

The European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



EurOcean – The European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology, established in 2002, is an independent scientific non-governmental organisation of leading European marine organisations whose aim is to facilitate information exchange and generate value-added products in the field of marine sciences and technologies between a wide range of governmental and non-governmental bodies. In 2018, EurOcean comprised 13 Member organisations based in 10 European countries and 4 Cooperating Members.

EurOcean, a clearing house for information on marine science and technology in Europe, through its internet site (www.eurocean.org) facilitates access to information on topics related to marine science and technology in Europe with priority given to three main domains: Marine Research Infrastructures, Marine **Knowledge Management and Ocean Communication and Public Outreach** Activities. EurOcean also contributes to initiatives aiming to promote the Blue Society (vision for society in which people benefit from the Ocean's vast potential while preserving its environmental integrity) and supports the principles and implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (UN SDG14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development).

EurOcean also provides dedicated services and project contributions in relation with the above topics.







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EurOcean Project Participation in 2018 Key Weblinks Used in This Publication Participation in meetings and Events in 2018

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A HEALTHY OCEAN IS THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE

Slawomir Sagan

(IOPAN Member Representative, Poland) EurOcean President

The idea raised by the late Steven Hawking to start preparations for colonization of extra-terrestrial areas as an emergency exit for humankind seems to be too early a call – before embarking on these spaceships, much can be done locally to ensure the Earth will remain habitable for the coming centuries. One of those local undertakings – on the global scale

- is the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, 2021-2030. Marine scientists rightfully argue that a healthy ocean is the key to our future.

A healthy ocean for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, healthy for providing food and resources, healthy for recreational activities.

To achieve – or sustain – its healthy state requires knowledge about the ocean. Yet, in many respects the ocean is still *terra (aqua?) incognita*, as the majority of the ocean floor remains unmapped, the estimated one million marine species living there are still unknown to science and we are sure there is still no full understanding of all the processes in the ocean and their interactions.

2018 was the first year of preparation for the Decade. In the approved roadmap the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO identified Ocean Literacy as one of its central elements. In a long-term perspective people's understanding and awareness of the importance of ocean science and their informed involvement will generate an upward push on decision-makers to put ocean research at the top of the agenda. It seems that the growing number of extreme weather events every year, as well as off-the-scale storms, heat waves or the unusual displacement of the polar vortex, are still not



convincing enough for many to see the key role of the ocean in the global climate and weather systems. Outreach and dissemination of knowledge are some of EurOcean's key activities. In 2018 we have continued this through involvement in numerous projects as the leader of Dissemination and Communication activities. A highlight of the year was the EurOcean tribute to the legacy of its founder Prof. Mário Ruivo. HeldinBrussels, this highly successful Commemorative Event "Your Ocean your Future" was themed as Ocean Literacy in a broad sense. Additionally in EurOcean on core activities we have continued with development of our databases. Most of the major changes are being done "under the hood", so in the coming year our users will see and experience the improvements. 2018 was also the last year with Ned Dwyer at the helm of the organization. Truly, his term went so fast we were almost surprised that the time has come to say good bye to Ned. Good bye and huge thanks and gratitude from all the EurOcean members/friends and the Office staff for his sincere dedication to the work. We are happy that with his new job he will be staying around. We are also happy to welcome the new EurOcean Executive Director, Sérgio Bryton. We are convinced that under his leadership EurOcean will successfully continue its mission. Last but not least, I would like to thank Vice-Presidents of EurOcean, Tina Mertens and Carlos García Soto for their work, commitment and support. Following the decision of the EurOcean Steering Committee during its last annual meeting held in the Azores, we will continue together as the EurOcean Executive Committee for the next 2 years.



BUILDING ON OUR FOUNDER'S LEGACY

Ned Dwyer

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EurOcean Executive-Director

Commemorating EurOcean's founder and first President, Professor Mário Ruivo and his major contribution to marine science during a day-long event in Brussels was the highlight of my final year as Executive-Director of EurOcean. We brought together members of his family, former friends, colleagues and collaborators to reflect on Mário's legacy but also to discuss the challenges we now face in terms of safeguarding the Ocean for future generations. As part of the event we organised a Children's art competition which had over 80 entries from around the world, illustrating the beauty, but also the threats to the Ocean. It was also the location to exhibit the best photos from the "I Live by the Sea" competition, of which our Polish Member, IOPAN was one of the organisers. Make sure to check out this year's entries during European Maritime Day in Lisbon in May 2019! It was a busy year for writing proposals for EU funding and we had success with four of them: Eurofleets+ which continues the work of consolidating Europe's Marine Research Fleet; AANChOR which supports the implementation of the Belém Statement, signed by the European Union, Brazil and South Africa to coordinate research and innovation in the Atlantic Ocean; CatRIS which will improve visibility and access to information about Research Infrastructure services in Europe and AQUA-Lit which is developing a toolbox of innovative ideas and methodologies to prevent and remove marine litter from aquaculture activities.

Marine Knowledge Management was in the spotlight in 2018 at a EurOcean organised European Parliament event related to the COLUMBUS project and another one organised in the Azores, related to the Deep Sea, which led to the publication of the "Ponta Delgada Statement". One important message from that statement is that all the impacts of human activities at sea on deep sea biodiversity and the marine environment should be studied and all possible risks understood before any licencing of seabed exploitation.

Taking advantage of its comprehensive catalogue of Marine Research Infrastructures, EurOcean supported the European Marine Board Working Group developing an updated foresight report on the European Ocean Research Fleet and it collaborated on pilot actions as part of its ongoing commitment to the European Ocean Observing System's (EOOS) implementation plan.

I would like to thank the staff of EurOcean for their constant support, hard work and good ideas over the last four years. It certainly made my job easier. It was a pleasure getting to know and work with all the Member representatives over these years. I wish Sérgio Bryton the best of luck as he takes over the helm to lead EurOcean in its next phase of development.

~08 **ABOUT EUROCEAN** Structure and Governance

Steering Committee

One representative form each Member organisation

Establishes the strategic goals and operational guidelines and approves the annual workplan

EurOcean Foundation Board

Established under Dutch Law and also legally registered in Portugal **Slawomir Sagan** – President **Tina Mertens** – Vice-President **Nicolae Panin** – Treasurer **Manuel Cira** – Member **Francisco Pinto** – Member and Treasurer (From 2019) **Giuseppe Magnifico** – Member (From 2019)

Executive Committee

Oversees operations and implementation of the annual workplan

Slawomir Sagan (IOPAN – Poland) – President Tina Mertens (VLIZ – Belgium) – Vice-President Carlos García-Soto (IEO – Spain) – Vice-President





Ana Hilário (CESAM - Portugal)





Raquel Ribeiro (from Dec. 2018) (FCT - Portugal)





Francisco Pinto (FRCT - Portugal)





Tina Mertens (VLIZ - Belgium) Vice-President



Per Nieuwejaar (IMR – Norway)



Nicolae Panin (until Nov. 2018) (GeoEcoMar - Romania)



