**Open Call Collection OC-2015-2**

**Proposal Reference OC-2015-2-20171**

**Title:** OCEAN GOVERNANCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY - CHALLENGES, OPTIONS AND THE ROLE OF SCIENCE

**Acronym:** OceanGov

**Summary**

The subject of governance of oceanic systems and coastlines is moving into the center of European strategic and sustainability interests. Yet, it suffers from a high degree of fragmentation and the lack of a cross-scalar approach to addressing prevailing policy shortcomings. The proposed COST Action on “Ocean Governance for Sustainability - Challenges, Options and the Role of Science” comprises a unique, transdisciplinary network of 58 proposers with regional and international outreach. The network aims to establish an integrative vision, and a series of approaches that informs research and future policy directions on crosscutting sustainability-driven issues related to the fragmented governance framework of oceans, seas and coastlines within regional waters, and the open ocean in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The network differs from thematic predecessors in two distinct ways: While attending to the multiple flows and connectivities between varied marine systems together with land- and sea-based interfaces that are biologically, culturally, politically and socio-economically entwined, it first renders equal importance to strengthening regional and interdisciplinary dialogue, producing scientific output, crosscutting the natural and social sciences. Synergistic issue-driven working groups will be created at a time when Europe is considering its role in global ocean governance, and will continue to evolve well after the COST Action ends. Second, the network creates a distinct multi-scalar and cross-sectoral platform for institutional partners across academia, policymaking and civil society, presenting inclusive spaces for transdisciplinary dialogue, capacity development and the advancement of practical toolkits that attend to science-policy gaps inherent within integrated ocean and coastal governance.

**Key Expertise needed for evaluation**

Social and economic geography
Social, cultural and economic geography, international trade
Earth and related Environmental sciences
Oceanography (other)
Economics and business
Sustainability

**Keywords**

Integrated ocean and coastal governance
Land-sea interactions
Marine spatial planning
Food security and fisheries
1. **S&T EXCELLENCE**

1.1. **Challenge**

1.1.1. **Description of the Challenge (Main Aim)**

Governing our oceanic systems, seas, coastlines and marine resources sustainably, and through a multi-scalar and cross-sectoral approach remains one of the key environmental and development challenges of the 21st century. The proposed COST Action initiative, entitled “Ocean Governance for Sustainability - Challenges, Options and the Role of Science” (or the OceanGov Network), was created to address the urgent need for an integrated and interactive approach to managing Europe’s marine and coastal spaces. In particular, it addresses the pressing question of how to re-address institutional fragmentation by strengthening a regionally integrated perspective on sustainability challenges which was previously interpreted through an explicitly local or global lens.

Diverse coalitions of regional and global actors argue that the prevailing governance framework, including its instruments and mechanisms, is insufficient to ensure the sustainable use of marine resources, and to safeguard the global commons for human wellbeing and intergenerational equity (Mann Borgese, 1999; Ekstrom et al., 2009). To date, the international ocean governance system is based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). However, UNCLOS, as an overarching legal framework, is insufficient to regulate sustainability issues that have been less visible or pertinent 30 years ago, such as marine litter and ocean acidification.

Furthermore, approaches to integrated marine and coastal governance mark a relatively recent shift in policy discourse. Whilst substantially more knowledge and experience in the governance of land-based/terrestrial socio-environmental systems have been amassed over centuries, the regulation of marine and coastal systems - combined with related anthropogenic activity - remains a more recent phenomenon. To this end, there is much debate among scientific and policy circles on effective policy mixes and regulatory instruments that facilitate integrated forms of multi-scalar and cross-sectoral governance across ecologically diverse marine spaces.

Therefore, in order to safeguard and achieve the sustainable use of ocean spaces and coastlines, future ocean governance frameworks are faced with a two-directional challenge. The first is to integrate a range of crosscutting local, regional and global concerns, often associated with unsustainable production and consumption practices, an increasing world population in the face of planetary resource boundaries, the weakening resilience of natural ecosystems, combined with anthropogenic climate change and variability. The second challenge rests on how to address the complexity of an already overburdened and fragmented international ocean governance system, especially with emerging developments such as deep-sea mining, and more remote and environmentally sensitive areas such as the Arctic being accessed for new activities.

