



Project Update #20

Welcome to our twentieth [CENTAUR](#) Project Update!

In this issue, we share key highlights and outcomes from the recently held CENTAUR 2nd Workshop, along with updates from around the world.

Inside CENTAUR's 2nd Workshop

On 25 February 2026, the **CENTAUR Horizon Europe** project held its second and final workshop at the Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) in Brussels, bringing together over 100 participants on-site and online to mark the culmination of three years of research at the intersection of Earth Observation (EO) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The event gathered representatives from EU institutions, international organisations, research bodies, industry, and other Horizon Europe projects to explore how EO and AI can support early warning and crisis management, particularly in the context of climate-related risks and security challenges.



Participants of the CENTAUR 2nd Workshop at HaDEA in Brussels, coming together to celebrate the event.

The programme featured institutional insights, a panel discussion on operationalising EO and AI for early warning, and live demonstrations of the CENTAUR platform and its use cases.

Read the full story and access all the workshop presentations on our website:

<https://centaur-horizon.eu/news/centaurs-2nd-workshop-a-key-project-milestone/>

What's happening around the world?

- **Ecuador:** Since 1 January, an important increase in rainfall has triggered floods and landslides in Ecuador. By 13 March, authorities reported 11 casualties and more than 46,000 people affected, with five coastal provinces, including Guayas and Los Ríos, placed under a 90-day state of emergency on 27 February. The Copernicus Emergency Management Service was activated on 11 March to provide flood delineation mapping and affected population estimates in support of the national response (EMSR870).
- **Ethiopia:** Between 9 and 11 March 2026, heavy rainfall triggered catastrophic landslides and flash floods across the Gamo Zone of southern Ethiopia. By 12 March, more than 100 people have lost their life and more than 120 remained missing. Rescue operations have been affected by blocked roads and damaged bridges, while flooding along the overflowing Kulfo and Sego rivers has caused widespread destruction to homes, farmland, and public infrastructure.
- **Australia:** Since early February 2026, widespread flooding across Australia's Northern Territory and Queensland states forced mass evacuations of local communities, with around 1,000 people sheltered in evacuation centres in Darwin and Katherine. Record-breaking rainfall struck inland areas in early March, with

some locations receiving a year's worth of rain within a single week, described by the Bureau of Meteorology as "weather whiplash" following prolonged drought conditions.



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