

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



eur@cean

The European Centre
for Information on Marine
Science and Technology



INTRODUCTION TO EUROCEAN

The European centre for information in Marine Science and Technology

EurOcean is an independent, non-profit, scientific organisation 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 20 organisations, accounting for 11 full members and 9 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 President of the Executive Committee of EurOcean, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the significant accomplishments of our organization over the past six years. EurOcean is in a strong, sustainable position today, thanks in no small part to the dedication, strategic vision, and efforts of our outgoing Executive Director, as well as his entire team. Together, they have helped steer the Foundation through a period of growth and innovation, ensuring that we continue to play a central role in advancing marine science and technology in Europe.

One of the most notable milestones was the celebration of EurOcean's 20th anniversary, an event that showcased the Foundation's long-term impact. The launch of the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture, co-organized with IOC/UNESCO and Portugal, is another significant achievement that will continue to inspire and recognize the next generation of ocean researchers worldwide.

As we welcome the incoming Executive Director, we are confident that the organization will continue to thrive. Sandra Sá, the new Executive Director, brings a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective that will be invaluable as we move forward. Looking to the future, the strategic focus for the next four years will center on strengthening our relationships with stakeholders, including our members, partners, and collaborators. We will ensure that our initiatives remain impactful and relevant. We also aim to increase our outreach, creating new opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the global marine science community.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all our members and partners, specially to the new ones, for their continued support. Together, we will continue to build a brighter future for our oceans.

SÉRGIO BRYTON

Executive Director



After six rewarding years as Executive Director of the EurOcean Foundation, my term has come to a close. Reflecting on the journey, I am immensely proud to leave behind an organisation that has grown into a highly impactful, relevant, efficient, and sustainable entity, one that is deeply appreciated by its network of members, partners, and stakeholders. The Foundation has not only adapted to the evolving landscape of marine science and technology but has also contributed significantly to the advancement of these fields in Europe.

A defining moment of my tenure was celebrating EurOcean's 20th anniversary, a milestone that highlighted the enduring value of our mission. During this celebration, we also launched the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture in collaboration with IOC/UNESCO and Portugal. This initiative has become a cornerstone of EurOcean's legacy, designed to inspire and recognize the next generation of early-career ocean researchers worldwide. It is a tribute

to Professor Mário Ruivo's lifelong commitment to ocean science and sustainability, and I am proud to have played a part in its creation.

Throughout my time as Executive Director, I have had the privilege of working with a dedicated and passionate team. Their unwavering commitment has been key to the success we've achieved. I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to our members, partners, and stakeholders, whose support has been instrumental in driving our shared goals forward. And to my family and friends, thank you for your constant encouragement—none of this would have been possible without you.

As I step away from this role, I am filled with confidence in the future of EurOcean. I have no doubt that the foundation will continue to contribute meaningfully to the science we need for the ocean we want. I wish EurOcean every success in the years ahead and look forward to seeing all that is yet to come.

