



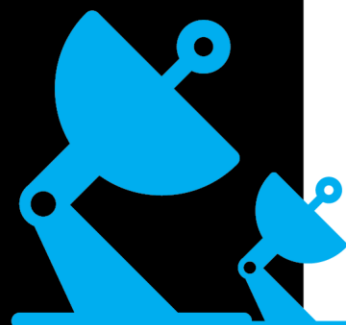
October 2025 – December 2025

NEWSLETTER ISSUE #12

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HIGHLIGHTS

ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence selected for the Science4EU Campaign

On 9 May 2025, Europe Day, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence was featured as part of the European Commission’s Science4EU campaign, a flagship initiative highlighting research and innovation actions that deliver tangible benefits for society, the economy, and the environment. The participation of ERATOSTHENES CoE in the campaign recognises the impact of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project, through which the Centre was established and developed into a leading regional hub for Earth Observation, Remote Sensing, Geoinformatics, and Space Technologies.

Through EXCELSIOR, ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence demonstrates how EU-funded research can drive regional transformation by strengthening scientific capacity, creating highly skilled employment, and translating advanced research into operational solutions for real-world challenges. Based in Limassol, Cyprus, ERATOSTHENES CoE operates one of Europe’s most advanced Earth Observation and Space Technology infrastructures, including a satellite data acquisition antenna valued at EUR 3.9 million, and is supported by a multidisciplinary team of more than 120 researchers, engineers, and specialists. Using satellite data and advanced analytics, ERATOSTHENES CoE delivers applications supporting climate change monitoring, natural disaster risk reduction, air quality assessment, cultural heritage protection, smart agriculture, and maritime and land surveillance.



HIGHLIGHTS

The inclusion of ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence in the Science4EU campaign marks a defining milestone for both the organisation and Cyprus. It highlights Cyprus's growing role within the European Research Area and positions the island at the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and Asia as a hub for space innovation and environmental intelligence. This recognition underscores the value of sustained European investment in research excellence and affirms the contribution of ERATOSTHENES CoE to science that delivers measurable impact for people, regions, and the planet.



Successful Completion of On-Site Acceptance Test for the ERATOSTHENES Ground Receiving Station

On 9–10 October 2025, the On-Site Acceptance Test (OSAT) for the Ground Receiving Station (DAS) of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence was successfully completed at Pera Teleport, at the premises of Cyta.

All system checks and performance tests were carried out successfully, confirming that the station is fully operational. Delivered by Safran Data Systems, the infrastructure enables near real-time satellite data reception in support of climate research, natural disaster response, and environmental monitoring, marking a significant milestone in the operational readiness of ERATOSTHENES CoE's space infrastructure.



Cyprus signs ESA Associate Membership Agreement

On 23 October 2025, the Republic of Cyprus signed the Associate Agreement with the European Space Agency (ESA) at ESA Headquarters in Paris. The agreement was signed by Dr. Nicodemus Damianou, Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy of the Republic of Cyprus, and Dr. Josef Aschbacher, Director General of ESA, marking a significant step in Cyprus' growing presence within the European space sector.

The development reflects years of national preparation and steady progress in building Cyprus' space ecosystem. In his remarks, Dr. Damianou noted that over the previous five years Cyprus had strengthened both the expertise and the institutional framework required to participate meaningfully in the space domain, while ESA also highlighted the country's advances in telecommunications, Earth Observation and navigation.

This milestone is also closely linked to the work of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, which continues to support Cyprus' strategic positioning through major infrastructure and innovation initiatives in the fields of Space and Earth Observation. Among the key contributions highlighted were the Data Acquisition Station (DAS), enabling real-time satellite data reception, and Space BIC Cyprus, which supports start-ups and innovative companies active in space technologies and geoinformation services. These developments reinforce Cyprus' capacity to connect research, infrastructure and entrepreneurship with wider European priorities.

The Agreement was expected to enter into force following ratification by the House of Representatives, opening a new chapter for Cyprus' participation in ESA programmes and for the further development of its national space ecosystem. The occasion also reflected a longer journey that began in 2009, with the contribution of national stakeholders including Mr. George Komodromos, who serves as Director of the Department of Electronic Communications.



HIGHLIGHTS

Info Day on “Cyprus in the New Space Era: Challenges and Opportunities”

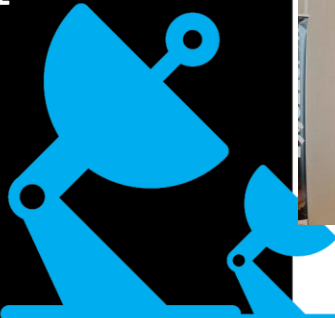
On 1 December 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence hosted a major Info Day at City of Dreams Mediterranean in Limassol, bringing together representatives from government, academia, research, local authorities and business to discuss the future of Cyprus in the space sector. The event was held at a particularly significant time for the Centre, which marked five years of operation in 2025, while Cyprus is also preparing for two major milestones: the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2026 and the completion of its accession as an Associate Member of the European Space Agency (ESA).

The event featured addresses by Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis, CEO of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, Mr. Giorgos Komodromos, Deputy Director General of the Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, and Prof. Panayiotis Zaphiris, Rector of the Cyprus University of Technology. It also included participation from local authorities and the business community, reflecting the broad composition of the Cypriot space ecosystem. During the event, the Centre’s specialised infrastructures and research activities were presented by its Deputy Coordinators, followed by a panel discussion on the development of a modern and competitive Cypriot space ecosystem.



