JPI OCEANS

Annual Activities 2020

JPI OCEANS

Suggested Reference:
JPI Oceans (2021) Annual Activities 2020. Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans, Brussels.

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0
Strategy update

1.1 TOWARDS A NEW STRATEGY FRAMEWORK FOR JPI OCEANS

With JPI Oceans' Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda 2015-2020 approaching the final days of its six-year lifetime, JPI Oceans was working on renewing its strategic approach in a revised and refreshed Strategic Framework for the 2021-2025 period. The new and improved document provides the building blocks for a coherent and successful pathway beyond 2020.

On 24 August 2020, JPI Oceans held the Beyond 2020 Stakeholder Webinar, further including stakeholders in a holistic and participatory revision process of JPI Oceans strategic way forward. Throughout the virtual event, over 100 participating stakeholders were guided through the first draft of the new Strategic Framework, its revision process timeline, its goals and objectives, and the three priority areas Ocean Health, Ocean Productivity and Ocean Stewardship & Governance.

In addition, JPI Oceans launched an online stakeholder survey, to offer stakeholders the opportunity to further comment on the draft Strategic Framework. The feedback, insights, reflections and experiences received helped JPI Oceans to further shape the new strategic framework. This was complemented with the feedback from parallel national consultations. The resulting new draft was finally adopted by the JPI Oceans Management Board at its meeting in November 2020 and, with that, ready for official launch in 2021.

> "I look forward to implementing the new JPI Oceans Strategy Framework and consolidating the role and impact of JPI Oceans at the core of European ocean research"
>
> - Niall McDonough

2.0

Joint Action highlights

2.1 AQUATICPOLLUTANTS COFUND LAUNCHES JOINT CALL ON RISKS OF POLLUTANTS AND PATHOGENS IN OUR WATERS

The three Joint Programming Initiatives on Water, Oceans, and Antimicrobial Resistance and the European Commission jointly developed the AquaticPollutants ERA-Net Cofund to support and connect their research communities.

In February 2020, the Cofund launched a joint call on the risks for human health and the environment posed by pollutants and pathogens present in marine and freshwater resources. A total of 26 countries pooled about 24,8 M€ in resources to implement the joint call for research and innovation projects. In the first phase, an initial 184 pre-proposals involving 1065 partners were submitted and evaluated by a panel of scientific experts. As a result, 53 pre-proposals were invited to submit a full proposal. The selection process will culminate in early 2021, with the successful projects expected to start in autumn 2021.

The occurrence of pathogens and emerging pollutants in water resources is one of the most serious risks in our environment and a major factor in the degradation of water quality. Anti-microbial resistant organisms and genes are now found widespread throughout the environment and pose a serious emerging threat for human health and well-being. Anti-microbial resistant bacteria enter the aquatic ecosystems through effluents from wastewater treatment plants, hospitals, pharmaceutical production and stock farming including aquaculture. To reduce or, even better, avoid the input of pollutants and pathogens into the environment, a holistic catchment approach to better understand the ecological and human health effects is necessary.

2.2 BLUEBIO ERA-NET COFUND KICKS OFF 19 NEW PROJECTS AND LAUNCHES SECOND CALL

The objective of the ERA-Net BlueBio Cofund is to establish a research and development funding scheme that will strengthen Europe's position in the blue bioeconomy. BlueBio launched its co-funded call in December 2018, with 23,25 million Euro from 16 countries, resulting in the 19 projects.

In 2020, the ERA-Net BlueBio Cofund announced the selection of 19 co-funded projects. The Cofund then held an online kick-off and Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) event in June. An online meeting initiative was started for the co-funded projects, where project participants met and shared challenges, solutions and ideas.

The second BlueBio call, referred to as 1st Additional Call, was launched in June with a virtual networking and brokerage process. The call scope was "logistics and transportation – from harvest to processing" with 11 million Euro in funding commitments from 14 partners in 13 countries.

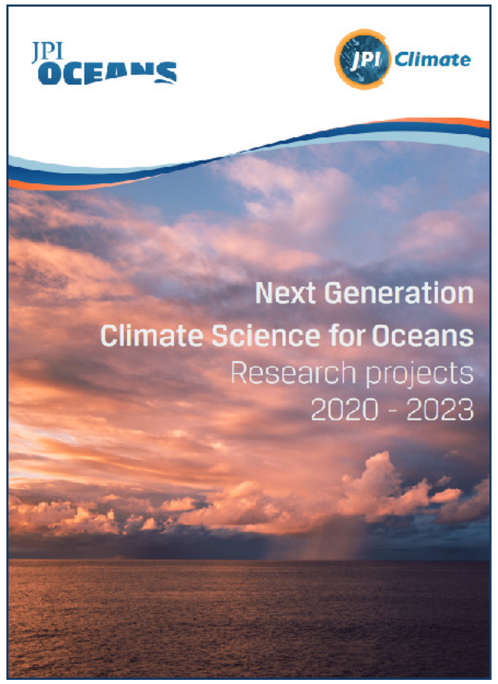
BlueBio then also welcomed Izglītības un zinātnes ministrija (IZM) from Latvia as a new partner and completed the 18-month report to the European Commission.

