



Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Are the marine data collected in the Arctic and the Baltic fit for purpose?

NEWS ARTICLE | 17 November 2016

Two new draft adequacy reports are available from the Baltic Sea Checkpoint and the Arctic Checkpoints.

The reports can be downloaded from the maritime forum at the links below. For more information on the EMODnet Sea Basin Checkpoints see [here](#).

- <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/node/3953>
- <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/node/3954>

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European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EMODnet Welcomes New Associated Partners

NEWS ARTICLE | 12 January 2017

EMODnet is delighted to welcome three new associated partners to its network: The Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN) in Spain, the Coastal Research and Engineering Services ([CORES](#)) in Bulgaria, and Dredging, Environmental & Marine Engineering ([DEME](#)) in Belgium. The EMODnet 'Associated Partner' category was established to respond to increasing requests from organisations to join the EMODnet partnership in a facilitated way. Further information on EMODnet's Associated Partnership scheme, including application criteria, can be found [here](#).

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

A New Year and a New Phase for EMODnet

NEWS ARTICLE | 18 January 2017

2016 was a very productive and pivotal year as we came to the end of the **2nd EMODnet development phase (2013-2016)**. During this phase, EMODnet evolved from a series of prototype data portals to a mature and operational service covering all European sea-basins. EMODnet [data portals](#) now serve more data and products covering all sea-basins to an increasing and widening range of users than ever before. As a result, EMODnet has become a reference point and has embedded itself firmly into the European marine data landscape. The EMODnet Central Portal, launched in 2013, has grown from simply providing a gateway to thematic data portals, to a full blown information hub providing an expanding range of data services covering all EMODnet themes. In 2016, a prototype [Map Viewer](#) and [Products Catalogue](#) were added to enable search, visualisation and downloading of core EMODnet data layers. These services will be further developed in the coming years.

While all thematic projects are ending, **many new projects were initiated in 2016** as well. Four new [EMODnet Sea-basin Checkpoints](#) or 'data stress tests' were launched in June 2016 covering the Arctic, Atlantic, Baltic and Black Sea, complementing the North Sea and MedSea Checkpoints initiated in 2013. An entirely new kind of project, launched in spring 2016, will develop an [EMODnet Data Ingestion Facility](#). This facility will provide a helpdesk and gateway for public or private data holders who wish to share their data but are currently unable to do so.

Our **collaboration with external organisations and (marine) data initiatives** has also improved greatly over the last year. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between [EMODnet Physics](#) and the [Copernicus Marine Environmental Monitoring Service](#) (CMEMS) formalising the commitment to work together to provide coherent and complementary sustained services, avoid duplication of efforts and facilitate access to CMEMS and EMODnet services to those who need in situ products. We have also increased our effort to collaborate with the [INSPIRE](#) community to improve alignment of EMODnet with INSPIRE and vice versa.

In 2016 we have significantly upped our **communication efforts to increase the visibility** of the EMODnet data portals and projects. Yet EMODnet is still largely unknown to many potential users and contributors. We have explored **new ways of engaging non-traditional stakeholders** beyond the monitoring and observation communities, in particular from SMEs and maritime industry. As a result, we created the new ['EMODnet Associated Partnership' scheme](#) enabling EMODnet to become a more flexible, open and inclusive network. We are pleased to welcome the first three Associated Partners to join our Network: The [Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands \(PLOCAN\)](#) in Spain, the [Coastal Research and Engineering Services \(CORES\)](#) in Bulgaria, and [Dredging, Environmental & Marine Engineering \(DEME\)](#) in Belgium. Do not hesitate to inform potentially interested organisations, associations or companies about this opportunity if you think there would be a mutual benefit for them to join our network.

New Year, New Challenges

Looking ahead, **we expect seven new projects** for the further development, operation and maintenance of the **EMODnet thematic data portals** to start **early 2017**. This will be the real kick-

off of the **3rd and final EMODnet development phase (2016-2020)** which will focus on reaching the EMODnet 2020 targets described in the [Communication from the Commission “Innovation in the Blue Economy”](#) and associated Marine Knowledge 2020 roadmap:

“to deliver a seamless multi-resolution digital seabed map of European waters of the highest resolution possible, covering topography, geology, habitats and ecosystems. This will be accompanied by access to timely observations and information on the present and past physical, chemical and biological state of the overlying water column, by associated data on human activities, by their impact on the sea and by oceanographic forecasts. All of this should be easily accessible, interoperable and free of restrictions on use. It should be nourished by a sustainable process that progressively improves its fitness for purpose and helps Member States maximise the potential of their marine observation, sampling and surveying programmes.”

It is clear that much work remains to be done to achieve these targets and address the many challenges identified during the EMODnet Open Conference in 2015 (see Conference Report).

But this is not enough: as we move into the final development phase we need to increase our efforts to consider a **sustainable future for EMODnet post-2020**, when the core data sharing service is to be fully deployed and operational. To be sustainable, we may need to be more creative and ambitious than merely maintaining an operational service.

There will be another opportunity to meet and consider the future requirements for more efficient and effective marine observation and data acquisition, management and open-sharing practices in Europe at the upcoming [EMODnet Stakeholder Conference & Sea-basin Workshops \(14-15 February, Brussels\)](#). The **Stakeholder Conference** provides an exciting opportunity to showcase the work of the EMODnet Checkpoints and to interact with regional stakeholders to ensure that our sea-basin observing systems are fit-for-purpose. We deliberately organised this event on Valentine’s Day to celebrate our common passion for marine data and ocean observing and offer free entrance for all partners of attendees to join the Conference Reception on 14/02. It will be good to see you all there!

Finally, we take this opportunity to thank all EMODnet project coordinators, Steering Committee members, partners and contributors for your relentless efforts to shape EMODnet into what it is today: a growing network of people working together to realise the vision of a pan-European, interoperable, distributed marine data-sharing infrastructure. Because of these efforts, EMODnet is increasingly recognised by marine and maritime stakeholders as a crucial infrastructure and service underpinning the EC’s Blue Growth Strategy.

The EMODnet Secretariat Team

Jan-Bart, Belén, Oonagh, Vikki and Phil

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European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EMODnet Stakeholder Conference and Sea-basins Workshops

NEWS ARTICLE | 26 January 2017

How fit for purpose is Europe's marine data infrastructure? How accessible and interoperable are the data? Where are the gaps in monitoring? A series of stress tests in Europe's seabasins have been underway for the past three years. Join our upcoming stakeholder conference when the results of these stress-tests will be presented and discussed to consider the way forward.

[EMODnet Stakeholder Conference & Sea-basin Workshops: Stress-testing European Marine Data – Towards a European Ocean Observing System](#)

[14-15 February, Brussels, Belgium](#)

The Conference aims to mobilise a wide group of interested stakeholders to consider joint issues, present common findings as well as highlighting differences between the Sea-basins, as identified by the EMODnet Sea-basin Checkpoints, in terms of existing and future monitoring and observation activities, data availability and usefulness to address real problems.

The main objectives of the EMODnet Checkpoints Stakeholder Conference are to:

- Inform interested stakeholders about the outputs and findings of the EMODnet Sea-basin Checkpoints;
- Consider how to improve future data adequacy assessments and outputs by seeking input from stakeholders' needs and identification of gaps;
- Look forward with Stakeholders from science, policy, industry and civil society on how marine monitoring and observation activities could be improved and better coordinated in Europe.

EMODnet Sea-basin Checkpoints assess the quality of the current observation monitoring data at the level of the regional sea-basins. By testing the data against specific end-user challenges, the checkpoints aim to demonstrate how well the current monitoring systems and data collection frameworks provides data to meet the needs of users. In doing so, data gaps and duplications as well as significant bottlenecks are being highlighted. The programme is available [here](#).

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European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Find out first-hand from experts how EMODnet will boost your business and research at the upcoming Stress-testing European Marine Data conference

NEWS ARTICLE | 7 February 2017

Are you a researcher or a professional involved in the maritime economy dealing with fisheries, shipping or off-shore energy facilities? If you make use of distributed data, metadata and products on European coastal and ocean waters or produce them yourself, EMODnet is a key asset for improving your activities.

Wondering how?

Join us at the upcoming EMODnet Stakeholder Conference and Sea-basin Workshop, 14-15 Brussels February in Brussels, **to hear first hand from a unique team of experts about the added value delivered by EMODnet, your gateway to European Marine Data.**

The focus of this year's conference is on how to improve and coordinate marine monitoring and observation activities in Europe. The conference will be chaired by **Phil Weaver**, chair of the EMODnet Steering Committee and Scientific Coordinator of the [Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative \(GOBI\)](#) , and will be opened by **Jan-Bart Calewaert**, head of the EMODnet Secretariat, who will introduce the EMODnet achievements, challenges and activities. **Valerie Cummins**, [University College Cork](#) , and co-founder of the [Irish Maritime Energy Resource Cluster](#) , will set the scene for the conference focusing on the importance of data and information for the users of ocean and coastal space and, most importantly, highlighting the dual key role of industry as both data users and providers.

Iain Shepherd from the [European Commission Directorate-General Maritime Affairs and Fisheries](#) will report on the early results of the Sea-basin Checkpoints, also known as the EMODnet data stress-tests. ***"The EMODnet Seabasin Checkpoints are fundamental to assess the quality and usefulness of the current observation and monitoring data at the level of the regional sea-basins."*** stresses Mr Shepherd, ***"These Checkpoints are our concrete bridge with the users and thanks to them we now have a better picture about the basic information we have and what is still missing to solve concrete problems related to managing and using our seas and oceans resources. For example, we know that there are about 94 alien species which invaded the Arctic Ocean; we are aware that the quality of the wind speed and strength data in the Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea is good enough to use the available data to determine suitable areas for wind farms, we know that monitoring of bathyal and abyssal habitats is not undertaken in many sub-regions of the Atlantic ocean. These are only some examples of the powerful knowledge we have gained which can help us improve our marine observation and monitoring activities"***.

