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Short Title Eurofleets+

Title An alliance of European marine research

infrastructures to meet the evolving

requirements of the research and industrial

communities

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Report on Project Launch

























































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IPMA PROBLEM









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1 Introduction

The Eurofleets+ Project was officially launched by the Marine Institute's CEO Dr. Peter Heffernan on June 7th, 2019 in Cork, Ireland, on board the RV *Celtic Explorer*. It took place during <u>Seafest</u> an annual marine themed festival in Ireland which attracts over one hundred thousand visitors, celebrating our seas and all things marine-related. Seafest was choosen as a fitting time and the RV Celtic Explorer the perfect setting to launch the project due to the synergies between the project's and festival's goal of increasing participation and engagement with the sea. Research vessels are fundamental in facilating ocean observation and essential in providing platforms from which to explore the vast areas of the ocean poorly observed to date. The roles of the Eurofleets+ infrastructures, institutions and organisation provide the platforms from which to conduct science and support knowledge creation. Relevant stakeholders were invited to the launch event, from: industry (entrepreneurs and innovators, SMEs, Large Enterprises); academia, research communities, government ministries, policy makers, educators, media organisations, other research infrastructure providers, projects and initiatives; and the general public.

The launch event was live-streamed on the <u>Eurofleets+</u> website. The event was attended by Eurofleets+ Work Package leaders and other invited guests from the Eurofleets+ Scientific Advisory Board, research institutions, industry and universities.

Presentations were given by Aodhán Fitzgerald, Eurofleets+ Co-Ordinator, Dr. Anneli Strobel, Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), Eurofleets+ Evaluation Office and Dr Andrea Caburlotto, Istituto Nazionaldi Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS), Training and Education Work Package Leader which can be found in Annex III to VI.



Figure 1: Screenshot showing the official launch being live-streamed on the EF+ website







2. Objectives

The key objectives of the Eurofleets+ launch event was to raise awareness of planned transnational and virtual access, joint research, and networking activities planned throughout the project and to publicise the Eurofleets+ project to a wide audience via web streaming. The event was hosted on the RV *Celtic Explorer* to showcase the state of the art infrastructures available through the project, while a presentation highlighting each of the twenty-seven research vessels and marine equipment accessible through the project's Transnational Access Programmes was on display for the duration of the event.

3. Programme and Speakers

Dr. Peter Heffernan, Chief Executive Officer, Marine Institute, opened the event by underlining the key role projects such as Eurofleets+ play in meeting the challenges faced from Climate change and the centrality of research vessels in meeting such challenges. Dr. Heffernan referenced the great heritage and lineage of the Eurofleets project, now in its third generation, highlighting it as testament to the dedication and excellence of all those who have been involved in the project thus far and to the new and expanded partnerships for this iteration. Reflecting on the significance of what the Eurofleets+ project is seeking to achieve he drew attention to the opportunities the project will provide; 27 research vessels accessible to all comers on a competitive basis, with access to the most modern sophisticated technology existing now and into the future in all of Europe's Oceans and beyond. He also stressed the centrality of research vessels as platforms to carry both human endeavour and the technological instrumentation of today and the future to deploy and service all of the remote technology which enable scientists to conduct the research that will laterally inform key policy makers to ensure that action is taken on the significant challenges to the ocean and climate change. Dr. Heffernan concluded by wishing all those involved with the project great success in their important endeavours throughout its life time.

Project Coordinator, Aodhán Fitzgerald provided an overview presentation of the project, introducing the objectives, planned activities by work package and expected impacts of the project until January 2023. Mr Fitzgerald highlighted the expanded geographical reach of the project compared with previous Eurofleets projects with partners from New Zealand, Bermuda, USA and Canada participating for the first time. This expansion will enable marine researchers to access research vessels and marine equipment in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean, Black, North and Baltic Seas, Pacific and Southern Ocean and the Ross Sea.

The following two presentations provided a particular focus on the promotion of Eurofleets+ Access Programmes, the first of which; 'Ship-time and Marine Equipment Application' was scheduled to open on June 26th. Dr. Anneli Strobel (AWI) Transnational Access activity coordinator outlined the details of the imminent calls including the vessels and marine equipment offered in each call, applicant eligibility criteria, the application process, and the evaluation system. Andrea Caburlotto (OGS), Training and Education Work Package Leader presented the details of the upcoming Education and Training which included the Blue Skill Labs (opening July 2019) and the Floating Universities calls (opening October 2019).







