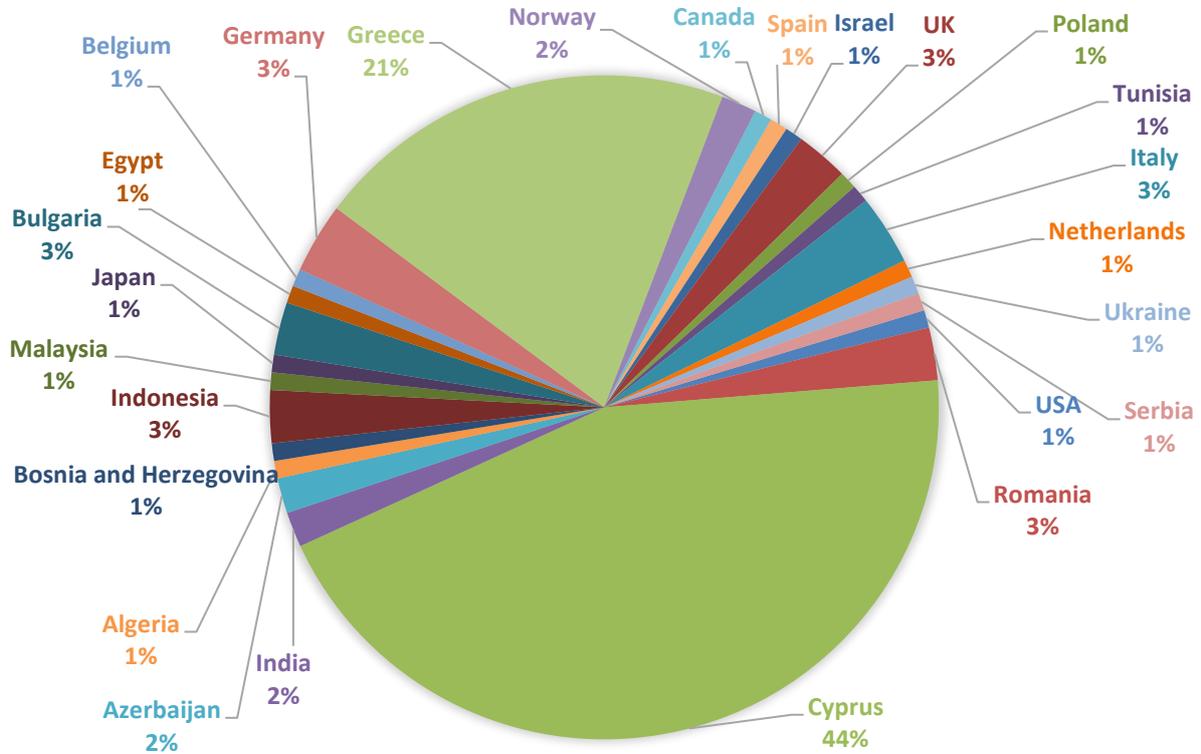
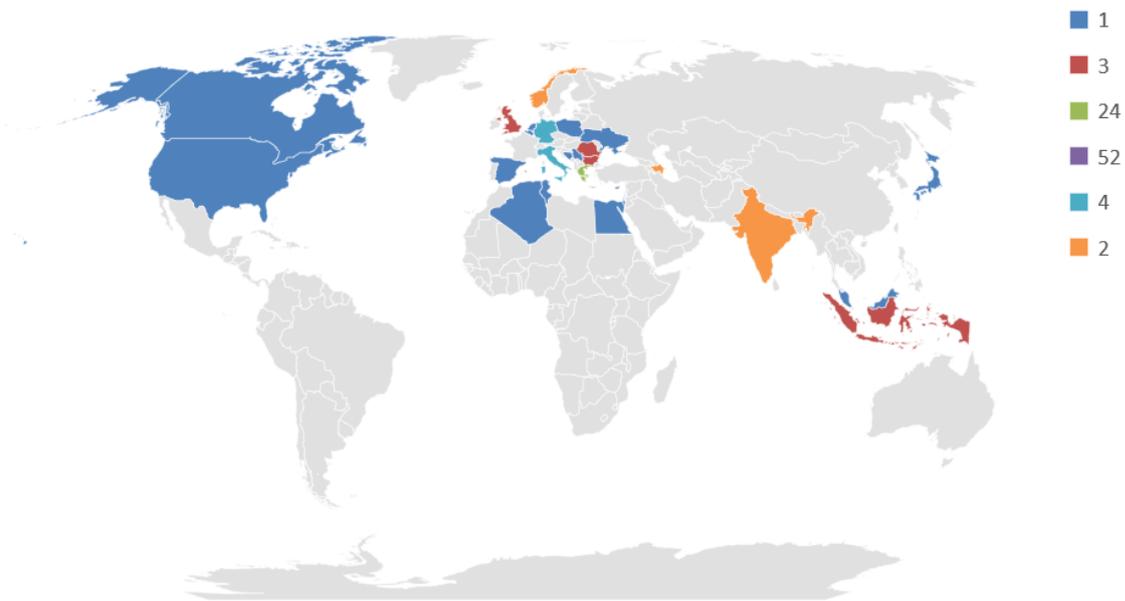


Figure 14 Registrations per Country (Lena Halounova Invited lecture)



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Figure 15 Map of Registrations per Country (Lena Halounova Invited lecture)



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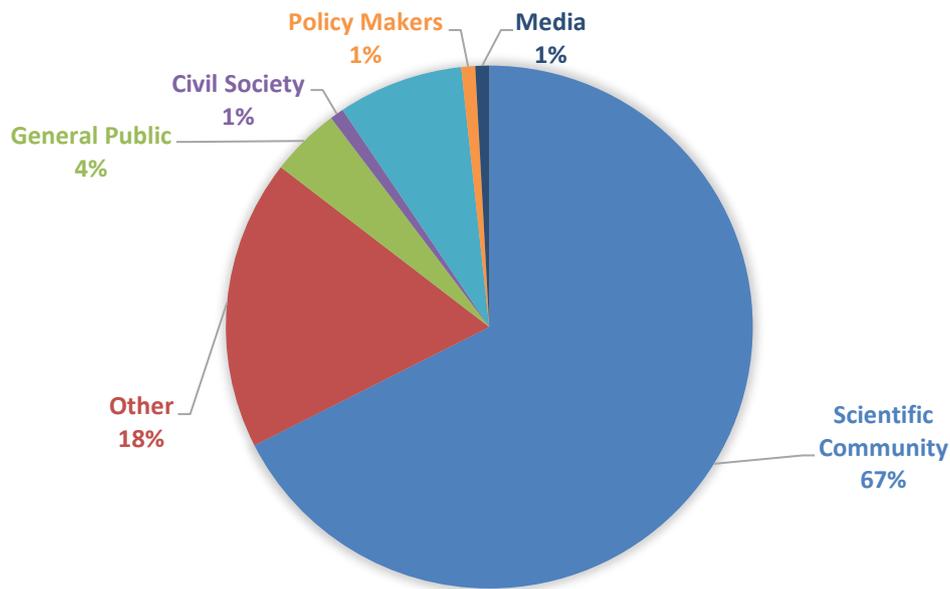


Figure 16 Type (Lena Halounova Invited lecture)

Table 7 Organisations of registered persons (Lena Halounova Invited lecture)

| Organization | Country |
|--|------------------------|
| USTHB university | Algeria |
| Azercosmos OJSC | Azerbaijan |
| Geography institute | |
| Research Executive Agency | Belgium |
| University of Banja Luka, Faculty of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| Space Research and Technology Institute Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | Bulgaria |
| Sea Scan International Inc | Canada |
| Cyprus University of Technology | Cyprus |
| Department Of Fisheries And Marine Research | |
| Department of Lands and Surveys | |
| DHRLab - CUT | |
| Department of Lands and Surveys Cyprus | |
| Department of Forestry | |
| ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence | |
| European University Cyprus | |
| Frederick University | |
| Geofem | |
| Holy Bishopric of Limassol | |
| KIOS | |
| Lands & Surveys Department | |
| The Cyprus Institute | |



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| Organization | Country |
|---|-------------|
| University of Cyprus | |
| University of St Andrews | |
| Freelancer | Egypt |
| DLR | |
| GeodataWIZ | Germany |
| KIT Uni | |
| Aristotle University of Thessaloniki | |
| Br | |
| CERTH | |
| EXCELSIOR | |
| Hellenic Fire Service | |
| MAICH | Greece |
| National Observatory of Athens | |
| NTUA/School of Mining and Metallurgical Engineering PhD student | |
| Private sector | |
| University of Thessaly | |
| Acharya Nagarjuna University | India |
| POOJA ASSOCIATES | |
| Geotechnical Freeport Indonesia | |
| Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta | Indonesia |
| PT. Fajar Surya Swadaya | |
| Individual | Israel |
| Cnr | |
| CRS4 | Italy |
| NHAZCA | |
| Hiroshima University | Japan |
| Universiti Teknologi Malaysia | Malaysia |
| ITC | Netherlands |
| DNV | Norway |
| University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn | Poland |
| MeteoRomania | |
| Romanian National Meteorological Administration | Romania |
| Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest | |
| Faculty of Technical Science, University of Novi Sad | Serbia |
| University of Jaén Spain | Spain |
| AVIONAV | Tunisia |
| HR WALLINGFORD | |
| University of Nottingham | UK |
| University of Reading | |
| ACTED | Ukraine |
| JoSS | USA |



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- Dr Philippa Mason (Imperial College London, UK) on “Developing quantitative InSAR tools for environmental monitoring” (23/6/2021).

The EXCELSIOR project, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology organized a virtual invited lecture, given by Dr Philippa Mason on the 23rd of June 2021. Dr Philippa Mason is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Earth Science and Engineering of Imperial College London. She is a professional field geoscientist and a specialist in remote sensing, with more than 20 years (academic and commercial) experience, and with research interests in the application and development of InSAR in geohazards and tectonics, and in spectral geology and image processing, on Earth and other planets.

In total 79 persons from 19 countries participated in the invited talk (see Figure 17 and Figure 18). The majority of the registered participants were from Cyprus (54%) and Greece (11%) and came mainly from the scientific community (see Figure 19). Table 8 Organisations of registered persons (Philippa Mason Invited lecture) Table 8 gives an overview of the affiliations of the registered persons.



