



eur@cean

The European Centre
for Information on Marine
Science and Technology

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION TO EUROCEAN

The European broker for Ocean Science and Technology

EurOcean is an independent, non-profit, scientific organization with the mission to support advances in European marine science and technology, by fostering information exchange, interaction and innovation among its network members, the ocean community and broader society.

Founded in 2002, through the collaboration of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), and the French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER), EurOcean has a Europe-wide network of 19 organisations, accounting for 13 full members and eight cooperating members. Full members are European marine research, innovation and entrepreneurship, funding and outreach organisations. Cooperating members are organisations with a regional or global reach involved in activities complementary to those of EurOcean.

CARLOS GARCIA-SOTO

President



As the challenges posed by climate change intensify with time, the urgency to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius becomes ever more apparent. Achieving this goal will require a significant 45 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. Sadly, if we continue with the current policies, we are on track for a troubling 2.8 degrees Celsius temperature increase by the end of the century. Clearly, what we are doing is insufficient, and it is imperative for affluent nations to support emerging economies in their efforts to cut emissions.

To address this critical issue, it is crucial to foster the development and dissemination of knowledge, as well as the creation of new sustainable technologies and business models. Among the sectors of particular significance in this context are marine renewable energy and blue biotechnology. However, it's essential to acknowledge that the EU's Blue Economy has faced significant setbacks due to the impact of COVID-19 and is still in the process of recovery.

EurOcean stands as a steadily growing organization, attracting new members and partners from key sectors of our time. By working

together, encompassing research, industry, and media, we can collectively contribute knowledge, technology, and businesses that can instigate positive change and address the greatest challenge of our era.

Inspiring younger generations, providing accessible information, disseminating knowledge, fostering collaboration, and promoting cooperation, EurOcean continues to pursue its mission, making a tangible contribution to building a better world. For those committed to making a difference, EurOcean is undeniably the network of choice. We extend a warm welcome to our new members and partners and offer heartfelt congratulations to the entire team for their exceptional efforts.

SÉRGIO BRYTON

Executive Director



In 2022, we proudly commemorated EurOcean's 20th anniversary. Two decades of dedicated efforts in informing and raising awareness of ocean science-related topics, nurturing the science we need for the ocean we want. A remarkable milestone indeed! The highlight of the year was undoubtedly our active participation in the UN Ocean Decade Conference held in Lisbon, in June. Our expertise shone through as we showcased and reinforced our network. It was a gift beyond measure.

Moreover, last year brought two additional remarkable achievements for EurOcean – The Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture launch and EurOcean's endorsement as an Ocean Decade Implementing Partner.

Throughout the year, we worked tirelessly to enhance the value we bring to our members. We forged nine new partnership agreements with esteemed media and entrepreneurship organizations, enabling EurOcean members to present their expertise, activities, and achievements to an even broader and more diverse audience. We anticipate these alliances will lead to more and improved

collaborations, particularly between research and industry, contributing to the rapid recovery of the EU's Blue Economy from the impact of COVID-19. We are delighted to welcome two prestigious institutions, the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI), and the European Aquaculture Society (EAS), as our new Full and Cooperating members, respectively. Both organizations are dedicated to promoting marine and maritime research and sustainable blue growth, and we are eager to work together for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The year's financial results were nothing short of exceptional, enabling us to fortify our sustainability and make key investments. In fact, we achieved our strategic objectives two years ahead of schedule. This accomplishment is a testament to the exceptional efforts of our incredible team, whose unwavering commitment has fostered a pragmatic, efficient, united, and credible organization.

EurOcean continues to evolve from within, and this progress is evident in our outward impact. All in all, it has been an extraordinarily successful year.

AT A GLANCE



The Centre

Membership

Full Members

Cooperating Members

THE CENTRE



MAIN AREAS OF EXPERTISE


Information Management

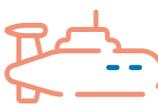

Science Communication


Knowledge Transfer


Project Management


Costal Zone Management


Research Expeditions


Naval Military Sciences


Geology


Environmental Sciences


Marine and Naval Radioelectronics


Proposal Writing


Ocean Governance


Funding Mechanisms


Strategy and Decision Support


Marine Biology


Ocean Literacy


Nautical Engineering


Information Technologies


Research Funds


Organisational Management

3

Nationalities



6

Experts



5

Projects (*)



(*) Marine science and technology research projects in 2022, as a partner

MEMBERSHIP

 FULL MEMBERS  COOPERATING MEMBERS

France

 Nausicaá Centre National de la Mer

 Ifremer French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea

 CAMPUS MONDIAL DE LA MER Campus Mondial de la Mer

 unesco Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

Portugal

 FRCT Azores Regional Fund of Science and Technology

 CESAM Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies

 FCT Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia Foundation for Science and Technology