Concomitantly, there exists great potential to transform the “blue wealth” of seas, oceans and coastlines into a long-lasting asset bearing environmental, socio-cultural and economic benefit. Moreover, with the surge of political interest and international funding directed at the Green Economy, the possibilities of (re)vitalising the Blue Economy within this rubric are yet to be more comprehensively explored and integrated into the international governance architecture.
1.1.2. Relevance and Timeliness

At a regional level, Europe is witnessing a shift towards a transformative policy approach in the way our oceans, seas and coastlines are managed. To enable the flourishing of a Blue Economy while protecting natural resources and safeguarding sustainable livelihoods, a more inclusive, nuanced and context-specific governance approach of oceans and coasts is necessary (Commission Implementation Decision 2014/1447; COM, 2012/494 final; COM, 2014/86 final; Gambert, 2015). Consequently, the European Commission has embarked on a consultative process to consider how best to strengthen policy coherence and comprehensiveness on improving its marine international governance framework (European Commission, 2015). Among these are the more recent shifts towards a new marine spatial planning approach (Council Directive 2014/89/EU) and the Marine Knowledge 2020 initiative (European Union Maritime Affairs, 2012).

With an ever-expanding knowledge base, comes an urgent need to inform policy-led initiatives and broader political processes through integrative governance research, by bringing together diverse forms of expertise on land, coastal and oceanic sustainability challenges that span the local, national, regional and global levels. At the same time, a multidimensional thematic approach, that integrates interdisciplinary informed multi-level governance insights and approaches, is needed in order to bridge the potentially widening science-policy gap – particularly in the context of a rapidly transforming post-2015 Development Agenda and other international policy shifts.

2015 marks a crucial year for both international development and the global negotiations on climate action. The universal set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), combined by ongoing dialogues during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), have revitalised debates ranging from the primacy of Blue Carbon and the sustainable use of marine biodiversity in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Programme, to the development of international exploitation rules for deep-sea minerals within the aegis of the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

A challenge to all these regional and global discussions is the balance between global and trans-regional perspectives, as well as local-level governance capacities for their implementation. Despite the existence of excellent marine science in Europe, scientific organisation and expertise representation on oceanic and coastal governance remains low. This Action will therefore bring together interdisciplinary teams of marine and coastal expertise from social, economic, legal and natural sciences. The network will initiate participatory dialogue with policy-making and civil society actors, providing a transdisciplinary platform - beyond academia - improving the knowledge base and strengthening science-practice networks which shape ocean and coastal governance for sustainability in Europe and beyond.

1.2. Objectives

1.2.1. Research Coordination Objectives

The thematically broad challenges illustrated in 1.1.1 provide the impetus for creating the OceanGov Network. This will act as a regional node, bringing together related expertise to support the rapidly growing and transforming arena of integrated ocean and coastal governance. Such a network necessitates not only a geographically diverse network of partners and stakeholders. It also warrants a network that is immensely inter- and transdisciplinary, addressing a range of pressing sustainability-related issues and their emergent socio-economic and political dynamics within Europe.
This unique configuration of European research and policy-driven partners come together in posing an overarching question that guides and integrates the work of the network: **What multi-scalar and cross-sectoral approaches, replete with unifying concepts and transdisciplinary perspectives, are needed to inform a cohesive governance architecture, equipped to address diverse sustainability challenges characteristic to Europe’s marine, coastal and land-based socio-ecological systems?**

In its entirety, the proposed COST Action will: a) assess priority issues that affect the governance of oceans and coastlines; b) map and analyse the current institutional governance architecture in its fragmented and sustainability-challenged form; and c) develop governance options to support sustainability in ocean related decision-making.

The OceanGov Network: Approaches and Dimensions:

![Figure 1: Analytical framework to assess key themes in ocean governance for sustainability](image)

**Figure 1:** Analytical framework to assess key themes in ocean governance for sustainability
The OceanGov Network comprises 6 interdisciplinary and methodologically crosscutting Working Groups (WGs), with a network coordination office (CO).

CO 0: Network Coordination
WG 1: Land-Sea Interactions
WG 2: Area-based Management (ABM)
WG 3: Seabed Resource Management (SRM)
WG 4: Nutrition Security and Food Systems (NSFS)
WG 5: Ocean Climate and Acidification (OCA)
WG 6: Fisheries Governance

This COST Action will adopt a two-pronged approach. First, in order to create policy congruence, WGs will set out to systematically collect, document and discuss the causes and consequences of current transformations in ocean governance across three dimensions of sustainability (social, economic, ecological), while combining a multi-scalar perspective crosscutting the local, national, regional and global.

