

**Eurofleets**

## Towards an alliance of European research fleets

May 2010 12th ERVO meeting 1



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## Towards an alliance of European research fleets

24 marine institutes, universities, foundations and SMEs -from 16 European countries (Member States - 4 recent ones- and associated countries) agree to propose together their research vessels, associated equipment, and know how.

AWI, Germany	Ifremer, France	MARUM, Germany
CNR, Italy	Imares/SDLO, Netherlands	MI, Ireland
CSIC, Spain	IMR, Norway	MPIMM, Germany
EurOcean, Portugal	IMS-METU, Turkey	NERC, U.K.
FCT, Portugal	IO-BAS, Bulgaria	OGS, Italy
GeoEcoMar, Romania	IOPAS, Poland	RBINS-MUMM, Belgium
HCMR, Greece	IPEV, France	TUT, Estonia
IEO, Spain	MARIS, Netherlands	VLIZ, Belgium

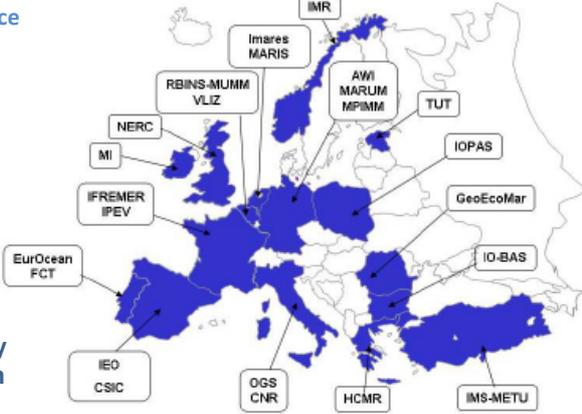
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EUROFLEETS Coordinator : Ifremer, France



A significant group of key marine research actors in Europe, covering all eco-regions

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Concepts and objectives (1):

Strategic importance for the marine research : despite the development of satellites and floats, research vessels and associated equipment are still irreplaceable in providing access to the sea water column and the sea floor, for monitoring, sampling, service of the seabed observatories that will play a key role in marine sciences in the future.

« Marine research infrastructures represent an estimated 50% of the running costs » (Academy of Finland, 2003).

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**Concepts and objectives (2):**

Recommendations of the ESF-Marine Board Position Paper 10 : « *European Ocean Research Fleets – Towards a Common Strategy and Enhanced Use* » (March 2007) <http://www.esf.org/research-areas/marine-sciences/publications.html> , lead EUROFLEETS to aim to :

- contribute to a common strategic vision for European research fleets and associated heavy equipment (e.g. underwater vehicles as ROV and AUV);
- use more efficiently the existing European Ocean/Global and Regional fleets, and develop their interoperability capacities;

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**Concepts and objectives (3):**

- facilitate a wider sharing of knowledge and technologies across fields and between academia and industry
- promote greener and sustainable research vessel operations and eco-responsibility;
- open to all European researchers access to high performing research vessels and equipment on basis of scientific excellence;

foster the coordinated and joint development of European fleets in terms of capacity and performances.

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**Key dates:**

- Proposal submission: 29 February 2008
- A long negotiation period: June 2008 to March 2009, **EC contribution : 7,2 M€ (-10% / original proposal)**
- Project starting date: 1st September 2009 for 4 years
- Kick-off meeting: 22, 23 & 24 September 2009

**First TNA calls: Global/Ocean + Regional1 opened from March to 31st of May 2010**

**Scheduling decision (2011 to 2013) in November 2010**

<http://www.eurofleets.eu/np4/90.html>

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**Networking Activities - NA (7 work packages) :**  
(Activity coordination : IMR, Norway)

**WP1 : STRATEGIC COORDINATION VISION**  
(Leading partner Ifremer, France)

Including innovative e-access generalisation

**Questionnaire about foreseeable evolution for the period 2011-2020 issued; answer required for mid May**

**WP2 : VIRTUAL RESEARCH FLEET PLATFORM**  
(Leading partner MARIS, Netherlands)

in partnership with POGO and SeaDataNet

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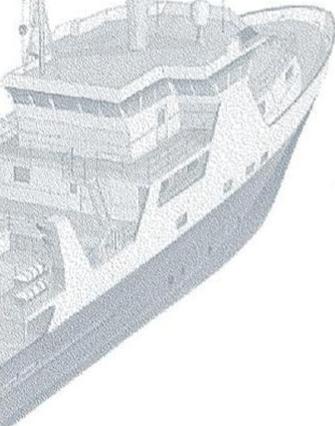
**Networking Activities (2):**