Belgium

 VLIZ Flanders Marine Institute

 CPMR Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

 eas European Aquaculture Society

Ireland

 Foras na Mara Marine Institute

Norway

 Institute of Marine Research / Havforskningsinstituttet

Germany

 PlaMoWa Network for Plastics Monitoring in Waters

Poland

 Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Cyprus

 CYPRUS MARINE & MARITIME INSTITUTE Cyprus Marine & Maritime Institute

Spain

 Spanish Institute of Oceanography

Malta

 International Ocean Institute

 Fondation de Malte

Italy

 Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche National Research Council

Romania

 GeoEcoMar National Institute of Marine Geology and Geo-ecology

FULL MEMBERS



10

Countries



+150

Infrastructures ⁽¹⁾



+3,150

Researchers ⁽²⁾



+400

Projects ⁽³⁾

(1) Marine science and technology research infrastructures owned or supported.

(2) Researchers employed or supported involved in marine science and technology initiatives.

(3) Marine science and technology research projects in the last 5 years (2015 - 2020) as partner or funder.

MAIN AREAS OF EXPERTISE



Blue Biotechnology



Noise and Plastics Pollution



Sensors and Sensing



Big Data



Alternative Resources



Ocean Monitoring



Research Vessels and Observatories



Multi-uses of the Sea



Artificial Intelligence



Circular Economy



Autonomous Vehicles



Youth Engagement



Acoustic Telemetry and Animal Tracking



Underwater Munition



Human and Ocean Health



Tsunami Prediction



Vessel Energy Efficiency



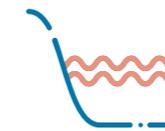
Ecological Risk Assessment



Ecosystem Services



Biodiversity and Environmental Stressors



History and Cultural Heritage in Coastal and Maritime Regions



Marine Spatial Planning



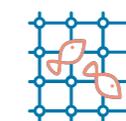
Cumulative Effects and Impact Assessment



