

THE IOC PROJECT OFFICE FOR IODE: THE BENEFITS FOR LOCAL MARINE SCIENTISTS

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The IOC (UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission) Project Office for IODE (IOC International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange Program) has been established in Ostend, Belgium on the 25th of April 2005. The project office is hosted and supported by the Flemish Government through the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ). It plays an important role in the IOC/IODE program. The main activities of the project office include the organization of training courses on data and information management and the development of new techniques for marine data and information management and exchange. The training courses are organized in the framework of ODIN (Oceanographic Data and Information Network) networks (ODINCARSA, ODINCINDIO, ODINAFRICA) established by IODE. The office is fully equipped to host these training activities and expert meetings. The development of new data and information technologies is facilitated by the availability of modern computer infrastructure and a fast internet connection.

The project office creates opportunities for Flemish marine scientists to look beyond Flanders and to meet with marine scientists and data and information managers from around the globe. The 'researcher's short curriculum' in OceanTeacher, IODE training tool which is the main tool used during the training courses, is particularly useful for scientists to learn more about oceanographic data management (<http://ioc.unesco.org/oceanteacher/oceanteacher2>). In the nearby future different kinds of the oceanographic models will become available on the Project Office server, which can be used remotely upon request. The project office also provides GIS facilities for specific purposes. Scientists may also be interested in the OdinPubAfrica initiative which makes available marine-related scientific literature from Africa online. Interested scientists are kindly invited to visit the Project Office after the consultation with the Project Office Event Calendar available on-line (<http://www.iode.org/projectoffice>).