AT A GLANCE

The Centre



Membership



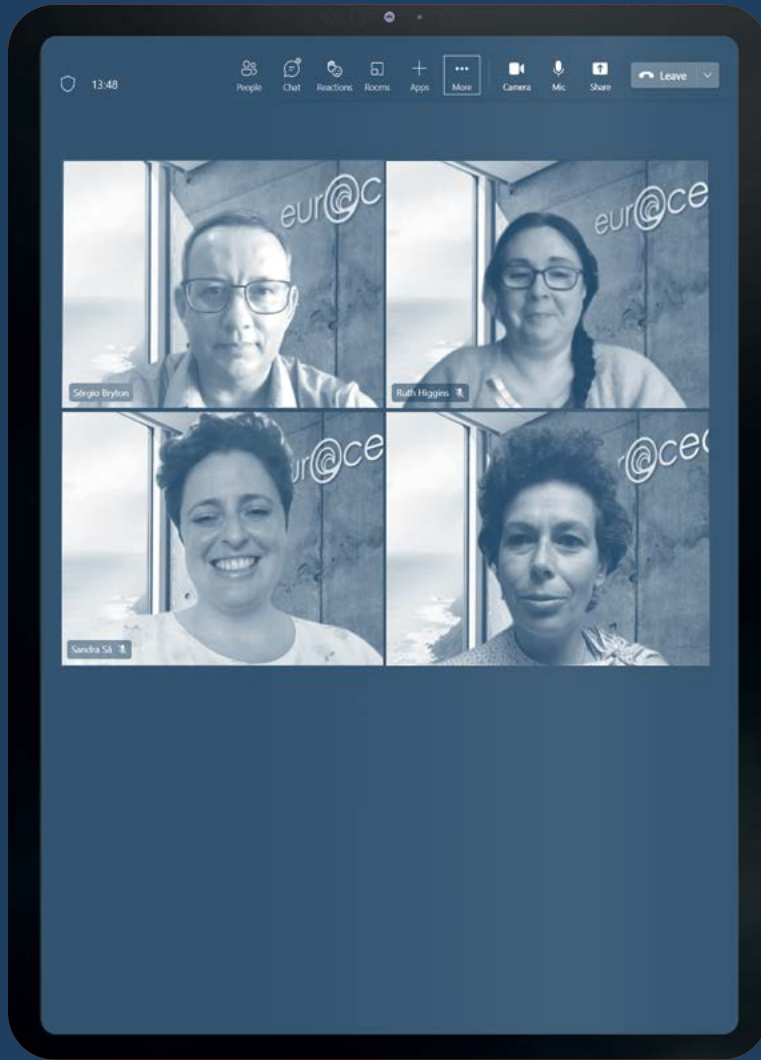
Full Members



Cooperating Members



THE CENTRE



2
Nationalities



4
Experts



4
Projects (*)



MAIN AREAS OF EXPERTISE



Information
Management



Science
Communication



Knowledge
Transfer



Project
Management



Coastal 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

(*) Marine science and technology research projects in 2024, as a partner

MEMBERSHIP

FULL
MEMBERS

COOPERATING
MEMBERS

FRANCE

 Nausicaä
Centre National
de la Mer
(NAUSICAÄ)

 Ifremer
French Research
Institute for
Exploitation
of the Sea
(IFREMER)

 CAMPUS
MONDIAL
DE LA MER
Campus Mondial
de la Mer

 unesco
Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission
(IOC-UNESCO)

PORTUGAL

 FRCT
Azores Regional Fund
of Science and
Technology (FRCT)

 CESAM
Centre for
Environmental
and Marine Studies
(CESAM)

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

 BLUEBIO
ALLIANCE
Blue Bio Alliance

BELGIUM

 CPMR
Conference of
Peripheral Maritime
Regions (CPMR)

 eas
European
Aquaculture
Society
(EAS)

ROMANIA

 GeoEcoMar®
National Institute
of Marine Geology
and Geo-ecology
(GeoEcoMar)

Germany

 PlaMoWa
Network for Plastics
Monitoring in Waters
(PlaMoWa)

Netherlands

 EFARO

Poland

 IOPAN
Institute of Oceanology
of the Polish Academy
of Sciences (IOPAN)

Turkey

 Tubitak MAM
TÜBİTAK
MAM

CYPRUS

 CYPRUS
MARINE &
MARITIME
INSTITUTE
Cyprus Marine
& Maritime
Institute

SPAIN

 Spanish Institute of
Oceanography (IEO)

MALTA

 International Ocean
Institute (IOI)

 Fondation
de Malte (FdM)

ITALY

 Consiglio
Nazionale delle
Ricerche
National
Research
Council
(CNR)

FULL 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.

MAIN AREAS OF EXPERTISE

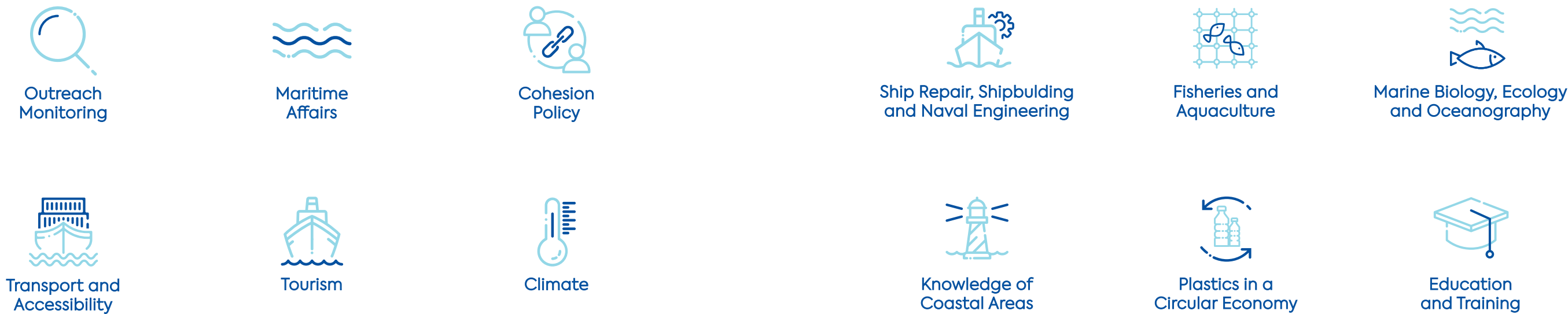


COOPERATING MEMBERS



(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





Membership and Collaboration

Information Management

Communication and Networking

Projects

Services

Finances

ACHIEVEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Activities and opportunities for members