Blue Economy



Fisheries Sustainability and Seafood Value Chain



Aquaculture



Citizen Science



Marine Renewable Energy



Climate Change

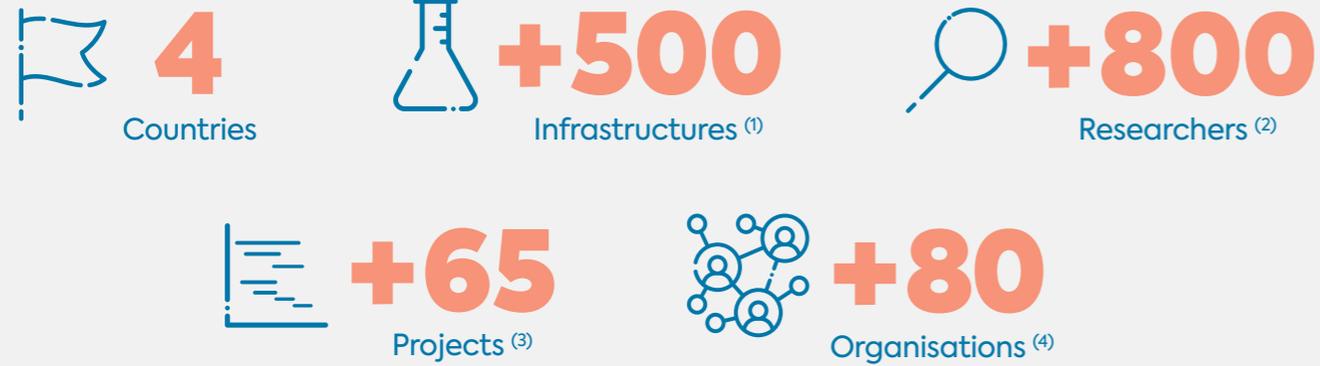


Polar Research



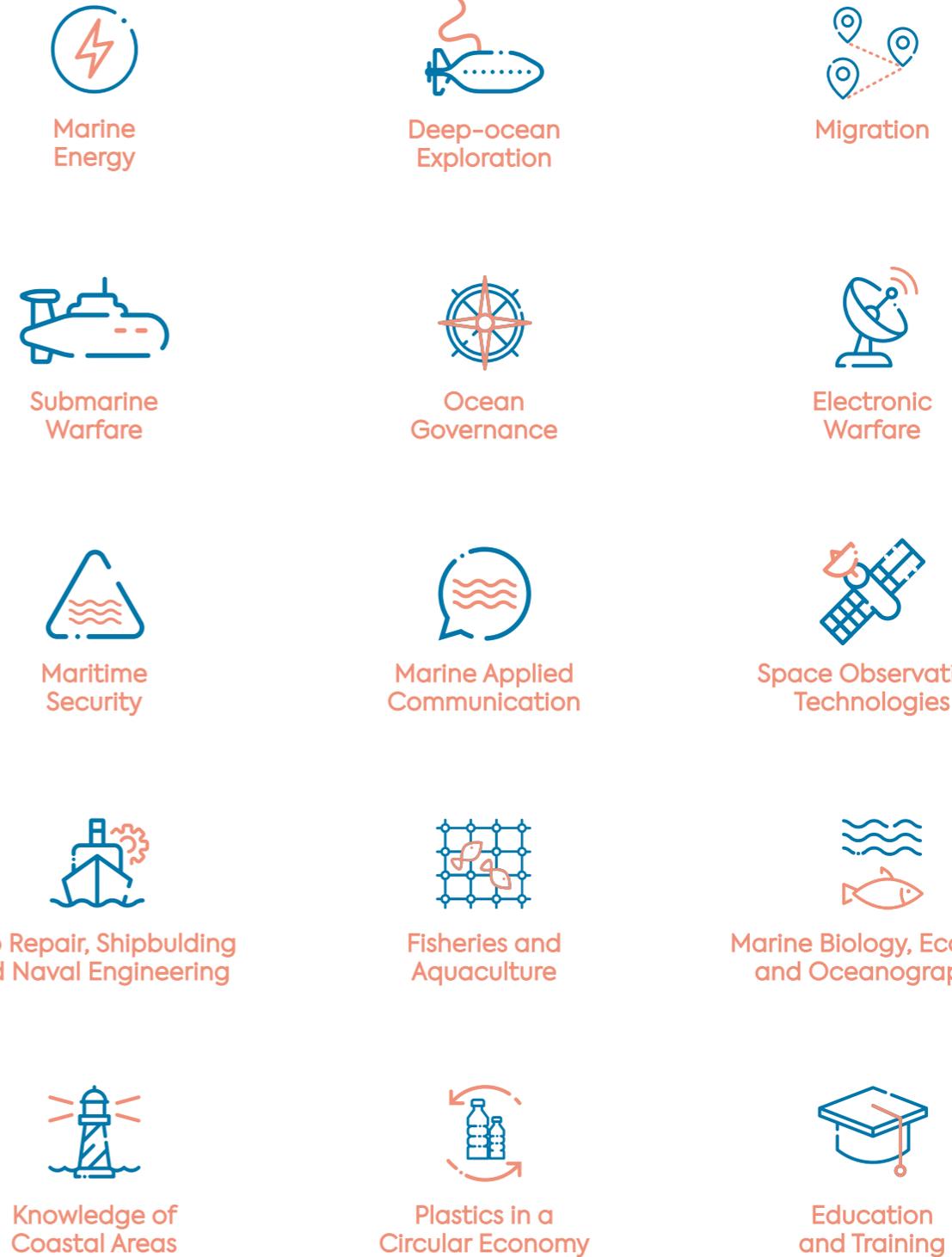
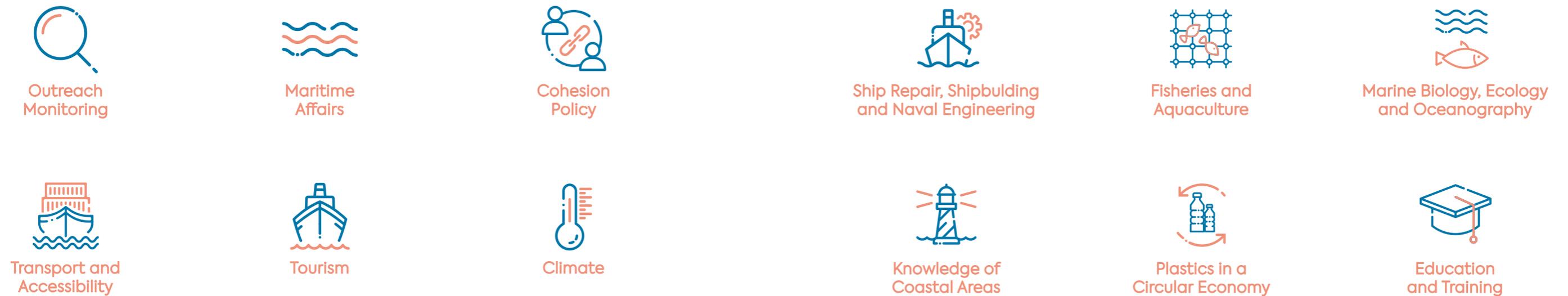
Geo-archaeology

COOPERATING MEMBERS



(1) Marine science and technology research infrastructures owned or supported.
 (2) Researchers employed or supported involved in marine science and technology initiatives.
 (3) Marine science and technology research projects in the last 5 years (2015 - 2020) as partner or funder.
 (4) Associated organisations (i.e. network members).