GeoEcoMar

Cooperating Members



CPMR CPMR - Conference of CRPM Peripheral Maritime Regions



Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

Manuel Cira

(Nausicaá – France)

Nausicaá

Slawomir Sagan

(IOPAN - Poland)

President

Dan Vasiliu

(from Dec. 2018)

(GeoEcoMar - Romania)

GeoFcoMar



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Members

Gilles Lericolais (IFREMER - France)





Giuseppe Magnifico (CNR-Italy)





Carlos García-Soto (IEO - Spain) Vice-President





EurOcean Network

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Countries

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António Pascoal (until Nov. 2018) (FCT - Portugal)





Fiona Grant (MI-Ireland)





Angela Schultz-Zehden (SUBMARINER Network - Baltic region)











~10 **EurOcean Office**



Ned Dwyer Executive-Director (EurOcean contract)



Cristina Costa Office Coordinator **European Project Manager** (EurOcean contract)



Sandra Sá European Project Manager (EurOcean contract)



Ruth Higgins Science Officer (FCT fellowship)



Tiago Garcia Science Officer (FCT fellowship)



Margherita Zorgno Science Officer (EurOcean contract)



Lorenza Evangelista Science Officer (CNR, Italy in-kind contribution)



Hosted by FCT, Portugal **Co-founding Member and Hosting Organization**

EurOcean Skills

Strategic decision making **Ocean Governance Satellite Remote Sensing and GIS** Ocean In-situ Observations and Data Collection (Administrative and financial management) (Research Funding Trends Analysis) (Infobase management) (Marine Biology) (Proposal writing)

EU Funding mechanisms

(Knowledge Transfer Promotion)

(Marine Research Infrastructures Management)

(Science Communications and Ocean Literacy)

Organisational management)

(Project management)

Coastal Processes

Research Cruises



Membership is open to organisations based in Europe that are involved in funding, implementing or disseminating about research related to marine science and technology. Furthermore Cooperating Membership is available to organizations with a regional or global reach that are involved in activities complementary to those of EurOcean.

Some of the benefits of EurOcean membership include:

- As part of its Steering Committee a role in **influencing** the strategic, policy and technical agenda in relation to marine science and technology information management and dissemination, through an organised and well connected forum at the European level;
- The potential to **build strategic collaborations** with a network of key marine institutes and science research funding bodies across Europe;
- Support of the EurOcean Office and the Members in identifying funding opportunities and building partnerships;
- Preferential access and ability to request tailored analyses of the extensive holdings in our infobases on marine research infrastructure and on marine relevant projects funded at the European level and nationally. This can put you ahead in identifying research gaps and opportunities and the key organisations to build partnerships with;
- Access to the EurOcean Office and its communication tools to **disseminate information** and activities of your organisation to a mailing list of over 6,000 subscribers.

Watch our <u>video</u> to find out more and if you are interested in discussing membership, contact <u>EurOcean</u>.



MARINE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

The Research Infrastructures Database is the most comprehensive tool to learn about a diverse set of marine infrastructures.



~13 Our Aim

Europe has an extensive network of marine research infrastructures which incorporates a wide range of facilities. Consolidation, co-ordination, integration and more streamlined access to such facilities is being promoted at European and regional scales through a range of initiatives.

EurOcean supports such activity by:

- Providing open access to a comprehensive catalogue of research vessels and embarkable equipment, on-land and offshore research and test facilities, remote and in-situ observation facilities;
- Carrying out analysis of the status of Europe's marine research infrastructure to support policy development and strategic decision-making;
- Leading discussions on the evolution of Europe's marine research infrastructure and contributing to the implementation of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) and the development of the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS);
- Collaboration through funded projects and partnerships in order to increase the visibility and coordination of usage of Europe's marine research infrastructure.



~14 Achievements in 2018

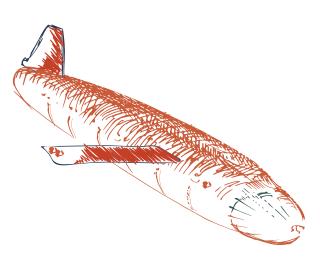
Enhancing access to Marine Research Infrastructures Information

By consolidating EurOcean's existing four marine infrastructures infobases into one harmonised Research Infrastructures Database (RID 2.0), it will be much easier for users to navigate and find the information they want. Work during 2018 focussed on design of the new infobase and the cleaning and updating of existing and addition of new records, to continue to bring you a comprehensive, coherent and up-to-date marine research infrastructures infobase, now in a dynamic module base and compatible with ISO and other widely used standards. Don't miss the launch of the new and improved RID in 2019 and, in the meantime check out our current infrastructures catalogues here. Do you own a facility not yet listed in our infobase? Please contact Science Officer Sandra Sá to find out how to include it.



Offshore Renewable Energy Lights up the RID

Always responding to the evolving needs of the marine infrastructure community, the Research Infrastructures Database (RID) now includes records detailing facilities used to support offshore wind energy developments and electrical/ grid integration facilities. More than seventy records were updated or newly added to the <u>RID</u>, to support the transnational access (TNA) element of the H2020 funded <u>MARINET2</u> project, which is focussed on supporting the research required to make offshore renewable energy a viable source of clean energy in the near future. Would you like to test your offshore renewable energy technology in world-leading testing facilities? Apply to the <u>next MARINET2</u> <u>TNA call</u> in August 2019.



The message is clear: no deep sea exploitation until we know more

A strong consensus on the need to learn much more about the deep sea before any type of exploitation takes place emerged during a 2018 EurOcean organised event entitled "Marine Research and Knowledge in support of Policy Making and Society". The meeting took place in Ponta Delgada in the beautiful Azorean island of São Miguel. Together with the meeting's hosting Member, FRCT, we dedicated this year's event to how we can ensure that results and knowledge gained in marine research can be used to inform policy making and the wider public with a focus on deep-sea research. As a follow-up to the meeting, EurOcean intends to issue the "Ponta Delgada Statement" early 2019.

Lack of Knowledge Restricts our Understanding in a Rapidly Changing Arctic

Ensuring the sustainability of Arctic observation systems is a major goal of the H2020 funded INTAROS project. As a project partner EurOcean contributes by making sure all relevant messages are widely spread and reach the relevant audience, through its colead role in the project 's dissemination and communication activities. Stay up to date on project developments by subscribing to the INTAROS newsletter.







Integrating Europe´s research vessel fleet for a cleaner and healthier ocean

The new Eurofleets+ project will facilitate open, free of charge access to an integrated and advanced research vessel fleet, designed to meet the evolving and challenging needs of the user community. European and international researchers from academia and industry will be able to apply for several access programmes, through a single-entry system. Eurofleets+ will prioritise support for research on sustainable, clean and healthy oceans, linking with existing ocean observation infrastructures, and it will support innovation through working closely with industry. EurOcean is leading the communication and dissemination activities.

~17 Achievements in 2018

european research evropean research

Europe´s Research Vessel Operators Set Their Sights on New Horizons

The European Research Vessels Operators (ERVO) group requested the European Marine Board to establish a working group to develop a foresight report on European Research Vessels. Following long-lasting collaboration with the ERVO Group in particular regarding the management and maintenance of the ERVO website, EurOcean supported the development of the foresight document by providing special access to its databases. Stay tuned for the new foresight report on European Research Vessels, which should be completed later in 2019.