HIGHLIGHTS

A key highlight of the event was the Centre’s recent European recognition. The EXCELSIOR Horizon 2020 Teaming project, through which ERATOSTHENES CoE was established, was recognised as one of the European Union’s seven Hero Projects, while the Centre itself was selected by the European Commission to participate in the Science4EU campaign. The event also showcased the momentum of Space BIC, Cyprus’ first space-focused business incubator, implemented by the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence to support the growth and maturation of innovative Cypriot start-ups. Overall, the Info Day underlined the Centre’s pivotal role in shaping Cyprus’ space strategy and strengthening the country’s international presence in space, Earth Observation and innovation.



ERATOSTHENES CoE co-organised entrepreneurship workshop in Limassol

On 5 December 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, together with the Limassol Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the Enterprise Europe Network Cyprus, co-organised the workshop “From Idea to Impact: How to Start Your Entrepreneurship Journey” in Limassol. Held at the premises of the Limassol Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the event was designed to inform and empower early-career researchers, academics, and aspiring entrepreneurs by offering practical guidance on the first steps into entrepreneurship, available support mechanisms, and pathways for turning ideas into real impact. For the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, the workshop was an important opportunity to engage with Cyprus’ wider innovation ecosystem and to present its work and vision through the EXCELSIOR Project, funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 programme and supported by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. The discussions highlighted the importance of closer links between academia and the market, while also creating space for meaningful exchange between research, business, investment, and public-sector stakeholders. The event featured contributions from a distinguished group of speakers, including Mr. Andreas Tsouloftas, President of the Limassol Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis, Managing Director of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, Mr. Nikos Christoforou of Totalserve Group, Ms. Koulla Panagi and Ms. Liza Ioannou from the Department of Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver, Ms. Margarita Kyprianou from Cyprus Seeds, Ms. Elpida Christou from the European Office of Cyprus and Enterprise Europe Network Cyprus, Prof. Malek Tabbal from the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo, Mr. Alex Tsouloftas from Kinisis Ventures, and Dr. Marianna Prokopi-Demetriades from Promed Bioscience Ltd. Through initiatives of this kind, the Centre continues to support entrepreneurship, knowledge transfer, and stronger connections between research excellence and market-oriented innovation in Cyprus.



Latest News

Commencement of Construction Works for the New Building of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence

In October 2025, construction works commenced for the new building of the School of Engineering and Technology, as well as the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence of the University, located in the Vereggaria area of Kato Polemidia. This project represents the University's second major development in the area, following the construction of the student residences which is already underway. The project has an implementation duration of 18 months and a total budget exceeding EUR 12 million, secured through a loan agreement with the European Investment Bank.



Participation in the Day of German Unity Celebrations

On 3 October 2025, representatives of the ERATOSTHENES CoE attended the celebrations marking the Day of German Unity, hosted by H.E. Dr. Hans-Peter Jugel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Ms. Michaela Jugel, at the Goethe-Institut in Nicosia, at the premises of the German Embassy. The Day of German Unity commemorates the reunification of Germany in 1990 and serves as a symbol of unity and international cooperation. The event brought together distinguished representatives from diplomatic missions, public authorities, and the private sector. Remarks delivered by H.E. Dr. Hans-Peter Jugel and the Cyprus Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, Dr. Nicodemos Damianou, highlighted the significance of the occasion and the strong collaborative ties between Germany and Cyprus, including cooperation in the field of Earth Observation. The ERATOSTHENES CoE maintains long-standing partnerships with leading German research institutions, including the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research, fostering bilateral collaboration and translating it into tangible research and innovation outcomes.



Visit of the German Ambassador to the ERATOSTHENES Satellite Data Acquisition Station

On 6 October 2025, H.E. Ambassador Dr. Hans-Peter Jugel and Dr. Dirk Roland Haupt, Deputy Chief of Mission of the German Embassy, visited the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence's Satellite Data Acquisition Station located outside Nicosia. During the visit, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence team presented the station's advanced capabilities, designed to enable near real-time satellite data reception in support of disaster management, maritime and land surveillance, and climate monitoring. The station, delivered by Safran, represents the easternmost and southernmost ground station on European Union soil operated by the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence. Earlier the same day, discussions at the German Embassy in Nicosia focused on the Centre's long-standing collaborations with German organisations and the strategic role of its research infrastructure, highlighting the strong partnership between Cyprus and Germany in the field of space science and technology.