Provision of bespoke information

Participation in up to 11 proposals, covering the following opportunities within the network:

Submission of the **AQUASTARS** and **DIMENSION** proposals (SBEP) in collaboration with **CMMI**.

Submission of the **EMOCEAN** and **BEACON** proposals (Horizon Europe) in collaboration with **CNR**.

Submission of the **YOLA** proposal (ERASMUS+) in collaboration with **Nausicaá**

Submission of the **MARES** proposal (PPPA) in collaboration with **IOPAN**.

Dissemination and promotion of Members

Promotion of Members' activities through website, social media and newsletter

Promotion of the “I live by the Sea” contest in collaboration with **IO PAN** *

Promotion of the **THALLASA** Conference organised by **CMMI** *

Promotion of the 36th European Cetacean Society Conference organised with the support of **FRCT**

Partnerships and Collaborations

Launch the 2nd edition of the **Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture**, with **IOC/UNESCO** and **UN Ocean Decade** *

Collaboration with **Ocean InfoHub**, with **IOC/UNESCO**

Collaboration with **Nausicaá** for the “Citizen of the Ocean” partnerships and in the **UN Ocean Decade Endorsement of the initiative** *

Partner in the **AKOA** project and its submission for funding to the **EU4Ocean** Call for Collective Action

3rd year as an **Ocean Decade Implementing Partner**

*Activity endorsed by the Ocean Decade

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).

2007

MaP



2012

KG 1.0



2013

KG 2.0



2019

KG 3.0

2024



7

European Programmes



6

Billion Euro in Funding



+3,000

Projects



+7,600

Participants



+2,000

Knowledge Outputs



120

Countries

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).

2006

Large Exchangeable
Infrastructures (LEXI)
-
Research Vessels (RV)



2010

Aquaculture
Facilities
(AF)



2014

Research
Infrastructures
Database
(RID) 1.0



2019

Research
Infrastructures
Database
(RID) 2.0



2024



+1100

Infrastructures



194

Vessels (including 96 ERVO)



