

# From Eurofleets projects to a permanent European coordination structure

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# Eurofleets Projects 2009 to 2023

- FP7
- 19 Research Vessels
  - 5 Ocean Vessels
  - 14 Regional Vessels
- 24 Partners
- Funding of €7.2 m

Eurofleets  
2009-2013



- FP7
- 22 Research Vessels
  - 8 Ocean Vessels
  - 14 Regional Vessels
- 31 Partners
- Funding of €9m

Eurofleets2  
2013-2017



- H2020
- **27 research vessels** (
  - 13 Global/Ocean and
  - 14 Regional),
- **7 ROVs & 5 AUVs**
- 42 Partners
- Funding of €9.9 m

Eurofleets+  
2019-2023



- Develop Eurofleets as a Legal Entity
- Established full time central coordination office
- Horizon Europe

Eurofleets AISBL  
2024...



# Introduction

- Following Eurofleets, Eurofleets 2 and Eurofleets+ projects, the Marine Institute, Ifremer, CNR, et RBINS are working to create a European infrastructure « Eurofleets »
- WP8 Foresight: Legacy and Roadmap of Eurofleets+, has led to a proposal for an AISBL (Association internationale sans but lucratif)-type association (International Non-profit Association) allowing the creation of a distributed European Marine Research Infrastructure (RI)
- January 2023, an expression of interest was widely circulated to the community of Eurofleets+ beneficiaries and non-Eurofleets+ partner fleet operators, in addition to ERVO and OFEG members
- Further information
  - [https://www.eurofleets.eu/download/Deliverables/EurofleetsPlus-D8.5-Scenario-for-a-permanent-fleets-coordination-platform\\_V3\\_IFREMER.pdf](https://www.eurofleets.eu/download/Deliverables/EurofleetsPlus-D8.5-Scenario-for-a-permanent-fleets-coordination-platform_V3_IFREMER.pdf)
  - [https://www.eurofleets.eu/download/Deliverables/EurofleetsPlus\\_D8.6-Eurofleets-roadmap-and-guidelines\\_V3\\_CNR.pdf](https://www.eurofleets.eu/download/Deliverables/EurofleetsPlus_D8.6-Eurofleets-roadmap-and-guidelines_V3_CNR.pdf)

# Services that could be offered by *Eurofleets* research infrastructure

**1/ Provide its members with an executive secretariat to coordinate all the services offered by the AISBL.** Manage and make available online the documentary resources inherited from Eurofleets, and edit the technical and strategic reports produced in the future by EF RI. Organization of ERVO's annual meetings, A coordination should be established with the European Marine Board (EMB) to increase the impact of documents produced

**2/ Coordinating European training mechanisms.** Based on feedback from previous training courses, the proposal is to develop training programs under the aegis of EF RI alone or in cooperation with research organizations or universities.

**3/ Manage a permanent strategic working group on European fleets to 2030.** EF RI could take the initiative of launching a working Group open to all European stakeholders (EMB, ICES) and fleet operators to

- (1) develop a scientific "baseline" forecast that RV fleets will need to meet by 2030,
- (2) identify the levers for accelerating the environmental transition of fleets,
- (3) propose a joint and concerted roadmap in terms of innovative investments,
- (4) address the subject of transnational partnerships that could make sense in order to reduce transits and pool campaigns,
- (5) prepare the launch of transnational access under the coordination of EF RI in 2027 / 2028

**4/ Manage a regularly updated fleet information portal and common referentials.** For example by transferring EVIOR portal to the EF RI (or create a new portal) and to ensure that the majority of the 62 European RV fleet operators are involved in the regular updating of the various information accessible on the site.

# Legal form and governance of the infrastructure

- **Proposed form, AISBL:** the international non-profit association is a group of natural or legal persons pursuing a disinterested goal of international utility.
- **A general assembly**
  - All European public RV fleet operators can become full members of Eurofleets, while universities, research organizations and institutional bodies can become associate members. New memberships will be approved at the general meeting following the application.
  - Membership fees : proportioning fees based on number of vessels/activity/tonnage with a lower floor and perhaps a ceiling ?
- **A Steering Committee** : steering body of the AISBL. The Chair of ERVO, a representative of OFEG and a representative of the ESFRI FORUM executive board would be members of the steering Committee
- **Executive secretariat** : could be provided on a rotating basis by the members, who would make available to the AISBL a person responsible for coordinating and running the various services offered by the AISBL.
- **Permanent working group** : tasks identified could be carried out by permanent working groups : EVIOR+ Management WG, Training and Floating Universities WG, Strategy WG, Technology WG, ...

# Schedule 2024-2025

## High-level Schedule for the establishment of the AISBL:

- Drafting of Statutes January 2024 to June 2024 by Marine Institute, Ifremer, RIBNS & CNR ; these “founding members” are preparing a MoU and are committed to provide up to 25k€ per year from 2025 to 2028
- **ERVO 2024: presentation of status and call for membership**
- Legal entity formally established in March 2025 at the latest, in the office of the notary (1st general assembly)
- UNOC June 2025: the 2nd general assembly where the 1st members go through the process of welcoming new members in the AISBL. Invitations have to be sent 60 days before (legally)

**Thank you for the attention**  
**Comments/Questions/Suggestions?**