At the end of 2020, work started on preparing the call scope for the third BlueBio call, known as 2nd Additional Call, expected in June 2021.

> The blue bioeconomy is the use and conversion of living aquatic resources (algae, fish, mussels, etc) into a wide variety of products and services (food, feed, energy, etc).

2.3 FOUR PROJECTS KICK OFF RESEARCH ON CLIMATE-OCEAN INTERACTIONS

JPI Oceans and JPI Climate jointly launched the Climate Science in Europe for Oceans call in early 2019, aiming to address the knowledge gap and uncertainties in the understanding and quantification of key climate-ocean interactions and the ocean's buffering capacities for absorbing heat and carbon dioxide.



Following their selection in early 2020, the four projects CE2COAST, EUREC4A-OA, MEDLEY & ROADMAP successfully started their research activities, despite facing inevitable delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As early as January 2020, however, the EUREC4A-OA project was part of a first international research expedition off the coast of Barbados, aiming to gather extensive data relating to the ocean-atmosphere interaction between trade wind cumulus clouds and mesoscale eddy circulations.

The four projects held their official joint kick-off meeting online in September 2020. For the occasion, JPI Oceans produced a project booklet featuring all four projects, in collaboration with JPI Climate. In November 2020, JPI Oceans also organized a Facebook Live event inviting Prof Sabrina Speich, coordinator of EUREC4A-OA, to present the project and answer live questions by interested participants.

The results of the projects will help to inform policies to increase resilience and adaptation measures for vulnerable areas, especially coastal and low island areas.

2.4 SEVEN MEMBER COUNTRIES RENEW EFFORT ON CUMULATIVE EFFECTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES

In 2020, JPI Oceans formally established a new Knowledge Hub on the cumulative effects of human activities.

The aim of the Knowledge Hub is to improve knowledge on identifying environmental sensitivities to cumulative effects of human pressures over longer time frames, and to improve tools for assessment. The Knowledge Hub supports both the former JPI Oceans Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda and the new Strategy Framework.

Seven countries participated in the Joint Action planning and nominated eleven experts to work in the Knowledge Hub. Terms of Reference were developed to be presented to the Management Board in May 2021. The intention of the Joint Action is to develop guidelines and common principles on how to assess cumulative effects of human activities by end of 2023.

2.5 JOINT ACTION LEADS TO EU-FUNDED PROJECT ON INFRASTRUCTURES FOR MARINE SENSOR CALIBRATION

In December, the European Commission agreed to fund the project Metrology for Integrated Marine Management and Knowledge-Transfer Network (MINKE). MINKE builds on the 'European Marine Sensor Calibration Network', a JPI Oceans Joint Action initiated in 2016.

The project will start in June 2021 and is coordinated by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). The budget is almost €5 Mio. for 48 months and will be shared between 22 project partners. MINKE will integrate key European marine metrology research infrastructures to coordinate their use and development and propose an innovative framework for the quality of oceanographic data for different European actors in charge of monitoring and managing the marine ecosystems.

JPI Oceans is a partner in the project and is involved in tasks related to community building and networking activities. The contributions will ensure connectivity to JPI Oceans Joint Actions, particularly on Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment. With the overall goal of this Joint Action to propose a future strategic plan towards a permanent pan-European calibration grid to support the activities of marine observatories, the participation of JPI Oceans in an EU H2020 INFRAIA-02-2020 ("Integrating Activities for Starting Communities") call proposal can be seen as a step towards the achievement of this goal.

2.6 ONLINE NETWORK CONTINUES TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS

In the final year of the Fit4Food2030 Coordination and Support Action (CSA), JPI Oceans contributed to Work Package 3 Identification of showcases, by writing chapters on Food from the Oceans and Freshwater resources (Deliverables 3.3 and 3.4).

Food from the Oceans and Freshwater resources is identified by the European Commission in the Farm2Fork strategy and European Green Deal as one of ten focus areas considered pathways with potential to transform food systems.

The Fit4Food2030 CSA was aimed at food systems transformation and responsible research and innovation (RRI) in Europe. The new Sustainable Food Systems Network (SFSN) will continue gathering the community of people online, striving to transform food systems.

2.7 JPIs WORK TOGETHER TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHALLENGES TO FOOD SYSTEMS

The Knowledge Hub on Food and Nutrition Security, SYSTEMIC, was initiated in July 2020 by the three JPIs Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life, Food Security and Climate Change and Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans.

The overall aim is to foster transnational and interdisciplinary collaboration and networking, to catalyse and accelerate research that integrates the different facets of the food system to address climate and global change challenges.

SYSTEMIC will run for three years to work through a series of workshops on cross-cutting themes, building on and connecting existing initiatives, projects, and programs. The objectives will be exemplified using specific test cases including cereals, legumes, and olive oil for terrestrial, and fish, molluscs and algae for aquatic systems, but the generated data management processes could be applied to other systems in the future.