The following steps will be taken to ensure the network’s success in relation to fulfilling its mission for transdisciplinary dialogue, research and policy-driven outcomes.

The six WGs will collectively:
(i) Attend to each of the four scales: the local, national, regional and global. In addition, each institutional partner within the WGs will be assigned to a primary scalar level (i.e. local, national, regional or global) at which they will work in order to maintain creative interdependencies within and across WGs;
(ii) Address all three sustainability challenges: environmental, social and economic;
(iii) Identify scientific synergies and crosscutting thematic interests from the onset of the network initiative, ensuring that some WGs remain more challenge-oriented, while others retain a more approach-focused alignment.

Within the COST Action, the distribution of tasks within each of the 6 WGs will be undertaken by established subject specialists who collectively recruit a network of inter- and transdisciplinary partners, based on geographic diversity and inclusiveness with regard to gender, age and thematic interests. Close attention will be paid to the mix of theoretical researchers, together with those who work on policy-oriented outcomes and strategies for implementation. This configuration is expected to not only trigger cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral dialogue but will also be tailored to the advancing of new synergetic research frontiers within the broad scope of ocean and coastal governance – cross-cutting fields such as mobility, borderscapes and the politics of (im)migration, food security and public health, aquaculture, international shipping and trade, energy and mining, coastal and marine tourism.

The Action will provide a series of collaboratively tailored and coordinated activities entailing:

1) **Inter- and transdisciplinary Scientific Events:** one international kick-off Ocean Governance Conference as opening event of the COST Action to create a solid basis for science-based discussion and later advice and knowledge sharing; one mid-term Symposium assuring the interdisciplinary and continuous discussion within the network on six areas of governance (WG foci), four scale-levels (local, national, regional, global) and through the lens of all three sustainability challenges (social, economic, ecological); three Transdisciplinary Workshops with policymakers and other stakeholders to assure cross-sectoral debate; one final ‘Science-meets-Policy’ Conference in Brussels;
2) **Joint Peer-reviewed Publications**: 14 scientific publications, and 7 EU Policy Briefs;
3) **One Public Exhibition** on the occasion of European Maritime Day or the European Commission’s Green Week and, potentially, in the European Parliament, Brussels;
4) **Science Dissemination**: 16 quarterly digital newsletters; a dedicated network website and information portal containing research and policy outcomes to be made publicly available. The portal will also document activities to a wider stakeholder base comprising governmental and intergovernmental organisations, business entities, third sector and other civil society organisations.

### 1.2.2. Capacity-building Objectives

1) **Three Training Schools** for early career researchers and policymakers from Europe in cooperation with the COST Action partners and their wider network bases. The training modules developed for these will be shared in the network and consciously developed further by working group members into regular university teaching material – thus assuring further dissemination after the networks funded existence;
2) **Gender- and Parenthood-aware Mentoring Programme**: a three-pillared mentoring programme is organised by the Action coordination office, offering each early career investigator in the network one senior mentor for four years, three group-mentoring events (on work-life-balanced career planning) attached to the three Training Schools, as well as regular meeting spaces (attached to other Action events) for peer-mentoring and –exchange;
3) **11 Intra-network Staff Exchanges**, with particular emphasis on early career investigators;
4) **Stakeholder Outreach Actions**: (a) Regular dialogue exchanges between the Management Committee of the COST Action with key actors within the European ocean governance landscape, including those from the European Commission, Parliament and Member States as well as NGOs and the private sector, to reflect priority challenges in ocean governance; (b) a public exhibition in Brussels, together with a dialogue session at the European Parliament.

### 1.3. Progress Beyond the State-of-the-Art and Innovation Potential

#### 1.3.1. Description of the State-of-the-Art

Theories of environmental governance often deal with broader questions of institutional change as well as the emergence of new mechanisms and institutions that transcend traditional forms of state and treaty-based regimes, while accounting for the sheer diversity of non-state actors in the arena of global, regional, national and local environmental politics. Furthermore, established governance frameworks tend to focus on macro questions of institutional fit, interplay and scale witnessed across diverse cross-sectoral and multi-scalar systems, while engaging with questions of systemic segmentation and fragmentation of the overall governance system (Biermann and Pattberg, 2008, Vatn and Vedeld, 2012).