The detailed results of the six sea-basin checkpoints will be analysed and further discussed on 14 February in the afternoon during a series of dedicated parallel workshops coordinated by Sea-basin Checkpoint representatives:

- **Jun She**, [EMODnet Baltic Sea Checkpoint](#) and senior researcher at the Danish Meteorological Institute
- **Nadia Pinardi**, [EMODnet Mediterranean Sea Checkpoint](#) and associate tenure professor of [Oceanography at Bologna University](#) [↗](#), Italy
- **Quillon Harpham**, [EMODnet North Sea Checkpoint](#) and principal scientist in the [Hydrodynamics and Metocean Group at HR Wallingford](#) [↗](#)
- **Mickaël Vasquez**, [EMODnet Atlantic Checkpoint](#) and marine mapping scientist at [Ifremer](#) [↗](#)
- **Atanas Palazov**, [EMODnet Black Sea Checkpoint](#) and Head of the [Bulgarian National Oceanographic Data Centre](#) [↗](#) and former Director of [IO-BAS](#) [↗](#)
- **Belinda Kater**, [EMODnet Artic Checkpoint](#) and leader of the work on Marine and Aquatic Ecology of the Nature Department at ARCADIS

Besides a plenary discussion on how to improve Europe's marine observation capacity, on day two, participants will have the opportunity to hear from **Glenn Nolan**, [EuroGOOS](#) [↗](#), about the outcomes of the consultation on establishing a European Ocean Observing System and from **Claire O'Neill**, UK Met Office, on the status and advances in marine data and observations for storm surge forecasting.

This unique event will culminate in an interactive panel session chaired by **Bernhard Friess** ([DG MARE](#)), who will invite **Niall McDonough** ([European Marine Board](#) [↗](#)), **Simon Jennings** ([ICES](#) [↗](#)), **Samantha Burges** (WWF) and **Val Cummins** ([Irish Maritime Energy Resource Cluster](#) [↗](#)) to provide their expertise and personal views on how to improve marine data collection and availability in Europe, for their respective sectors, and for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Don't miss out! [See the programme here](#)

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European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Welcome to the new EMODnet Data Ingestion portal

NEWS ARTICLE | 9 February 2017

Turn your data into a valuable asset for the marine and maritime community

Knowledge is all about data. Therefore, we need more data, more data, and ... more data.

Since 2009, this has been the main driver of EMODnet. EMODnet collects data to make data, metadata and data products on European coastal and ocean waters available to help governments, industry and policy makers to make informed decisions.

To further speed up this data collection process, a new EMODnet service has been developed: the [EMODnet Data Ingestion portal](#) .

Launched this week, **the portal will become the reference point for all those European marine data holders** that currently are not submitting datasets to national or regional data centres on a regular basis, or that are not used to practices and standards as used by the international marine data management community. EMODnet is interested in all kinds of data and observations covering among others bathymetry, geology, physics, chemistry, biology and even human activities data.

The submitted datasets will be further elaborated and published 'as is' in the EMODnet Ingestion portal for free download by any user. Moreover, in a second stage, the submitted data will be curated by expert data centres for uptake of (subsets) of the data into national data centres and, from there, also made available for European infrastructures, such as the [SeaDataNet](#) , [EurOBIS](#) and [EMODnet thematic portals](#).

The Ingestion portal is clearly a **unique opportunity for new potential data providers**.

Are you willing to share your data but you don't have time and resources to spend for the submission?

Everybody loves open access and everybody understands the added value. But it is also true that no one wants to spend time and resources to make its data available for others with no clear immediate return. At EMODnet we clearly understand this, and this is why when we designed the portal we did it with one thing in mind: **the data submission process needs to be easy and quick**.

On the ingestion portal a completely free-of-charge [Help Desk service](#) is available.

If you are not familiar with the practices and standards used by the international marine data management community, contact the Help Desk and they will help make your data submission smooth.

The Help Desk is your way to acquire more skills and knowledge on the international marine data management practices and policies.

What else to say? **Start using the portal and become an essential part of the growing EMODnet community. Your data aggregated with data from others can make the difference.** When you submit data it also assures your data is made available in a way compliant to the [INSPIRE Directive](#).

If you want more information about what EMODnet can do for you and what you can do for EMODnet join us next week at the [EMODnet Stakeholder Conference](#).

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European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Sea-Basin Checkpoints at the heart of the EMODnet data availability and quality assessment

NEWS ARTICLE | 16 February 2017

Over 150 stakeholders from the marine and maritime sectors participated in the [EMODnet Stakeholder Conference and Sea-basin workshops](#) which took place in Brussels on the 14th and 15th of February.

Besides further clarifying the role and the mission of the EMODnet sea-basin checkpoints, the event provided the perfect opportunity to **showcase and discuss the early results of the stress tests on data availability and quality performed in the regional sea-basins. Many positive conclusions were highlighted, while acknowledging that some knowledge gaps still exist.**

All the checkpoints are trying to answer the following question: **Are the marine data in each specific region fit for purpose?**

The complete intermediate results for each region have been published on the [Maritime Forum](#) website where you can find all the data adequacy reports for the [Atlantic](#), the [Arctic](#), the [Baltic](#), the [Black Sea](#), the [Mediterranean](#) and the [North Sea](#) regions.

All the presentations from the event are available on the EMODnet website. [CLICK HERE!](#)

More information and outputs will be available soon!

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Do you collect or use marine data? Contribute to EMODnet and become part of the European Commission's informal expert group on marine knowledge

NEWS ARTICLE | 7 March 2017

The European Commission DG MARE is setting up an informal expert group to advise on scientific, technical and operational matters in marine observation. One of the group's priorities will be to assist DG MARE with monitoring the development of EMODnet.

In particular they would welcome applicants who could contribute the perspective of the **private sector** to better understand:

- how maritime business and investment can be served better by the provision of data through the EMODnet Network;
- the gaps in current marine observation systems that limit offshore and coastal investment;
- how private companies could contribute towards monitoring the seas and oceans and how the data they collect for their own purposes could be made more widely available

Find out more and [apply now to join the group](#).

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

A spotlight on the EMODnet bathymetry portal: innovations and results

NEWS ARTICLE | 8 March 2017

Bathymetric data, in essence information about the water depth and underwater topography of oceans and seas, is important in many aspects of **marine research, administration and spatial planning as well as for management of marine and coastal environments and their resources**. In coastal areas societal needs are at the forefront: **safety of vessel navigation is the most prioritized rationale for bathymetric mapping** close to the coast, around shoals and along shipping routes. This mapping is the basis for the production of nautical charts. Finally, bathymetry data is also essential for **planning marine installations and infrastructure such as wind turbines, coastal defences, oil platforms and pipelines**. Research and academia organisations, governmental agencies, industry and citizens can benefit significantly from a wealth of high quality trustworthy and easily accessible bathymetric data.

Even though bathymetric data are still sparse in many regions, significant international efforts are pursued in order to assemble all the data collected by various actors and make these available to the public. **EMODnet Bathymetry is the major effort undertaken by Europe on this challenge.**

A single-access point to bathymetric products and data

Launched in 2011, the [EMODnet bathymetry portal](#) is an international reference point for **bathymetric data and products**. The most important product is the **EMODnet Digital Terrain Model (DTM)**, last update in October 2016. The EMODnet DTM is a multilayer bathymetric product for Europe's sea basins. Over the years many new surveys and composite DTMs have been gathered and included and today the DTM is **based upon more than 7700 bathymetric survey data sets and composite DTMs that have been gathered from 31 data providers from 18 European countries**.

The resolution of the DTM is a grid with $1/8 * 1/8$ arc minutes (circa 230 metres). In addition, there is a layer showing high-resolution bathymetry for selected coastal waters in Europe to test the concept of a multi-resolution product. Altogether the EMODnet DTM contains over one billion points which are divided over 16 tiles which can be downloaded freely in various formats through the Bathymetry Viewing and Download service.

EMODnet Bathymetry at work: improving storm surge modelling in UK

The Met Office and National Oceanography Centre are jointly developing a new storm surge forecast model for the UK. The new system uses [NEMO](#) as the underlying ocean model. In order to correctly forecast storm surge it is vital that the model's tidal solution is accurate, which in turn requires an accurate bathymetry. As part of the setup, a number of different bathymetry products were tested, and the results compared with observations from tide gauges around the UK.

Using **EMODnet bathymetry** led to an overall improvement in the model tide solution compared with the previously used bathymetry data.

Satellites, citizen and clouds boosting the EMODnet bathymetry portal

EMODnet bathymetry portal will adopt innovative technological approaches for data collection: satellite derived bathymetry and crowdsourced bathymetry. **Satellite derived bathymetry** (SDB) is a relatively new technique in hydrography for the development of bathymetric maps from shallow waters and coastal regions. The biggest advantage is that it can cover a large area against relatively low investment in time and resources. Another interesting novelty is **bathymetry data crowdsourcing**. This is becoming a real trend among yacht owners and sailing enthusiasts who are eager to collect and provide data. EMODnet intends to exploit these new trends to fill the existing gaps of in situ observations.