2.8 EXPERTS IDENTIFY BEST METHODOLOGIES TO ASSESS IMPACT OF CHEMICALS ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT

The experts of the Knowledge Hub on the Integrated Assessment of New Pollutants held several meetings throughout 2020. They identified the most appropriate methodologies to assess the effects of chemical contaminants on the marine environment, developing an overview of relevant improvements and refinements of existing methodologies.

Photo credit:
© Chris Leboutillier

The result will be highlighted in 2021 in the form of a policy brief. The policy brief will also address research found necessary to improve effect and hazard studies, monitoring and sampling related to new and emerging pollutants. Political, economic and social dimensions will be included as the source and impact of pollutants are utterly linked with society.

Member States had indicated that better tools are required to efficiently address the monitoring and evaluation of chemical pollution, especially in view of new and existing pollutants entering the marine environment. The currently accepted regulatory effect-based assessment tools are limited for the marine environment.

The amount of ecotoxicological data related to target monitoring matrices, such as sediment, is therefore lacking. In response to that, in 2019 JPI Oceans launched the Knowledge Hub. The network consists of selected experts from JPI member countries and aims to understand what is needed to improve the methodological basis for the assessment of the marine chemical status.

Photo credit:
© A. van den Berg

2.9 CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR MARINE AND MARITIME TECHNOLOGIES IN 2020

In January 2020, MarTERA launched its 3rd call, while the 12 projects from the 2nd call were kicked-off in September 2020. Nine projects with a total requested funding of 9.5 million EUR were chosen in November 2020 from the 3rd call. The 4th call was prepared for its official launch in January 2021.

MarTERA is an ERA-NET Cofund scheme of Horizon 2020 of the European Commission. The overall goal of MarTERA is to strengthen the European Research Area (ERA) in maritime and marine technologies as well as Blue Growth.

2.10 JPI OCEANS EMBARKS ON SECOND TRANSNATIONAL MICROPLASTICS RESEARCH JOURNEY

In 2018, thirteen JPI Oceans member countries, Latvia and Brazil launched the second JPI Oceans transnational call on the "Ecological aspects of microplastics in the marine environment". Several months later, peer referees and an expert panel selected six projects to receive funding: ANDROMEDA, HOTMIC, FACTS, microplastiX, i-plastic and RESPONSE. The projects will conduct research on sources of microplastics, methods for identifying smaller micro- and (nano-) plastics, and monitoring of their circulation in marine systems and their effects thereon.

During a successful virtual joint kick-off meeting held in May 2020, all project coordinators introduced their project plan and objectives. For the event, the JPI Oceans Secretariat produced a booklet outlining all projects. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the projects experienced delays in beginning their activities. In August 2020, funders agreed that the projects should start their work by September 2020.

In celebration of World Oceans Day 2020, JPI Oceans hosted a special Facebook live session on the effects of microplastics on the marine environment, with guest speaker Dr. Aaron Beck, coordinator of the HOTMIC project.

Stakeholders followed the HOTMIC project onto a 4-week research cruise on RV SONNE in December 2020 through a social media campaign on JPI Oceans channels. Secretariat team member Isabelle Schulz joined the cruise to report and help researchers with sampling activities.

During the mirco2020 conference in November 2020, a special session was dedicated to the JPI Oceans projects. In that occasion, partners were able to introduce their project to the wider microplastic research community.

2.11 MININGIMPACT PREPARES NEW SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION TO ASSESS IMPACT OF DEEP-SEA MINING

The JPI Oceans Joint Action "Ecological aspects of deep-sea mining" aims at assessing the long-term impacts of polymetallic nodule mining on the deep-sea environment. Core to the Joint Action is the MiningImpact 2 project, involving 30 partners from 9 European countries, and including The International Seabed Authority (ISA).

Photo credit:
© GEOMAR

On 7-8 October 2020, MiningImpact 2 held the annual project meeting, where the coordinating team presented the results of the initial field work of the project. The first field work was carried out over a 14-week long research cruise in spring 2019 on the German research vessel RV SONNE, which collected the environmental baseline data in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone (CCZ) in the Northeast Pacific.

At the meeting, MiningImpact 2 also presented the plans for a second research expedition which, despite delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, is set to take place in spring 2021. The cruise will include an independent scientific monitoring of the first industrial prototype test by the Belgian company Global Sea Mineral Resources (DEME-GSR), organized in collaboration with the German Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR).

In June 2020, Dr. Matthias Haeckel, coordinator of the project, gave an overview of the latest findings of the MiningImpact 2 project at a Public Hearing before the Belgian Parliament, alongside experts from around the globe. The hearing was convened in response to a newly proposed resolution by two members of Parliament calling for a moratorium on deep-sea mining activities. Giving evidence to the Parliamentary Committee on Energy, Environment and Climate, the hearing featured presentations from scientists, NGO's, representatives from the nascent mining industry, and the Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

The last decade has seen a steady increase of interest in deep-sea mining to secure mankind's future demands in raw materials. Several European countries and some former Soviet Union countries have registered claims with the International Seabed Authority to explore mineral resources in the abyss.

