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Outlining opportunities for collaboration with other initiatives

Work Package 4

Outreach to external activities

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Lead Beneficiary: **Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT)**

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Work Package leader: **Project Management Jülich (PTJ)**

Task 4.1: **Potential for joint activities with other research coordination and network initiatives**

Cite as: **Outlining opportunities for collaboration with other initiatives, Marine Biotechnology ERA-NET.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite the high number of individual projects and initiatives in the field of (marine) biotechnology, many of them can be unified under the roof of bio-economy. Often, goals and objectives are overlapping such as, building up scientific communities, establishing a higher R&D&I level at enterprises, avoiding fragmentation, etc. Moreover, the framework in which these types of initiatives are operating is changing. New formats (i.e. ERA-NET Cofunds), globalisation, less funding budget from the EC and more time pressure are all factors that affect their way of working. Hence, it is reasonable to search for collaboration opportunities, joint actions, and aligned activities.

To this end, the ERA-NET Marine Biotech organized a workshop to which related initiatives and research programmes were invited. Eighteen participants from eleven different initiatives participated in the workshop. The objective was, by means of interactive and iterative discussions, to identify at least one concrete action for collaboration.

This resulted in a long list of actions developed in the brain storming, from which 4 big themes were selected:

- 1) Capacity building- Tech Transfer – Knowledge Transfer
- 2) Consultation of stakeholders – strategic input
- 3) Scientific conferences-showcases
- 4) Harmonisation- joint timelines

For each of the themes a concrete action was defined, with specific timelines. The responsible initiatives are now in charge of the implementation of the respective actions.

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BACKGROUND

The ERA-NET Marine Biotechnology (ERA-MBT) recognises that Europe's marine ecosystems and organisms are largely unexplored, understudied and underutilized, in spite of Europe's access to an extensive and diverse set of marine ecosystems, supporting an enormous marine biodiversity. This resource, through the coordinated application of marine biotechnology, has the potential to provide a major contribution towards addressing some of the most pressing societal challenges including environmental degradation, human health and delivering sustainable supplies of food and energy, amongst others regarded as the Grand Challenges for our future.

The ERA-MBT is therefore 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. A necessity to make sustainable use of this unique resource.

ERA-MBT's 19 partners are working with stakeholders from industry and organisations to identify needs and gaps in the value chain from research and development, through the optimization of research results for proof of concept and industrial uptake and valorisation. At least three transnational calls address these challenges, and cooperations with complementing activities have been and will be explored to add value and power to enable the development of a horizontally applicable technology like marine biotechnology.

One of the tasks designed to reach this aim is to link the activities of ERA-MBT with national, European and international activities and to reduce fragmentation of research efforts in marine biotechnology via better coordination and cooperation between relevant players.

This task is addressed in the ERA-MBT description of work in work package 4 (Outreach to external activities). One of the objectives of work package 4 is to ensure complementarity and alignment of ERA-MBT's activities with the relevant regional, national and European research agendas and programmes e.g. JPI Oceans, ERA-IB, etc.. In addition, the aim is to create synergies with these agendas and programmes by considering the full range of policy, economic and commercial challenges and priorities being addressed, when designing its own activities.

To this end, data available from reports of the coordination and support action MBT (CSA-MBT; Oct. 2011 – Mar. 2013), and the PLATFORM of bioeconomy ERA-NET Actions (<http://era-platform.eu/>) were consolidated in order to inform a compendium of related initiatives (European research coordination and networking) as well as the relevant contact persons. This consolidation was summarized in deliverable report »D4.3 – Update of relevant regional, national and European initiatives and create list of research projects« by the Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT), Flanders. The report lists research coordination and networking initiatives that can potentially be related to ERA-MBT, and derives potential collaboration opportunities.

Representatives of the initiatives listed in the report mentioned above, were invited to join a workshop co-organised by the ERA-PLATFORM initiative and ERA-MBT, in proximity of time and place close to the ERA-PLATFORM Annual Event 2015, 10-11 September in Berlin, Germany.

The close succession of these two events enabled synergies by lowering the travelling efforts of the participants i.e. a higher participation rate was expected for both events as compared to the participation rate in separate events.

An earlier attempt of a joint meeting, i.e. connection of this »ERA-MBT initiative workshop« with the ERA-PLATFORM kick off meeting in March 2015 was not realisable because of the time incompatibility of both agendas.