EurOcean Fully Supports All Research Vessel Operators

EurOcean also provides services in terms of website content maintenance and update for the <u>Ocean Facilities</u> <u>Exchange Group</u> (OFEG), which provides a forum to consider barter exchange and co-operation opportunities for the Global and Ocean Class research fleet.

What is EurOcean_RID (Marine Research Infrastructures Database)?

The Research Infrastructures Database is one of EurOcean's key contributions to the oceanographic community through the provision of an open-access comprehensive catalogue of European marine dedicated research facilities. We are currently carrying out a major overhaul of our infrastructures databases, to be unveiled in 2019, to ensure we continue to provide the best possible up-to-date and fit-for-purpose tool, thus in line with the ever changing needs of the oceanographic community.

What can you find in EurOcean_RID?



Support us in supporting your community! Contact us

- ✤ If your infrastructure is not yet displayed in the database;
- If you want to assess the distribution of infrastructures (e.g. Aquaculture Facility research topics and species held, Underwater Vehicles per depth range, among other statistics);
- Jetu If you wish to present RID data through your own webportal.

EurOcean_RID strives to be the reference infobase for European Marine Research Infrastructures and has supported and benefited from numerous collaborations such as:



Why is EurOcean_RID relevant for you?

- **3** Summary information of each infrastructure
- Information of the infrastructure operator
- Data compatibility through use of ISO and other relevant widely used standards (under development)
- Starting point for diverse trends analysis and policy development support
- **3** Support of research activities through barter and charter
- Information on ESFRI related Framework Programme funded projects (under development)

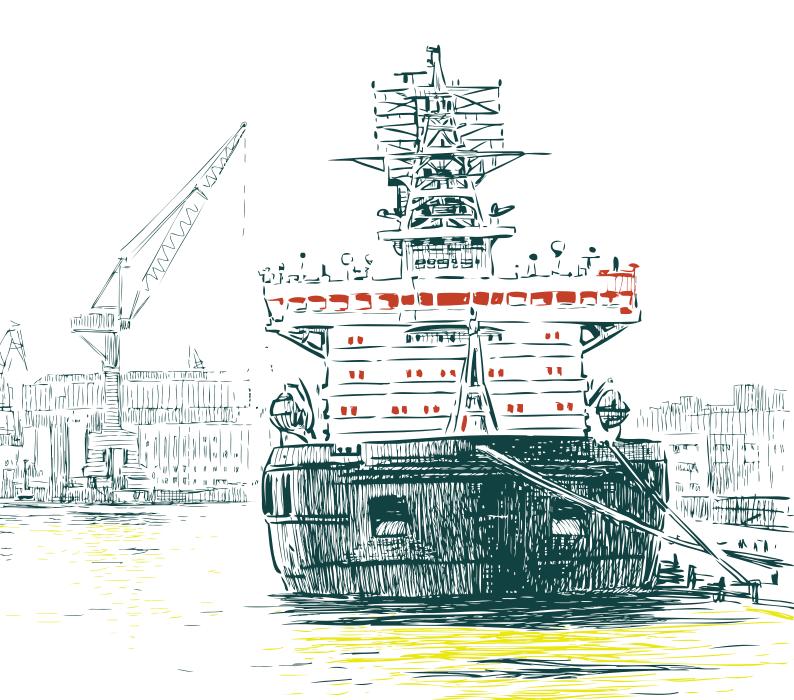
~20 OUTLOOK

The new and improved Research Infrastructures Database – RID 2.0 will be launched in 2019, making it simpler for users to find the information they want in the more than 1000 records currently in the catalogue. We are also working on database interoperability, thereby making it easier to align and share data with other relevant initiatives. Such alignment is supported via our participation in the new H2020 funded catRIS project which seeks to provide a seamless service offering across all of Europe´s diverse research infrastructures. EurOcean will continue to support the development of the European Ocean Observing System by contributing to its strategy and implementation plan by, for example, assisting EOOS in mapping existing observation infrastructure and further developing RID to respond to its needs.

We will continue to seek opportunities to partner with other organisations in order to add value and make synergies with initiatives, including EMODNET related to enhancing visibility and access to Europe´s marine research infrastructure and data. <u>Contact us</u> to discuss collaboration and partnering.







~22 MARINE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Marine Knowledge Gate, the most comprehensive marine and maritime projects and results repository, is your tool to: Connect; Extract; Advance and Inform!

~23 our aim

To meet the goals of the Europe 2020 Flagship Initiative Innovation Union in the marine sphere, there is a need to take advantage of existing generated knowledge, data and information repositories and advances in knowledge transfer.

EurOcean, as a focal point for information on marine science and technology, will continue to contribute by:

- Providing detailed information on a comprehensive set of European and nationally funded marine and maritime projects;
- Capturing and highlighting the results, or Knowledge Outputs from numerous European and nationally funded projects across a range of marine thematic areas;
- ئ الdentifying trends and gaps in marine science investment;
- Carrying out benchmark exercises of organisations and countries performance in different programmes and research themes;
- Supporting marine knowledge identification and transfer by partnering in relevant European funded projects and with institutions;
- Leading high-level discussions on the need and evolution of Knowledge Transfer and contributing to the implementation of the Marine Knowledge 2020 Strategy;
- Preparing tailored information for our Members on relevant European funding calls and developments in European marine research policy.



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Achievements in 2018

Continuing Working to Bring You More Projects and their Outcomes in an Improved Interface

Striving to continue to bring you the most comprehensive, coherent and up-to-date infobase on marine-related research and its major outcomes (KO's), work during 2018 focussed on addressing technical issues of a new and improved service oriented infobase structure and user interface. We have also focused on identifying and bringing you more than 300 newly funded projects with the support of our Italian Member CNR. A more sophisticated search, an intuitive map interface, better linking between projects and participants, download of records and interoperability are just some of the new features being incorporated in the upgraded Marine Knowledge Gate infobase, a beta version of which has been released in 2018. You can still access over 6,300 European and nationally funded projects and more than 2,900 Knowledge Outputs (KO's) or project results in Marine Knowledge Gate 2.0.

How Can the EurOcean Marine Knowledge Gate Support You?

Through the EurOcean Marine Knowledge Gate several relevant trends and indicators can be derived such as who are the top performers; how does the marine related research projects funding compare to other research areas, what research was carried out on a certain topic, among many others. In support of our Members and the wider marine and maritime community we have carried out analysis of Belgium and Portuguese participation in European Funded projects, provided indicators of the marine component in the European Research Area and, supported the Joint Research Centre in the development of a chapter in their upcoming book Knowledge-Action outcomes by providing information on funded projects in marine conservation. The Marine Knowledge Gate can support you too! To find out all available services and their conditions contact the Office Coordinator, Cristina Costa.



How Can Transfer of New Knowledge Help Accelerate Blue Growth?