All presentations are available in Annex III to VI.

4. Implementation

4.1. Planning

Planning for the launch began immediately after the project kick off meeting in March 2019. The date for the event was circulated to all project partners, who were invited to attend if possible. "A save the date" notification was issued in March to identified stakeholders followed by a formal invitation issued to an expanded list of key stakeholders including Eurofleets+ Work Package leaders, members of the Eurofleets+ External Advisory Board, industry representatives, local politicians and newly elected members of the EU Parliament and finally, members of the press and local researchers.



Figure 2: Launch Invitation

A specialist communications company were engaged to ensure that the live stream would be delivered via a stable, secure connection, through YouTube and the Eurofleets+ website which went live the week of the launch event.

All Eurofleets+ project partners who could not attend were notified of the launch, provided with the link to the live video and asked to publicise it among their contacts in the marine research community.

Due to health and safety capacity requirements on the RV Celtic Explorer the number of attendees who could be accommodated was limited. A total of twenty-five guests attended the launch in person and enjoyed light refreshments on board after the event. The event reached a much wider audience via the event live stream on the project website and the onsite large screen aimed at engaging the general public who could then visit the vessel to meet the crew and engage with the Eurofleets+ project management team and work package leaders after the event.

4.2 Dissemination

The event was live-streamed on the Eurofleets+ website, and a video of the event was posted to the Eurofleets+ YouTube Channel https://youtu.be/oAyUXE3xYJI post-event.







All Eurofleets+ project partners were informed of the launch and asked to publicise it among their contacts in the marine research community.

The launch was promoted on Social Media via the Eurofleets+ Facebook https://www.facebook.com/eurofleets and Twitter https://twitter.com/eurofleets accounts as well as the Marine Institute's and other partners' social media sites.

A press release was issued and published on the Marine Institute Website which was also shared via Eurofleets+ social media sites.

A Press notice was issued in advance of the event and an official Press Release was issued and published on the day of the event. See Annex I & II.

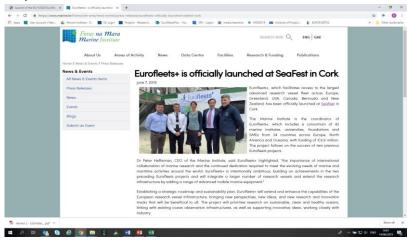


Figure 3: Screenshot showing the press release regarding the launch on Marine Institute Website

A news item was also published on the Eurofleets+ Project website.



Figure 4: News Item on Eurofleets+ Website







The video of the launch is available on the Project YouTube channel to be viewed at any time.

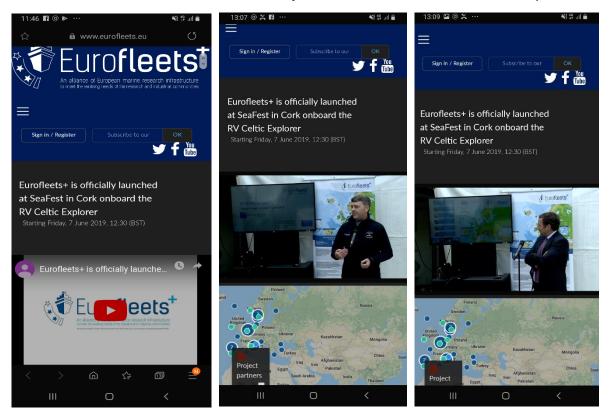


Figure 5: Selection of screen shots from the Eurofleets+ website during the live broadcast







National Press Coverage

The launch was covered in a feature article in Inshore Ireland which produces a quarterly magazine reporting on marine, maritime and freshwater sectors. This publication appears online and is widely distributed to coastal communities and is available in leading newsagents throughout the country.

INSHORE IRELAND | SUMMER 2019 MARINE R&D



Eurofleets+ is officially launched at SeaFest 2019

urofleets +, which facilitates access to the largest advanced research vested fleet across Canada, Bermuded New Zealand, was officially launched at SaaFest in Cork.

