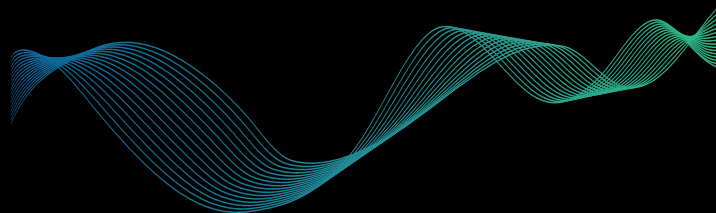


# ERA-NET PREPARATORY ACTION IN MARINE BIOTECHNOLOGY

<http://www.marinebiotech.eu>

MarineBiotech



# The CSA MarineBiotech

## The Project at a Glance

Project acronym:	CSA-M MarineBiotech	Programme acronym:	FP7-KBBE
Start date:	01/10/2011	Programme type:	Seventh Framework Programme
End date:	31/03/2013		
Duration:	18 months		
Project cost:	1.186.437 EURO	Subprogramme area:	Marine biotechnology
Project funding:	999.870 EURO		ERA-NET preparatory action

The Coordination and Support Action in Marine Biotechnology (CSA MarineBiotech), is a collaborative network funded by the European Commission under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme and consisting of 11 partners from 9 countries that support marine biotechnology research and development in Europe.

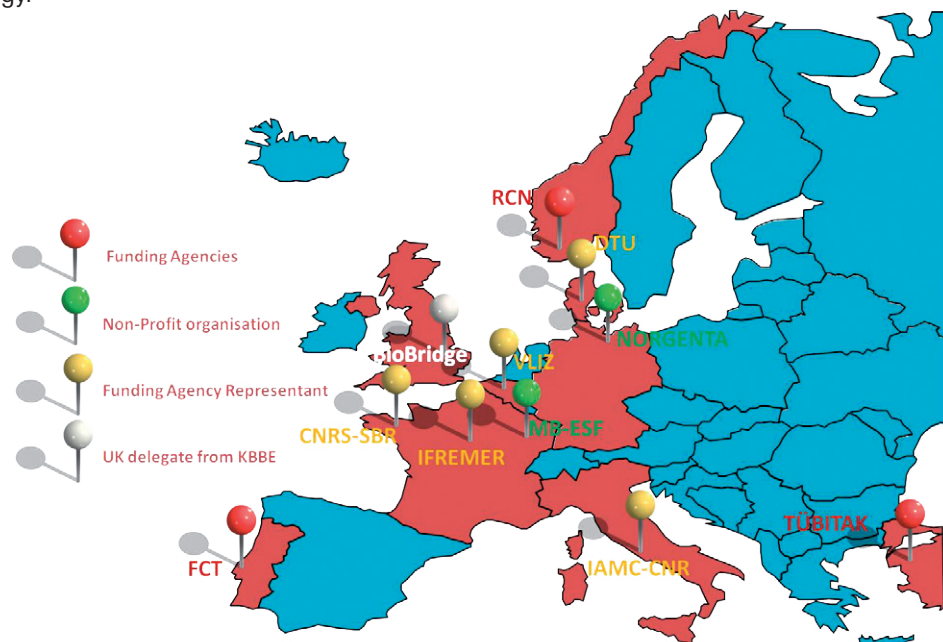
Participant organisation name	Short name	Type	Country
Research Council of Norway COORDINATOR	RCN	PB	Norway
Flanders Marine Institute	VLIZ	RO	Belgium
Norgenta North German Life Science Agency	Norgenta	NPO	Germany
Technical University of Denmark	DTU	RO	Denmark
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Station Biologique de Roscoff	CNRS	RO	France
French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea	IFREMER	RTD	France
Marine Board of the European Science Foundation	MB-ESF	NPO	France
Institute for Coastal Marine Environment	IAMC-CNR	RO	Italy
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia	FCT	PB	Portugal
Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey	TÜBİTAK	PB	Turkey
BioBridge Ltd	BIOBRIDGE	SME	United Kingdom

**Overview of the CSA MarineBiotech partner organisations.**  
*(PB = public body, RO = research organisation, NPO= not-for-profit organisation; SME = Small/Medium-size enterprise)*

## MarineBiotech's Goals

- Prepare the foundation for an ERA-NET in marine biotechnology;
- Mobilise and engage funding agencies and stakeholders;
- Establish a Strategic Forum and a Stakeholder Group;
- Increase the number of funding agencies involved in the partnership committed to develop an ERA-NET in marine biotechnology.

