

TOWARDS AN ERA-NET IN MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY

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The CSA MarineBiotech project has been successful in the establishment of a network of funding organisation, stakeholders and programme managers interested in joint support for marine biotech research and development. A proposal for an ERA-NET in Marine Biotechnology (ERA-MBT) was submitted (February 2013) in response to the last FP7 call of theme 2: Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology. If awarded, this ERA-NET will aim to take-off late 2013 for a duration of 4 years and will involve 20 partners from 14 countries.

The ERA-MBT is designed to deliver better coordination of relevant national and regional Research, Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI) programmes in Europe, reducing fragmentation and duplication, and paving the way for common programmes and cooperation in the provision and use of research infrastructures and knowledge. This is a necessity to make sustainable use of the unique resources of the marine environments for the benefit of Europe's development into a bioeconomy based society.

ERA-MBT will work with stakeholders from industry and organisations to identify needs and gaps in the value chain from research and development, through optimising research results for proof of concept and industrial uptake and valorisation. At least three transnational calls will address these challenges, and cooperations with complementing activities will be explored to add value and power to enable the development of a horizontally applicable technology like marine biotechnology.

In doing so, it will advance progress in this field towards the vision of a European Research Area (ERA)¹ and promote and position marine biotechnology as a tool which can deliver "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth", a core objective of the Europe 2020 Strategy².

References

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm