Call for Expression of Interest: Creating a worldwide FabSpace 2.0 network September 2018

We live in an era of an almost limitless availability of data, spatial data included. At the core of the development of the now emerging (geo) information society is the ability to convert the "raw" data into useful information and knowledge. The ability to use the potential of the available spatial data and to create innovative geo-information applications that change the world around us, the society and ourselves, is essential for the effectiveness of sustainable development, for rational spatial planning and for increasing the European innovativeness.

FabSpace 2.0 aims at making Universities open innovation centres for their region and at improving their contribution to the socio-economic and environmental performance of societies by exploiting Earth Observation data and geospatial information. In a collaborative research environment within Universities, students and researchers will get in contact with end-users' needs and will have the possibility to rapidly prototype innovative EO-Earth Observation applications and services, exploiting free Sentinel Data and Copernicus Core Services.

The initial network of FabSpace 2.0 partners consists of six centres (in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Greece and Poland), each one composed by a local University and the local ESA BIC-Business Incubation Centre, and it is now expanding.

Your Organization can now become one of them...

…and experience a new journey into open innovation based on geo-spatial and Earth Observation data.

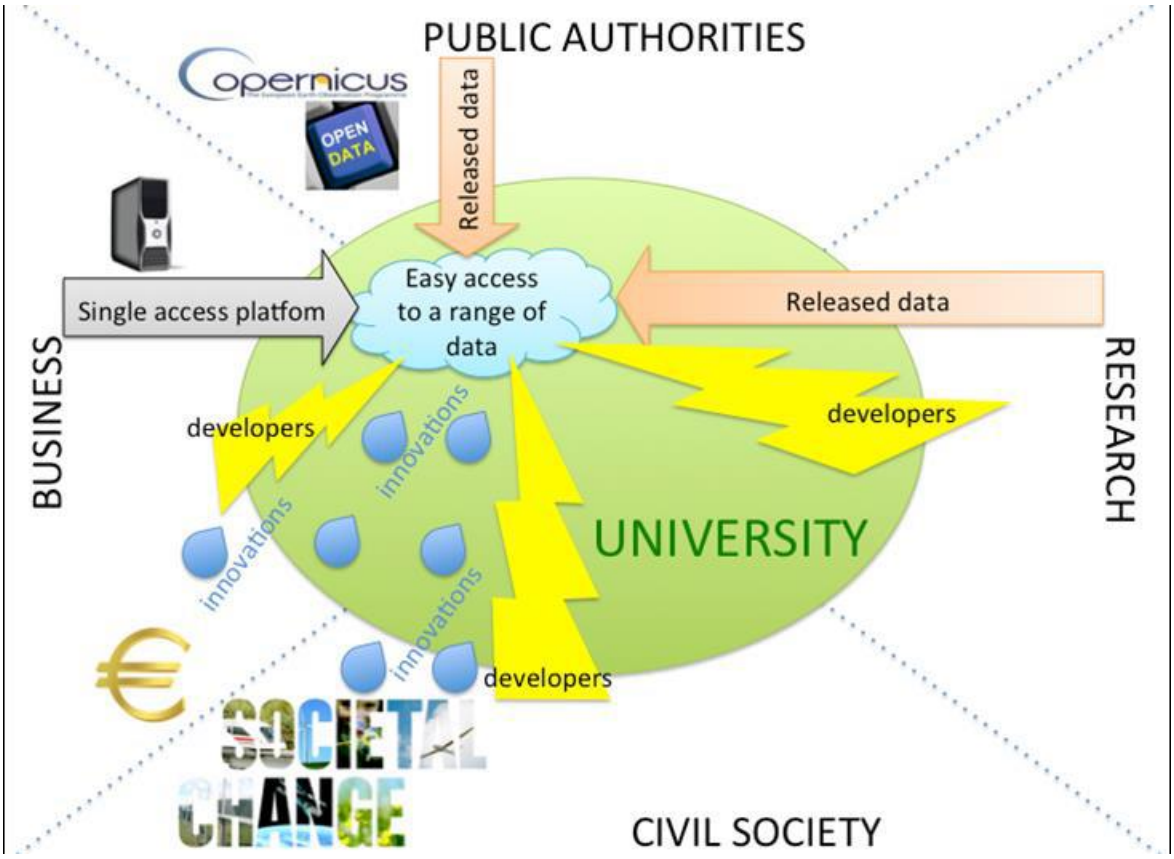
Please read the attached information package and feel free to ask questions and clarifications to Mr Marcello Maranesi (Univ. of Rome Tor Vergata: maranesimarcello@gmail.com) and Mrs Aurélie Baker (ESA BIC Sud France - Aerospace Valley: fabspace@aerospace-valley.com)

FabSpace 2.0 received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the grant agreement no 693210

What is FabSpace 2.0?

