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EUROMARINE

EUROPEAN
MARINE RESEARCH
NETWORK

26-27 January 2021

2021 online General Assembly meeting

From genes to ecosystems in changing oceans
www.euromarinenetwork.eu

EuroMarine
2021 General Assembly
Meeting

online

Booklet

(v2 – 22/01/2021)

26-27 January 2021

<http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/GA2021>

Contents

EuroMarine seventh General Assembly meeting– Context and objectives.....	4
Supporting documents	6
Links and contact:	6
Programme	7
Day 1 – Tuesday 26 Jan. – Morning.....	7
Day 1 – Tuesday 26 Jan. – Afternoon	8
Day 2 – Wednesday 27 Jan. AM – Science session	10
Day 2 – Wednesday 27 Jan. PM– Science session	10
Participants	11

EUROMARINE SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING – CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES**Context:**

The **EuroMarine Network** recently completed its seventh year of existence under the joint-coordination mandate of **CNRS** and **IRD**, with **Catherine Boyen** (CNRS) and **Philippe Cury** (IRD) as Chairs and Scientific Coordinators and **Pierre-François Baisnée** (IRD) as Executive Director. The **EuroMarine Consortium** was established for a 10-year term (ending 31/12/2023), renewable upon a new signature of the parties. The **EuroMarine Association** (as the legal entity prescribed by the Consortium Agreement) is since 2019 in charge of managing the Consortium budget and of bringing additional financial resources to the Network.

Over its seven years of activity under the CNRS and IRD mandate, EuroMarine successfully fulfilled its mission of generating ground-breaking new ideas and supporting research and innovation from genes to ecosystem for a healthy ocean and its sustainable use. The network linked small and large laboratories across Europe and beyond, advocated for the presence of ocean research on all political agendas at European and international levels, and defined tools to support the career development and training of young scientists (notably through the [OYSTER](#) group). It is widely recognised as an important forum in Europe to generate new ideas using a bottom-up and interdisciplinary approach. It is thus important that, after the launch of the EU Green Deal and as we enter the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021 – 2030 (the 'Decade'), the EuroMarine community build up on its positive continue to join efforts to address the demands for more and further integrated knowledge, to contribute to filling gaps (e.g. as identified in IPCC reports, IPBES assessments, or concerning the implementation of the UN SDGs), to identify priorities and to move towards a sustainability science able to address the major global challenges facing the marine environment.

EuroMarine is now at a turning point: Throughout 2020, IRD tried, but ended up being unable, to find among its marine scientists a potential successor to **Philippe Cury** (whose long-announced retirement is now imminent) as EuroMarine co-Chair. In this context, IRD and (consequently) CNRS have decided (resp. in October and in December 2020) to withdraw from their co-coordinator roles and to remain as normal EuroMarine members. Both **Philippe Cury** and **Catherine Boyen** will step down from their co-Chair positions after the January 2021 General Assembly (GA) meeting. **Pierre-François Baisnée**, as Executive Director, will support the transition towards a new coordination mandate but will then have to withdraw from the Secretariat. The **Steering Committee** (SC) and **Secretariat** have paved the way for such a transition by (a) calling for new coordination and secretariat offers for EuroMarine (to be submitted by 19 Feb. 2021, with prior expressions of interest to be submitted by 25 Jan. 2021) and by (b) contracting with an independent consultant to provide the GA and the potential new coordinator(s) with a review of the evolution of EuroMarine and with strategic advice. The future of EuroMarine now ultimately depends on the willingness of one or more EuroMarine scientist(s) and their organisation(s) to take the rein and provide the network with a new home, a new coordination team and a new secretariat.

Brief Overview of the 2020 activity:

The covid-19 crisis has had an impact on the 10 scientific activities funded in 2019 that should have been carried out in 2020. No activities have been cancelled, some have managed to progress as virtual meetings but most have been postponed with only one managing to be fully completed in 2020. Reporting on these activities therefore cannot be part of this year's GA programme. Going forward, we hope that reporting on EuroMarine scientific activities will be achieved via online videos by activity leaders.

The covid-19 crisis also impacted the response to the EuroMarine calls (all initially implying physical meetings or visits). Fewer applications than usual were submitted. The three planned calls were however successfully completed in 2020. Flexibility was introduced in their terms as regards the possibility to adapt to online meetings and to allow longer deadlines to complete activities. The OYSTER group of early career scientists (funded outside the calls in 2020) successfully carried out its planned activities and has placed many more activities or projects

in the pipeline for 2021. Here is a brief overview of the main 2020 activities of EuroMarine (details are provided in the annual report communicated to GA representatives):