The current workshop was organized on September 8th-9th 2015 in Hotel Angletterre, Berlin, Germany. Eighteen participants representing eleven initiatives plus the ERA-MBT, joined the »ERA-MBT initiatives workshop«.

Table 1: Represented initiatives and number of representatives participating in the “ERA-MBT initiatives workshop”

	REPRESENTED INITIATIVE	NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES
1	ERA-NET SUSFOOD	4
2	FACCE SURPLUS	2
3	ERA-SysAPP	1
4	IRA-SME	2
5	JPI-OCEANS	1
6	EMBRIC	1
7	JPI-FACCE	2
8	ERA-Bioenergy	1
9	ERA-SynBio	1
10	ERA-IB2	2
11	EEN	1

PARTICIPANTS



Picture 1: Participants of the “ERA-MBT initiatives workshop”

Bottom left to bottom right:

- DE RAEDEMAECKER Fien, VLIZ (Flanders Marine Institute); On behalf of: ERA-MBT Communication
- HURST Dermot, Marine Institute (Marine Institute, Ireland); On behalf of: ERA-MBT strategic direction
- BERGSETH Steinar, RCN (The Research Council of Norway); On behalf of: ERA-MBT coordinator
- TURK Kim, MIZS (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport); On behalf of: ERA-MBT partner, ERA-PLATFORM, ERASynBio, ERA-Net SUSFOOD
- SCHULTE Petra, PtJ (Project Management Jülich) ; On behalf of: ERASysAPP Coordinator, FACCE SURPLUS Call Office
- BUNTHOF Christine, PLATFORM (Wageningen UR); On behalf of: ERA-PLATFORM

Middle left to middle right:

- REDD Tom, JPI Oceans (JPI Oceans); On behalf of: JPI Oceans
- LAMPEL Stefan, PtJ (Project Management Jülich); On behalf of: JPI-FACCE
- MASCART Thibaud, UGent (Ghent University); On behalf of: EMBRIC
- SCHULZ Nikola, PTJ (Project management Juelich); On behalf of: ERA-Net SUSFOOD
- FICHTNER Christian, AiF Projekt GmbH (AiF Projekt GmbH) On behalf of: IraSME

Top left to top right:

- TINOIS Nicolas, JÜLICH (Project Management Jülich); On behalf of: FACCE SURPLUS
- CLAESSENS Marianne, (Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology) On behalf of: ERA-IB, ERA-Net SUSFOOD, FACCE SURPLUS
- ARENTS Inge, IWT (Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology); On behalf of: ERA-MBT Networking
- KARRASCH-BOTT Marion, JUELICH (Project Management Juelich); On behalf of: Coordinator sustainable ERASynBio initiative, WP leader ERA-IB
- KWANT Kees, RVO.NL (Netherlands Enterprise Agency); On behalf of: ERANET Bioenergy, ERA-PLATFORM
- SCHIFFERS Jens, JUELICH (Juelich Project Management); On behalf of: ERA-MBT Networking

Not on the picture:

- GOLA Bettine, Berlin Partner (Berlin Partner for Business and Technology); On behalf of: EEN
- REISHOFER Martin, FFG (FFG - Austrian Research Promotion Agency); On behalf of: IraSME (former EraSME)
- VLAEMYNCK Geertrui, ILVO (Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research); On behalf of: ERA-Net SUSFOOD

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2015

- 12:00 Registration and lunch

Session 1: Presentation of participants; Chair: Steinar Bergseth (RCN)

- 13:00 Welcome to meeting; Steinar Bergseth (RCN, Norway)
- 13:15 Goal of the workshop; Inge Arents (IWT, Belgium), Petra Schulte (Juelich, Germany)
- 13:30 Who is Who? by Pecha Kucha

A representative of every participating network is invited to present its network by Pecha Kucha. Pecha Kucha 20x20 is a simple presentation format where you show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The images advance automatically and you talk along to the images. Why using this format? Because it's fun! Because otherwise we tend to talk too long! Get inspired @ <http://www.pechakucha.org/watch>

Session 2: Identification of potential actions for collaboration; Chair: Inge Arents (IWT)

- 15:00 Presentation from ERA-PLATFORM: Recommendation on collaboration among ERA-NETs; Kees Kwant (RVO, The Netherlands)
- 15:20 Break
- 15:45 Identify and Prioritise

Group discussion to identify potential actions for collaborations.