Building on the 2016 EurOcean and the Cooperating Member CPMR organised <u>seminar at</u> the European Parliament on Knowledge Exchange, and the 2017 workshop entitled <u>Marine Knowledge Transfer &</u> <u>Innovation: Learning from Regional & European Initiatives</u> co-organised by EurOcean with other partners from the H2020 COLUMBUS project at the premises of the National Oceanographic Centre, EurOcean organised a further event on Knowledge Transfer in the scope of the

COLUMBUS project.

The Accelerating Blue Growth through Marine and Maritime Knowledge Transfer event, held at the European Parliament and chaired by MEP Ricardo Serrão Santos, highlighted the outcomes of the project and showcased examples of its many successful case studies.





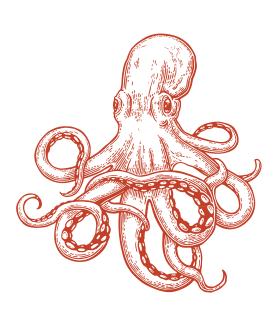
BUILDING AN ALL ATLANTIC OCEAN COMMUNITY Implementing the Belém Statement

Building an All Atlantic Ocean Research Community

Supporting the implementation of the <u>Belém</u> <u>Statement on Atlantic Research and Innovation</u> <u>Cooperation EurOcean is delighted to be a partner in</u> the <u>AANCHOR</u> - All AtlaNtic Cooperation for Ocean Research and innovation H2020 project aiming to build an All Atlantic Ocean Research Community. The project, led by EurOcean Member FCT will bring together all relevant actors around the Atlantic Ocean to identify concrete collaborative research and innovation activities across a range of key areas.

Stay informed of this relevant project and the All Atlantic Ocean initiative activities by following our social media platforms (<u>Twitter</u>; <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>) and <u>webportal</u>, which we are currently developing as leaders of the Communication and Dissemination

activities.









Creating Opportunity North and South in the Atlantic

Following our support to the Florianopolis Declaration establishing the <u>(AIR) Atlantic</u> <u>International Research Centre</u>, an initiative with the strong involvement of FCT (EurOcean Member), EurOcean participated in and presented at the 3rd High Level Industry-Science-Government Dialogue on Atlantic Interactions, (Cabo Verde, May 2018) highlighting Knowledge Transfer issues as well as the outcomes of the COLUMBUS project.



~27 Achievements in 2018

Why the Need to Protect the High Seas?

The High Seas, corresponding to the two thirds of Earth's ocean that lie beyond national jurisdiction, are currently void of any legally binding treaty to ensure its protection. Following the United Nations actions to protect marine life on the high seas by means of a legal mechanism by 2020, EurOcean Member Nausicaa co-organised the <u>High Seas International</u> <u>Conference</u>. The conference aimed to raise public awareness and mobilise civil society on the challenges of the High Seas. EurOcean will continue to support this relevant initiative and inform of further developments.

What is EurOcean_KG (Marine Knowledge Gate Infobase)?

The Marine Knowledge Gate infobase is a one of a kind, innovative, open access, comprehensive tool which provides detailed information on European and nationally funded projects and project outcomes and is EurOcean's contribution to bridging the information gap to all the marine and maritime community.

Striving to provide the best possible up-to-date and user relevant tool, EurOcean_KG has evolved from providing Information to providing knowledge and is currently under a substantial upgrade to focus on Services, bringing the user a step closer to Applied Knowledge and Understanding. We will continue to seek opportunities to partner with other organisations in order to add value and make synergies with initiatives. Contact us to discuss collaboration and partnering.



Support us in supporting your community! Contact us

- ئ اf your project is not yet displayed in the infobase;
- If you want to understand: i) Major research trends and gaps; ii) Who is collaborating with whom; iii) How is your institution or country performing in comparison to others and, iv) What Knowledge has been generated;
- Je If you wish to present Knowledge Gate data through your own webportal.

Marine Knowledge Gate strives to be the reference infobase in Marine and Maritime Research and its Outcomes and has supported and benefited from numerous collaborations such as:



Why is EurOcean_KG relevant for you?

- لا الله Summary information of marine and maritime funded projects;
- Information on generated knowledge;
- السنة المteractive user-friendly map navigation;
- ئ Starting point for diverse trends analysis and policy development support;
- ه Support of research activities through understanding existing knowledge gaps;
- ۵ Promotion of Knowledge Transfer and Uptake of research results;
- Data compatibility through use of ISO and other relevant widely use standards (under development).

Marine Knowledge Gate, your tool to:



CONNECT See who is doing what

EXTRACT Check what has been done



ADVANCE Fast track your own work



INFORM Let others know what you've accomplished

~30 OUTLOOK

In 2019 our major focus will be the completion and launch of the new and vastly improved Marine Knowledge Gate V3.0. The first version of this exciting new tool is expected to be live for the European Maritime Day. We will continue to build on the services provision of this unique repository and will continue to identify trends and gaps in marine and maritime research scientific investment such as where major marine research investments are focussed, who is most successful in coordinating European funded projects and what kind of results are being generated, among others.

We are also contributing to the new EMFF funded <u>AQUALIT</u> project aimed at seeking solutions to minimising aquaculture related ocean litter, by providing information on related past projects. We will also continue to support the Marine Knowledge 2020 Strategy by seeking strategic partnerships and involvements in relevant projects. <u>Contact us</u> to discuss how we can provide specific services to meet your marine knowledge needs and to discuss other possible collaboration and partnering.

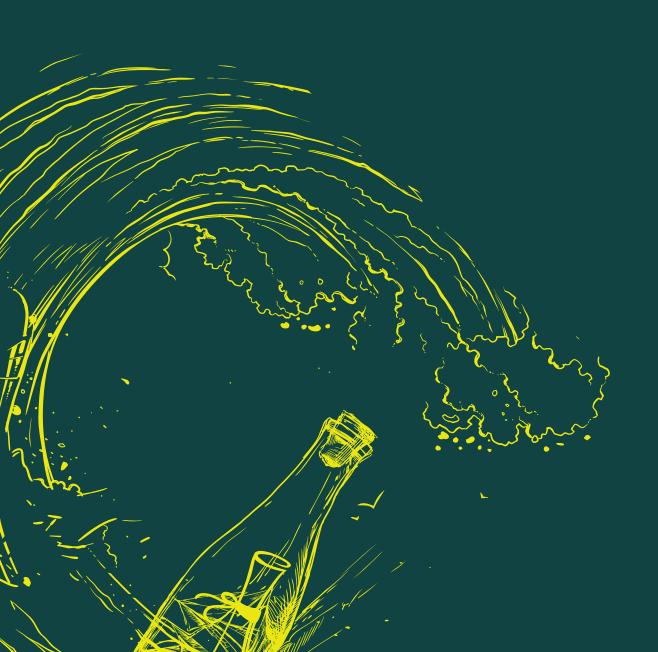






OCEAN COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Advocating for better stewardship of our ocean.