Overview of the CSA MarineBiotech partners and their location. The consortium includes funding agencies, non-profit organisations involved in research funding, research strategy and/or programme managers, beneficiaries delegated by relevant funding agencies and one delegate of the KBBE-NET working group on marine biotechnology.



To reach its goals, MarineBiotech partners worked during an intensive 18 month period (from October 2011 to March 2013) and have successfully:

- Established two communities, of funding agencies and stakeholders active in marine biotechnology, and extended their partnerships;
- Organised information sessions, workshops, a public conference and other project activities;
- Created a dedicated web-site that will become the portal for marine biotechnology research, researchers, funders and interested parties in Europe;
- Provided a better understanding of the marine biotechnology landscape in Europe and beyond, by analyzing research efforts, infrastructures, stakeholders, strategies and programmes, gaps and barriers to cooperation;
- Created newsletters, reports and briefing documents to disseminate information relevant to marine biotechnology RTDI (research, technology development and innovation);
- Sketched the contours of future cooperation between funding agencies in dedicated workshops that set the stage for appropriate cooperation tools, development of joint programmes and pooling of resources for collaborative research;
- Established an expanded group of funding agencies committed to preparing the proposal and project scope and content for an ERA-NET in marine biotechnology.

## MarineBiotech's Consultation Mechanisms

Throughout the CSA MarineBiotech, project partners have worked closely with external stakeholders through two key support groups:

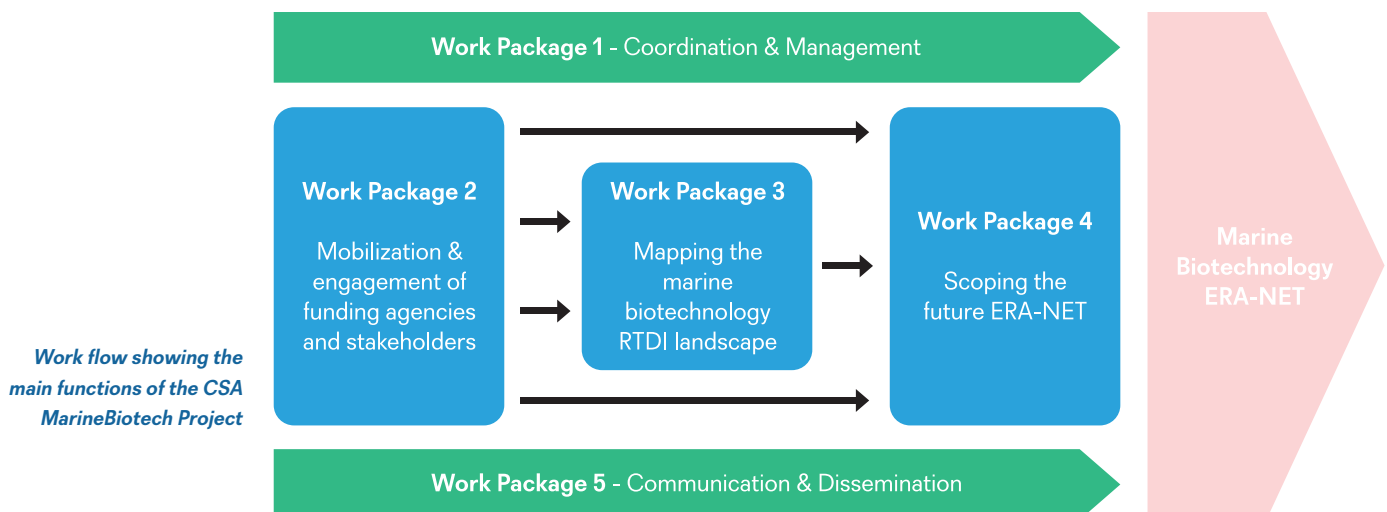
The **MarineBiotech Strategic Forum**, composed of funding agencies from EU Member and Associated States, was set up to:

- Network core policy makers and funders for strategic dialogues;
- Provide important information and insight into scoping and preparing for a future ERA-NET;
- Form the basis of the future ERA-NET consortium.