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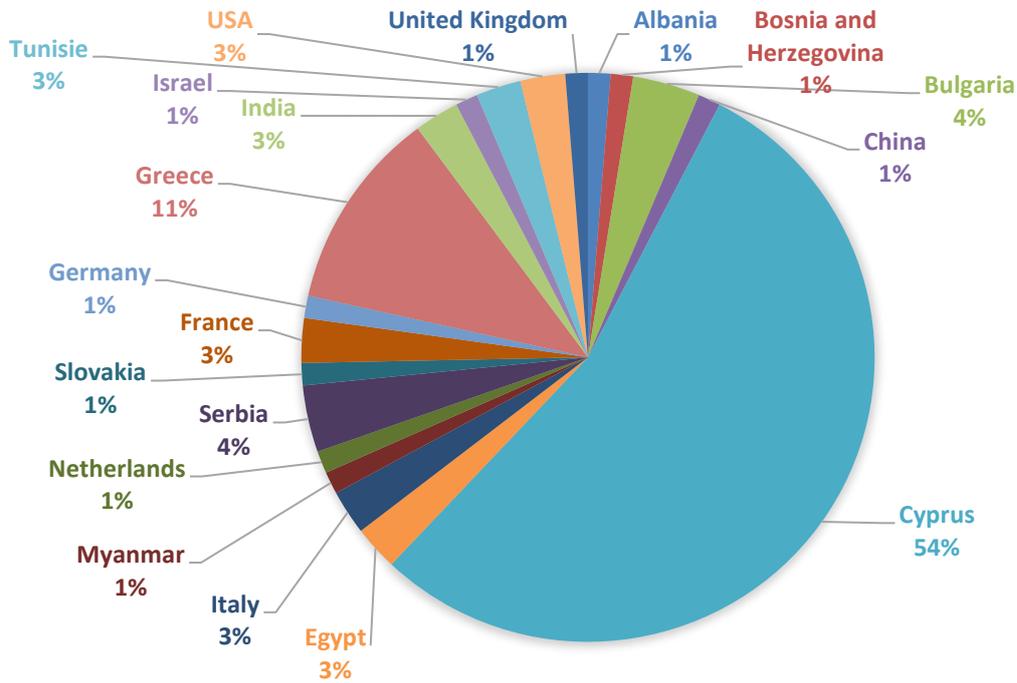


Figure 17 Registrations per Country (Philippa Mason Invited lecture)

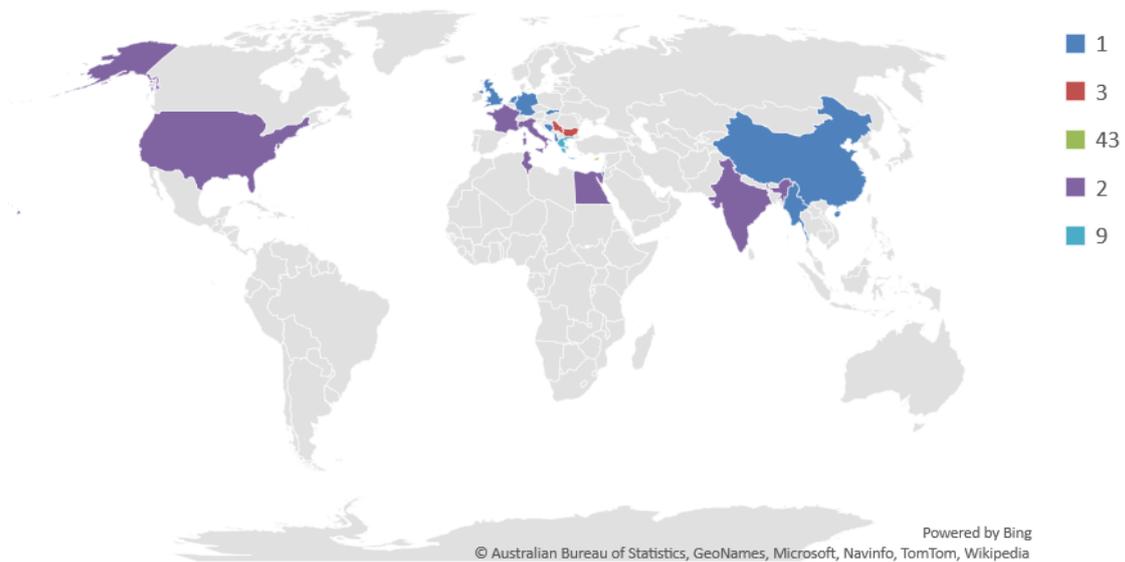


Figure 18 Map of Registrations per Country (Philippa Mason Invited lecture)



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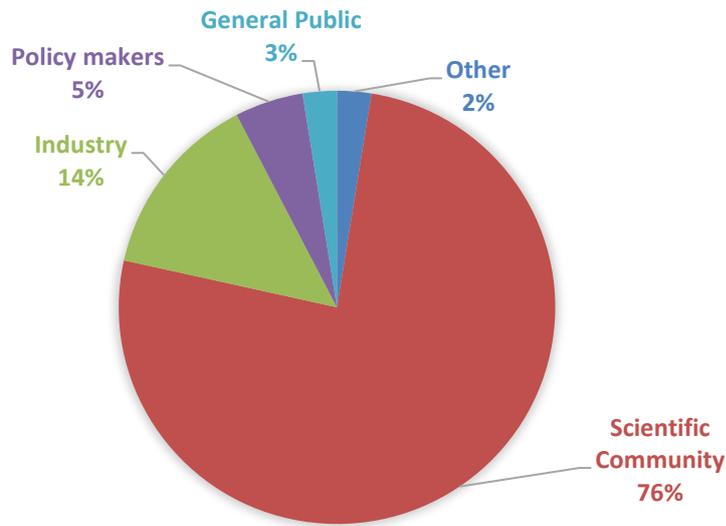


Figure 19 Registrations per Organization Type (Philippa Mason Invited lecture)

Table 8 Organisations of registered persons (Philippa Mason Invited lecture)

| Organization | Country |
|---|------------------------|
| Academy of Sciences of Albania | Albania |
| Faculty of Architecture, Civil engineering and Geodesy | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| Space Research and Technology Institute Bulgarian Academy of Sciences | Bulgaria |
| SRTI-BAS | |
| Nanjing university | China |
| Cyprus University of Technology | |
| Cyprus Fire Service | |
| Cyprus Geological Survey Department | |
| Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health | |
| ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence | |
| Frederick University | Cyprus |
| Geofem | |
| Geological Survey Department of Cyprus | |
| P. Hadjipanayi LTD | |
| Strategy, Innovation & Communication Consultant | |
| The Cyprus institute | |
| University of Cyprus | |
| National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences | Egypt |
| Disaitek | France |
| GeodataWIZ | Germany |
| Academic | |
| Aristotle University of Thessaloniki | Greece |



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| | |
|--|----------------|
| Harokopio University of Athens | |
| Individual | |
| IT company | |
| Manolis Tsantakis | |
| National Observatory of Athens | |
| University of Aegean | |
| Acharya Nagarjuna University | India |
| BioSense | Israel |
| Consultant | |
| NHAZCA | Italy |
| University of Bologna | |
| Ministry of Education | Myanmar |
| Wageningen Marine Research | Netherlands |
| University of Twente | |
| ICTM - University of Belgrade, Centre of Excellence in Environmental Chemistry and Engineering | Serbia |
| University of Novi Sad | |
| insar.sk Ltd | Slovakia |
| Tritux | |
| University of Carthage, Higher School of Communications of Tunis | Tunisia |
| UW-Madison | U.S.A. |
| Imperial College GRSG & RSPSoc | United Kingdom |

General comments

The invited lectures organized up to now, focused on a wide range of earth observation applications. These invited lectures were attended by participants from various countries in the world and from several types of organizations, but the participation from the EMMENA region was limited. Due to EXCELSIOR's vision¹² for the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, there is a strong need to attract more participants from the countries of the EMMENA region. In particular, in autumn 2021 we plan to organise stakeholder workshops with participants from the countries of the EMMENA region.

¹² By 2026, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence will become a world-class Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) for EO and Geospatial Information becoming the reference Centre in the Eastern Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa.



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5 Webinars

The EXCELSIOR project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence of the Cyprus University of Technology organized a webinar on Water Resources Management. The webinar invitation is shown in Figure 20 and the agenda in Table 9. The webinar has been recorded and uploaded in the EXCELSIOR YouTube channel¹³.



Figure 20 Invitation of the EXCELSIOR Webinar on WRM

Table 9 Agenda of the EXCELSIOR Webinar on WRM

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 10:30-11:30 | Kostas Aristeidou Division of Hydrology & Hydrogeology & WDD Nicosia District Office, Water Development Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus Presentation title: GIS and remote sensing applications for water resources management at the Water Development Department of Cyprus |
| 11:30-12:30 | Dr Athanasios Loukas School of Rural and Surveying Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Presentation title: Water Resources Management in Agricultural Watersheds: Methods, Case Studies, Implications of Climate Change |
| 12:30-13:30 | Alina Vizireanu Affinity Water UK Presentation title: Sustainable Water Management for Ecosystem Restoration |
| 13:30-14:30 | Dr Catalin Stefan Junior Research Group INOWAS, TU Dresden Presentation title: Managed aquifer recharge as adaptation tool to global change |
| 14:30-15:45 | Dr Gordana Jakovljevic University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina Presentation title: Multidimensional model of the use of remote sensing data and geospatial services in water management |

¹³ <https://youtu.be/JcnPd03OX38>



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The registration to the EXCELSIOR webinar was free and possible through ZOOM. All registered participants received an e-mail with the invitation link to the workshop. The final list included 88 registrations from 16 countries, whereby the highest rate of participation was from Cyprus (46%) and Greece (37%) (Figure 21 and Figure 22). As Figure 23 shows, most of the registered participants came from the scientific community.

