



Selection report for “Regional 2”

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Contents

1.	WP5, SRP and LRP working procedure and results.....	3
1.1.	General description of the evaluation procedure	3
1.2.	Call Regional 2.....	3

1. WP5, SRP and LRP working procedure and results

The EUROFLEETS2 Work Package 5 is indispensable for the implementation of the TransNational Access (TNA) to the research vessels and equipment offered in EUROFLEETS2. It is devoted to the practical management of all the calls for proposals.

The WP5 is primarily devoted to the call preparation, call dissemination, the proposal evaluation, the selection procedures and post-cruise workshop organisation. The post-cruise workshop will gather all PIs of the funded cruises to present their results and to give feedback on the cruises.

This Deliverable is dedicated to the evaluation of the Call Regional 2 which gives access to 13 Research Vessels (RVs) in the Polar/Subpolar, North Atlantic, North Sea, English Channel and Celtic Sea, Baltic Sea and Bay of Biscay areas; and 5 pieces of Embarked Equipment, either together with an EUROFLEETS2 cruise or onboard a non-EUROFLEETS2 cruise.

The foundation for the evaluation and review procedure was already laid by the EUROFLEETS project.

The Call Regional 2 opened on the 1st of December 2013 and closed on the 27th of March 2014.

1.1. General description of the evaluation procedure

The general evaluation procedure was described step by step in the Deliverable 5.3.

1.2. Call Regional 2

Twenty-two proposals were submitted to the Call Regional 2, of which only one didn't pass the eligibility criteria and was rejected at this first stage.

Twenty-one proposals did succeed to pass the eligibility check. The proposals requested the following regions: Arctic (Nordic Sea) (5), subarctic (7), Temperate-Atlantic (5) and Antarctic (4) (Figure 1). Concerning the applicants nationality, many of the applicants were from UK (21%), followed by Spain (12%).

From the 13 RVs offered within the call Regional 2, 9 were requested as a first option: RV OGS-Explora, RV Pourquoi Pas?, RV Celtic Explorer, RV Polarstern, RV Hespérides, RV Marion Dufresne, RV Salme, RV Sarmiento de Gamboa and RV Belgica. The most requested vessel was the RV OGS-Explora with 9 proposals (38%

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of the applications) (Figure 2). RVs Magnus Heinason, Simon Stevin, and Angeles Alvarino were not requested at a first or second option.

Regarding the embarked equipment, 5 pieces of equipment were offered and the ROV Liropus, the 3D HDTV camera and the MARUM-MeBo drill were the devices requested. However, the MARUM MeBo was withdrawn a few days before the closing of the call, because it was no longer available within the time frame of EUROFLEETS2.

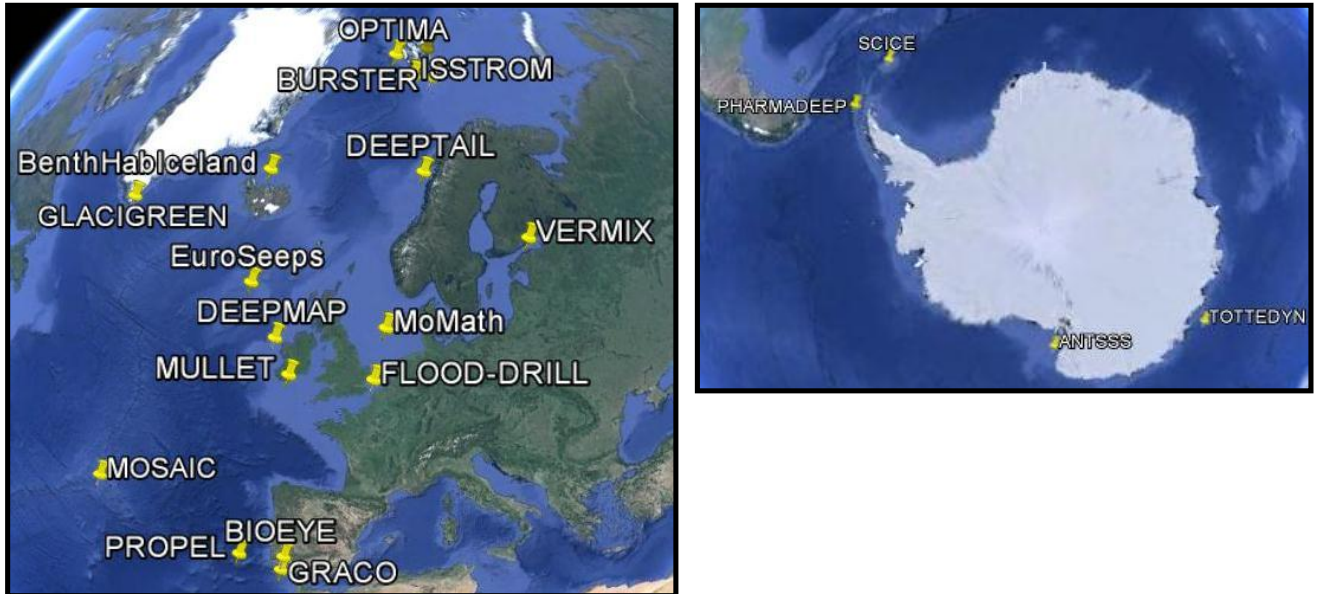


Figure 1: Map showing the research areas submitted to the Call Regional 2.