Finally, EMODnet will move from a desktop tool to a **collaborative cloud based environment**. This will make Digital Terrain Models more cost-efficient and easier to access.

Contributing to the EMODnet bathymetry portal has become even easier: use the Ingestion portal!

To further speed up the bathymetry data collection process, a new EMODnet service has been recently released: the [EMODnet Data Ingestion portal](https://www.emodnet-ingestion.eu)  (www.emodnet-ingestion.eu). Submit your bathymetry data through this portal: it is quicker and a help desk is always available to support you.

More information [here](#)

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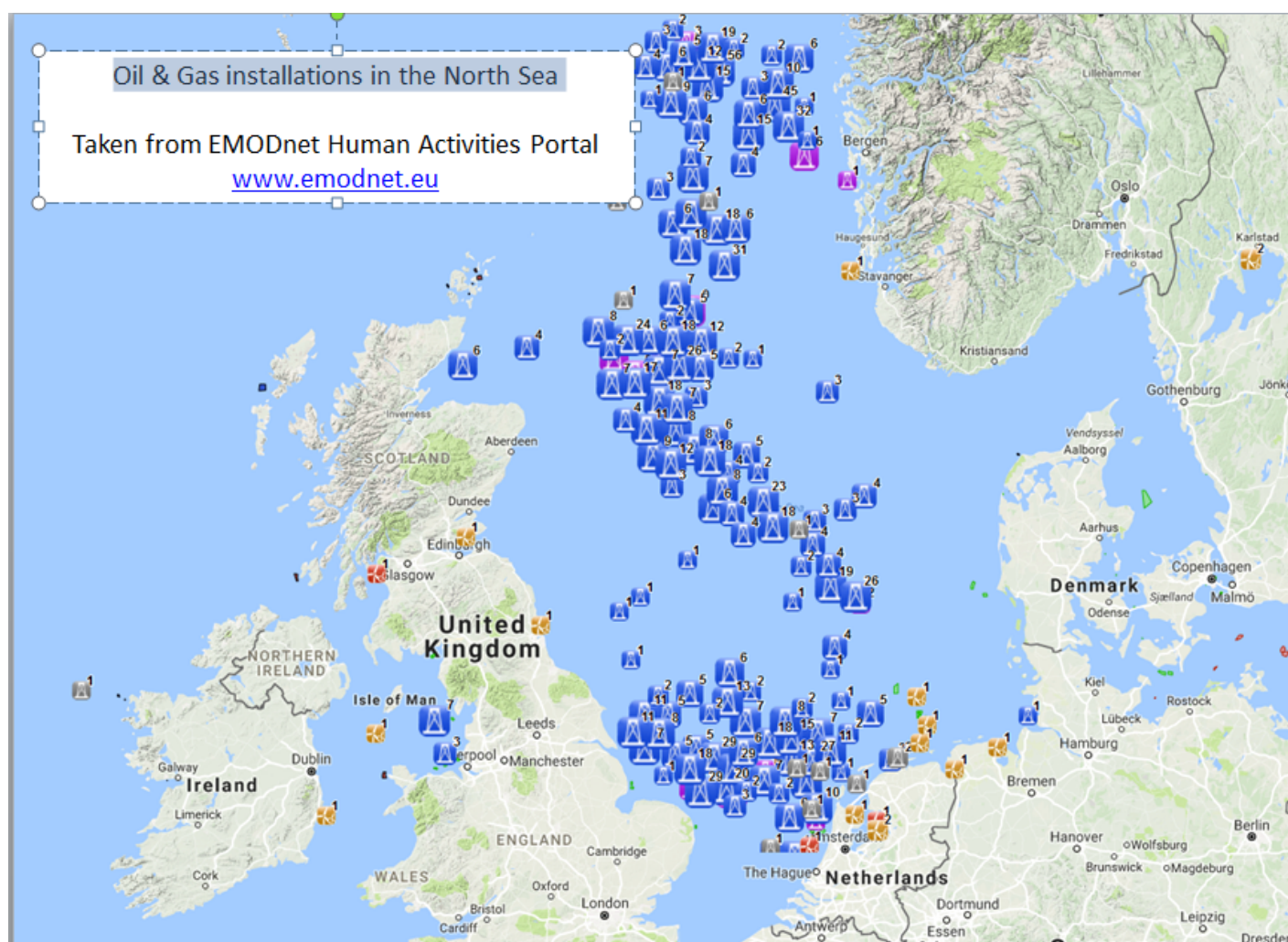
European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EU China Blue Year sees strong collaboration with EMODnet

NEWS ARTICLE | 16 March 2017

In the context of the **EU China Blue Year**, last week **EMODnet welcomed the EU-Chinese delegation to Bruges**.

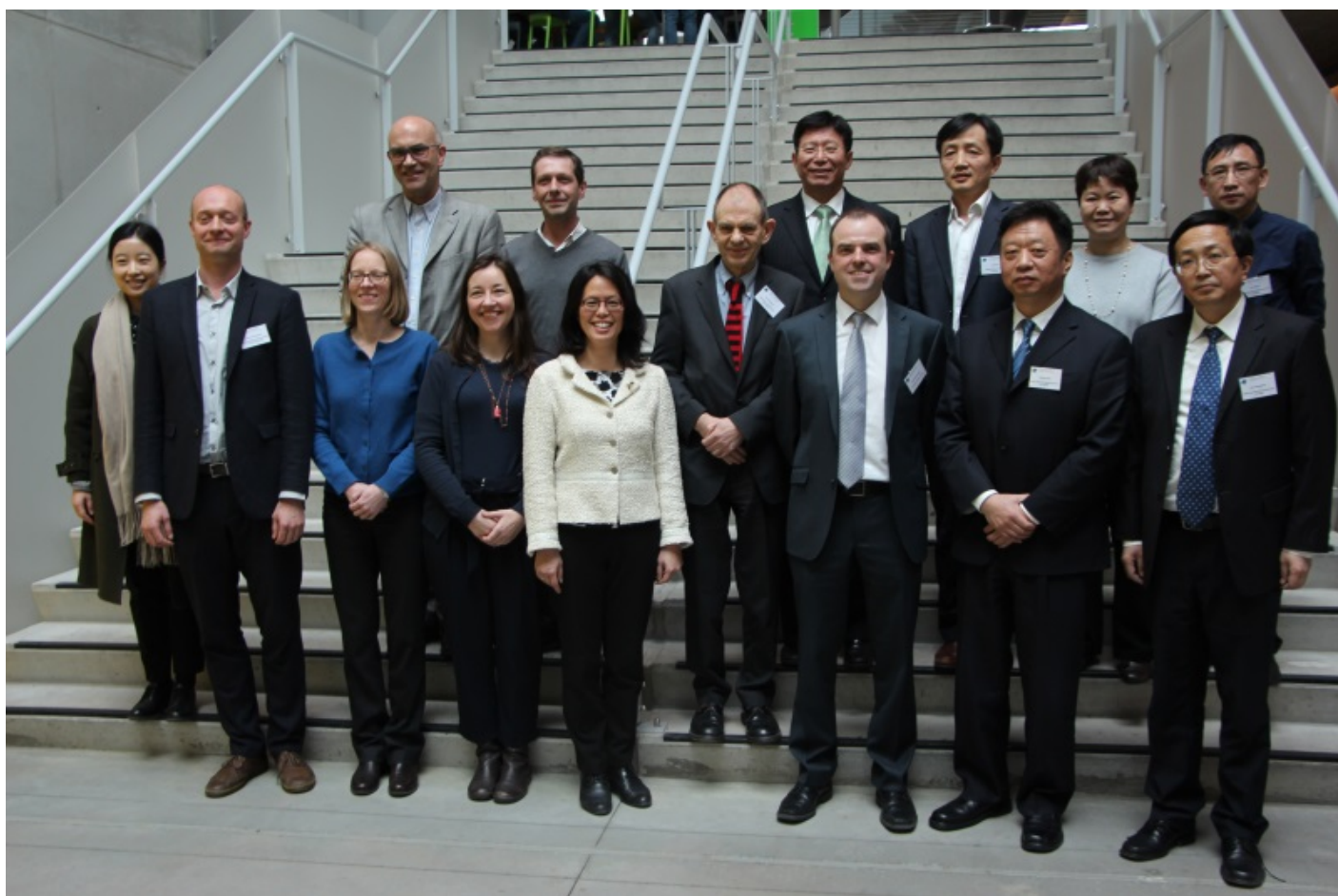
The meetings timing provided an opportune moment to present the **new Phase III work** that is currently underway and to showcase the [major outcome of the February Sea-basin Checkpoints conference](#). The [European Marine Board](#) were also present and presented a forthcoming policy brief on 'Decommissioning of offshore artificial structures: taking an ecosystem approach' and **highlighted that they had used EMODnet Human Activities to obtain a map of oil & gas installations in the North Sea** (see below).



The meeting was a great opportunity to discuss the status of marine science and data in Europe and China and it ended with a discussion of possible areas for closer cooperation with China during the EU-China Blue Year and beyond. It was agreed that a dedicated follow-up meeting will take place later this summer to discuss various points of common interest in more detail. Relevant to EMODnet, these include, among others, data standards and user friendliness and data to support maritime spatial planning as well as future observing needs.

EU-China Blue Year was launched in July of last year during the 18th bilateral summit between the EU and China, where representatives of the two countries came together to discuss political and economic relations, as well as global and regional issues, including the future of the seas and oceans. EU-China Blue Year will boost cooperation in marine areas and facilitate exchanges of personnel and this first meeting was a good starting point.

A copy of the agenda and the presentations that took place during the meeting are available [here](#).



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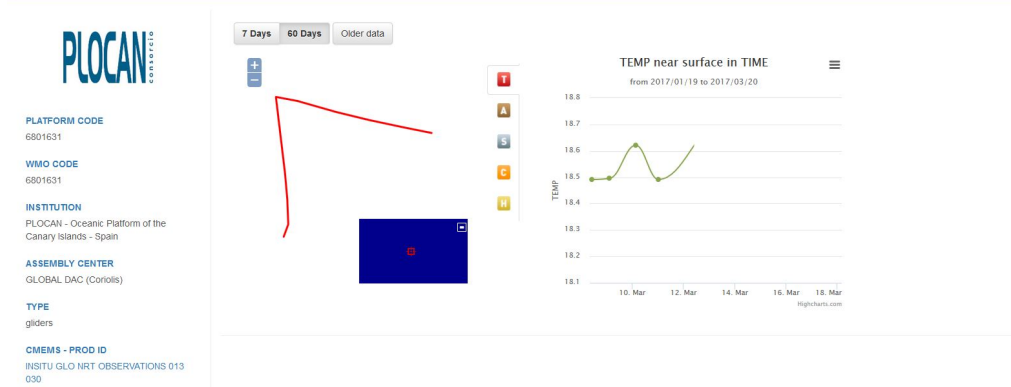
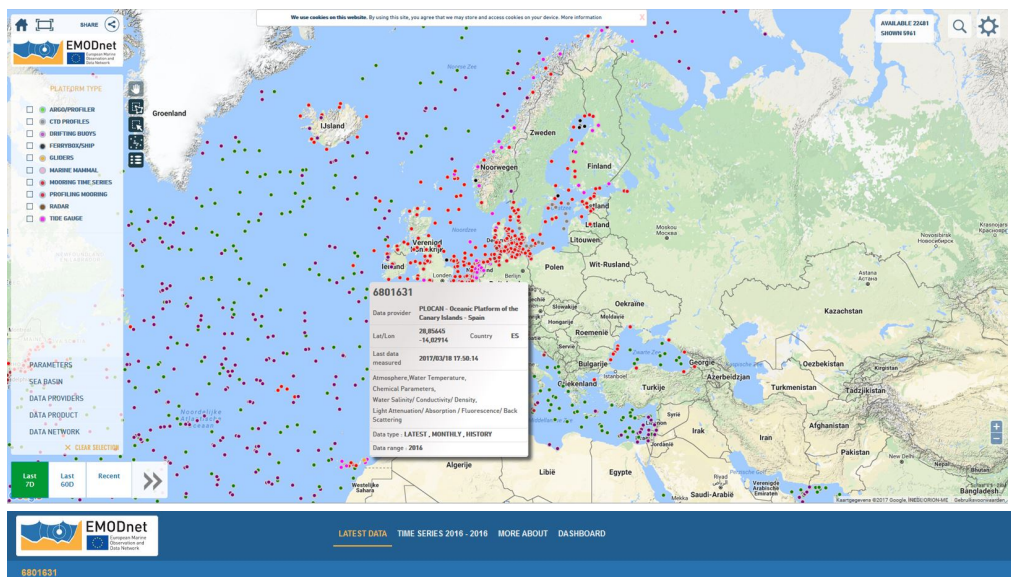
PLOCAN Seasonal Glider Mission

NEWS ARTICLE | 20 March 2017

Find out how PLOCAN are contributing to the European glider framework and to EMODnet Physics

EMODnet [Associated Partner](#), [PLOCAN](#) , are currently running a new seasonal glider mission ((ESTOC2017_1)) off the north-east coast of Gran Canaria. This contributes to the permanent operating and monitoring strategy of the PLOCAN integrated observatory, and to the European [AtlantOS](#)  project. Standardised, quality controlled data, compiled by the glider in each dive will be made available, in real time, via EMODnet Physics. Further information can be found at the following link <http://www.plocan.eu/index.php/en/newsplocan/2017/march/1673-europe-glider-en> . and at [EMODnet Physics](#)  .

PLOCAN, the Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands, is a joint initiative between the Spanish and the Canary Islands governments. It is a multipurpose service centre with novel land-based and sea-based infrastructures to support research, technology development and innovation in the marine and maritime sector. Its mission is to promote long-term observation and sustainability of the ocean, providing a cost-effective combination of services, such as observatories, test site, base for underwater vehicles, training and innovation hub. PLOCAN operates a fixed offshore platform installed in its marine test site in the NE coast of Gran Canaria. PLOCAN joined EMODnet as an associated partner in December 2016.



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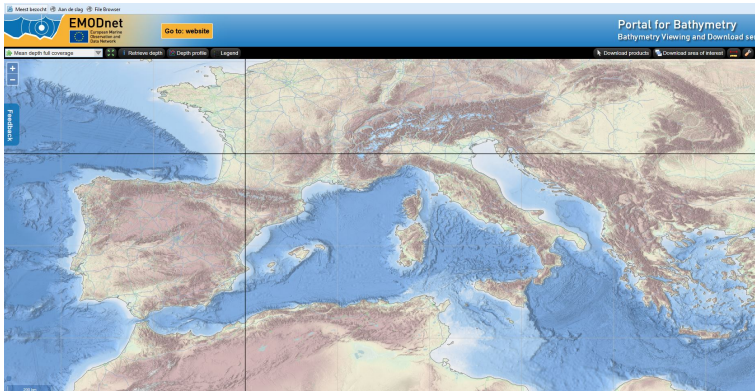
European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

New-look EMODnet Bathymetry Portal

NEWS ARTICLE | 28 March 2017

EMODnet Bathymetry kicks-off Phase III with a new look, user-friendly [portal](#)  providing access to its harmonised [Digital Terrain Model](#)  (DTM) for the European sea regions. This DTM is generated by the EMODnet Bathymetry partnership on the basis of an increasing number of bathymetric data sets. These are managed as survey data sets and composite DTMs by data providers from government and research. Services for discovery and requesting access to these data sets are also provided. The portal provides clear and concise information on what exactly is available via the portal including the following geographical information system layers:

- water depth in gridded form over entire maritime basin on a grid of $1/8 * 1/8$ arc minutes (ca 230 meter grid)
- water depth in vector form with isobaths at a scale of at least one to one million
- depth profiles along user drawn tracks
- tracklines / coverage of bathymetric surveys, including metadata, underpinning the water depths
- undersea features
- wrecks



These layers are made available in the Bathymetry Viewing and Download service. The portal also provides a CDI Data Discovery and Access service to identify and request access to bathymetric survey data that are acquired and managed by distributed data providers. A selection of these data sets are used for the EMODnet Digital Terrain Model (DTM). Moreover the portal provides a Sextant Catalogue service to describe and identify composite DTMs that were contributed by data providers instead of bathymetric survey data as input for the EMODnet DTM.

The GIS layers in the Bathymetry Viewing and Download service can be shared as OGC WMS and WCS services with other EMODnet portals and beyond. Also WMS layers from other EMODnet portals and external services can be added to the Bathymetry Viewer and Download service. EMODnet Bathymetry has adopted standards for the marine domain that have been developed and are maintained by the SeaDataNet community.

Should anything remain unclear for users, the new Bathymetry portal also features a help desk function to respond to user queries.

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Involving industry in marine data initiatives: EMODnet & Columbus workshop at EMD2017

NEWS ARTICLE | 13 April 2017

"The Future of our Seas" is the hot topic this year at the European Maritime Day (EMD) conference Taking place in Poole, United Kingdom, on 18-19 May 2017, the conference will offer a platform for Europe's community of maritime professionals to come together, exchange knowledge and forge the partnerships needed for joint actions in order to boost the Blue Growth sector.

Last year's conference highlighted the need for further advancement of ocean and seas governance, and **stressed that all stakeholders have a part to play in this process, with business, industry and civil society (consumers) having an important role.** The **need for effective data on seas** was repeatedly stressed, and at the same time there was consensus that a lack of data should be no excuse for a lack of policy/governance decision-making (See the EMD2016 conference report).

So what's the situation a year on? Has the engagement of industry in marine data collection and sharing progressed?

This will be the main focus of the "Blue Growth Data Challenge Part 1: Engaging Industry" workshop, co-organised by EMODnet and the H2020 [Columbus project](#), co-located with the EMD2017.

This workshop will discuss the **challenges, the barriers and the benefits of public-private collaboration towards data acquisition and sharing.** Drawing from initiatives such as [WOC's Smart Ocean Smart Industries program](#), [MAREANO project](#), [Columbus](#) and the [EMODnet Data Ingestion Facility](#), the workshop **will identify best practices to promote industry-public collaborations and facilitate the uptake of data from private sector.**

The workshop will **set the stage for the follow-on workshop Blue Growth Data Challenge Part 2: Offshore Energy Case Studies**. The workshop will also raise awareness of the recently established [EMODnet Data Ingestion Facility](#) which aims to promote and facilitate the uptake of data from hitherto inaccessible sources, including from companies and disconnected research groups.

Who should attend: Key actors in the marine knowledge value chain from acquisition, management and sharing up to the application of marine data resources, are invited to the workshop to discuss together how to overcome barriers to industry-public collaboration and how to engage industry in collection and sharing of marine observations to enable innovation and support blue growth.