Within the context of social science-based marine governance, two interrelated thematic currents are often raised. The first concerns the question of scale and intersectionality, particularly in terms of how regional approaches could be conceptualised and empirically studied. The second relates to the sheer diversity of sustainability-driven challenges and “wicked problems” crosscutting a range of ecological processes and anthropogenic activities, from resource extraction and over-exploitation, to pollution, climate change and ocean acidification. While scholarship that engages with regional fracturedness and the diversity of ocean and coastal governance systems is fast emerging (cf. Gambert, 2015), there exists a lacuna with regard to how theoretical and evidence-based knowledge from inter- and transdisciplinary approaches can effectively inform multi-scalar and cross-sectoral policy implementation.
1.3.2. Progress Beyond the State-of-the-Art

A vast corpus of theoretical work within socio-environmental governance literature(s) has focused on more foundational questions on how to understand institutional and broader trajectories of societal change, uncertainty, risk and resilience. The turn towards seeing change through an ever-evolving adaptive lens – or put simply, governance as adaptation and as an adaptive process – has gained widespread appeal in the past, amongst others in Social-Ecological System thinking (cf. Folke et al., 2005; Olsson et al., 2006). Having been in part embedded in institutional theory, governance-as-adaptation thinking has made inroads to advancing governance frameworks through its systematic integration of formal and informal institutions within broader governance processes and politics. While such conceptual dualisms (i.e. formal/informal) have often been ardently contested among social scientists in particular, within the context of adaptive governance, broader questions of social change, political transformation, and the interplay of polycentric power relations are increasingly regarded as decisive in the everyday (and multi-scalar) governance of resources.

While considering the strengths and limitations of diverse approaches to governance – particularly in the way of their scalar gaps and boundaries – the OceanGov Network will develop a multi-scalar marine and coastal governance concept. In doing so, it draws inspiration from the emerging field of Evolutionary Governance Theory (EGT) (Beunen et al., 2015), a so far purely terrestrial debate, as well as from the Interactive Governance Approach (Kooiman et al., 2008) developed in the fisheries and coastal management sector. EGT draws on diverse conceptual currents, linking Luhmanian Systems thinking and Post-Structuralism, with New Institutionalism and social constructivist inspired Development Studies, with the aim to feed insights from these discussions into real-life governance approaches and mechanisms. Conscious space for the everyday contestations and adaptations of governance is given, taking into account transformational change processes (Avelino and Wittmayer, 2014). The Interactive Governance Approach here gives emphasis to the interplay of diverse actors and governance structures as communicative, and as such, socially constitutive processes. Both discussions have understood the importance of linking multi-scalar and cross-sectoral governance debates to processes of multiple actor-driven contestation and broader political dynamics, including symbolic, communicative and discursive spheres of action. Yet, while EGT is a so far terrestrial and strongly conceptual debate, Interactive Governance – with its respective conceptual basis – has been applied mainly to fisheries. The OceanGov Network therefore draws on the strengths of both approaches with the clear aim to take the next step – across the terrestrial-marine divide and into the sphere of conceptually sound praxis-oriented ocean governance-for-sustainability debates.

1.3.3. Innovation in Tackling the Challenge

The foreseen innovation potential lies in three concrete areas situated within the Action network’s key objectives:

a) The forging of a new pan-European ocean governance network that will sustain beyond the duration of the project and its funding cycle: apart from the geographically, theoretically and methodologically fractured nature of the study of ocean governance, broader policy debates on how to more meaningfully integrate geopolitics into this frame remains an open question. In part, the challenge lies in the spatial disconnectedness with regard to the ways in which marine spaces, territories, boundaries and borders have been researched, with little promise for integrated policy outcomes. Thus, the primary innovation capability - apart from its scientific impetus - can be found in how the network itself has
been assembled, combining partners and wider stakeholder groups that work on significant marine zones (across scales) encompassing the Mediterranean, the Baltic coastline, the North Sea, and the Black Sea, among other marine zones both in and beyond Europe.

b) The advancement of **inter- and transdisciplinary concepts and methodologies** for research, with particular attention paid to steering policy-relevant governance pathways: ocean and coastal governance research in the past has suffered from a lack of conceptual integration with geopolitical and sustainability related considerations, particularly in the context of power and how institutions and regulatory mechanisms intersect within pressing regional issues such as, transnational migration and human security, the management of regional seas and coastal zones, and international cooperation among other contemporary challenges.

c) **Training module development**: didactical methods on the study of governance have gained increased interest over the years, for example the International Ocean Institute’s training programmes. Arguably however, contemporary teaching and training curricula face the challenge of harmonising regional ocean policies with the international governance framework. Tailor-made modules will be developed for (and during) the three Training Schools, with a view to integrating critical perspectives, core concepts and methods in studying ocean management and governance from a distinctly European angle.