148

LEXI



15

Categories

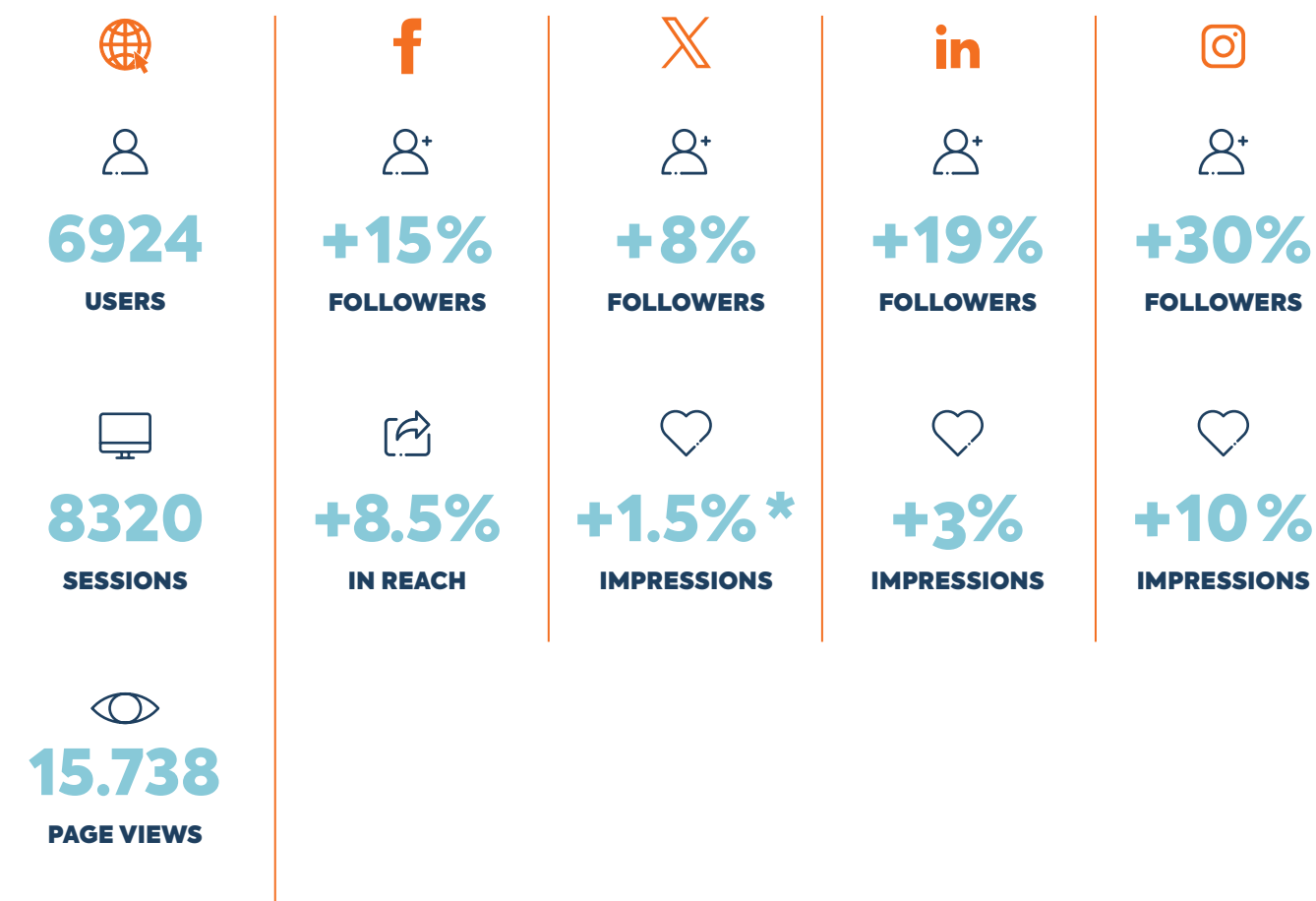


+35

Countries

COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING

Website & Social Media reach



*X changed the access to the statistics. This value is not totally accurate.



Launch of the 2nd edition of the Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture *

- Implementation of a SM campaign on Mário Ruivo Memorial Lecture with the collaboration of ECOPs programme, IOC/UNESCO and Ocean Decade
- EurOcean invited to be member of the National Committee’s Stakeholder Forum for the UN Ocean Decade
- Participation on the UN Decade of Ocean Science Conference, Barcelona
- Organisation of the satellite event “Beyond the Climate Change: Sustained Observation in support of the Blue Economy” at UN Decade of Ocean Science Conference with CNR, EuroGOOS, ETT SPA and EMODNET, under NAUTILOS project *
- Article published in Sea Technology Magazine on Nautilus project outcomes – January Issue

- Article published in Ocean News & Technology Magazine on HiAOOS project outcomes – April Issue
- Participation in European Maritime Day 2024 (Denmark) in support of the project NAUTILOS and the #EU4OCEAN.
- Organisation and hosting of four webinars in the scope of #EU4OCEAN, partnering with SBEP, Sea the Change, European Business Network, EAS, Blue BioAlliance, Nofima, Kongsberg Discovery and ETT SpA.
- Creation of a workshop proposal for #EU4OCEAN, in collaboration with JPI Oceans, SBEP, EMSEA, and EuroGOOS, to be submitted for EMD 2025.

*Activity endorsed by the Ocean Decade

PROJECTS



HIAOOS

HIGH ARCTIC OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM

Aim: To advance the uptake of new ocean observing capabilities and capacity in the high Arctic to strengthen European and national infrastructures in their effort to support new and ambitious research within climate, environment and geohazards. HiAOOS will develop, implement, and validate several ocean observing technologies to improve data collection in the ice-covered Arctic Ocean.

Role: WP 5 leader – Communication and dissemination

WP 4 co-leader – Use cases and training

Major Achievements: Organisation and launch of one training course.

Article published on Ocean News & Technology Magazine (April issue) – “Breaking the Ice – HiAOOS pioneers ROV docking for Arctic exploration”

Development and updates of communication materials for the Arctic Circle Conference, Iceland.

hiaaos.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: Organisation and implementation of the Nautilus satellite event “Beyond the Climate Change: Sustained Observation in support of the Blue Economy” at UN Decade of Ocean Science Conference (Spain, Barcelona)

Organisation of the 2nd summer school held in April 2024 – development of a curriculum, registration process, and logistics.

