

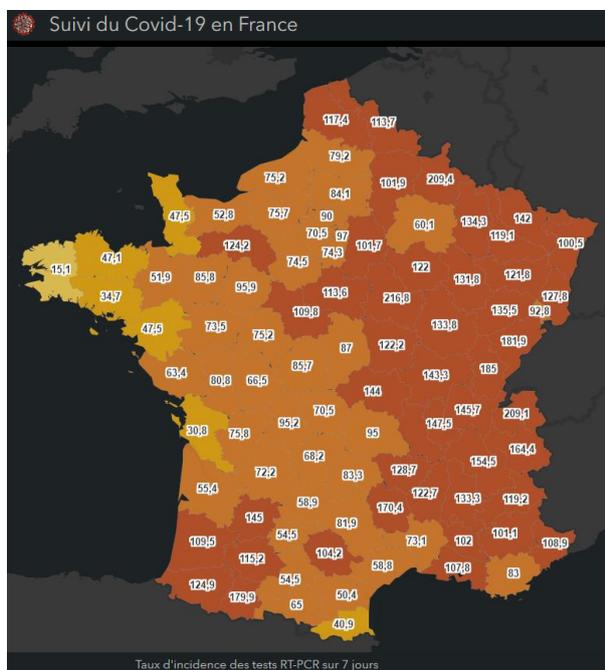


December 2020

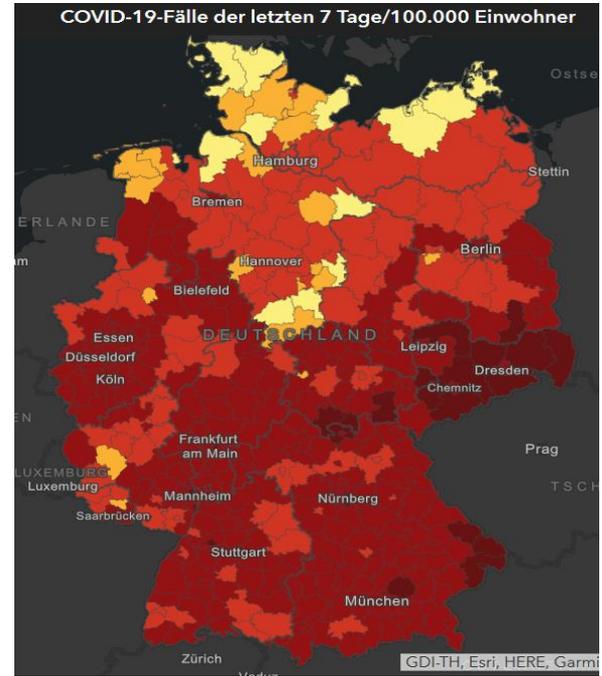
EARSeL Communication from the Bureau

Dear EARSeL member,

Looking back to the last Communication from the Bureau issued in April this year, we were mostly optimistic, that the COVID-19 situation would improve after the lockdown period and during the summer. Unfortunately, the values for the 7-day incidence rose up again and, in some regions, numbers were even higher than in Spring. The second lockdown following the so-called second wave of infections was less effective in many countries than the first lockdown in Spring half a year ago. The below maps show the spatial distribution of the COVID-19 incidents for 7 days/per 100.000 inhabitants for France and Germany on December 3rd, 2020.



<https://mapthenews.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/5df19abcf8714bc590a3b143e14a548c>



https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/478220a4c454480e823b17327b2bf1d4/page/page_1/



Apart from the fact that a large part of the population learnt about the usefulness of Geographical Information Systems, the data and their spatial distribution showed the dangerous power of the second wave of COVID-19 cases in their vicinity and in their favourite holiday regions. Due to the pandemic all EARSeL conferences, that were planned for 2020, were postponed to 2021.

Nevertheless, we would like to keep you updated with EARSeL activities through this communication letter. The topics are as follows:

- 1. Report on Bureau Activities**
- 2. Invitation to the EARSeL Workshop in Liège (Belgium)**
- 3. Invitation to the EARSeL Symposium in Warsaw (Poland)**
- 4. Agreement with Taylor & Francis for publications in the EUJRS**
- 5. Call for applications for the positions of SIG-chairpersons (2021)**
- 6. Membership fee in 2021**
- 7. Season's greetings**

1. Report on Bureau Activities

First, we hope that you and your relatives are doing well and that you manage to face all the difficulties that this pandemic brings with it. As you can easily imagine, the current situation also has an impact on the functioning of an association like EARSeL, and it was impossible to hold the foreseen meetings and events in 2020.

The last physical meeting of the EARSeL Bureau was organised in Hannover in January 2020. All the following Bureau meetings are currently organized by teleconference, occasionally with additional guests from Springer, Taylor&Francis as well as future event organizers.

The Bureau prepared a special birthday card to congratulate our Honorary Vice President of EARSeL, Prof. Dr. Gottfried Konecny, to his 90th birthday on 17th June 2020. This birthday celebration was organised by his successor at the IPI Hannover, Prof. Dr. Christian Heipke, as an enormous teleconference with several hundred participants from all over the world. While it was Central European time for Gottfried (afternoon), it turned out to be a challenge for his worldwide fellows. Some of them rose early in the morning or kept themselves awake far into the night like those from Australia or China. Many of them addressed their very personal congratulation with reminiscences of Gottfried's influence on their careers.