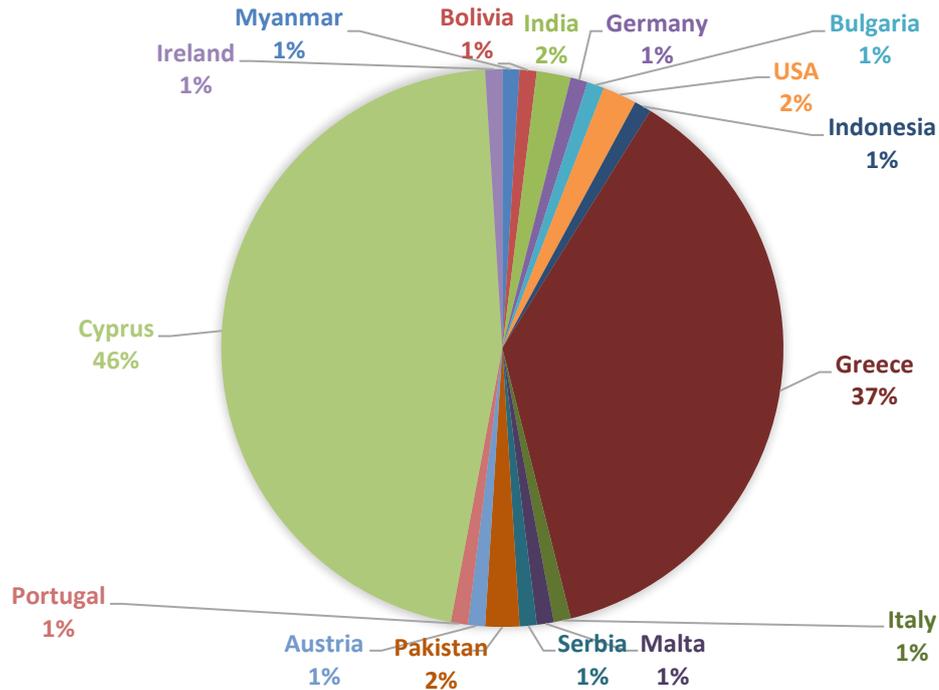


Figure 21 Registrations per Country for Webinar on WRM

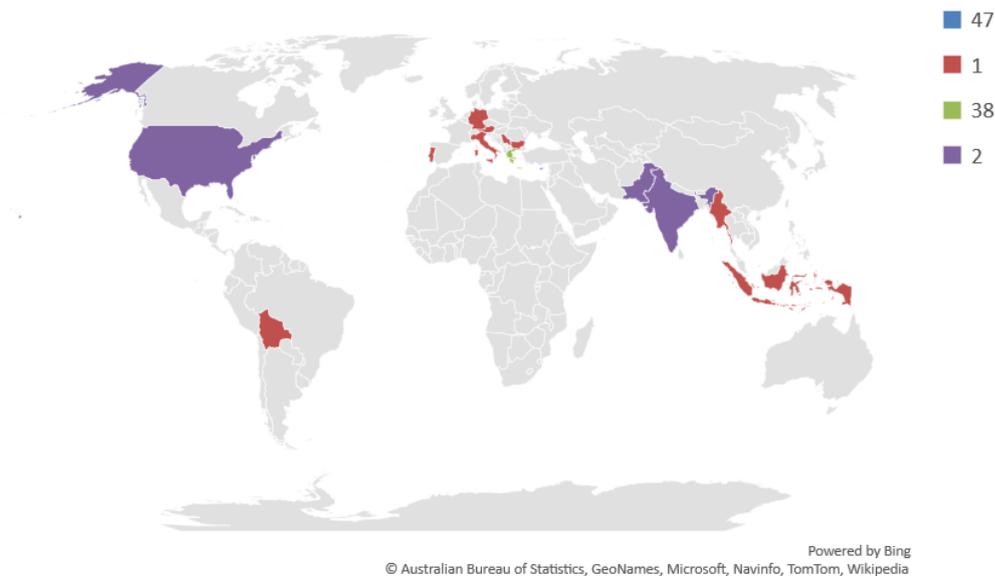


Figure 22 Map of Registrations per Country for Webinar on WRM



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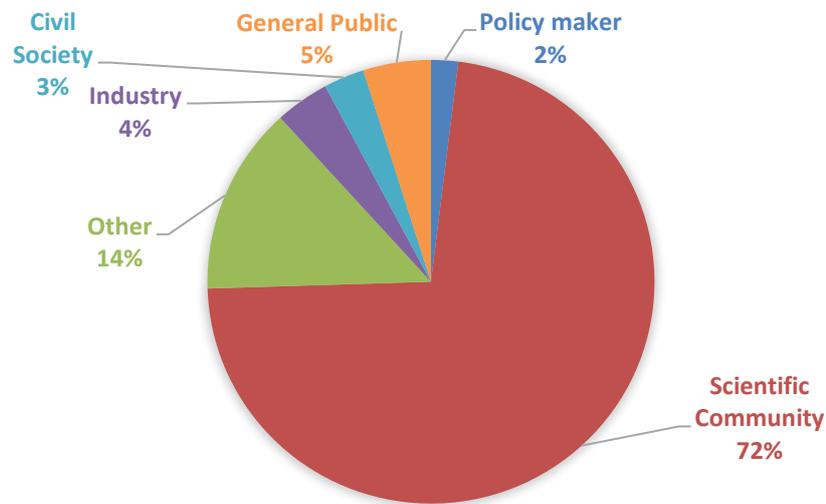


Figure 23 Registrations per Organization Type for Webinar in WRM



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6 Virtual EXCELSIOR workshops

6.1 Introduction

The 'EXCELSIOR' H2020 Teaming Project Consortium and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence (ECoE) organised the First Virtual International Workshop on 'Space Operations and Environmental Monitoring in Cyprus'. This Workshop was a part of the annual workshops that will be organized on a yearly basis, with the participation of all national, EMMENA and international stakeholders and addressing all the different activities of the ECoE, i.e., infrastructure, research, education and innovation through entrepreneurship.

Our aim for the series of annual workshops is to interact with existing and new stakeholders, strengthening the regional links, invest in the continuous interaction with the strategic user segments of ECoE and sustaining long-lasting relationships and partnerships in the region.

6.2 First virtual EXCELSIOR workshop

The first annual virtual EXCELSIOR workshop was planned and initially scheduled to coincide with the Annual International Conference on Remote Sensing and Geo-information of Environment/RSCy2020, however due to COVID-19 this workshop had been postponed. Eventually, the workshop took place virtually on the 15th of July 2020 through the ZOOM platform.

The topic of the scientific program was "Space Operations and Environmental Monitoring in Cyprus". The scientific program hosted members from the EXCELSIOR consortium, stakeholders from Cyprus, from the EMMENA region, as well as from partner institutions. The members of the EXCELSIOR consortium gave an introduction to the EXCELSIOR project and presented its plans. Cypriot stakeholders presented the state the art of the space sector in Cyprus, focusing on the environmental aspect. The stakeholders from other countries presented about the know-how and existing technologies of their institutes, as well as their future plans. Their presentations gave us insights in order to identify similar interests and break new ground for the establishment of collaborations.

The extensive program of the workshop is presented in Appendix A – Extensive Agenda of the First Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop.

The workshop was disseminated through our subscription list, various networks, as well as through our social media pages. For a more effective dissemination we have prepared a flyer that is shown in Figure 24. This invitation, together with further information about the EXCELSIOR virtual workshop, was sent to various contact points through our established networks. In particular, the networks through which we had disseminated our virtual workshop are listed below:

- [NetU Group](#)
- ARinfuse consortium
- Marie Skłodowska Curie Network (established through successful proposal writing)
- SignalGeneriX Ltd
- CyRIC



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- Cyprus Association of Research and Innovation Enterprises
- [PARSEC Accelerator](#)
- EURISY
- Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre
- Councillor for Northern Africa, African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment AARSE
- PRIMA consortium (submitted proposal with ECoE as a partner)
- [Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber \(ETEK\)](#)
- Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority
- Senior Advisor on MENA Affairs
- Cyprus University of Technology – School of Engineering and Technology
- [Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers](#)
- Research Promotion Foundation
- Aegean University
- Royal Center for Space Remote Sensing CRTS, Morocco
- Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania: CIHEAM IAMC
- [GEO – Group on Earth Observation](#)
- GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
- Water Development Department of Cyprus
- Forestry Department of Cyprus
- I-BEC
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Department of Meteorology, Cyprus
- National Centre for Remote Sensing Lebanon
- MedRIN – Mediterranean Regional Information Network
- [NEREUS - Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies](#)
- EARSeL - European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories
- Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (Forth)
- CopHub.AC – Copernicus Academy Hub for Knowledge, Innovation and Outreach



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ERATOSTHENES: EXcellence Research
Centre for Earth SurveiLlance and
Space-Based Monitoring Of the EnviRonment

Figure 24 Invitation of the First Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop

The registration to the EXCELSIOR workshop was free and possible through Office forms. The registration form had the format shown in Figure 25. All registered participants received an [e-mail](#) with the invitation link to the workshop. The registered countries are shown in Table 10, where the blue box is the countries from the EMMENA region.



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Figure 25 First Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop online registration form

Table 10 Registrations per country (First Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop)

| Registered Attendees per country (308) | | | |
|--|---|-------------|---|
| Belgium | 1 | China | 2 |
| Cameroon | 1 | Nigeria | 2 |
| Canada | 1 | Peru | 2 |
| Croatia | 1 | Portugal | 2 |
| Czechia | 1 | Romania | 2 |
| Egypt | 1 | South Korea | 2 |
| Iraq | 1 | Spain | 2 |
| Lebanon | 1 | Tunisia | 2 |
| Malta | 1 | France | 3 |
| Mexico | 1 | Indonesia | 3 |
| Morocco | 1 | USA | 3 |
| Nepal | 1 | Bangladesh | 4 |
| New Zealand | 1 | Italy | 4 |
| Norway | 1 | Israel | 5 |
| Russia | 1 | Pakistan | 5 |



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| Registered Attendees per country (308) | | | |
|--|---|---------|-----|
| Serbia | 1 | UK | 5 |
| Singapore | 1 | Germany | 15 |
| Sri Lanka | 1 | India | 32 |
| Uganda | 1 | Greece | 45 |
| Uzbekistan | 1 | Cyprus | 123 |
| Bulgaria | 2 | Unknown | 23 |

Table 11 presents the attendees per country. In order to get to the shown numbers, we matched the ZOOM attendees with the registered and located their countries based on the location of their organization. Based on the report, 210 people from 35 countries attended the workshop (see Figure 27), whereas 8 of these countries are in the EMMENA region (blue boxes in Table 11).

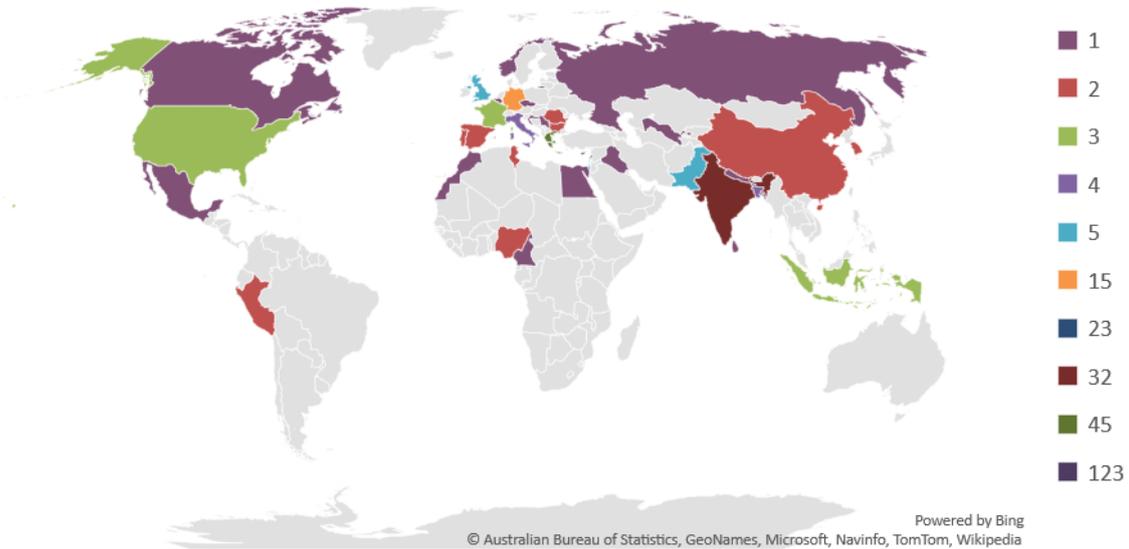


Figure 26 Map of the registered people per country (First Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop)

Table 11 Attendees per Country (First Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop)

| Attendees (210) | | | |
|------------------|---|----------------------|---|
| | 1 | United Arab Emirates | 1 |
| Belgium | 1 | Uzbekistan | 1 |
| Cameroon | 1 | Czechia | 2 |
| Croatia | 1 | Italy | 2 |
| Denmark | 1 | Nepal | 2 |
| Egypt | 1 | Netherlands | 2 |
| France | 1 | Spain | 2 |
| Indonesia | 1 | | |