1.4. **Added Value of Networking**

1.4.1. **In Relation to the Challenge**

The formation of the first European-wide network on integrated ocean and coastal governance aptly attends to the challenge of research and policy fracturedness by combining a multi-scalar perspective with a transdisciplinary lens. OceanGov Network partners consider this scheme to be the most conducive for the forging of a collaborative approach, as it provides a broad range of network features and activities that not only facilitate scientific meetings and written output, but also create the space for dialogue with practitioners and stakeholders in ocean management and the co-development of new insights into relevant issues in ocean sustainability.

Furthermore, it raises public awareness and supports interaction and broader civil society engagement through public exhibitions and outreach initiatives. A networking platform such as this offers an inclusive space that not only connects the OceanGov Network and its activities with policy nodes crosscutting local, national, regional and global scales, and across a variety of thematic areas. But it also ensures how empirically-driven and policy-relevant findings can be communicated to significant state, private sector and civil society stakeholders in a timely and efficient manner through its networking tools.

Additionally, it pools together diverse sub-disciplines and core forms of expertise crosscutting the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainability challenges. These interdisciplinary mixes include oceanography, international law, institutional economics and sociology, political sciences, legal geography and anthropology among other areas for developing training content. Ultimately, a configuration such as this sets the trajectory for the continuation of an interdisciplinary dialogue and a common research agenda among marine and sustainability scholars and policymakers through the mapping of synergetic topic areas and foci that only a network of this scale can establish.
1.4.2. In Relation to Existing Efforts at European and/or International Level

The proposed establishment of a transdisciplinary network on ocean and coastal governance is the first of its kind at the European level. A scientific network that complements the vision and work of the proposed COST Challenge is the Earth System Governance’s (ESG) Taskforce on Ocean Governance. As a decade long initiative starting from 2009, conceptually it remains similar to the orientation of the OceanGov Network with regard to its empirical focus on the interconnectedness between waters, oceans, coastlines and atmospheric systems. While the Taskforce combines a distinctively long-term historic perspective of ocean governance that predates the UNCLOS, the uniqueness of the OceanGov Network lies in its strategically regional European focus through which the sustainability challenges outlined previously will be studied. Moreover, the OceanGov Network will complement the work of the ESG Taskforce through its institutional capacity development and a dedicated undertaking to address the science-policy-implementation divide through planned dialogues and participatory events over the coming years.

Moreover, the OceanGov Network will advance and feed in multi-scalar and cross-sectoral approaches and conceptual tools while offering a regional perspective to the efforts of international institutions, regional consortiums, business coalitions and research initiatives such as: International Seabed Authority, Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), the African Centre for Capacity-Building in Ocean Governance (AfriCOG), International Business Alliance for Corporate Ocean Responsibility/the World Ocean Council among others.

What’s more, apart from the value derived from networking, tailored module development aims to feed into existing capacity development and training initiatives on land-sea based challenges that are starting to gain increased attention, for example the collaborative UNEP-Open University of the Netherlands’ Massive Open Online Course on the governance of marine litter. It is through the development and diffusion of these teaching modules that the multi-scalar and cross-sectoral ocean governance debate for sustainability of the OceanGov Network will live on (shape the minds of future decision-makers) after the end of the Action itself.

2.1. Expected Impact

2.1.1. Short-term and Long-term Scientific, Technological, and/or Socioeconomic Impacts

The dissemination and uptake of research findings and other deliverables/outcomes from the networking initiatives are integral to the success of the Action. Key research and policy-oriented outputs will be communicated directly to relevant stakeholders and made available on the OceanGov Network website. For this, a collaboratively appointed Stakeholder Relations Coordinator (and member of the Management Committee) will, based on the input of the Working Groups, develop and oversee implementation of a common outreach and dissemination plan.

