



## **The G4R GMES Academy – linking research, academia, service providers and local authorities.**

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The GMES Academy intends to enhance the role of the academic and R&D communities in the evolution of EO & GI services. The GMES4Regions G4R initiative, aiming to strengthen the link between GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) and European regions, inaugurated the GMES Academy at the University Mozarteum of Salzburg (Austria) on 13th - 14th September 2012. This academy has been created with the objective of fostering a dialogue among the private sector, Local and Regional Administration (LRA) and the academic and research community, in order to improve the development of Earth Observation (EO) and Geographic Information (GI) services.

On this occasion, Z\_GIS, the Interfaculty Department of Geoinformatics of Salzburg University, hosted the round table “Fostering Downstream Services for the Regions - contributions from Research & Academia,” during which the participants had the opportunity to discuss with representatives of the European Commission (EC) and the European Space Agency (ESA) the future role of the academic community in this domain.

Stakeholders from the academic and R&D world adopted the ‘Salzburg Declaration on GMES related Research’, calling for strengthening connections between research activities and educational programmes to improve GMES services. The Declaration calls mainly for:

- fostering education and training on GMES
- ensuring cooperation among the academic and research community through the GMES Academy
- maintaining a political commitment towards the implementation of such academic initiatives.

The GMES Academy is established as a platform with six components:

GATEWAY - the directory of Universities and Research Centres

BRIDGE - an inventory of research briefs documenting the latest offerings from research to effective applications

FACILITATOR - a portal to seek or propose internships or contract research across Europe

and addressing outreach and advocacy:

LINK - Access to the repository of on-going GMES related research projects in the EU

EDUCATION - a compendium of courses offered by universities in the field of GMES

LECTURES - G4R offers to arrange lectures on GMES at interested universities and institutions

The initiative by G4R invites collaboration to strengthen the role of research and education for the evolution of GMES services.