Workshop Agenda

Blue Growth Data Challenge Part 1: Engaging Industry - Involving industry in marine data initiatives

Thursday 18 May 2017 from 15.15 till 16.45 (Workshop 16), European Maritime Day 2017

Chair: **Phil Weaver**, *Seascope, Chair of the EMODnet Steering Committee*

Introductory session: pitch presentations to outline the current status-quo, the future vision and the steps that must be taken to accelerate open public-private marine data and information sharing initiatives given by:

- **Peter Thijsse**, *Marine Information Systems (MARIS, NL), EMODnet Data Ingestion Facility - EMODnet and its Data Ingestion Facility with ambassador programme to strategically target hidden and locked public and private marine data resources*
- **Terje Thorsnes**, *Senior Geologist at Geological Survey of Norway - Involving industry data providers and users in marine data acquisition, management and sharing activities: experiences from the MAREANO Project*
- **Paul Holthus**, *Founding President and CEO of the World Ocean Council (WOC) - The WOC Smart Ocean – Smart Industries Programme towards Coordinated, systematic engaging of ocean industries in data collection in support of ocean sustainable development and SDG 14*

Interactive panel discussion with the audience:

- Panel facilitator: *Jonathan Williams (CEO, Marine Southeast)*
- Panelists:
 - **Mike Osborne** (Managing Director, Oceanwise, UK)
 - **Erik Buch** (Secretary General, EuroGOOS)
 - **Gus Jeans** (Managing Director, Oceananalysis, UK)



Register here **to join our workshop!**

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

How can we improve the re-use and sharing of marine data by businesses?

NEWS ARTICLE | 24 April 2017

For some time, the private sector has been name checked by marine observatories and public data-sharing initiatives as a target-user of their resources and/or as a potential source of data, with little concomitant targeted development by these initiatives to facilitate this.

As EMODnet moves into Phase III of its development and focuses more on user uptake to achieve the objectives of the Marine Knowledge 2020 Strategy, a more pro-active approach is required to effectively engage industry, both as users and providers of data.

EMODnet partners ([Seascope](#) and [VLIZ](#)) have recently led the production of a '[good practice guide](#)' to promote the sharing and re-use of marine data by business. This guide has been produced in the context of the [H2020 COLUMBUS](#) project, with partners [EuroGOOS](#), [Marine South East](#), [PLOCAN](#) (EMODnet [Associated Partner](#)) and [SmartBay Ireland](#).

The [good practice guide](#) examines the common challenges faced by coastal and ocean observatories and public data-sharing initiatives, in terms of fostering better engagement with the private sector with the goal of improving the re-use of open marine data and information for economic development and innovation.

Recommendations are proposed that could support those initiatives aiming to deliver growth in the blue economy. These will be further elaborated in a joint [EMODnet - COLUMBUS workshop at European Maritime Day](#).

- **Download '[Use and sharing of marine observations and data by industry: Good practice guide](#)'.**

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EMODnet is part of the agenda of the North Sea Countries energy cooperation plan

NEWS ARTICLE | 9 May 2017

Last June, North Sea countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden) agreed to further **strengthen their energy cooperation** by signing a [joint political declaration and action plan](#). The scope of the plan is the eventual development of **offshore wind energy** which will ensure a sustainable, secure and affordable energy supply to the region.

For the first three years (2016-2019), the energy cooperation between the countries will focus on three main areas:

- Coordinating the **planning and development of offshore wind and grid projects** beyond national borders including area mapping;
- Developing a **common environmental assessment framework**;
- **Increasing the availability and interoperability of marine data** for planning, impact assessment, licensing and operations.

EMODnet will be used to contribute to the third of these priorities. First of all work will be carried out to assess whether **common EMODnet based standards** could be adopted and extended across sectors and borders to facilitate sharing of compatible data. Secondly, **new data and/or products will be collected and made available through the EMODnet data ingestion portal**. Thirdly, **EMODnet standards will be aligned to the needs of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)** exploring the feasibility of a European MSP-Data-Portal/connectivity with EMODnet.

[Click here](#) to read the full work programme of the Implementation of the Political Declaration on energy cooperation between the North Sea Countries.

More on the political declaration [here](#).

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Do you want to get an overall picture about EMODnet? Download now the infographic

NEWS ARTICLE | 11 May 2017

The "EMODnet in a nutshell" infographic provides a general overview of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet).

This describes:

- the EMODnet mission
- the five EMODnet strands currently consisting of :
 - the seven thematic portals providing access to marine data collected, stored and managed by Member States and regional aggregators, and creating data products;
 - six Sea-basin Checkpoints assessing the availability and fitness for purpose of marine data in different regions;
 - the EMODnet Central Portal giving access to data provided by all the thematic portals and allowing the retrieval of data layers from multiple portals;
 - the Ingestion Portal facilitating submission of new datasets;
 - and the EMODnet Secretariat who (i) ensures coherence between the different strands; (ii) monitors EMODnet; (iii) disseminates results, and (iv) analyses user feedback and statistics.
- the EMODnet timeline
- the EMODnet benefits

[Download the infographic here!](#)

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EMODnet partners meet to identify data sets for ingestion and safe-keeping

NEWS ARTICLE | 15 May 2017

What are the most interesting and relevant data sets for ingestion and safe-keeping? This was the focus of the recent [EMODnet Data Ingestion](#)  partner meeting in Limassol, Cyprus.

Before the meeting, partners had been working to compile an inventory of potentially valuable data sources, from throughout Europe, that are currently inaccessible for many users. During the course of the three day meeting, this inventory was screened by the experts present to identify the most valuable candidate data-sets, per EMODnet [theme](#), for further processing and publishing as open data. This work will now be taken forward by the relevant national [EMODnet Data Ingestion](#)  partners, towards unlocking the potential of these data sets to contribute to applications for society.

Many [SeaDataNet](#)  members were present, as well as the coordinators of the [EMODnet thematic portals](#) and the Mediterranean checkpoint . . The progress of the project since its inception in May 2016 was reviewed, to discuss forthcoming activities, and to provide input for preparing the 1st annual progress report to the EU.

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

New Report on EMODnet Stakeholder Conference and Sea-basin workshops

NEWS ARTICLE | 26 May 2017

The report from [EMODnet Stakeholder Conference & Sea-basin Workshops Report](#) is now available for download. You can also find all presentations, interviews and photographs from the event [here](#)

Over the course of the conference and the associated regional Sea-basin workshops, the six [Sea-basin Checkpoints](#) showcased the results of their work to date to evaluate whether the marine data currently available at the level of the sea basins is fit for purpose. This was assessed through a series of surrogate user challenges or stress-tests. The headline findings, presented at the conference and in the report, are underpinned by comprehensive assessments and should be considered in the context of the full and detailed [Data Adequacy Reports](#). Comments on the Data Adequacy Reports for each checkpoint can be provided on the [Maritime Forum](#).

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EMODnet at European Maritime Day

NEWS ARTICLE | 26 May 2017

“The Future of our Seas” was the topic at the heart of European Maritime Day in Poole, UK, on 18 and 19 May. High-level sessions and workshops, as well as exhibition booths and a match making event provided the opportunity for attendees to present their work and engage with marine and maritime stakeholders. EMODnet was very visible at this year’s event and used the opportunity to disseminate the [‘EMODnet in a Nutshell’](#) infographic and the recently published [EMODnet Stakeholder Conference Report](#).

EMODnet, together with the [COLUMBUS](#) project, co-organised a workshop, [Blue Growth Data Challenge Part 1: Engaging Industry](#), to discuss the challenges and opportunities in involving the private sector in the provision and re-use of marine data. The workshop was chaired by **Phil Weaver** ([Seascope](#)), Chair of the EMODnet Steering Committee, and opened with a presentation from, **Terje Thorsnes**, ([Geological Survey of Norway](#)) on the experiences of the [MAREANO project](#) in [involving industry as both users and providers of marine data](#). **Peter Thijssse**, ([MARIS](#)), presented the [EMODnet Data Ingestion Facility](#), and discussed how they were [targeting privately held marine data resources to unlock these for re-use](#). **Paul Holthus** of [WOC](#) discussed the [WOC’s Smart Ocean Smart Industries program](#) and how [smart public/private collaborations could be implemented to improve our ocean knowledge](#). There followed a panel discussion, introduced and moderated by **Jonathan Williams** ([Marine South East](#)), on how to improve [industry-public collaboration](#) and overcome some of the bottlenecks which hinder efficient transfer of marine data between both communities. The panel comprised representatives from the private and public sectors and included **John Pepper** (Oceanwise), **Gus Jeans** ([Oceananalysis](#)) and **Erik Buch** ([EuroGOOS](#)). The plenary discussion focused on how to establish the specific requirements of industry, in relation to data sharing and re-use, in order to better serve their needs. Some of the interventions stressed the importance of using brokers/intermediaries to improve the dialogue with industry and develop a clearer understanding of those requirements. In terms of accessing more data from privately held sources, the need to develop flexible business models, building on existing commercial data practices and policies, was stressed. The COLUMBUS good-practice guide on [Use and Sharing of Marine Observations and Data by Industry](#), was mentioned as a valuable compilation which highlights some of the identified barriers and proposes ways forward towards greater public-private marine data-sharing and re-use.

This was the first of two workshops focusing on marine data and its potential to deliver to Blue Growth. It set the scene for the follow-on workshop, Blue Growth Data Challenge Part 2: Offshore ATLAS Energy Case Studies which was organised by the ATLAS and [INSITE](#) projects.