~33 OUR AIM

Raising awareness widely on the challenges facing the ocean, involving as many stakeholders as possible in finding solutions for improved management of the marine space, sparking young people's interest in being better custodians of the ocean and considering marine careers are all part of EurOcean's communication and outreach goals.

We aim to achieve this by:

- **&** Keeping you informed of current developments in marine science and technology in Europe via our monthly e-Newsletter, web page and social media presence;
- Bringing diverse stakeholders together in workshops and events to provide a range of perspectives on the challenges facing the ocean and possible solutions;
- **Supporting the implementation of the Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) approach;**
- ⁴ Delivering quality dissemination and communication materials by partnering in collaborative projects;
- Use the Professor Mário Ruivo legacy to engage young people in ocean issues and make current policy makers reflect on how to protect our ocean;
- د Advocating for better stewardship of our ocean by contributing to regional and global efforts.



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Achievements in 2018

Keeping you Informed on Ocean Issues

EurOcean's presence online and in social media keeps growing. Through our <u>website</u>, <u>monthly newsletter</u>, facebook, twitter, <u>linkedin</u> we make it easier for our partners and clients to understand what we do and how our range of products and services can support them in their marine research and innovation activities. You too can stay in touch by <u>subscribing</u> to our newsletter.



Deep Sea Mining... an Opportunity to do Things Right

The vast repository of minerals on the deep sea floor offer a plethora of resources that lure governments fast running out of reserves on land. With deep sea mining on the horizon, in 2018 EurOcean organized two workshops, within the H2020 funded MARINA project led by EurOcean Member CNR, to ask stakeholders what is the correct thing to do: invest in research and innovation to reduce the impacts and risks of deep sea mining or invest in changing lifestyle habits that reduce the need for ever more resources? Is the solution in the bottom of the sea or in our houses? Find out the results by joining the MARINA Knowledge Sharing Platform.

Supporting Responsible Research and Innovation

Responsible Research and Innovation encompasses public engagement, gender equality, science education, open science, ethics and new governance models. Its objective is to involve wider society in the conception, enactment and usage of scientific research. In support of RRI, EurOcean has provided the MARINA project special access to its <u>Marine Knowledge Gate</u> <u>Infobase</u> so we can all learn from past RRI related Framework Programme funded projects best practices. Join the <u>MARINA</u> <u>knowledge sharing platform</u> to find out about these best

find out about these best practices.

SEIC Debau

Running the Extra Mile Together with Marine Science Communicator

EurOcean was once again present at the most important event dedicated to the communication of marine science in Europe: CommOCEAN 2018. In Southampton, UK, we learned about the latest trends, methods and strategies being employed by researchers, communicators, journalists and educators to promote the outcomes of marine research and their circulation throughout the whole of society. EurOcean actively contributed to the conference scientific review panel and in addition co-organised - together with UCC MaREI (Ireland), IOPAN (Poland) and CIIMAR (Portugal) - a World Café workshop on "Using the Plastic Debate as a Catalyst for Ocean Literacy". By facing the participants with questions like "Is your mission simply about creating hype or is your job done only when you promote real change?" we managed to identify and rank a set of communication actions needed to reach specific goals. The final outcome - a beautiful illustration produced live in the venue - could acts as a roadmap to open up the debate on marine plastics into something much larger like circular economy and ocean literacy.

Inspiring Europe to Reflect on the State of Our Ocean

EurOcean organised a major <u>conference and ocean</u> <u>science exhibition</u> in June 2018 in Brussels to highlight the legacy to ocean science and governance of EurOcean co-founder and first President, Professor Mário Ruivo. The event was also part of the World Oceans Day celebrations and received the High Patronage of the President of the Republic of Portugal. The event was complemented with the <u>2018 I live by the Sea</u> photographic and Video exhibition and the exhibition of the <u>EurOcean Children's Art Contest</u>, which received nearly 100 fantastic drawings, paintings and collages from kids all over the world. The 2019 I Live by the Sea exhibition will be premiered in May in Lisbon during the <u>2019 European Maritime</u> <u>Day</u> celebrations and will end during the <u>2019 World Oceans Day</u>.



~36 Outlook

The 2019 European Maritime Day celebrations will take place at our home, the beautiful city of Lisbon. We could not let it pass by and so we plan to have a strong presence in what we all expect to be very successful event. EurOcean plans to have its own stand at the exhibition room in which our Members will also be present. Together with our Member IOPAN, we will premiere the best works of 2019 I LIVE BY THE SEA youth photo and video competition in an outdoor exhibition along Lisbon's superb riverfront. Also, EurOcean will support a number of its Members in the organization of various workshops to take place at the main EMD'2019 venue.

We will continue to promote Responsible Research and Innovation by participating in the MARINA Final Conference on Science, Innovation and Blue Society – Our Engagement With The Ocean (Boulogne Sur Mer, 12-13 March 2019) organised by our Member Nausicaa, and in the MARINA-ResponSEAble Policy Workshop on Supporting Effective Ocean Governance (Brussels, 18-20 March 2019).

EurOcean envisions a society in which people benefit from the Ocean's vast potential while preserving its environmental integrity. We constantly seek partnerships to raise awareness on the importance of the ocean in our lives. Please <u>contact us</u> if you want to join us on this journey.



~38 MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENTS

"EurOcean clearly has a role to play in providing tools for transforming information and scientific results into useful knowledge for the communities of users." Serge Scory, Head of the Belgian Marine Data Centre, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Operational Directorate Natural Environment (RBINS – OD Nature).



NEW MEMBER:



CESAM universidade de aveiro centro de estudos do ambiente e do mar

<u>CESAM</u> – Portugal

In 2018 CESAM members were present as national experts in important international events, namely at the UN Intergovernmental Conference on Oceans and the European Commission event "Our Atlantic Ocean for Growth and Well-Being". The University of Aveiro became a National Hub for the Assistance Mechanism for the Atlantic Action Plan through the contribution of CESAM members. This strategy encourages Member States to work together in order to share information, costs, results and best practices, as well as generate ideas for further areas of cooperation on maritime activities. Also, CESAM actively contributed to the international policy brief on deep-sea.



VLIZ - Belgium

In 2018 the Flemish government granted VLIZ 3 million euro for the establishment of a Marine Robotics Centre, which will be fully operational from 2019 onwards. The objective of this Marine Robotics Centre is to grant Flemish researchers, innovation actors and their (inter) national partners access to the latest technologies in the marine observation field. To accomplish this goal. VLIZ acquired an AUV (autonomous underwater vehicle, Teledyne Marine Gavia) and an USV (unmanned surface vehicle, Seiche AutoNaut) which are complementary to the already available ROV Genesis (remotely operated vehicle). The robotic platforms will mainly be operating in the Southern Bight of the North Sea and Northeast Atlantic. A technical workspace, including a test basin with seawater supply, will be set up at the Marine Station Ostend in order to test and optimize all devices. More information is available at www.vliz.be/en/marinerobotics-centre.