FabSpace 2.0 is an international project carried out within the Horizon 2020 Program financed by the European Union. Its goal is to create innovative applications and services using open spatial data and geo-information technologies.

FabSpace 2.0 means interdisciplinary teams of young people using open source software and tools to process open spatial data to create innovative applications and geo-information services. Researchers from renowned universities provide the technical support, while ESA BICs - with years of experience in the European market - foster useful application development and business incubation.



What is FabSpace purpose?

- Foster the co-creation of new innovative solutions.
- Support further business development.
- Exploit, sustain and disseminate the concept.

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What do we do?

Open Days, Space Science Shops, Innovation Events (e.g. Hackathons, Start-Up Weekends, App Camps…), workshops and conferences, bootcamps and many other open events are held as part of the project. Anybody interested in creating innovative applications and services using open spatial data can take advantage of the available, free of charge, geo-information platform, consult their ideas with experts, or take part in gamification using mobile application based on digital maps. The most interesting ideas could be backed by companies participating in FabSpace 2.0.

What is FabSpace 2.0 made of?

The project delivers a collaborative research environment within universities enabling students and researchers to rapidly prototype innovative Earth Observation applications and services. This environment includes the following physical and virtual elements:

- A one-stop shop, with access to Earth Observation data and a wide range of other data as well as free software and data processing tools to develop new digital applications.
- A free-access place & service, where students, researchers and external users:
    - can make use of data and of a software platform for designing and testing their own applications, getting technical support;
    - can receive training to improve their capacity to process data and develop new applications with space data as well as to set up new entrepreneurship initiatives
- An educational layer including both in Earth Observation and entrepreneurship training
- A network, of students, researchers, entrepreneurs, project managers in industry and public authorities, civil society organisations and other representatives of civilians.
- Part of two communities, the local community and the global community of all the FabSpaces in the global network;
- A service, developed and operated with the aiming at least to reach the break-even in order to sustain the effort of the involved people;
- A concept currently under development, evolving from field experience rather than being designed with a top down approach

FabSpace 2.0 sustainable approach

By providing technical support and consultancy services of different type, FabSpaces are targeting to become financially self-sustained and give their students an initial job opportunity.

Who participates in the project?

The initial network of FabSpace 2.0 partners consists of six centres called “FabSpaces” (in France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Greece and Poland), each one composed by a local university and the local ESA BIC.

