JPI Oceans’ Pilot Actions

The JPI Oceans’ pilot actions are early actions that aim at testing new instruments for cooperation and coordination.

Ángel E. Muñiz Pimelia2, John Hanus1,3, Wendy Bonne1 and Willem De Moor1

1 JPI Oceans Secretariat
Rue du Trône 130, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
2 Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)
InnovOcean site, Wandelaarkaai 7, 8400 Oostende, Belgium
3 German Marine Research Consortium (KDM), Brussels Office
Boulevard St. Michel 80, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

PILOT ACTIONS?

- Launched in order to move JPI Oceans into its operational phase
- To test out (new) modes of cooperation & demonstrate added-value of JPI Oceans
- Mainly draw on existing capacities and resources

Implemented by those member countries interested in participating (variable geometry principle)
Do not necessarily imply new funding – contributions can take on other forms

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Used for assessment by the JPI Oceans’ Strategic Advisory Board
- Interest from at least 4 countries + committed leader
- Topic should interest a maximum number of member countries
- Quick start – tangible outcomes within 1-3 years
- Cross-cutting issues in line with JPI Oceans Vision
- Create synergies and avoid duplication
- Test new modes of cooperation
- Facilitation of future collaboration in JPI Oceans
- Selected by the JPI Oceans’ Management Board

1. Ecological Aspects of Micro-plastics in the marine environment

- Proposed by Germany. Support from 11 member countries: DE, BE, DK, FR, NL, NO, SE, UK, ES (+ IE, MT)
- Principal objective: to develop a joint strategy (incl. methodologies) for qualitative and quantitative monitoring of micro-plastics in the oceans. In close collaboration with the scientific community, 3 parts were proposed:

I. ANALYTICAL METHOD DEVELOPMENT
In sediment, biota, water column

II. INTERLABORATORY STUDY IN SEDIMENT
First in the world! Open participation to any laboratory

III. ECOTOXICOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF MICRO-PLASTICS
Toxic impact and chronic exposure

EXPECTED IMPACTS ON MICRO-PLASTICS RESEARCH

- Harmonized, comparable, robust, quality controlled data on micro-plastics
- Technical basis for next level research and monitoring
- Strengthens cooperation and learning

2. Ecological Aspects of Deep-sea Mining

- Proposed by Germany. Support from 9 member countries: DE, BE, FR, IT, NL, NO, PO, PT, UK
- Germany has offered up to 90 days on RV Sonne in the Pacific Ocean
- Principal objective: analyse the long-term ecological impacts of deep-sea mining and devise a monitoring strategy; and ultimately, make recommendations to policy-makers, industry and International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- In dialogue with the scientific community, a cruise of 5 Work Packages (WP) was proposed:

WP1. BENTHIC DIVERSITY AND RECOLONISATION POTENTIAL
WP2. HYDRO-AcouSTIC AND VISUAL HABITAT MAPPING
WP3. BIOGEOCHEMISTRY OF NODULE ECOSYSTEMS
WP4. SEDIMENT PLUME DILUTION AND DISPERSION
WP5. COMMUNICATION TO STAKEHOLDERS

3. Multi-use of Infrastructure for Monitoring

- Proposed by The Netherlands. Support from 9 member countries: NL, DK, IE, NO, SE, UK, DE, FR, BE
- Principal objective: integration of data collection for different monitoring program requirements
- Broadening an existing (fish stock) monitoring survey (Common Fisheries Policy) with one or more (new) methods that should provide relevant information for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- Focuses on the International Bottom Trawl Survey (IBTS) of ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) and complementary to the project of DG Environment “Pilot Project New knowledge for an integrated management of human activity in the sea”
- Monitoring additions tested: biodiversity of benthos from the catch and box cores, marine litter from the catch, epifauna on the seafloor from video/photos, weight of non-target species, fish distribution based on egg sampling