



Earth Observation Information events in Albania

GEO-CRADLE Initiative, 'Copernicus' data-services and BeyondEDU Actions

09-13 May 2022, Albania

A series informative events on Earth Observation (EO), are being organized by the BEYOND Center of Excellence of the National Observatory of Athens (NOA), in collaboration with PRAXI Network/FORTH, in Albania on May 09-13, 2022. EO is a valuable tool for monitoring different facets of sustainable development, such as agriculture and food productivity, water resources, air quality, clean energy and climate change. The events are being organized with the support of the Embassy of Greece in Tirana and the Consulate General in Gjirokaster.

The EO events are categorized in 3 types of Actions. The first Action will be held at the Academy of Sciences in Tirana and is related to the GEO-CRADLE Initiative, that aims at the EO Capacity building in the Balkans Region. Specifically, during the event, the GEO-CLADLE will be introduced to relevant stakeholders in Albania enhancing their knowledge acquired on the existing capacities, skills and needs. The action aims to reach all the potential Albanian recipients of Copernicus in Research, Academia and decision making bodies, including the GEO-GRADLE Network members.

The second action is an info-day at the University of Gjirokaster that aims to raise awareness in the Region and inform the relevant players about the Copernicus EU Programme, by demonstrating the emerging opportunities from using Copernicus to new groups of people, previously not aware of it but potentially very interested. Additionally, a special workshop on the 'Sustainable Agriculture' thematic will be offered to interested stakeholders in the Subsidiary Sarandë - University of Tirana. In this workshop, the participants will learn in practical level the value and opportunities offered by Copernicus towards public services.

Last but not least, the third Action of the EO information events includes the BeyondEDU program presentation to various schools of the Greek minority in Albania (Dropulli, Gjirokaster, Finiq, Sarandë, Himarë). Through this program the students will have the chance to get familiarized with the EO and Satellite Remote Sensing, concepts that are not being covered by the standard course syllabuses.

'Copernicus' is the European Union's Earth observation programme, looking at our planet and its environment to benefit all European citizens. It offers information services that draw from satellite Earth Observation and in-situ (non-space) data. European citizens, ranging from policy makers, researchers, commercial to private users, as well as the global scientific community can benefit in many ways from the data and information provided by Copernicus. Indeed, Copernicus supports a variety of applications in several non-space domains, which potentially impact businesses and organisations in day-to-day activities and operations.

***The GEO-CRADLE Initiative** has set out to develop a roadmap for the improved implementation of GEO/GEOSS and the increased uptake of Copernicus in the Balkans, Middle East and North Africa. The project aims to connect the dots across the Earth Observation value chain, by providing the ground for key players from*



public sector, academia and innovative SMEs to consider challenges, opportunities, and new approaches in Earth Observation on a regional scale.

BeyondEDU is an educational program implemented by the BEYOND Center over the last two years and concerns the space technology and satellite sensing. The program introduces students of primary and secondary education to the technological world of satellite remote sensing, offering knowledge and stimuli on innovative topics that are not included in standard textbooks and link compulsory education with modern developments in satellite technology.

The events are being organized in the framework of the [FPCUP](#) (Caroline Herschel Framework Partnership Agreement) and the [e-shape](#) (H2020) Project.

Programme	
Earth Observation Information events in Albania	
Monday 9 May 2022	
09:00- 13:00	Cultural Centre in Dervişan BeyondEDU presentation for Dropulli and Gjirokaster schools
10:00-12:00	Aleks Buda Hall, Academy of Sciences, Tirana Capacity building and Earth observation in the Balkans Region: the showcase of the GEO-CRADLE Initiative
Tuesday 10 May 2022	
10:00-12:00	University of Gjirokaster Info-day on 'Copernicus' data and services
Wednesday 11 May 2022	
10:00-13:00	Cultural Centre in Livadhja BeyondEDU presentation for Finiq and Sarandë schools
Thursday 12 May 2022	
10:00-11:30	Cultural Centre in Livadhja BeyondEDU presentation for Finiq and Sarandë schools
12:30-13:30	University of Tirana, Subsidiary Sarandë 'Copernicus' Workshop – Sustainable Agriculture
Friday 13 May 2022	
09:00-12:00	Omiros School, Himarë BeyondEDU presentation