Development and implementation of a digital campaign through a cartoon on the importance of Citizen Science and on Nautilus project relevance.

nautilus-h2020.eu



ARCFISH

DIGITAL TWIN OF THE OCEAN FOR ARCTIC FISHERIES

Aim: To develop a pilot Digital Twin of the Ocean delivering new data products and services for improved decision-making in fisheries management to support sustainability and resilience of Arctic fisheries.

Roles: WP 5 Leader – Communication and Dissemination

Major Achievements: Creation of the ARCFISH brand identity

Design and launch of the project website

Preparation and submission of the DEC plan

arcfish.eu



MOIRAI

MULTISCALE OCEAN MODELS AND INFORMATION FOR CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT AND IMPACT MITIGATION

Aim: Develop the next-generation regional-coastal physical and biogeochemical climate models.

Roles: WP8 Leader – Dissemination, Communication, Synergies and Clustering

Major Achievements: Signed the MOIRAI Grant Agreement.

Signed the MOIRAI Consortium Agreement.

Launched Social Media platforms for MOIRAI

moirai-project.eu

SERVICES

On-Going



OCEAN LITERACY



COMMUNICATION



OFEG
OCEAN FACILITIES EXCHANGE
GROUP

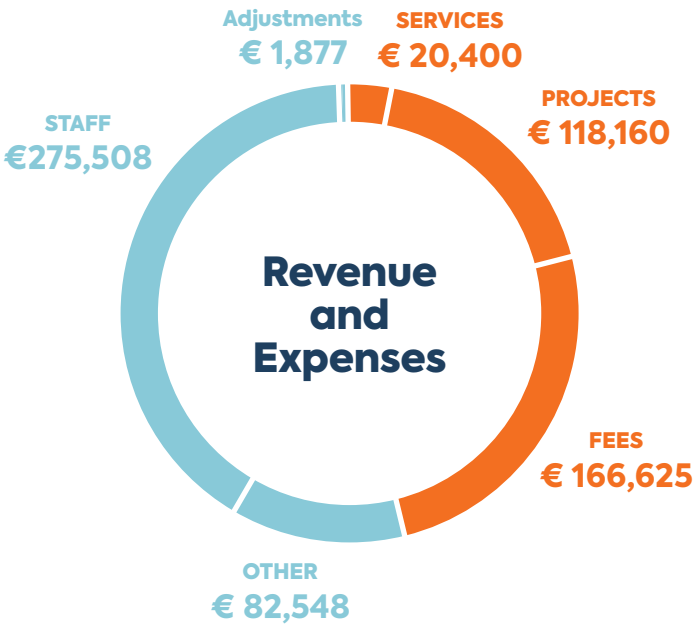
COMMUNICATION



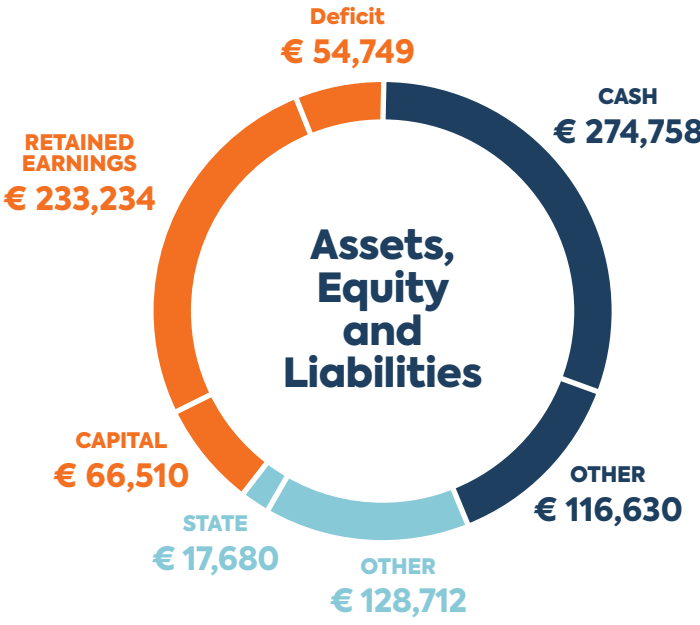
Ocean InfoHub

DATA

FINANCES



Revenue	305,184.78 €
Expenses	358,056.69 €



Assets	391,387.27 €
Equity	244,995.09 €
Liabilities	146,392.18 €



MEMBERS ACHIEVEMENTS

Full Members



FULL MEMBERS



CESAM

CESAM demonstrated exceptional scientific leadership and international impact throughout 2024, with significant research publications, international recognitions, and global contributions.

