



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

European  
Research Area

# MARCOM+

## AT A GLANCE

**Title:** Towards and Integrated Marine and Maritime Science Community

**Instrument:** FP7 Support Action

**Total Cost:** 1 090 400 €

**EC Contribution:** 998 455 €

**Duration:** 24 months

**Start Date:** 01/01/2010

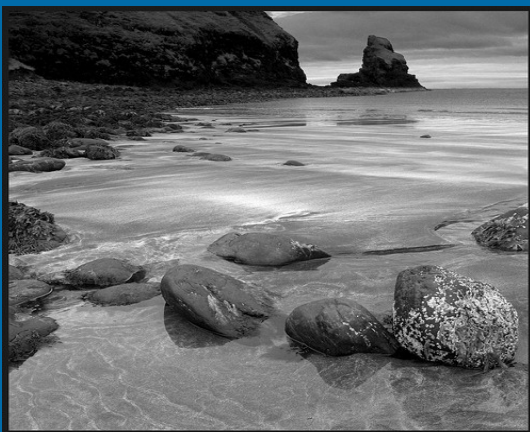
**Consortium:** 10 partners from 6 countries

**Project Coordinator:** International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Denmark

**Project Web Site:**

<http://www.ices.int/marineworld/EuropeanMarineAndMaritimePartnership/aboutus.asp>

**Key Words:** cooperation, fragmentation, integration, ocean governance, policy-advice, forum.



## THE CHALLENGE

Europe has been struggling with fragmentation of the marine and maritime research sectors of the European research Area. This situation has resulted in duplication of existing services and complexity of stakeholder interactions. Reduction of the fragmentation became a priority in the process of structuring the European Research Area and meeting the Lisbon Agenda goals. In the MARCOM+ process major European marine and maritime research networks and international organizations decided to work out the abilities to jointly respond to emerging policy needs when requested to.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to propose a new, integrated governance and consultancy model, which will take form of a 'forum' (The European Marine and Maritime Science and Technology Forum).

Commencing with delivering a synthesis of the policy scene and a review of existing governance frameworks and partnerships, the group will assess the important collaboration mechanisms and tools for integrated ocean governance. These experiences will allow working out the abilities to address science voice in an integrated and coherent manner. The consortium will furthermore ensure proper communication of proceedings, results and recommendations amongst the stakeholders.

## METHODOLOGY

The following five panels will be formed:



- Interdisciplinary dialogue across science panel;
- Technology transfer panel;
- Policy interface panel;
- Research infrastructure development panel;
- Foresight panel.

These structures, together with the workpackage leaders, will compose the Marine and Maritime Science and Technology Forum.

The key networks representing science and technology development will, by means of conveying interdisciplinary workshops and open fora, join forces to test and establish appropriate cooperation mechanisms on various stakeholder levels. The process will engage a wide scope of stakeholders through the consortium, representation of networks from outside of the consortium, external expertise and the multisectoral project Advisory Board.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

The MARCOM + initiative will constitute a significant step forward in reduction of fragmentation in the marine/maritime sectors of the European Research Area. The processes will contribute to developing interactions between the research community and other partners (industry, regional authorities, civil society and other stakeholders of the seas) starting from regional scales to broader issues shared with EU-

neighbouring countries.

Once the project's implementation phase is over, and the group of key science and technology networks will have developed the most effective dialogue mechanisms, the Forum will be able to jointly respond to emerging issues such as prioritization of EU Framework Programmes. Experiences from exercises carried out under the MARCOM+ workplan, will make the group ready to address science needs to research funding and programming organizations in a cohesive and coordinated way, and to support two-way feedback between marine/maritime science and other key stakeholders. The Forum will continue being operationally active as a consolidated consultative body. It will be available to guide the implementation of the European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research and to assist in development and implementation of the integrated EU Maritime Policy.

### PROJECT PARTNERS

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, DK

Coastal and Marine Union, NL

European Council for Maritime Applied R&D Association (representing the Waterborne Technology Platform), BE

Marine Board – European Science Foundation, FR

Mediterranean Science Commission, MO

European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform, BE

European Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization, FR

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (representing the European Global Ocean Observing System EuroGOOS), GR

Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (representing the European Network of Marine Research Institutes and Stations MARS), NL

Community of European Shipyards Associations, BE

