Document 1. EMODnet Portals
Discussion document on guidelines for the further harmonization of the thematic portals EMODnet 2014

1   Background

Much work has been done since the onset of EMODnet (Phase II) to achieve where we are today: a growing number of partner organisations and institutes making available a huge and very diverse set of European marine data, data products and metadata through a series of thematic data portals that are approaching operational status. Most of what is required to create a fully operational/useful EMODnet on the medium to long term is already in place.

This document aims to continue the discussion started at the inaugural Steering Committee meeting in December 2013, among the thematic lots, about how the current EMODnet partners can build upon past achievements and tweak the existing/new web-portals and landing pages to continually improve the end-user experience.

It is important to consider further harmonisation and achieve maximum coherence within the available human and financial resources because the thematic portals are essentially online 'shop windows' to the EMODnet service: open all the time and accessible to users all over the world. The more streamlined, coherent and up-to-date they are, the better impression the whole (and thus the individual portals and partners) will make.

Developing the harmonisation guidelines is a collaborative effort that relies strongly on the knowledge and expertise held within the thematic and regional portals.

2   EMODnet branding harmonization

Currently the thematic lots display different versions of the EMODnet banner on their website/portal. Figure 1 is a template to be used as ideal example. An outline of the current status for each thematic lot and the proposed amendments needed can be found below.
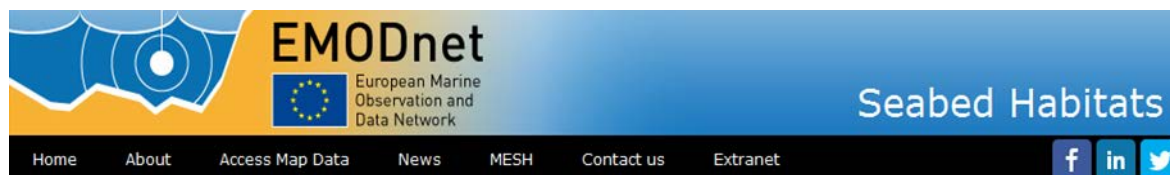

Figure 1: Template EMODnet banner (EMODnet Seabed Habitats)

***The social media icons can be places elsewhere if there is no place on the navigation menu.

2.1   Horizontal navigation top menu

-   The top navigation menu should be black background with white font text.

    →All thematic portals follow black menu with white text colour pattern except for **EMODnet Biology**.

-   The selected/active tab on the top navigation menu should be highlighted to indicate to the user their location on the website (preferably using the central portal as template: orange box highlighting).

Currently:
Bathymetry: black box &orange text
Geology: orange box &white text
Seabed habitats: Blue box & white text
Chemistry: Grey/Black box & orange text
Biology: no highlights
Physics: black box & orange text (but only highlights when cursor hovers over)
Human Activities: blue box & white text

➔ The following thematic lots need to check and adjust their top menu behaviour to include highlight functionality: **Biology and Physics.**

2.2 Navigating to the Central portal page

Ideally, from any page in the EMODnet universe (EMODnet thematic and regional portals/websites) a user would be able to navigating back to the EMODnet Central portal to obtain general high level information, access the Data Services and link to other thematic portals. Currently, this is possible from many pages in various different ways: by text hyperlinks, buttons, menu items etc. The Secretariat has looked into ways to harmonise how users can navigate back to the central portal in a way which is the same across all pages/portals. It appears that the simplest way to achieve this would be by ensuring that from each page/portal you are routed to the central portal when clicking on the EMODnet logo in the banner (hove-over tooltip would appear).

2.3 EMODnet Banner

- The Banner should mention the name of the thematic lot only (not include 'portal' or 'pilot portal')

  ➔ The following thematic lots need to check and update their banner: **Bathymetry, Biology, Human Activities, Chemistry**.

- Banner thematic title should be white and positioned to the right.

  ➔ The following thematic lots need to check and review their banner: **Chemistry**.

- The EMODnet typefont logo should be consistent on all the material produced for the EMODnet project, the Secretariat can provide different templates of the logo for web & print materials.

  ➔The following thematic lots need to check and review their services: Geology, Central portal, human activities, biology, physics (correct on the mapviewer).

3 Overview of EMODnet services

With a variety of services available on the thematic lots it is important that a clear outline is provided to the users. The Secretariat is currently in the process of reviewing the central portal information pages, in collaboration with the thematic lots, to update and provide a uniform template for the EMODnet central portal thematic lot summary page.

The Secretariat, together with the central portal development team, is also in the process of reviewing the sea-basin checkpoints summary pages and integration, to allow for the inclusion of the new additional sea basin checkpoints when they join the services in 2015.

4   EMODnet Citation & Disclaimer

Currently, the various thematic lots provide different ways to cite EMODnet when data/products/services are used. A coherent approach to when and how users need to accredit EMODnet or original sources needs to be agreed and implemented by all themes. In addition, it would be desirable if EMODnet coordinators could agree and display a single and clear disclaimer.

4.1   Example citation (based on EMODnet Seabed Habitats)

You must acknowledge the contribution of the EMODnet project by using the following citation in any derived information product or publication, whether printed, electronic or broadcast that is based wholly or in part on the material, data and/or information made available to you:

Information contained in this publication/report/application/application has been derived from data that is made available under the European Marine Observation Data Network (EMODnet) Seabed Habitats project (www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu), funded by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE).

4.2   Disclaimer

Any information product, publication or application that you produce containing materials, data and/or information made available to you via this website must contain the following statement:

EMODnet Data Owners and consortium partners bear no liability for any further analysis or interpretation of the material, data and/or information produced based on the data, metadata and/or products made available through the EMODnet portals.

EMODnet