

# **EUROFLEETS interest and impact for Estonia and New Accessing States**

**Urmas Lips  
Marine Systems Institute  
Tallinn University of Technology**



# EUROFLEETS

**Research Infrastructures project under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission (2009-2013)**

Project aims at bringing together the European research fleets to enhance their coordination and promote the cost effective use of their facilities.



# EUROFLEETS

Background. Why we have joined the project?

- a) Since 1994 no real research vessel was available for marine research in Estonia;
- b) Tallinn University of Technology decided to own a ship in 2006 and it was reconstructed for marine research in 2008-2009;
- c) internally it will be used for 100-120 days a year.

Expectations:

- a) Research vessel SALME will be used by research teams from outside Estonia
- b) Estonian research teams can apply for larger research vessels and equipment
- c) A system in place allowing to access research vessels from different European countries



# EUROFLEETS

Expectations – educational aspects:

- a) PhD students and young scientists can participate in ocean research (in 1980-1990's we had research cruises in North Atlantic)
- b) Knowledge exchange for best practices of field work
- c) International courses developed and available for students, how to arrange research cruises and conduct field measurements, etc.

Expectations – co-operation and strategic view:

- a) Joint vision about the development of research fleets, including in the regional sea areas



# EUROFLEETS

Our role in the project:

- a) TUT gave access to r/v SALME
- b) Main contribution in WP6 – Advanced training and education; TUT is responsible for training co-operation with third countries
- c) Participation in the work of the Scientific Review Panel for evaluation of ship-time applications
- d) Contribution to WP1 – evolution of the research fleets

In total 5 man months for the whole project duration of 4 years. In that sense Eurofleets is for TUT not a large project

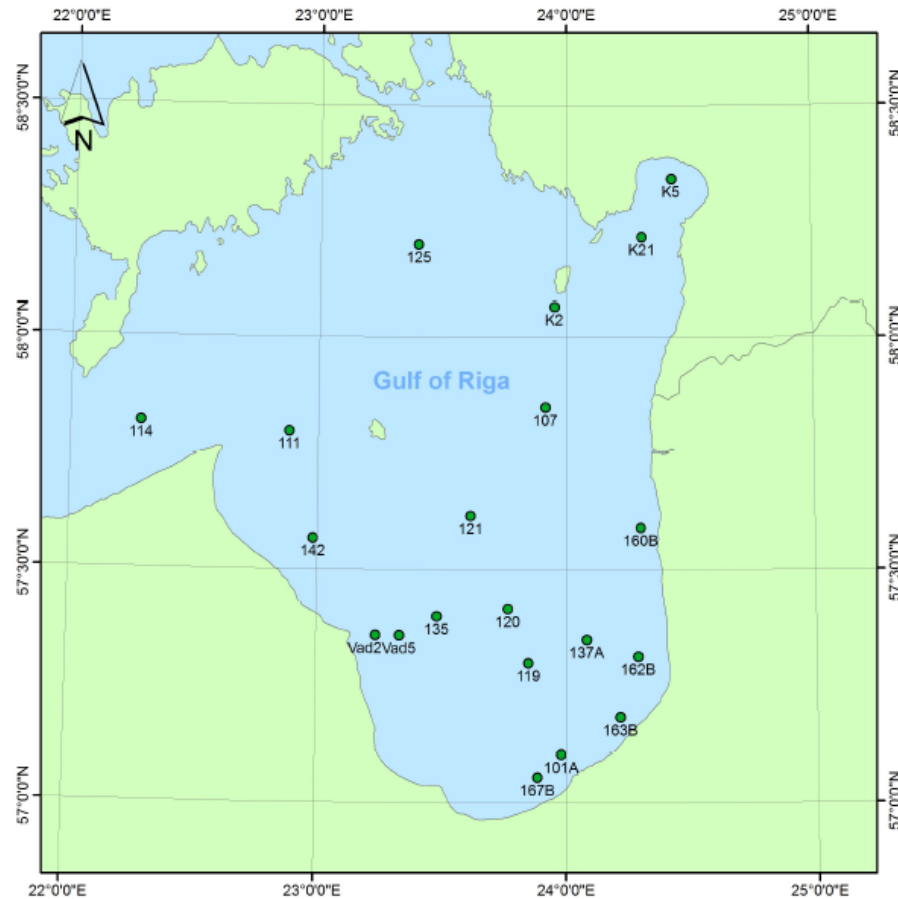


# EUROFLEETS

Outcomes:

Joint cruises in the Gulf of Riga, Baltic Sea with Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology (January, April, August and October; in total 20 days)

CIPEC – Complex investigations of pelagic-benthic ecosystem interaction





R/V Salme

Marine Systems Institute,  
Tallinn University of Technology

From: 01-01-2012

To: 31-12-2012

submit



Graph



# EUROFLEETS WP6

## Advanced training:

- a) Participation in the international training courses as teachers, organizers and students
- b) It gave very good experience, how the onboard training is arranged in different European countries (e.g. an excellent course in Cork on board Celtic Voyager)
- c) Training of technicians in Norway
- d) PhD course in Tallinn in July 2011 – high interest of students to participate, PhD students from 9 countries took part, very positive feedback that such practical training courses are needed







# Estonian Research Infrastructures Roadmap

It is decided that the present research vessel will be replaced by a new regional research vessel by 2020

## EESTI TEADUSE INFRASTRUKTUURIDE TEEKAART

ESTONIAN RESEARCH  
INFRASTRUCTURES ROADMAP

### 2010



## BALTIC SEA REGIONAL RESEARCH VESSEL



The Baltic Sea research vessel – a state-of-the-art regional research vessel for multidisciplinary investigations in the Baltic Sea. The infrastructure enables Estonian research groups to participate in the implementation of the European marine and maritime research strategy as principal partners.



sions (length 32-35 m long, draught 2.5 m) to guarantee its cost-effective use and work in the coastal waters. It is planned to establish a system to ensure quality based access to the research vessel and equal financial conditions for all research groups. An inter-institutional steering group will produce a research vessel development plan (including initiation of the new research vessel project), set up the rules for applying ship time, find resources for covering basic expenses of the infrastructure.

### PARTNERSHIPS

# Regional research vessel

- **The Baltic Sea research vessel – a state-of-the-art regional research vessel for multidisciplinary studies in the Baltic Sea.**
- The research vessel, which could belong to a new series of European regional research vessels, has endurance and capabilities to work in the open sea areas and dimensions (length 32-35 m long, draught 2.5 m) to guarantee its cost-effective use and work in the coastal waters.
- It is planned to establish a system to ensure quality based access to the research vessel and equal financial conditions for all research groups. An inter-institutional steering group will produce a research vessel development plan, set up the rules for applying ship time, find resources for covering basic expenses of the infrastructure.



# Regional research vessel

- The research vessel is managed by Tallinn University of Technology. The main users within the University are the Marine Systems Institute, Institute of Geology, Institute of Cybernetics, the Centre for Biorobotics, the Centre for Biology of Integrated Systems etc. Partners are the University of Tartu (Estonian Marine Institute), Tallinn University, University of Life Sciences, Estonian Geological Survey, etc.
- International access to the research vessel is planned in line with the EU FP7 infrastructure project Eurofleets and the Baltic Sea regional program BONUS-169.
- The concept of the European regional research vessel foresees access to the ship also for research groups of neighbouring countries.



# Regional research vessel

- 2010 – New regional Baltic Sea research vessel was included into Research Infrastructures Roadmap
- 2011-2014 – Planning phase to define research vessel users and management (Estonian research vessel or shared regional vessel, etc.), principles of access and funding etc.
- 2015-2019 – Design phase to define functionality of the research vessel, design, heavy equipment, possible funding schemes for construction, etc
- 2020-... – construction



# EUROFLEETS2

## WP11 - Regional RVs guidelines and generic designs

**Task 11.2 : Specifications and guidelines for Regional Research Vessels**

**Task 11.3 : Innovative basic designs of Research Regional Vessels**

In addition – regional partnership, possible joint uses, funding scheme for construction and maintenance, ship time application rules ect



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

