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Report on the interactions with international partners

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SUMMARY INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

This deliverable 3.11 is a report on the direct engagements with international partners and third countries since the adoption of the JPI Oceans Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda in 2015. The report covers in particular the CSA 17 month reporting period February 2016-June 2017. Following a reiteration of the rationale for JPI Oceans to seek international partnerships the report is structured into two main sections; engagement undertaken on bilateral basis (JPI Oceans and third country) and multilateral (JPI Oceans interactions with a grouping of nations/stakeholders in multinational partnerships).

It should be emphasised that this report is at the **level of JPI Oceans international interactions, not all of which are facilitated directly through CSA support**. Many have been carried out by the Secretariat on behalf of JPI Oceans, some actions and visits are 'in-kind' where for example a JPI Oceans Management Board member undertakes a bilateral meeting on behalf of JPI Oceans. The JPI Oceans Secretariat provides updates on international engagement at each meeting of the JPI Oceans Management Board, hence international engagement is a standing agenda item at Board level.

This Deliverable D3.11 does not seek to prioritise or make specific strategic recommendations for the countries to engage with. For such analysis **this deliverable should be read in conjunction with Deliverable 3.1 the 'JPI Oceans International Statement'** which sets out in detail the rationale and principles of why JPI Oceans should engage internationally, the objectives and modalities. It states in more detail the current progress, highlights specific opportunities and key players and discusses how JPIO can engage with them. It builds on the Management Board discussions on policy towards internationalisation, as well as work done elsewhere, including through the FP7 CSA Oceans project. Its supporting annexes, available on request are 'living' documents to inform future international engagement and the prioritisation of efforts by the JPI Oceans Management Board. Annex 1 gives a short commentary on where international cooperation can especially add value in reference to the JPI Oceans SRIA strategic priority areas. Annex 2 identifies specific countries with some recommendations of where JPI Oceans should be fostering relations (with ref to their ocean strategies where appropriate and the mechanisms to do so where they exist) and Annex 3 summarises the formal position adopted by the JPI Oceans Management Board to date. The draft Statement was presented to the Management Board at the December 2016 meeting. It was submitted to the Commission in March 2017 and will be published (without the detailed annexes) according to their procedures for deliverables.

RATIONALE FOR JPI OCEANS INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

International cooperation should build on a shared concern and common vision to address our oceans challenges, such as was expressed by the G7¹ and in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to **end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all** as part of a [new sustainable development agenda](#). Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources¹ is directly pertinent but oceans also impact on many other goals

¹ https://www.bmbf.de/files/English_version.pdf and subsequent statements

related to food security, health, growth, climate change, good governance and partnerships.² A joint responsibility for our "Oceans Commons", requires governance action at regional and global scale over multiple timescales, as well as common actions to observe and protect the oceans, their ecosystems and biological resources (incl. biodiversity) in the longer term.

The ambition of JPI Oceans is both to play a strategic role and to be a key facilitator of Member Countries' joint collaborative actions with parties across the world which share the JPI Oceans vision and strategic objectives (or specific parts thereof) and with whom collaborative action is considered to be mutually beneficial.

Due to the interconnected nature of the marine environment, climate change and the maritime economy, an integrated, cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach to research and monitoring and to scaling up innovative solutions is required. The JPI Oceans Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda addresses a range of societal challenges related to oceans and seas (growth, food, energy, security, climate change, health, biodiversity, pollution) whose scope varies considerably yet are interconnected by virtue of the skills, technologies and unique challenges that present in the ocean environment. Some are of global dimension requiring global solutions, whereas others can be addressed through regional cooperation or at sea basin level. They only can be addressed through enhanced transnational cooperation in research and innovation, including also cooperation in the cross-cutting fields of building human capacities, coordination and shared use of infrastructures and a common vision on science to policy to inform policy decisions.

