



ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

**for the participation in the
1st Winter Course on
GeoInformation and Space Data Management
for the Sustainable Development and Needs of the Mediterranean Region**

organized by

The Italian Space Agency (ASI)
and
The Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria
with the support of the
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)

hosted by

The Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria
Reggio Calabria (Italy) - 8-20 November 2021

1. Background

Since the beginning of the space era, international cooperation for the peaceful uses of outer space and related education and information has contributed to the development of the international space community in a variety of forms at international, regional and national level.

In 2015 the Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda calling for action by all Countries to improve the life of people everywhere was adopted, and governments, civil society as well as the United Nations began mobilizing efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) also through space activities and related applications.

On 5 September 2019 the fourth edition of the *International Space Forum (ISF) – The Mediterranean Chapter* -, a regional event at Ministerial level which aims at involving Academia and Universities in different regions of the world in space programs and activities, took place in Reggio Calabria (Italy), jointly organized by the Italian Space Agency (ASI), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria.

After the first *International Space Forum* in Trento (Italy) in 2016 and the following *regional Chapters* focused on Africa (Nairobi, 2017), on Latin America and the Caribbean Countries (Buenos Aires, 2018), the Mediterranean Chapter triggered open and productive discussions among fifteen MED countries in order to contribute to the identification of possible space solutions that meet Mediterranean needs.

Ministers, diplomats, Heads of Space agencies and all of the distinguished delegates present in Reggio Calabria welcomed the 4th International Space Forum – The Mediterranean Chapter - and identified a number of objectives to be pursued in the following years:

- promotion of greater cooperation in space disciplines among universities of the region with the support of national and international Space Agencies and institutions devoted to space activities;
- promotion of greater use of space-based data and information;
- promotion of greater awareness of the benefits of space programs and satellite systems for the Mediterranean region;
- promotion of the use of satellites to safeguard and protect infrastructures and activities, as well as to discourage threats and illegal activities at sea or on the coastlines;
- exploitation of the existing national and international space centers and infrastructures to contribute to the United Nations 2030 Agenda at regional level;
- creation of a Space Curriculum focused on the Mediterranean needs.

As a first step to implement the above recommendations, the Italian Space Agency and the Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria, in collaboration with the e-GEOS Company and the support of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), are organizing the 1st ***Winter Course on GeoInformation and Space Data management for the Sustainable Development and Needs of the Mediterranean Region.***

The Course was already announced during the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) session on 3 February 2020 in Vienna and later confirmed during the webinar meeting organized by the Italian Space Agency and the Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria on July 5, 2021, with the attendance of representatives from eighteen MED Countries.

2. Training Course Objectives

The participants will acquire knowledge from a wide range of disciplines, such as regional planning, emergency management, environmental sciences, resources management and geography. Training will include an overview of the international space programs on Earth Observation capabilities and applications supporting decision makers and operational services in the Mediterranean area for an easier implementation of sustainable development policies and the achievement of goals benefiting all Countries and populations of the region.

3. Training Course Program

The training format includes lectures, presentations, exercises and technical visits. The following topics will be covered:

- Geoinformation overview
- Geoinformation for agriculture
- Geoinformation for monitoring environment and climate change
- Geoinformation for sustainable development
- Emergency management and maritime services
- Geoinformation operational monitoring services

The course will be hosted by the Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria from 8 to 20 November 2021.

4. Sponsorship

The Italian Space Agency and the Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria are responsible for organizing the training course, in collaboration with the e-GEOS Company and the support of the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

5. Language

The working language of the training course is English.

6. Financial support

Within the limited financial resources available, up to 25 selected participants, as specified below, will be offered financial support to attend the training course. Such financial support will cover their tuition fees (€ 500,00), a round-trip plane ticket from their home Country to Reggio Calabria (Italy), local transportation and full board expenses for the duration of the training course.

7. Participants

The training course has been designed for Bachelor's or Master's degree holders in the following fields:

- Engineering
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Aerospace
- Physics
- Natural Sciences
- Agronomy
- Geology

as well as to government officers and employees and/or researchers who operate in the following areas:

Emergency Management, Environmental Risk and Civil Protection, Cartographic Institutes, Land management agencies.

