
Regional Member Activities

European Association of Remote Sensing Laboratories (EARSeL)

General Information

The Bureau and Council of EARSeL met twice in the year 2000, once in January in Paris and the second time on the occasion of the Annual General Assembly, held in Dresden, Germany, in June. At each of these meetings an overview of remote sensing activities in their country is given by the national representatives, who form the Council, and future activities of the Special Interest Groups and strategy options are discussed.

The fundamental role of EARSeL is to facilitate the co-ordination of research and application of remote sensing techniques throughout the entire European area through its Special Interest Groups. This is further enhanced by co-operation with the international agencies involved in Earth observation, the ISPRS and national remote sensing societies. In the latter case the Federation of European Remote Sensing Associations (FERSA) has recently been established under the aegis of EARSeL to bring together their efforts, especially in the domain of education and training and the harmonisation of diplomas.

The EARSeL community, represented by its Chairman, is invited to participate in the discussions of the ESA Earth Science Advisory Committee, which has made important recommendations and decisions concerning the "Living Planet" programme.

Regional Member Activities during the reporting period: The year 2000 was rich in events organised by the EARSeL Special Interest Groups, which included:

The 3rd international conference on "Fusion of Earth Data" held at the Ecole des Mines de Paris in Sophia Antipolis, Côte d'Azur, France, 26-28 January 2000, including two tutorials, one dealing with "Multiresolution analysis and wavelet transform" and the second with "Advanced techniques for the merging of satellite images". This conference was organised in collaboration with the Société des Electriciens et Electroniciens de France and the Ecole des Mines de Paris.

The Annual General Assembly and the 20th EARSeL Symposium on the theme "A Decade of Trans-European Remote Sensing Co-operation" was held at the Technical University of Dresden, Germany from 14-16 June. This was followed by two specialist workshops on : (1) Remote Sensing of Land Ice and Snow, and (2) Lidar Remote Sensing of Land and Sea. Papers presented at the workshops are being published, after peer review, on a

CD-ROM. The Proceedings of the Symposium are printed in hardback by A.A. Balkema, engineering science publishers.

The SIGs "Imaging Spectroscopy" and "Geological Applications" joined forces to organise the second EARSeL workshop on Imaging Spectroscopy, which was hosted by the I.T.C. in Enschede, The Netherlands, from 11-13 July, as a pre-ISPRS Congress event. Selected papers are to be published, after review, either in the ITC Journal or in the ISPRS Bulletin.

The SIG which deals specifically with remote sensing for developing countries, organised a workshop in Gent, Belgium, on this theme from 13-15 September, with participants from 20 countries.

Reports on all these events can be found in the quarterly EARSeL Newsletter.

In the framework of the EURO-STRIM (European Association of Higher Education in Space Sciences and Technologies for Risk Management) a small group is working on the setting up of Masters Degrees and Doctorates in relevant fields.

Plans for Forthcoming Activities

- The Annual General Assembly 2001 and accompanying symposium is planned for 14-16 May, to be held at the Ecole Nationale de Sciences Géographiques at Marne-la-Vallée on the outskirts of Paris. This will be followed on 17/18 May by a specialist SIG workshop on "Remote sensing and GIS applications to Forest Fire Management - New methods and sensors".
 - On 20/21 September 2001, EARSeL is organising in collaboration with the CO.RI.S.T.A. consortium and the University of Naples, Italy, the first international conference on "Remote Sensing by Low-Frequency Radars".
 - 23-25 January 2002 - 4th international conference on "Fusion of Earth Data", Sophia Antipolis, Côte d'Azur, France
 - 4-6 June 2002 - Annual General Assembly and 22nd Symposium: "Geo-Information for European-wide Integration", to be followed by a specialist workshop on the "Role of Remote Sensing for Environmental Modelling", Prague, Czech Republic.
 - September 2002 - 2nd SIG Workshop on "Remote Sensing for Developing Countries" with a special session on SRTM data, Bonn, Germany.
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- It is foreseen that the Annual General Assembly and Symposium 2003 will take place in Gent, Belgium.
- Major accomplishments of Regional Member during reporting period:
- Apart from organising the above meetings and arranging for the publication of the relevant Proceedings and Journals, EARSeL acts as a focal source of information on remote sensing activities throughout the extended European region.
- EARSeL has established a new Special Interest Group on Self-Organised Criticality in the Environment, led by Prof. Leonid Vasiliev of the Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
- The EARSeL Directory of members, the Newsletters, cal-

endar of activities, (and soon the Abstracts of papers to be presented at meetings organised by EARSeL), are now available on the EARSeL Website: <http://www.earsel.org>.

General Comments Concerning ISPRS Relations

As in the past, EARSeL welcomes all opportunities to collaborate in the organisation of meetings with the various Commissions and Working Groups of ISPRS that deal with the theory and applications of remote sensing techniques. Following the study undertaken by ISPRS to identify areas of activities where those of regional members overlap with those of certain ISPRS WGs, we expect these opportunities to multiply.

Lucien Wald
Secretary General, EARSeL

2nd Symposium Remote Sensing of Urban Areas
Approved ISPRS Commission VII event, Regensburg/Germany, 22-23 June 2001

Invitation and Call for Papers

The first symposium "Remote Sensing of Urban Areas" was held in Regensburg 1997. The topic was addressed during the fall meeting of the DGPF-Workgroup "Interpretation of Remote Sensing Data" led by Prof. Dr. C. Gläßer. Due to the success of this national workshop and due to new data sources and image processing techniques the topic should be addressed by a follow-up symposium to continue the scientific discussions. This intention is supported by ISPRS activities e.g. the new working group VII-4 "Human Settlements and Impact Analysis" that was created during the last ISPRS-Congress in Amsterdam 2000.

According to this thematic focus and new technological developments the possible issues of the conference could be among the following topics:

- Estimation/Quantification of sealed surfaces in urban/suburban areas
- Urban a real growth assessment
- Photogrammetric applications in urban/suburban areas (digital elevation model creation, 3D-data capture)
- Remote Sensing and GIS for historical/archeological applications (mapping and monitoring of settlements of historical/cultural value)
- Human settlements and impact analysis (urban environmental issues, water management issues)

This call for papers and posters invites presentations that cover all possible aspects in remote sensing of urban/suburban areas. The symposium language will be English!

Time Table

Reduced registration fee:	Until 30 April 2001
Full registration fee:	After 30 April 2001
Deadline for abstracts (oral presentation):	01 March 2001
Deadline for abstracts (poster):	01 May 2001
Acceptance of oral presentations:	01 April 2001
Ready to print manuscripts due:	Until 01 May 2001
Preliminary programme:	Until 15 April 2001

Further information could be obtained at:

- www.urs2001.uni-r.de (Symposium)
- www.regensburg.de (City of Regensburg)
- www.regensburg.de/touristik/tour_fr.htm (Hotels)