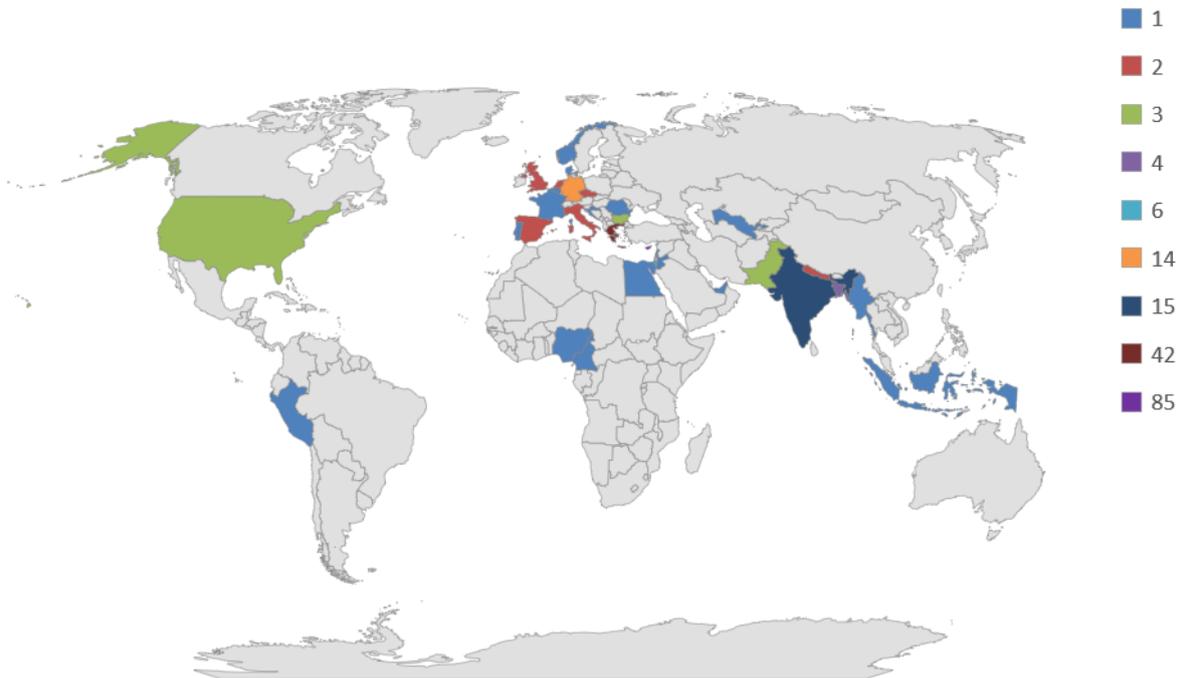


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| Attendees (210) | | | |
|------------------|---|--------------------------|----|
| Jordan | 1 | United Kingdom | 2 |
| Lebanon | 1 | Bulgaria | 3 |
| Malta | 1 | Pakistan | 3 |
| Myanmar | 1 | United States of America | 3 |
| Nigeria | 1 | Bangladesh | 4 |
| Norway | 1 | Israel | 6 |
| Peru | 1 | Germany | 14 |
| Portugal | 1 | India | 15 |
| Romania | 1 | Greece | 42 |
| Singapore | 1 | Cyprus | 85 |
| Tanzania | 1 | Unknown | 3 |



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Figure 27 Map of the attendees per Country (First Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop)

The First Virtual International Workshop of EXCELSIOR exceeded our expectations in terms of attendance, both from the audience as well as from the speakers' engagement. The high level of the speakers attracted a respectful amount of attendees. The wide dissemination of the workshop



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gathered participants from all around the globe, and most importantly, not only people who are already aware about the EXCELSIOR Project, but also people who joined and got informed about it.

6.3 Second virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop

General

The second annual virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop was organized by the EXCELSIOR Project Consortium and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence with the participation of national, EMMENA and international stakeholders. The workshop was held online via the ZOOM platform on the 8th of June 2021.

The screenshots taken during the virtual workshop were uploaded in the Flickr¹⁴ account of the EXCELSIOR project, and the recording is available in the EXCELSIOR YouTube channel¹⁵.

The topic of the scientific program was “Atmospheric & Climate Research in the EMMENA Region”. The presenters comprised members of the EXCELSIOR consortium, stakeholders from Cyprus and the EMMENA region, as well as from partnering institutions. The extensive agenda of the workshop is presented in Appendix B – Extensive Agenda of the Second Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop

Workshop dissemination

The workshop was disseminated through our subscription list, various networks, as well as through our social media pages. For a more effective dissemination, we have prepared a flyer, shown in Figure 28. This invitation, together with further information about the EXCELSIOR virtual workshop, was sent to various contact points through our established networks. In particular, the networks through which we had disseminated our virtual workshop are listed below:

- CUT ERATOSTHENES Stakeholder hub
- DEC Stakeholder database (more than 400 contacts)
- NetU Group
- ARinfuse consortium
- Marie Skłodowska Curie Network - established through successful proposal writing (e.g. University Sheffield, Imperial University, University of Ghent, University of Salento, University of Minho, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Technical University of Lisbon, Technical University Gheorghe Asachi Iasi, University of Zagreb)
- SignalGeneriX Ltd
- CyRIC
- Cyprus Association of Research and Innovation Enterprises
- PARSEC Accelerator
- EURISY
- Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre
- Councillor for Northern Africa, African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment AARSE

¹⁴ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/187632056@N02/albums/72157719765653667>

¹⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0hHy-5jxOMS-SP9Z6pPMwg>



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This project has received funding from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus through the Directorate General for the European Programmes, Coordination and Development.



- PRIMA consortium (submitted proposal with ECoE as a partner)
- Cyprus Scientific and Technical Chamber (ETEK)
- Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority
- Senior Advisor on MENA Affairs
- Cyprus University of Technology – School of Engineering and Technology
- Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers
- Research Promotion Foundation
- Aegean University
- Royal Center for Space Remote Sensing CRTS, Morocco
- Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania: CIHEAM IAMC
- GEO – Group on Earth Observation
- GEO-CRADLE Networking Platform
- Water Development Department of Cyprus
- Forestry Department of Cyprus
- I-BEC - Interbalkan Environment Centre
- Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Department of Meteorology, Cyprus
- National Centre for Remote Sensing Lebanon
- MedRIN – Mediterranean Regional Information Network
- NEREUS - Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies
- EARSeL - European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories
- Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (Forth)
- CopHub.AC – Copernicus Academy Hub for Knowledge, Innovation and Outreach

Figure 28 Invitation of the Second Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop



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In order to promote the speakers individually and to let our audience know about the background of each speaker, we have prepared promotional flyers (one for each speaker). An example is presented in Figure 29 Figure 29.



Figure 29 Second Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop Promotional Flyer (example of Rob Koopman)

Stakeholder attendance

The registration to the EXCELSIOR workshop was free and possible through ZOOM. The registration form had the following fields:

1. First Name
2. Last Name
3. Email
4. Registration Time
5. Organisation Type
6. Country
7. I would like to receive updates from the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence: (y/n)
8. I would like to receive updates from the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence: (y/n)

All registered participants received an e-mail with the invitation link to the workshop. The final participants' list included 148 registrations from 29 countries (see Figure 30). The registered countries are shown in Table 12, where the blue box shows the countries from the EMMENA region.



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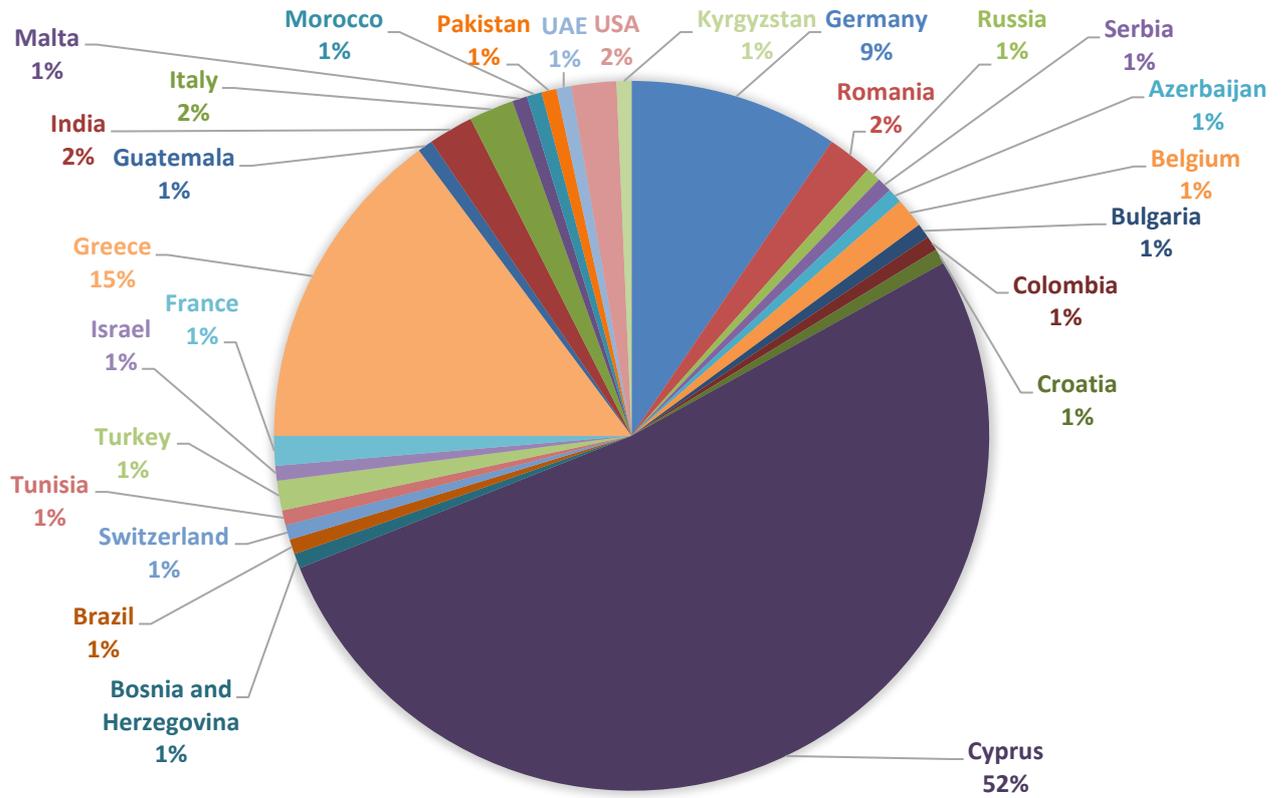


Figure 30 Registrations per Country (Second Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop)

Table 12 Registrations per Country (Second Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop) / EMMENA Countries highlighted in blue)

| Registrations per Country | | | |
|---------------------------|----|-------------|---|
| Cyprus | 77 | Colombia | 1 |
| Greece | 22 | Croatia | 1 |
| Germany | 14 | Guatemala | 1 |
| India | 3 | Israel | 1 |
| Italy | 3 | Kyrgyzstan | 1 |
| Romania | 3 | Malta | 1 |
| France | 2 | Morocco | 1 |
| Turkey | 2 | Pakistan | 1 |
| US | 2 | Russia | 1 |
| Azerbaijan | 1 | Serbia | 1 |
| Belgique | 1 | Switzerland | 1 |
| Belgium/Lebanon | 1 | Tunisia | 1 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 1 | UAE | 1 |
| Brazil | 1 | USA | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 1 | | |



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Figure 31 presents the attendees of the workshop per country. Based on the ZOOM report, 99 people from 18 countries attended the workshop, whereas 4 of these countries are in the EMMENA region.