8. Admission requirements

Candidates who would like to participate in the training course must comply with the following criteria at the time of their application:

STUDENTS:

- Age: thirty-five (35) years maximum
- be a citizen and resident of one of the Mediterranean Countries
- have a good command of the English language
- have at least a Bachelor's degree as specified above

GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, RESEARCHERS:

- age: forty-five (45) years maximum
- be a citizen and resident of one of the Mediterranean Countries
- have a good command of the English language

- have two-year experience in the areas specified in the preceding paragraph

Gender equality will be observed and the participation of women will be promoted.

9. Application Procedure

The present Announcement of Opportunity is exclusively addressed to the citizens of the Mediterranean Countries.

Any interested Government/University/Research Institutions of the Mediterranean Countries will have to submit the CV and requested attachments of their best candidate exclusively to the ASI Office and e-mail address indicated below (cap. 10).

Each application must be submitted by a University, Research Institution or a governmental entity and not directly by each candidate.

Each Application Form must include the following attachments:

- one copy of the candidate's University diploma;
- one copy of the candidate's valid passport issued by the Country of residence;
- an updated Curriculum Vitae of the candidate written in the English language, both as a Word file without signature and as a scanned PDF file with signature;
- two (2) signed letters of reference;
- **in-writing confirmation that an entry visa will be delivered.**

An *ad hoc* Evaluation Panel will select up to 25 students based on the ranking list resulting from the selection process. The results of the selection are not questionable.

10. Deadline for the Submission of the Applications

Each completed Application Form will have to be properly endorsed by the candidate's institution and then emailed to the **Italian Space Agency (ASI) - UCR Office**, at the following address: asi@asi.postacert.it **no later than 10 October 2021.**

11. Life and health insurance

For each participant a life/major health insurance is required, the responsibility of which lies with him/her or with his/her institution or government. The organizers of the training course will not take any responsibility for life and/or major health insurances, nor for any expenses related to medical treatment or accidents.

Due to the *status* of the global pandemic, please consider that at August 6th 2021 a COVID-19 Green Certificate (Green Pass), in paper or digital form, certifying anti COVID-19 vaccination is mandatory to enter Italy.

More information is available at https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/safe-covid-19-vaccines-europeans/eu-digital-covid-certificate_en and https://infocovid.viaggiare Sicuri.it/index_en.html.

The Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria will take care of any necessary measures ensuring that lessons as well as daily breaks and technical visits will be conducted in a safe and secure environment.

12. Points of contact

For any information regarding applications, funding and other details, please contact Donatella Marucci at the following e-mail address: donatella.marucci@asi.it.

13. Application Form

A copy of the necessary Application Form is attached to the present Announcement of Opportunity.

Application Form				
Training Course Name:		Hosted By:		Date:
First Name:		Middle Name:	Last Name:	
Date of birth:		Gender:	Nationality:	
Affiliation:				
Type of organisation (University / Research / Government Institution):				
Present title:				
Present responsibilities:				
Mailing address:				
Tel. Nr. (Including Country code):			E-mail:	
Required (mandatory) information				
Name as in Passport:			Country of Passport:	
Passport No:	Date of issue:	Date of expiry:	Place of issue:	
Educational qualification (Bachelor/Master/Doctorate):			Subject/Field:	
Why do you want to attend this Training Course? Please, explain in detail (mandatory):				
The undersigned certifies that the above-mentioned statements are true, complete and correct.				
Applicant's signature:		Place:	Date:	
The application of the candidate to the above-mentioned Training Course is hereby approved in the interest and benefit of our organization/institution/Government authority, which will bear the relevant insurance costs.				
Name and Signature of authorized person :				
Position:		Seal:	Date:	
Please fill in this form and attach the following: 1) a copy of a valid passport ; 2) a copy of the applicant's University Diploma ; 3) 2 (two) signed letters of reference ; 4) a curriculum vitae to be submitted as: a) a word file by e-mail (without signature) and b) as a scanned PDF file with signature; 5) an in-writing confirmation that an entry visa will be delivered .				
Please send the complete application to: Italian Space Agency (ASI) - UCR Office , at the following address: protocollo@asi.it no later than 28 September 2021 .				