At the same time, the International Seabed Authority is developing the "Mining Code", the international regulatory framework governing the exploitation of minerals in areas beyond national jurisdiction. With deep-sea mining inevitably causing disturbances to abyssal ecosystems, because mineral deposits in focus cover extended areas of the inhabited seafloor that will be disturbed directly and indirectly by mining operations, it is important that international legislation is based on the best available knowledge. JPI Oceans aims to contribute to the development of the Mining Code by filling knowledge gaps in the field.

2.12 MANAGEMENT BOARD DECIDES ON KNOWLEDGE HUB ON MUNITION IN THE SEA

Following an expert workshop in September 2020, the JPI Oceans Management Board decides to launch a Knowledge Hub to harness the expert knowledge and experience that has accumulated since 2014 in the Munitions in the Sea Joint Action, and in national and European research and innovation projects.

The presence of unexploded ammunition in European sea basins exposes the environment and civil society to serious safety risks and the leakage of pollutants. As of 2020, twelve countries are participating in the JPI Oceans Joint Action aiming to tackle this growing challenge.

From the very beginning of the Action, scientists and representatives of responsible authorities shared their experiences and reflections to identify needs, gaps, procedures and technologies to support remediation and management of emergencies. After the design of a framework to implement joint activities at European level, experts have been asked to evaluate the pros and cons to structure the process that can also provide operational services and products to be accessed by the operators.

Photo credit:
© Ezio Amato, ISPRA

2.13 OUR MOST INTERNATIONAL JOINT ACTION FUNDS 13 NEW PROJECTS

In 2020, the Collaborative Research Action "Transdisciplinary Research for Ocean Sustainability" by the Belmont Forum, co-branded by JPI Oceans and Future Earth, selected 13 out of the 45 submitted Research & Innovation project proposals eligible for funding. In total, € 14.25 million plus additional in-kind contributions were granted.

The two themes for projects to address are "Pathways towards sustainable and equitable use of oceans" and "Accounting for and minimizing impacts of global change". Accordingly, projects cover a diverse range of topics such as sustainable management, shipping, conflict management, innovative multi-use of seawater desalination, and many more.

The suite of projects held their joint kick-off meeting in June 2020, sharing their project ideas and plans. The COVID-19 pandemic limited the kick-off to a virtual format. Once positive and lasting outcome of this setup was a nice suite of short videos featuring each project, available on YouTube.

This Joint Action stands out in JPI Oceans as particularly international. The 16 funders come from the four JPI Oceans member countries France, Germany, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, but also from countries all over the world including Brazil, USA, India, Japan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Russia, and South Africa.

2.14 SCIENCE-POLICY-SCIENCE EXCHANGE STARTS IDENTIFYING WAYS TOWARDS GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

In 2020, two successful events were organised for the Joint Action on Science for Good Environmental Status (S4GES).

On 30 January, an informal briefing between JPI Oceans Management Board representatives, Secretariat, the Scientific Coordination team and the most relevant European Commission representatives (DG RTD, DG MARE, DG ENV, JRC) took place in Brussels. This meeting was a first step to engage the European Commission after the Joint Action was approved by the Management Board.

In addition, a joint BlueMed-JPI Oceans expert workshop on 'Musing on the concept of GES: the complexity of the status and the status of complexity' took place from 2-4 December 2020. Over 150 experts and interested stakeholder registered and around 90 individuals participated every day. They discussed innovative and efficient ways towards assessing the GES including artificial intelligence, observing technologies, and opportunities for joint activities. The outcomes of the workshop have been summarized in a proceedings paper.

2.15 OCEAN AND CLIMATE JPIs JOIN FORCES TO CREATE KNOWLEDGE-SHARING PLATFORM ON SEA LEVEL RISE

The Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise is a joint effort by JPI Climate and JPI Oceans, aiming to support the development and implementation of local, national and European policies on regional-to-local sea level changes across Europe.

The Hub provides an opportunity to promote exchange, generate, integrate, and synthesise knowledge on regional and global, historic and future sea level rise. It will facilitate the interaction between research and policy professionals with different disciplinary backgrounds and expertise by assessing and communicating recent scientific and socio-economic developments at an aggregation level, adjusted to ongoing themes and debates in policy and public arenas.

2020 was a pivotal year in the establishment of the Knowledge Hub. As the Boards of JPI Climate and JPI Oceans approved the Terms of Reference in late 2019, meetings with interested funding organizations and ministries were held in April and June 2020, consolidating support from several JPI Climate and JPI Oceans member countries.

In November 2020, the Boards approved the roadmap for the first phase of implementation of the Knowledge Hub on Sea Level Rise. It also greenlighted a Governance Structure with a Governing Council formed by National Contact Points, a Management Committee of experts, and targeted Task Groups.

Future plans include the implementation of basin-specific workshops, providing the basis for a large scale, pan-European expert conference in 2022 as the nucleus for an assessment report series in years to come.

2.16 TURNING UP THE VOLUME ON AN UNDERWATER NOISE JOINT CALL

Underwater noise can harm the health of marine populations and reduce biological productivity. It is therefore considered a pollutant in the marine environment across all sea basins, moreover one that, if not alleviated, will increase substantially with the projected overall expansion of the Blue Economy in Europe.

