

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the European Atlas of the Seas

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**Meeting location:** DG MARE, Rue Joseph II 99, Brussels

**Date and time:** Wednesday 26/09/2018 from 10:00 until 12:00

## List of Actions

Action	Description	Deadline	Who?
Action 1	To explore new ways of promoting the Atlas as an Atlas mobile app. Make recommendations how to conceive/design an Atlas app.	2019	EMODnet Secretariat
Action 2	To make the resources of the Atlas more useful for schools and academia. To publish/write exercises and predefined activities ready to be used by teachers.	2019	European Commission, EMODnet Secretariat
Action 3	Report on performance indicators (number of visitors – Visit duration). Distribute monthly reports of performance.	Monthly	EMODnet Secretariat, Bilbomática
Action 4	Atlas SC to propose alternative performance indicators.	Next SC meeting	Atlas Steering Committee
Action 5	Explore potential content to broaden the EAS catalogue. (ICZM, ...).		Everyone
Action 6	Investigate the Eurostat REST API from Eurostat and consider options to display EEA layers via the EAS.		Bilbomática
Action 7	Facilitate/stimulate the development of a third party apps based on EAS resources.	2019	EMODnet at the OSL II
Action 8	Investigate and clarify additional options (and required actions) to improve the communication of the EAS towards the general public and schools		EMODnet Secretariat
Action 9	Promote the EAS within EC bodies (ex: Committee of the regions, EUROSTAT, ...) with outreach material. Prepare a stand.		European Commission – EMODnet Secretariat
Action 10	Synchronise the “Map of the Week” with DG MARE communication events		EMODnet secretariat
Action 11	Provide Nausicaa the means to develop new educational material. (MoU)		European Commission – EMODnet secretariat
Action 12	Get more involved in Ocean literacy programs.		EMODnet secretariat
Action 13	Create a list of schools and teacher associations to approach.	Next SC meeting	EMODnet secretariat
Action 14	Use social networks focussing on on key messages and stories.	Continuous	EMODnet secretariat

Table 1: List of Actions

## Meeting Minutes

### Welcome and adoption of the agenda – DG MARE, Seascope Belgium

Bernhard Friess opened the meeting stating that he is pleased with the current development of the new revamped European Atlas of the Seas (EAS). A fully revamped version of the Atlas was launched in June 2018. He mentioned that

the new EAS has an appealing layout. He pointed out the high potential that the EAS has for schools and academia, general public and professionals.

Jan-Bart Calewaert expressed gratitude to all the data providers and their efforts to provide relevant map layers on maritime policy issues to the EAS. He also highlighted the huge efforts that is being undertaken by EMODnet as the primary data provider of the EAS.

Chantal Vanhove kindly shared a short introduction on the successful collaboration among all the parties involved in the development of the EAS. She encouraged everyone to keep up the good work and vividly thanked everyone.

### **The new European Atlas of the Seas – Bilbomatica & Seascope Belgium**

- History of the implementation of a fully revamped EAS and improvements milestone from mock-ups (Feb 2018) to the launch of a new EAS last June

Natalia Orio Moreno explained all the work accomplished since the last Steering Committee meeting. She reminded that the improvement of usability was a priority and listed all major technical improvements accomplished.

#### ***Timeline of the EAS development***

1. Hand over from JCR to EMODnet Secretariat. The project started on September 2017 with the mission to further develop the EAS and improve its popularity.
2. March 2018, mock-ups were presented at the EAS Steering Committee kick-off meeting.
3. In May 2018, the new EAS was ready to be released. A first workshop was organised in order to promote the EAS at DG MARE and collect feedback.
4. June 2018 – 1st release of the revamped EAS.
5. September 2018 – 2nd release.

#### ***The new EAS, key facts***

The Atlas has been undergoing a process of revamping and constant fine tuning from February onwards.

- Fully revamped EAS from the usability point of view.
- Increase of the map catalogue by 200% with the contribution of EMODnet portals and other EC services.
- The number of visits tends to have doubled during the summer holidays.
- The project has been focused on raising awareness within the EC and with the broad public.
- The motto of the EAS: “ Informative, educational, simple and playful”.