Two particularly noteworthy publications exemplified CESAM's scientific excellence: a ground-breaking study revealing how rising temperatures accelerate organic matter decomposition in wetlands, and research addressing global ecosystem conservation coordination aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The A-AAGORA Project, coordinated by CESAM, was honoured with the 2024 Atlantic Project Award in the International Cooperation category, highlighting the centre's innovative approaches to marine and coastal ecosystem challenges.

CESAM's research garnered significant media attention, including a compelling documentary on ARTE channel about coastal bird preservation and a impactful letter in Nature magazine addressing marine conservation concerns.

CESAM researchers maintained a prominent international presence, being invited to critical marine events such as the UN Ocean Decade Conference, World Ocean Summit 2024, and European Ocean Days, further solidifying the centre's global scientific reputation. A notable

milestone was the Military Medal of the Naval Cross, 1st Class, awarded to a CESAM researcher, which powerfully illustrates the centre's deep engagement with maritime issues and its substantial contributions to maritime policies and marine resource valorisation.

These achievements collectively demonstrate CESAM's continued leadership in environmental and marine research, emphasizing its crucial role in addressing global ecological challenges.

FULL MEMBERS



CMMI

2024 has been a very active year for the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute. In January, CMMI has received the prestigious award 'HR in Excellence' from Euraxess. 'HR in Excellence' acknowledges CMMI's dedication to outstanding human resource practices, specifically through the implementation of the 'HR Strategy for Researchers'. The strategy aligns with the Charter & Code principles, demonstrating the Institute's commitment to creating a supportive and appealing environment for researchers.

In February, CMMI organised the 2nd Cyprus Marine Observation Network Workshop. The workshop focused on the development of the Cyprus Marine Observation Network as Critical Infrastructure bringing together potential stakeholders and providing a platform for fruitful discussions and exchange of ideas on how to expand CyMON into a National Network that will include all relevant fixed and non-fixed platforms and other observatory and monitoring systems. The latest buoy deployments were presented, along with other data acquisition systems by CMMI, as well as state-of-the-art technologies from relevant international networks.

In April, CMMI has been designated as a 'Blue Charter Centre of Excellence' with the signing of a three-year Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. CMMI will lead efforts in marine conservation, restoration, and sustainable

resource management, benefiting Commonwealth Island and coastal states. It will also foster innovation in sustainable aquaculture and marine research, supporting the Commonwealth Blue Charter Action Groups.

In May, CMMI organised the second regional conference: THALASSA 2024 – Marine Sciences Conference. THALASSA 2024 attracted more than 100 participants from more than 10 countries and provided a platform for knowledge exchange by bringing together marine experts and stakeholders from academic and research institutes, the industry, NGOs, and the public sector who shared their findings, innovations, and state-of-the-art developments on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems; Marine Biotechnology and Aquaculture; Oceanography; Marine Cultural Heritage; and Marine and Coastal Governance.

In July, CMMI hosted the first "Blue Youth Camp," a five-day summer school in Ayia Napa, designed to bring children closer to the sea through interactive and multidisciplinary activities. This initiative aligns with CMMI's mission to engage civil society, local communities, and the younger generation with the marine environment while promoting opportunities within the blue economy. The camp featured hands-on workshops, a boat trip to observe Mediterranean marine life, visits to the Sea Museum, and activities focused on maritime archaeology.

In October, the launch ceremony of the first zero-emission vessel of CMMI, "EVPLOIA APHRODITE" was held at Larnaka Marina. This innovative zero emission and nearly zero-acoustic footprint vessel, aims to have a significant role in the future as a research infrastructure for testing technologies that will contribute to the decarbonization of Cyprus' coastal fleet, as well as to environmental protection, understanding the impacts of climate change, and testing algorithms aimed at autonomous vessel navigation and the export of expertise abroad. The vessel was a result of "ZEST" funded project by the European Union under the Co-Develop programme of the Research and Innovation Foundation.

With regards to projects, CMMI had an incredibly successful year, particularly in WIDERA programme of the Horizon Europe, where it won four TWINNING projects, three of which are being coordinated by CMMI: AXOLOTL, PUREEF-Y, and LORELEI-X. In total, CMMI started participating in 9 EU funded projects (Alliance4XR, EX-AQUA, PUREEF-Y, MEDSEAPLAN, AXOLOTL, DesirMED, Mr.Goodfish3.0, PartArtOW and LORELEI-X) for which kick-off meetings and public launch events were organised in Cyprus as CMMI coordinates 4 of these projects. Further, CMMI also started its participation in 3 new national projects (DECAtrust, eDNA-LEV and Net-Zero-Emissions-CI).