MAIN AREAS OF EXPERTISE



ACHIEVEMENTS

Membership and Collaboration

Information Management

Communication and Networking

Projects

Services

Finances

MEMBERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Activities and opportunities for members

Provision of bespoke information

Up to 7 research and development opportunities

Development of EurOcean-lead U-AQUA proposal after direct invitation from contacts through the NAUTILOS project, including CESAM and GEOECOMAR

Development of EurOcean-lead BlueVision project in Horizon Europe, including FRCT, Nausicaá, Today We Have (related with IO PAN), and Mare Nostrum (Romania)

Dissemination and promotion of Members

Promotion of Member's activities through website, social media and newsletter

Organisation and promotion of the "I LIVE BY THE SEA" contest in direct collaboration with IO PAN

Partnerships and Collaborations

10 new partnership agreements were made with:

- NGO | Common Home for Humanity
- MEDIA | The Fish Site; Fish Farmer Magazine; ECO Magazine; Sea Technology Magazine; Marine & Oceans Magazine
- ACCELERATORS | Flow Accelerator; Katapult; Hatch Blue; IVEAMPA

Partnership with IOC-UNESCO to launch the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture during the COP 27 and to be presented at the IOC-UNESCO Assembly in 2023

Organisation of the "I LIVE BY THE SEA" exhibition in Lisbon during the UN Ocean Conference, in direct collaboration with IO PAN and Today We Have

Promoter of two articles in the Marine & Oceans Magazine, under the media partnership, for CESAM and OKEANOS - University of Azores

Collaboration with Ocean InfoHub, with IOC-UNESCO

Development of EurOcean-lead WP on dissemination and communication in Horizon Europe project proposal rescEUclimate after direct invitation from contacts through Common Home of Humanity initiative

Development of EurOcean-lead activities in project proposal W4BLEU, after direct invitation by our partner IVEAMPA

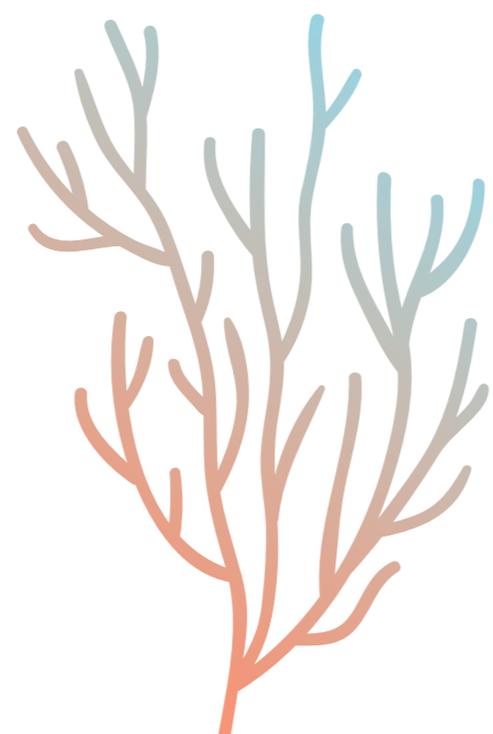
Development of EurOcean-lead WP on dissemination and communication in Horizon Europe project proposal High Arctic Observing Systems (HiAOOS), after direct invitation from contacts through INTAROS project.

Development of EurOcean-lead WP in project proposal BlueEcoMed, after direct invitation from contacts through MARINA project.

Development of EurOcean services contract to EU4OCEAN tender, after direct invitation from contacts through the OL4ALL Tender.

Submission of two workshops for the Ocean Literacy Week side event together with IOPAN and Today we Have

Partner in the Youth4Ocean workshop - "The Ocean as a global common - connecting generations of stakeholders through storytelling"



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Knowledge Gate

A repository of information about marine science and technology research and innovation projects funded by the European Union and the Member States programmes (FP7, H2020, INTERREG IV, INTERREG V, LIFE, FP6, INTERREG III).



Research Infrastructures Database

A repository of information (technical, scientific and operational) about European marine science and technology research infrastructures (research vessels, underwater vehicles and large equipment, mobile ocean observatories, satellites for sea and ocean observation, flumes and test labs for ocean engineering, marine biology stations, fixed point open ocean observatories, aquaculture research facilities, marine neocosms facilities, in situ tests for ocean renewable energy, deep ocean drilling research facilities, marine data providers, basins, coastal observatories).



2022



2022



COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING

Website & Social Media reach (%)



THE WEBSITE WAS WITH NO ACTIVITY DURING THREE TO FOUR MONTHS WHILE THE NEW WEBSITE WAS BUILD.



-25
IN POSTS



+5
FOLLOWERS



+10,4
IN REACH



+5
IN POSTS



+19
FOLLOWERS



+20
IMPRESSIONS



+2
IN POSTS



+35
FOLLOWERS



+8
IMPRESSIONS

EurOcean Talks: Online workshop “Future skills for Bioeconomy” - Blue Bioeconomy Organized by EurOcean in partnership with Transition2Bio Project

EurOcean Skills: Online training in Getting Things Done (GTD)

Participation in 2022 European Maritime Day with EU4Ocean Coalition, Ravenna, Italy.