SHORT-TERM IMPACT

(a) Science and Technology
- Advancing multi-scalar scientific approaches to ocean and coastal governance with regard to social, economic and ecological sustainability;
- Deriving integrative concepts and tools for policy analysis;
- The creation of inter- and transdisciplinary research-policy clusters to nurture local and regional research acumen within partner institutions.

(b) Socio-economic Impact
- Advancement of an inter- and transdisciplinary knowledge base and evidence-led approaches to the implementation of regional governance frameworks;
Developing capacities on inclusive trans multi-scalar governance practices for early career researchers and policymakers;
- Strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation between state and non-state actors with regard to strategies that revitalise the Blue Economy.

LONG-TERM IMPACT
(a) Science and Technology
- Establishing an internationally recognised network for research, publishing and policy advice on ocean and coastal governance;
- Sustaining a generation of early career researchers and young policy-makers familiar with approaches to integrated and multi-scalar ocean and coastal governance.

(b) Socio-economic impact
- Strengthening a repository of robust policies and transformative pathways that promote cross border and multi-scalar cooperation on sustainability and integrated ocean and coastal governance themes.

2.2. Measures to Maximise Impact

2.2.1. Plan for Involving the Most Relevant Stakeholders

The relevant stakeholders have been categorised into 5 key groups, with examples that are provided:

Group 1: Regional, national and local authorities with a European regional focus, particularly EU policymakers and EU science bodies including the European Commissions Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries;

Group 2: Key transnational scientific organisations, coalitions and international research platforms, for example the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Council for Science (ICSU), and the Earth Systems Governance (ESG) network;

Group 3: International Organisations including secretariats of Conventions such as Regional Seas Conventions, together with related UN bodies;

Group 4: Civil society organisations including business and professional groups both regional and transcontinental, for example the World Ocean Council and Ocean Energy Europe;

Group 5: International science media networks with regional and international reach.

During the OceanGov Network kick-off meeting, a broad range of relevant institutional stakeholders will be mapped in ways that crosscut the thematic areas of all 6 WGs. The local, national, regional and international landscape of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders will be charted in an inventory made available to all OceanGov Network partners, in order to put together a concerted Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Strategy (see 2.2.2). Stakeholders interested in the activities of the OceanGov Network will be regularly updated through its quarterly digital newsletter, website and policy briefs. Stakeholders may also choose to attend the two international Action Conferences, the mid-term Symposium, working-level Transdisciplinary Workshops and the Public Exhibition and Policy Dialogue in Brussels.

2.2.2. Dissemination and/or Exploitation Plan

The OceanGov Network’s public Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Strategy goes beyond the Action’s immediate scientific and networking activities and core deliverables. These will include:
2.3. Potential for Innovation versus Risk Level

2.3.1. Potential for Scientific, Technological and/or Socioeconomic Innovation Breakthroughs

The OceanGov Network’s innovation outcomes will primarily comprise scientific findings and policy insights. Therefore, no empirical experimental work is foreseen. The risks however, that are associated with network innovation, largely comprise relational aspects between network partners, stakeholders and wider participants. The countervailing measures built into the network structure are two-fold. First, the COST Action is guided by clear coordinated leaders through the Management Committee (MC), the Action Chair and Vice-Chair. Second, the OceanGov initiative itself is a grown network and its interaction and output derives from partners bringing their own ownership into the Action. Given the decentralised and inclusive mode of production within and between WGs, the network strives to reduce the risks of two organisational risks: hierarchies on the one hand, leading to shortcomings such as partner disengagement, and the lack of groundedness and diffuse responsibility on the other.

