



Enhancing Copernicus Security Services –
EU governmental crisis management hub for forced population
displacement

Press release no 02

Using Space and AI to Better Respond to Forced Population Displacement

Athens, April 2026 – The THEIA project is harnessing the power of space technologies and Artificial Intelligence to support more effective, timely, and responsible responses to forced population displacement. Funded under the European Union’s Horizon Europe programme, THEIA addresses one of today’s most complex global challenges, population displacement driven by conflict, climate change, extreme weather events, and resource scarcity, by transforming vast amounts of geospatial data into actionable intelligence for crisis management and security stakeholders. By integrating Earth Observation data from Copernicus and contributing missions with satellite optical video, Radio Frequency (RF) data, and selected non-space information, THEIA applies advanced Geospatial Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI) and Machine Learning techniques to enhance situational awareness in rapidly evolving and hard-to-access environments. Its modular, AI-powered platform enables the detection of emerging displacement patterns, abnormal activities, and crisis indicators, supporting informed decision-making at EU, national, and international levels.

Crucially, THEIA is designed with a strong focus on ethics, inclusion, and the protection of fundamental rights. The project relies on aggregated, non-identifying geospatial information and applies strict governance, data protection, and human-in-the-loop safeguards to ensure responsible use of technology. By shifting the focus from individual-level assumptions to objective, area-based indicators, THEIA helps decision-makers better understand needs, risks, and vulnerabilities without reinforcing stereotypes or discrimination. Through close collaboration with EU entities, national authorities, and international organisations, THEIA contributes to strengthening Copernicus Security Services and Europe’s strategic autonomy in space-based intelligence. As the project progresses, it demonstrates how the responsible use of space and AI technologies can support more coordinated, humane, and evidence-based responses to forced population displacement, ultimately enhancing resilience, preparedness, and societal trust in crisis management systems.

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