

Paper for consideration for NSHC
[EMODnet bathymetry project. Call for tender in early 2015]

Submitted by:	France
Executive summary:	This paper gives information on EMODnet, the involvement of HOs in this project (through the bathymetry theme) and the perspectives for a concerted response to a call for tender for EMODnet 3, planned in early 2015.
Related Documents:	-
Related Projects:	-

An Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) was proposed by DG Mare in 2007. It was endorsed by the Council and the European Parliament. Green paper “Marine Knowledge 2020” was issued end of August 2012. The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) appears to be the flagship project in this domain. Its main purpose is to unlock fragmented and hidden marine data resources and to make these available to individuals and organizations (public and private), and to facilitate investment in sustainable coastal and offshore activities through improved access to quality-assured, standardized and harmonized marine data.

Since 2006, European Commission has financed Sea Data Net and Geos Seas within the 7th Framework Programme (for Research and Development). Emodnet 1, 1bis and 2 have been financed by a special program established to support the Integrated Maritime Policy.

Some HOs of the Member States of EU/EEA have taken part to the consortiums which were contracted to achieve these EC program. The consortium which gained the lot 1, bathymetry, of EMODnet 2, gathers 24 members of which 8 members are HOs.

EMODnet aims to operate a portal which gives access to a “Common Data Index”, metadata of datasets in various institutes and to build a digital terrain model (DTM) with several additional thematic layers (geology, physical habitats, chemistry, biology, physics, human activities). HOs contribute to the elaboration of DTM by giving access to the bathymetric data needed for this purpose.

HOs take part separately to EMODnet 2 and only deliver some of their bathymetric data without having control on the elaboration of DTM neither on quality assessment and control of the DTM. The present status has a few benefits and some drawbacks.

EMODnet 2 was launched mid-2013 for three years. A new call for tender is to be foreseen by early 2015 for an EMODnet 3 contract, which would follow on EMODnet 2 by mid-2016. HOs should be ready to take this opportunity.

HOs have expertise in:

- processing data which are collected at several epochs and with different systems,
- elaborating DTMs,
- long term conservation of big amount of data.

They are essential to the success of EMODnet 3 bathymetry.

Getting more involved in EMODnet should be demanding for the HOs, but it gives opportunities to improve the benefits EMODnet gives to EU and HOs should retain a greater share of the added value of the project.

DG Mare would be given the opportunity to have quality checked DTMs, regular updates and long term conservation of data.

At inauguration of permanent secretariat EMODnet, Oostende, 19 February, as well as at MODEG meeting, 20 February, representative of IHO made the following statements:

1/ The IHO considers the development of EMODnet as the best driver for Marine Knowledge 2020.

2/ The IHO is committed to support this programme in the long term.

3/ The IHO will provide sustainable operational solutions with appropriate accuracy and updating mechanisms through current IHO regional structures and approaches.

4/ The IHO strongly recommends the use of relevant international standards such as ISO, IHO and Inspire compatible standards within EMODnet.

Action required of NSHC

The NSHC is invited to endorse the paper.