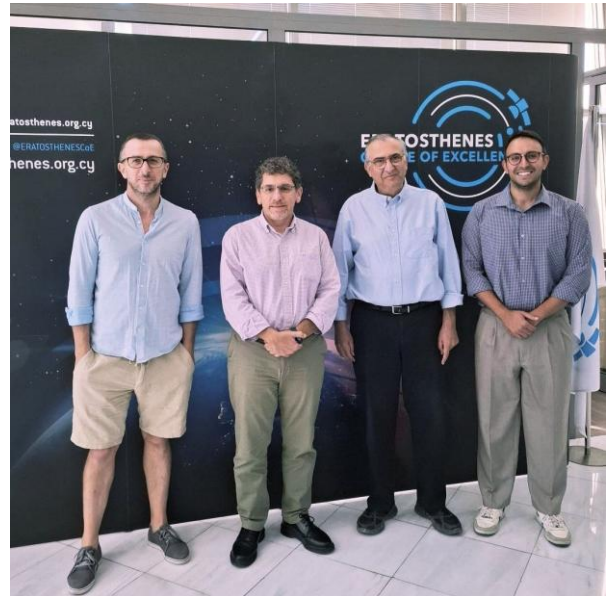
ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence at GITEX GLOBAL 2025

From 13 to 17 October 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence participated in GITEX GLOBAL 2025, showcasing selected technologies in Earth Observation and Space Technologies, including solutions for smart agriculture, disaster risk assessment, maritime situational awareness, and near real-time satellite data acquisition. ERATOSTHENES CoE engaged with representatives from authorities, industry, and the innovation ecosystem to explore collaboration opportunities, with Mr. Andreas Andreou representing ERATOSTHENES CoE on site. The participation was supported by the Cyprus Trade Centre in the GCC Region (Dubai) and the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in the United Arab Emirates.



Visit of the Dean of the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo to ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence

On 17 October 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence welcomed Dr. Malek Tabbal, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo, in Limassol. The visit focused on exploring opportunities for collaboration, particularly in the fields of Cultural Heritage and Material Sciences, including potential joint research projects, future funding calls, and the prospect of formalising cooperation through a Memorandum of Understanding.



ERATOSTHENES represented Cyprus at International Solar Radiometric Campaign in Davos

Ms. Georgia Charalambous and Ms. Athina Savva from the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence represented Cyprus at the International Solar Radiometric Campaign in Davos, Switzerland, held from 22 September to 10 October 2025. Their participation contributed to international efforts to improve the accuracy of solar and atmospheric radiation measurements, further reinforcing the Centre's growing role in atmospheric research and scientific collaboration.



ERATOSTHENES CoE participated in the 4th Teaming Club Conference in Portugal

The ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence participated in the 4th Teaming Club Conference, held in Portugal from 15 to 17 October 2025, a high-level gathering focused on effective strategies for long-term sustainability among Centres of Excellence established or strengthened through the EU Teaming programme. The conference brought together 48 Centres of Excellence from 14 countries, providing a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, networking, innovation and entrepreneurship. The ERATOSTHENES CoE was represented by Dr. Silas Michaelides, Chief Operating Manager, whose participation contributed to discussions on strategic collaboration and sustainable development across the European research and innovation landscape. Through its presence at the conference, the Centre further strengthened its engagement with the wider Teaming community and reinforced its commitment to long-term institutional sustainability and European collaboration.



CHANGES Project field activities held in Crete

On 28 and 29 October 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, as coordinator of the ERASMUS+ CHANGES Project, participated in field activities at Elounda Bay, Crete. The programme included field training in UAV applications for aerial and marine archaeology, as well as geophysical prospections in coastal and shallow-marine cultural heritage environments.

The activities brought together researchers and students from partner institutions across Europe, highlighting the project's collaborative approach to studying coastal change and underwater cultural heritage in the Eastern Mediterranean.



CHANGES Project presented at Erasmus+ events in Nicosia

The CHANGES Project, coordinated by the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, participated in Erasmus+ events held in Nicosia on 17 and 18 October 2025. The events provided an opportunity to present the project's vision and progress, while highlighting the importance of collaboration, knowledge exchange, and multidisciplinary approaches to climate change and cultural heritage. The Centre also extends its thanks to the Municipality of South Nicosia–Idalion, the Municipality of Nicosia, and the Foundation for the Management of European Lifelong Learning Programmes (IDEP) for hosting and supporting these events.



ERATOSTHENES CoE joins new HORIZON Europe project EXCALIBUR

The ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence joined the newly funded HORIZON Europe project EXCALIBUR — *Advanced Toolkits for Interdisciplinary and Enhanced Study, Conservation, and Restoration in Burial Excavations and Findings* — a 42-month project with a total budget of €3.99 million. The project is coordinated by the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) in Thessaloniki, Greece, and focuses on developing practical tools to support the study, conservation and restoration of burial cultural heritage. The project combines Digital Twins, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Earth Observation, advanced 2D/3D documentation, and Extended Reality (XR) to support researchers and site managers in risk assessment, conservation planning, and day-to-day decision-making. The kick-off meeting took place in Thessaloniki on 23–24 October 2025, where partners aligned on the project's use cases, workflows and roadmap. ERATOSTHENES CoE was represented by Dr. Dante Abate and Mr. Georgios Leventis from its Cultural Heritage cluster.



CARO team participated in ACTRIS Week 2025 in Évora

CARO team participated in ACTRIS Week 2025 in Évora

From 21 to 23 October 2025, members of the Cyprus Atmospheric Remote-Sensing Observatory (CARO) participated in ACTRIS Week 2025 in Évora, Portugal, joining the wider ACTRIS community of scientists, national facilities and service providers to exchange knowledge and discuss developments in atmospheric research across Europe. During the event, Dr. Rodanthi-Elisavet Mamouri took part in the CARS-ARES workshop, while Mr. Constantinos Chrysostomou, PhD student, participated in the CCRES workshop, where an overview presentation of the CARO National Facility was also delivered. Participation in ACTRIS Week further strengthened CARO's engagement within the ACTRIS network and supported its alignment with European best practices in atmospheric observation and data harmonisation.



