

1. In-situ and remote sensing observations: towards a European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) in the framework of the UN Ocean Decade:

**How European Research Infrastructures will help build a strong European network of observing system operators.**

**Abstract Title: Eurofleets RI** - an alliance of organizations and research vessels to strengthen integrated and sustained observations in the ocean and support innovative new technology validation to further advance observing competencies

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Built on the outcomes of the two previous FP7 grants Eurofleets (2009-2013) and Eurofleets 2 (2013-2017) and within the on-going H2020 Eurofleets+ project, the under-discussion Eurofleets RI has the goal to strengthen the key role of the European Research Fleet in collecting marine data from global oceans, regional seas and coastal waters, deploy and service a wide range of observing systems, (i.e. moorings, buoys, seafloor observatories), and innovative AUVs and ROVs, so providing a vital platform for other European Research Infrastructures such as ERICs EMSO, Euro-Argo, ICOS Marine, LifeWatch and EMBRC.

Under the project activity, Eurofleets is an Advanced Community with a high degree of coordination and networking, providing transnational access to a unique fleet of state-of-the-art research vessels for researchers through a robust call management and evaluation process. Additional, joint research activities aimed at advancing data management, improving interoperability of rigs for deployment of different equipment, facilitating installation of mobile equipment across different ships and validating new innovations for intelligent exploration.

Active dialog with different stakeholders will ensure that relevant marine research infrastructures are coordinated, designed and operated optimally for user's challenging requirements while training and education activities to support early stage careers and train the next generation of marine scientists, while promoting ocean literacy. Fostering innovation through the management of exploitable results will be supported through collaboration with key industrial partners.

A business plan and strategic roadmap are under development for Eurofleets RI, while extensive dissemination and communication activities to raise awareness of the essential role of the European Research Fleet.