The **MarineBiotech Stakeholder Group**, composed of researchers, industry representatives, public support and policy communities, and private funding interests, was created to:

- Contribute to the identification of priority topics;
- Help in the development of an achievable approach to an ERA-NET;
- Evolve to become the advisory group for the future ERA-NET, maintaining impact beyond the end of the CSA MarineBiotech.

The Strategic Forum and Stakeholder Group have provided significant support to achieve the goals of the CSA MarineBiotech. They were engaged in dialogue with the project partners regarding the status of European marine biotechnology, issues of concern, RTDI priorities, identification of gaps and the contribution of marine biotechnology to European competitiveness and the Bioeconomy Strategy. These activities have been essential to develop the priorities for the potential ERA-NET in marine biotechnology and to identify themes for future transnational collaboration and funding activities.



# CSA MarineBiotech Workshops and Conference

At the core of the CSA MarineBiotech are a series of networking events for all interested parties, to assist in the mobilisation and engagement of funding agencies and stakeholders, to guide the development of a future ERA-NET and strengthen the marine biotechnology research community in Europe.

## - First CSA MarineBiotech Workshop - 26-27 April 2012, Olhão, Portugal

A first CSA MarineBiotech workshop took place in Olhão (Portugal) on 26-27 April 2012 and was organised by Portugal's funding agency FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia). The first day consisted of presentations on the marine biotechnology landscape in the EU, including the CSA MarineBiotech. The second day introduced the attendees to the two important groups created and supported by the CSA MarineBiotech: the Strategic Forum of funding agencies, intended to collaborate in the evolution of an ERA-NET; and the Stakeholder Group, whose input is important to ensure timeliness, relevance and context of collaborative research activities in marine biotechnology. The workshop concluded with a visit to CCMAR (Centro de Ciências do Mar) at the University of Algarve.

The workshop was successful in enlarging the group of interested funding agencies. Additional exchanges on research priorities and gaps, resource problems and the need to bring complementary expertise together provided important information for the establishment of an ERA-NET in marine biotechnology.

The complete programme, attendee list, presentations and public report are available at <http://www.marinebiotech.eu/workshops>.

## - Second CSA MarineBiotech Workshop - 8-9 October 2012, Hamburg, Germany

The second CSA MarineBiotech workshop was held in Hamburg (Germany) on 8-9 October 2012. The event was organised by Norgenta (North German Life Science Agency), one of the consortium partners. During the workshop, 57 industry, academic, policy and funding agency representatives debated the role and future of marine biotechnology in Europe, contributed to plans for the final public conference of the CSA MarineBiotech (11-12 March 2013, Brussels), and considered the Work Packages needed in a proposal for a European Research Area Network in Marine Biotechnology (ERA-NET MarineBiotech or ERA-MBT).



Participants  
of the first  
CSA Marine-  
Biotech  
workshop  
(Olhão, 26-27  
April 2012)

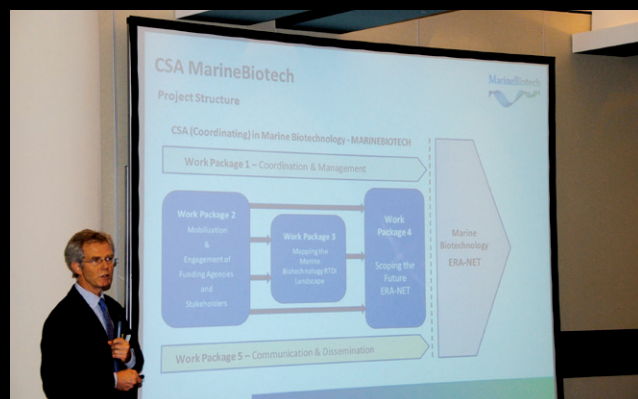
During the workshop, interested funding agencies met to form an ERA-NET Working Group, to plan the structure of a potential ERA-NET project and prepare for a project proposal. The Research Council of Norway, represented by Dr Steinar Bergseth was elected coordinator for the prospective ERA-NET and leader for the proposal activity. The election of the Coordinator was followed by a discussion concerning the content of the ERA-NET, its structure (Work Packages) and future activities. The complete programme, attendee list, presentations and public report are available at <http://www.marinebiotech.eu/workshops>.