ERATOSTHENES CoE participated in GITEX GLOBAL 2025

The ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence participated in GITEX GLOBAL 2025, held in Dubai from 13 to 17 October 2025, where it presented selected technologies and engaged with international stakeholders in innovation, Earth Observation, and Artificial Intelligence. The Centre was represented by Mr. Andreas Andreou, Business Development and Technology Commercialization Officer.



ERATOSTHENES CoE team visited the Sea and Culture Museum Polis Latsi

On November 4 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence team visited the Sea and Culture Museum Polis Latsi in Latsi, a project to which the Centre has proudly contributed. The visit offered the opportunity to experience the museum through the perspective of colleagues involved in its development, highlighting how research, technology and creativity can come together to present Cyprus' cultural narrative in engaging and immersive ways.

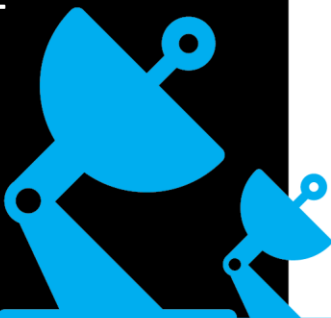
Following the visit, the team shared time together by the sea, in a moment that reflected the value of collaboration, shared effort and the people behind the successful delivery of such initiatives.



Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis attended the inauguration of the NKUA Cyprus Branch

On 3 November 2025, Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis, Vice President of the Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (DIPAE), attended the inauguration of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA) Cyprus Branch in Nicosia. Also present was Prof. Pantelis Sklias, Rector of Neapolis University Pafos, while both had the opportunity to meet with Prof. Gerasimos Siasos, Rector of NKUA.

The inauguration was held by Mr. Nikos Christodoulides, President of the Republic of Cyprus, in the presence of Archbishop George of Cyprus, Prof. Gerasimos Siasos, Rector of NKUA, Mr. Charalambos Prountzos, Mayor of Nicosia, and Mr. Kostas Vlasis, Deputy Minister of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports of the Hellenic Republic.



ERATOSTHENES CoE visited schools in Limassol as part of European Researchers' Night 2025

On 31 October 2025, Mr. Orestis Livadiotis from the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence visited the Gymnasium of Linopetra and the Lyceum of Agios Nikolaos in Limassol as part of the European Researchers' Night 2025 activities organised under the auspices of the Research and Innovation Foundation. Through interactive presentations and examples from the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS), students were introduced to the role of Earth Observation, air quality monitoring and environmental research in understanding dust events, pollution and climate impacts in Cyprus and the wider Eastern Mediterranean.



Dr. Kyriakos Themistocleous represented ERATOSTHENES CoE at briefing on European defence initiatives

On November 2 2025, Dr. Kyriakos Themistocleous represented the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence at a meeting organised by Mr. Costas Mavrides, Member of the European Parliament, focusing on developments related to European defence, and in particular the SAFE instrument and the European Defence Industry Programme. The discussion formed part of the wider national and European dialogue on strengthening defence capabilities, industrial participation and strategic preparedness



ERATOSTHENES CoE participated in MedGU 2025 in Athens

The ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence participated in the 5th Annual Meeting of the Mediterranean Geosciences Union (MedGU), held in Athens from 10 to 12 November 2025. During the conference, the Centre presented research through contributions by Ms. Josephina Kountouri, Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis, Ms. Dhouha Ouerfelli, Dr. Maria Prodromou, Dr. Eleni Loulli, Dr. Kyriaki Fotiou, and Dr. Marios Tzouvaras. The Centre's participation highlighted the breadth of its work across Earth Observation, geospatial technologies, environmental monitoring, agriculture, and Artificial Intelligence.



ERATOSTHENES CoE marked Cultural Days with Italian community

On 6 November 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence marked one of its Cultural Days initiatives by celebrating the Italian community within its international team. With colleagues representing more than 12 nationalities, the occasion reflected the Centre's diverse and inclusive working environment, where different cultures, perspectives and traditions contribute to a truly international workplace.

Special thanks were extended to Dr. Dante Abate, Ms. Maria Cristina Salvi, and Mr. Francesco Scarlatti for helping make the day a memorable one, bringing elements of Italian culture, history and hospitality into the Centre and creating an occasion of shared exchange and connection among colleagues.



Dr. Maria Prodromou presented research at MedGU 2025

On 11 November 2025, Dr. Maria Prodromou, researcher at the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, presented her study titled Assessing Post-Fire Reforestation Effectiveness Using Multisource Time Series Data at MedGU 2025 in Athens. Her research demonstrated how Earth Observation and Remote Sensing can support post-fire restoration monitoring by using Landsat time series data to assess vegetation recovery and the effectiveness of reforestation practices. The work was carried out within the framework of the AI-OBSERVER Twinning Project and with the support of the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project.



ERATOSTHENES CoE participated in Space Tech Expo Europe 2025

From 18 to 20 November 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence participated in Space Tech Expo Europe in Bremen, Germany, one of Europe’s leading B2B events for the space sector. The Centre was represented by Dr. Kyriacos Themistocleous, Mr. Nikos Christoforou, and Mr. Andreas Andreou. The participation provided an opportunity to engage with key stakeholders from across the European space industry, strengthen international connections, and further promote the Centre’s activities in Space, Earth Observation, and innovation-driven applications.