Following discussions with Springer about further cooperation regarding the RDIP book series, EARSeL send an online questionnaire to the EARSeL community in October 2020 to find out what people think about the series and EARSeL's involvement, which topics participants would like to see covered in future book projects and what contribution they can make themselves. The results will be distributed at the beginning of next year.

We all had to learn in the last nine months, that the danger coming from Covid-19 affects everybody worldwide. Although the first vaccinations are under way, we will have to live with the challenges of the virus for many more months before a significant number of the world's population will have been vaccinated twice. Therefore, EARSeL activities in 2021 will have to happen virtually.

2. Invitation to the EARSeL Workshop in Liège (Belgium)

The EARSeL/NASA Workshop "Earth Observation for sustainable cities and communities", combining 3 Special interest groups and initially foreseen in May 2020 in Liège (Belgium), was postponed to **March 30th to April 1st, 2021** and will be carried out as a fully virtual event.



We are very happy to confirm live presentations by keynotes speakers as initially foreseen in May this year. All other presentations will be done on the form of pre-recorded videos. For abstract submission, please visit the EARSeL Conference Administration Tool. Papers already accepted for the event initially foreseen in May 2020 can be adapted or removed in ConfTool.

The call for papers has been extended until the 31st December 2020!

The new workshop fees are as follows:

EARSeL member with accepted paper	EUR 100
Non-member with accepted paper	EUR 150
EARSeL member without paper	EUR 50
Non-member without paper	EUR 75

All participants that already registered under the old fee scheme will have the fee difference refunded.

For more information please go to <http://liege2020.earsel.org/>

3. Invitation to the EARSeL Symposium in Warsaw (Poland)

The 40th EARSeL Symposium, planned in Warsaw (Poland) from 22-25 September 2020, was postponed to **June 7th to 10th, 2021**. Due to the uncertainties linked to the COVID-19 situation and the travel restrictions imposed in many countries, it was impossible to organize the EARSeL Symposium in 2020. Currently, it is planned to have a virtual conference in Warsaw, as the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences are expected to last into the year 2021. A call for submissions will be made at the beginning of 2021. Also note that the SIG's "Coastal Zones" and "UAS" will organize specific sessions in the frame of this Symposium.

For more information please go to <http://symposium.earsel.org/40th-symposium-Warsaw/home/>.

4. Agreement with Taylor & Francis on publications in the EUJRS

EARSeL has successfully negotiated a 15 % discount in APC charges for general paper submissions by EARSeL members to the European Journal of Remote Sensing.

This discount will be laid down in a new Memorandum of Understanding between EARSeL and Taylor&Francis. The MoU will be signed in the next couple of weeks. EARSeL will also continue to subsidize the APC by 50% for authors submitting their paper to special issues of



the EuJRS following participation in an EARSeL event. The next EARSeL event offering this opportunity to publish a paper based on an accepted presentation is the EARSeL/NASA Workshop "**Earth Observation for sustainable cities and communities**" (see item 2).

According to the 2019 Journal Citation Report, the EuJRS Impact Factor has seen an excellent increase. The European Journal of Remote Sensing was 1.904 in 2018 (17/30 in the ISI category of Remote Sensing) and is now 2.808 (16/30 in the ISI category of Remote Sensing).

5. Call for applications for the positions of SIG-chairpersons (2021)

In January 2021, EARSeL will launch a call for SIG chairpersons. The current SIG chairpersons were appointed in 2016 for a mandate of 4 years. Due to the pandemic, the election foreseen in 2020 was postponed to 2021. The main scientific efforts of EARSeL are concentrated in Special Interest Groups (SIGs). These SIGs form the foundation of the activities of EARSeL and its 'raison d'être'. They encourage cooperation and foster innovative applications of remote sensing. Currently 16 SIGs are active within EARSeL.

This call is also an opportunity to any EARSeL member to propose a new SIG. With this call, EARSeL is also encouraging candidacies by young researchers!

The election schedule is as follows:

- January 2021: Publication of the call for applications
- March 2021: Deadline for submission of applications
- April 2021: Election of new SIG chairpersons for a 4 years mandate by the Council members
- June 2021: (EARSeL Symposium) Approval of election results

6. Membership fee in 2021

Due to the postponement of all EARSeL conferences to 2021, the advantage of membership such as reduced participation fees when attending an EARSeL conference could not be used this year.

Therefore, the Bureau has decided to reduce the membership fee to 50% for the year 2021.

The invoice inviting you to pay your contribution as member of the association will already be adapted.



7. Season's Greetings

We all hope that by the middle of 2021, the COVID-19 situation will have improved significantly, and that we can return to “physical” conferences again by the end of 2021.

Keeping this positive outlook in mind, for the Christmas period, we wish you, your families and your friends the confidence that we all together may overcome this crisis. We are hoping that you can use this period of restrictions to relax and recover from the daily stress. With the wishes for a happy and healthy new year comes the hope that 2021 will bring us back some sort of normality and improvement of the situation.

Warmest regards

from the EARSeL Bureau

President: Klaus-Ulrich KOMP

klaus.komp@eftas.com

Vice-President: Jean-Christophe SCHYNS

schy@belspo.be

Treasurer: Mattia CRESPI

mattia.crespi@uniroma1.it

Secretary General: Cornelia GLAESSER

Cornelia.glaesser@geo.uni-halle.de

EARSeL Office: Heide Bierbrauer

secretariat@earsel.org