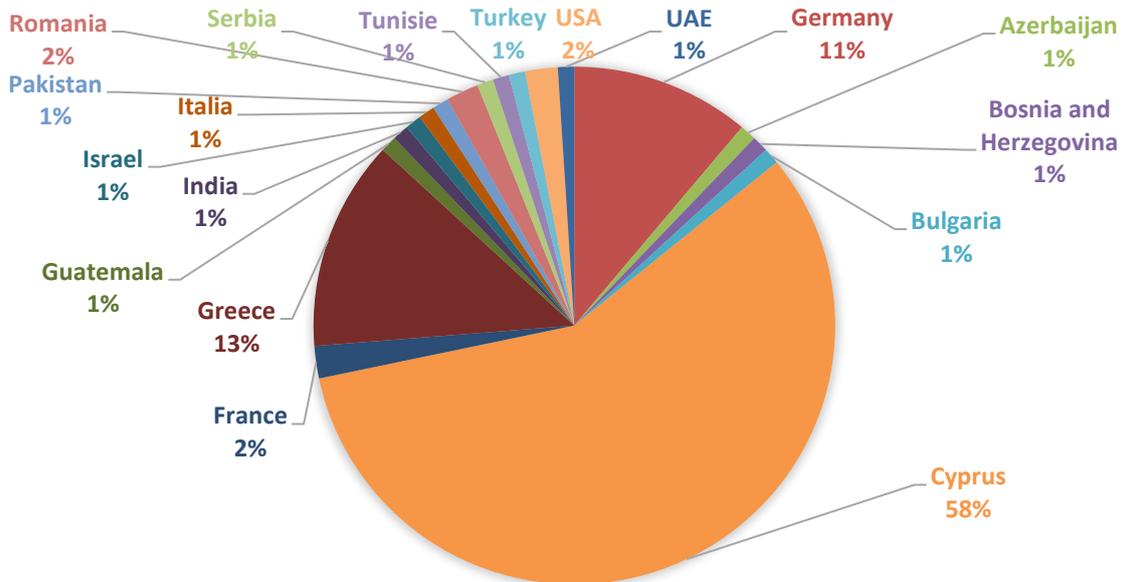


Figure 31 Attendees per Country (Second EXCELSIOR Workshop)



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7 Other events

7.1 EXCELSIOR and ECoE at the European Researcher's Night 2020

The 2020 Researcher's Night was originally scheduled for September 2020. Due to the emergency measures applied as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Commission decided its virtual organization on the 27th of November 2020.

The ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project and the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics of the Cyprus University of Technology, participated at the European Researcher's Night organised by the Research and Innovation Foundation in Cyprus. The "Researcher's Night" is an event aimed at familiarizing the public with the world of science and research and at the same time strengthening the public image of researchers, as well as highlighting the important role they play in society.

Our team participated with 8 booths:

1. Forest monitoring using satellite imagery for understanding the effects of climate change (ASTARTE funded project) [#47]
2. Cyprus Continuously Operating Natural Hazards Monitoring and Prevention System (Cyclops RPF Funded Project) [#48]
3. Earth Observation, Space Technologies & Geoinformatics for Green and Smart Cities Applications (EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Funded Project) [#49] (see Figure 32)



Figure 32 Virtual booths (example of EXCELSIOR booth)

4. Simulating prehistoric seagoing to/from Cyprus (Sarocy Funded Project) [#50]
5. Copernicus Earth Observation and Big Data for Cultural Heritage (Navigator Funded Project) [#52]
6. Satellite-based offshore wind resource assessment (Geowindsat Funded Project) [#54]
7. Maritime Spatial Planning (THAL-CHOR 2 INTERREG Funded Project) [#55]
8. Aerosol-cloud interaction and Cloud formation (SIROCCORESTART Funded Project) [#56]

In the context of the event, a prize of 1500 Euros was awarded to Ms Georgia Alexandrou (postgraduate student in the MSc in Geoinformatics and Geospatial Technologies / Department of Civil Engineering and Geoinformatics, CUT), who was distinguished in the competition with theme "Natural Sciences and Engineering". Ms. Alexandrou received the first prize for the elaboration of her master's thesis on "Monitoring the archaeological site in Palmyra (Syria) using Landsat satellite images and the



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computational cloud of big data of Google Earth Engine". Her dissertation was conducted under the auspices of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project and the supervisors of her dissertation were our Dr. Athos Agapiou (member of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) and Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator). Additionally, Dr Chris Danezis, Dr Milto Miltiadou and Mr Christos Theocharidis (members of the CUT team of the EXCELSIOR project) were awarded the audience's favourite booth prize at the European Researchers' Night 2020, for booth Nr. 47 "Forest monitoring using satellite imagery for understanding the effects of climate change".

7.2 SpaceUpCyprus 2021 LIVE

SpaceUpCyprus-LIVE is an online version of the global "space unconference" SpaceUp. As shown in the agenda of the event (see Figure 33), after the welcoming notes, the Space Balloon, designed by PASCAL English School Larnaka, was released into the atmosphere, carrying students' experiments into near space altitudes. The payload (the load carried by our Space Balloon) reached an altitude of 90,000 feet and withstood temperatures of - 50 degrees Celsius and high solar radiation for 6 hours. Some days after its launch, the Space Balloon returned to Cyprus, the findings were analysed, and students drew conclusions about the accuracy of their experimental predictions. "ASTRO 1" (see Figure 34) served as a mobile satellite station from which students could receive live video from micro-satellites they sent to the stratosphere.

SpaceUpCyprus 2021 LIVE took place on the 26th of March 2020, in the framework of the First Pancyprian Space Education Week, which was organized by the Cyprus Space Foundation, the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence of the Cyprus University of Technology.

The launching event was broadcast live through Facebook and hosted the following speakers: Dr Nicolas Mastrogiannopoulos (Chief Scientist for Research and Innovation), Mr Menelaos Menelaou (Executive Director of Youth Board of Cyprus), Dr Kleanthis Nicolaides (Director of the Department of Meteorology), Prof Diofantos Hadjimitsis (EXCELSIOR Coordinator) and Mr Elpidoforos Anastasiou (SpaceUpCyprus Project Leader). The live streaming can be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/PrKyAUetN1o>.



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SpaceUpCyprus LIVE

📅 26th March ⌚ 12:00 - 13:05 ▶ ZOOM/Teams/Youtube

Speakers



DR. NIKOLAS MASTROYIANNPOULOS
Chief Scientist for Research and Innovation



MENELAOS MENELAOU
Executive Director at Youth Board of Cyprus



DR. KLEANTHIS NIKOLAIDES
Director of the Department of Meteorology of Cyprus



PROF. DIOFANTOS G. HADJIMITSIS
Professor, Cyprus University of Technology, Coordinator of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project, Managing Director of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence



ELPIDOFOROS ANASTASIOU
PASCAL Space Centre Project Leader

PROGRAMME:

| | |
|-------|---|
| 12:00 | Welcome & Opening |
| 12:15 | Break |
| 12:25 | Pico Sattelite live video |
| 12:35 | Q&A from Schools with Mr. Elpidoforos Anastasiou & Dr. Kleanthis Nikolaides |
| 12:55 | Space Bot |
| 13:05 | Event Ends |

Presenter



GABRIELLA ZARTILA
Journalist

Figure 33 SpaceUP Cyprus agenda



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Figure 34 "ASTRO 1"



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8 Publications

This chapter presents the records of publications for the period between 1/10/2019 and 31/08/2021 . Specifically, after the submission of the Phase 1 Business plan (31 August 2018), 115 journal papers, conference papers and book sections have been published by the 30 researchers of the ERATOSTHENES Research Centre . These have been published either directly acknowledging the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence (ECoE) or through affiliation with the ECoE. At the moment, this time is the transition period from CUT to ECoE, therefore, after the establishment of the ECoE as a legal entity, double affiliations can be seen in most of the publications . A full list of the publications in the form of citations is provided in



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Appendix C – Publications during the period between 1/9/2019 and 31/8/2021. The Appendix also provides the date of publication, the research area, the journal or conference they were published in, and the potential impact that they have. Of these 115 publications, 67 are journal papers, 46 are conference papers, and 2 are book sections, (Figure 35).

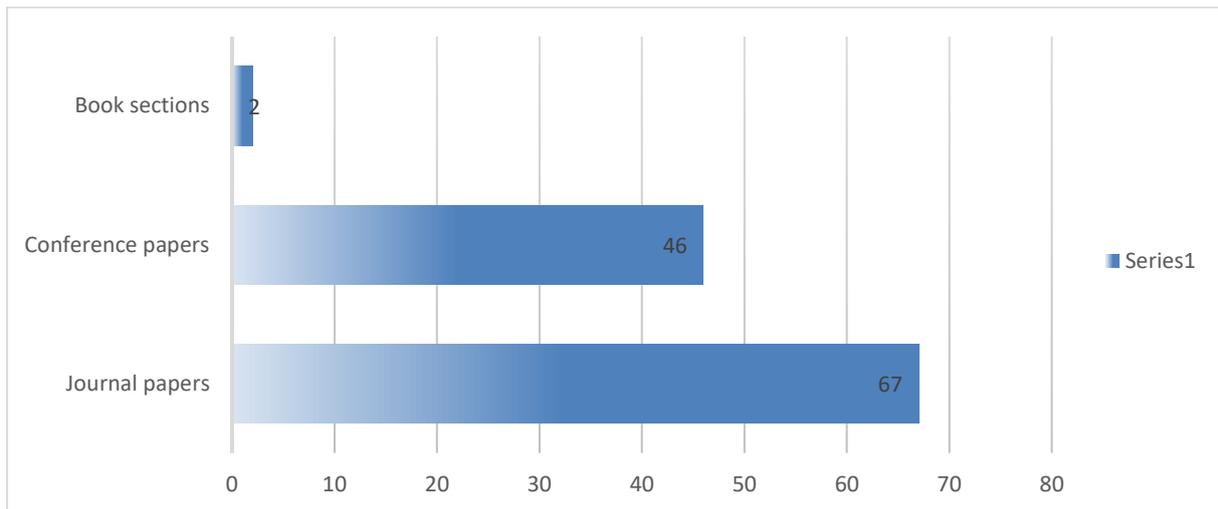


Figure 35 Number of publications for the period 1/10/2019-31/09/2021

The above publications fall under the ECoE’s thematic research clusters (Figure 36), whereas most of them (53) are related to the Resilient Society department, 37 are linked to the Environment and Climate and the remaining 25 are focused on Big Earth Data Analytics.

A thorough analysis of the publications was also carried out to indicate the type of publication per thematic research cluster. As far as the Big Earth Data cluster is concerned 13 journal papers, 11 conference papers and 1 book section were published. Under the Environment and Climate cluster, as seen in Figure 36, the total number of 37 publications is divided into 23 journal publications, 13 conference papers and 1 book section. Also, with regards to the Resilient Society cluster, 31 journal papers and 22 conference papers; there were no book sections published by this thematic research cluster.