IFREMER - France

In 2018, Ifremer launched its Institutional Project1- a holistic reflection on the research & innovation strategy for the next decade. A co-designed/co-produced document, it outlined the institute's four ocean ambitions: to engage its science for society, to understand and forecast our ocean with a vision towards 2100, to innovate via promoting knowledge & technology transfer, and to catalyse ocean research through maximising the benefits of research infrastructures and consolidating European & international partnerships. Since January 2018, Ifremer operates all of the French oceanographic fleet2, as well as its budget and programming, for the benefit of the whole scientific community. The French oceanographic fleet includes 6 research vessels (R/Vs Marion Dufresne, Pourquoi Pas?, L'Atalante, Thalassa, Antea and Alis), 5 coastal ships, underwater vehicles and coastal & station vessels. Information can also be found via the EurOcean Research Infrastructure Database.



<u>Nausicaá</u> - France

In 2018 Nausicaá opened the first large exhibit in the world dedicated to the High Seas. Inspired by the island of Malpelo, Nausicaá highlights the world of the High Seas, the richness of its biodiversity and underlines its role in the future of Humankind. With this new exhibit, Nausicaá has implemented three new interactive facilities to discuss science and society with the public: the Blue Society forum, the Humankind & Shores forum and the forum of the High Seas. These meeting places allow new ways of interaction with the public: information exchanges, encounters with experts and dialogues with visitors to deepen their knowledge about the sea and its richness. The public is also encouraged to take actions as the exhibit raises awareness of eco-citizen initiatives. This strengthening of knowledge sharing will continue in 2019 with the creation of a Learning Center and a Living Lab in partnership with research organisations. In 2018, Nausicaá took part in several European projects: Sea Change, Summaris and Marina, the latter with EurOcean.



FCT - Portugal

In 2018 FCT took an important step towards better scientific diplomacy around the Atlantic. Besides supporting the Atlantic International Research Centre (AIR Centre), FCT and its Ocean Programme is coordinating the H2020 "All AtlaNtic Coordination for Ocean Research and innovation" (AANChOR) CSA. AANCHOR aims to promote the implementation of the Belém Statement, through the launch of a multi-stakeholder platform to identify collaborative activities on marine research and innovation, building on national and international ongoing initiatives and addressing activities aimed at reinforcing capacity building, promoting academia-industry knowledge transfer for an enhanced ocean innovation, developing common standards, enhancing citizen awareness and ocean literacy and converging and aligning R&I infrastructure initiatives.

MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENTS



IMR - Norway

IMR had three main highlights in 2018: on 14 March 2018 Norway and Russia celebrated 60 years of joint management of the fish stocks in the Barents Sea in Tromsø. In November 2018 IMR hosted the Norwegian Government sponsored Ocean conference in Bergen where 160 international experts from 49 countries discussed ways and means to ensure a clean and rich ocean in the future, including specific inputs to the international high level panel for sustainable ocean economy co-chaired by Palau's President Thomas Esang Remengesau Jr. and Norway's Prime minister Erna Solberg. Another major event for IMR in November 2018 was the naming of the new Norwegian polar research vessel "Kronprins Haakon".



IOPAN - Poland

In 2018 IO PAN opened a new avenue in its dissemination activities. IO PAN was involved in a series of activities at an international level, such as the <u>Mario Ruivo</u> <u>Commemoration event</u>, held on 6 June 2018 in Brussels, the "I live by the Sea" exhibition, and the co-organization of the CommOcean 2018 conference. This cooperation continues, and the next CommOcean 2020 will be hosted by IO PAN in Sopot. IO PAN also strengthened its educational and disseminating credentials, through increasing its international visibility. One example is the International Sopot Youth Conference called "Where the World is Heading", which brought together over 70 young scientists from around the world.



CNR - Italy

CNR has a key role in coordinating the activities of the H2020 project supporting the <u>BLUEMED</u> <u>Initiative</u>, whose 2018 achievements include the publication of the updated version of the <u>Strategic</u> <u>R&I Agenda</u> co-shared by all Mediterranean countries and the launch of the Pilot Action on a Healthy Plastic free Med Sea. The publication of the <u>Italian White Paper on Blue Growth</u> marked a significant step to consolidate the national stakeholders' community.



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Marine Institute
Foras na Mara
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MI - Ireland

The RV Celtic Explorer had 17 scheduled surveys in 2018. One of the highlights was the 'Tectonic Ocean Spreading at the Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone North Atlantic' (TOSCA), survey, led by University College Dublin, which was also the first ROV Holland 1 survey of 2018. The survey took place within the Charlie Gibbs Fracture Zone (CGFZ), which is the longest fracture zone north of the Azores. Once again it was a busy year for the R.V. Celtic Voyager with the completion of 33 surveys. The high definition camera mounted on the ROV Holland captured a number of 'firsts' in Irish waters, including a species of octocoral of the genus Corallium, areas of potential 'sponge reef' on the Rockall Bank, a highly unusual accumulation of living and dead sponges forming a complex habitat for many other creatures. Such formations are very rare and have previously only been recorded in Canadian waters. The survey also discovered and filmed a rare shark nursery on a scale not previously documented in Irish waters.



FRCT - Portugal

In 2018 FRCT took part in four new European Consortium projects in the blue area: MarSP-Macaronesian Maritime Spatial Planning (coordinated by FRCT), BlueBioEconomy ERA-NET, Aqualit and FanBest. Also, the Azores Government, in the framework of the SMARTBLUE project, signed the Macaronesia Marine-Maritime Alliance as one of the founding members. This network aims to promote the socio-economic activity, sustainable development and growth based on scientific-technical knowledge in the marine-maritime field through active regional, national and international co-operation.



<u>GeoEcoMar</u> - Romania

In November 2018, GeoEcoMar celebrated its 25th anniversary organizing the international conference "Rivers – Deltas – Seas Systems", in Bucharest (within the project FLUVIMAR, funded by the Romanian Ministry of Research and Innovation). An important part of the GeoEcoMar research activity carried out last year was focused on preparing for the implementation of the future pan-European research project DANUBIUS-RI - interdisciplinary studies in the river - deltas/estuaries – seas systems. Besides the leadership of the H2020 project "DANUBIUS -Preparatory Phase", GEOECOMAR had a major role in developing the Romanian three-component infrastructure of the DANUBIUS RI: the Murighiol International Scientific Center (DANUBIUS-RI Hub), the DANUBIUS-RI Data Center and the study area (supersite) of the Danube Delta.



IEO - Spain

In 2018, IEO was selected by the United Nations to participate in the Group of Experts in charge of writing the World Ocean Assessment 2. The World Ocean Assessment is the global mechanism for reviewing the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, on a continual and systematic basis. It facilitates the identification of trends and enables appropriate responses by States and competent regional and international organizations. Carlos García-Soto from IEO leads and co-leads the chapters on Ocean Climate Change, Underwater noise and Renewable Energy."