### - Final CSA MarineBiotech Conference - 11-12 March 2013, Brussels, Belgium

The Final CSA MarineBiotech Conference (Brussels, 11-12 March 2013) brought together 150 scientists, industry representatives, policy makers, advisors and other key stakeholders involved or interested in marine biotechnology research and development in Europe.

At the end of one major coordination effort and moving towards the next one, the conference offered an excellent opportunity to highlight the main outcomes of the CSA activities and to look forward to a future ERA-NET in Marine Biotechnology. The conference provided further insights into European marine biotechnology research, industrial developments, policy and coordination initiatives; simultaneously illustrating the progress made to date in terms of European capacity to engage in developing marine biotechnology. The presentations and discussions were instrumental in informing future policy and coordination efforts to ensure efficient and effective progress towards delivering marine biotechnology's contributions to the societal Grand Challenges in areas such as food, energy, health, environment and industrial development.

**Attendees of the Final CSA MarineBiotech Conference, Academy Palace, Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (Brussels, 11-12 March 2013)**



**Participants of the second CSA MarineBiotech workshop (Hamburg, 8-9 October 2012)**



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In conclusion, this event will guide the future Marine Biotech ERA-NET, drive national, regional and pan-European science policy initiatives and developments, and improve coherence between them. It contributed valuable input for the ERA-NET to address major challenges such as capturing new opportunities, bridging remaining gaps and eliminating barriers to progress. It will also stimulate the transfer of experiences between countries and regions, and enable pan-European coordination of RTDI and science policy.

The complete conference programme and documents (presentations, abstract book, report, etc.) are available at <http://www.marinebiotech.eu/conference>.



# Towards a European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) in Marine Biotechnology

From the outset, one of the main goals of the CSA MarineBiotech has been to prepare the foundation for an ERA-NET on marine biotechnology (ERA-MBT). This has been achieved by:

- Expanding the number of committed eligible partners (mainly funding agencies) to develop a broad ERA-MBT Consortium;
- Gain a better understanding of the European and Global marine biotechnology research and policy landscape;
- Obtain advice from key stakeholders to guide the development of a well positioned ERA-MBT.

During the CSA MarineBiotech workshops, following intensive discussions, the stakeholders formulated five high level recommendations to be taken into account when developing and implementing an ERA-NET in the area of marine biotechnology:

- 1) Consolidate the CSA Stakeholder Group (SG) into an ERA-MBT Stakeholder Platform and ensure active participation of stakeholders in the ERA-MBT activities;
- 2) Take an industry-academic collaborative approach, ensuring appropriate industry involvement in the ERA-MBT activities and funding opportunities;
- 3) Drastically increase efforts to map and better understand the European marine biotechnology landscape;
- 4) Ensure that a central component of the ERA-MBT (and its budget) is dedicated to communication, outreach and providing access to relevant information to mobilise a broad European marine biotech community;
- 5) Organise a series of thematic research workshops and support training activities.

On July 10<sup>th</sup> 2012, as part of its final call for projects under its Seventh Framework Programme, the European Commission published an invitation for proposals to establish a marine biotechnology ERA-NET. Since this date, a growing number of funding organisations and eligible organisations representing funding agencies or managing research programmes have been working hard to submit a proposal, obtain funding and implement an ERA-MBT which is likely to start late 2013 or early 2014, if approved for funding. The main overarching aims of the envisaged ERA-MBT are to:

