



Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN)

Vince Ambrosia, Diofantos Hadjimitsis, & Ioannis Gitas
GWIS / GOFC Fire IT Meeting
21-23 June 2022

MedRIN Leadership



Network Coordinators E.U.:



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MedRIN Goals & Geographic Domain



Goals:

- Provide a platform for collaboration among remote sensing experts in Mediterranean region, through collaborative activities;
- Facilitate progress and consistent implementation of remote sensing and LCLUC methodology, in the region;
- Foster regional collaboration for monitoring the dynamics, stability, and vulnerability of the major ecosystems;
- Promote effective sustainable management and preservation, on the local, regional and pan-European level.

Geographic Domain:

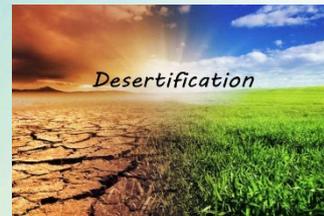
Mediterranean countries of Europe, the Levant, and North Africa.





MedRIN Thematic Priorities

- Urban and built-up areas (wildland urban interface, population dynamics and how that affects landscape)
- Rural areas / Agriculture, Forestry and wildlands (monitoring dynamic landscape changes)
- Hazards (fires including agricultural fires, earthquakes, floods, etc.)
- Soil and water resources management (Irrigation/Hydrology, Soil degradation, Desertification)
- Climate change
- Education/Training to be a major component of all proposed priorities (TAT NASA-ESA model)



MedRIN Events to Date:

MedRIN Kick-off Meeting
Chania, Greece, 13-14 July
2018



MedRIN 1st Meeting /
Workshop, Paphos,
Cyprus, 20 March 2019

SCERIN / MedRIN Joint
Workshop, Virtual, 20 June 2021

MedRIN 2nd Meeting /
Workshop, Virtual, 25 February
2021

		Invited presentations		
Country	Presenter(s)	Title	e-mail	
15:30 - 15:40	USA Aaron Sparks	Understanding the socioeconomic drivers of agricultural land abandonment and associated fire risk in Greece	asparks@uidaho.edu	
15:40 - 15:50	Tunisia Imen Buhamed	Mapping abandoned olive groves using Landsat/Sentinel2 imagery and Google Earth Engine	imen.bouha@gmail.com	
15:50 - 16:00	Lebanon George Mitri	Earth Observation for monitoring land and natural resources in Lebanon	george.mitri@bamand.edu.lb	
Briefings by new members				
16:00 - 16:10	Malta Charles Galdies	Use of Earth Observations for Land-use Dynamics in Malta	charles.galdies@um.edu.mt	
16:10 - 16:55	Jordan Philip Frost	Open Data Cube for the humanitarian sector	pfrost@inmap.org	
16:55 - 17:05	Italy Rosa Lasaponara	Google Earth Engine and Sentinel data for Mapping Burned Areas and Burn Severity: from a local up to a global scale view	rosa.lasaponara@imaa.cnr.it	
Briefing by existing members				
17:05 - 17:15	Turkey Levent Genc	Forest Cover Change in the coastal area of Turkey	leventgc@gmail.com	
17:15 - 17:25	Israel Arnon Karnieli	Mapping Wildfire Scars - NDVI vs. NBR vs. AFR	karnieli@bgu.ac.il	
Highlighting new programs and activities				
17:25 - 17:35	Cyprus Diofantos Hadjimitsis	ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence: Needs, Opportunities and new challenges for Earth Surveillance and Space-Based Monitoring of the Environment in the Eastern Mediterranean	d.hadjimitsis@cut.ac.cy	
QA (in chat)				
17:45 - 17:55	Petya Campbell - Vincent Ambrosia Diofantos Hadjimitsis Ioannis Gitas	Concluding presentation - Closing remarks Announcement of joint MedRIN / SCERIN Virtual Workshop, June 2021		

SCERIN / MedRIN Joint Workshop (June 2021): Breakout Session Priority Topics



DROUGHT:

Expanding drought conditions in the Mediterranean region (and SCERIN region), set off by shifting climatic conditions and a paucity of precipitation.

MIGRATION STRAIN:

Regional conflicts and population exodus into Mediterranean and East-Central European nations are straining resources: (land use (conversion of land, water resources, forested areas), and increases in susceptible populations to ecological disaster events (wildfires, flooding, landslides, earthquakes)).