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EU-China Blue Year kicks off with event on marine monitoring

NEWS ARTICLE | 9 June 2017

Pressures on semi-enclosed seas, including how to monitor and combat marine litter, was just one of the topics discussed at a joint [EU-China event on marine monitoring](#). EMODnet joined experts from the EU and China's State Oceanographic Department to compare different approaches, learn from each other and identify areas of collaboration in marine monitoring and forecasting, marine data management, marine spatial planning and the blue economy. This event follows a successful [meeting](#) held earlier this year.

The event, held in the context of the EU-China Blue Year, was opened by Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and Mr. Wang Hong, Administrator of State Oceanic Administration of China. Commissioner Vella stressed the importance of monitoring and data, saying that investment in the blue economy was dependent on information, both on marine resources and on the risks associated with the marine environment. Remarking on the opportunity that China and the EU now had to identify opportunities for collaboration and to make better use of their combined investments in monitoring and observation, Commissioner Vella said that if the EU and China could find common ground, the rest of the world would follow. Administrator Wang echoed these sentiments, noting the efforts and commitment to ocean monitoring in China and proposed several opportunities for joint collaboration between the EU and China in this area. A series of very interesting presentations followed, from both Chinese and EU experts, on ocean monitoring and forecasting, handling big data, marine litter, monitoring and pressures on the Baltic, Mediterranean and South China Sea, as well as how to measure natural capital in the context of the blue economy.

[All the presentations, together with web streaming from the event, can be found on the maritime forum.](#)

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

The EMODnet Annual Report 2016 is out!

NEWS ARTICLE | 23 June 2017

"2016 was a successful year for EMODnet. We have already achieved what we set out to do by 2020; deliver a complete multi-resolution seabed map of European seas. EMODnet is now a reference source of data for those working in the coastal and offshore blue economy. It is already improving the forecasting of storm surges and helping national and regional authorities develop spatial plans and report the state of their marine environment."

Karmenu Vella, Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

The EMODnet Annual Report 2016, published by the EMODnet Secretariat, gives an **overview of the initiative and its five strands** (the thematic portals, the Sea-basin Checkpoints, the Central Portal, the Ingestion Portal and the Secretariat), provides **highlights on the progress in 2016 and the main achievements as well as the budget committed so far**. It also includes a full section on **practical use cases** showcasing how EMODnet has been pivotal in supporting different organisations to solve complex challenges. For example, it documents how EMODnet has contributed to the improvement of storm surge modelling in the North Sea; how it enhanced marine topographical data discovery and access in the North Atlantic; how it cooperated with the Regional Council of Kymenlaakso to provide a seabed substrate map of the Gulf of Finland. These are only a few examples of the use cases included in the report.

Finally the report details how new organisations can join the EMODnet partnership through the **EMODnet Associated Partnership** scheme and **reveals what are the plans and expectations for 2017**.

[Download the EMODnet Annual Report 2016 now!](#) 

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EMODnet Open Sea Lab - Coming Soon!

NEWS ARTICLE | 3 July 2017

Are you excited by the potential of **open marine data**? Join us at the **1st EMODnet Open Sea Lab** to explore EMODnet's open marine data! During a **three day open data bootcamp from 15-17 November 2017 in the vibrant port city of Antwerp, Belgium**, we will **ideate** and **co-create innovative solutions** to unique problems using EMODnet's wealth of marine data and ocean observations.

Are you a **coder, developer, data enthusiast**? Maybe you are a **maritime company** with a unique challenge or an **environmental manager** interested in new tools to map or manage your marine space? Or are you are a student or an **entrepreneur** with a novel idea? Whatever your experience or interest **EMODnet Open Sea Lab will bring together experts in European marine data management from [EMODnet](#) with experts in digital innovation from [IMEC](#) to work with you to turn innovative ideas into working applications!** The Open Sea Lab will **match-make** and bring together teams and will **involve ideation, co-creation, prototype development and validation by mentors**.

Applications for the Open Sea Lab will open at a **kick-off information day on 22nd September**, in [de Serre](#), Antwerp. This event will be live webcast.

To find out more visit www.opensealab.eu and register your interest to be kept informed!

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

A Seabed Habitat Map for Europe

NEWS ARTICLE | 13 July 2017

Information on **seabed habitats** is essential both for the development of new economic activities and for assessing the impact of these activities on the marine environment. Thanks to the work of EMODnet's Seabed Habitats team, and building on previous initiatives, there now exists, for the first time a [broad-scale seabed habitat map for Europe](#) . This collaborative effort has involved considerable work to harmonise mapping procedures - based on the [EUNIS](#) classification - and to foster a common understanding among seabed mappers in Europe, resulting in a comprehensive, free and ready-to-use map with confidence layers that reflect the level of confidence users can expect in the map. The [final technical report](#)  detailing the methodology and collaborative efforts to create EMODnet's broad scale seabed habitat map, as well as how it has and can be used, for example to support MSP, is now available.

[Download final technical report!](#) 

This broad-scale predictive habitat map of all European seas is currently available to end users at 250m resolution. The habitats are classified according to the EUNIS (Version 2007-11) habitats classification, and have also been updated to align with new MSFD "Benthic Broad Habitat Types"(as defined in the [Commission Decision 17 May 2017](#)). The habitats in the MSFD Benthic Broad Habitat Types map are consistent between basins, whilst the EUNIS map is region-specific and more detailed than the MSFD broad habitat types map, owing to the specific conditions relevant to each region.

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

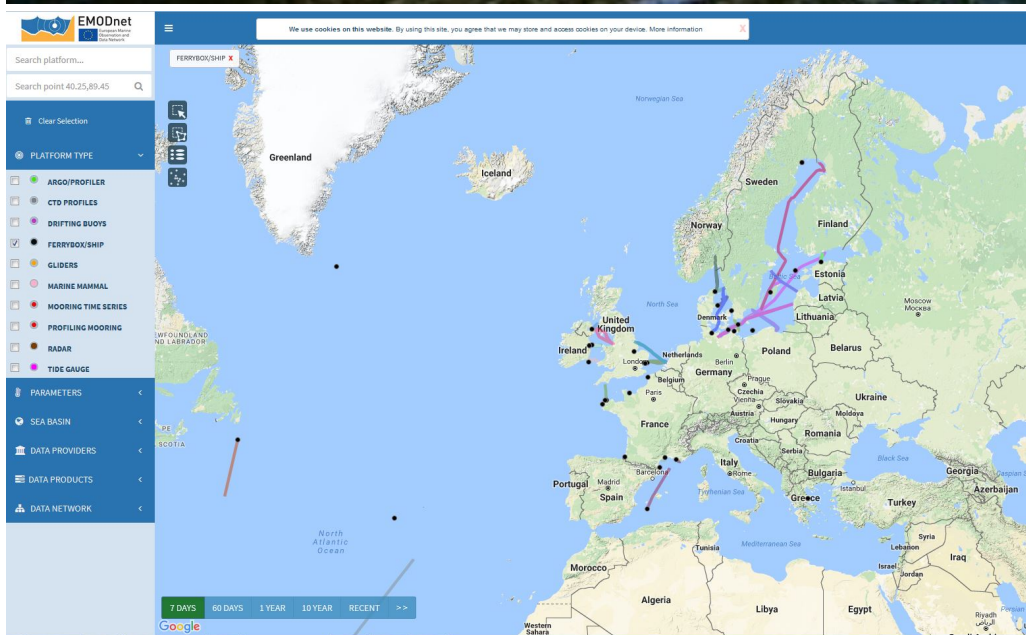
Public industry collaboration for more open data

NEWS ARTICLE | 14 July 2017

EMODnet Physics have doubled the number of FerryBox platforms making data available via their [portal](#) . This is thanks to ongoing efforts by the [Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute](#) (SMHI), a partner in EMODnet Physics, who have been in discussion with [Stena Line](#) for some time about how they could access marine and meteorological data from their ships. As a result of these fruitful discussions there are now [25 new FerryBox lines](#) making data available to EMODnet Physics, these include mainly sea surface temperature, currents and wind data.

Our ocean knowledge is gleaned from information that can be generated by analyses of ocean observations data. Observing our seas and oceans and gathering the data is a costly business. There are, however, many opportunistic ways to leverage diverse and ongoing ocean activities to gather data. FerryBox platforms are a great example of this. FerryBox is a through-flow system installed on board of a ship-of-opportunity (ferry, cargo ship or research vessel) to measure automatically, continuously and unattended a series of important marine parameters. The [European FerryBox community](#) , has steadily built cooperation in this field through the establishment of a [FerryBox Task Team under EuroGOOS](#) ..

Beyond Europe, the integration of diverse in-situ observing networks in the Atlantic, such as the FerryBox system and the ships of opportunity programme is one of the long term goals of the [H2020 AtlantOS project](#) . Globally, in recognition of the opportunities that exist to gather important ocean data through more strategic collaboration between the diverse ocean business and marine science communities, and encouraged by key UN agencies, the [World Ocean Council](#) established their [Smart Ocean-Smart Industries](#) programme to build on existing ships of opportunity efforts and coordinate the strategic use of industry vessels and platforms for data collection and collaboration between the Ocean Business and marine scientific communities.



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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EMODnet's new geoviewer is now online!

NEWS ARTICLE | 5 September 2017

One of the unique features of EMODnet globally is the multidisciplinary nature of the data that it aggregates and makes available. The [EMODnet thematic sub-portals](#) create data layers and products ranging from information on physical oceanography to seabed habitats to human activities. However, users increasingly want to work across disciplines and visualise or combine these multi-thematic data layers.