The Marine Institute is the coordinator of Eurofleets +, which includes a consortium of 42 marine institutes, universities, foundations and SMEs from 24 countries across Europe, North America and Oceania, with funding of 9,9m. The project follows on the success of two previous Eurofleets projects.

Dr Peter Hefferman, CEO of the Marine Institute said Eurofleets + highlighted the Importance of international collaboration of marine research and the continued dedication required to meet the evolving needs of marine and maritime activities around the world:

"Eurofleets + is intentionally ambitious, building on achievements in the two preceding Eurofleets projects and will integrate a larger number of research vessels and extend the research intrastructure by adding a range of advanced mobile marine equipment." Establishing a strategic roadinep and sustainability plan, Eurofleets and sustainability plan, Eurofleets and sustainability plan, Eurofleets infrastructure, Establishing a strategic roadinep and sustainability plan, Eurofleets infrastructure, bringing new perspectives, new ideas, and new research and innovation tracks that will be beneficial to all.

The project will prioritise research on sustainable, clean and healthy oceans, linking with existing ocean observation infrastructures, as well as supporting innovative ideas, working closely with industry.

INCREASED SHIP-TIME

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INCRASED SHIP-TIME
Andhan Fitzgerald, Research Vessels
operations manager at the Marine Institute
and Eurolleds+ project coordinator,
said the project will enable access to an
unprecedented number of vessels providing
a significant in coordinator,
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a significant in coordinator of the coordi

research vessels in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean, Black Sea, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Pacific Southern Ocean and Ross Sea through the competitive calls process," he said.

The EU H2020 Eurofleets+ project began in February 2019 with the first kick-off meeting taking place at the Marine Institute in March 2019. With its official launch at Seaf-est on June 7, the programme will now move towards its competitive call phase, including SEA (Shiptime and marine Equipment Application) which will have an Ocean' call, due to open September 2019 and a "regional" call, due to open September 2019. The Oc-P1 programme, aimed at early career researchers to implement their own research together with the SEA calls, and RTA (Remote Transnational Access), which enables remote access to samples or data from a Eurofleets+ vessel, are both due to open for calls in airumn 2019.

Through competitive calls evaluated on scientific excelence, applicants will be able to apply or or the competitive calls evaluated on scientific excelence, applicants will be able to apply or or the season of the season of the coean.

A unique mobile portable telepresence unit will also enable remote access by researchers and diverse end-users including the public which is a first for Europe.

FLOATING UNIVERSITIES.

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In addition to the access programme,
Eurofleets + will also provide training and
education opportunities including floating
universities, feacher at Sea programme,
marine internships and blue skilled is be.
Eurofleets + is funded under EU
Horizon 2020 Integrating Activity for
Advanced Communities with respect
to Environmental and Earth Sciences
- Research Vessels. This project has
received funding from the European
Union's Horizon 2020 Research and
Innovation Programme under grant
agreement No 824077.
A new Eurofleets+ website is underway
and more information on the project is
available on www.eurofleets.eu.

'Our Ocean -Marine Legends, Fairy Tales and Folklore in Ireland' showcases at SeaFest

rimary School students from Cork Educate
Together NS presented a book called 'Our Ocean Marine Legends, Fairy Tales and Folklore in Pesland' to President
Faure of the Seychelles at SeaFest in Cork during a tour of the Marine Institute's exhibition, 'The Wild Atlantic - What Lies Beneath?' Highlighting the importance of understanding our connections with the ocean, the Marine Institute's 'Explorers Education Programme' recently completed an arts and heritage project involving over 300 children from around Ireland who learnt about local and national marine legends and folklore. The students produced a series on artwork and poems representing Irish marine stories past and present. A selection of the work has also been collated into a special book with the aim of sharing Irish myths and legends with a wider audience, including the Island Small Nations delegation visiting Cork.

LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE

LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE

LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE
Congratulating the children and
teachers involved in the project,
Cushla Dromgool-Regan, Explorers
Education Programme, said the
children's enthusiasam and energy
ruly made this project come to life:
"This project highlights the
importance of recording our local
myths and tales, and sharing these
with wider audiences around
Ireland and beyond."