COLLABORATION WITH EXISTING PROGRAMS:

- Regional Digital Innovation Hub Earth Observation e.g. EXCELSIOR in Cyprus—collaborate.
- EXCELSIOR BUSINESS PLAN FOR EMMENA: Push for European Satellite Ground Stations covering EMMENA (Cyprus proposed as part of EXCELSIOR efforts.
- Big Data management and analytics

SOLUTIONS / SUGGESTIONS

Priority areas for focus by MedRIN (and SCERIN) by applying EO tools for analytics and help improve predictions of problematic issues , and monitor / alleviate risk

MedRIN Digital Presence



GOFC-GOLD
Global Observations of Forests and Land-Use Change

HOME RESOURCES DOCUMENTS MEETINGS REGIONAL NETWORKS CONTACT Q

Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN)
Home - Regional Networks - Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN)

Regional Networks

- Southeast Asia Regional Research and Information Network (SEARRIN)
- South Asia Regional Information Network (SARIN)
- South-Central European Regional International Network (SCERIN)
- Red Latinoamerica de Teledeteccion e Incendios Forestales (RedLaTIF)
- West African Regional Network (WARN)
- Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (OSFAC)
- Miombo Network (MIOMBO)
- Southern Africa Fire Network (SAFNET)
- Caucasus Regional Information Network (CaucRIN)
- Mekong Regional Information Network (MekRIN)
- Mediterranean Regional Network (MedRIN)**

Welcoming MedRIN to the GOFC-GOLD family of networks

On behalf of the NASA Land-Cover/Land-Use Change Program – the primary sponsor of the international GOFC-GOLD Program – I'd like to welcome the new Mediterranean Regional Information Network MedRIN to the GOFC-GOLD family of networks. Developed in 1997 under the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the Global Observations of Forest Cover initiative was originally intended to test the concept of the Integrated Global Observing System (IGOS) to improve the use of Earth Observation data to address major problems of global concern and to improve coordination of national programs. Additionally, it was directed at improving cooperation between providers and users of Earth Observation data for regional and global applications. Later on, GOFC became one of the Panels of the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS), and was further named GOFC-GOLD to include other landcover dynamics in addition to forest cover change. Traditionally, its sponsors have been such international entities as Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), European Commission Joint Research Center (JRC), European Space Agency (ESA), NASA and other agencies and institutions. The backbone of GOFC-GOLD are its Regional Information Networks (RINs) and Implementation Teams (IT) for Fire, with its office at the University of Maryland (College Park, MD, USA) and for Landcover, with its office at Wageningen University (The Netherlands). There are about a dozen RINs operating over the world. The aim of GOFC-GOLD leadership is to ensure the functionality of these networks, revitalizing the older and enhancing the newer ones.

Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN)

Newsletter #1

1st MedRIN MEETING AND WORKSHOP PAPHOS, CY

The Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN) organized its first regional meeting

The Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN) organized its first regional meeting on March 20th at the Alathon Village hotel in Paphos, during the Seventh International Conference on Remote Sensing and Geoinformation of Environment. The Conference was under the auspices of the H.E. the Minister of Transport, Communication and Works, Ms Vassiliki Anastasiadou. MedRIN aims to support tackling regional and local challenges, as described by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It seeks not to replace existing networks in the region but to leverage additional monitoring capacity and build on the existing networks and systems with actions and ways that may only be of support to a peaceful utilization of Earth Observation in citizen's everyday life.

The welcome note was delivered by Dr Garik Guitman, Land-Cover/Land-Use Change (LCLUC) Program Manager, NASA Headquarters who addressed the audience regarding the LCLUC global program, which enhances regional scientific research through collaborations between NASA and local networks. Part of the LCLUC capacity building initiative are the GOFC-GOLD Regional Networks in the major areas of the planet, such as South America, South and West Africa, South Central Europe and South Asia, to name a few. Dr Garik stressed the importance for MedRIN to form and strengthen linkages and partnerships with international development agencies and organizations.

1

Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN)

Newsletter #2

The benefits for joining forces in the Mediterranean region in earth observation: The Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN)

MedRIN (Mediterranean Regional Information Network) was established after discussions with European, African and American colleagues. It is a new network for the Mediterranean Region which is coupled with the framework of the Global Observations of Forests Cover and Land Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD). It serves as a liaison between land-cover/land use change remote sensing scientists and stakeholders in the Mediterranean Region. MedRIN keeps its members well-informed with the latest advancements in Earth Observation applications based on NASA and ESA satellite data and data products. Furthermore MedRIN aims to support tackling regional and local challenges, as described by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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MedRIN Digital Presence



Newsletter

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Meetings

Title	Start Date	End date
MedRIN Kick-off Meeting Chania, Greece, 13-14 July 2018	07/13/2018	07/14/2018
Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN) Meeting and Workshop	03/20/2019	03/20/2019
World Soils 2019 User Consultation meeting	07/02/2019	07/03/2019