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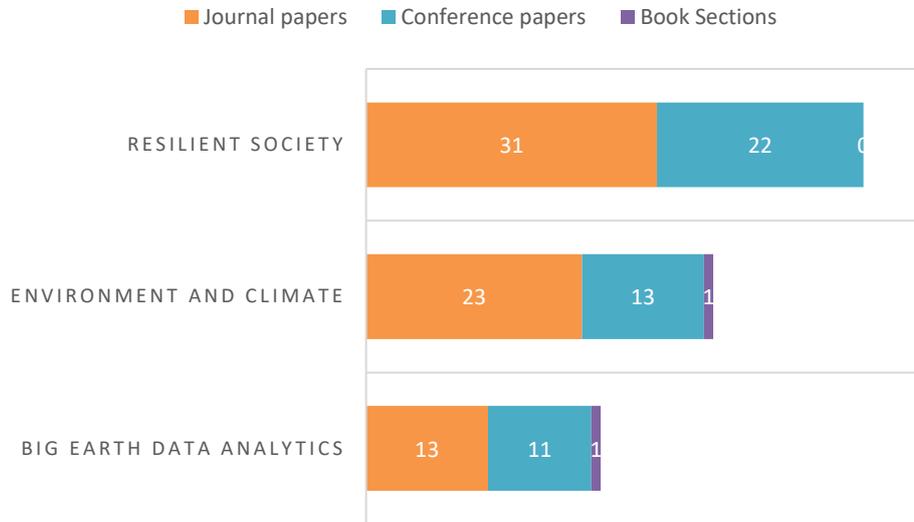


Figure 36 Publications per ECoE thematic research cluster for the period 1/10/2019-31/9/2021

Scopus¹⁶ was used to calculate the grouped h-index and the citations. To export these statistics from Scopus, the following researchers (30) were considered: Diofantos Hadjimitsis, Phaedon Kyriakidis, Evangelos Akylas, Chris Danezis, Nicholas Kyriakides, Kyriacos Themistocleous, Kyriacos Neocleous, Rodanthi-Elisavet Mamouri, Athos Agapiou, Argyro Nisantzi, Christiana Papoutsas, Vasiliki Lysandrou, Thomaida Polydorou, George Melillos, Milto Miltiadou, Marios Tzouvaras, Christodoulos Mettas, Evagoras Evagorou, Andreas Christofe, Georgios Leventis, Eleni Loulli, Maria Prodromou, Despina Makri, Stylianos Hadjipetrou, Christos Theocharidis Dimitris Antoniadis, Dimitris Kakoullis, Marina Pekri, Kyriaki Fotiou and Philip Fayad. The grouped h-index of the ECoE researchers over a period of 20 years is 46 as presented in Figure 37. However, for the period from 1/10/2019 to 31/08/2021 the grouped h-index of the ECoE researchers is 8 as seen in Figure 38. Furthermore, the grouped h-index excluding self-citations of all authors is 6.

¹⁶ Scopus: <https://www.scopus.com/>



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These documents h-index46

Scopus

Of the documents considered for the h-index, have been cited at least times

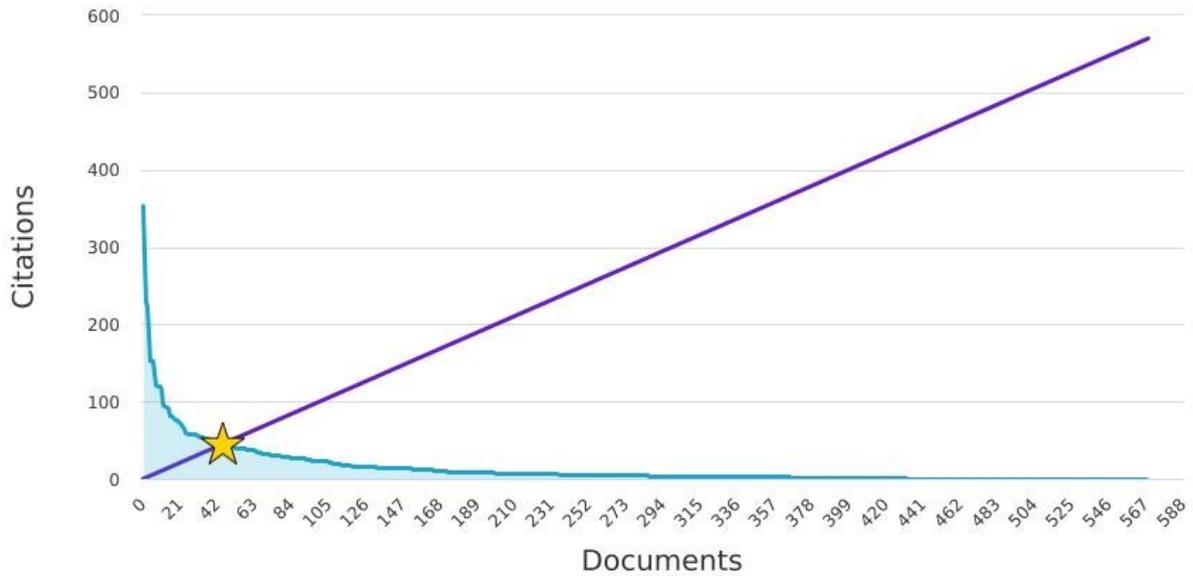


Figure 37 ECoE authors grouped h-index as calculated in Scopus over a period of 20 years

These documents h-index8

Scopus

Of the documents considered for the h-index, have been cited at least times

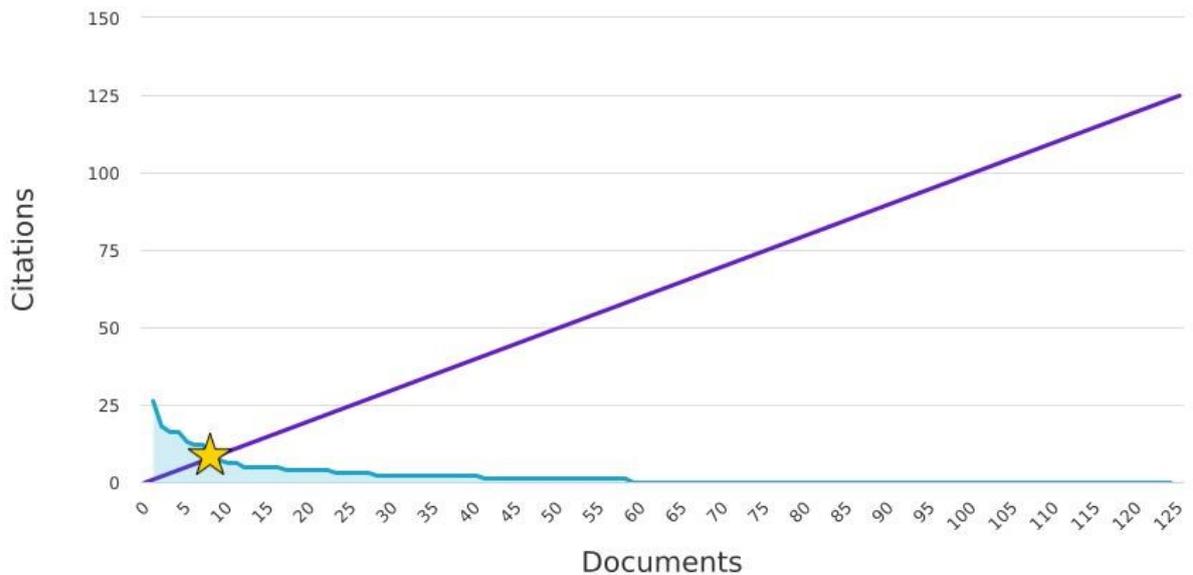


Figure 38 ECoE authors grouped h-index, calculated in Scopus from 1/10/2019-31/08/2021



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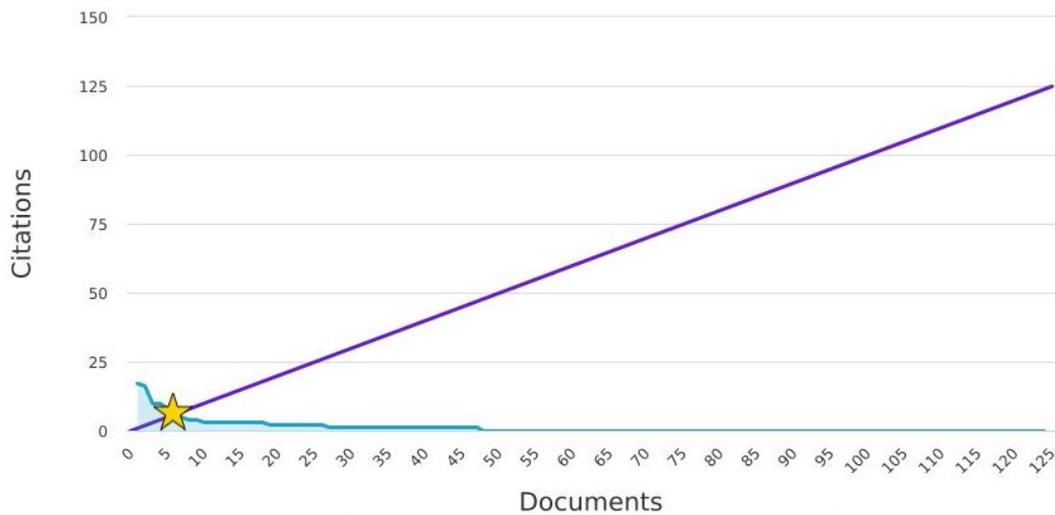
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These documents h-index6

Scopus

Of the documents considered for the h-index, have been cited at least times



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Figure 39 ECoE authors grouped h-index, calculated in Scopus excluding self-citations of all authors

As seen in Figure 40, the publications of the ECoE researchers (30 authors) have been cited 249 times during the period between 1/10/2019 and 31/08/2021. The number of citations for year 2021 is expected to increase as the year is not over yet. It is worth noting that the number of publications, the h-index and citations values would be higher as Dr Andreas Anayiotos, Dr Vassilis Fotopoulos and Dr Marinos Ioannidis and their research staff are not included, although they participate in the EXCELSIOR project as well as to the Eratosthenes Centre of Excellence.

