

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)

1. Scope of EMODNET

The »European Marine Observation and Data Network« (EMODnet) constitutes the core element of the Initiative of the European Commission to explore and exploit marine knowledge more effectively (*Marine Knowledge 2020: marine data and observation for smart and sustainable growth; European Commission 2010b*).

EMODnet provides access to pan European data stocks via seven thematic data portals of identical architecture (<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/category/160>).

- Physics,
- Chemistry,
- Biology,
- Geology,
- Hydrography/Bathymetry,
- Habitats,
- human activity (no portal operational yet).

For the time being, all of the EDMODNET portals in operation are considered as prototypes and provide information limited to selected sea basins and selected aspects of the European waters. Based on European tenders, six consortia composed of altogether 53 private and public partners undertook the development of the required infrastructure. The provision of content to be provided by the portals, however, is not mandatory for the affected institutions in administration, science and education and therefore the total scope of the marine information already presented is far from being complete.

2. EMODNET-Hydrography

This portal currently provides a homogeneous digital terrain model of assessed survey data of a 200 m x 400 m grid for selected sea areas:

- Atlantic Ocean (Canal, Irish Sea),
- North Sea and Kattegat,
- Western and Central Mediterranean including Ionian Sea,
- Atlantic Coast of the Iberian Peninsula and Gulf of Biscay,
- Adriatic Sea,
- Aegean Sea and Levant.

The terrain data are available for display as well as download services and accompanied by matching metadata referencing to the source data used for.

In March 2013 the responsible DG Mare started another phase of the project to increase the resolution of the terrain model up to 1/8 nm and enhance the coverage to the following sea areas:

- Baltic,
- Black Sea,
- Island Sea,
- Norwegian Sea.

3. Recent activities for EMODNET enhancement and contribution of Germany (BSH)

In Spring 2012, the DG Mare released a tender for the another phase of EMODNET development (MARE/2012/10) for five of the seven themes:

- Hydrography/Bathymetry,
- Physics,
- Chemistry,
- Biology,
- Habitats.

Germany (BSH) intends to become project partner for the following themes for the duration of three years:

Bathymetry

Participation: 28 partners + 6 Associate partners

Coordinator: MARIS Netherlands

Status: Proposal accepted in principle by DG, specific contracts currently under negotiation

Kick-Off: Lissabon 17./18. Juni 2013

Details under <http://www.emodnet-hydrography.eu/>

Physics

Coordinator: EUROGOOS through ENEA using subcontracts for EUROGOOS-members

Status: Proposal accepted by DG

Start: September 2013

Details under http://www.emodnet-physics.eu/prt_page.asp?idSez=45

Chemistry

Participation: 49 Institutions out of 35 countries

Coordinator: OGS-Triest, Technical Coordinator MARIS, Project Office OGS

Status: Proposal accepted in principle by DG, specific contracts currently under negotiation

Kick-Off: Triest 3.-5. Juni 2013

Details under <http://www.emodnet-chemistry.eu/portal/portal/>

The Commission is invited to

- take note of the report;
- comment on their respective national involvement into EMODNET;
- Discuss measures how BSHC's Baltic Sea Bathymetry service may be incorporated into EMODNET Hydrography.