

Networking Activities (NA)

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Results and findings

Per W. Nieuwejaar, IMR & Jacques Binot, Ifremer

NA Work Packages

NA 1 – Strategic coordination vision

NA 2 – Virtual research fleet platform

NA 3 – Eco-responsibility and eco-design for existing and new research vessels

NA 4 – Operational issues – Contribution to operational fluidity within European research fleets

NA 5 – EUROFLEETS scientific user access modality and peer review

NA 6 – Advanced training and education

NA 7 – Dissemination and exploitation



NA results and findings (1)

- The European research fleets are ageing; there is a **lack of long term plans, coordination and cooperation** within nations and between nations regarding research fleet renewals
- The distribution of modern, well equipped, multidisciplinary Research Vessels (RVs) is uneven across Europe
- The **largest gap** between supply and demand is within the **polar segment**
- The **European oceangoing fleet** is in **reasonably good condition**, both in terms of quantity and quality
- The **European regional and coastal fleets** consists in too many **outdated, under-equipped RVs**
- Regarding **scientific instruments and equipment**, the distribution is also uneven in Europe, where **a few nations operate most of the sophisticated equipment**
- **Crisis has stopped the European RV integration process**



NA results and findings (2)

- Development of **several software tools** such as:
 - an integrated information portal, providing up-to-date information about beneficiary RVs, cruise programmes, completed cruises and special equipment,
 - the **European Virtual Infrastructure in Ocean Research (EVIOR)**, giving e-access to underway and operational information and data from RVs,
 - specification of a cruise planning system
- Development of **guidelines for environment friendly design** of, and **operational procedures** for RVs
- An attempt to develop decentralised regional networks for RV operators around Europe failed, mainly due to lack of travel funds and time for the RV operators, not because of lack of interest!



NA results and findings (3)

- Development of an **interoperability matrix** for European large exchangeable instruments
- Development of a **complete "tool box"** for dissemination of calls, peer review of proposals and logistics for **Trans National Access (TNA)** for RVs and associated equipment
- Planification and organisation of **on board training courses** for students, technicians and young scientists
- Development of a **web portal** with project information, deliveries and results
- Dissemination of project results and findings with difficulties concerning industry involvement



NA results and findings: conclusions

- EUROFLEETS has expanded and strengthened the **network of the RV community**, in particular towards Eastern European nations
- The main challenge for the European operators is the **coordinated renewal of their research fleets** and the distribution of instruments and equipment
- **Trans National Access transparent and professional organisation** has led to a tremendous success!
- EUROFLEETS has shown that **international training courses** can be developed and executed on board RVs in a cost effective manner
- EUROFLEETS has come a long way in building **generic software tools** for planning and running research cruises and make collected data available
- EUROFLEETS has given **less resourceful organisations** access to knowledge, experience and tools regarding RVs, RV operations and scientific equipment in a **very efficient and simple way**

