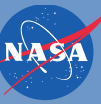


MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL INFORMATION NETWORK (MEDRIN): STATUS, GOALS, AND FUTURE PLANS

V. Ambrosia, F. Schwandner, D. Hadjimitsis, I. Gitas & G. Gutman

**2024 SCERIN-MEDRIN JOINT WORKSHOP,
Chania, Crete, Greece 16-19 July 2024**

MedRIN Leadership Team



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MedRIN Geographic Domain & Goals



Geographic Domain:

- Core representation from the Eastern Mediterranean (Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Israel, Italy, Lebanon);
- Growing participation from the Western and Southern Mediterranean.



Goals:

- Serve as a liaison between Land Cover Land Use Change (LCLUC) remote sensing scientists and stakeholders in the Mediterranean region.
- Facilitate progress & consistent implementation of EO data for LCLUC analyses;
- Foster regional collaboration for monitoring the dynamics, stability, and vulnerability of the regional landscapes & ecosystems;
- Promote effective sustainable management and preservation on local, regional and pan-European level.
- Support regional & local challenges through MedRIN's thematic priorities, (as described by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs).



MedRIN Thematic Priorities / Challenges

- **Urban Expansion** and population dynamics affecting LC-LUC;
- **Dynamic Landscapes** / Land Use change (Agriculture, Forestry and Wildlands);
- **Natural Hazards** (fires, earthquakes, landslides, volcanoes, floods, etc.);
- **Resource Management** (Water & Soil Quality, Irrigation / Hydrology, Drought / Desertification);
- **Coastal Change** (anthropogenic / natural)
- **Socio-Environmental Factors** (tourism, emigration / immigration, conflicts);
- **Capacity Building** (Education/Training) to be a major component of all proposed priorities (Trans-Atlantic Training (TAT NASA-ESA model)).



MedRIN Digital Presence



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

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 Forests d'Afrique Central (OSFAC)
- Miombo Network (MIOMBO)
- Southern Africa Fire Network (SAFNET)
- Caucasus Regional Information Network (CaucRIN)
- Mekong Regional Information Network (MekRIN)
- Mediterranean Regional Network (MedRIN)**

Mediterranean Regional Information 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's. The aim of GOFC-GOLD leadership 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 Gutman, 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.

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).

WE ARE SOCIAL

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

Mediterranean Regional Information Network (MedRIN)

MedRIN is the youngest GOCF-GOLD regional network, and as of June 2019 it consists of 73 members.

MedRIN web page: <http://bit.ly/medrinmainnetwork>, networks.medrin.eu, medrin.eu, network.medrin.eu

Objectives

MedRIN aims at bringing 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:

- enhanced coordination and linkage of monitoring systems and databases across Mediterranean;
- strengthening and upgrading regional/national EO networks;
- alignment of multi-modal and multi-source data compliant to international standards;
- and freely distributed services in the Mediterranean region by end users, and
- contribution to the policy-making data through interoperable databases and services.

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 SCIRRI network for 2020 has been postponed to 2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The network will include training and capacity building as major components of all its activities. Network coordinators are collaborating to develop a regional "interoperational" 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 HealthRIN region in a call from NASA for collaboration on land use/land cover change maps.

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

Perspectives from the development of the youngest GOCF-GOLD regional network, MedRIN

A conversation with Vincent Ambrose, California State University, Monterey Bay and NASA GSFC, Inesara Otero, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece) and Chrysianna Papadimitriou, Cyprus University of Technology and ERATOETHNES Centre of Excellence (Cyprus).

How did the network start and what are the reasons of its success so far?

V.A.: The MedRIN network started with a kick-off meeting in 2018 in Greece. The first annual meeting took place in Cyprus in 2019. During this meeting, we identified common interests and needs among the member states on which we wanted to focus.

O.O.: These issues are hazards (fires, earthquakes, floods, etc.) with implications for the urban, urban and rural areas with emphasis on land use/land cover change and sea level rise. In addition, issues related to soil and water resources, climate change and related issues, and integrated "technology" and digitalization, development and training and protection of earth observation.

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

O.O.: We need an additional level to develop the capacities of students and young researchers. There are many activities organized or planned for high school students. The success stories successful that the schools have been asking us to repeat it.