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive therefore defined underwater noise as an essential part of a descriptor for achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) of European seas and oceans. All this prompted JPI Oceans to give the topic its high priority by formally making it a Joint Action in 2020.

The idea for a JPI Oceans Underwater Noise Joint Action was conceived in 2018 at a Management Board meeting in Reykjavik.

Scoping workshops in Brussels (January 2019) and Rome (January 2020) were supported by 15 countries: Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. They resulted in a plan to launch a research & innovation joint call and a concrete call text as a basis to seek countries' participation for a call launch in 2021.

3.0 Strategic engagements

3.1 EVENT HIGHLIGHT

MISSION CLEAN OCEANS: DISCUSSION AT THE EU PARLIAMENT

On 17 February 2020, the SEARICA Intergroup, in collaboration with JPI Oceans, IUCN and the Ocean Plastics Lab, held the information and discussion event Mission Clean Oceans at the European Parliament in Brussels.

In light of the new European Commission's President's objective to move Europe towards a zero-pollution ambition, this event asked the pressing question: How can science and innovation tackle ocean pollution? The programme included speeches, an interactive panel discussion and a Q&A session with the audience.

A clear consensus among the speakers was that, besides excellent research, technical innovations and social engagement are important pillars on which the effective solutions to this global problem rest.

3.2

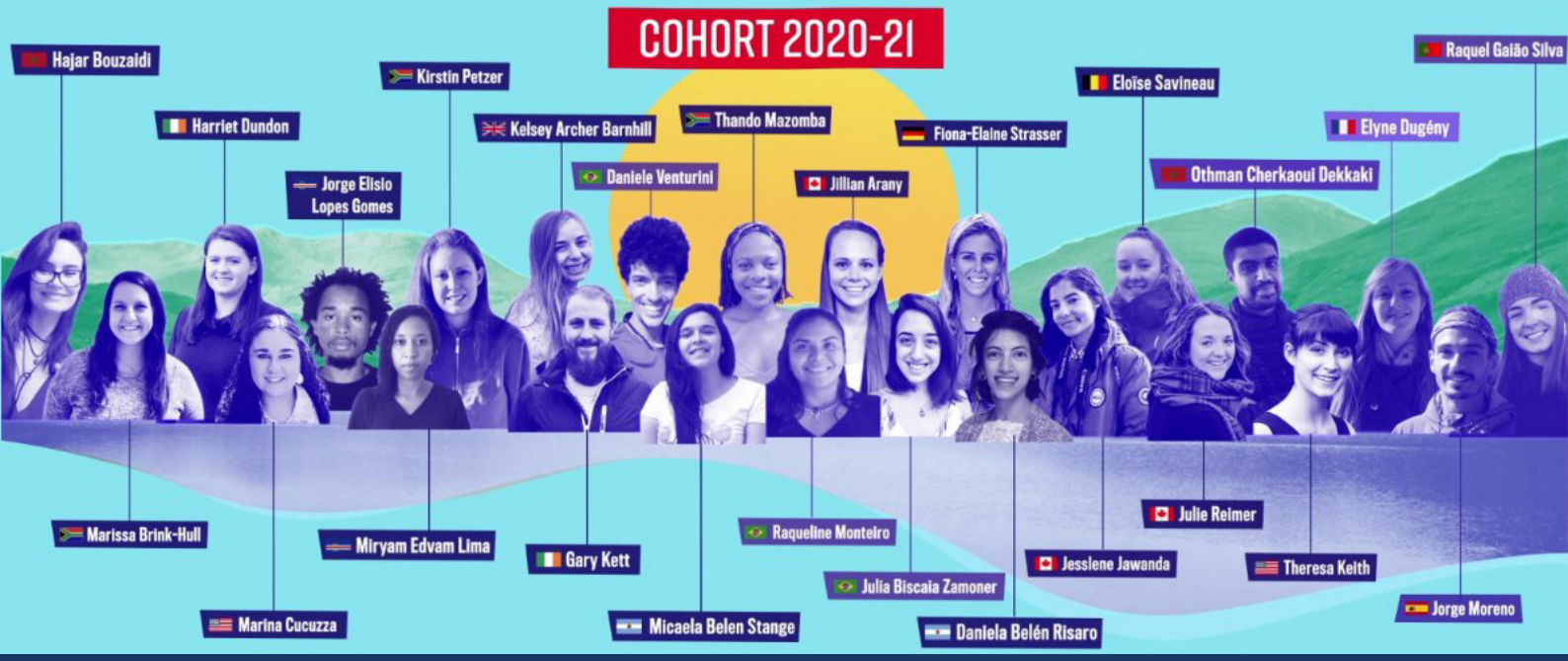
JPI OCEANS LEADS DRAFTING OF SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP SRIA

In 2020, a drafting team lead by JPI Oceans and national representatives from Ireland and France produced the first draft of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the envisaged Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, foreseen as a co-funded partnership under the Horizon Europe R&I framework programme 2021-2027.