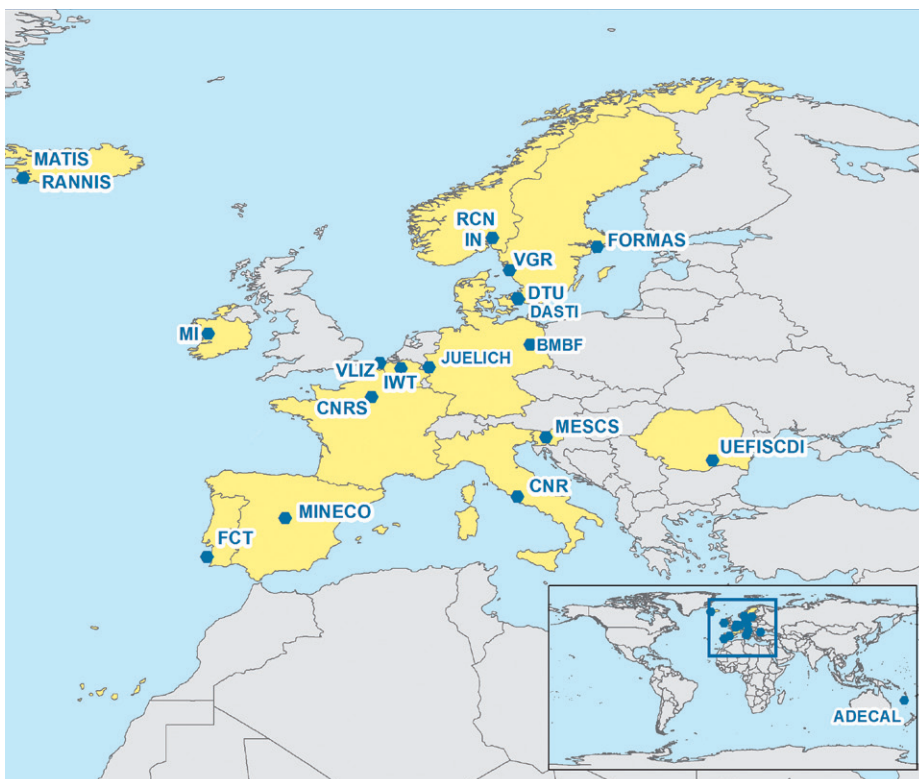
- Develop cooperation tools and pool resources to undertake joint funding of transnational projects for collaborative research at European scale and further increase the level of coordination between European research funding bodies;
- Identify and support activities which will be most effective, where the return on investment does not have to be in monetary terms;
- Take into account specific marine biotech research/knowledge needs of other actors, platforms and initiatives and, where relevant and possible, satisfy those needs;

- Establish interactions with related ERA-NETs, European Technology Platforms (ETPs) and other initiatives across the marine and other relevant sectors; avoid duplication and ensure complementarities with relevant on-going and new efforts;
- Identify hurdles and stimulate industrial uptake and developments from marine biotechnology research;
- Take into account global trends and identify areas where Europe could benefit from collaborating with international initiatives or partners;
- Develop a European MarineBiotech Communication Strategy to communicate the potential of marine biotechnology to contribute to our intellectual, social and economic well-being. This includes optimising the functionality and maximising the use of the European Marine Biotechnology portal [www.marinebiotech.eu](http://www.marinebiotech.eu).

Overview and location of the consortium partners of the envisaged ERA-NET on marine biotechnology (ERA-MBT).

Partners are:

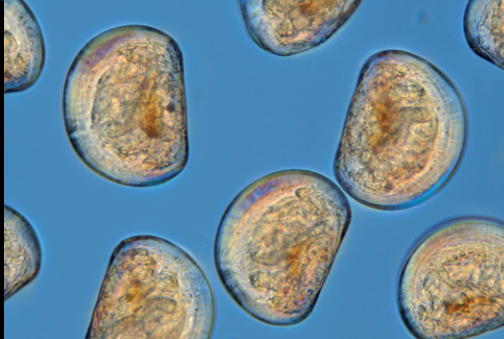
Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway (Coordinator); Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT), Belgium; Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (DASTI), Denmark; Executive Unit for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI), Romania; Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Belgium; Icelandic Food and Biotech R&D Institute (MATIS), Iceland; Innovation Norway (IN), Norway; Jülich Research Centre GmbH (JUELICH), Germany; Marine Institute (MI), Ireland; Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MESCS), Slovenia; National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), France; National Research Council (CNR), Italy; New Caledonia Economic Development Agency (ADECAL), New Caledonia; Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal; Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Denmark; The Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS), Iceland; The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS), Sweden; Västra Götalandsregionen (VGR), Sweden; Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany



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