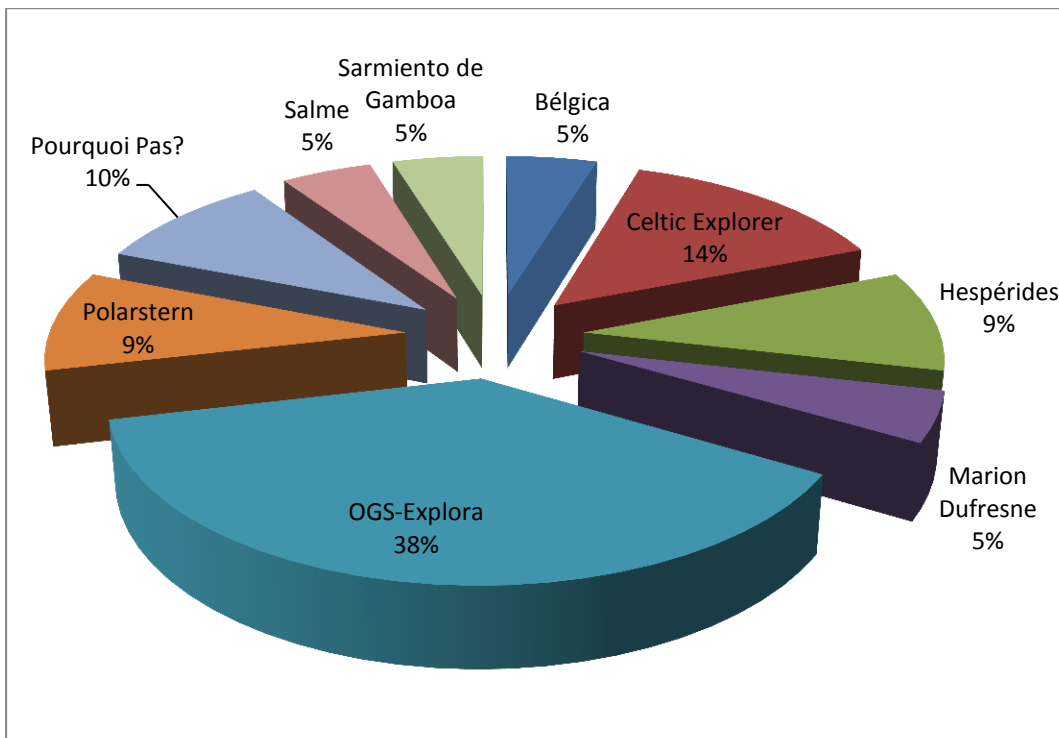


Figure 2: Pie chart showing the Research Vessels requested on the EUROFLEETS2 Regional 2 call

Applicants were based at 25 different countries (Figure 3), reflecting the increased international collaboration. The two countries where more applicants were based were UK (22%) and Spain (12%). These countries were followed by Norway, Portugal, Germany, France and Italy (9%, 9%, 8%, 7% and 7% respectively). The participation of small countries and non EU countries also increased from the previous call.

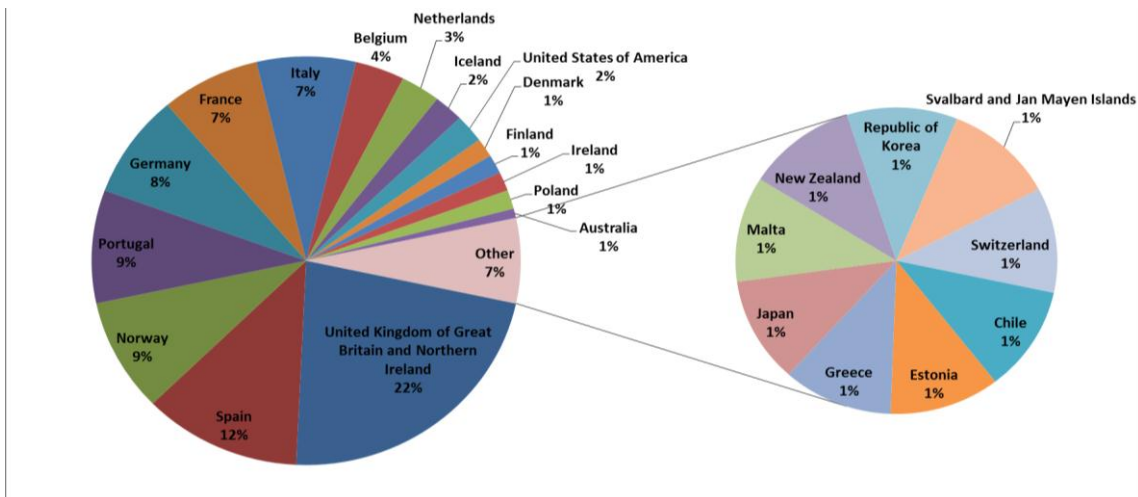


Figure 3: Pie chart showing the nationality of applicants to the Call Regional 3

Each proposal was assigned to a Watchdog belonging to the Scientific Review Panel. Afterwards, each proposal was sent to external evaluators with the aim of collecting at least 3 evaluations per proposal.