In 2020, a drafting team lead by JPI Oceans and national representatives from Ireland and France produced the first draft of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the envisaged Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, foreseen as a co-funded partnership under the Horizon Europe R&I framework programme 2021-2027.

The draft SRIA is based on input and feedback from representatives of member states and associated countries, associated experts and in close collaboration with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. In addition, in November 2020 JPI Oceans announced an open consultation over two months, inviting stakeholders to take part in the co-design process of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.

The Partnership will be a public-public initiative with the core group of formal members and signatories comprised of research and innovation (R&I) ministries and funding agencies from the participating countries. It is envisaged to begin in late 2022.



3.3 JPI OCEANS CO-LEADS ALL-ATLANTIC OCEAN INITIATIVE WITH 26 NEW YOUTH AMBASSADORS

As partner organization to the AANChOR-CSA, one of three initiatives implementing the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance, JPI Oceans is responsible for co-leading the All-Atlantic Ocean Youth Ambassadors (AAOYA) programme, in cooperation with the German Marine Research Consortium (KDM).

In 2020, JPI Oceans co-coordinated the recruitment of 26 early career ocean professionals to form the second cohort of AAOYA. As a Belgian AISBL, JPI Oceans was also responsible for recruiting one Ambassador representing Belgium. The selection process resulted in the recruitment of Eloïse Savineau. Ms. Savineau is an intern at the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), with a focus on plankton research.

The AAOYA will be integrated into the six collaborative All-Atlantic Joint Pilot Actions implemented as part of the AANChOR project. The AAOYA will take part in different training and educational programmes, communication and advocacy activities and events where they can engage with political, social, economic and scientific leaders to develop the necessary skills to become actors for change in their own communities and beyond.

4.0 Our people

4.1 FAREWELL TO OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, KATHRINE ANGELL-HANSEN

After a full decade at the JPI Oceans secretariat in Brussels, Kathrine Angell-Hansen returned to Oslo in March 2020. Kathrine played a central role in the inception and development of JPI Oceans into the active platform it is today.

As the first Executive Director of JPI Oceans, Kathrine was key in orchestrating the development of the initial vision of the new initiative, as well as the co-designing of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, which consolidated the role of JPI Oceans in the European landscape. With a powerhouse combination of enthusiasm and perseverance, Kathrine was also at the forefront of initially piloting - and then fully developing - the JPI Oceans Joint Actions, including iconic ones such as the ecological aspects of microplastics.

Photo credit: © VLIZ.

4.2 JPI OCEANS WELCOMES NIALL MCDONOUGH AS ITS NEW CHAIR

At their 7th meeting, the JPI Oceans AISBL members elected Dr. Niall McDonough as Chair of the JPI Oceans Management Board.

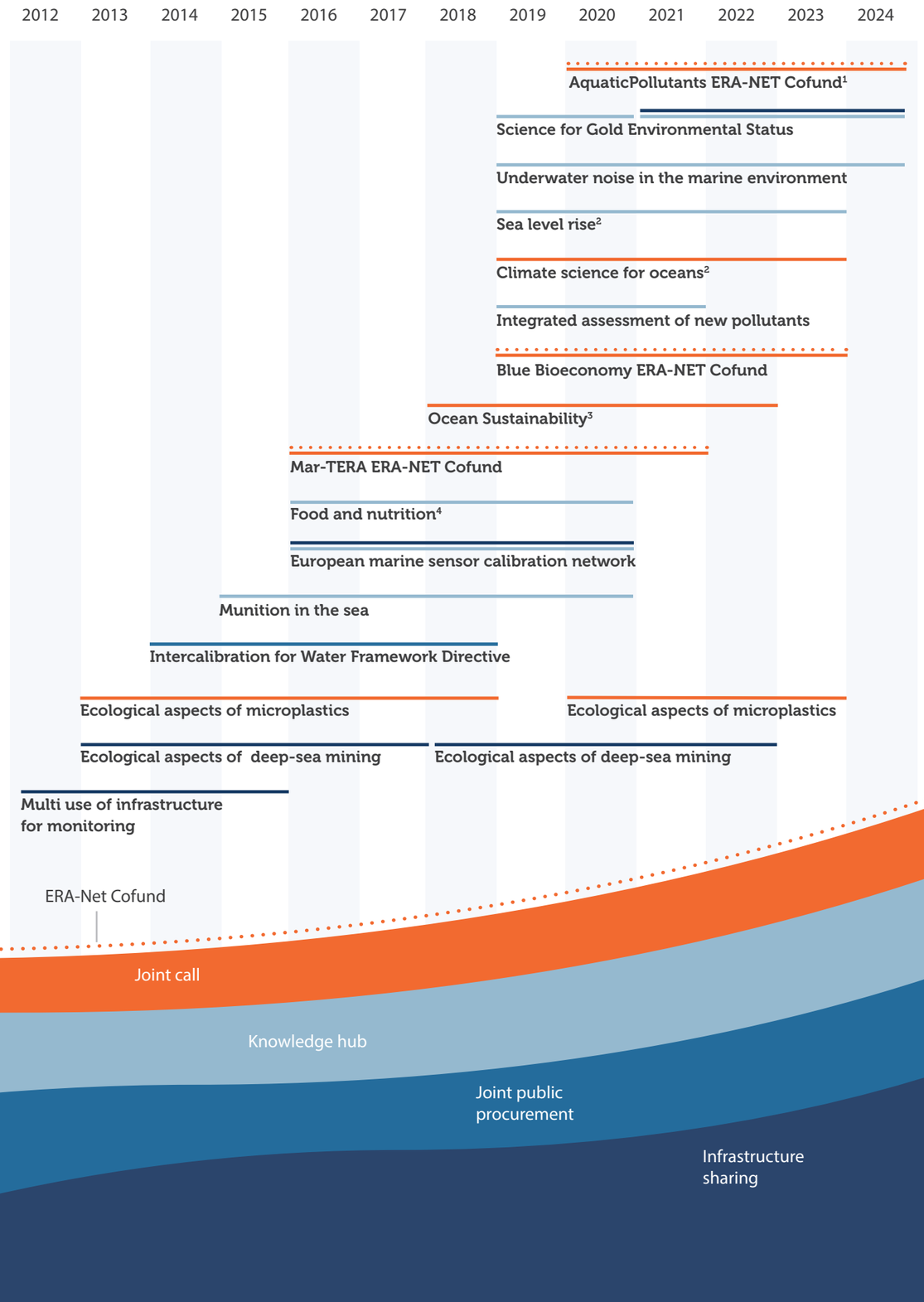
The passing of the baton took place right after the Board meeting, beginning the term of three years. Niall is Director of Policy Innovation and Research Support Services with the Irish Marine Institute and originally trained as a marine biologist with research interests in marine aquaculture and shellfish stock restoration. Following two years with the Environmental Change Institute at the National University of Ireland, Galway, he worked for five years as Head of the Centre for Marine Resources and Mariculture at Queen's University. From 2009-2017 he served as Executive Director of the European Marine Board (EMB) based at the InnovOcean campus in Ostend, Belgium.

