

MEDSPRING: Mediterranean

CNRS-L; Beirut, Lebanon (February 16, 2017)

Allow me to first welcome you all at the National Council for Scientific Research – Lebanon (CNRS-L) and express our deep appreciation for your kind participation at this MEDSPRING Science Café and Awareness Event.

This event is hosted within the frame of the MEDSPRING Project on Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway; and with the objective of contributing to enhancing the Euro-Mediterranean research area, with a particular focus on bi-regional cooperation, research, and innovation through creating institutional dialogues and platforms for coordination.

The Science Café portion of our event today, aims to present the state of the art and research in Early Warning Systems, Solar Energy Applications & Marine Research in Lebanon as case studies and best practices; and enhancing new opportunities in national and bi-regional collaborations.

Two sessions will be dedicated to Awareness Raising of on-going efforts and activities to foster Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, focusing on Horizon 2020 Framework Programme, ERANETMED Calls, and Joint Programming initiatives of

the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA Initiative).

Since its launch in 1997, the National Center for Remote Sensing has been fulfilling its tasks within the scientific policy framework of the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Lebanon, by preparing and executing research projects, participating in international projects, and collaborating with regional and international centers for remote sensing.

In addition, the Center assists governmental bodies with the use of remote sensing techniques to serve the comprehensive development and to play a major role in providing data and information necessary for developmental projects and environmental concerns. The Center has just delivered the national land cover/use map of Lebanon at scale 1:20000 to the Council for Development and Reconstruction in Lebanon.

The Center for Remote Sensing works on several on-going projects. These projects are mainly financed by the European Union, the World Bank, joint Lebanese French (CEDRE) and Lebanese Italian programs, along with the UNDP, FAO and the CNRS Grant Research Program. They are managed by a scientific team composed of seven researchers supported by Research assistants.

One of the main research program in the National Center for Remote Sensing is the Early Warning System known as the “Sustainable natural resources management platform and early warning system or SuNaR”. This system Strengthens the capacities to monitor and forecast hazards for Disaster Risk Reduction, and properly assists both emergency operations while implementing proper prevention and preparedness actions with the usage of high quality information produced and properly conveyed to decision makers and stakeholders.

Recently, a public data sharing law was passed in the parliament and will be soon published in the official gazette. This law should provide a free access for any given non-sensitive data available at any public institutions and administrations. The approved law might have a considerable impact on the economy and research in Lebanon. Accordingly, we invite researchers in Lebanon to establish a round table to discuss the possible impact of this law to promote sharing research data between the different research institutes in Lebanon.

Finally thank you Rula for organizing this event, once again I wish you a fruitful meeting.