ERATOSTHENES CoE at POLCYBER 2025

On 6 November 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence participated in the POLCYBER 2025 Forum, organised by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Embassy of Poland in Cyprus, at the CCCI premises in Nicosia. The Forum focused on strengthening Cyprus–Poland cooperation in defence, cybersecurity and advanced technologies, while promoting collaboration between companies, research institutions and technology organisations from both countries. During the event, ERATOSTHENES CoE presented its capabilities and services for safety, surveillance and defence applications, including the Earth Observation Satellite Data Acquisition Station (sDAS), the Border Surveillance System with UAVs, the Marine Safety and Security Tool, the NADI-RISK Natural Disaster Risk Assessment Tool, and the Cyprus Earth Observation Data Cube. The Centre thanks H.E. Marek Szczepanowski, Ambassador of Poland to Cyprus, the Embassy team, CCCI, and the Cyprus Association of Research and Innovation Enterprises for the excellent organisation and support.



ERATOSTHENES CoE at the Cyprus–France Innovation & Cooperation Forum

On 13 November 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence participated in the Cyprus–France Innovation & Cooperation Forum, organised by the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Embassy of France in Cyprus, and the Cyprus–France Business Association. During the Forum and B2B meetings, the Centre presented its expertise in space technologies, Earth Observation and remote sensing, including SPACE BIC, the region’s first space-focused incubator, as well as ongoing collaborations with Safran and the University of Marseille. The Centre warmly thanks H.E. Ms. Clélia Chevrier Kolačko, Ambassador of France to Cyprus, and the organising teams for their hospitality and support.



GIS Day 2025

On 20 November 2025, GIS Day 2025 brought together speakers and participants for a successful and inspiring event. The organisers extend their warm thanks to all speakers for sharing their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm, and to all attendees for their active participation and the excellent atmosphere throughout the day. Special thanks also go to CUTing Edge for the photographic coverage of the event. On behalf of the organisers, the CUT Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, and the Cyprus Association of Rural and Surveying Engineers, sincere thanks are extended to all for their support, with the next edition already looked forward to.



Space Tech Expo 2025

From 18 to 20 November 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence participated in Space Tech Expo in Bremen, Germany. During the event, the ERATOSTHENES CoE team met with representatives from CYTA, DLR, and Prof. Karatzalos, Secretary General of Telecommunications at the Ministry of Digital Governance, highlighting the importance of collaboration and dialogue in the space and telecommunications sectors.



Guest Lecture by Prof. Ioannis Gitas

On 13 November 2025, Prof. Ioannis Gitas from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki was invited to speak at the undergraduate course “Remote Sensing I” of the Department of Civil Engineering and Geomatics at the Cyprus University of Technology. During his lecture, he presented Greece’s microsatellite programme, the Greek National Forest Observatory, and his laboratory’s collaboration with the EXCELSIOR project and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence.



Agreement Signed between Limassol District Local Government Organisation and ERATOSTHENES CoE

On 20 November 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence signed an agreement with the Limassol District Local Government Organisation for the creation of a database and the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS), under the framework of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two parties. The agreement was signed by the President of the Limassol District Local Government Organisation, Mr. Giannis Tsoloftas, the Director General, Mr. Sokratis Metaxas, and Dr. Diofantos Hadjimitsis on behalf of ERATOSTHENES CoE. With a duration of 25 months, the project supports the Organisation’s broader strategy for modernising and digitising its infrastructure and processes. The new GIS is expected to strengthen strategic planning, spatial data management, and evidence-based decision-making for infrastructure projects and the sustainable development of Limassol District.



BorderForce Test in Germany

ERATOSTHENES CoE researchers Kyriakos Aristidou and Constantinos Christofe participated in the “BorderForce Test in Industrial Environment at SecuriDrone Test Center of Securiton” in Germany, under the Horizon-funded BorderForce project. The project, coordinated by PI Dr. Michalis Mavrovouniotis, focuses on developing a flexible system to extend automated border surveillance through increased situational awareness, adaptable to uncertain conditions and unforeseen events.



ERATOSTHENES CoE at the AmCham Cyprus Annual Thanksgiving Gala Dinner

On 3 December 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence attended the AmCham Cyprus Annual Thanksgiving Gala Dinner in Nicosia, a notable event celebrating friendship, collaboration and shared achievements between Cyprus and the United States. The evening was attended by H.E. President Nikos Christodoulides, the Chief Scientist, and other distinguished officials. It also provided an important opportunity for ERATOSTHENES CoE to engage with partners and present ERATOSTHENES Solutions and Space BIC to investors and ecosystem stakeholders. ERATOSTHENES CoE was represented by Andreas Andreou, together with collaborators and new partners, reaffirming the Centre’s commitment to innovation, sustainability and international cooperation.



Meeting of Limassol Mayors with ERATOSTHENES CoE

On 4 December 2025, the mayors of Limassol District met with the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence to review the progress of the project, as well as the new applications developed and their capabilities, under the project “Creation of a database and development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the Municipalities of Limassol District.” The meeting highlighted the ongoing advancement of the project and its contribution to strengthening digital tools and spatial data management for local authorities in Limassol.