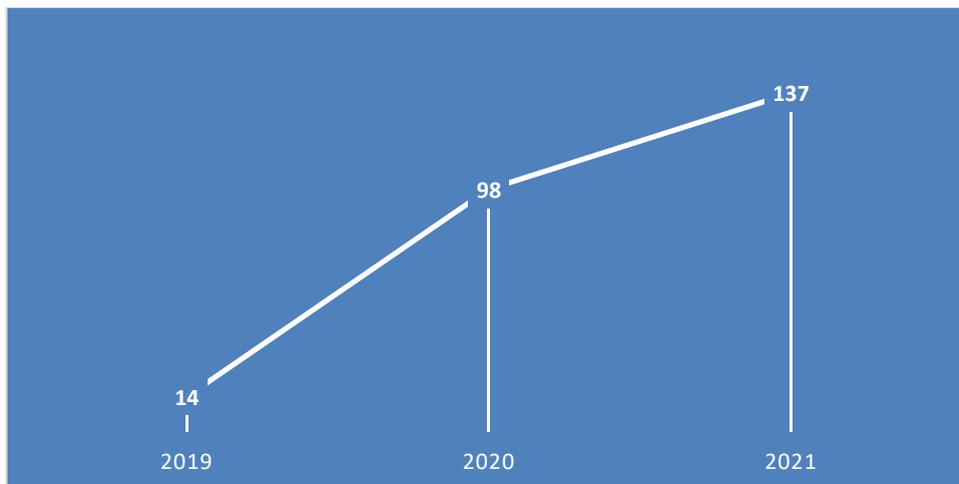


Figure 40 ECoE citations from 1/10/2019-31/09/2021 as calculated in Scopus



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9 Conclusions

The activities described in the presented deliverable contributed significantly to raise awareness about the importance of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project for the EMMENA region. In particular, through our participation in conferences, we managed to reach out to various networks from academia, industry and policy makers. Through our existing collaborations, members of our team were invited as guest speakers in talks, workshops and seminars. Our participation in such events gave us the chance to give dedicated presentations about the project and to engage with the participants and familiarize them with the aims of the project. Additionally, through the lectures by invited speakers, the webinar and the workshops organized by the EXCELSIOR consortium, we attracted distinguished professionals in the field of EO and remote sensing, by giving them the chance to present about their work and results. This process was not only beneficial for us to know about their activities, but also to get to know them personally, learn more about the research they conduct in their research groups and discuss about potential collaborations with the ECoE. Our involvement in the European Researchers Night, as well as in the organisation of SpaceUp Cyprus 2021 gave us the chance to get in contact with audiences (such as students, educators, general public) that might not have been represented in the aforementioned activities. Throughout these two events we promoted earth observation and space education and raised awareness about the benefits of earth surveillance and remote sensing through the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project for the society.

Overall, through the activities described in this deliverable we set strong fundamentals and started to develop new links for collaboration. The first outcomes of the activities are already seen in the MoUs that we have already signed with various organisations. Furthermore, we could identify that the visibility of the ECoE has been raised, due to the fact that foreign organisations get in contact with us and express their interest in finding mutual interest and ways for cooperation.

Regarding the collaboration with stakeholders from the EMMENA region, there is a strong need to establish links and connect with them. This has not been achieved yet, but we have prepared a strategy to raise awareness about the EXCELSIOR Project in the EMMENA region and establish partnerships, starting with targeted stakeholders' workshop in autumn 2021, where we will invite selected stakeholders from the region, inform them about the project and giving them the space to share about their work, their needs and identify common interest and ways of collaboration.



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Appendix A – Extensive Agenda of the First Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop

| | Duration [min] | EXCELSIOR Intro | Link to the presentation |
|----------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 09:00 – 09:05 | 5 | Welcome | Click here |
| CYP. TIME | | Diofantos HADJIMITSIS - CUT & ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence | |
| | 5 | Welcome | Click here |
| | | Nikolas MASTROYIANNOPOULOS - Chief Scientist for Research & Innovation Republic of Cyprus | |
| | 15 | Brief overview of EXCELSIOR | Click here |
| | | Kyriacos THEMISTOCLEOUS - CUT & ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence | |
| | 5 | What the Cyprus National Council for Research and Innovation expects from EXCELSIOR? Sustainability of the ECoE | Click here |
| | | Andreas ANAYIOTOS - CUT & ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence | |
| | 5 | Cyprus Activities in Space | Click here |
| | | Stelios TZIORTZIS - Department of Electronic Communications, Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy | |
| | 5 | Intro to the topic: What would be advantages and challenges for a space related infrastructure in Cyprus? | Click here |
| | | Gunter SCHREIER - DLR | |
| | 5 | Opportunities for Earth Observation Business in EMMENA | Click here |
| | | Marcello MARANESI - Member of the External Advisory Board of Excelsior & ECoE | |

To 9:45



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EXCELSIOR Plans

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|----------------------------|
| 10:00 | 15 | A satellite ground station for maritime security | Click here |
| | | Egbert SCHWARZ - DLR | |
| | 15 | Ground-based remote sensing supersite for atmospheric/climate research, satellite calibration and support of local services | Click here |
| | | Albert ANSMANN, Johannes BÜHL, Patric SEIFERT, Ulla WANDINGER -TROPOS | |
| | 15 | Leveraging Copernicus big satellite data and space technology for societal resilience. The generation of science and innovation in the context of EXCELSIOR for the ultimate benefit of the citizens | Click here |
| | | Haris KONTOES - NOA | |

To 10:45

Future demands & Opportunities Part I

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--|----------------------------|
| 11:00 | 15 | NASA Contribution to the Eastern Med Region and to the EXCELSIOR Project & The Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN) NASA Network | Click here |
| | | Vincent AMBROSIA - NASA | |
| | 15 | The Copernicus space segment – current and future Sentinels | Click here |
| | | Simon JUTZ - ESA | |
| | 15 | Copernicus SEA: Security in the Eastern Med area and Space assets | Click here |
| | | Denis BRUCKERT & Marcello MORETTI - EUSC | |
| | 15 | The AIR Center on Azores Island | Click here |
| | | Pedro DA SILVA - AIR CENTRE - ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE | |



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- 15 Earth Observation activities in Malta and future opportunities for collaboration with Excelsior for the benefit of Med region** [Click here](#)

Charles GALDIES - University of Malta

To 12:15

12:15 – 13:00

Noon Break

Future demands & Opportunities Part II

- 13:00 15 CYTA - a satellite station hosting facility** [Click here](#)
Antonis ANTONIOU & Soteris ALEXANDROU - CYTA
- 15 Opportunities for new VHR Missions** [Click here](#)
George ELLIS - EUSI
- 15 International Ground Stations** [Click here](#)
Rani HELLERMANN - RBC
- 15 The SoilPRO® as a new assembly to measure soil spectral information in the field over the Mediterranean region** [Click here](#)
Eyal BEN-DOR - Tel Aviv University
- 15 Overview of the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev/The Earth and Planetary Image Facility activities with Nano satellites.** [Click here](#)
Aviran SADON, Dan BLUMBERG, Shimrit MAMAN - Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- 15 The Greek National Observatory of Forest Fires: an example for collaboration opportunities in the Eastern Mediterranean region** [Click here](#)
Ioannis GITAS - Aristotle University
- 15 Earth Observation Data and Services for Carbon reduced agriculture** [Click here](#)
George ZALIDES - Aristotle University & I-BEC



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To 14:45

| Future demands & Opportunities Part III | | |
|---|----|---|
| Short Break | | |
| 15:15 | 15 | <p>Remote and in situ sensing of water combining Copernicus services with biosensor and IoT technologies Click here</p> <p>Antonis HADJANTONIS - CyRIC</p> |
| | 15 | <p>Optical communication from Space to Ground Click here</p> <p>Marcus KNOPP - DLR</p> |
| | 15 | <p>CIP (Critical Infrastructure Protection): the interface between safety and security Click here</p> <p>George BOUSTRAS - EUC</p> |
| | 15 | <p>Landslide Monitoring and Susceptibility Mapping Click here</p> <p>Skevi PERDIKOU - GEOFEM</p> |
| | 15 | <p>Offshore wind power assessment around Cyprus using Sentinel-1 data Click here</p> <p>Phaedon KYRIAKIDIS - CUT & ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence</p> |
| | 15 | <p>Measurement of Rainfall from Space-based Platforms Click here</p> <p>Silas MICHAELIDES - ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence</p> |
| | 15 | <p>CyCLOPS: A Strategic Research Infrastructure Unit for Geohazards Monitoring in Cyprus and the Southeastern Mediterranean Region Click here</p> <p>Chris DANEZIS - CUT & ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence</p> |
| <p>To 17:00</p> <p>17:00 – 17:30 Questions/ Remarks</p> | | |



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Appendix B – Extensive Agenda of the Second Virtual EXCELSIOR Workshop



Atmospheric & Climate Research in EMMENA region

8 June 2021, 09:00 - 17:00 EEST (06:00 - 14:00 UTC)

The EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project Consortium and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence (ECoE) organize the Second Virtual International Workshop on ‘**Atmospheric & Climate Research in EMMENA region**’. This Workshop is a part of a series of annual workshops with participation of all national and international stakeholders of EXCELSIOR, addressing all the different activities of the ECoE, i.e. infrastructure, research, education and innovation through entrepreneurship.

Motivation: Bringing together atmospheric researchers and EXCELSIOR stakeholders concerned with EMMENA for identification of challenges and future projects.

Free attendance via ZOOM. Please register through: <http://tiny.cc/EWorkshop2>

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

| Intro Session | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 9:00-9:05 | Diofantos HADJIMITSIS | CUT/ECoE | Welcome from ECoE |
| 9:05-9:10 | Nicolas MASTROYIAN NOPOULOS | RIF/Deputy Ministry of Innovation and Digital Policy | Welcome from the Chief Scientist for Research & Innovation of the Republic of Cyprus |
| 9:10-9:25 | Kyriacos THEMISTOCLEOUS | CUT/ECoE | Brief overview of EXCELSIOR |
| 9:25-9:30 | Albert ANSMANN | TROPOS | Intro to the topic: The ERATOSTHENES Center of Excellence – a future hub of Atmospheric Science in EMMENA |
| 15 minutes break | | | |
| EXCELSIOR Partners and Networks | | | |
| 9:45 -10:00 | Johannes BÜHL | TROPOS | Ground-based remote sensing of aerosol, clouds and precipitation in EMMENA |



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| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 10:00-10:15 | Sabine WÜST | DLR | Remote sensing of atmospheric waves at different spatiotemporal scales and its potential in the field of medium and long term weather forecasting |
| 10:15-10:30 | Haris KONTOES | NOA | Big EO data towards sector resilience - The EuroGEO e-shape project |
| 10:30-10:45 | Paolo LAJ | ACTRIS | Overview about ACTRIS |
| 15 minutes break | | | |
| General Atmospheric Research | | | |
| 11:00-11:15 | Ali Ahmed Abdelhamid WHEIDA | National Research Centre NRC Egypt | Air pollution in Greater Cairo: Statistical Analysis for Monitoring Data |
| 11:15-11:30 | Alexandra CHUDNOVSKY | Tel-Aviv University, Israel | Monitoring air pollution in Israel using combined remote sensing approach: current challenges and future perspectives. |
| 11:30-11:45 | Kleanthis NICOLAIDES | Department of Meteorology | East Mediterranean, an area of intense development. Is the meteorological infrastructure sufficient? |
| 11:45-12:00 | Moritz HAARIG | TROPOS | "The eastern Mediterranean as an ideal testbed to validate lidar retrievals with airborne in situ measurements in preparation of EarthCARE mission" |
| 12:15-12:30 | Jean SCIARE | The Cyprus Institute | The Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Climate and Atmosphere Research Center (EMME-CARE) |
| 1 hour break | | | |
| Atmospheric Research with Airborne and Spaceborne Sensors | | | |
| 13:30-13:45 | Rob KOOPMAN | European Space Agency | The EarthCARE Mission Status and Validation Programme |
| 13:45-14:00 | Tommaso PARRINELLO | European Space Agency | Aeolus: ESA's wind mission. Overview, current status and future challenges |
| 14:00-14:15 | Oliver REITEBUCH | DLR Institute of Atmospheric Physics | Performance of the Aeolus mission for global observations of wind and aerosol profiles |
| 14:15-14:30 | Erich Franz STOCKER | Goddard Space Flight Center / NASA | GPM Data Reprocessing for V07 |
| 14:30-14:45 | Bernadett WEINZIERL | University of Vienna, Faculty for Physics, Aerosolphysics and Environmental Physics | The A-LIFE field experiment in the Eastern Mediterranean - Overview and selected highlights |
| 15 minutes break | | | |
| Climate and Weather Modelling in and for EMMENA | | | |
| 15:00-15:15 | Alexia TSOUNI | NOA | Earth Observation assimilation for real time flood monitoring and response |
| 15:15-15:30 | Haris KONTOES | NOA | EO based Early Warning System for Mosquito Borne Diseases- An operational application in EU |
| 15:30-15:45 | Eleni LOULLI | CUT/ECoE | Precipitation and Drought monitoring with ground-based X-BAND radars in Cyprus |