SUBMARINER Network - Baltic Region

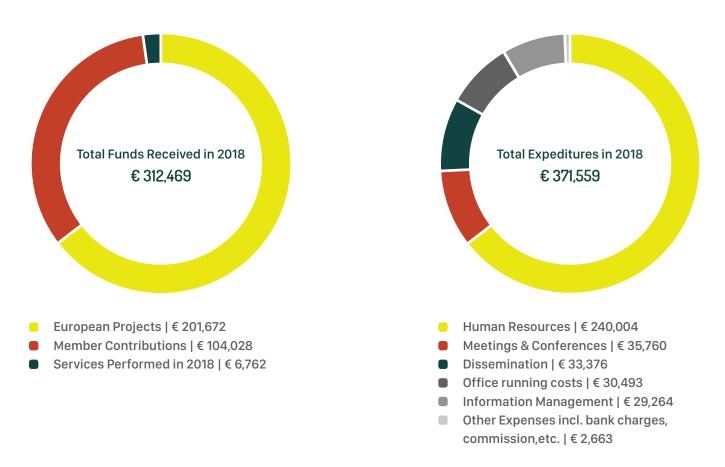
The SUBMARINER Network is one of the leading partners of the Interreg project Blue Platform 'Advancing Blue Bioeonomy Capacities in the Baltic Sea Region'. Blue Platform will increase awareness of existing Blue Bioeconomy knowledge in the Baltic, while it focuses on streamlining activities for both now and in the future. SUBMARINER Network / Blue Platform is leading the Baltic Blue Bioeconomy Community through a dynamic website and webbased products, as well as by bringing people together face-to-face.



The EurOcean annual budget is based on:

- Member organisation contributions;
- European projects contracts;
- Contracts of services;
- Other contributions; e.g. deposit interests, reimbursements.

The following financial table show the 2018 EurOcean finances in accordance with professional accounting principles, which at the time of this report were independently audited.





Expenditure 2018 | € 371,559

■ Funds Received 2018 | € 312,469

Total Equity at the end of 2018 € 137,986

- Carry over from previous years (excluding capital amount) | € 130,566
 Original capital amount | € 66,510
- 2018 Balance | € -59,090



ANNEXES

EurOcean Project Participation in 2018

AANCHOR - All AtlaNtic Cooperation for Ocean Research and innovation

Type: EC H2020 Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine, maritime and inland water research, and the bioeconomy

EU financial contribution: € 4.1 million

Duration: 48 months (1 October 2018 - 30 September 2022) **Consortium:** 17 partners from 9 countries from 3 continents **Coordinator:** FCT, Portugal

Website: www.allatlanticocean.org

Aim: To support the implementation of the Belém Statement by building the All Atlantic Ocean Research Community and to identify concrete collaborative research and innovation activities across a range of key areas

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BUILDING AN ALL ATLANTIC OCEAN COMMUNITY Implementing the Belém Statement

MARINET 2 – Marine Renewable Infrastructure Network for Enhancing Technologies 2

Type: EC H2020 Integrating Research Infrastructure Activities for Advanced Communities EC financial contribution: € 10.5 million Duration: 54 months (1 January 2017 - 30 June 2021) Coordinator: UCC, Ireland Consortium: 39 partners from 13 countries Website: www.marinet2.eu

Aim: To ensure the continued integration of the leading European research infrastructures specialising in research, development and testing of offshore wind and ocean energy systems including electrical sub systems and grid integration



INTAROS – Integrated Arctic Observation System

Type: EC H2020 Research and Innovation Action EC financial contribution: € 15.5 million Duration: 48 months (1 December 2016 - 30 November 2021) Coordinator: NERSC, Norway Consortium: 49 partners from 20 countries Website: www.intaros.eu Aim: To develop an efficient integrated Arctic Observation Syste

Aim: To develop an efficient integrated Arctic Observation System by extending, improving and unifying existing and evolving systems in the different regions of the Arctic



MARINA - Marine Knowledge Sharing Platform for Federating Responsible Research and Innovation Communities

Type: EC H2020 Blue Growth – Integrating Society in Science and Innovation: Knowledge Sharing Platform EU financial contribution: € 3 million Duration: 36 months (1 May 2016 – 30 April 2019) Consortium: 14 partners from 11 countries Coordinator: CNR, Italy Wabsite: www.marinaproject.eu

Website: www.marinaproject.eu

Aim: To create an all-inclusive Knowledge Sharing Platform (KSP) catalysing and organising the convergence of already existing networks, communities, on-line platforms and services providing an online socio-technical environment that facilitates and stimulates the direct engagement of researchers, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), citizens, industry stakeholders, policy and decision makers, research funders and communicators for improving Responsible Research and Innovation



COLUMBUS – Monitoring, Managing and Transferring Marine and Maritime Knowledge for Sustainable Blue Growth

 $\ensuremath{\text{Type:}}\xspace$ EC H2020 Blue Growth – Unlocking the Potential of Seas and Oceans

EC financial contribution: € 4 million Duration: 36 months (1 March 2015 - 28 February 2018) Coordinator: BIM, Ireland Consortium: 27 partners from 12 countries Operational Leader: AquaTT, Ireland Website: www.columbusproject.eu

Aim: To capitalise on the EC's significant research by ensuring accessibility and uptake of research Knowledge Outputs by end-users (policy, industry, science and wider society), thus ensuring measurable value creation from research investments contributing to sustainable Blue Growth within the timeframe of the project



Key Weblinks Used in This Publication

Cover Pages

Blue Society - www.bluesociety.org EurOcean – www.eurocean.org United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 – www.sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg14

About EurOcean

CESAM - Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies of the Universidade de Aveiro - www.cesam.ua.pt

CNR (Italy) – Consiglio Nazionale delle Richerche - www.cnr.it CPMR (Belgium) – Conférence des Régions Périphériques Maritimes

 Greining – www.cpmr.org
 FCT (Portugal) - Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia – www.fct.pt
 FdM (Malta) – Fondation de Malte – www.fondationdemalte.org
 FRCT (Portugal) – Fundo Regional para a Ciência e Tecnologia – http://www.fct.pt http://frct.azores.gov.pt

GeoEcoMar (Romania) - Institutul National de Cercetare - Dezvoltare pentru Geologie si Geoecologie Marina -

www.geoecomar.ro/website/index.html

IEO (Spain) – Instituto Español de Oceanografía – <u>www.ieo.es/en</u> IFREMER (France) – Institut Français de Recherche pour L'exploitation de la Mer-www.ifremer.fr

IMR (Norway) – Havforskningsinstituttet – www.imr.no IOC-UNESCO (France) – International Oceanographic Commission of

UNESCO – www.ioc-unesco.org IO (Malta) – International Ocean Institute – www.ioinst.org IOPAN (Poland) – Instytut Oceanologii Polskiej – www.iopan.gda.pl MI (Ireland) – Irish Marine institute – www.marine.ie/Home/home Nausicaá (France) – Nausicaá Centre National de la Mer – www.nausicaa.fr

SUBMARINER (Baltic Region) - SUBMARINER Network www.submariner-network.eu/network

VLIZ (Belgium) – Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee – <u>www.vliz.be</u> EurOcean Email – <u>info@eurocean.org</u>

EurOcean Institutional Video - www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y93PgZPN1o EurOcean Website - www.eurocean.org

