

MSI 2012

Marine and Sub-Marine Infrastructures Symposium

November 13-14-15, 2012 – Toulon, France

Workshop 1: Marine Research Infrastructures: towards a sustainable use and a common strategy in Europe

Session 1: Open and Transnational Access to MRI

INTRODUCTION

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Objectives of the symposium

- Highlight benefits and advantages of open Trans National Access (TNA) within FP7-13 projects or in regional frameworks (e.g. BONUS).
- Discuss opportunities to improve and maintain TNA activities at a significant level (20%?) in JPI Oceans and Horizon 2020.

Question

What is the role of TNA in establishing sustained MRI networks and developing a common strategy in Europe?



Access to RI

The main aim is to maximise the impact of research infrastructures by providing **essential services** to Europe's research community in industry and academia.

- Physical/in-person access for marine scientists and engineers to perform research and technological development (RTD);
- Access to data, products and services.



EC initiatives promoting Access to RI

2007-2013 : FP7 Capacities Programme, Research Infrastructures

Overall objectives:

- to optimize the use and development of the best research infrastructures existing in Europe
- to help to create new research infrastructures of pan-European interest in all fields of science and technology

In particular with the Integrating Activities

- providing a **wider and more efficient access to, and use of, the research infrastructures** existing in EU Member States, Associated Countries and at international level when appropriate (including: transnational access, joint research and networking).

*Ref. http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/capacities/research-infrastructures_en.html
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures>*



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Transnational access activities already performed and/or underway

FP7-13 projects:

ASSEMBLE : Marine Biological Laboratories


<http://assemblemarine.org/offering-access-to-marine-infrastructure/>

 **EUROFLEETS : Global/Ocean and Regional classes Research Ships and Vessels**

http://www.eurofleets.eu/np4/open_access

MESOAQUA : Mesocosm facilities


http://mesoaqua.eu/Transnational_Access

 **MARINET : Marine renewables infrastructure for Emerging Energy Technologies**

http://www.fp7-marinet.eu/access_facilities-available.html

JERICO : Coastal observatories

<http://www.jerico-fp7.eu/tna>

 **AQUAEXCEL : Aquaculture infrastructures**

http://www.aquaexcel.eu/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=42:call-for-access

Other funding schemes:

 **BONUS : The joint Baltic Sea research and development programme**

http://www.bonusportal.org/bonus_2010-2016/facilities_and_data_sharing

OFEG : Ocean Facilities Exchange Group (Global and Ocean Class research fleet)

<http://www.ofeq.org>

The future

2014-2020 : Horizon 2020 the new EC Framework Program for Research and Innovation

15 July – 22 October 2012

Ref. <http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures>

Consultation on Possible topics for future activities for integrating and opening national research infrastructures, 550 proposals for 250 different potential topics.

Final evaluation panel's report in February 2013.

2012-> : Joint Programming Initiative “Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans” (JPI Oceans)



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-What is the role of TNA in establishing sustained MRI networks and developing a common strategy in Europe?

-How can we assure a meaningful threshold of funding for TNA activities within the contexts of Horizon 2020 and the Joint Programming Initiative “Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans”?

-How can we improve the number of potential TNA users for specific RIs?



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END

Benefits to Users

Opportunities for marine scientists, engineers and technicians:

- to access top-flight MRI, within a pan-European network; mainly those not existing in their own countries, free of charge, and with support from the local staff to perform research as Principal Investigators;
- to participate to the development of comparable methods (e.g. inter-calibration) and common standards of the network;
- to acquire knowledge on best practices on aspects ranging from infrastructure management, equipment choice and operation, and experimental protocols to quality assurance and management of data;
- to design and test new equipment and experimental methods.



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Benefits to RI Operators

Opportunities for RI Operators opening to TNA:

- To publicize the RIs, enhancing their visibility both nationally and internationally.
- To maximize the utilization of the RI by the user community, thereby justifying investments and enhancing value.
- To expand the potential user base for the RI, creating new space for innovation and development.
- To attract fresh investors and financing for the RI through collaborations fostered within TNA actions, especially with the private sector.
- To participate in an excellence-based networking initiative that will aid in strengthening cross-border cooperation in science and industry at the European level.



Benefits to RI Operators

Opportunities for RI Operators participating in TNA programmes:

To enter into a functional framework of Operators

- promoting quality resources and services to users,
- sharing experience in optimal management of resources,
- to set-up joint mobility and training schemes,
- to provide relevant information on MRI in standardised formats and portals,
- to develop common standards and practices to improve MRI shared use,
- to evaluate future requirements in terms of new and upgraded installations and their optimal distribution in Europe (link to Session 3)



Benefits to Cooperation

Improving mutual cohesion and coordination

- to develop common research programmes and projects;
- to contribute to the so-called “Stairways to excellence”, as a complement to the excellence criteria itself;
- to foster the use by research communities of cutting-edge European MRI.



EC initiatives promoting Access to RI

PAST

1994-1998 : FP4 Marine Science and Technology Programme, MAST III

MRI projects mainly devoted to data archiving and distribution, and information management

Ref. http://cordis.europa.eu,infra_fp4_projects.pdf

1998-2002 : FP5 Improving the human research potential and the socio-economic knowledge base

- Support to increase the impact of EU RIs through the «Enhancing Access to Research Infrastructures activity».
- Action implemented primarily by "buying time" on infrastructures.

Ref. <http://cordis.europa.eu/improving/infrastructure/home.htm>

2002-2006 : FP6 Integrated Infrastructure Initiatives (I3)

A combination of NA, TNA and JRA with the purpose of reinforcing research infrastructures and providing an integrated service at the European level

*Ref. <http://cordis.europa.eu/infrastructures/i3.htm>
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures>*

