

Paper for consideration for NSHC
[Joint European Coastal Mapping Programme (JECMaP). Design Study]

Submitted by:	France
Executive summary:	The Joint European Coastal Mapping Programme (JECMaP) should consist in carrying out surveys and elaborating seamless products (bathymetry and sedimentology) on the coasts of Europe. This paper gives information on its content and progress and on the implication of HOs.
Related Documents:	-
Related Projects:	-

As a result of their meetings, HOs of European Union and European Economic Area have identified the interest of a design study on “Joint European Coastal Mapping Programme (JECMaP)”.

Implementation of integrated maritime policy in European waters requires similar type of hydrographic knowledge regardless the Member State, under the jurisdiction of which these waters are. Physical processes or structures to be taken into account for this implementation are not limited by national delimitations and require consistent cross border data. Finally, building on joint programmes to meet the needs of hydrographic knowledge allows to share experience, know-how, resources and to be more cost-efficient.

Policy makers and future investors need access to marine data, for protection of the marine environment, for physical marine spatial planning, etc. These data, when they exist, are often available in many different repositories and to collect them is a difficult and tedious task. To make them available through a single portal can spare a high amount of effort and of economic resources, and in some case the risk of multiple surveys on a same sea area. In order to address this need the EC launched the European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet). However, for the time being, EMODnet only makes available data which have already been acquired, and no EU programme is dedicated to collect new data where they are needed, either offshore or along the coasts, where there is a strong need for high density data.

The implementation of the future directive on Marine Spatial Planning needs high density data on bathymetry and sedimentology. In addition, the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management needs data on the coastline, on the land and the sea. Furthermore, coastal areas are amongst the most threatened by the effects of climate change.

Even if each Member State is responsible for managing its own coastal areas, to decide which area should be surveyed and which geographical products it needs to support its maritime and marine policy, it makes sense to have access to harmonized description of coastal areas, to homogenous knowledge of coastal geographical data and understanding of coastal dynamics as well as a common description of coastal areas will make it easier for all the stakeholders to access data and geographical products. JECMaP will address this need.

The area to be considered could be the coastlines of the Member States of the EU and of the European Economic Area (EEA) (it may also include outermost regions of EU) and could extend from to 2 kilometers inland (or up to the 10-meter land contour line) to the 10m depth line (or up to 6 Nautical Miles from the coastline).

JECMaP should consist in carrying out surveys (e.g. by Lidar and MBES) and elaborating seamless products (bathymetry and sedimentology).

However some issues should be addressed before the launch of the programme, such as the extent of the relevant and priority areas, the identification of available data, the schedule and the funding and implementation policy, the surveys techniques, the specification of the products, the fusion between land and sea data and the harmonization of vertical datum.

A draft paper addressing the need of a design study, and estimating its time and costs has been sent to DG Mare, 30 April 2014.

A call for tender from DG Mare for carrying out such a study should be issued by mid July. Since the end of April, the definition and share of the work packages are being discussed by stakeholders, in order to be able to produce a common response.

Action required of NSHC

The NSHC is invited to endorse the paper.