FULL MEMBERS

FCT Fundação
para a Ciência
e a Tecnologia

FCT

In 2024, FCT reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Ocean Sciences through its primary national and international funding schemes. At the national level FCT funds annually marine R&I projects, PhD scholarships, and scientific employment. Detailed funding figures are available in FCT's new tool, [FCT in Figures](#). At the institutional level, FCT funds more than [45 R&I institutions and Infrastructures](#) dedicated to marine science, with highlights for the following: [CIIMAR](#), [MARE](#), [OKEANOS](#), [CENTEC](#), [CCMAR Algarve](#), [UALg CIMA](#), [CESAM](#), this latter a member of EurOcean.

On the international stage, FCT fosters cooperation through its [Ocean Programme](#), collaborating with numerous European and global institutions and working groups, such as COI-UNESCO, OCDE, ECORD, EMB, JPIOceans, and the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP), among others.

Through SBEP, eight Portuguese teams launched their activities in September 2024. Meanwhile, the second funding call, implemented throughout 2024, will soon announce its results, with another set of Portuguese teams expected to be selected.

FRCT
Fundo Regional da Ciência
e Tecnologia

FRCT

This year, FRCT continues to contribute to advancing maritime spatial planning, promoting blue economy projects, and fostering innovative blue solutions!

In 2024, the MSP-OR project, coordinated by FRCT, concluded with significant contributions to the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands and French Guiana. MSP-OR delivered over 80 deliverables and milestones, with its main achievements being the OR's Ocean Governance Hub, and its recently published Policy Brief. The brief identifies key challenges in MSP implementation, proposes actionable solutions, and offers adaptable recommendations for more effective processes. Key insights include strategies for improving governance, fostering collaboration, and tailoring MSP approaches to regional contexts.

As part of the BlueMissionAA project, FRCT developed a Catalogue of Innovative Solutions, available on the Wavelinks Platform. This effort links solution providers with key stakeholders, highlighting the importance of marine ecosystem restoration technologies and cooperative approaches for promoting sustainable maritime development across Europe.

Moreover, FRCT joined the second joint transnational call "Unified Paths to a Climate-Neutral, Sustainable, and Resilient Blue Economy:

Engaging Civil Society, Academia, Policy, and Industry" of the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) launched in February 2024. This co-financed call, supported by 38 funding organisations from 26 countries and the European Union, is co-branded as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The call is currently in the evaluation phase.

FULL MEMBERS



IEO-CSIC

During 2024, IEO-CSIC has completed the construction of the oceanographic research vessel *Odón de Buen*, the largest oceanographic vessel in the Spanish fleet. The vessel is named in honour of the founder of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO-CSIC) - the entity driving the project - and represents a strategic investment in marine research. It is 84.3 metres long, and is equipped with the latest technology.

The oceanographic vessel is capable of operating in any ocean in the world and deploying its equipment at depths greater than 6,000 metres, explains Mari Carmen García, director of the IEO-CSIC who has signed the acceptance of the vessel.

The delivery of this vessel in September 2024 marks the beginning of a new phase in which a series of tests and adjustments will be carried out to ensure the full operational capacity of its capabilities. During 2025, the technical staff on board the *Odón de Buen* will be dedicated to fine-tuning the ship's various systems and equipment, from scientific laboratories to autonomous underwater vehicles.

The crew will receive intensive training to operate safely and efficiently in the various types of scientific missions that can be carried out on the ship. It is a multipurpose vessel, designed to carry

out a wide range of scientific research, from the study of marine biodiversity to monitoring climate change, stressed the president of the CSIC, Eloísa del Pino.

The project has had an investment of 85 million euros, with 80% of the total contributed through the European Regional Development Fund. The construction of the *Odón de Buen* ship began to materialize on May 23, 2022 at an event chaired by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities, Diana Morant, who was accompanied by the president of the CSIC, Eloísa del Pino.



FULL MEMBERS



IOPAN

In 2024, the Institute of Oceanology of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IO PAN) has actively contributed to advancing ocean literacy, and advocacy through collaborative initiatives, field research, and educational projects.