The case for greater 'alignment' of actions, which is the premise for the type of cooperation fostered by a JPI on the part of its member countries, is also valid at an international level. International cooperation is also intended to "globalise" the SRIA and create a greater leverage effect to achieve the objectives for JPI Oceans. There is a strong rationale for aligning with and involving international partners; however, the concrete objectives and the means of cooperation may vary considerably from challenge to challenge and depends on the countries involved. JPI Ocean has its roots in the European Union. Through JPI Oceans, its member countries build on multilateral principles to seek solutions to the world's societal challenges that relate to the oceans. A cornerstone of this approach is recognition of the value of including third country, or partner country participants in its activities.

SELECTED INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS - BILATERAL

USA (SEE ALSO COMMENTS UNDER G7 AND AORA TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP)

Building on the first participation of representatives of USA, Canada and New Zealand in the 9th Management Board meeting in November 2015, a follow up meeting was held between Terry Schaffer, NOAA, and the JPI Oceans Secretariat on 9 December 2015 during which potential areas of interest for joint actions were discussed. A second dedicated meeting was held in November 2016 and more recent meetings in June 2017, during the UN Oceans conference and IOC plenary assembly. In discussions it was suggested that some members of JPI Oceans Management Board and CSA Oceans 2 could come to USA, during Fall 2017, to allow more in-depth discussions with key programme managers and scientists on potential engagement with JPI Oceans. This could be the

² <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

focus of a dedicated workshop. Representatives from other agencies such as NSF, NASA, etc. would also be invited. This could also be in the context of any activities that support the Galway Statement.

NOAA also participated in the expert meeting to discuss actions in the areas of Ecosystem Goods and Services in November 2016.

In November 2016 the BILAT 4 project organised a joint event 'JPIs on the global stage' in Brussels with the JPIs and a delegation from USA (and Brazil, see below). Gilles Lericolais presented for JPI Oceans and opportunities were taken to make direct contacts with representatives of NSF, EPA and the Consortium for Ocean Leadership which are being pursued.

In November 2016 the Commission and the USA reached an implementing agreement to facilitate further the participation of US partners in H2020 projects.

CANADA (SEE ALSO COMMENTS UNDER G7 AND AORA TRANSATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP)

The EU based Representative of Canada continues to participate as guest to the MB meetings. However more substantive interaction has been constrained to the remit of the AORAC project at present. The Canadian Embassy in Spain participated in the kick-off meeting of the 4 microplastics projects in Madrid on February 17th 2016 and we understand that Canada is discussing internally the best way to participate as "associated partners" to the BASEMAN project (see also G7).

NEW ZEALAND

The Representative of New Zealand continues to participate as a guest to the MB meetings. A New Zealand representative actively participated in the expert meeting to discuss actions in the area of Ecosystem goods and services in November 2016.

JAPAN

Representatives of JAMSTEC, Japan, have informally expressed interest in being involved in any next phase of deep sea mining action(s) (see also G7).

INDIA

Uli Wolf, MB alternate for Germany, presented JPI Oceans at the "EU-India STI Cooperation Days 2016 at CSIR-NIO, Goa, India" on 21st and 22nd Sept. 2016, where contact was made with Ministry of Science officials. The former ambassador of the EU delegation to India offered to assist with strengthening contact. Interest was expressed but no follow up by India has been received to date.

BRAZIL

Senior representatives from Brazil marine research funding organisations participated in the Bilat 4 meeting in Nov 2016 where JPI oceans was represented by Gilles Lericolais and Jacky Wood. Contacts are being followed up. <https://www.b2match.eu/jpispoglobal2016/pages/15824-presentations>.