Having served JPI Oceans in different capacities already, Niall knows the organisation from different angles. Before his engagement as part of the JPI Oceans Management Board and Internal Advisory Board, Niall was an elected member of the JPI Oceans Strategic Advisory Board.

The new Chair is following in the footsteps of Arvid Hallén who served as a chair under the mandate of the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries from 2017 to 2020. The Management Board and secretariat of JPI Oceans are deeply grateful for Mr. Hallén's dedicated chairmanship, steering JPI Oceans through the transformation into a legal entity and towards the development of a new strategy framework.

Annexes

A. JOINT ACTIONS



B. MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Management Board is the decision-making body of JPI Oceans. Members have appointed at least one representative, up to a maximum of four, who are authorized to act and vote on behalf of the member state. The Management Board has established an Internal Advisory Committee (IAC) of eight members; the Chair* and Vice Chairs** of the Management Board, and five additional members***, elected among the Management Board representatives in a personal capacity by the Management Board. The 22nd and 23rd Management Committee meetings occurred in May and November 2020.

The following list of Management Board representatives reflects the membership and representation as of December 2020:

COUNTRY	ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVES
BELGIUM	Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO)	Frank Monteny Koen Lefever
	Flemish Government, Department Economy Science and Innovation (EWI)	Johan Hanssens Gert Verreet
CROATIA	Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries Ministry of Science and Education	Ivica Vilibić Željka Skočilić
	Ruđer Bošković Institute	Sandi Orlić
DENMARK	Innovation Fund Denmark	Martin Kyvsgaard
	Technical University of Denmark	Dennis Ljsbjerg
ESTONIA	Ministry of Agriculture	Eve Külmallik Helena Pärenson Rene Reisner
	Ministry of the Environment of the Estonian Republic	Katarina Viik Tuuili Levandi
FRANCE	French National Research Agency (ANR)	Maurice Héral
	French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER)	Gilles Léricolais***
	Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la Recherche et de l'Innovation	Alain Lagrange
GERMANY	German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)	Tanja Dörre
	German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)	Hartmut Stalb
	Research Centre Jülich (JÜLICH)	Joachim Harms** Benjamin Kürten
GREECE	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)	George Petihakis
ICELAND	The Icelandic Marine and Freshwater Research Institute	Sigurður Guðjónsson Sóley Morthens
IRELAND	Marine Institute Ireland (MI)	Niall McDonough* Veronica Cunningham