Organisation of the 2022 “I Live By the Sea” exhibition during United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC), Lisbon, Portugal.

EurOcean endorsement as Ocean Decade Implementing Partner.

Co-organiser of the “I live by the Sea Ocean Action interactive workshop” during the Ocean Literacy Week at UNOC, together with IOPAN and Today we Have.

Partner in the Youth4Ocean workshop - “The Ocean as a global common - connecting generations of stakeholders through storytelling”, during the UNOC, Lisbon, Portugal.

Participation in the panel for the side event, “How can global partnerships help conserve the ocean”, organized by PONG PESCA at Basecamp during the UNOC, Lisbon, Portugal.

Promotion of a press release by IMAR– University of Azores on deep-sea mining to Portuguese Media

Promoter of two articles in the Marine & Oceans Magazine (Issue 275), under EurOcean’s media partnership, for CESAM, University of Aveiro, “CESAM a key player in the knowledge and the understanding of the ocean depths (p.92)”, and Okeanos, University of the Azores, “Making access to deep exploration easier (p.96)”

Participation of EurOcean as organizer of the Conference “Climate World Heritage” held in Vodafone Foundation

Organisation of the Future Skills for Blue Bioeconomy, Co-creation Workshop for Transition2Bio Project, online.

Launch of Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture contest.

EurOcean’s 20th Anniversary communication campaign and launch of new website

PROJECTS



BUILDING AN ALL ATLANTIC
OCEAN COMMUNITY
Implementing the Belém Statement

AANCHOR

ALL-ATLANTIC COOPERATION FOR OCEAN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

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 the whole Atlantic basin, from pole to pole.

Roles: WP 9 leader – Communication and dissemination.

Major Achievements: Development of three-month communication strategy and implementation of revised communication strategy

Received the Atlantic Project award 2022 under the “International Cooperation” category

Coordination of the entire communication around the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Forum 2022 (Scientific event, Brazil and Ministerial event, USA)

allatlanticocean.org



INTAROS

INTAROS

INTEGRATED ARCTIC OBSERVATION SYSTEM

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.

Roles: WP 7 co-leader – Communication and dissemination.

Task 1.3 leader: Collaboration development and establishment of Pan-Arctic Observing Forum.

Major Achievements: Conclusion of a new promotional booklet on achievements from 2016–2021

Led development of the INTAROS Booklet on Field Campaigns

Led development of INTAROS e-Modules

Participation in the INTAROS Roadmap development

Conclusion of the project and final reporting

intaros.eu



EUROFLEETS PLUS

AN ALLIANCE OF EUROPEAN MARINE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET THE EVOLVING NEEDS OF THE RESEARCH AND INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES

Aim: At facilitating open access to an integrated and advanced research vessel fleet, designed to meet the evolving and challenging needs of the user community.

Roles: WP 9 leader – Communication and dissemination

Major Achievements: Support on deliverable 5.6 – Strategic agenda for future stakeholder engagement

Upgrade of the EUROFLEETS website

Delivery of the summary for policy

Support to the organisation of the Second International Workshop

eurofleets.eu

PROJECTS



ECFAS

EUROPEAN COASTAL FLOOD AWARENESS SYSTEM

Aim: Develop a European Coastal Flood Awareness System, in the first instance as a proof-of-concept, with the aim of becoming one of Copernicus' core Emergency Management Services. This project evaluates coastal flood risk contributing to a fully integrated risk cycle monitoring service.

Role: WP 7 Leader – Communication, dissemination, and exploitation

Major Achievements: Organisation of ECFAS participation in Copernicus Hackathon and of the second ECFAS Webinar for End Users and stakeholders

Coordination of the development of 2nd ECFAS Video

Coordination of efforts to make E-Learning modules available on Planetek Italia's Education Portal

Organisation and execution of the ECFAS End Users Workshop

ecfas.eu



NAUTILOS

NEW APPROACH TO UNDERWATER TECHNOLOGIES FOR INNOVATIVE, LOW-COST OCEAN OBSERVATION

Aim: To unlock the critical knowledge contained in the ocean over the coming decades, and to realize the mutual benefits of marine observation for all elements of a sustainable ocean.

Role: WP 10 leader – Outreach, communication and dissemination.