- Organisation of the joint EuroMarine-EMBRC 2020 call for proposals, offering access to EMBRC infrastructures and services to EuroMarine early career researchers (11 proposals selected for funding for a total of 53 k€ worth of services)
- Production of an agreement between the EuroMarine Association and the EMBRC-ERIC to define the framework for the joint 2020 call (and allowing for future similar initiatives)
- Organisation of the EuroMarine 2020 call for Foresight Workshops and Working Groups proposals (9 new activities selected for funding)
- Organisation of the fourth edition of the EuroMarine individual fellowship programme to support the participation of early-career EuroMarine researchers in summer schools or other advanced courses of their choice (16 applications selected for funding)
- Support to activity leaders after the 2019 and previous calls
- Collection of reports on EuroMarine-funded activities and update of EuroMarine corresponding webpages
- Production and dissemination of communication tools and materials; feeding of website contents and social media channels
- Periodic e-news digest service (> 2,200 subscribers)
- Legal consultation and revision of the statutes of the EuroMarine Association aiming at a full compatibility with patronage (i.e., the ability to issue fiscal receipts for donations under the French fiscal regime) and submission of a formal request to the French tax services
- Organisation of online SC meetings and of the EuroMarine 2021 GA meeting
- Organisation of online meetings of the EuroMarine Association Bureau and General Assembly

Objectives of the EuroMarine 2021 General Assembly meeting:

The General Assembly representatives of member organisations meet at the beginning of each year to discuss and decide on strategic priorities, as well as on yearly recurring issues such as: reporting; membership, budget and activity plan; funding; partial renewal of the Steering Committee through elections; priorities for and terms of the internal call for proposals; possible activities, services and cooperation in the realm of communication, education, expertise (science-governance interface) and services for the marine scientific community.

The main purpose of the 2021 GA meeting is however to discuss and facilitate the transition in 2021 towards a new coordination mandate and team. In the absence of any expression of interest to provide EuroMarine with a new coordination and secretariat, a motion to terminate the network would have to be considered. In the opposite case, an extraordinary GA meeting will be scheduled in order to select a formal coordination offer and to approve the mandate of the corresponding Coordinator(s) and Consortium Chair(s).

Day 1 (26 Jan.) is devoted to some summary reporting by the EuroMarine Chairs and OYSTER Chairs, to the above-mentioned essential purpose and to the formal business and decision-making session during which decisions will be made.

Day 2 (27 Jan.) is entirely devoted to a scientific session that focuses on a renewed EuroMarine science programme for the UN Decade of Ocean Science (informed by the GA consultation launched on 24 November 2020).

The EuroMarine Steering Committee will meet soon after the end of the GA meeting to elaborate on and prepare the swift implementation of 2021 GA decisions.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The **agenda of the formal business and decision-making session** will be sent to GA representatives in advance of the meeting along with the **2020 activity report**. Both documents will contain a **link to an archive containing a set of reference documents**.

LINKS AND CONTACT:

- GA meeting webpage: <http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/GA2021>
- Registration form for GA Meeting: <https://forms.gle/88S2p3uYcdfanvaP6>
- About EuroMarine: <http://www.euromarinenetwork.eu/about-us/overview>

The link to join the meeting will be sent to registered participant. Please register at the earliest and no later than 24 Jan. 2021 using the above-specified link.

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PROGRAMME

Times in the programme are specified as Central European Time (CET).

DAY 1 – TUESDAY 26 JAN. – MORNING

09:30-10:00 *Participants admitted in the online meeting by the technical meeting host(s)*

INTRODUCTION, OVERALL REPORTING AND SETTING FOR A TRANSFER OF COORDINATION

Chair: Carlos Garcia-Soto (IEO, Chair of the Steering Committee of Euromarine)

- 10:00-10:05 *Welcome & introduction by the EuroMarine Co-Chairs*
(5') **Catherine Boyen** (CNRS) & **Philippe Cury** (IRD)
- 10:05-10:20 *Summary reporting: activities and calls carried out in 2020 and their outcome*
(15') **Catherine Boyen** (CNRS) & **Philippe Cury** (IRD)
- 10:20-10:30 *Summary reporting by the OYSTER Chair and Vice-Chair: 2020 activities and 2021 activity plans*
(10') **Stefania Piarulli** (Unibo) & **Timotej Turk Dermastia** (NIB)
- 10:30-10:40 *Reasons for and consequences of the withdrawal of IRD and CNRS from the coordination – Timeline for a transition towards a new coordination*
(10') **Catherine Boyen** (CNRS) & **Philippe Cury** (IRD)
- 10:40-10:45 *Expressions of interest to provide EuroMarine with a new coordination and secretariat – outcome of the call launched 16/12/2020, closed 25/01/2021*
(5') **Pierre-François Baisnée** (IRD)
- 10:45-11:00 *General discussion*
(15')

EUROMARINE NETWORK STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Chair: David Murphy (AquaTT, Chair of the 'Strategy' WG of the Steering Committee)

In light of the enforced change of Chairs and Secretariat in 2021, the EuroMarine Steering Committee decided late 2020 to engage an external consultant to review the evolution of the network, its current status/activities and future opportunities with a view to providing recommendations on how the network could potentially strategically evolve to be able to fulfil its ambition (scientific strategy, governance, funding). Preliminary results will be presented, and an open discussion will follow.