A.P.: David, we have started to give the place priority for joint representation of students working on the network's priority areas. The on-site training and capacity building activities, which would be a first in the field for the region.

V.A.: The network is also facilitating other opportunities for young members. For example, we want to have NASA funded training opportunities for young people collaborating on land use/land cover change issues.

How do you see the network's future?

V.A.: There are many opportunities in the region, including under GOCF-GOLD program, and MedRIN, that can be a part with MedRIN. We want to expand our membership and we want to have more meetings. There are many opportunities in the region, including under GOCF-GOLD program, and MedRIN, that can be a part with MedRIN. We want to expand our membership and we want to have more meetings.

O.O.: The key to success is to bring together the best of MedRIN, GOCF-GOLD and the network. MedRIN is a network of people, and we need to have more meetings and training opportunities. We need to have more meetings and training opportunities.

What are the priorities for the future of MedRIN?

O.O.: We want to expand the network by recruiting new members to join. Once the collaboration is established, it is very successful, but how do we keep that momentum? One of the main challenges that we see in the region is to have more meetings and training opportunities. We need to have more meetings and training opportunities.

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MedRIN Events to Date:

2018:

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



2019:

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



2021:

MedRIN 2nd Meeting / Workshop, (Virtual), 25 February 2021;

MEDRIN / SCERIN Joint GOCF-GOLD Network Workshop, (Virtual), 15-17 June 2021



		Invited presentations		
Country	Presenter(s)	Title	e-mail	
15:30 -	USA Aaron Sparks	Understanding the socioeconomic drivers of agricultural land abandonment and associated fire risk in Greece	asparks@uidaho.edu	
15:40 -	Tunisia Imen Buhamed	Mapping abandoned olive groves using Landsat/Sentinel2 imagery and Google Earth Engine	imen.bouha@gmail.com	
15:50 -	Lebanon George Mitri	Earth Observation for monitoring land and natural resources in Lebanon	georgy.mitri@bamand.edu.lb	
16:00 -	Briefings by new members			
16:00 -	Malta Charles Galdies	Use of Earth Observations for Land-use Dynamics in Malta	charles.galdies@um.edu.mt	
16:10 -	Jordan Philip Frost	Open Data Cube for the humanitarian sector	pfrost@immap.org	
16:55 -	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	
17:05 -	Briefing by existing members			
17:05 -	Turkey Levent Genc	Forest Cover Change in the coastal area of Turkey	leventgc@gmail.com	
17:15 -	Israel Arnon Karnieli	Mapping Wildfire Scars – NDVI vs. NBR vs. AFRI	karnieli@bgua.cil	
17:25 -	Highlighting new programs and activities			
17:25 -	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	dhadjimitsis@cut.ac.cy	
17:35 -	QA (in chat)			
17:45 -	Petya Campbell	Concluding presentation – Closing remarks Announcement of Joint MedRIN / SCERIN Virtual Workshop, June 2021		
17:55 -	Vincent Ambrosia Diofantos Hadjimitsis Ioannis Gitas			

**Agenda of 2021 Joint Meeting:
Country Highlights**



MedRIN Topics for This Joint Workshop

Focus of MedRIN:

Develop & apply EO tools to improve monitoring and predictions of LCLUC, and to support SDGs for the region.

DROUGHT & WATER RESOURCES

NATURAL HAZARDS

AGRICULTURE

MIGRATION & CONFLICTS

URBAN HEAT

COASTAL CHANGE

HOST PRIORITIES & PROGRAMS:

EMMENA region

EXCELSIOR

FirEUrisk

MAICH

FORTH

4GROWTH

Cubesats and AI



Future Plans for MedRIN

A satellite-style map of the Mediterranean region, showing the sea, surrounding landmasses, and topography. Several thick, dark blue arrows with black outlines point from various locations around the Mediterranean basin towards a central grey rectangular box. The arrows originate from the coastlines of Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, all converging on the central box.

Collaboration & coordination

Summary & discussion on Day 4



Future Workshops

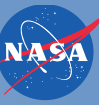
2025 MedRIN Workshop

Location: TBD

Spring / Early Summer 2025

Malta?





MedRIN Web Access

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

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

Join our MedRIN Community!!