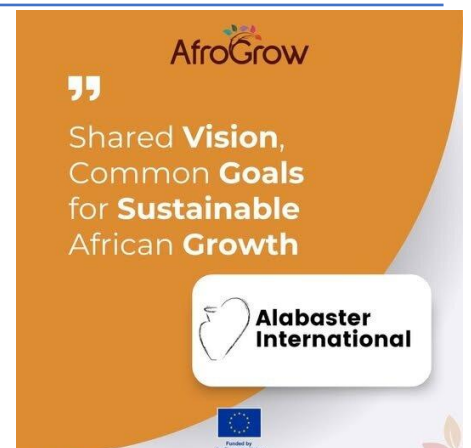
ERATOSTHENES CoE at the UAE National Day Celebration

On 5 December 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence attended the UAE National Day (Eid Al Etihad) celebration hosted by the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Nicosia and H.E. Mohammed Saif Al Shehhi. The occasion highlighted the strong ties between the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and the UAE Embassy, as well as the growing cooperation between Cyprus and the UAE in Earth Observation, space technologies, remote sensing and related fields.



AfroGrow connected with Alabaster International

On 10 December 2025, AfroGrow shared its recent connection with Alabaster International, a U.S.-based nonprofit active across East Africa in the areas of healthcare, food security and entrepreneurship. The collaboration reflects a shared commitment to community-driven approaches and long-term impact, aligned with AfroGrow’s vision for developing Living Labs that support thriving African landscapes.



AfroGrow shared its vision at Synergy Days 2025

On 21 and 22 October 2025, during Synergy Days 2025 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, Mr. Ioannis Varvaris from the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and Ms. Zambella Pitaki from CIFOR-ICRAF presented how AfroGrow is developing six long-term Living Labs to support local communities and strengthen EU–AU cooperation in agri-food innovation. Their intervention also highlighted the role of CIFOR-ICRAF in Kenya and Zambia, including work related to soil-health mapping and the further development of the Re-Greening Africa app.



CERBERUS Agronomy Days highlighted stakeholder engagement and field demonstration in Italy

On 10 December 2025, the second day of the CERBERUS Agronomy Days 2025 concluded in Bologna, Italy, with the participation of invited stakeholders who showed strong interest in the project’s progress and in the technologies under development. One of the main highlights of the day was the live demonstration of the smart sprayer prototype at the experimental farm of the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences of the University of Bologna (UNIBO) in Cadriano, Italy.



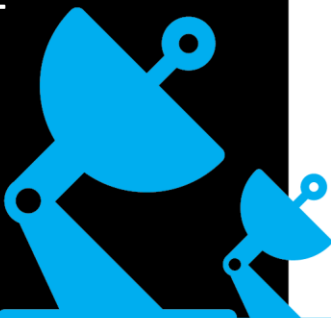
Institute for Interdisciplinary Cyprus Studies visit to the ERATOSTHENES CoE

On 12 December 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence welcomed Dr. Thorsten Kruse from the Institute for Interdisciplinary Cyprus Studies, University of Münster, for a meeting with its Cultural Heritage Cluster. The discussion focused on opportunities to integrate remote sensing, digital technologies, and geophysical methods into ongoing work related to the documentation of intercommunal religious heritage in Cyprus. The meeting also explored the launch of a pilot case study, with the aim of assessing the scalability of this interdisciplinary approach and building long-term cooperation between the two institutions. Special thanks were extended to Dr. Dirk Roland Haupt, Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in Nicosia, for facilitating the introduction and exchange.



President of the Board of Directors visited ERATOSTHENES CoE for strategic meeting

On 16 December 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence welcomed Dr. Nektarios Chrysoulakis, President of the Board of Directors, for a strategic meeting with the Centre's management and staff. The discussion focused on the progress achieved to date and on the next strategic steps for the Centre's continued development. During the meeting, Dr. Nektarios Chrysoulakis and Prof. Ioannis Gitas, Visiting Director of Scientific Research, shared valuable perspectives on priorities and future directions. As a token of appreciation for their contribution, Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis presented a commemorative plaque to both guests. The meeting reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to advancing Earth Observation and space technologies, further strengthening its impact at national, European and international level.



Dr. Nektarios Chrysoulakis met with ERATOSTHENES CoE management and research team

On 16 December 2025, Dr. Nektarios Chrysoulakis, President of the Board of Directors, held a fruitful meeting with the management and research team of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, focusing on the exchange of best practices and strategic perspectives related to European Research Council experience. Dr. Nektarios Chrysoulakis is the cPI of the European Research Council Synergy project URBISPHERE, which focuses on the interaction between dynamic cities and climate. The discussion further strengthened dialogue on research excellence, innovation, and the role of Earth Observation and space technologies in addressing urban and climate-related challenges.



ERATOSTHENES CoE team celebrated the festive season together

On 19 December 2025, the team of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, together with close collaborators, came together for its annual Secret Santa and Christmas lunch. The occasion offered a welcome opportunity to pause, celebrate, exchange gifts, and spend meaningful time together beyond the Centre's daily work. Following a year marked by important achievements, collaboration, and impact in Earth Observation and space technologies, the gathering served as a warm celebration of the people behind the Centre's success.