JPI Oceans was represented by Gilles Lericolais during Commissioner Moedas' visit to Brazil 16-18 November 2015, during which a formal cooperation agreement between the EU and Brazil was

signed. This was followed up during a 'Meeting to operationalise the RIO event recommendations' in Brussels on 9 March 2016 at which the JPI Oceans secretariat presented the latest developments in the JPI Oceans actions and met with the head of the Brazil Delegation Andrei Polejack, coordinator for Ocean Sciences and Antarctica, on 11 March 2016. He expressed interest in further exploring areas for possible joint funding of actions (deep sea mining, micro plastics, mobility) as well as interest in exploring possibilities for ship time sharing and exchange of experiences on alignment and governance of marine science across regions and nations. The Secretariat provided links to further information on the JPI website to allow Brazil to consider in more detail areas where there might be interest in participation in JPI Oceans activities.

ARGENTINA

Argentina is a participating member of the MartERA ERANET Cofund. The JPI Oceans Secretariat joined a Commission led bilateral discussion with Argentina on 14 March 2017. Argentina amongst others has ambition to develop a competitive aquaculture industry. They might be interested in joining the proposed Bioeconomy cofund.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is a participating member of the MartERA ERANET cofund through its Ministry of Science and Technology. Contacts have also been established with South Africa in the context of AORAC.

INDONESIA

On 14 April 2017 JPI Oceans secretariat was invited to participate in a meeting between EC officials and high level representatives of Indonesia, including Directors and representatives from the Ministry of Energy, the Director of the American and European Intraregional & Interregional Cooperation, MOFA, the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Head of Office of Marine Survey Technology, Agency for Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT). Preliminary interests in engaging with JPI Oceans were expressed in areas related to aquaculture and there is potential to follow this up with the proposed Bioeconomy Cofund. However the emphasis of the discussion was more on how Indonesian researchers could participate in H2020 projects rather than the Indonesian funding bodies collaborating in joint programmes.

CHINA

On May 15th, 2017, JPI Oceans Management Board member Maurice Heral, representing four JPIS (Oceans, Climate, Water, FACCE), took part in the Dragon-Star-Plus³ 'Climate Change Roundtable' hosted at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, PR China. The objectives and topics for discussion were:

- The future of Climate Change. Grand challenges for China and Europe. Joint conclusions from two Foresight Studies and analysis of similar trends and possible joint Sino-European solutions to joint grand challenges, short-term, within the framework of Horizon2020, and long-term.

³ **DRAGON-STAR Plus** (2015-2018) provides support services to European and Chinese researchers and policy-makers, and offers a flexible platform to facilitate policy discussions between European and Chinese stakeholders. <http://www.dragon-star.eu/dragon-star-plus/>

- European Joint Programming Initiatives. Internationalisation endeavours and the challenge of alignment. Insights in European JPIs and their interests in collaborating with China.
- How to mitigate Climate Change. Sino-European STI collaboration perspectives. Renewable energy and circular economy as central links. A Discussion among Sino-European policy makers and scientists on joint solutions and ideas within the upcoming Horizon 2020 working programme (2018-2020) on Climate Change, and long-term.

The Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology has established a program of priority research with some areas that are open to cooperation with EU countries. There is a convergence of viewpoints on several common research priorities which could be the subject of joint actions or even joint calls for tenders. These include Pollution of aquatic ecosystems and remediation techniques (interest to work with JPI WATER) and Durability of coastal fisheries (JPI OCEAN)

Due to its pilot action on *Ecological Impact of Deep sea Mining (DSM)* JPI Oceans was asked to present the activity during the Deep Sea Mining Summit from 8-10 November 2016 in Singapore. The representative from the Second Chinese Institute of Oceanography was very interested to link up with the JPIO funded project however so far no direct contact has been established with the Project Coordinator from Geomar.

MULTI-LATERAL INITIATIVES (AT GOVERNMENT/INTERGOVERNMENTAL LEVELS)

G7 AND G20

Building on the G7 leaders' Summit in June 2015 and the Science ministers' statement in October 2015 in Berlin and the Japan statement in Tsukuba in 2016 the G7 next Ministers science meeting will be hosted in autumn 2017 by Italy in Torino. Under the Japanese chairmanship the G7 sought to bring a 'paradigm shift in ocean observations' onto the agenda and work is ongoing to develop proposals. The JPI Oceans Secretariat is not directly involved in these discussions but is aware of them through the relevant member states on the MB, in order to assess possible implications.