- 11:00-11:20 **Margaret Rae** (external consultant)– *Preliminary results of strategy consultancy work on the future of EuroMarine*
(20')
- 11:20-11:45 *Q&A + General Discussion*
(25')
- 11:45-11:55 *Presentation of the methodology for the afternoon breakout sessions (in small, facilitated groups) to discuss key questions concerning the future of EuroMarine*
(10')

Margaret Rae PhD – Biosketch: *Margaret Rae is an independent consultant and marine technology entrepreneur. She is member of the Editorial Board of the AORA Marine Microbiome Roadmap. From 2015-2020, Margaret was Director of the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Coordination and Support Action (AORA-CSA), an EU Horizon*

PROGRAMME



2020 Support Action that supported the Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance between Canada, the European Union and the United States of America. Research theme areas supported by the AORA-CSA included Marine Microbiome, Ocean Observation, Ecosystem Approach to Ocean Health & Stressors, Aquaculture, Ocean Literacy and Seabed Mapping as well as a Shared Access to Marine Research Infrastructures.

Margaret researched her doctorate degree in physical chemistry at the Instituto Superior Técnico In Lisbon, Portugal, her Master's degree in environmental studies at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and her Bachelor of Science degree from University College Dublin, Ireland. For the last 12 years, Margaret has worked in the marine sector.

FLASH PRESENTATION OF APPLICANTS FOR STEERING COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Scientists having applied to a 2021 Steering Committee position will present themselves (in order to better inform the GA vote).

GA representatives (or their substitutes mandated for the GA meeting) will be invited to vote during the lunch break.

11:55-12:10
(15') Flash (2-minute, 1-slide) presentations by **candidates for a Steering Committee position**

DAY 1 – TUESDAY 26 JAN. – AFTERNOON

EUROMARINE NETWORK STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

Chair: **David Murphy (AquaTT, Chair of the 'Strategy' WG of the Steering Committee)**

14:00-14:45
(45') Break-out groups formed to discuss strategy

14:45-15:15
(30') Groups feedback findings in plenary

15:15-15:45
(30') Feedback from the plenary and identification of immediate actions

BREAK

15:45-16:00 Break

FORMAL BUSINESS AND DECISION-MAKING SESSION

Chair: **Donatella De Pascale (SZN, member of the Steering Committee of the EuroMarine Consortium and of the Bureau of the EuroMarine Association)**

Formal decisions will be taken. A detailed agenda, reporting materials and reference documents will be circulated to GA representatives in advance of the meeting. Given the particular (coordination transition) context, some points might however have to be addressed and decisions to be made based on information provided and discussions held during the meeting itself.

16:00-17:00
(1h00) Formal business and decision-making, notably including discussion, decisions or approval for the following items:

- Plans and deadlines for a transfer of coordination or else a termination of the network
- Date of the corresponding extraordinary GA meeting

- Election of new Steering Committee members
- 2020 activity report
- 2021 membership and contributions
- 2021 EuroMarine communication
- 2021 activities
- 2021 budget

PROGRAMME

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 27 JAN. AM – SCIENCE SESSION

EUROMARINE ‘DECADE’ SCIENCE AGENDA

*Chair: **Patrizio Mariani (DTU Aqua)***

With the dual purpose of (a) specifying a ‘Decade’ science program for EuroMarine and of (b) fostering a concrete contribution of EuroMarine to the kick-off event of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021 – 2030 (the ‘Decade’), initially scheduled to take place in Berlin on 31 May-2 June 2021 but now postponed to 2022, EuroMarine has launched on 24/11/2020 a consultation of its membership. The outcome of this consultation will be presented and the session will be then used to build up on members’ proposals to deliver a renewed EuroMarine science program to contribute to the Decade.

Group discussions and new working groups will be established to provide concrete inputs to the science plan and 2021 science activities.

- 10:00-10:10
(10') **Patrizio Mariani (DTU Aqua)** – *Welcome and introduction*
- 10:10-10:30
(20') **Vladimir Ryabinin** (Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and Assistant Director General of UNESCO) – *Update on the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and address to the EuroMarine community*
- 10:30-11:30
(60') **Patrizio Mariani (DTU Aqua)** – *Development of the Science programme*
- *Outcome of the GA ‘Decade’ consultation*
- *Presentation of the ideas*
- *Suggestion and discussion on Working Groups*
- 11:30-11:45
(15') **Stefania Piarulli (Unibo) & Timotej Turk Dermastia (NIB)** – *OYSTER proposals*
- 11:45-12:00
(15') Information from the **GA** (relevant science initiatives in each organistaion, etc.)

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 27 JAN. PM– SCIENCE SESSION

EUROMARINE ‘DECADE’ SCIENCE AGENDA (CONTINUED)

- 14:00-16:00
(2h) *Plenary and launch of breakout Working Groups*
- 16:00-16:30
(30') *Working Groups report in plenary*
- 16:30-17:00
(30') *Organisation of follow-up work*
- 17:00 **END** of GA meeting

PARTICIPANTS

The list of participants will be added closer to the meeting after registration is closed.