

Marine Research and the Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO)

22nd MODEG meeting – 1/10/2014



The Belgian Science Policy Office (BELSPO)



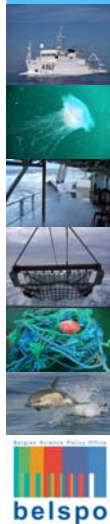
- * **Federal Governmental Department**
- * **Multiple activities:**
 - * Funding & support of 10 Federal Scientific Institutions (FSI)
 - * Coordination (national & international)
 - * Management of Belgian participation in space research programmes
 - * Management of national research programmes

* **Annual Budget: Approx 570 M€**

* **Staff: Approx 2700 (incl FSI's)**

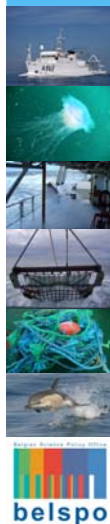


Marine Research funding (1/2)



- * **1st marine research programme in 1970 (Project SEA)**
- * **Actual programme:**
BRAIN-be – Belgian Research Action through Interdisciplinary Networks
- * End 2012 until 2017 (phase 1)
- * Objectives : scientific support to federal competences (eg. North Sea) and federal scientific institutes (eg. RBINS)
- * Organised around 6 thematic axis:
 - * **Axis 1: Ecosystems, biodiversity and evolution**
 - * **Axis 2: Geosystems, universe and climate**
 - * Axis 3: Cultural, historical and scientific heritage
 - * Axis 4: Federal public strategies
 - * Axis 5: Major societal challenges
 - * Axis 6: Management of collections
- * Budget for whole programme: 117 MEURO
- * More info : <http://www.belspo.be/Brain-be>
- * See also : <http://www.belspo.be/Northsea>

Marine Research funding (2/2)



- * **Earth Observation research programme (STEREO III)**
- * 2014 - 2020
- * Budget : 28,6 M€
- * Research priorities:
 - * 1. Global monitoring of vegetation and evolution of terrestrial ecosystems
 - * **2. Management of the environment on a local and regional scale (water, soil, forest, nature reserves and biodiversity, agriculture, coastal areas, urban and peri-urban areas)**
 - * 3. Interaction between (change in) land cover and climate change
 - * 4. Epidemiology and humanitarian aid
 - * 5. Security and risk management
- * More information: <http://eo.belspo.be>

Marine Research Infrastructures: RV Belgica & RV Belgica 2



- * BELSPO, RBINS & Defense
- * Commissioned in 1984 (30 years old)
- * Regional RV
- * Multipurpose research vessel
- * +/- 180 d/yr at sea
- * 15 crew members + 16 scientists
- * More info:
<http://www.belspo.be/Northsea> > research vessel Belgica
<http://www.mumm.ac.be> > Monitoring > the Belgica



- * Proposal based on needs of users:
- * Length +/- 65 m, width +/- 17 m
- * Regional/sub oceanic RV
- * Multipurpose
- * Ice class I (not ice breaker)
- * +/- 300 d/yr at sea
- * 24 scientists + 15 crew members
- * Cost: +/- 50 M€
- * More info :
<http://www.belspo.be/Northsea> > new Research Vessel

Federal scientific institutions (FSI)



Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) Operational Directorate Natural Environment

- * Freshwater biology
- * Biological evaluation
- * Belgian focal point Convention on biological diversity
- * **Marine environment**
 - * Ecosystems of the North Sea
 - * Ocean observation
 - * Sediment transport research
 - * Chemical composition of the sea and its pollution
 - * Management the oceanographic research vessel Belgica
 - * **BMDC (Belgian Marine Data Centre)**: providing the tools for collecting, managing, storing and spreading data on the marine environment. Scientific exploitation of the data is integrated, as a tool for scientists, policy makers and international conventions
- * More info: <http://www.mumm.ac.be>

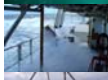
National and international coordination and representation (BELSPO & FSI's)



belspo

- * Science Policy coordination mechanisms in Belgium (IMCSP, ICSP, FCC-ICC)
- * Representation in national coordination fora with regard to marine aspects:
 - * Coastguard structure, Sand and gravel extraction commission, North Sea and Oceans commission, Marine spatial planning commission...
- * Belgian representation in: UNESCO – IOC, JPI Oceans, JPI Climate, IPCC, OSPAR, ICES, ESA, MSFD, EU H2020, COST, GMES, GBIF, ...
- * Participation in:
 - * EU projects (Eranet SEAS-ERA, Eranet Biodiversa 2, Eurofleets, MyOcean, Seadatanet, Lifewatch, EMODNET ...)
 - * European Marine Board, ESF Polar Board, EUROGOOS, ...
- * Hosting of international secretariats: EUROGOOS, JPI Climate, ...

Contact



belspo

Frank Monteny - David Cox

BELSPO

Tel: +32.(0)2.238.34.03

Fax: +32.(0)2.230.59.12

@ : david.cox@belspo.be

W: www.belspo.be/Northsea