Shazia Waheed, the Explorers
Programme Outreach Officer from
Lifetime Lab in Cork worked with
schools from Cork, and explained
how these stories bring the value
of our ocean to life by learning
about marine life, caring for our
oceans and threats to our marine
cosystem.

If the construction of the control of the control
project as we showed how the ocean
impacts our life while linking it to
our heritage in Cork.

The class group prepared a special
project on the Vikings and explored
connections with Scandinavia,
while another group delivered
presentations on unusual sea life
around Cork harbour through song
and dance which was great fun,"
Waheed said.

This was a fantastic project for
children to learn about our ocean
in a unique new way. The level of
awareness of our oceans was clearly
visible through the bright day
to see on a four shool visits,
she added.

Ireland is on its journey of
realising the benefits of a thriving
marine sector, and by engaging
students' interest in the marine
at a young age, we hope it will
encourage them to further engage
with learning about the ocean.

More information on the
Explorers Programme can be
found at www.explorers.ie.

#OUROCEANFOLKLORE



Aubrey O'Toole and Sinead Kelleher, Cork's Educate Together, present 'Our Ocean – Marin Legends, Fairy Tales and Folklore in Ireland' to the President of the Sechelles Danny Faure along with Minster Michael Creed, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

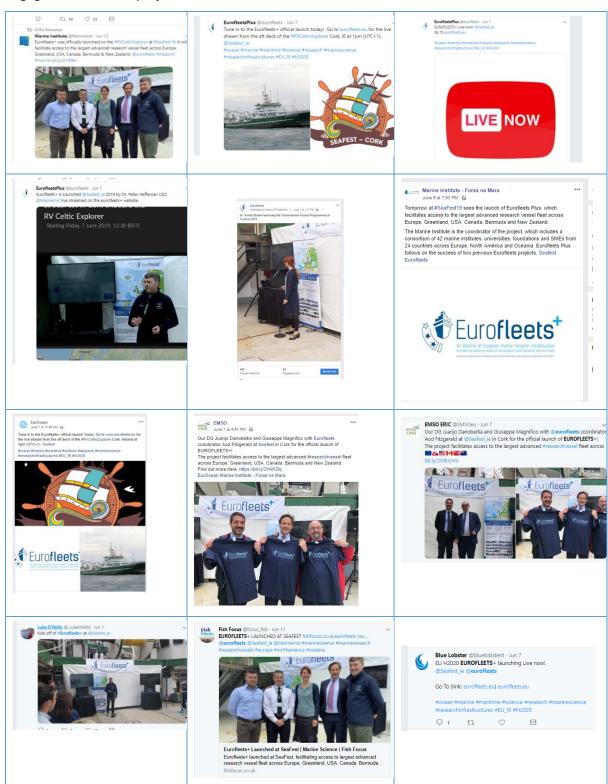






Social Media Coverage

The launch was widely shared across social media with support from partners and other related projects retweeting and sharing the event providing a broader opportunity for stakeholder engagement with the project.









The launch was also widely disseminated by project partners and stakeholder groups through website and newsletter articles.



http://www.eurocean.org/np4/1036.html







The Eurofleets+ project launch successfully brought together key stakeholders from research, academia, industry and the general public highlighting the key objectives and intended impacts of the project, its infrastructures and the European Commission's support of vital research in advancing our understandings of the world's oceans. The event was live-streamed via the project website which reached a wide audience and it was also transmitted to a large screen on site specifically aimed at engaging members of the public attending the Seafest Maritime Festival.

The key note speech by Dr. Peter Heffernan emphasized the vital role which projects such as Eurofleets+ and its infrastructures play in advancing research on the challenges faced to the ocean and climate change, through facilitating scientists' use of the most up to date technology to carry out research generating results on which policy makers can base their decisions with regard to our oceans and planet's future. The overview presentation of the project by Project Coordinator Aodhán Fitzgerald, coupled with the announcement of the imminent Transnational Access and Education and Training programme call by Dr. Anneli Strobel and Andrea Caburlotto communicated the objectives and impacts of the project effectively.

