

DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Note on Innovation Indicators, 23rd August 2013

DGPM, 7.10.2013

General comments

The proposed work on innovation indicators is of major importance in the characterization process of maritime economic activities.

At this stage of the process, we cannot compromise already with specific indicators as we are working at national level in a project on monitoring of National Ocean Strategy, in which we need to select indicators in various areas, including innovation and research. We expect, however, to give more input on this area soon. This project will be done in cooperation with National Statistics Institute, which is the national entity responsible for the statistics reporting to Eurostat, and a multidisciplinary team specialized in different matters, including the Science and Technology Foundation.

Nevertheless, we are presenting some comments, without prejudice of presenting further information subsequently:

In the indicator “weight of patents in GVA”, there is a need to define the domains of registry and the registry system that is taken into consideration, because without a common reference the rules applied aren’t the same, and the results achieved are also different in each country.

The indicator “employed person by level of education attained” needs to be further examined together with a survey on employment, in order to see how far we can get for ocean economy approach. Therefore, further work is needed from the Ecorys team to accomplish the suitability of this indicator.

The indicator “contribution of high tech products/services (...)”, we suggest that Ecorys team make a test for classification of economic activities which were considered in ocean economy and share with us the products and services of incorporated high tech taken into consideration, and also if it is a reference agreed under Eurostat.

The indicator “RTD spending as a share of turnover (...)” seems to be a good indicator of “input”, but we suggest the articulation with the analyses of the equivalent indicator worked out at Eurostat level for monitoring Europe Strategy 2020.