

Session: 6798479-1**7019904**

22/10/25 | 11:43

Room: Ballroom B1

LIGHTNING TALK • EN

EurOBIS & EMODnet Biology as two of the driving forces behind marine biodiversity data capacity building within Europe

Presenter

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The European Ocean Biodiversity Information System (EurOBIS) was launched in 2004, as part of the OBIS-network. Its main goal is to centralize the largely scattered biogeographic data on marine species collected by European institutions and to make these data freely available and easily accessible. All data goes through a number of quality control procedures before they are made available online, assuring a minimum level of quality necessary to put the data to good use. Since 2009, the data infrastructure behind EurOBIS was also adopted by the biological lot of the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet Biology), a European Union service for marine in situ marine biodiversity data. EurOBIS is also part of the LifeWatch Species Information Backbone, which is embedded in the Flemish contribution to the LifeWatch European Research Infrastructure Consortium (LW-ERIC).

Within the framework of EMODnet Biology, the Data Management Team has engaged in several training activities, all aimed at increasing the accessibility to and quality of European marine biodiversity data. These activities include in-person and online training courses, regular online meetings ('Data laundry sessions') where several partners of marine European projects can ask questions on the ins and outs of marine data management and receive support on all marine data management related topics. The Data Management Team has also contributes to global online training courses on Ocean Data Management (ODM) and Biological Data Management (BDM), available through the Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) platform, managed under the UNESCO-IODE umbrella. All of these activities contributed to a wider, global availability of high-quality marine biodiversity data that is also available in other biodiversity initiatives through EurOBIS, a dedicated data provider to the overall Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), as well as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).