That is why EMODnet has been working so hard behind the scenes, to harmonise their data layers, so that users can now view and combine these diverse layers on a single interface. The new [EMODnet Geoviewer](#) is now online and contains layers from every thematic portal. So, for example, maybe you are interested to see the seabed substrate or the mean water depth beneath the mariculture farms in your area? This and much more is now possible. Why don't you take a look, try it out and send us your feedback at info@emodnet.eu!

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EMODnet's 1st Open Sea Lab competition raises anchor

NEWS ARTICLE | 5 September 2017

Applications will soon open for the [EMODnet Open Sea Lab](#) bootcamp, 15 - 17 of November 2017 in Antwerp, Belgium.

The three-day bootcamp hackathon offers you the chance to play with archived and near-real time marine open data to create prize-winning innovative applications in one of three thematic areas: Marine Environment, Blue Economy and Public Knowledge or Services .

How can you apply? To find out more, tune in to our launch event , 22 September (starting at 4pm CEST), webcast live from Antwerp's StartUp village. Applications open from 22nd Sept.

Can't make it on the 22nd? No problem. A recording of the webcast and all the instructions on how to apply will be available at www.opensealab.eu [↗](#) from 22 September until the applications close on 13 October!

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Calling all marine biological data collectors!

NEWS ARTICLE | 8 September 2017

Does your organisation collect marine biological data? Are you interested in working with EMODnet Biology to make it freely available?

Then don't miss this opportunity! EMODnet Biology have opened a call for grants to join them as an Associate Data Partner. In addition to the financial support on offer, this is an excellent opportunity to work with world experts in marine biodiversity data collection and management. So if you are interested in working with EMODnet Biology to contribute to Europe's wealth of marine biodiversity data then make sure to apply before the call closes on **October 15th 2017!**

[Find out more about how to become an EMODnet Biology Associated Data Partner](#) 

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Join the kick-off of the EMODnet hackathon on marine open data, 22 September 2017 @4pm CEST – webcast

NEWS ARTICLE | 18 September 2017



The first EMODnet hackathon, 15-17 November 2017 – Antwerp, will offer coders, developers, data enthusiasts, marine/maritime companies, students and entrepreneurs the chance to play with archived and near-real time marine open data to create prize-winning innovative applications in the areas of Marine Environment, Blue Economy and Public Knowledge or Services.

All the details about the hackathon will be described during the upcoming kick-off session taking place on 22 September 2017 from 16:00 to 19:00 CEST.

The event will be webcast. You can watch it at <http://www.opensealab.eu> 

The Kick-off will be opened by Dimitri Schuurman, Team Lead User Experts at imec.livinglabs and Senior Researcher at imec-mict-Ghent University, who will provide an overview of the hackathon themes and detail the application process for all the interested participants.

A set of presentations focused on the value of open data in the marine and maritime domains will follow to clarify the challenges of the hackathon. Two keynotes from Pieter Jan Jordaens, [Sirris](#)  – the Belgian technology center (“From a good idea to a success story: the creation of 24SEA), and from Pieter Jan Note, naval Architect (“Project Mahi: Development of an autonomous vessels”) will further inspire potential hackathon participants by providing examples of innovations relevant to open marine data.

Watch the webcast at <http://www.opensealab.eu> 

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Did you miss the kick-off of the Open Sea Lab Competition? We have it covered for you

NEWS ARTICLE | 29 September 2017

On the 22nd of September the **Startup Village in Antwerp** hosted the **kick-off meeting of the Open Sea Lab Competition**. More than 40 entrepreneurs, scientists and data enthusiasts attended the event.

Sit-back, relax and watch the entire kick-off event!



Open Sea Lab: is it a hackathon, a bootcamp or a competition? 'Well actually it is all of those things', said Dimitri Schuurman (imec Living Labs)) launching the kick-off event.

After a set of presentations describing the themes of the hackathon, the why to apply and the how, a panel composed by different experts dealing with open marine data has inspired the participants and those watching the webcast discussing what are the current challenges and barriers with open

data and, in particular, giving examples of how this open data can generate added value both for the private and public sector.



We remind you that the applications to the hackathon close on **16 October 2017**.

Apply Now

How to apply:

- Apply as a team or as an individual to www.opensealab.eu/applications
- Have an idea already? Great. Don't have an idea? No problem, ideation sessions on Day 1 will fill that void!
- If you do have a precious idea, don't worry, you don't have to share it yet. Just tell us your reason for applying and your background.
- Applicants will be selected based on their motivations and skills, to ensure a diversity of expertise (creative, technical, business).
- Individuals or incomplete teams will be matched to form complete teams, combining all the necessary elements to develop a winning concept.
- Numbers are limited to 120, 20 teams of 4-5 people, so the sooner you apply, the better your chance of being selected!
- So apply now to www.opensealab.eu/applications ! !

More on the Open Sea Lab Competition #OSL2017: emodnet.ec.europa.eu/open-sea-lab,
www.opensealab.eu 

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

EMFF 2017 Info Day - €14,5 million for a sustainable Blue Economy

NEWS ARTICLE | 11 October 2017

Innovation, marine litter, cooperation in the Mediterranean, all target areas of the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)** call to foster a "**Sustainable Blue Economy**" across Europe, which will be launched at an **Info Day on 9th November, 2017, in Brussels**.

With a total budget of **€ 14,5 Million**, the call will accelerate the implementation of the **European maritime policy** and the deployment of the **Blue Economy** across Europe and in the Mediterranean. It will be open to all sea basins surrounding the EU coasts and will target a wide range of stakeholders of the Blue Economy.

The Info Day will be opened by **Karmenu Vella**, Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. The day will mark the launch of one of the Commitments of the European Union at the global conference [Our Ocean 2017](#) in Malta and is a direct step to concrete action for a sustainable Blue Economy.

The Sustainable Blue Economy call comprises 4 strands to support innovation and bring research results closer to the market as well as increase capacity building and networking for a sustainable use of our sea basins. In this way, the call will support sustainable job creation, innovation and entrepreneurship in the blue economy.

Strand 1 - Demonstration projects for the blue economy has a budget of **€ 8.000.000**. It will boost demonstration projects based on innovative technologies to test, deploy and scale up new industry and service applications and solutions for the blue economy. It will help improve the market-readiness of innovative technologies and/or maritime services.

Strand 2 - Efficient methodologies and technologies against marine litter has a budget of **€ 2.000.000**. It will support concrete methodologies and technologies for reducing the volume and harmfulness of marine litter from sea-based sources, for monitoring and quantifying the contribution of sea-based sources of marine litter and for removing and recycling it, in an environmentally sound and resource-efficient way.

Strand 3 - Blue networks for the Mediterranean has a budget of **€ 3.000.000**. It will promote networking to support job creation, innovation and entrepreneurship in the blue economy of the Mediterranean Sea, through cooperation between a wide variety of stakeholders such as education and training institutes, maritime clusters and fisheries local communities from the EU and its partner countries in the Mediterranean.

Strand 4 - Joint actions for a sustainable Blue economy in the Mediterranean has a budget of **€ 1.500.000**. It will support the restoration of damaged or degraded coastal and marine ecosystems in zones of the Mediterranean with a high potential for a wide range of marine ecosystem services.

More information on: <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/information-day-blue-growth-calls-under-emff>

Link to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund 2017 Work

programme: https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/sites/fisheries/files/c_2017_6382_en.pdf

Follow and interact #bluegrowth #EMFF2017

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Call-for-abstracts: Informatics in Oceanography and Ocean Science at EGU2018

NEWS ARTICLE | 19 October 2017

Abstracts are invited for a session on '**Informatics in Oceanography and Ocean Science**' to be held at the next [General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union](#) (Vienna, 8 April - 13 Apr 2018).

The session presents the state of art information systems in oceanography (metadata, vocabularies, ISO and OGC applications, data models), interoperability (Interoperability forms, Web services, Quality of Services, Open standards), data circulation and services (quality assurance / quality control, preservation, network services) and Education in ocean science (Education and Research, Internet tools for education).

Presenters are strongly encouraged to demonstrate how their efforts will benefit their user communities, facilitate collaborative knowledge building, decision making and knowledge management in general, intended as a range of strategies and practices to identify, create, represent and distribute data, products and information.

Deadlines for Abstract submission: 10 January 2018, 13:00 CET

- For further information on the session:
<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2018/session/26506>
- For further information on abstract submission:
https://egu2018.eu/abstract_management/how_to_submit_an_abstract.html.

ESSI1.1 'Informatics in Oceanography and Ocean Science'

Convener: A. Novellino, Co-Conveners: Stefania Sparnocchia, Simona Simoncelli

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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Data Ingestion Portal: The new video is out!

NEWS ARTICLE | 7 November 2017

This week the Data Ingestion Portal (www.emodnet-ingestion.eu ) has released the video "[Wake up your data!](#) 

The video gives an overview of the EMODnet Data Ingestion Portal (DIP) and describes how governments, industry, NGOs, scientists and academics can make their datasets part of the total offer. The Data Ingestion Portal streamlines the data ingestion process so that data holders from public and private sectors that are not yet connected to the existing marine data management infrastructures can easily release their data for safekeeping and subsequent distribution through EMODnet. This will enrich the total offer for all types of users and conform to the EMODnet motto '**collect data once and use it many times**'.

Do you have sleeping data? [Watch the video](#)  to understand how to wake up your data!



Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Open Sea Lab Teams Demonstrate Innovative Uses of Marine Data

NEWS ARTICLE | 20 November 2017

Exploring the potential of marine open data was the focus of the first EMODnet **Open Sea Lab** a three-day bootcamp & hackathon where teams competed to develop novel applications using marine open data.

Participants from 15 countries (including Canada), with diverse backgrounds and skill sets, came together in the stimulating environs of Antwerp's StartUp village. This was no ordinary hackathon; with organisers from EMODnet, [VLIZ](#) and [imec](#) on-hand, participants were able to avail of expert-led workshops and one-on-one training to improve their data manipulation, business-modelling, user-testing and pitching skills.

For those in need of more inspiration, invited speakers provided some food for thought. **David Mills**, iMarDIS-SEACAMS ngprovided a retrospective and future look at marine data collection and sharing. **Maria Sotiropoulou**, HCMR, representing the [Big Data Ocean project](#) described their plans to enable maritime big data scenarios. **Gerben deBoer**, [Van Oord](#), kicked off Day-2 with a keynote on marine data challenges and solutions, providing an industry perspective on data use and sharing as well as advice for participants and data managers. **Juliette Rimetz**, [Technopole Brest-Iroise](#), shared their experience of organising the 2nd Ocean Hackathon in Brest. Finally, Frederic Bardolle discussed Ethics in Artificial Intelligence.

The competing teams worked with great enthusiasm and determination to develop their ideas in only three days, combining data from EMODnet portals, but also from other sources such as [CMEMS](#) and [ICES](#). Diverse and advanced concepts and demos were presented to the jury at the end of Day 3. The outputs ranged from tools to support fishermen, environmental managers and the windfarm sector, to marine tourism apps for the general public. A common theme was the need to develop an interface that could harness the vast resources of available marine data and make these accessible for users in a way that they can understand and use them to address their specific needs.

The winning product, developed by Team 5 (pictured below) was a tool to identify suitable sites to farm seaweed in Europe. See [EMODnet's GitHub](#).

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Further details on all the teams outputs are below (click team's title to see picture).

- [Team CLP](#) (Counter Logic Programming) developed a decision support system for near-future catch planning in the fisheries sector. Where to fish, what and when? [see presentation](#)
- [Team X](#) presented a decision support tool for the offshore wind energy sector. 'Aggregator' displayed gridded cells to allow users to assess the suitability of a site for establishing wind turbines. [see presentation](#)
- [Team iMarDIS](#), winners of 'Best Pitch', produced a tool for scuba divers to identify where to dive for wrecks. Users would be able to identify suitable wreck dive sites based on a range of parameters. [see presentation](#)
- [Team Marine Litter](#) presented their plans to create a marine litter hotspot prediction tool. [see presentation](#)
- [Team 5](#), and the **overall winner of 'Best Product'** developed an EU wide tool for identifying suitable areas at sea to farm seaweed. The tool is open source and available now on GitHub, and has potential for adaptation to other sectors. [see presentation](#)
- [Team Deltares](#) demonstrated their 'Environmental Impact Assessment Wizard' to make life easier for environmental project managers, by providing them with rapid access to relevant data at a relevant scale. [see presentation](#)
- [Team Soledad](#) presented their progress towards a tourism App to identify suitable beaches for tourism activities based on various parameters. [see presentation](#)

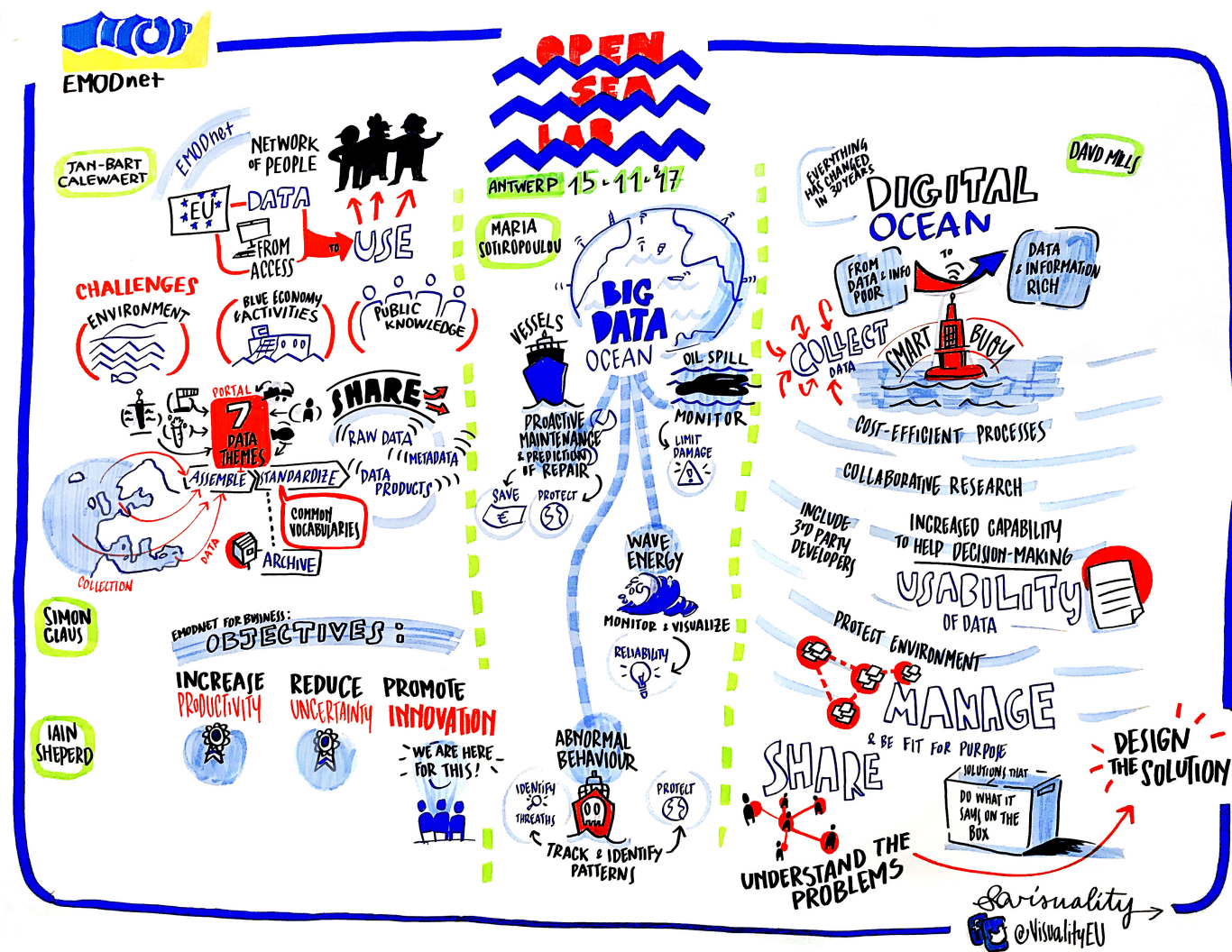
All winning teams receive awards from DataCamp, and the winning team will present their product at European Maritime Day in addition to the opportunity to further develop their concept at the CoFoundry. Five students won the opportunity to further develop their ideas at Open Summer of Code.



[Link to 2017.summerofcode.be] [Link to ec.europa.eu]

In addition to the innovative products developed, Open Sea Lab provided a unique opportunity to test EMODnet data and services, with EMODnet developers and coaches on hand throughout the event to identify problems and see where EMODnet data and services could be improved to better address user needs.

The full programme, including speakers presentations, can be found at <http://www.opensealab.eu/Bootcamp>. Further outputs including a short video of the event will be available soon.



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Energy, Climate change, Environment

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

Committee of the Regions Our Ocean follow up: Ocean Meets Regions – 21 November 2017, Brussels

NEWS ARTICLE | 4 December 2017

At a scale never seen before in history, the Our Ocean Conference united a global ocean community devoted to preserving the oceans. Today we face the challenge of delivering the various commitments made. On the 21st of November of 2017, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) hosted a follow up event to the Our Ocean conference, 'Ocean meets Regions', focusing on the regional stakeholders in Europe who will play a central role in this shared endeavour.

At the CoR Our Ocean event, Commissioner Karmenu Vella^[1] underlined the essential need to work closely with partners, especially with the regions: "Currently, there is the opportunity to bring together regions; pinpoint new synergies needed to create new collaborations; connect with stakeholders, civil society and governments." The Commissioner also announced that a 'Blue Platform for technologies' will be launched soon. This platform will channel private and public money to blue economy projects that promise both economic profit and environmental gains, but that are generally too small or too risky to rely on the financial markets alone.

The CoR event also reunited panellists from the European Investment bank, Statoil, Ocean Energy Europe, CoR rapporteurs and DG MARE to consider what the regions can commit in order to preserve and create sustainable jobs, contributing all together to tourism and to blue growth as a whole, whilst protecting our marine environment.

Under the topic 'marine knowledge and research', Heitze Siemers, Head of Unit Maritime Innovation, Marine Knowledge and Investments at DG MARE, stressed the crucial role of EMODnet in collecting marine data. Highlighting the recent EMODnet Open Sea Lab hackathon, he said that it provided a concrete example of the power of marine open data which is currently already available for a wide range of stakeholders/users. EMODnet provides a global exemplar of how to capitalise on marine data to support the blue economy, ensure effective environmental management and protection, advance scientific research and contribute to societal needs, based on its core principle of 'collecting data once and using it many times for many purposes.'

For more information, you can find all the presentations and the programme of the conference [here](#)

^[1] Commissioner Karmenu Vella speech

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