AGENDA

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SPACE PANEL

Building Skills, Partnerships and a European Network for the Future Space Economy

The 16th of November 2026, 11:00-17:30
Stalowa Wola Regional Development Agency (StARR)
3A E. Kwiatkowskiego Street, 37-450 Stalowa Wola, Poland
Working language: English

10:30-11:00 **Registration, Coffee Break & Networking**

11:00-11:15 **Welcome & Opening**

- Welcome by Stalowa Wola Regional Development Agency (StARR)
- Introduction to the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop
- Brief introduction of participants and represented organizations

11:15-11:45 **Keynote Speakers (TBA)**

11:45-12:15 **Setting the scene**

- **SPACE 4 TALENTS - Building a Regional Space & Dual-Use Talent Ecosystem (Jacek Śledziński, StARR)**
  SPACE 4 TALENTS is a project funded under the European Urban Initiative - Innovative Actions (EUI-IA), aimed at transforming Stalowa Wola into a regional hub for space, defence and dual-use technologies. Through its three pillars – SPACELAB, SPACE ACADEMY and PENTAHELIX COOPERATION - the project fosters talent development, innovation, entrepreneurship and cross-sector collaboration, creating new career opportunities and addressing youth outmigration.
- **SPACE4GEO - Large-scale Skills Partnership for the downstream space sector (Milva Carbonaro, SPACE4GEO)**
  SPACE4GEO is a Large-scale Skills Partnership for the downstream segment of the space economy and promoted under the EC initiative Pact for Skills. Its objective is to promote the upskilling and reskilling of the workforce, while also attracting new talent to the downstream space and geoinformation sector.

12:15-12:45 **Space Skills in Europe - Trends, Training Offer & Demand**

SPACESUITE - Presentation of findings on skills needs, training gaps, micro-credentials and flexible learning pathways (Martyna A. Stelmaszczuk-Górska - Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Institute of Geography, Department for Earth Observation, Carlo Cavicchioli - AZULchain)

SpaceSUITE is an Erasmus+ project (2024–2027) aimed at bridging skills gaps in Europe's downstream space sector, covering Earth Observation, Satellite Navigation and Satellite Communications. It develops a long-term Sector Skills Strategy, innovative training programmes and educational resources to better align workforce skills with industry needs.

12:45-13:30 **Lunch & Networking**

13:30-14:30 **European Initiatives & Opportunities - Inspiration Session**

Short inputs from selected European initiatives, networks and stakeholders.

Moderator: Grazia Fiore, FDC

- **AEROFUSE - An Alliance for the Future of the AEROnautics and Upstream Segment Skills Evolution (Dorota Stadnicka - Professor at the Rzeszów University of Technology)** - *AEROFUSE is an Erasmus+ project (2025–2029) aimed at addressing skills gaps in Europe's aerospace and defence sector, focusing on aircraft production, satellite manufacturing, and airport infrastructure, including MRO. It develops a long-term Sector Skills Strategy, innovative training programmes and educational resources to align workforce skills with evolving industry needs.*
- **ASTRAIOS - Analysis of Skills, Training, Research and Innovation Opportunities in Space (Mari Kolehmainen - European Science Foundation)** - *ASTRAIOS is concluded Horizon Europe project (2023-2025) aimed at aligning education and training opportunities with current and future skills needs in Europe's space sector. It mapped space-related curricula across the EU, analysed industry workforce demands, and developed a European skills taxonomy, training resources and recommendations to strengthen the sector's competitiveness.*
- **SPACE SKILLS ALLIANCE - Space Skills Data, Strategy and Policy (Heidi Tiemann, Space Skills Alliance)** - *Space Skills Alliance is a UK-based independent think tank and consultancy specialising in space workforce development, skills research and training. In partnership with the UK Space Agency, it conducted the 2023 Space Sector Skills Survey, assessing recruitment challenges and skills gaps across 218 organisations and providing evidence to inform UK Government skills policies.*
- **COMPLEMENTS - Cross Sectorial Skills Strategy for Security and Defence (Miriam Rosa, QSR)** - *COMPLEMENTS is an Erasmus+ project (2026-2029) aimed at addressing skills gaps in Europe's Security and Defence sector by fostering collaboration across the aerospace, automotive and digital industries. It develops a cross-sectoral skills strategy, a shared skills intelligence framework and modular training programmes in areas such as AI, cybersecurity and autonomous systems, supporting workforce mobility and upskilling and reskilling.*
- **UNIVERSEH - European Space University for Earth and Humanity (Gabriela Opiła - PhD Candidate at AGH University of Krakow, Faculty of Physics and Applied Computer Science, Poland)** - *UNIVERSEH is an Erasmus+ European Universities Alliance, established in 2020, bringing together seven universities from seven European countries. It develops interdisciplinary space-related curricula, joint educational programmes and innovative learning opportunities, fostering student and staff mobility, university-industry cooperation and the development of skills aligned with the evolving needs of Europe's space sector.*
- **Q&A**

14:30-16:00 **Space Skills - Regional Needs, European Perspectives & Opportunities**

Interactive Round Table - Moderated interactive round-table discussion with audience input on regional space skills needs, emerging competence requirements and opportunities for cooperation. The outcomes will feed into the Project & Partnership Lab.

Moderator: Katarzyna Malinowska (Director of the Centre of Commercial Insurance and Centre for Space Studies at the Kozminski University)
Panellists:

- **Grazia Fiore** - Space Y Association,
- **Milva Carbonaro** - Space4GEO Coordinator,

- **Tomasz Zawistowski**, PhD Eng. - Deputy Director for Technology Development at the Space Research Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences (CBK PAN),
- **Kinga Gruszecka** - President of the Association of Polish Space Sector Professionals and space lead at CGI Poland,
- **Dorota Stadnicka** - Professor at the Rzeszów University of Technology, Aerofuse project,
- **Justyna Średzińska** - Science Expert (Astrophysics), ESERO-Poland, Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center Polish Academy of Sciences
- **Natalia Kobza** - Director of R&D and Innovation Funding, CloudFerro S.A.
- **Jacek Śledziński** - President of the Management Board at StARR.

16:00-16:20 **Coffee Break & Networking**

16:20-17:20 **From Skills Needs to Cooperation - Project & Partnership Lab**

Moderated lab with the objective to identify up to 4 concrete project ideas for future European cooperation settled in the real scenario of funding possibilities.

Moderator: Martyna A. Stelmaszczuk-Górska (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

- **Inspirational speech - Reinhard Blasi, European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA)**
- **Interactive Idea Collection** - *Participants will brainstorm on project ideas aimed at strengthening space skills, talent development and regional cooperation in Europe*.
- **Group Work - Project Development** - *Participants will work in small groups on the proposed project ideas*.
- **Pitch & Next Steps** - *Work groups will briefly present their project concept, identifying potential partners and proposing next steps*.

17:20-17:30 **Conclusions & Next Steps**