



Copernicus Academy Hub for Knowledge, Innovation and Outreach

Annual report on working groups [Deliverable 2.4]

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Lead beneficiary and contributing partners

UMA [3], SpaSe [2]

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Rationale (brief description from DoA)

For the Copernicus Academy, the Working Groups (WGs) are catalysts for expert fields contributing to the shared vision of the Academy Network through focused exchange and cooperation on specific

thematic topics relevant to the Copernicus programme and the society. This deliverable is the first annual report on the working groups and provides the summary of activities and achievements of the WGs in their initial state.

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Executive summary

The overall objective of the Copernicus Academy Thematic Working Groups (TWG) is to capitalise on the excellence of the Copernicus Academy members to provide research results to the general public, businesses, public authorities and other Copernicus stakeholders in a systematic way, take over a moderating role in the context of the CopHub.AC pipeline and untap innovation potentials in the thematic areas of the TWGs to establish new research foci based on exchange and collaboration among the TWG members. In the first phase, 39 experts from 21 Copernicus Academy member institutions registered for participation to the TWG. The TWGs on Land and Climate Change are the ones that have raised highest interest for participation while the groups on Emergency, Security, Marine Monitoring, and Atmosphere have only a few confirmed participants yet. As a first line of activities, a direct contribution of TWG experts is provided for the development of the GI/EO Body-of-Knowledge (BoK) presently under way in the framework of the EO4GEO Skills Alliance project.

Aims & scope of CopHub.AC

The Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action aims to establish a long-term Copernicus hub to consolidate and sustain the Copernicus Academy as a knowledge and innovation platform. To fulfill this several nodes will be created, including interactive web elements showing the distribution and dynamics of Copernicus related expertise and capacities. The project will link ongoing R&D activities in Copernicus-relevant academic fields and sustain the innovation process from academia to business on a high scientific and technical level. We have a clear commitment to a full thematic and geographic coverage for a Europe-wide boost in demand-driven uptake of space technology and geospatial information.

Thematic Working Groups

The overall objective of the Copernicus Academy Thematic Working Groups (TWG) is to capitalise on the excellence of the Copernicus Academy members to provide research results to the general public, businesses, public authorities and other Copernicus stakeholders in a systematic way, take over a moderating role in the context of the CopHub.AC pipeline and untap innovation potentials in the thematic areas of the TWGs to establish new research foci based on exchange and collaboration among the TWG members. As one branch of the Copernicus user uptake activities, the Copernicus Academy through its Thematic Working Groups will focus on raising the awareness about the academic and scientific capacities and excellence, and increase the use of Copernicus data and services in the academic and research context.

The thematic topics are - initially - pre-defined by the Copernicus core service themes and are chaired by CopHub.AC partners with high expertise in their respective fields:

- Atmosphere: Cyprus University of Technology (CUT)
- Marine: Marine Research Institute - Klaipeda University (KU MRI)
- Land: University of Malaga (UMA)
- Climate Change: Climate KIC
- Security: Z_GIS - University of Salzburg (PLUS)
- Emergency: University of Basilicata (UNIBAS)

Participants and degree of participation/involvement

The Deliverable 2.3 “Thematic working groups operational procedures” sets the rules and procedures for participation and organisation of the WGs, and states that any Copernicus Academy member can participate in one or more Working Groups.

The approach and content of the Thematic Working Group was presented to the Copernicus Academy members at the Copernicus Academy monthly teleconference in April. The call for participation was launched on 10th May through the Copernicus Academy network newsletter, facilitating the registration to the Working Groups through an online registration form on the CopHub.AC website (<http://www.cophub-ac.eu/twg/>).

In the first phase, 39 experts from 21 Copernicus Academy member institutions registered for participation to the TWG. The distribution per Thematic Working Groups is shown in Figure 1. The TWGs on Land and Climate Change are the ones that have raised highest interest for participation while the groups on Emergency, Security, Marine Monitoring, and Atmosphere have only a few confirmed participants. On the other hand, there is a number of participants who expressed their interest in other thematic areas such as

- Big Earth Data cubes
- Societal Challenges
- Disaster Risk Assessment & Reduction
- Education and training & skills development
- Business processes
- Big EO data