WP3 : ECO-RESPONSABILITY AND ECO-DESIGN FOR EXISTING AND NEW RESEARCH VESSELS  
(Leading partner NERC, United Kingdom)

including guidelines towards future new buildings and innovative eco-design for Regional research vessels

WP4 : OPERATIONAL ISSUES – CONTRIBUTION TO OPERATIONAL FLUIDITY WITHIN EUROPEAN RESEARCH FLEETS  
(Leading partner CSIC, Spain)

including interoperability



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**Networking Activities (3):**

WP5 : EUROFLEETS SCIENTIFIC USER ACCESS MODALITY AND PEER REVIEW  
(Leading partner AWI, Germany)

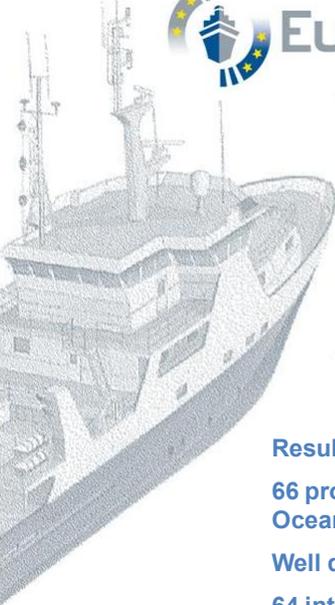
This WP is devoted to the practical management of the three calls to be launched under the TNA activities :  
« Ocean » (TNA 1), « Regional 1 » and « Regional 2 » (TNA2)

**Results of the recent expression of interest call:**

**66 proposals received, including 57% for Ocean/Global and 43% for Regional**

**Well distributed within disciplines**

**64 integrating more than 2 nations**

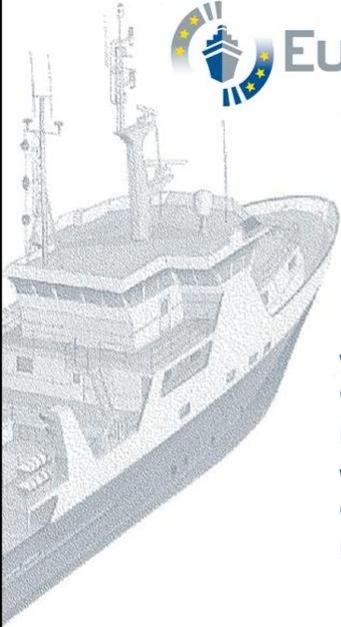


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**Networking Activities (4):**

**WP6 : ADVANCED TRAINING AND EDUCATION**  
(Leading partner OGS, Italy)

Including transnational deployment teams

**WP7 : DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION**  
(Leading partner EurOcean, Portugal)

Including EUROFLEETS “Internet Hub”

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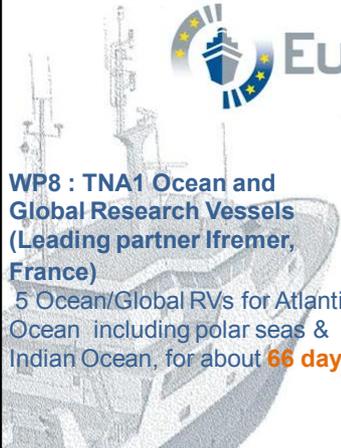
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**WP8 : TNA1 Ocean and Global Research Vessels**  
(Leading partner Ifremer, France)  
5 Ocean/Global RVs for Atlantic Ocean including polar seas & Indian Ocean, for about **66 days**

**Trans National Access - TNA**  
(Activity coordination : HCMR, Greece)



C. Explorer +  
ROV Holland I



Atalante + Nautille







Explora



Polarstern



Marion Dufresne

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**AWI :** *Heincke*  
**CNR :** *Urania*  
**CSIC :** *Garcia del Cid*  
**FCT :** *Dom Carlos I*  
**GeoEcoMar :** *Mare Nigrum*  
**HCMR :** *Aegeo* (Thetis, Max Rover or Super Achille)  
**IEO :** *Ramon Margalef*  
**IMS-METU :** *Bilim 2*  
**IO-BAS :** *Akademik*  
**IOPAS :** *Oceania*  
**MI :** *Celtic Voyager*  
**RBINS-MUMM :** *Belgica*  
**TUT :** *Salme*

**Trans National Access :**

**WP9 : TNA2 Regional Research Vessels (Leading partner HCMR, Greece) >>> 13 Regional RVs covering all the European seas organised on a decentralised way, for about 110 days**



