

## EOTEC DevNet September Regional Meeting: Europe -- Notes

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September 21, 2021

Attendees: Bolarinwa Balogun, Zoya Andreeva, Alessandro Sardella, Jorge Del Rio Viera, Jiali Shang, Antonios Mouratidis, Erin Martin, Yasha Moz, Nancy Searby, Sydney Neugebauer

### Topics:

- Brainstorm Community of Practice outreach and engagement opportunities
- Thematic conversation: Fostering access to capacity building in drought

### Discussion:

- Nancy Searby: [https://rea.ec.europa.eu/events/eurogeo-workshop-2021\\_en](https://rea.ec.europa.eu/events/eurogeo-workshop-2021_en)
- Antonios Mouratidis: Perhaps drought is not quite as relevant for Europe, or perhaps it is just less visible.
- Jorge Del Rio Vera: How did Alessandro hear about the meeting? What communication channel is working?
- Alessandro Sardella: Colleagues were looking for training resources/workshops and his colleagues found this event to try to understand the issues
- Nancy Searby: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/river-flow-drought-3/assessment>
- Antonios Mouratidis: Expects interest in community of drought management and mitigation since they are already using the products.
- Nancy Searby: Are the tools and services from JRC adequate, and all we need to do is build use, or are there other gaps and needs that are not being addressed?
- Antonios Mouratidis: Many of the services come under the Copernicus program, so we need to identify the key actors and experts who might be able to identify relevant communities and see what tools exist there.
- Nancy Searby: Many of these colleagues are held up in the EuroGEO meeting, but we need to identify the tasks for this region. There is a lot of strength in the services provided here; are they meeting the needs and reaching users?
- Antonios Mouratidis: European drought observatory: <https://www.copernicus.eu/en/european-drought-observatory>
  - There are issues deemed more important than drought; earthquakes, forest fires, etc. Political reasons may also determine which issues get attention.
- Jorge Del Rio Vera: Drought is becoming more and more of an issue in Spain and is a recurring problem. Every summer is a bit hotter and it is triggering drought. Consequences are not just for crops, but they feed fires as well. Given the quality and status of Copernicus services, the area is well served.
- Possible outreach channels from Nancy:
  - <https://www.researchgate.net/project/Regional-Training-Center-in-Italy-WMO-IBIMET>
  - <https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/meteoworld/wmo-regional-training-centres>
  - <https://rus-training.eu/> -- coming to an end this year? Possibly being taken over by ESA.
- Antonios Mouratidis: not familiar with any training in Europe related to drought
- Alessandro Sardella: Copernicus has a special resource including a short course, webinar, and training on how to use Copernicus datasets from Sentinel to measure CO2, precipitation levels, etc: <https://rus-training.eu/>
- Jorge Del Rio Vera: Drought Monitoring using SVI: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulr5711Y5eE> (UN-SPIDER)

- *Nancy Searby*: Drought intersects with agriculture sometimes. Evapotranspiration is also key to understanding drought; OpenET would help there.
- *Antonios Mouratidis*: Drought topics are embedded in climate and food security services. Training might not come from EO experts. Perhaps there is not a lack of training in drought, but a lack of training in EO for drought. Users may not understand constraints and limitations in the data and tools. Users need to understand how these products are derived.
  - Perhaps the role of CEOS is not to create new EO drought trainings, but to introduce EO in existing trainings in climate/agriculture, etc. and engage with other communities that work in drought