



# OVERVIEW OF THE TRANSITION TO

# #EUSpace NETWORKS

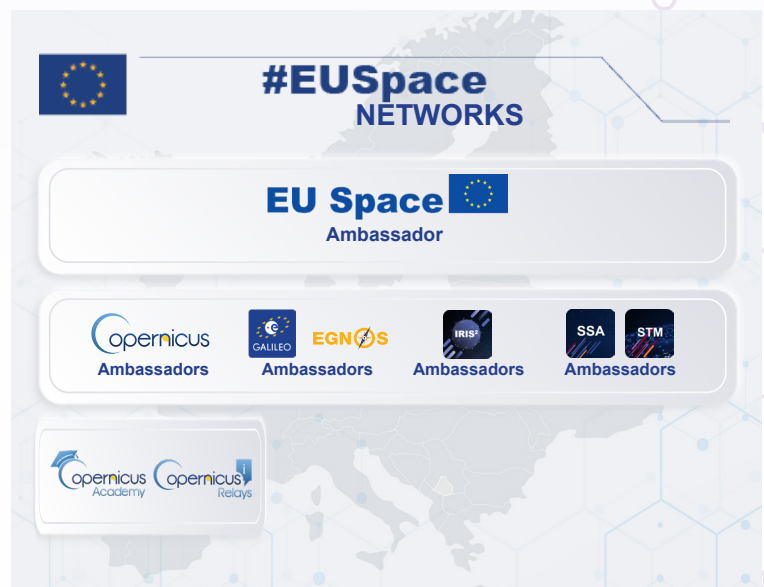


## BACKGROUND OF THE TRANSITION

The Copernicus Networks were created in 2017 and have proved to be an important instrument for promoting the use of space data and fostering scientific and business collaboration across Europe and beyond. As part of the European Commission's efforts to develop user adoption, the Copernicus Networks have increased the visibility and uptake of Copernicus open data, products, services and applications. The Copernicus Networks started with 88 Academy members and 78 Relays and they now include 228 Academy members and 115 Relays in 54 countries. The European Commission is boosting its engagement with stakeholders across the EU Space Programme through the restructuring and expansion of the Copernicus Networks into the EU Space Networks. This initiative, led by DG DEFIS, aims to unify and amplify the impact of the EU Space Programme's components: Galileo, EGNOS, and Copernicus, among others.

## STRUCTURE OF THE NEW NETWORKS

Building on the success of the Copernicus Networks, the new EU Space Networks structure has been expanded to include other EU Space components including Galileo, EGNOS, IRIS<sup>2</sup>, and SSA. In this new structure, the Copernicus Academy and Relays are maintained, with a single new member type, Ambassador, added for each of the components. Ambassadors are typically organisations, but in exceptional cases, individuals with the requisite expertise and experience as well as a proven track record of promoting EU Space data and services may also be appointed as Ambassadors.



# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS



These network members promote the EU Space Programme and all its components across different territories, thematic areas or industry verticals, and encourage the use of space data and services both within and outside the EU. They can present the programme at events and provide training, bringing the programme closer to its potential users.



Members who specifically promote the Copernicus component, aiming to increase its visibility and encourage the use of Copernicus data, information and services. They are members capable of fulfilling roles of both the pre-existing Academy members and Relays.



Comprises educational or research institutions and companies focused on Earth Observation. These members work to integrate Copernicus data into their curricula and research, aiming to enhance skills and foster innovation and promote user uptake in the field of Earth Observation.



Copernicus Relays act as local champions for Copernicus, promoting its benefits and facilitating access to Copernicus data and services at a thematic, regional, or national level. They are essential in building a strong user community by offering guidance, information, and support, thus enabling more effective use of Copernicus services across various sectors.



Specialists in the Galileo and/or EGNOS systems and applications, these ambassadors promote the benefits of EGNSS and encourage the use of Galileo and/or EGNOS services. Their expertise fosters the adoption of these technologies across various industries, enhancing efficiency and safety in transportation, agriculture, and emergency response.



These ambassadors promote IRIS<sup>2</sup>, particularly as it moves closer to operational deployment, by spreading awareness, supporting user uptake in Europe and Africa, and enhancing the understanding of its unique role in ensuring secure, resilient connectivity.



Specialists in the use of Space Situational Awareness (SSA) for monitoring space objects and space weather or in Space Traffic Management (STM), which can promote safe operations for all users of space. They promote best practices in Europe and internationally to help manage the increasingly crowded orbital environment.

## HOW TO JOIN THE NETWORKS

The calls for expression of interest for the Copernicus Academy and Relays as well as new calls for expression of Interest for each of the new Ambassador roles will be available on the [Copernicus](#) and [DG DEFIS](#) websites. Organisations interested in joining the EU Space Networks as members can apply through an online application form. All applications will be evaluated by the European Commission in a timely manner. Individuals may be appointed as Ambassadors by the European Commission, on a discretionary basis.

Interested stakeholders can write to [support@eospace-programme.eu](mailto:support@eospace-programme.eu) to be notified when the calls for expression of interest are published, as well as for additional information about the EU Space Networks and how to become a member.