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| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 15:45-16:00 | Jeronimo ESCRIBANO | Barcelona Supercomputing Center | Impact of assimilating spaceborne lidar dust extinction in Northern Africa and Middle East |
| 16:00-16:15 | Antonis GKIKAS | NOA | Improving dust and marine modeling through Aeolus wind assimilation |
| 16:15-16:30 | Eleni DRAKAKI | NOA | Optimization of dust transport parameterizations in regional models |
| Q&A | | | |

CONSORTIUM



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Appendix C – Publications during the period between 1/9/2019 and 31/8/2021

| # | Citation | Title | Date | Journal/Conference | Impact | Research Area | DOI |
|---|-------------------------------|--|------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 1 | (Agapiou and Lysandrou, 2020) | Detecting Displacements Within Archaeological Sites in Cyprus After a 5.6 Magnitude Scale Earthquake Event Through the Hybrid Pluggable Processing Pipeline (HyP3) Cloud-Based System and Sentinel-1 Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) Analysis | 01.10.2020 | Journal paper (IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.1109/JSTARS.2020.3028272 |
| 2 | (Agapiou and Lysandrou, 2021) | Observing thermal conditions of historic buildings through earth observation data and big data engine | 02.07.2021 | Journal paper (Sensors mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.3390/s21134557 |
| 3 | (Agapiou, 2020a) | Damage Proxy Map of the Beirut Explosion on 4th of August 2020 as Observed from the Copernicus Sensors | 09.11.2020 | Journal paper (Sensors mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.3390/s20216382 |



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| # | Citation | Title | Date | Journal/Conference | Impact | Research Area | DOI |
|---|------------------|---|------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 4 | (Agapiou, 2020b) | Detecting Looting Activity through Earth Observation Multi-Temporal Analysis over the Archaeological Site of Apamea (Syria) during 2011–2012 | 11.08.2020 | Journal paper (Journal of Computer Applications in Archaeology) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.5334/jcaa.56 |
| 5 | (Agapiou, 2020c) | Estimating proportion of vegetation cover at the vicinity of archaeological sites using sentinel-1 and-2 data, supplemented by crowdsourced openstreetmap geodata | 10.07.2020 | Journal paper (Applied Sciences mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.3390/app10144764 |
| 6 | (Agapiou, 2020d) | Evaluation of Landsat 8 OLI/TIRS Level-2 and Sentinel 2 Level-1C Fusion Techniques Intended for Image Segmentation of Archaeological Landscapes and Proxies | 10.02.2020 | Journal paper (Remote Sensing mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.3390/rs12030579 |



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| # | Citation | Title | Date | Journal/Conference | Impact | Research Area | DOI |
|----|------------------|---|------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 7 | (Agapiou, 2020e) | Optimal Spatial Resolution for the Detection and Discrimination of Archaeological Proxies in Areas with Spectral Heterogeneity | 01.01.2020 | Journal paper (Remote Sensing mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | 10.3390/rs12010136 |
| 8 | (Agapiou, 2020f) | Vegetation Extraction Using Visible-Bands from Openly Licensed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Imagery | 26.06.2020 | Journal paper (Drones mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Environment and Climate | https://doi.org/10.3390/drones4020027 |
| 9 | (Agapiou, 2021a) | Land cover mapping from colorized CORONA archived greyscale satellite data and feature extraction classification | 22.07.2021 | Journal paper (Land mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Environment and Climate | https://doi.org/10.3390/land10080771 |
| 10 | (Agapiou, 2021b) | Multi-temporal change detection analysis of vertical sprawl over limassol city centre and Amathus archaeological site in Cyprus during 2015–2020 using the sentinel-1 sensor and the google earth engine platform | 08.03.2021 | Journal paper (Sensors mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Environment and Climate | https://doi.org/10.3390/s21051884 |



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| # | Citation | Title | Date | Journal/Conference | Impact | Research Area | DOI |
|----|---|---|---------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| 11 | (Agapiou, 2021c) | UNESCO World Heritage properties in changing and dynamic environments: change detection methods using optical and radar satellite data | 01.06.2021 | Journal paper (Heritage Science – Springer) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.1186/s40494-021-00542-z |
| 12 | (Agapiou, Lysandrou and Cuca, 2021) | Copernicus Earth Observation for Cultural Heritage | 09.03.2021 | Conference paper (9 th ARQUEOLOGICA 2.0 & 3 rd GEORES) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.4995/Arqueologica.9.2021.12512 |
| 13 | (Agapiou, Lysandrou and Hadjimitsis, 2020a) | A European-Scale Investigation of Soil Erosion Threat to Subsurface Archaeological Remains | 18.02.2020 | Journal paper (Remote Sensing mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.3390/rs12040675 |
| 14 | (Agapiou, Lysandrou and Hadjimitsis, 2020b) | Analysing the thermal conditions of historic buildings in Cyprus using archive Landsat satellite data and Google Earth Engine big data cloud platform | 22-24.10.2020 | Conference paper (2020 IMEKO TC-4 International Conference on Metrology for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://www.imeko.org/publications/tc4-Archaeo-2020/IMEKO-TC4-MetroArchaeo2020-034.pdf |



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| # | Citation | Title | Date | Journal/ Conference | Impact | Research Area | DOI |
|----|---|---|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 15 | (Agapiou, Lysandrou and Hadjimitsis, 2020c) | Earth Observation Contribution to Cultural Heritage Disaster Risk Management: Case Study of Eastern Mediterranean Open Air Archaeological Monuments and Sites | 22.04.2020 | Journal paper (Remote Sensing mdpi) | Network development/ Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.3390/rs12081330 |
| 16 | (Alverti <i>et al.</i> , 2020) | A Study of the Interaction of Human Smart Characteristics with Demographic Dynamics and Built Environment: The Case of Limassol, Cyprus | 17.02.2020 | Journal paper (Smart cities mdpi) | Network development/ Innovation | Environment and Climate | https://doi.org/10.3390/smartcities3010004 |
| 17 | (Amiridis <i>et al.</i> , 2019) | Advancing the remote sensing of desert dust | 9.10.2019 | Conference paper (Remote Sensing of Clouds and the Atmosphere XXIV, SPIE) | Network development/ Innovation | Environment and Climate | https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2530322 |
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| 21 | (Baars <i>et al.</i> , 2019) | The unprecedented 2017–2018 stratospheric smoke event: decay phase and aerosol properties observed with the EARLINET | 13.12.2019 | Journal paper (Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics) | Network development/ Innovation | Environment and Climate | https://doi.org/10.5194/acp-19-15183-2019 |
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| 24 | (Christodoulou , Pantelidis and Gravanis, 2019) | The Effect of Targeted Field Investigation on the Reliability of Earth-Retaining Structures in Active State | 18.11.2019 | Journal paper (Applied Sciences mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.3390/app9224953 |
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| 28 | (Christofe, Danezis and Hadjimitsis, 2020) | Assessing Aging In Reinforced Concrete Using Novel Remote Sensing Techniques | 03-08.08.2020 | Conference paper (International Structural Engineering and Construction) | Network development/ Innovation | Environment and Climate | https://doi.org/10.14455/ISEC.res.(2020).7(1).MAT-32 |
| 29 | (Cuca and Agapiou, 2021) | Contribution of earth observation and geospatial information for urban planning of historic cities' centres: The case study of Nicosia, Cyprus | 22/06/2021 | Journal paper (Sustainability) | Network development/ Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.3390/su13137023 |
| 30 | (Dai et al., 2020) | Mapping understory invasive plant species with field and remotely sensed data in Chitwan, Nepal | 14.08.2020 | Journal paper (Remote Sensing of Environment) | Network development/ Innovation | Environment and Climate | https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rse.2020.112037 |
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| 40 | (Gravanis <i>et al.</i> , 2021) | Superstatistics and isotropic turbulence | 01/04/2021 | Journal paper (Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications) | Network development/ Innovation | Environment and Climate | https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physa.2020.125694 |



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| # | Citation | Title | Date | Journal/ Conference | Impact | Research Area | DOI |
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| 53 | (Kosta <i>et al.</i> , 2020) | Remote sensing techniques for archaeology: a state of art analysis of SAR methods for land movement | 26.08.2020 | Conference paper (Eighth International Conference on Remote Sensing and Geoinformation of the Environment (RSCy2020)) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2571722 |
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| 59 | (Mazi, 2021) | Algebraic estimation of the specific storage from slug tests in confined aquifers in the overdamped case | 12.07.2021 | Hydrogeology Journal | Network development/ Innovation | Big Earth Data Analytics | 10.1007/s10040-021-02382-4 |



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| 71 | (Michaelides, 2020) | Editorial for Special Issue “Remote Sensing in Applications of Geoinformation | 23.12.2020 | Journal paper (Remote Sensing MDPI) | Network development/Dissemination | Big Earth Data Analytics | https://doi.org/10.3390/rs13010033 |
| 72 | (Miltiadou <i>et al.</i> , 2020) | Detecting Dead Standing Eucalypt Trees from Voxelised Full-Waveform Lidar Using Multi-Scale 3D-Windows for Tackling Height and Size Variations | 31.01.2020 | Journal paper (Forests mdpi) | Network development/Innovation | Environment and Climate | https://doi.org/10.3390/f11020161 |
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| 77 | (Nikolaidis and Danezis, 2020) | An initial overview of tidal and sea level variability in Cyprus | 26.08.2020 | Conference paper (Eighth International Conference on Remote Sensing and Geoinformation of the Environment (RSCy2020)) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.1117/12.2571166 |



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| 79 | (Panagiotou et al., 2020) | An Explicit Algebraic Closure for Passive Scalar-Flux: Applications in Channel Flows at a Wide Range of Reynolds Numbers | 13/11/2020 | Journal paper (Journal of Marine Science and Engineering) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.3390/jmse8110916 |
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| 81 | (Pantelidis, Gravanis and Gkotsis, 2020) | Stability assessment of soil slopes in three dimensions: The effect of the width of failure and of tension crack | 25.08.2020 | Journal paper (Geomechanics and Engineering) | Network development/Innovation | Big Earth Data Analytics | https://doi.org/10.12989/gae.2020.22.4.319 |
| 82 | (Papageorgiou and Hadjimitsis, 2021) | Evaluation of Soil Loss by Water in Archaeological Landscapes by Using the (R)USLE Model and GIS. The Case Study of Paphos District, Cyprus | 14/04/2021 | Conference paper (8th International Euro-Mediterranean Conference (EuroMed 2020)) | Network development/Innovation | Resilient Society | https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-73043-7_6 |



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