- Needs to be concrete.

- Needs to be feasible within working programmes.

Prioritisation of a maximum of 5 actions which will be 'FLAGGED'

- 16:15 Choose your FLAG!

You are invited to choose the 'FLAG' which relates to your specific responsibility in your network.

- 16:30 PROS and CONS

Participants are reshuffled in groups, mixing up FLAG preferences. Aim is to collect contra/bottleneck and pro argumentation for the specific collaboration activity, and this in an interactive way.

- 17:30 End of day 1
- 19:00 Social Dinner

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

Session 3: Concretisation of actions for collaboration. Chair: Petra Schulte (Juelich)

- 9:00 Welcome and regrouping; Petra Schulte (Juelich, Germany)
- 9:15 Concretise

Consider PROS and CONS and develop a concrete action plan for your 'FLAG'.

- What can ERA-MBT do?
- What can other ERANETs, JPI's, JTI's do ?
- What can ERANET PLATFORM do ?

- 10:15 Break
- 10:45 Preparation of action plans
- 11:15 Presentation of action plans
- 12:15 Wrapping up
- 12:45 Lunch

RESULTS

The course of the workshop followed the programme mentioned before. After the official opening by the ERA-MBT project coordinator (Steinar Bergseth (NRC)), the workshop organiser, Inge Arents (IWT), explained the background and the intention of the workshop.

She explained that, despite the high number of individual projects and initiatives in the field of (marine) biotechnology, many of them can be unified under the roof of bio-economy. Often, goals and objectives are overlapping such as, building up scientific communities, establishing a higher R&D&I level at enterprises, avoid fragmentation, ...

Moreover, the framework in which these types of initiatives are operating, is changing. New formats (i.e. ERA-NET Cofunds), globalisation, less funding budget from the EC and more time pressure are all factors that affect their way of working. Hence, it is reasonable to search for collaboration opportunities, joint actions, and aligned activities.

This sets the goal of the workshop: i.e. not only to identify collaboration opportunities but also, to develop at least one concrete actions for collaboration.

In session 1, participants introduced themselves, the aim and expectations of the initiative they were representing in a “Pecha Kucha”-presentation. In session first ideas for collaborations/alignment of activities were collected, prioritised, allocated and scrutinised.

On day 2, in session 3, ideas were concretised, further developed and scrutinised again. This resulted in a long list of actions developed in the brain storming, from which 4 big themes were selected:

- 1) Capacity building- Tech Transfer – Knowledge Transfer
- 2) Consultation of stakeholders – strategic input
- 3) Scientific conferences-showcases
- 4) Harmonisation- joint timelines

The actions were concretised and presented at the end of the workshop. They are documented in the following in form of the resulted workshop power point slides.

(Note: For the implementation of the actions are the members of each group self-responsible!)

1)

Results of the workshop Capacity building – Tech Transfer – Knowledge Transfer



Main purpose: bring academics & industry together

- set up a task force (RCN, Era-mbt)
Dec 2015 - Jan 2016
- In cooperation with Cofund Biotech ?
- Short term: identify gaps in training (Embric)
- Long term: Plan a data hack



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2)

Results of the workshop Consultation of Stakeholders – Strategic input



Basic Idea: listen to 'market' and 'how' to organize this

- Presence:
10th of Nov: Brussels
24-26th of Nov: Berlin
- Organize common stakeholder event:
12-13th of April: Utrecht
- Goal:
check individual roadmaps +
way to integrated bio refinery roadmap



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3)

Results of the workshop

Scientific conferences – Showcases



Basic Idea: common status seminars



Task to be planned in future collaboration via Cofund(s)

Opportunity = final conference Era-mbt (end 2017)
 session:

- MBT funded projects
- Marine linked projects in other Eranets
- Marine linked projects on national/regional level

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4)

Results of the workshop

Harmonization – Joint time lines



Basic Idea: Harmonization is necessary for our 'customers'
 To .. Harmonize events and calls (topics) in future (jointly organized ..)



Create tool(s) : info on calls and events planned in eranets 'before' finalized ..
 Key persons in Eranets needed

Next year Platform event: use this information to optimize future planning and start of joint calls in Cofund(s)

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