#### ***Review of the main technical improvements***

1. Get feature info for all layers
2. Language selector
3. When embedded in a Web page, the EAS is displayed without its home page widget showing directly the composed map.
4. When a user shares his map, the zoom factor is now saved as a new parameter among all other parameters. Shared maps can now focus on small areas.
5. Implementation of a new section “Follow us” making the EAS even more turned into the social networking
6. Implementation of a new function: “Share your map by email”
7. The Help page has been finalised.

#### ***Next steps in the development process***

Natalia Orio Moreno detailed the coming new implementations: improvement of the content, addition of new layers, addition of new languages, production of a fully redesigned Help page.

Pascal Derycke mentioned that the improvement of the EAS is an Agile process where feedback and user experience are taken into account to further develop the EAS. Pascal Derycke also explained that a consolidated help page will be made available before proceeding with the translation of the Atlas in the 24 EU official languages, we are expecting to have a consolidated help page. We are expecting feedback from teachers in order to fine-tune its content.

## Catalogue update (new and updated map layers) – Seascape Belgium & Bilbomatica

Question: Alexandru Chiric asked how often the information is being fed into the EAS.

Answer: Pascal Derycke explained that the EAS works as an aggregator of Web services and that a content management system allows to add a new map to the EAS catalogue anytime. It is a fast and efficient way to handle the EAS content.

Pascal Derycke started the presentation on the catalogue update and provided information on how the EAS catalogue is maintained, expanded and kept updated. The EAS catalogue is powered in two different ways:

- Aggregation of map view services (EMODnet WMS services)

The EAS aggregates and consumes Web Map Services (WMS 1.1.0) from data providers. The major contributor in this technical context is EMODnet. With 7 thematic portals, EMODnet supplies numerous map layers towards 22 themes resulting in a major increase (200%) of the number of map layers in the Atlas catalogue.

Information is fed directly into the catalogue. The EAS showcases the last version of map layers as distributed by the data providers. The catalogue is kept automatically updated because the EAS displays the layers hosted on the servers of the data providers themselves.

After the presentation on EMODnet's contribution to the EAS catalogue, Pascal Derycke gave the floor to Raul Garcia to present the work accomplished on updating and upgrading Eurostat data.

- "MAREATLAS" an ESRI ArcGIS server instance hosted at the European Environment Agency (ex: Eurostat)

Raul Garcia explained that it is not possible currently to create new maps and publish them under the MAREATLAS GIS server hosted at the EEA. After EMODnet, Eurostat is the second contributor when providing data to the EAS. The EAS team collaborates actively with Eurostat in order to generate new services and to publish interesting relevant blue socio-economic map layers to the public. Around 20 map layers have been created out of Eurostat data.

### ***The process of updating services with Eurostat***

1. Data source selection
2. Data geometry joining
3. Publication through the EEA server
4. Functionality visualisation through the EAS

Chantal Vanhove commented that she recently reviewed the 6 new maps on coastal/non coastal regions and found that Eurostat has much more content with a potential to broaden the EAS catalogue.

Raul Garcia said that the new Eurostat maps still need to be fine-tuned with Eurostat.

Irene Del Barrio asked if in the future the EAS will continue to capitalise on the MAREATLAS server hosted at the EEA.

Pascal Derycke replied that yes, the EAS definitively relies on the GIS service provided by the EEA. All the new Eurostat map services created for the purpose of the EAS (i.e. Coastal/non-coastal by regions map layers) have been published in the MAREATLAS server.

- Synergies with EMODnet, Eurostat, EEA, JRC and other providers

Pascal Derycke commented the relationship with other data providers is crucial to maintain, update and enrich the EAS layers' catalogue. The idea behind the EAS is to undertake the transformation of marine information into an educative Web mapping application "2.0", giving the public an understandable sense of the data displayed. The EAS is fully customized for educational purposes.

Tim Lemmens asked if there is an agreement in place with the data providers.

Pascal Derycke replied that there is currently no arrangement with external providers to reinforce partnership. This could be a possibility in the future.

According to Julien Gaffuri, an arrangement with the data providers would ensure that the map layers reach a higher quality level.

Raul Garcia clarified that the EAS team has been in permanent contact with Eurostat when generating the new services in order to publish the maps in the best and most user friendly way.

Pascal Derycke added that the cooperation with EMODnet Human activities has demonstrated that data providers are happy to improve their services when recommendations are provided. The EAS also helps the EMODnet Human Activities Portal to track issues and monitor its services. It is a win-win situation.