ITALY	Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, Directorate of Maritime Transport and Inland Waterways	Maurizio Coletta
	National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS)	Angelo Camerlenghi***
	Italian Consortium for Managing research Activities Venice Lagoon (CORILA)	Pierpaolo Campostrini
	National Research Council of Italy, Marine Technology Research	Emilio Fortunato Campana
MALTA	Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)	Corinne Muscat Terribile**
NETHERLANDS	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	Rosanne Metaal
	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)	Josef F. Stuefer
NORWAY	Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industries and Fisheries	Jartrud Steinsli
	Research Council of Norway (RCN)	Hanna Lee Behrens Arvid Hallén (*until November) Kristin Elisabeth Thorud***
POLAND	Polish Academy of Sciences; Institute of Hydroengineering (IBW PAN)	Grzegorz Różyński
PORTUGAL	Portuguese Institute of Ocean and Atmosphere (IPMA)	Nuno Lourenço
	Portuguese National Funding Agency for Science, Research and Technology (FCT)	Sofia Cordeiro Teresa Courinha
ROMANIA	National Authority for Scientific Research, Directorate for European Integration and International Cooperation	Viorel Vulturescu
	University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geology and Geophysics	Viorel Gh. Ungureanu
SPAIN	Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competiveness (MINECO)	Estrella Fernandez Garcia Esther Chacón*** Abraham Trujillo Quintela
SWEDEN	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (HaV)	Anna Jöborn Floor ten Hoopen
	Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS)	Petra Wallberg
TURKEY	Tübitak Marmara Research Center	Cinar Oner Serhat Yilidrim
UNITED KINGDOM	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)	Sylvia Blake Tarquin Dorrington
	National Oceanography Centre (SOTON-NOCS)	Ed Hill
	Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)	Mike Webb
	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFRAS)	Howard Easterfield

C. SECRETARIAT

NAME	POSITION
Kathrine Angell-Hansen	Strategic Director, Full-time (until April 2020)
Jan Bouwens	Trainee, Full-time (until April 2020)
Anders Brudevoll	Science-Policy Adviser, Full-time (until October 2020)
Willem De Moor	Science-Policy Adviser, Full-time
Sandra Ketelhake	Science-Policy Adviser, Part-time
Thorsten Kiefer	Executive Director, Full-time
Ingeborg Korme	Science-Policy Adviser, Full-time (since May 2020)
Pier Francesco Moretti	Science Officer, Part-time
Lavinia Giulia Pomarico	Science-Policy Adviser, Full-time (since July 2020), Trainee (until June 2020)
Tom Redd	Science-Policy Adviser, Full-time (until February 2020)
Isabelle Schulz	Science-Policy Adviser, Part-time

D. FINANCES

JPI Oceans AISBL was formally established by Royal Decree and has been legally and financially operational since March 2018. As a legal entity under Belgian law, the Management Board is responsible for approving annual accounts and discharge of liability of the Director. At the current level of annual turnover, external auditing is not formally required under Belgian law.

Annual fees from members and associate partners are the main revenue for JPI Oceans. The annual fees are calculated as a share of the overall agreed budget, based on a weighted GDP. In addition, countries are requested to provide additional voluntary contributions. Several of such contributions were received in 2020 to ensure that the legal entity could maintain a positive cash flow. JPI Oceans AISBL is also a partner in the All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance project (AANChOR CSA), with provision for travel and staff time.

In 2020, a total cash amount of EUR 487,906 was received, and the total expenditure amounted to EUR 400,018. Expenditure consisted of office fixed costs (rent/charges/taxes), running expenses and other costs and secretariat employment costs. The surplus recorded replenished the reserves to further maintain JPI Oceans' financial resilience. The reserves at the end of 2020 amounted to EUR 650,269.

The Research Council of Norway (RCN), the Government of Flanders via the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) via the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel and the German Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), and the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) kindly provided in-kind contributions through staff secondments. This is not further quantified in the finances of the JPI Oceans AISBL. Ensuring that countries meet their financial obligations remains of major importance to ensure the sustainability and viability of JPI Oceans going forward.

E. STATISTICS

WEBSITE ANALYTICS

YEAR	VISITS	UNIQUE VISITORS	PAGEVIEWS	VISIT DURATION
2013	16,882	9,615	55,914	03:07
2014*	36,139	18,076	155,318	03:01
2015	79,829	48,669	350,926	04:25
2016	88,718	60,009	374,294	05:11
2017	233,145	180,833	611,917	05:05
2018**	42,033	27,754	106,789	02:42
2019 **	55,085	36,292	126,096	02:24
2020**	53,431	38,285	113,273	02:05

* 2014 figures are partly based on Google Analytics in combination with in-house analytics from September 2014 onwards.
** 2018-2020 figures are based on the Matomo web analytics platform

WEBSITE CONTENT & NEWSLETTERS

YEAR	NEWS ITEMS	NEWSLETTERS	SUBSCRIBERS
2013	32	5	545
2014	37	7	641
2015	25	6	955
2016	26	4	1204
2017	24	9	1430
2018	24	5	1463
2019	27	6	1858
2020	30	14	2011

SOCIAL MEDIA

YEAR	LINKEDIN GROUP MEMBERS	TWITTER FOLLOWERS	FACEBOOK LIKES	INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS
2013	356	457	54	
2014	478	707	74	
2015	624	1102	200	
2016	787	1733	408	
2017	908	2392	634	
2018	963	3152	847	
2019	998	3832	1002	
2020	1126	4310	1262	294

JPI OCEANS

JPI OCEANS

Rue du Trône 4 I 1000 Brussels | Belgium
Tel. +32 (0)2 62616 60 I info@jpi-oceans.eu
www.jpi-oceans.eu