Columbus project: Optimising impact of research outcome through knowledge transfer

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COLUMBUS is a project financed under the EU's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and its goal is to ensure the effective application of EU-funded science and technology research knowledge output. Through a web of 26 partners and 9 Competence Nodes, the projects has developed a new technique to better understand how to optimise the use of available knowledge in marine and maritime science. The objective is to ensure the innovating transfer of discovered knowledge to those who can use it and thus unlocking the potential of the oceans to create future jobs and economic growth in Europe. The 9 areas on which COLUMBUS is focusing on are Marine and physical resources, fisheries, monitoring and observation, marine environment and futures, maritime transport and logistic, maritime tourism, marine governance and management, marine biological resources and aquaculture. COLUMBUS wants to reach different type of end-users, so as to upgrade the communication of scientific work in marine and maritime sectors.

COLUMBUS' methodology is based on a network of nine full-time node-based Knowledge Transfer Fellow whose role is to carry out Knowledge Transfer. They are the ones identifying knowledge in their node area as well as potential end-users of said knowledge. For every knowledge they seek to optimise and maximize the impact of the output and ensure its application. By the life-time of the project, Knowledge Transfer Fellow should have completed three cycles of Knowledge Transfer. This should prove the effectiveness of the COLUMBUS method to enhance the impact of marine and maritime research outcome.

Our poster for the CommOCEAN OPTIMISING IMPACT session will focus on the Knowledge Transfer methodology and on the first results of the implementation process. Indeed, optimizing the impact of research in marine and maritime sectors is at the very core of the objective of the Knowledge Transfer developed and tested by COLUMBUS as we search to improve the link between research and end users.

As such, the COLUMBUS project can represent an EU-approved way of optimising impact of research outcome on marine and maritime related subjects while sustaining Blue Growth.