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Blue skills Workshops



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1 Introduction

In addition to training the next generation of European Marine scientists and technicians, one of the main objectives of the Eurofleets+ Project WP6 is to broaden the access to world-class marine infrastructures by promoting the excellence of marine scientists in their early career phase and/or from less equipped countries.

For this reason, the Eurofleets+ work plan has foreseen a series of webinars to acquaint such emerging researchers with writing competitive proposals for ship-time, based on the experience gained and the success of the workshop organized in the previous Eurofleets2 project.

Furthermore, the Project is making a further step toward a higher level to ensure excellence in the management of the European marine research infrastructures, aiming to provide the skills and competencies required to successfully manage research vessel infrastructure and fulfil the logistical requirements of scientific operators.

The following Blue Skills workshops have been foreseen to achieve these goals:

- Eurofleets+ TA Proposal Development
- Research Infrastructure Management Workshop

This is a draft version of this deliverable h submitted on the original submission date of 31.01.2022 outlining activity since the beginning of the project. Final submission has been postponed until the Research Infrastructure Management Workshop takes place in September 2022. This activity has been delayed due to the COVID19 pandemic.

2 Blue Skills Workshop “Eurofleets+ TA Proposal Development”

The workshop aimed to support scientists and researchers in developing Eurofleets+ TA proposals. The workshop was broadcasted live as a webinar and archived online for future and continuous access. Training was also provided on FAIR (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and Reuse) data management in the context of Open Research Data and Open Sciences.

Several virtual meetings were held with task participants TUT, MI, OGS, and Eurofleets+ partners AWI (leader of WP4 Call management and proposal evaluation) and RBINS (JRA 3.1 Advancing shipboard data management and data access) to discuss the organization and topics of the workshop. It has been agreed to develop the workshop as a series of 3 webinars:

- Eurofleets+ Data Management Plan (DMP)
- How to write a proposal for the SEA programme
- How to apply for a Co-PI grant

The webinars were published 3 to 4 weeks earlier on the Eurofleets+ website and other scientific/training sites (i.e. POGO Ocean Training Partnership, Marine Training), and the information were disseminated and shared with colleagues, partners, Eurofleets mailing list, institutes' mailing list.

2.1 [Eurofleets+ Data Management Plan \(DMP\) webinar](#)



This webinar detailed how to complete a preliminary Data Management Plan (DMP) for the Eurofleets+ Project: a DMP is necessary for a valid application under the Eurofleets+ Transnational Programmes. It was prepared by RBINS and arranged on 1 August 2019.

The objectives of the webinar were:

- Illustrate the need for a Data Management Plan
- When and how to do it using DMP Roadmap
- Hands-on session on DMP Roadmap
- Eurofleets+ data management in general

Attendees were invited to submit questions after the presentations but none were received.

To date the recording has been viewed 144 times is available here: <https://youtu.be/ck-WmB2miCk>

2.2 [Webinar “How to write a proposal for the SEA Programme”](#)



A training webinar on “How to write a proposal for the SEA Programme” was developed and delivered in September by AWI (Anneli Strobel) in collaboration with TUT (Urmars Lips). The webinar provided an overview of the Ship-Time and Marine Equipment Application (SEA) Programme, and explained how to prepare a proposal for the SEA Calls

“OCEANS” and “REGIONAL”. It provided a detailed overview on the different parts and steps necessary for a valid application under the Eurofleets+ SEA Programme. It also provided an overview of the



proposal online submission system for the SEA Calls, planning a research cruise and training and communication of Eurofleets+ cruises.

The webinar, broadcasted live on 6 September 2019, focused on the following topics:

- The SEA - programme calls for proposals
- Overview of the RVs and Marine equipment offered through EF+ TA
- Eligibility criteria for TA applications
- Explanation and on-line availability of the TA Calls documents
- Explanation of the different parts and steps of TA application
- Online submission of the application
- Survey design and planning
- Training and dissemination (with examples from Eurofleets2 applications and reviewers' comments)

A Q&A took place after the presentations:

A number of questions were received from webinar participants ranging from topics such as the difference between the Eurofleets+ Oceans and the Regional Calls (the available vessels) and clarification was requested regarding eligibility of applicants, specifically in regards to the nationalities of the PI and cruise participants (the PI and the majority of participants must be from a country other than the country the infrastructure is located in). Others queried if applicants could apply for a number of years if there was no time constraint on their cruise (Yes) and if there could be 2 cruise PIs (No). Others had questions on specific cruise activities and vessels' areas of operations and the number of proposals that could be submitted.

To date the recording has been viewed 93 times is available here: <https://youtu.be/8fYucfvgDH8>

2.3 Webinar “How to apply for a Co-PI grant”



A training webinar on “How to apply for a Co-PI grant” was developed by adjusting the SEA Programme webinar for a specific case of the Co-Principal Investigator Programme. The presenters were the same as for the SEA Programme webinar: Anneli Strobel (AWI) and Urmás Lips (TUT). The webinar focused on the Co-PI Programme,



explained how to prepare a proposal and provided a detailed overview on the different parts and steps of the application. An overview of the proposal online submission system for the call was given. The participants got an overview of available Eurofleets+ cruises (their study areas and schedules), in connection with which, a Co-PI could apply for ship-time. The Evaluation criteria were introduced that have been taken into account when writing a proposal. The webinar was broadcasted live on 12 January 2021.