In conclusion, the objectives of the Eurofleets+ launch event of raising awareness of planned transnational and virtual access, joint research, and networking activities planned throughout the project and to publicise the Eurofleets+ project to a wide audience via web streaming was successfully delivered.







Images from the Event























PRESS NOTICE

Eurofleets+ to be officially launched at SeaFest in Cork

Significant increase in ship-time for scientists researching across seven seas

Thursday 6thth June, 2019

Eurofleets+, which facilitates access to the largest advanced research vessel fleet across Europe, Greenland, USA, Canada, Bermuda and New Zealand, will be officially launched on Friday 7th June 2019 at SeaFest in Cork.

The Marine Institute is the coordinator of Eurofleets+, which includes a consortium of 42 marine institutes, universities, foundations and SMEs from 24 countries across Europe, North America and Oceania, with funding of €9.9 million. The project follows on the success of two previous Eurofleets projects.

Establishing a strategic roadmap and sustainability plan, Eurofleets+ will extend and enhance the capabilities of the European research vessel infrastructure, bringing new perspectives, new ideas, and new research and innovation tracks that will be beneficial to all.

The official launch will take place on board the RV *Celtic Explorer* at SeaFest, Ireland's national maritime festival, in Cork city, from 1pm-2pm on Friday 7th June 2019.

There is limited capacity on board for the event so **media wishing to attend are asked to register in advance through the contact below**

Eurofleets+ is funded under EU Horizon 2020 'Integrating Activity for Advanced Communities' with respect to Environmental and Earth Sciences - Research Vessels. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824077.

Ends.

For more information, please contact Sinead Coyne, Communications Manager, Marine Institute: telephone 091 387390 / 087 947 7090 or email sinead.coyne@marine.ie







PRESS RELEASE

Eurofleets+ is officially launched at SeaFest in Cork

Significant increase in ship-time for scientists researching across seven seas Friday 7th June, 2019

Eurofleets+, which facilitates access to the largest advanced research vessel fleet across Europe, Greenland, USA, Canada, Bermuda and New Zealand, has been officially launched at SeaFest in Cork.

The Marine Institute is the coordinator of Eurofleets+, which includes a consortium of 42 marine institutes, universities, foundations and SMEs from 24 countries across Europe, North America and Oceania, with funding of €9.9 million. The project follows on the success of two previous Eurofleets projects.

Dr Peter Heffernan, CEO of the Marine Institute, said Eurofleets+ highlighted, "the importance of international collaboration of marine research and the continued dedication required to meet the evolving needs of marine and maritime activities around the world. Eurofleets+ is intentionally ambitious, building on achievements in the two preceding Eurofleets projects and will integrate a larger number of research vessels and extend the research infrastructure by adding a range of advanced mobile marine equipment."

Establishing a strategic roadmap and sustainability plan, Eurofleets+ will extend and enhance the capabilities of the European research vessel infrastructure, bringing new perspectives, new ideas, and new research and innovation tracks that will be beneficial to all. The project will prioritise research on sustainable, clean and healthy oceans, linking with existing ocean observation infrastructures, as well as supporting innovative ideas, working closely with industry.

Aodhán Fitzgerald, Research Vessels operations manager at the Marine Institute and Eurofleets+ project coordinator, said that the project will enable access to an unprecedented number of vessels providing a significant increase in ship-time at sea.

"With a fleet of 27 state-of-the-art research vessels from European and other international partners, this is extremely exciting for marine researchers as they now have opportunities to access research vessels in the North Atlantic, Mediterranean, Black Sea, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Pacific Southern Ocean and Ross Sea, through the competitive calls process," he said.

The EU H2020 Eurofleets+ Project began in February 2019 with the first kick off meeting taking place at the Marine Institute, Galway in March 2019. With its official launch at SeaFest today in Cork (7th June 2019), the programme will now move towards its competitive call







phase, including SEA (**S**hip time and marine **E**quipment **A**pplication) which will have an 'Ocean' call, due to open June 2019, and a 'Regional' call, due to open September 2019.

The CO-PI programme, aimed at early career researchers to implement their own research together with the SEA calls, and RTA (Remote Transnational Access), which enables remote access to samples or data from a Eurofleets+ vessel, are both due to open for calls in autumn 2019.