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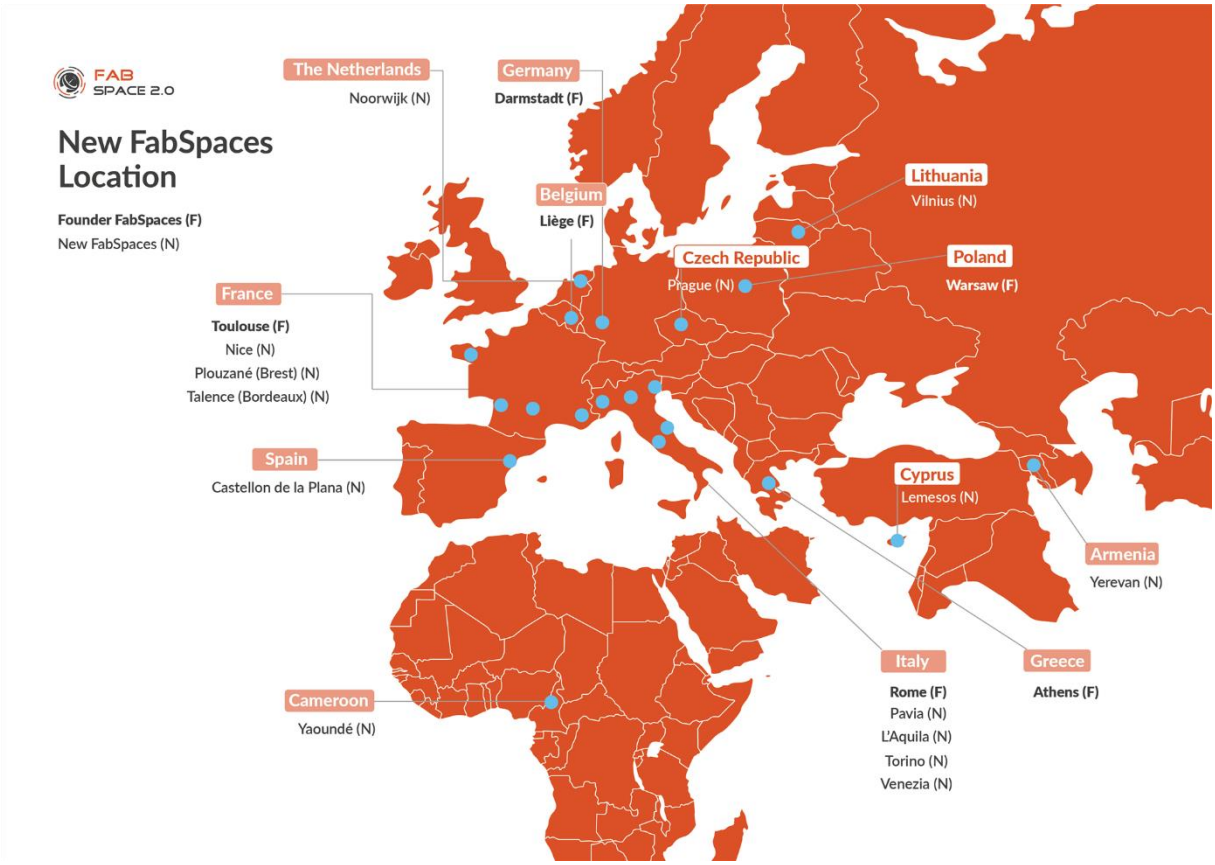
After a selection process, the consortium and the European Advisory Board of Fabspace 2.0 selected 14 new FabSpaces in various countries worldwide at the end of 2017; the FabSpace 2.0 project is today officially made up of 20 FabSpaces.



The international FabSpace 2.0 network will be launched at the beginning of 2019, and its legal status will be defined according to the results of the report on European and Non-European initiatives with which FabSpace 2.0 can create synergies. To this aim, existing initiatives, mainly in Europe, will be monitored and possible actions will be defined with the European Space Agency (ESA). Given the particular added value of Earth Observation data and Satellite Navigation services in countries with less ground infrastructures (i.e. developing countries) specific attention will also be given to the developing countries as much business markets are expected to grow. In this year, the project aims to extend the network to more countries worldwide. Moreover, for the coming years, with the help of ESA, a new project will be launched, ϕ-Unet which is the continuation of the FabSpace 2.0 project driven by the ESA.

More generally, Φ-Unet is an open framework based on open source space data provided by Copernicus Program, training and technical support, for a massive deployment in European and worldwide universities – thus becoming open innovation centres for their region. It will foster a creative environment in which developers from the civil society or industry or the academic research, public administrations and civil organisations can meet, work together, and co-create new tools and business models.

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Twenty European universities and ESA-BICs
are already engaged in FabSpace 2.0:
your Organization can now be one of them …

What are the benefits for an Organization opening a new FabSpace?

- cooperation with partnering universities in many European countries;
- access to the free geo-information platform to access and process open spatial data;
- access to and cooperation with interdisciplinary project teams creating innovative services and products;
- good practices regarding educational programs and business mentoring;
- Innovative application ideas to be proposed in R&D projects funded at local level.
- Be consider for to be part of the new promising project supported by the European Space Agency, ϕ-Unet.

Becoming a new FabSpace

By becoming part of the FabSpace 2.0 network, you can benefit from the experience gained by the current FabSpace 2.0 partners through the project activities for:

- Setting-up innovative training programs for your students, both business programs for EO students and EO programs for other technical students (engineering, informatics, geology, agronomy, etc.)
- Becoming a crossing point between public/private potential customers of innovative applications and the researchers/students' domain and be recognized as a generator of innovation
- Creating an opportunity for your students and researchers to put their capabilities and energy at work with potential customers thus inventing/creating their future job
- Having visibility on new ideas, concepts and applications that you could transfer to your local situation, also applying for R&D local funding.
- Be part a new

By opening a new FabSpace, you will have the possibility to follow directly the project activities, replicate them in your country/region and participate to the organization of the project's European innovation actions and events, and to the local bootcamp.

Website: http://www.fabspace.eu/

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