MoU Agreements

ERATOSTHENES CoE signs MoU with AUB Mediterraneo

The ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and the American University of Beirut (AUB) Mediterraneo signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 2 December 2025 in Pafos to strengthen scientific, educational and research cooperation across Cyprus, the region and Europe. The MoU was signed by Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis, Managing Director of ERATOSTHENES CoE, and Prof. Wassim El Hajj, Rector of AUB Mediterraneo.

It opens the way for joint research initiatives, academic and student exchanges, and co-organised activities in areas including environment and climate, energy, cultural heritage, innovation and artificial intelligence.



Recent Publications

Research paper by Ms. Despoina Makri published in Remote Sensing

We are pleased to share that Ms. Despoina Makri, researcher at the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, published her first scientific paper in the journal Remote Sensing (MDPI).

The paper, titled Seagrass Mapping in Cyprus Using Earth Observation Advances, was published on 31 October 2025 and explores how recent developments in satellite Earth Observation can support the detection and mapping of seagrass meadows around Cyprus, contributing to coastal ecosystem monitoring and conservation.



News from Funded Projects

GEORGIA project plenary meeting held in Limassol

On 4 November 2025, the first day of the 3rd GEORGIA Plenary Meeting was successfully held in Limassol, Cyprus, bringing project partners together for in-person discussions, progress updates and planning of the next steps. The meeting was organised by The Cyprus Phassouri Plantations Co. Ltd, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, and the Cyprus University of Technology. The programme included a visit to the Phassouri Plantations packaging facilities and farm, offering participants the opportunity to observe innovative practices firsthand, alongside presentations and exchanges that reinforced the collaborative spirit of the project.



GEORGIA | 3rd Plenary Meeting
Limassol, Cyprus

ERATOSTHENES CoE showcased RustAlert at Conception X Demo Day in London

On 13 November 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence took part in Conception X Demo Day in London, where the RustAlert project was presented as part of Cyprus' growing deep-tech and research commercialisation landscape. The project was represented by Dr. Andreas Christofe and Prof. Andreas Anayiotos. The participation highlighted the Centre's continued efforts to translate Earth Observation research into market-oriented innovation, while also reinforcing Cyprus' presence within the wider European innovation ecosystem.



News from Funded Projects

GeoAI platform presented at MedGU 2025

On 12 November 2025, Dr. Marios Tzouvaras, Research Coordinator at the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, presented the GeoAI Platform developed within the framework of the AI-OBSERVER Twinning Project at MedGU 2025, hosted by the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The AI-OBSERVER project was also presented by Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis.

The presentations highlighted the role of GeoAI and Artificial Intelligence in advancing Earth Observation applications and supporting data-driven decision-making across environmental and geospatial domains.



Dr. Kyriaki Fotiou presented research at MedGU 2025

On 12 November 2025, Dr. Kyriaki Fotiou participated in MedGU 2025 in Athens, where she delivered an oral presentation in the Special Session on Landslides: Processes, Hazard and Risk. Her study, titled Advancing Rainfall-Driven Landslide Susceptibility Models: A Case Study from the Broader Trachypedoula Area, Cyprus, explored how Earth Observation and Artificial Intelligence can strengthen rainfall-driven landslide susceptibility assessments. By combining satellite observations with advanced analytical approaches, the research offers valuable insights for geohazard monitoring and disaster risk reduction. The study was carried out within the framework of the AI-OBSERVER project, with support from the EXCELSIOR H2020 Teaming Project.



EXCELSIOR Project in Media

AI and Satellite Data for Disaster Preparedness and Climate Resilience

On 3 October, Dr. Marios Tzouvaras spoke on Kanali 6 about AI-OBSERVER, a landmark project led by the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, focusing on the use of artificial intelligence and satellite data to support disaster preparedness and climate resilience. During the discussion, Dr. Tzouvaras highlighted how advanced Earth Observation technologies and AI-driven analytics can enhance the prediction and response to floods, wildfires, and other natural hazards. The interview emphasised the role of AI-OBSERVER in strengthening early warning capabilities and improving decision-making processes for disaster risk management.



Discussion on the Evolution of the ERATOSTHENES CoE

On 6 October 2025, Dr. Eleni Loulli and Mr. Andreas Andreou participated in a discussion hosted by Mr. Michalis Pitsillidis on the evolution of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, from its beginnings in 2007 as a small laboratory at the Cyprus University of Technology to its establishment as a Centre of Excellence in Earth Observation and Space Technologies. The discussion highlighted the translation of research into practical applications in areas such as agriculture, disaster management, and space entrepreneurship through Space BIC Cyprus, underscoring the broader impact of science and innovation on society and the economy.



EXCELSIOR Project in Media

Interview on Space BIC Cyprus and the Growth of the Space Economy in Cyprus

On 10 October 2025, representatives of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence participated in an interview with Mr. Alexandros Rapakousios and the FastForward team, focusing on the role of Space BIC Cyprus in strengthening the country's space and innovation ecosystem. During the discussion, Dr. Eleni Loulli and Mr. Andreas Andreou outlined how Space BIC Cyprus, the first incubator in Cyprus dedicated to start-ups using satellite data and space technologies, supports the translation of research into real-world innovation and contributes to positioning Cyprus within the European space economy.