However the JPI Oceans secretariat was invited to participate in the preparation on one of the G7 workshops on Augmented Observatories in Naples, Italy on 14-15 June 2017 in the framework of the G7 working group "Promote increased G7 political action by identifying additional action needed to enhance the future routine ocean observation" as part of the Action "The future of Seas and Oceans". The secretariat will continue to be involved in this process. This is pertinent as JPI Oceans Management Board includes the four European G7 members and the European Commission as Observer and has already established strategic links at Board level to US and Canada.

The G7 science ministers' statement on 8-9 October 2015 called for an opening up of the JPI Oceans pilot actions to non-European G7 countries. Ways to do this for the JPI Oceans micro plastics projects are being explored.

Under the German Chairmanship of the G20 ocean issues have also been brought to the table, led by Germany, and with a focus on combatting plastics in the marine environment.

UN CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14, JUNE 2017

The high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day. <https://oceanconference.un.org/>

JPI Oceans secretariat participated in the conference which brought together an impressive number of countries, networks, organisations and initiatives showcasing the state of play in science, the challenges we face in relation to SDG14 in particular but also how oceans contribute to the other SDGs. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for networking and partnering.

JPI Oceans and the German Management Board members from BMBF, in parallel organised a briefing at the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations. The briefing focused on Multilateral Science-Policy Partnerships: Generating the Evidence to Underpin SDG Implementation. Interventions from various international and governmental organisations and initiatives were presented (NOAA, JPI Oceans, IOC, G7, ICES) and showcased with examples of good praxis on how international projects were organised and worked in order to feed evidence to policymaking. The panel discussion set the basis for further cooperation to seek partnership and avoid duplication between the various regional and global initiatives. Follow up discussions have already been undertaken with the US and with IOC. JPI Oceans furthermore intervened on the same topics in a side event organised by Future Earth focusing on exchanging praxis on co-design and also on the role the press can play to raise awareness on the importance of the oceans to the future of our planet.

UNESCO-IOC

The **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)**, established in 1960 as a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, is the only competent organization for marine science within the UN system. Its purpose is to promote international cooperation and to coordinate programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States. In addition, IOC is recognized through the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as the competent international organization in the fields of Marine Scientific Research (Part XIII) and Transfer of Marine Technology (Part XIV).

JPI Oceans Secretariat has 'observer status' to the plenary sessions of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission as well as links to its Executive and Secretariat. At the IOC 29th Plenary meeting in June 2017 JPI Oceans was present for the discussion on the development of a proposed 'Decade of Ocean Science' and for the discussion on the IOC Science plan and road map; these discussions are being followed up to explore further potential for cooperation.

BELMONT FORUM

The JPI Oceans Secretariat participated in the Belmont Forum/Future Earth' Scoping Workshop on "Transdisciplinary Research for Ocean Sustainability" Brussels 30 – 31 May 2017. This workshop brought together representatives of the international research community and program officers of

interested funding agencies from the different Belmont Forum countries to further analyse knowledge gaps and prioritize research and innovation needs for the short and medium terms, taking account of existing actions.

JPI Oceans also participated in the subsequent 'funders meeting' (directly present from Sweden, Germany, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, plus JPI Oceans and representatives of the European commission – also interest from France, Netherlands, Taiwan). The outcome is that JPI Oceans Management Board member Lisa Almesjo will lead in developing a proposal for a Belmont forum call for proposals on selected ocean topics, which will be considered by The Belmont membership in autumn 2017 and if agreed could also be the basis for a joint Belmont Forum/JPI Oceans initiative.

