A European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research

A coherent European Research Area framework in support of a sustainable use of oceans and seas

SEAS-ERA Kick-off Meeting, Madrid, 29-30 June 2010

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Why a strategy for marine & maritime research?

- **January 2000:** launching of the European Research Area initiative calling for better coordination and integration of research in the EU

- **May 2004 – Galway declaration:** Highlights that the ocean plays a crucial role in the planet ecosystem function => the role that ERA and FP7 must play in supporting world class excellence in marine science & technology.

- **March 2005 – Commission strategic objectives 2005-2009:** Future EMP supported by excellence in marine scientific research

- **December 2006 –** FP7 decision “special attention to cross-cutting priority areas such as ...marine science and technologies”

- **June 2007 – Aberdeen Declaration:** stakeholders call for integration across scientific disciplines

- **October 2007 – Blue Book ’An Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union’ gives one more push

- **September 2008 –** Adoption of the EU Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research

- **December 2008 –** The Council endorses the MMS
A European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research

- Sets a coherent **European Research Area Framework** in support of a sustainable use of oceans and seas

- It recognizes that a pure thematic and sectoral approach to research is no longer sufficient

- It proposes **concrete measures and mechanisms** to improve the efficiency and excellence of marine and maritime research in order to address the challenges and opportunities presented by the oceans and seas

- It proposes a more effective **integration, pooling of knowledge and resources** along with a **partnership** sustainable over the long term
The strategy in brief

Two major lines of action:

A. Addressing **complexity** of oceans and seas

B. Proposal for new forms of **governance** in research
Capacity Building

- Building new research & observation infrastructures
- Promoting new & interdisciplinary skills and education capacities
- Exploring new financing schemes combining various sources of investment
Integration

- Integration across marine and maritime research disciplines
- Integration and efficient use of marine data bases
- Optimise use of existing research infrastructures
- Foster knowledge & technology transfer
Supporting synergies

- Promote synergies at national & regional level
- Mobilise national & regional funding to reach critical mass to address marine research challenges
- Attract private investments through activities of ETPs and other industry-driven initiatives
New model of governance

- Design of an effective and innovative research governance framework engaging scientists, policy makers and the public at large

- A strong long-lasting marine and maritime partnership that may take the form of a Forum

International Cooperation component given the global nature of the challenges and the fact that the seas and oceans surrounding the EU are shared with third countries.
What role for the Forum?

• Update research priorities, identify gaps, in consultation with stakeholders, Member States and the European Union Institutions, deliver strategic advice

• Support the implement research priorities, based on new forms of:
  – cooperation
  – innovative financing schemes
  – dissemination & exploitation

• Develop a foresight function

• Propose international cooperation around large programmes and neighbouring countries
What expected benefits?

- Excellence and efficiency in marine & maritime research:
  - to improve the preservation of the marine environment and biodiversity
  - to support the development of sustainable maritime activities
  - to support to EU Policies (EMP, CFP, Marine Strategy Framework Directive/GES requirements, etc.)
Who will implement the strategy?

• The MS, the regions, industry, research centres, civil society will be the essential actors; MS in particular for joint programming

• EC: facilitator (+ EU instruments), coordination, ‘monitoring’ of the implementation
MMS Implementation – in brief (1)

Capacities

- **Expert group on marine research infrastructures**
  identify needs and explore innovative funding possibilities,
  particularly with structural funds and in full coordination with
  the ESFRI process.

Integration

- **Launching of two cross-sectorial Joint call Ocean of Tomorrow**
  (FP7-OCEAN-2010 and FP7-OCEAn-2011)

  - A multi-disciplinary approach and a multi-sectoral partnership were
    considered essential to achieving the research topics expected
    impacts
  - Joint cross sectorial approach among several FP7 themes
    (Environment, Energy, Transport, KBBE, Social Sciences &
    Humanities)
MMS Implementation – in brief (2)
Joint Calls Ocean of Tomorrow

**Call FP7-OCEAN-2010**
Deadline: 14th of January 2010; Budget: 34 million €
3 topics, 1 project selected per topic

- OCEAN.2010-1/ Quantification of climate change impacts on economic sectors in the Arctic (11 M€)
  - ACCESS proposal - Leading Directorate Transport

- OCEAN.2010-2/ Vectors of changes in marine life, impact on economic sectors (12,5 M€)
  VECTORS proposal - Leading Directorate KBBE