Related Documents

Document Title
Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN) Newsletter #2
MedRin Agenda Kick-Off Meeting
MedRIN Meeting Agenda, March 20, 2019
MedRIN Newsletter #1.0



ProSus

Promoting Sustainability Solutions

July 2020

MANAGING THE EARTH'S RESOURCES MORE SUSTAINABLY THROUGH SATELLITE OBSERVATIONS

Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN)

MedRIN is the newest of the GOC-COGLD networks, providing coordination on remote sensing to monitor land cover change, water risk and water resources management and resilience through other basins. The Mediterranean region is characterized by several organizations and institutions with advanced knowledge and capacity in the area of earth observation. MedRIN aims to facilitate an existing relationships and relations, encouraging collaboration and communication to tackle common priorities.

Objectives

- MedRIN aims at keeping its members abreast with the latest advancements in earth observation applications based on NASA and ESA satellite data and data products.
- In particular, the network supports:
 - better coordination and sharing of monitoring systems and strengthening and upgrading regional GOC resources;
 - alignment of multi-rescale and multi-source data compliant to international treaties;
 - utilization of Copernicus and freely distributed services in the region; by soil, water, land, vegetation data through interoperable databases and services.
 - coordination of the Policy

Priorities and accomplishments

During the 2018 kick-off event and the first network meeting held in 2019, participants discussed objectives, priorities, and strategy. A third meeting planned in collaboration with the SCRIN network for 2020 has been postponed to 2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The network will include training and capacity building on major components of all its activities. Network coordinators are collaborating to identify a regional "non-technical" program which would enable Master and PhD students working on MedRIN issues to transfer between different institutions in the network. The network has also facilitated the participation of young scientists from the MedRIN region at a call for the MedRIN of collaboration on the 2020 and 2021 Earth Week.

Capacity development efforts in secondary education include a training meet for 100 secondary school students organized during the network's 2019 meeting.

Launched in 2018, MedRIN is the youngest GOC-COGLD regional network, and as of June 2020 it consists 75 members.

MedRIN web page: <https://earthinfo.nasa.gov/medrin/>

Network members on Copernicus 2018

Perspectives from the development of the youngest GOC-COGLD regional network, MedRIN

A conversation with Vincent Arsenault, California State University - Monterey Bay and NASA, DSI, Ivanova Chou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece) and Daria Demetrescu, Cyprus University of Technology and ERACOSTHENS Centre of Excellence (Cyprus).

How did the network start and what was the network's initial mission to address?

VA: The MedRIN network was established in 2018 in Greece, following a meeting with a kick-off meeting took place in Cyprus in 2018. During the meeting, the MedRIN network was established as a regional network in which we would focus on Earth Observation (EO) data products, such as satellite imagery, time series, etc. The network's initial mission was to provide a platform for EO data products and services, and to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge between EO experts and end-users. The network's initial mission was to provide a platform for EO data products and services, and to facilitate the exchange of information and knowledge between EO experts and end-users.

What does the capacity building component of the network look like?

EG: We are working on different levels to develop the capacity of EO experts and end-users. We are working on different levels to develop the capacity of EO experts and end-users. We are working on different levels to develop the capacity of EO experts and end-users.

What are the priorities for the network's future development?

VA: One of the priorities for the network's future development is to expand its membership and to increase its impact on the ground. We are working on different levels to develop the capacity of EO experts and end-users. We are working on different levels to develop the capacity of EO experts and end-users.

What are the challenges you face in the network's development?

VA: One of the challenges we face in the network's development is to increase its impact on the ground. We are working on different levels to develop the capacity of EO experts and end-users. We are working on different levels to develop the capacity of EO experts and end-users.

What are the future prospects for the network?

VA: The future prospects for the network are very bright. We are working on different levels to develop the capacity of EO experts and end-users. We are working on different levels to develop the capacity of EO experts and end-users.

Network members on Copernicus 2018

Future Workshop Plans



3rd Annual MedRIN Workshop

Proposed in conjunction with 41st
EARSeL Symposium, Paphos, Cyprus;
13-16 September 2022

Earth Observation for Environmental Monitoring

41st EARSeL Symposium

6th EARSeL Workshop on Developing Countries

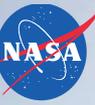
13-16 September 2022

Paphos, Cyprus



2nd SCERIN / MedRIN Joint Workshop

Proposed in conjunction with SCERIN,
Sophia, Bulgaria; Spring / Summer 2023



MedRIN Web Access

<https://gofcgoldvh1.umd.edu/regional-networks/mediterranean-regional-network-medrin>

<https://start.org/programs/gofc-gold/>