ERATOSTHENES CoE featured in article by German Ambassador to Cyprus

The ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence was featured in an article by Dr. Hans-Peter Jugel, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of Cyprus, published in GOLD magazine and Cyprus Business News. The article highlighted the Centre as an example of German-Cypriot collaboration in space technology and Earth Observation. It also referred to the role of the Satellite Data Acquisition Station (DAS) and Space BIC Cyprus in strengthening research, innovation and entrepreneurship within Cyprus' growing space ecosystem.





EXCELSIOR Project in Media

Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis appeared on Alpha TV and Sigma TV

Our Managing Director, Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis, appeared on ALPHA ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗ on Alpha TV and on ΜΕΣΗΜΕΡΙ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΤΙ on Sigma TV, where he spoke about the mission, vision and ongoing work of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence. His interventions also highlighted how research and innovation in Earth Observation and space technologies are contributing to the future development of Cyprus.



Cyprus newspaper featured ERATOSTHENES CoE

On 16 November 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, the EXCELSIOR project, and the Cyprus University of Technology received coverage in the Cypriot press, highlighting their contribution to research and innovation in Earth Observation and space-related technologies. The publication offered further visibility to the work being carried out through the ERATOSTHENES CoE and reflected the growing public interest in the Centre’s role within Cyprus’ research and innovation landscape.



Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis featured on Sigma TV discussing EXCELSIOR, ERATOSTHENES CoE and Science4EU

On 16 November 2025, Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis, Managing Director of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, spoke on “Mesimeri kai Kati” on Sigma TV about the EXCELSIOR project, the work of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, and its participation in the European Commission’s Science4EU campaign. The interview highlighted the role of research and innovation in strengthening Cyprus’ scientific and technological presence, while also underlining the Centre’s contribution to Earth Observation and related fields through European collaboration.



EXCELSIOR Project in Media

Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis featured on ALPHA Enimerosi for EXCELSIOR, ERATOSTHENES CoE and Science4EU

On 19 November 2025, Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis, Managing Director of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, appeared on ALPHA Enimerosi on Alpha TV, where he presented the role of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence and the EXCELSIOR project, while also explaining Cyprus' active participation in the European Commission's Science4EU campaign.



CORDIS features EXCELSIOR and ERATOSTHENES CoE

CORDIS, the official research news platform of the European Commission, published an article highlighting the EXCELSIOR project and the development of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence. The feature presents ERATOSTHENES CoE as a new research excellence hub for Earth Observation in Cyprus and the wider EMMENA region, developed through the Horizon 2020 Teaming project, and highlights its growing role in satellite data, remote sensing and geospatial innovation.



Feature in *Phileleftheros* on #Science4EU Recognition

An article in *Phileleftheros* highlights an important distinction for Cyprus and the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence of the Cyprus University of Technology, following its selection by the European Commission to participate in the #Science4EU campaign. The initiative showcases how science and innovation contribute to improving the lives of citizens across Europe.



EXCELSIOR Project in Media

Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis featured in Science4EU podcast interview

On 24 November 2025, Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis, Managing Director of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, was featured in a discussion with journalist Ms. Emily Antoniou on the Centre's progress and its important European distinction of being selected as one of the seven projects presented in the European Commission's Science4EU campaign. The episode was produced in cooperation with the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission.





Distinctions

Participation of Christodoulos Dimitriou in Ironman 70.3 Belgrade

On 1 October 2025, Mr. Christodoulos Dimitriou, Assistant Researcher in the Cultural Heritage Cluster at the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence, represented both the Centre and Cyprus at the Ironman 70.3 competition in Belgrade, Serbia. The Ironman 70.3 triathlon comprises a 1.9 km swim, 90 km bicycle race and 21 km run, and is regarded as one of the sport’s most demanding endurance events. Despite adverse weather conditions, Mr. Dimitriou completed the course in 6 hours and 17 minutes, demonstrating notable physical endurance and mental resilience. His performance exemplifies the determination and strength embodied by members of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence community.



ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence Researchers Recognised Among the World’s Top 2% Scientists

In 2025, three researchers of the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence were included among the World’s Top 2% Scientists, according to the latest global ranking by Stanford University. Prof. Diofantos Hadjimitsis, Dr. Kyriacos Themistocleous, and Dr. Michalis Mavrovouniotis were recognised for their scientific excellence, innovation, and global research impact.

This distinction reflects the sustained contribution of ERATOSTHENES CoE researchers to advancing knowledge in Earth Observation, Space Technologies, and Environmental Science, and highlights the Centre’s role in strengthening research excellence in Cyprus within the international scientific community.



EXCELSIOR



Distinctions

Annual AI OBSERVER award presented to Dr. Maria Prodromou

On 15 November 2025, the ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence announced the establishment of an annual award recognising its women scientists working in the field of Artificial Intelligence for Earth Observation. The award, introduced within the framework of the AI OBSERVER project, is granted each year to a female researcher of the Centre following a voting procedure by the project consortium, with publications in high-impact journals forming the main award criterion.

For 2025, the award was presented to Dr. Maria Prodromou. The Executive Committee also decided to support the award with a €200 subsidy. Warm congratulations to Dr. Prodromou on this distinction.





eratosthenes.org.cy

ADDRESS

82 Franklin Roosevelt, 3012,
Lemesos, Cyprus

CONTACT US

+357 25 002 908

contact@eratosthenes.org.cy

[f](#) [in](#) [t](#) [@](#) @ERATOSTHENESCoE

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