- OCEAN.2010-3/ Sub-seabed carbon storage and the marine environment (10,5 M€)
  ECO2 proposal - Leading Directorate Environment

**Call FP7-OCEAN-2011**
Publication: 20 July 2010; Deadline: 18 January 2011 (TBC); Budget 45 million €
Two generic topics:

- Multi-use offshore platforms
- Marine microbial diversity - new insights into marine ecosystems functioning and its biotechnological potential

Two topics of particular relevance to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (SICA):

- Assessing and predicting the combined effects of natural and human-made pressures in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in view of their better governance
- Knowledge-base and tools for regional networks of MPAs, integrated management of activities together with assessment of wind energy potential in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea

Infoday: Brussels, 9th September 2010
Synergies/Governance

- **SEAS-ERA** – Towards Integrated European Marine Research Strategy and Programmes (the marine ‘overarching Eranet’)

  The proposal seeks to build upon previous and ongoing ERA-NETs to develop an **overarching structure to support marine research** on the four main European Seas. It addresses cross-cutting/integrating themes, common programmes, joint calls, infrastructure and capacity building. It involves 22 funding agencies from different regions of Europe. Started: May 2010

- **BONUS Article 185** (formerly Article 169) – proposal on a Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme

  The objective is to enhance the **Baltic Sea region research capacity** to ensure a more sustainable development of the region. The Commission proposes to contribute € 50 million to a joint research investment with the eight EU Baltic MS states. The € 100 million programme will provide a framework for the coordination of their environmental research. Adopted by the Council (May 26-27 2010), by the EP in Plenary session (16 June 2010), final decision of the Council (July 2010)

- Longer term: Joint Programming on marine/maritime topics

  What about the joint programming initiative on European Seas and Oceans?
Synergies/Governance

- **MARCOM+** – Towards an Integrated Marine and Maritime Science Community
  The 'Aberdeen Plus interest group' joined forces with the 'Venice Platform group' to take further steps in integrating the marine, maritime and coastal research sectors in Europe. The goal is to establish a sustainable and long-lasting partnership forum - European Marine and Maritime Science and Technology Forum -, based on shared interests and shared leadership, and to test it on regional seas and pan-European basis. The consortium involves 10 EU Research organisations and associations. Start: January 2010

- **EMAR2RES** – Support Action to initiate cooperation between the Communities of European Marine and Maritime Research and Science
  The proposal was developed to investigate and develop cooperation between Marine and Maritime Research Communities with a focus on Maritime Transport. The project is to set up an appropriate, efficient and streamlined cooperation framework to realise the concept of sustainable development (in the context of climate change) while achieving the Lisbon agenda. EMAR²RES involves, the European Associations representing the major waterborne R&D stakeholders. Start: November 2009
MMS Implementation

A lot has been done by the European Research Community in the marine domain with a series of efforts going from the FAIR and MAST Programmes to the ERA FP6 and FP7 initiatives.

We have now in Europe a S&T Community which does look entirely different from the one of 20 years ago: more competitive, better recognized in the global arena, better organized in delivering information to stakeholders and policy makers. Better prepared as well to address the grand challenges and opportunities presented by the oceans and seas.

SEAS-Era by bringing together the four European sea basins and the main national agencies will play a key role in this process.
EurOCEAN 2010 Conference
Grand challenges for marine research in the next decade

A Belgian EU Presidency event, organized in close collaboration with the European Commission and the Marine Board-ESF

The EurOCEAN 2010 conference
• Considering, discussing and responding to new policy developments and achievements since the last EurOCEAN conference (Aberdeen, 2007)
• Highlighting new challenges and opportunities for marine research in the next decade
• Reinforcing the importance of marine science in effective maritime policy making
• Promotion of agreed science priorities and support mechanisms to ensure that future marine research challenges and opportunities are properly addressed at national and European level

A key objective of the EurOCEAN 2010 Conference will be to agree and adopt an “Ostend Declaration”. The Declaration should represent a consensus view of the EurOCEAN 2010 participants, reflecting that of the European marine science community.

Read more on www.eurocean2010.eu and register now at the early bird rate!
EU Strategy for Marine & Maritime Research

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=ENVIRONMENT_NEWS&ACTION=D&DOC=7&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=0122ebdd1e53:0dc3:49c8c4b7&RCN=29824
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Thank you for your attention!