In partnership with EurOcean and other European collaborators, the IO PAN team has been instrumental in preparing the YOLA (Youth Ocean Leadership and Advocacy) project, submitted to the ERASMUS+ 2024 Round 2 KA220-YOU call. YOLA is designed to empower young people aged 18–30 with essential leadership and advocacy skills to tackle pressing ocean-related challenges such as climate change and marine pollution. By enhancing ocean literacy and fostering engagement in global policy discussions, YOLA aims to cultivate a new generation of informed leaders capable of influencing ocean governance and environmental policies at all levels. This initiative reflects IOPAN's commitment to fostering youth involvement in the preservation and sustainable management of ocean resources.

The annual Arctic Expedition (AREX 2024) stands as a cornerstone of IO PAN's research efforts, providing valuable insights into the rapidly changing in the Arctic environment. This year's expedition focused on collecting extensive datasets encompassing physical, chemical, and

biological parameters to monitor climate-related changes and their impacts on Arctic ecosystems. Key areas of research included the dynamics of ocean currents, sea ice extent, and the health of marine biodiversity. These findings are critical for understanding the broader implications of climate change on the Arctic and its cascading effects on global systems.

In 2024, IO PAN also conducted in-depth studies in Arctic fjords under external projects aimed at assessing the impact of climate change on these sensitive ecosystems. Research activities focused on the interactions between glacial meltwater and fjord ecosystems, the effects of warming on marine species, and the implications for local biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Closer to home, the Baltic Sea remained a focal point of IO PAN's research. Efforts were dedicated to understanding eutrophication, pollution levels, and the health of marine habitats. These studies provide essential data to support regional policies aimed at improving the environmental quality of the Baltic Sea and ensuring its sustainable use.

IO PAN's outreach efforts in 2024 emphasized enhancing public understanding of ocean science. Through educational programmes, public lectures, and collaborations with schools and

universities, IO PAN has worked to promote ocean literacy across diverse age groups. These activities are aimed at raising awareness about the critical role of oceans in regulating climate, supporting biodiversity, and sustaining human livelihoods. By bridging the gap between science and society, IO PAN strives to inspire collective action toward a healthier and more sustainable ocean.

Through initiatives like the YOLA project, the AREX 2024 expedition, and extensive studies in the Arctic and Baltic regions, IO PAN continues to play a vital role in addressing global ocean challenges. By combining rigorous scientific research with advocacy and education, the institute contributes to the collective effort to safeguard our oceans for future generations.



FULL MEMBERS



TUBITAK MAM

MARINE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGIES RESEARCH GROUP (MRT-RG)

TUBITAK Marmara Research Center (MAM), one of the oldest research institutions under the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK), plays a leading role in marine and environmental sciences. Within its Climate & Life Sciences Vice Presidency, the Marine Research and Technologies Research Group (MRT-RG) conducts multidisciplinary research encompassing marine science, engineering, GIS, and oceanographic studies. The group actively monitors, assesses, and manages coastal and marine waters, addressing the impacts of pollution, eutrophication, and biodiversity loss. Their work also extends to the exploration of Turkish seas for biotechnological applications, supporting marine archaeology through photogrammetry and seabed surveys, and conducting offshore geophysical acoustic research in collaboration with the earth sciences division.

Major Activities in 2024

Following a shipyard period for periodic class surveys and maintenance, R/V TUBITAK MARMARA resumed operations, now equipped with a new

FerryBox system to continuously collect underway sea surface data—the first of its kind for Turkish seas, with datasets to be released in early 2025.

Since 2014, MRT-RG has coordinated the Integrated Marine Monitoring and Assessment Programme of Turkish Seas, supported by the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization. In February 2024, seasonal monitoring cruises resumed in the Black Sea, Marmara, and Aegean Seas. Additionally, as part of a nationally funded TUBITAK 1001 project in collaboration with ITU, sediment sampling at over 30 Aegean Sea stations is underway to assess climate change effects on river estuaries.

This year also marked key advancements in deep-sea research. A team from Boğaziçi University's Kandilli Earthquake Research Institute joined MRT-RG for Ocean Bottom Seismometer (OBS) deployment and recovery operations in the Marmara Sea. Meanwhile, a successful 800-meter dive using the MarmaROV system demonstrated the vessel's capability to monitor scientific instruments at the seafloor - an essential step for future deep-sea research projects.

In addition, 2024 saw the launch of the AQUARIUS RI project, under the EU's Horizon Europe Programme (Grant Agreement No 101130915), with R/V TUBITAK MARMARA as a partner for transnational access. This initiative strengthens international collaboration in marine research, further expanding the group's role in European scientific endeavors.



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