



## Report from the Chair: Session 1 (1)

# Open and Transnational Access to MRI

### Examples shown

**I3 - EUROFLEETS, research vessels** *Nicole Biebow (AWI) and Fiona Grant (MI)*

**I3 – MARINET, ocean engineering facilities** *Christophe Maisondieu (Ifremer)*

**I3 – AQUAEXCEL, aquaculture infrastructures,** *Marc Vandeputte (INRA)*

**Art. 185 – BONUS** *Andris Andrusaitis (BONUS)*

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# Report from the Chair: Session 1 (2) Open and Transnational Access to MRI

## Main facts from I3 projects

### I3 - EUROFLEETS (Oceanic and Regional Vessels)

- 1 Ocean and Regional Call (2010) + 1 Regional Call (2011). **67 EoI received**, mostly global (39) and for geology. 1 not eligible. 16 cruises carried out up to now.
- Evaluation procedure: 1) eligibility, 2) scientific eval., 3) logistical feasibility eval., 4) Final approval.
- Strong interaction with facility operators but **independent scientific review process** (important!).
- Eligibility criteria set: **scientific excellence, transeuropean character** (min 2 national teams for user group), **interoperability/mobility** of scientists promoted.
- Call + evaluation process consolidated/adapted for Eurofleets2.

### I3 - MARINET (Offshore renewable energy facilities: (ocean, waves, tidal, wind))

- **44 facilities** providing free of charge test access (**700 weeks of access, 300 projects**): from small labs to large scale sites. Associated partners join more and more
- Standardised description of facilities on the website. Promotion and information is key to foster TNA
- **1<sup>st</sup> call: >60 application** from 12 countries and then expert selection panel based on criteria  
2<sup>nd</sup> call closed, now evaluation

### I3 - AQUAEXCEL (Aquaculture infrastructure)

- Different and wide types of systems (cages, isolated, hatcheries etc.), diverse growing techniques for different species, different fields of expertise. No remote access.
- **1 call every 6 months** (7 expected). **180 applications** received till now. Mostly Academic, few SMEs
- Evaluation procedure: 1) Logistic check, 2) Scientific evaluation (8 reviewers, 4 external + 4 internal of the consortium), 4 evaluators/proposal

MSI 2012, Marine and Sub-marine Infrastructures symposium, Toulon, 13-14-15 nov. 2012

## Report from the Chair: Session 1 (3)

### Open and Transnational Access to MRI

# 13 TNA - Criticalities and open questions

**Common:** Some RI very popular, some not asked for.

**Vessels:** Detailed information needed on **available equipment**, and **vessels availability** over 3-4 yrs

Clearance problems not always solved for foreign vessels in coastal/ZEE waters

TNA appreciated by community but remote access was unsuccessful

**Aquaculture:** Need to set up a “bench fee” for basic analyses (labs analysis) to the access cost itself,

Industry participation must be increased but results should be publishable.



## Report from the Chair: Session 1 (4) Open and Transnational Access to MRI

### Main facts from BONUS

**BONUS** (regional programme, 8 EU MS + EC; 100 millions 2011-2017, 50% per part)

3 series of calls (2012, 2013, 2014, several thematics and linked to innovation).

1<sup>st</sup> call on December 2011.

**Marine RI in BONUS:** up to 25% of the contribution from participating states may provide in-kind infrastructure contributions (only during the implementation phase)

Achievements: Inventories, guidelines, establishment of bilateral agreements between national MRI providers and the BONUS EEIG

Three types: RV, field stations, supercomputers; list could be extended

Most of the money is going to ship time allocation and computing facilities

#### **Criticalities :**

- **4 players** (EC, consortium, proposers & providers of facilities which is usually the national agency/operator), **complex interactions: to function, it requires multiple interactions, back and forth exchanges** (proposal, bilateral agreements, operational agreements, etc.)
- **to be proven : RI use, and RI actual cost for the given project**
- funds by EC return to BONUS beneficiary (= member states or their delegates), not directly to the RI operators
- Reporting is an additional burden to participants and MRI providers



## Report from the Chair: Session 1 (5)

### Open and Transnational Access to MRI

#### Things to work out

#### (for a common EU strategy and sustainable use of MRI)

1. Problem of over-subscription to access some facilities, no applications for some others in I3 projects.

Solutions: better communication on calls and results

encourage partners to make direct promotion to research teams

better use of ICT tools to increase the visibility of opportunities

better clarify the level of available support

as a last possibility, discard unsuccessful facilities for the benefit of TNA

success redirecting application to other specialised facilities in the network

2. To improve the TNA actions, there is a need to solve some **administrative burden** (to check with the EC) and possibility to ease the redeployment of demands onto other facilities. Some simplification could also be proposed for ease of MRI providers in both costs calculation and reporting.
3. Overall, for TNA, try to **find ways and means to attract more users**, including from new areas (Need to “market” the infrastructures).

## Report from the Chair: Session 1 (6)

### Open and Transnational Access to MRI

#### Things to work out

#### (for a common EU strategy and sustainable use of MRI)

4. Need to improve interactions with the **industry**. Burden: results from I3 projects should be publicly available which can limit the involvement of SMEs (IP rights); to avoid this problem, rules should be fixed at the beginning of the process. Moreover, highlight them the benefits to be involved in such EU initiatives.
5. Need to **educate and inform researchers and other stakeholders**, organise open days meeting to stimulate interest for private/public stakeholders.

Common info days for all the MRI TNA activities underway?

6. Organization of more attractive calls, e.g. combining TNA of related MRI (Eurofleets+Jerico, ...).

**! Need to work together for removing common legal and administrative burdens.**

**? Organize a special workshop on Marine TNA activities under ongoing I3 projects (plus BONUS, OFEG and other initiative dealing with MRI ACCESS) or a virtual space of discussion where to share experiences and propose solutions?**