TRANSATLANTIC RESEARCH ALLIANCE (GALWAY, AORAC PROJECT)
[HTTP://WWW.ATLANTICRESOURCE.ORG/](http://www.atlanticresource.org/)

JPI Oceans participates in the stakeholder forum for the transatlantic alliance and has representation on the High Level Operation Board for the H2020 BG 14 project AORA-CSA. The Board met on 3 March 2017 in Brussels, during which updates were given on the various AORA action lines and JPI Oceans latest actions and actions in planning were also presented.

The Alliance addresses both North and South Atlantic countries, in particular Brazil, South Africa. The Commission is also pursuing the development of South-South relationships, with a new declaration of intent (the 'Belem Declaration') planned to be issued in July 2017. The Secretariat understands that in the section on putting the agreement into practice several countries have requested that the Declaration makes reference specifically to JPIs as a possible existing structure that might be utilised.

CELAC

In the framework of the bi-regional cooperation on R&I between EU and Latin American and Caribbean countries, JPI Oceans was invited to attend the First JIRI Working Groups Meeting in Brussels in collaboration with the General Directorate for International Cooperation-EC DG RTD. Some useful 'first contacts' were made as a result of this meeting. One of the priority fields for cooperation is "Science, Research, Innovation and Technology" mainly oriented to develop the "EU-CELAC Knowledge Area". Five thematic areas and Cross Cutting issues were defined as common strategic priorities and in place since 2011, co-lead by a country from each region, to define common objectives and key activities in order to combine national, regional and bi-regional instruments.

- Bioeconomy – co-led by Argentina and France
- Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for meeting societal challenges - co-led by Chile and Finland
- Biodiversity and Climate Change (CC) – co-led by Colombia and France
- Renewable energies – co-led by Mexico and Spain
- Health- co-lead by Brazil and Spain
- Cross-cutting "Existing and New Instruments & Career Development" - co-led by Mexico and Portugal/Finland & Chile.

SPIN CAM (CHILE, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, PANAMA AND PERU)
[HTTP://WWW.SPINCAMNET.NET/](http://www.spincamnet.net/)

On invitation of Gert Verreet, JPI Ocean Management Board member, Jacky Wood, JPI Oceans secretariat, presented JPI Oceans as part of the visit of the SPINCAM project to Belgium in February 2016. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Flanders Department of Economy, Science and Innovation (EWI). JPI Oceans and JPI Climate presented their activities and discussed shared interests in sustainable ocean governance with high level representatives of Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru together with representatives of the IOC UNESCO and the European Commission.

The SPINCAM project "Southeast Pacific data and information network in support to integrated coastal area management", funded by the Flemish Government of the Kingdom of Belgium, has been developed since 2009 under the coordination of IOC-UNESCO and the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, CPPS. SPINCAM was designed to establish an integrated coastal area management (ICAM) indicator framework at national and regional level in the countries of the Southeast Pacific region (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru) focusing on the state of the coastal and marine environment and socio-economic conditions, to provide stakeholders with information and atlases on the sustainability of existing and future coastal management practices and development.

PARTNERSHIP FOR OBSERVATION OF THE GLOBAL OCEANS (POGO)/LINK TO GEO

The annual plenary meeting of POGO was held in Plymouth, UK in January 2017. JPI Oceans received an invite to participate but due to conflicting priorities the secretariat was not able to be present. The secretariat sent a briefing on JPI Oceans actions and supporting materials. Feedback is awaited.

Jacky Wood, JPI Oceans Secretariat, was invited to attend and present an update on JPI Oceans at the annual plenary meeting of POGO in Yokohama at end of January 2016. A key issue in the meeting was to discuss how to take forward the European contribution to the GEO Blue Planet task and clarify what extra information is needed to feed into the blue planet agenda compared to what already exists in the various ongoing European initiatives. JPI Oceans understands that these discussions have not yet reached conclusion.

OTHER

JPI Oceans, through its Member countries, its Secretariat and through the CSA Ocean 2 partners has regular and numerous contacts with many other key players and stakeholders in the international arena. In a report of this type it is not practical to give detail of them all.



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