Major Achievements: Organization of the consortium meeting (Faro, Portugal, October)

Development of a project video

Delivery of the Strategic Policy Agenda

Development of a curriculum for the First Nautilus Summer Course

nautilus-h2020.eu



SERVICES

On-Going



MARE

OCEAN LITERACY

ervo

European research vessel operators

COMMUNICATION



OFEG

OCEAN FACILITIES EXCHANGE GROUP

COMMUNICATION



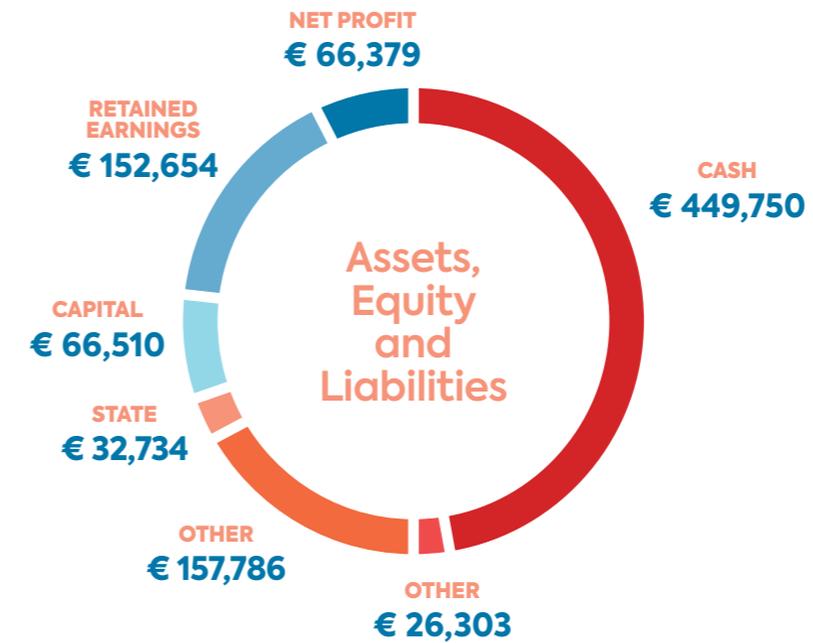
Ocean InfoHub

DATA

FINANCES



Revenue	572 562,34 €
Expenses	486 507,53 €
Profit	66 379,01 €



Assets	476 062,78 €
Equity	285 542,90 €
Liabilities	190 519,88 €

MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENTS

Full Members

FULL MEMBERS



CNR

Since 2022, the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) coordinates the ITINERIS project, granted under the action line “construction of an integrated system of Research and Innovation Infrastructures” of the Italian Recovery and Resilience plan.

The National Nodes from 22 Research Infrastructures (RIs) (17 from the environmental domain, 3 from agri-food with strong link with the environment and 2 from the PSE domain, supporting services for the marine domain) are involved in the project activities with the aim to build the Italian Hub of Research Infrastructures in the environmental scientific domain for the observation and study of environmental processes in the atmosphere, marine domain, terrestrial biosphere, and geosphere, providing access to data and services and supporting the Country to address current and expected environmental challenges. The participating RIs are the Italian nodes of the ESFRI Landmarks ACTRIS, EMSO, Euro-Argo, ICOS and LIFEWATCH, from the ENV domain and ANAEE from the H&F domain and closely linked to the ENV domain; the Italian nodes of the ESFRI projects DANUBIUS, DISSCO,

e-LTER, from the ENV domain, and EMPHASIS and EUIBISBA from the H&F domain and also relevant for ENV; the EU RIs ECORD, EUFAR, Eurofleets, JERICO and SIOS, all from the ENV domain; and the national RIs ATLAS, CeTRA, Laura Bassi, and SMINO, from the ENV domain, and Geosciences and LNS, both from the PSE domain, that in ITINERIS support services in the marine domain.



CMMI

In 2022, CMMI, the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute, played a pivotal role in several significant activities.

The Thalassa 2022 Conference, held in June, marked a milestone as Cyprus’ first international marine scientific gathering. Focusing on conserving and restoring our seas, it drew scientists from the Mediterranean and beyond. Under the patronage of Cyprus’ Deputy Ministry for Research, Innovation, and Digital Policy, the conference’s success paved the way for its upcoming Spring 2024 edition.

European Maritime Day 2022 further showcased CMMI’s influence. This event, held in Larnaca, engaged the public, especially the youth. A highlight was the “Name a Reef” competition, encouraging young minds to connect with marine life. The winning name, “Alia,” designated a stunning reef at “Kastella” beach, promoting marine awareness.

CMMI scientists gained exclusive access to the Bay of Larnaca for research purposes, an achievement marked by the Cyprus Marine Spatial Plan (MSP). This strategic inclusion

underscores CMMI’s commitment to sustainable marine development, fostering innovative research and initiatives in the designated area.

The recognition of CMMI as one of the “20 Most Innovative Not-for-Profit and Government Bodies in the Maritime Industry 2022” by Thetius showcased its forward-thinking approach. This honor aligned CMMI with global industry leaders, highlighting its pivotal role in shaping maritime innovation.

In challenging times marked by global conflicts, pandemics, and climate change, CMMI’s policy paper, “Sustainable Blue Economy 2030 – Emerging Challenges and Prospects,” emerged as a beacon. This document emphasized the critical role of the Blue Economy for Cyprus’ development, influencing key policymakers and presidential candidates.

CMMI’s multifaceted efforts in 2022 underscore its dedication to marine conservation, innovation, and policy influence, making strides towards a sustainable and prosperous future.

FULL MEMBERS



FCT

In 2022, AANChOR CSA (H2020) project, coordinated by FCT, led to many relevant achievements through the supervision of the full operational Joint Pilot Actions (JPAs) implementation, the mobilization and alignment of many EU R&I Atlantic and North Atlantic projects towards the All-Atlantic Ocean R&I Alliance (AAORIA), the co-organization of AAORIA events leading to the signing of AAORIA Declaration in Washington DC, July 13 and noteworthy, the JPAs attribution of the Atlantic Project Award in the category of International Cooperation awarded by the Atlantic Strategic Committee.

FCT was also involved in the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) supporting Fundo Regional da Ciência e Tecnologia (FRCT) Call secretariat leadership and managing the PT participation in SBEP 1st Call, jointly with the remaining PT agencies partners (Fundo Azul and Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Centro); FCT has developed several news, disseminated through the AANChOR portal, to promote the Portuguese National Scientific and Technological System namely its entities and instruments, with emphasis on Collaborative Laboratories (CoLabs), Infrastructures and R&D Units dedicated to Marine Sciences.

FCT has maintained its support to national participation in many ocean-related programmes/activities at European and international level, such as, JPI Oceans: appointment of a policy maker and three national experts for the scoping phase of the newly created Joint Actions, Blue Carbon” and “Light and Color in the Ocean”; EMB - European Marine Board: Appointment of national experts to the ongoing working groups “Marine Habitat Mapping” and “Marine Renewable Energy”; and in ECORD, the European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling, supporting the participation in scientific expeditions in particular on board the vessel JOIDES Resolution.



FRCT

In 2022, FRCT has developed several activities under the participation of European projects, highlighting our involvement under the Horizon Europe Missions. Regarding the “EU Mission Restore Our Ocean and Waters by 2030” FRCT is involved at the BlueMissionAA Project “implementing the EU Mission Restore our Ocean” and regarding EU Mission Clima, FRCT participates in the Regions4Climate Project that aims to collaboratively develop and demonstrate a socially-just transition to climate resilience, with special incident on Coastal Zone areas.

As financing agency FRCT leads the Calls workpackage (WP3) of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, SBEP. This co-funded partnership, its strategy takes into consideration the R&I agendas of the sea basins (Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic and North Sea) and the Atlantic Ocean and builds on lessons learned from previous initiatives. This Partnership represents an unprecedented effort of 60 Partner institutions from 25 countries and the European Commission to pool research and innovation investments. Also under this role FRCT co-finances Azorean participation on projects under the Biodiversas+ the European Biodiversity Partnership supporting excellent research on biodiversity with an impact for society and policy.



IEO

During 2022 the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO) (i) has been the Coordinator of the United Nations World Ocean Assessment (WOA) which provides National Governments with the best available scientific information for policy-making on ocean issues and ocean sustainability, (ii) it has advanced the construction of a new IEO Global Research Vessel, financed by European funds and able to accommodate a crew of 25 people and 40 scientists covering the whole spectrum of oceanic science, (iii) it has finalized the integration of the eight IEO oceanographic research centers into the wider National Research Council of Spain (CSIC), which hosts more than 11,000 researchers covering all the scientific disciplines, and finally (iv) IEO has lead or participated in an increasing number of international and national research projects covering key topics such ocean climate change, space oceanography, marine citizen science, and ocean literacy, among many other topics. Among all these key activities we would like to highlight here however the re-election of IEO for the presidency of the Executive Committee of EurOcean. We appreciate the trust that all the members have deposited in us to lead EurOcean as a key actor in the European marine science and technology landscape.

FULL MEMBERS



IFREMER

From February 9–11 2022, two major events organized by IFREMER reminded the essential role of ocean science in protecting the ocean and its ecosystems: The OneOceanScience forum, a world tour of ocean sciences attended by scientists from 10 countries (Brazil, Fiji, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Romania, Singapore, Tanzania, Tunisia, United States), aimed to craft key-messages that were brought to the “Ocean science for sustainable ocean management” workshop by François HOULLIER, CEO of IFREMER. The second event gathered representatives of Europe’s oceanographic fleets to discuss a common ambition: to lay the foundations for a permanent European structure to coordinate and optimize the access to research vessels.

Ecole Bleu Outremer: 75 students from scientific, maritime and artistic backgrounds sailed from La Réunion to Mayotte to better understand the Indian Ocean and its challenges, to discover and practice multidisciplinary scientific observations and experiments. Young scientists, budding artists and aspiring sailors experienced an oceanographic campaign from the inside, alongside experienced researchers and crew. Conceived by Ifremer, with the support of the French Ministry for Overseas Territories, the French Secretary of State for the Sea and the French Development Agency, this project was born of the desire to share the scientific adventure aboard a French Oceanographic Fleet

vessel with young people from diverse backgrounds, to bring them together and raise their awareness of the richness and importance of their ocean.

Launch of the first Ocean and Climate PPR projects: Led by Ifremer and CNRS, the “Ocean and Climate” priority research program (PPR) aims to structure French research to protect and increase understanding of this ecosystem. Six projects were selected in its first call for applications, and two of them, Climartic (on the regional and global impacts of climate change in the Arctic) and Lifedeep (on the vulnerability of deep-sea ecosystems to the potential exploitation of mineral resources), are coordinated by Ifremer, which is also partner in the other four: Future-Obs (Sorbonne Université), Mediation (Inria), Riomar (CEA), Futurisk (La Rochelle University).

On October 4, 2022, at its Vairao center on the island of Tahiti, IFREMER celebrated its 50th anniversary in the Pacific in the presence of Polynesian authorities and French officials. The research conducted at the Ifremer Pacific Center is based on three major challenges: diversification of aquaculture production, adaptability of marine species to global change and reducing the impact of aquaculture on the environment. The event also served as a reminder that sustainability, responsibility and restoration are key to guide IFREMER’s actions in the Pacific.



MARINE INSTITUTE

The breadth and quality of the Institutes activities are a testament to the commitment and innovation of our people as we work to realise our vision of the Marine Institute as a global leader in ocean knowledge, empowering Ireland and its people to safeguard and harness our ocean wealth.

This year, we achieved a major milestone with the launch of the new national marine research vessel, the RV Tom Crean. The state-of-the-art vessel was built and delivered on schedule, and on budget. This was a remarkable achievement when one notes that it was constructed entirely during the challenging and ever-changing Covid-19 pandemic.

The vessel arrived into Irish waters in July and commenced service that same month with its first survey being an INFOMAR seabed mapping survey. We were delighted to host a commissioning ceremony for the vessel in Dingle Harbour in October.

Providing scientific advice and services to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and other government departments, agencies and stakeholders, including the public, is essential to achieving a sustainable ocean economy, protecting and managing our marine ecosystems, and meeting EU obligations.

The Institute continued to play a vital support role for the work of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, with its focus on quality science-based support towards the protection of marine environment, monitoring and advising on marine legislation requirements for Government, and ensuring the protection of consumer seafood safety.

The Institute also provided detailed scientific data and analysis to Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with regard to fisheries management. This included the publication of the annual Stock Book with the latest scientific advice on 74 key fish stocks of interest to Ireland.

The Marine Institute were delighted to participate in and contribute to the ICES Annual Science Conference in Dublin, Ireland in September, the first in-person ICES conference in three years and a wonderful opportunity for leading marine scientists from around the world to come together to share scientific research supporting a sustainable ocean.

FULL MEMBERS



VLIZ

In 2022, a new five-year covenant between the Flemish government and VLIZ entered into force, defining VLIZ' mission, its strategic and operational objectives, the funding of the institute and the key performance indicators. During the first covenant year, the VLIZ Research department was restructured with a new Research Director, Peter Landschützer, in charge and with a focus on the accumulation of knowledge in the climate-ocean-biodiversity nexus. A second 5-year funding agreement was signed with the Province of West Flanders, focusing on collaboration related to the Blue Economy, policy support, coastal zone management, education and outreach. The subsidies of both agreements were topped by European projects, mainly from the Horizon Europe program. In 2022, VLIZ had a success rate of 76% for its project proposals.

In September 2022, after more than 20 years, VLIZ and its national and international partners (the European Marine Board, the EMODnet secretariat, the UNESCO/IOC Project Office for IODE, the Coastal Heritage unit and the Regional Office Coast of the province of West Flanders) moved out of their offices in the Ostend fish market.

Together with the marine science division of the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO), they moved into the brand-new InnovOcean Campus located at Jacobsenstraat 1 in Ostend.

In 2022, VLIZ celebrated several important anniversaries, such as... The World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), which was founded in 2007, celebrated its 15th anniversary. In 2022, it was exactly ten years ago that the first conference on ocean literacy in Europe was held at Provinciaal Hof in Bruges, which VLIZ co-organised. Ten years after its first trip, the Flemish research vessel Simon Stevin has spent 1,630 days at sea and travelled over 150,000 kilometres, remaining an indispensable platform for marine scientists. In 2022, VLIZ also registered its 1000th member.

The Belgian authorities mandated VLIZ to organise a secretariat to coordinate the Flemish and Belgian contribution to the Decade of Ocean Science. The launch of this so-called Belgium National Decade Committee (NDC) took place on 2 December 2022.

EurOcean

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