Through competitive calls evaluated on scientific excellence, applicants will be able to apply for access to 27 research vessels, 5 AUVs (Autonomous Underwater Vehicles) and 7 new ROVs (remotely operated vehicles) to capture film footage and samples from the deepest parts of the ocean. A unique mobile portable telepresence unit will also enable remote access by researchers and diverse end users including the public, which is a first for Europe.

In addition to the access programme, Eurofleets+ will also provide training and education opportunities including floating universities, Teacher at Sea programme, marine internships and blue skills labs.

Eurofleets+ is funded under EU Horizon 2020 'Integrating Activity for Advanced Communities' with respect to Environmental and Earth Sciences - Research Vessels. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824077.

A new Eurofleets+ website is underway and more information on the project is available on www.eurofleets.eu.

Ends.

For more information, please contact Sinead Coyne, Communications Manager, Marine Institute: telephone 091 387390 / 087 947 7090 or email sinead.coyne@marine.ie







Annex III Project Overview Presentation















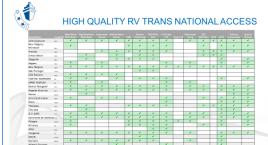
Eurofleets+ Objectives

- Open access to an integrated and advanced research vessel fleet 27 research vessels [13 Global/Ocean and 14 Regional), 7 ROVs, 5 AUVs, and a telepresence unit. Enabling researchers to access the North Atlantic, Mediterranean, Black, North & Baltic Seas, Pacific Southern Ocean and Ross Sea
 Priority given to research on sustainable, clean and healthly oceans
 Linking with existing ocean observation infrastructures.
- infrastructures
 Support innovation through working closely with
- industry
 Training & Education emerging scientists, technicians



- Co-PI Programme specifically aimed at early stage researchers, supported by experienced, senior researchers. Coll opening November 2019 for, continuous running call
- Remote Transnational Access (RTA Programme) Remote access to Samples or Data. Call opening November 2019 for, continuous running call







JOINT RESEARCH ACTIVITY

- High involvement of Industrial partners in JRA

 Developing new interoperable tools and technologies in support of deep water operations.

 (McCartney, Seaonics, HAMPIDJAN,)

 New technologies for AUV/ASV

 (Aqua Robotics, Coronis)

- Optimizing solutions for telepresence and real-time data transfer (e-access) (Voyager IP, GFOE)
 Reviewing and upgrading the suite of shipboard software and services (CSIC, RBINS, et al)
- Advancing access to acquired data



EUROFLEETS+ IMPACTS

Wider, Simplified & more efficient access to the best research infrastructures irrespective of location

- Access to new of more advanced research infrastructure services enabling leading edge research
- Fostered innovation through reinforced partnerships between research institutes and industry
- Development of synergies and complimentary capabilities across related research infrastructures leading to economies of scale through optimization of operations





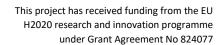
EUROFLEETS+

Thank you.













Annex IV Transnational Access Calls Launch













Affiliation (2): The PI of a proposal and the designated cruise leader (Chief scientist of the embarked team) should be affiliated to the same institution.

tion (3): International applicants are fully funded by the EC Access for user groups with a majority of users not working in a EU or associated country is **limited to 20%** of the total amount of units of access



WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE SEA PROGRAMME? - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA-

Cruise length: not exceed the number of days offered. **Additional days can be chartered** (if agreed with the RV operator)

Data management plan: must be submitted together with the proposal

Training: Proposals must include an advanced training or educational programme for scientists or technicians.

Dissemination: entitled to and willing to disseminate the knowledge they will generate, unless working for SMEs.

Expertise. The PI or a designated cruise leader of a proposal must have the appropriate scientific/technical expertise.



Step 1: Registration on the proposal submission website



tional Liaison Panel (OLP)



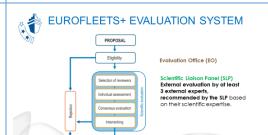
APPLICATION

Step 2: Proposal

Part A: General information about the proposal

Part B: Scientific description of the project

Step 3: automatically generated Proposal Summary Sheet of the proposal submitted, as a ${\it confirmation of a}$ successful submission.











Annex V Education and Training Opportunities Launch

