

EuYmast Forum

Towards a European Young Marine Scientists & Technologists Forum

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Y quizás a : Mehmet Topal, Javad , Ricardo y Mairike?, el Francés y el otro belga...

Content

- Initiated by WACOMA
- Who are we?
- Two Aims of the forum
- Questions and Round Table Discussion

EuYmast was Initiated by

- WACOMA (Water and COastal Management Alumni association)
- Young scientists gather in different associations in different marine and maritime disciplines (INORE, Marie Curie Fellowship, etc)
- Together with a single active voice

Who are we?

Marine and maritime scientists and technologists early stages of their professional careers

Two Aims of the forum:

1. Young scientists should know about the wider research agenda
2. Voice our concerns => *¡¡ CONCLUSIONS PAPER !!*

Questions and Round Table Discussion

1. **What are the key challenges for young professionals in the future?**
 - Integration of knowledge in a multi or interdisciplinary way
 - Capacity building is concentrated at regional or national level. Coordination and share of knowledge in capacity building is key to solve these problems.
 - Regarding employment
 - Marine/maritime sectors are highly competitive, and in continual and rapid change. (no jobs, more competition)
 - Employment is under short-term contracts/fellowships (projects)
 - Critical thinking, being able to propose and develop new ideas
 - Young professionals have
 1. High mobility: difficult balance between professional and personal life
 2. short time to adapt to new market needs

1. Qualification easier to obtain than experience (internship).
 2. Importance of building a professional network (lobbying and mentorship)
 3. Loss of professional independence in favour of a stable position
3. Employability of multidisciplinary/ interdisciplinary people in highly specialised job profiles is still limited

2. What sort of disciplines and interdisciplinary education, infrastructure and technological breakthrough do we need to meet these challenges?

- Promotion of scientist and technologist interaction.
Promotion example:
 - Small simulation projects, e.g master thesis projects like Port engineer and marine scientist, in which different disciplines may work together and promote common/group training skills.
 - ‘on the job’ training
- Suitable information technologies, data sharing, etc.
- Multidisciplinary programs exist, but they do not have same recognition as a ‘traditional’ profile.
- Training in career essentials (real market opportunities, communication skills, how to boost your CV, etc.)

3. How can young scientists engage professions?

- High motivation, “the sea is something addictive”
- Poor reward, loss of effort of capacitating and investment in human resources...may lead to brain drain
- Increase the small economic stimuli
 - promote the design of a funding scheme to allow young scientists to exploit new ideas, ideas in an multidisciplinary working group but independently managed by junior profiles
- Promoting training in private companies
- Facilitate forums and representation in stake-holder meetings
- Promotion of:
 - Awards (competitions- vision example)
 - Conference invitations young scientists.
 - Accreditation to students when they have participated in regulatory monitoring

4. What is needed to bring younger generations into important global ocean issues?

- Young generations are highly motivated and highly trained (the biggest difficulty is entering the labour market and staying there)
- “Shock marketing”, involving media, e.g. films, documentaries...etc. The new “Inconvenient truth” of the oceans.

- Reward and motivation in terms of money and recognition.
- promoting “good behaviour in the marine environment” would engage new generations and creating new jobs (e.g. climate change)

5. How to promote high qualified professionals in the target sectors?

- Training is available, but low employability after training.
- Involve private sector in the training process.
- Promotion of “innovation culture” in the private sector. Promote long-term benefits of innovation in the instead of short-term economic benefits.
- Entrepreneurship training in the academic curricula.
- Give incentives to companies/laboratories/universities to adopt internship programs, or sponsored programs with 2-3y employment afterwards.

6. How to make maritime professions more attractive, stable and financially rewarding?

- Environmental jobs are attractive but not rewarding.
 - Environmental science does not provide high financial return in the short term. Companies should understand ‘short term costs for long term gains.
- Maritime professions are already attractive, but industrial outsourcing (e.g. naval industry) to Asia means lack of jobs
 - Creation of new industries, i.e. offshore wind farms, while ensuring the protection of the ocean environment via sustainable development.
 - Make use of existing infrastructure (e.g. empty shipyards) for storage and manufacture.

7. How to integrate multidisciplinary and interdisciplinarity in the professions at sea?

- Promote it in an early stage.
 - Public participation in decision making as young scientists
 - Multidisciplinary master thesis, in working groups.
- Training, communication, cooperation, knowledge sharing: coordinating organisms
- Policy enforcement:
 - systematic life cycle analysis of every naval and offshore project: economical, environmental and technical aspects taken into account and multidisciplinary approach would be compulsory.

8. Benefits of making a young professionals' forum

- Meeting of multiple sectors: offshore wind energy, climate, fisheries, environment, naval design...
- Lighthouse for information, funding, employment possibilities, etc.
- Improve of career essentials (negotiation, diplomacy, cost management)
- Public voice of needs and concerns.
- Coordination of efforts.

9. What forum should it take?

- Mailing list.
- Internet dissemination platform.
- Periodical meeting.
- Needs coordination and dedication: funds?

10. What are our concerns?

- Not enough engagement decrease the credibility of the Forum
- Long-term maintenance
- How can we use the forum?