



NA6 Advanced Training & Education

*Proposal for an announcement on the
Internet website concerning industrial
involvement in training courses*

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The EUROFLEETS project (fully named Towards an alliance of European research fleets) has been launched in September 2009 (<http://www.eurofleets.eu>).

Twenty-four partners (research institutes, fleet managing structures, SMEs or foundations) from sixteen member states of the European Union or associated countries to it, contribute to EUROFLEETS, to develop the coordination within European research fleets. Ifremer (French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Seas) coordinates the Project.

The Project plans networking of European vessels, underwater vehicles and embarked equipment, the reception of multinational scientific teams on board modern research vessels and common technological development of software and innovating sensors.

The main targets of the project are:

- ✓ to build a coherent pan-European approach to infrastructure policy. Through enhanced partnership, development and use, solutions will be created to meet the many needs of European marine research;
- ✓ to enhance coordination between fleets and promote the cost-effective use of their facilities by bringing together research fleet owners. This will also give wider access to all European scientists to these vessels and, in turn, give support to environmental and biodiversity protection and climate change research;
- ✓ to create a common strategic vision for European research fleets and their associated heavy equipment, such as submersible vehicles. This will ensure that the best quality research is carried out and will work to avoid duplication of experiments. Moreover, the Project will provide coordinated infrastructure access to researchers across Europe which will allow them to take full advantage of marine research fleet services and facilities which will be also improved as part of the Project;
- ✓ to create a set of standards and experimental protocols to be used by all EUROFLEETS members. The implementation of such standards will serve to ensure the optimal use of marine research fleets and promote interoperability of equipment;
- ✓ to train researchers and technicians in modern interoperable equipment. The Project will also work together with industry, policy-makers and citizens to ensure the infrastructure is used to the fullest extent possible.

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The EUROFLEETS work package NA6 is primarily dedicated to advanced training and education.

EUROFLEETS NA6 is aware of the lack of well trained people in new technologies and equipment and therefore will promote high level training activities for scientific and technical staffs of Regional-class vessels in order to generate highly-skilled groups of scientists and researchers able to provide Europe with expertise and new services in advanced technologies and to foster equipment sharing of high tech instruments and equipment. EUROFLEETS will thus contribute to the competitiveness of the European maritime field and will stimulate vocations in marine science and technology.

One key point to achieve the Training and Education objectives is the organization of practical courses in areas such as scientific instrumentation, the collection and processing of samples, data analysis, quality control, and processing: this will facilitate an integrated approach to marine research and provide excellent practical ship-based research and industry-transferable skills for emerging scientists. We are sure that industrial involvement in organizing and developing such courses together with the EUROFLEETS project could generate great benefits for both parts.

The benefits for the industry include the opportunity for a capillary-type promotion within the academic institutions, a wider spreading of brand products in the research domain, and the rising of a wide customized pool of scientific and technical personnel.

Three strategies are proposed to develop the industrial involvement in training courses:

1. industrial sponsorship for training courses organized by EUROFLEETS;
2. industrial funding of places offered to EUROFLEETS young scientists/technicians within training courses organized by industrial companies;
3. joint industrial/EUROFLEETS training courses opened to young scientists/technicians.

However the details of the collaboration with EUROFLEETS will be developed with a tailor made approach adapted to each industrial volunteer.

Please notify any possible interest of industrial involvement in the EUROFLEETS training activity to the NA6 work package leader, Michele Rebesco (OGS): mrebesco@ogs.trieste.it

Sincerely,
Jacques Binot, EUROFLEETS Coordinator