The webinar focused on the following topics:

- The Co-PI Programme and call
- Eligibility criteria for TA applications
- Explanation and on-line availability of the TA Calls documents
- Explanation of the different parts and steps of TA application
- Online submission of the application
- Potential Eurofleets+ Cruises – areas and schedules
- Evaluation criteria – what should be taken into account when writing a proposal?
- Survey design and planning

A Q&A took place after the presentations where attendees were given the opportunity to direct questions to the two presenters and Niamh Flavin from the Eurofleets+ Coordination Office. A number of questions were received. Questions varied from logistical queries (e.g. how to establish if a Co-PI is possible on a particular cruise) to the eligibility of applicants (if an applicant finished their doctorate a number of years previously, are they still eligible). The duration of the evaluation process and what feedback was provided to applicants after they submitted their proposals were also issues that concerned attendees. To date the recording has been viewed 63 times and is available here: <https://youtu.be/Pmx4TNANbX0>

Summary Information on Webinar attendees

Webinar	Attendees
Eurofleets+ TA Proposal	15
Eurofleets+ COPI	34
Data Management	25

All webinars were widely published on the Eurofleets+ website, across social media channels, through partner organisation communication channels and through applicable direct mailing lists.

Feedback from participants was positive, with copies of the presentations and video links made available directly after the events.



3 Blue Skills Workshop “Research Infrastructures management”

The workshop is designed for marine science related staff by a pool of highly experienced RV managers from Eurofleets+ partner institutes, aiming to provide the skills and competencies to successfully manage research vessel infrastructure and fulfil the logistical requirements of scientific operators.

Several virtual meetings have been done with task participants MI, TUT, OGS and with Eurofleets+ partner CNR (leading WP8 “Foresight: Legacy and Roadmap”) and RBINS (leader of WP7 “Innovation Management and Exploitation”) about the organization of the workshop.

We planned the workshop session and topics (Table 1) and agreed that the workshop should not take place virtually, to optimize and take advantage of the interaction and exchange of ideas between the participants and the Eurofleets+ managers of research infrastructures.

Table 1 – “Marine Research Infrastructure management” workshop sessions and topics scheduling.

Session	Title	Topics
1	EU MARINE RIS MANAGEMENT	Management processes in EU countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Scheduling • Crew and technicians • Scientific equipment management • Examples from EF+ RVs operators
2	MARINE RIS LAW & REGULATIONS	IMO regulations - STCW 95 - Ship Safety and Security - Onboard Training of Crew - Roles, qualifications, training options etc. - Dip Clear Clearance Ship Technical maintenance
3	SHIPBOARD DATA MANAGEMENT AND DATA ACCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipboard data management • Transfer to shore database • Open access database (EVIOR, EMODnet, SeaDataNet) • use of the Eurofleets data management suite (EARS)
4	SHIP & EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deck equipment • Navigation on board system • Innovation
5	CRUISE PLANNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cruise leader and manager/operator duties • Cruise planning
6	EU MARINE RIS NETWORK AND FORESIGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Infrastructures in Pan-European networks (ERVO, IRSO, EurOcean, EMSO(?) Euro Argo, EUFAR), • The Eurofleets experience - EF RI Proposal

According to the initial plans, the workshop was to take place in the second half of 2021. Unfortunately, due to the cancellation of the research cruises in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the following rearrangement of ship-time calendars and activities in 2021 combined with the

enduring limitation and restrictions related to the pandemic, it did not allow us to find a favourable period to ensure the presence of all the speakers to organize the event.

Due to these reasons, we decided to postpone the workshop, and planned 2.5 days' course in September 2022 at the Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn, Estonia.

The report of the "Research Infrastructure management workshop" will be delivered by 30th September 2022 as full Deliverable 6.3.

4 Resources availability on-line

All the webinars were recorded and are freely available on the Eurofleets+ Ocean Classroom webinars panel (<https://www.eurofleets.eu/classroom/>).

4.1 Viewing Statistics

The number of downloads from the portal is not monitored, but viewing statistics are available for the webinars accessible via YouTube with some examples below:

Resource	Number of Views
How to Write a Cruise Data Management Plan	144
How to write a proposal for the SEA Programme	97
How to apply for CO-Pi Grant	63

5 Summary

The Eurofleets+ TA Proposal Development webinars were designed to encourage scientists, in particular from less-equipped countries, to collaborate worldwide and write competitive proposals for ship-time, aiming to support emerging researchers and postgraduate students in writing competitive proposals for EUROFLEETS+ ship-time, providing a significant training/familiarization with the infrastructures and their facilities, defining scientific priorities in the study area, preparing the cruise strategy, assembling the right scientific team.

The statistics of the webinars online confirmed the success of the workshop organized in the previous Eurofleets2 project, and that this is the right way to broaden the access to world-class marine infrastructures to young and from less equipped countries scientists.