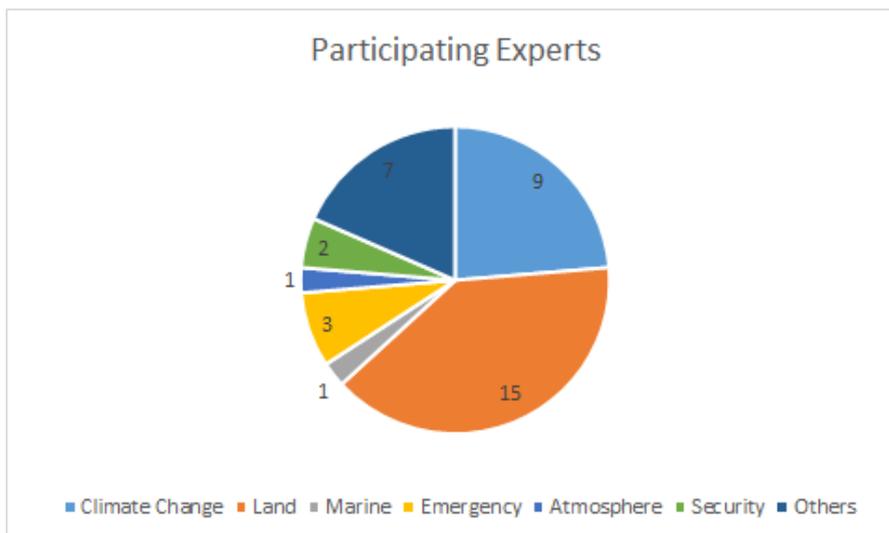


Figure 1: Distribution of registered experts to the TWGs

Due to the recent start of the Thematic Working Groups, apart from the set up of the groups, no further activities are currently been accomplished.

In the next step, the TWG will meet and elaborate the work plan for the next 12 months, including:

- Identification of priority themes to be fed into the CopHub.AC pipeline;
- Definition of priority themes for future actions (e.g. proposal development for specific calls, publication of a scientific article in the thematic area), including identification of responsibilities (who develops the ideas further), milestones, etc.;
- Identification of the main target audience per thematic Working Group;
- Definition of milestones and calendar, including events where members participate on behalf of the Working Group.

In the work plan development, the TWGs' role in the moderation process is crucial. The TWGs are expected to facilitate the evolution of the Copernicus Academy members towards an effective element of the Copernicus User Uptake. Each TWG will be responsible for filtering all the input and requests related to their thematic area. For the input coming from the beneficiaries, they will work closely with the consortium members in order to collect all their needs and decide how it would be best to address them. The TWG members will also lead the assessment impact for innovation in parallel with the requirements collected by the beneficiaries.

The complete deliverable (in revised versions) will include the following sections to report on the TWGs activities

TWG Workplan

Once the TWGs have been consolidated at an initial composition in the next weeks, a detailed plan of work (plan of operations) will be established. However, already prior to this step, a direct contribution of TWG experts is foreseen for the development of the GI/EO Body-of-Knowledge (BoK) presently under way in the framework of the EO4GEO Skills Alliance project. Referring to Del. 4.1 (*Report on the link and harvest on EO4GEO activities and outcomes*), the ideal concurrent

implementation of EO4GEO and CopHub.AC offers the potential to ‘link’ and ‘harvest’, which means in practical terms, that mutual benefit & synergies (the harvest) will only come about if both consortia collaborate for putting the seeds into the ground (linking working groups, sharing expertise and outcomes). To this end, members of the TWGs are and will actively cooperate on the BoK and demonstrate the ‘live-link’ between EO4GEO and the Copernicus Academy.

TWG Meeting minutes

Due to this early stage in the establishment of the TWGs there are not yet minutes available. Once the inaugural meeting of the members will have been conducted the conclusions/decisions will be reported.

Summary of achieved outputs

The TWGs Operational Procedures (Del. 2.3) have been published and form the background for the Call for Experts announced and promoted during the monthly Academy teleconference in May 2019. The ‘accreditation’ process of the TWG experts is under way. In regard to activities, the TWG experts’ contribution to the development of the EO4GEO GI/EO BoK demonstrates the great relevance of the Copernicus Academy Network for shaping the space-geoinformation sector.

Next steps

- consolidate the TWG membership by attracting additional experts for a comparable balance in the respective thematic areas
- organizing and conducting the first TWG meeting
- establish a work plan for the next 12 months
- continue to contribute expertise to the development of the GI/EO-BoK in the context of EO4GEO