Alessandro Pittito clarified that EMODnet Human Activities is going to publish a collection of Vessel density maps at the end of October and the Human Activities portal is actively collaborating with the EAS on this new map service.

According to Pascal Derycke, the collaboration between EMODnet and the EAS has other added values: for example the JRC produces interesting datasets (i.e. fishing density map), however, finding them is not straight forward. A communication has been established between EAS, EMODnet Human Activities and JRC in order to value such data.

Raul Garcia informed that the EAS team is working on the following new services and projects from DG MARE on underwater heritage: ATAS, NIRD and UCRCA.

## **Monitoring the use of the Atlas – Bilbomática & Seascope Belgium**

Natalia Orio Moreno exposed some outputs:

- Europa Analytics (Web metrics)
- Monitoring of the data provider Web services (Service monitoring)
- Assessment of the Web services (QA/QC protocols)

Bernhard Friess emphasized that the EAS is a perfect tool for schools and pointed out that the existing predefined maps are very useful and a promising starting point. He recommends the development of a tuition tool within the EAS as it has clearly a huge potential for schools and academia. As a reference other successful initiatives websites' have a predefined curriculum. He encouraged the team to develop educational content for schools (i.e. exercises). He expressed his interest for an Atlas app for mobile phones (ios/Android) in order to reach the general public and stimulate intermediate users.

## **Communication and outreach – DG MARE (Chantal Vanhove) & Seascope Belgium (Andrée-Anne Marsan, Selene Álvarez Pena)**

- Communication package

Andrée-Anne Marsan presented the various items produced to market the EAS. These include: roll-ups, book marks, postcards, PowerPoint presentations.

- Social network

Selene Álvarez Pena detailed the existing social network accounts to promote the EAS: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and provided the latest metrics for them.

For Instagram, Bernhard Friess would like the EAS to focus on messages and stories.

- Map of the week

The communication action "map of the week" is successful and allows each week to highlight a particular map through the social media and to embed it in webpages.

Bernhard Friess recommended for the map of the week to focus on events or meetings like the AgriFish committee.

- Staff events (pop-in) and promotion of the Atlas within the EU/EC

Chantal Vanhove organised a pop-in event at DG MARE two weeks after the official release of the revamped EAS: the open session was a successful learning experience. The DG MARE communication unit works now closely with the EAS,

publishing these events via the official accounts. In this regard, a map of the month will be advertised in the EC newsletter. The collaboration between the EAS team and the DG MARE communication unit has been reinforced.

- Channels of communication (Nausicaa, DG Comm, Climate Change week, ...)

There is a potpourri of past events, ongoing interests and potential collaborations since last June:

- The French and biggest aquarium in Europe Nausicaa expressed its interest to collaborate with the EAS. The aquarium has four permanent teachers that develop educational material all over the year.
- The "Climate Change week" event in Hamburg (D) was an opportunity to develop exercises and EAS material. The feedback from teachers is that the EAS is very useful and can to be used to develop material for schools.
- The EAS will be promoted at the Committee of the regions end of November.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> of November a presentation of the EAS will be organised at Eurostat in Luxembourg.
- Chantal Vanhove proposed to have a promotional event once a month in the EC buildings.
- Jan-bart Calewaert proposed to get involved with the actual ocean literacy programs and to have a list of teacher associations, list of schools. Bernard Friess supported the idea.
- Andrée-Anne Marsan said that the EAS will be present at the European Marine Science Educators Association (EMSEA) Conference in Newcastle from 2nd to 4th of October to develop a list of schools and educators.

### Performance indicators for the Atlas

Pascal Derycke presented two performance indicators (Number of visitors per month and visit duration). He explained that both indicators serve as a reference. But he challenged the EAS steering committee to propose other performance indicators.

The meeting was closed at 12:20pm. The AOB and/or specific feedback were not discussed because of the lack of time.

- Feedback form (GDPR)
- Proxy, server performance issues DIGIT
- Symbology of the layers

**Nota bene: A staging server (Cloud) has been launched by the EMODnet Secretariat to host**

- the monitoring tool
- the proxy server
- the Atlas CMS

### Next Steering Committee meeting

20<sup>th</sup> March is the proposed date for the next Atlas SC

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## Annex 1 – List of participants

Name	Organisation	email
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