A total of 60 external evaluators were contacted for the evaluation process, with a success range of 2-4 external evaluations per proposal.

One Scientific Review Panel Meeting was held to provide a consensus evaluation for the submitted proposals on 15-16 July 2014 in Trieste, Italy.

At this meeting, the proposals were categorized into:

- A. Recommended for scheduling
- B. Needs improvement.
- C. Not recommended for scheduling

As a result of the meeting, 15 proposals were recommended for funding (Table 1)

Table 1: Ranking of proposals recommended for scheduling:

RV	Proposal number	Priority if more than one proposal per RV	Ranking equipment
Belgica	011		
RV Belgica/RV Celtic Voyager	003		
OGS-Explora	006*	A1	
	025	A2	
	023	A3	
Magnus Heinason	014		
Polarstern	019		Second for ROV Liropus
Hespérides	010	A1	
	022	A2	
Celtic Explorer	016		First for ROV Liropus
Pourquoi Pas?	006*	A1	
	017**	A2	Marum MeBo
Marion Dufresne	020***	A1	
	023***	A2	
	010	A3	

Notes

* The proposal #006 had the highest evaluation, therefore the implementation of this proposal has a strong priority for EUROFLEETS2.

** The proposal #017 requested the Marum MeBo but this equipment is not available anymore.

*** Proposals #020 and #023 have both a significant and similar scientific relevance.

On the RV Marion Dufresne, the SRP has prioritized the proposal #020 because its research would fully take advantage of the facilities on board the requested RV.

The Logistic Review Panel examined each of the selected proposals for logistical feasibility. Following contact with each of the vessel operators to determine availability of the vessels and suitability for use of equipment, some of the high ranked proposals were considered to be logistically non feasible with the EUROFLEETS2 resources and within the time frame of the EUROFLEETS2 project. The proposals that were high ranked and logistically feasible were put in direct contact with the vessel operators to commence negotiation about specific dates for the surveys.

Despite the fact that at least two excellent proposals were assigned to the RV Marion Dufresne, not a single one could be scheduled on that vessel due to its unavailability in the regions requested. To avoid this situation in the future, and due to the uncertainty of the RV Marion Dufresne schedule, we will request in the Call Regional 3 that all the potential applicants to this RV should check in advance with the

EUROFLEETS2 Evaluation Office regarding the availability of this RV in the desired area.

After the logistic evaluation, 6 proposals were sent to scheduling, and two proposals were given a different status:

- Intention of funding to proposal #017: This proposal requests the use of Hesperides in the Antarctic Peninsula. However, since logistics are complicated in such a remote area, the logistics will not be fixed until September 2015. In the hope of arriving to an agreement with other Antarctic Research programs to facilitate the access and/or return of the scientists to/from the research area, we were forced at this moment to keep this proposal on hold until the logistics is agreed.
- Reserve list to proposal #025: This high ranked proposal is kept on hold waiting for the results of the Call Regional 3, in case funds are still available and/or no sufficient excellent proposals are submitted to the call.

Table 2: Proposals with shiptime and equipment granted after the logistic evaluation. It also includes the *intention of funding* and *reserve list* proposals.

RVs	Embarked Equipment	Application Ref No	Lead Organisation	Cruise Name	Timing	Cruise duration
Celtic Voyager*		EF14_003	School of Ocean Sciences / Bangor University	MULLET	17th and 24th May 2015 (Cork/Cork)	8 days
OGS Explora		EF14_006	Instituto Português do Mar e Atmosfera	PROPEL	tbd	9 days
Pourquoi Pas?		EF14_011	Andalusian Institute of Earth Sciences	GRACO	tbd	10 (8+2 mob/demob)
Magnus Heinason		EF14_014	Institute of Zoology / Zoological Society of London	BenthHablceland	tbd	5 days
Celtic Explorer	ROV Holland	EF14_016	School of Marine Science and Engineering / Plymouth University	DeepMap	15th – 26th July 2015 (Galway-Galway)	12 days
Polarstern	ROV LIROPUS	EF14_019	Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS)	BURSTER	tbd	3 days
INTENTION OF FUNDING						
HESPÉRIDES		EF14_010	University of Aberdeen, UK	PHARMADEEP		6.5 days
RESERVE LIST						
RV OGS EXPLORA		EF14_025	NIOZ, NL	ANTSSS		

* Proposal #003 was assigned RV Celtic Voyager over RV Belgica due to the vessel being in the area already (working area off Cork ,Ireland) to avoid long transits form Belgium.

As a result of the logistic evaluation, 6 highly ranked research projects, representing a success rate of the EUROFLEETS2 “Call Regional 2” of 28%, will get access to 47 days at sea fully funded by the EC.

Both review panels accomplished their respective tasks. The partition into two steps, with a scientific evaluation of proposals before taking into account any logistical considerations, guarantees that only excellent proposals are awarded ship time.