Dom Carlos I

May 2010

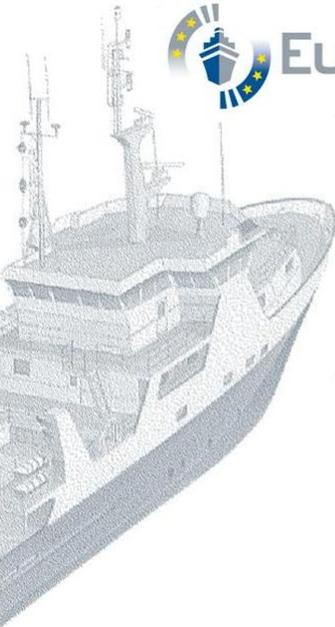
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**Joint Research Activities - JRA:**  
(Coordination of this Activity : MARUM, Germany)

**WP10 : JRA1 UP TO DATE SOFTWARES TO FACILITATE TRANS NATIONAL ACCESS**  
(Leading partner Ifremer, France)

**WP11 : JRA2 SHARED AND FLEXIBLE PAYLOADS FOR ROV, AUV & OBSERVATORIES and COMMON MISSION PLANNING TOOL**  
(Leading partner MARUM, Germany) :

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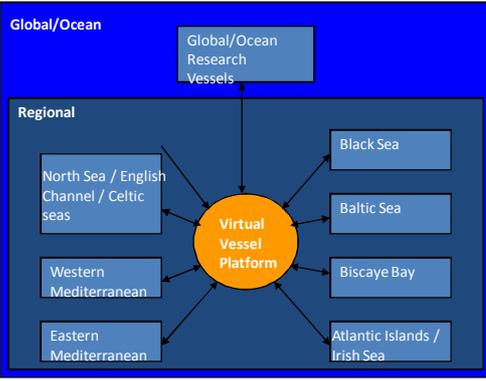
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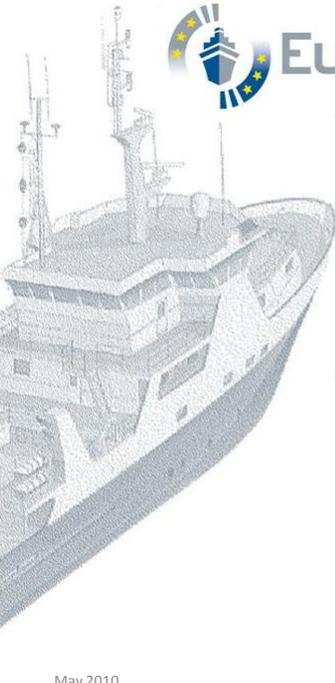
**Priorities :**

- recruitment of Associated partners to the project such as IfM-GEOMAR, ESF Marine Board, BONUS, ...
- building up of its three advisory committees
- indicators definition to complete the project Quality Assurance Plan
- launching of an initiative for the renewal of European Regional fleets (Design study, Mediterranean pilot project)



The diagram illustrates the structure of the Virtual Vessel Platform. At the top is a box for 'Global/Ocean Research Vessels'. Below this is a 'Regional' section containing a central 'Virtual Vessel Platform' (represented by an orange circle). Arrows point from this central platform to six regional boxes: 'North Sea / English Channel / Celtic seas', 'Western Mediterranean', 'Eastern Mediterranean', 'Black Sea', 'Baltic Sea', and 'Biscaye Bay'. A seventh box, 'Atlantic Islands / Irish Sea', is also connected to the central platform.

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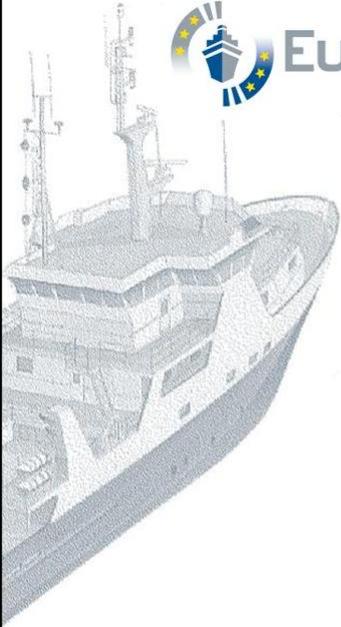
**EUROFLEETS links with other European projects :**

- SeaDataNet (FP6 I3 project), for a standardised data management;
- ESONet / EMSO, for the service to seabed observatories
- EURO-ARGO, for the service to profiler deployment and recovery
- SEAS-ERA ERANet (for marine research infrastructures)

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More information about EUROFLEETS:  
[www.eurofleets.eu](http://www.eurofleets.eu)

Thanks for your attention

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