Marine Research Infrastructures

EMODnet - European Marine Observation and Data Network www.emodnet.eu

EOOS - European Ocean Observing System - www.eoos-ocean.eu ERVO - European Research Vessel Operators www.ervo-group.eu/np4/home

ESFRI - European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures www.esfri.eu

EurOcean Marine Research Infrastructures catalogues www.eurocean.org/np4/8.html

EurOcean Science Officer Sandra Sá email –

infrastrucutres@eurocean.org EurOcean_RID - Research Infrastructures Database -

www.rid.eurocean.org

EUROFLEETSPlus – <u>www.eurofleets.eu</u> European Marine Board Research Vessel Working Group – www.marineboard.eu/european-research-vessels

INTAROS – www.intaros.eu INTAROS Event at the A New Era of Blue Enlightenment –

www.intaros.eu/news/recent-news/intaros-ushering-in-a-new-era-of-blueenlightenment

INTAROS Newsletter – <u>www.intaros.eu/news/recent-news</u> Marine Research and Knowledge in support of Policy Making and Marinetz Project – www.marinet2.eu MARINET2 Project – www.marinet2.eu MARINET2 Project Timetable of Calls –

www.marinet2.eu/facilities/timetable-calls **OFEG –** Ocean Facilities Exchange Group – <u>www.ofeg.org/np4/home.html</u>

Marine Knowledge Management

AANCHOR – www.allatlanticocean.org AANCHOR Facebook – www.facebook.com/AllAtlanticOcean AANCHOR Instagram – www.instagram.com/allatlanticocean AANCHOR Twitter - www.twitter.com/AllAtlanticO Accelerating Blue Growth through Marine and Maritime Knowledge Transfer – www.eurocean.org/np4/599.html AQUA-LIT – www.aqua-lit.eu Atlantic International Research (AIR) Centre – www.atlanticinteractions.org Belém Statement www.ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/belem_statement_2017_en.pdf COLUMBUS – www.columbusproject.eu EurOcean Office Coordinator Cristina Costa – cristina.costa@eurocean.org High Seas International Conference. www.whc.unesco.org/en/events/1451 Marine Knowledge 2020 Strategy www.ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/marine_knowledge_2020_en Marine Knowledge Gate 2.0 Database – www.kg2.eurocean.org Marine Knowledge Gate 3.0 Database BETA Version – www.kg.eurocean.org Marine Knowledge Transfer & Innovation: Learning from Regional & European Initiatives Seminar Report - www.eurocean.org/ np4/%7B\$clientServletPath%7D/?newsId=48&fileName=EMD_KT workshop_summary.pdf Supporting Marine Research Knowledge Exchange for Blue Growth Seminar Report - www.eurocean.org/ np4/%7B\$clientServletPath%7D/?newsld=263&fileName=EPKnowledgeEve nte131016.pdf

Ocean Communications and Public Outreach

EurOcean Website - www.eurocean.org/np4/home EurOcean Newsletter - www.eurocean.org/np4/newsletter.html EurOcean Facebook - www.facebook.com/EurOcean Eurocean Twitter – www.twitter.com/eurocean found Eurocean LinkedIn – www.linkedin.com/company/10878942/admin Eurocean Marine Knowledge Gate – www.eurocean.org/np4/50.html Prof. Mário Ruivo Legacy Event – www.eurocean.org/np4/592.html EurOcean Children's Art Contest www.flickr.com/photos/162850057@N08/sets/72157696976886081 European Maritime Day – www.ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/en/events-in-europe I Live By The Sea Contest - www.todaywehave.com/CONTEST.html MARINA Final Conference – www.rri-sis.wixsite.com/marina-2019 MARINA Project - www.marinaproject.eu Ocean Dialogues 2019 – www.oceandialogues.eu Prof. Mário Ruivo Prize – www.eurocean.org/np4/m_ruivo

World Oceans Day – www.worldoceansday.org/events-current-year/AChangingOcean

Members Highlights

AIR Centre – Atlantic International Research Centre website – www.atlanticinteractions.org Assistance Mechanism for the Atlantic Action Plan – www.atlanticstrategy.eu BLUEMED Initiative – www.bluemed-initiative.eu DANUBIUS-RI – www.danubius-ri.eu **IFREMER Institutional Project & French oceanographic fleet** wwz.ifremer.fr/L-institut/Annexes/Projet-institut-H2030 Mario Ruivo Commemoration event – www.eurocean.org/np4/592.html Policy brief on deep-sea – www.dosi-project.org/wp-content/ uploads/2018/05/DOSI-Deep-Sea-Fundementals-Brief-2018-2.pdf Contend in the policy development of the policy development biolog/bi VLIZ Marine Robotics Centre – www.vliz.be/en/marine-robotics-centre

Participation in Meetings and Events in 2018

COLUMBUS - Final Event and Conference, Brussels, Belgium, January Eurofleets Plus Partners Meeting, Dublin, Ireland, January INTAROS General Assembly, Helsinki, Finland, January **COLUMBUS - European Parliament Event, Brussels,** Belgium, February EOOS Forum, Brussels, Belgium, March MARINA Local RRI Workshop - Deep Sea Mining, Azores, Portugal, March Arctic Cluster Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, April CIIMAR workshop on Deep Sea Mining, Porto, Portugal, April EMB General Assembly, Lisbon, Portugal, April Marine Plastic Debate, Lisbon, Portugal, April MARINET-2 General Assembly, Lisbon, Portugal, April Workshop - "Relatório Financeiro e Auditoria no Horizonte 2020", Lisbon, Portugal, April AIR Centre Meeting, Cape Verde, May EMD 2018, Burgas, Bulgaria, May INTAROS 4th Steering Committee Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, May International workshop on deep sea mining, Lisbon, Portugal, May WON International MML workshop, Brussels, Belgium, May ERVO Annual Conference, Malta, June EurOcean ExCom Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, June International Conference on the High Seas, Nausicaá,

Boulogne Sur Mer, June

Meeting with Fondation de Malte, Malta, June Meril Workshop, Athens, Greece, June Professor Mário Ruivo Event, Brussels, Belgium, June Encontro Ciência, Lisbon, Portugal, July JERICO-NEXT Summer School 2018, Malta, July Lisbon Talk: Sustainability and Geopolicy of the Oceans, Lisbon, Portugal, September MARINA conference and General Assembly, Tartu, Estonia, September

Ocean Business Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal, September Portuguese shipping week, Lisbon, Portugal, September Workshop Mergulhar em Literacia do Oceano, Lisbon, Portugal, September

AANCHOR - Kick off Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, October Conference BLUEandGREEN Legacy - Adding value to Marine Bioresources, Porto, Portugal, October Coresyf final meeting, Cork, Ireland, October EurOcean Steering Committee meeting, Azores, Portugal, October

IRSO Meeting, Barcelona, Spain, October **Ocean Opportunities meeting,** Brussels, Belgium, October

AIR Centre Meeting, Canaries, Spain, November EOOS Conference, Brussels, Belgium, November CommOCEAN 2018 - 3rd International Marine Science Communication Conference, Southampton, United Kingdom, December

EMB Communication Panel Meeting, Southampton, United Kingdom, December

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