

WEkEO Press Kit

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

WEkEO DIAS is an initiative launched by the European Commission to provide a single access point to all Copernicus [the European Union Earth Observation Programme] data, the Sentinel catalogue and supporting missions alongside processing resources, tools and expert support.

As key organisations in the Copernicus Programme, EUMETSAT, ECMWF, European Environment Agency and Mercator Ocean International have combined their long-standing experience to develop the WEkEO Copernicus DIAS service. WEkEO is the EU's Copernicus DIAS reference service for environmental data, virtual environments for data processing and skilled user support. It is implemented by the aforementioned four entities.

The name WEkEO (pronounced [wikio]) first refers to the image of the Wikipedia reference portal, and also brings up the idea of a collaborative platform where the first syllable "WE" involves the 4 centres (EUMETSAT, ECMWF, European Environment Agency, and Mercator Ocean International) together with all WEkEO's users. It also refers to the way the WEkEO platform is built with a distributed architecture. The letter "k" is synonymous of Knowledge here. Finally, "EO" stands for "Earth Observation" and for "Environment Observatory".

The WEkEO DIAS service was launched at the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signature of the Baveno Manifesto. The European Commission in partnership with ESA and with the support of the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research, organises a special celebration event on the 20th and 21st of June 2018 in Baveno, Lake Maggiore, Italy.

HOW DOES WEkEO WORK?

WEkEO's strength relies on its distributed infrastructure built thanks to the Copernicus organisation already in place in the centres: infrastructure and data from the centres are not duplicated but rather linked together. This approach gives users direct access to work with the most up-to-date Copernicus data instead of having to rely on copied, archive datasets with out-of-date metadata. Finally, this federative approach can be extended to other selected external partners, so the system has the potential to continually grow and expand in the future.

LATEST NEWS

WEkEO's latest news and articles can be found here: <https://www.wekeo.eu/news>. Recent stories include:

- The launch of the second phase of Copernicus from 2021 to 2027, with activities related to WEkEO and entrusted entity Mercator Ocean International (i.e. user support, outreach, web presence and marketing) [here](#);
- [Jupyter Lab](#), or the application to carry out research using marine, climate, atmospheric or land environmental data;
- [Marine Analyst](#), or how the collaborative platform uses WEkEO to analyse societal and environmental issues related to the marine sector.

BOILERPLATE

In 2018, the European Commission funded the deployment of cloud-based platforms called DIAS (Data and Information Access Services) to provide access to all Copernicus data and information, the Sentinel catalogue and that of supporting missions. WEkEO is one of them.

WEkEO provides environmental data to users directly from the source, alongside user support from the experts behind the data, a powerful processing infrastructure and tools to develop, scale and evolve your code or application. Implementing partners include EUMETSAT, ECMWF (implementers of the Copernicus Climate Change Monitoring and Atmosphere Monitoring Services) and Mercator Ocean International (implementer of the Copernicus Marine Service) and the European Environment Agency (implementer of the Copernicus Land Service).

- Website: www.wekeo.eu
- Twitter: [@WEkEO_dias](https://twitter.com/WEkEO_dias)
- LinkedIn: [Mercator Ocean International](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mercator-ocean-international/)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/wekeoDias/>
- Instagram: Mercator Ocean International [@mercator_ocean](https://www.instagram.com/mercator_ocean)

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