3.1. Description of the Work Plan

3.1.1. Description of Working Groups

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<tr>
<th>WORK GROUPS</th>
<th>DELIVERABLES</th>
<th>MILESTONES</th>
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<tr>
<td>O: Network Coordination</td>
<td>D1. Kick-off International Ocean Governance Conference (IC1)</td>
<td>M1. Inter- &amp; transdisciplinary team formation (incl. expert database development) &amp; Management Committee Organisation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>D2. 8 Management Committee Meetings (alternating in person / by teleconferencing)</td>
<td>M2. Overseeing WG implementation &amp; scientific debate</td>
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<td>D3. 16 quarterly newsletters</td>
<td>M3. Ongoing event organisation (administration)</td>
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<td>D5. Contribution to Mid-term Symposium (MS)</td>
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<td>D6. 2 Joint peer-reviewed publications</td>
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<td>D7. Public photo exhibition &amp; Contribution to ‘Science-meets-Policy’ Con-</td>
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| WG 1: Land-Sea Interactions | M1. WG 1 Team formation & agenda-setting  
D1. Contribution to kick-off Ocean Governance Conference (IC1)  
D2. Transdisciplinary workshop with policymakers (with WG3) – on Evolutionary Governance  
D3. Panel at Mid-term Symposium (MS)  
D4. EU Policy Brief  
D5. Training School for early career researchers (with WG6)  
D6. 2 Joint peer-reviewed publications  
D7. Contribution to public photo exhibition in Brussels  
M7. EU Policy Dialogue & Stakeholder Engagement |
|---|---|---|
| **Exploration of interdependencies of land and sea as a precondition for socially, economically and ecologically sustainable pathways.**  
**Scale level: Local & National** | M1. WG 1 Team formation & agenda-setting  
D1. Contribution to kick-off Ocean Governance Conference (IC1)  
D2. Transdisciplinary workshop with policymakers (with WG3) – on Evolutionary Governance  
D3. Panel at Mid-term Symposium (MS)  
D4. EU Policy Brief  
D5. Training School for early career researchers (with WG6)  
D6. 2 Joint peer-reviewed publications  
D7. Contribution to public photo exhibition in Brussels  
M7. EU Policy Dialogue & Stakeholder Engagement |
| **WG 2: Area-based Management** | M1. WG 2 team formation & agenda-setting  
M2. Continuous scientific Exchange & Synergy Creation (4yrs.)  
M3. Early Career Mentoring  
M4. Agenda-setting for international Ocean Governance Conference (IC1)  
M5. Training module development for Training School  
M6. 2 Inter-network Staff Exchanges  
M7. Panel organisation for mid-term Symposium (MS)  
M8. Contribution to ongoing EU Policy Dialogue & Stakeholder Engagement  
M9. WG-presentation for final ‘Science-meets-Policy’ conference (IC2) | **Analysis of governance architecture, and exploration of options for better integration and cross-sectoral harmonisation; systematic analysis of emerging patterns of ocean uses with impacts.**  
**Scale level: Regional & Global** |
### WG 3: Seabed Resource Management

| M9. Organisation of final ‘Science meets Policy’ conference (IC2) |
| D1. Contribution to kick-off Ocean Governance Conference (IC1) |
| D2. Transdisciplinary workshop with policymakers (with WG1) |
| D3. Panel at mid-term Symposium (MS) |
| D4. EU Policy Brief |
| D5. Training School for early career researchers (with WG4) |
| D6. 2 Joint peer-reviewed publications |
| D7. Contribution to public photo exhibition in Brussels |
| D8. Contribution to ‘Science-meets-Policy’ Conference in Brussels (IC2) |

**Analysis of regulatory institutions in seabed resource mgt.; charting sustainable pathways for seabed resource use; Documentation of best practices of seabed mining and bioprospecting regulations.**

**Scale level:** National & Global

### WG 4: Nutrition Security and Food Systems

| M9. Organisation of final ‘Science meets Policy’ conference (IC2) |
| D1. Contribution to kick-off Ocean Governance Conference (IC1) |
| D2. Transdisciplinary workshop with policymakers (with WG2) – on Interactive Governance |
| D3. Organisation of mid-term Symposium (MS) – in conjunction with MARE conference |
| D4. EU Policy Brief |
| D5. Training School for early career researchers (with WG3) |
| D6. 2 Joint peer-reviewed publications |
| D7. Contribution to public photo exhibition in Brussels |
| D8. Contribution to ‘Science-meets-Policy’ Conference in Brussels (IC2) |

**Evaluation of current and predicted food needs from marine systems; Estimation of institutional obstacles to increasing food security and safety, and multi-scalar opportunities for improving availability, quality and affordability of safe seafood.**

**Scale level:** National & Regional
### WG 5: Ocean Climate and Acidification

**Long duree impact assessment of ocean climate and acidification through a comparative regional lens; Identifying range of governance pathways with regard to both mitigation and adaptation to ocean climate variability.**

**Scale level:** Regional & Global

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<td><strong>D1.</strong></td>
<td>Contribution to kick-off Ocean Governance Conference (IC1)</td>
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<td><strong>D6.</strong></td>
<td>2 Joint peer-reviewed publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D7.</strong></td>
<td>Contribution to public photo exhibition in Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D8.</strong></td>
<td>Contribution to ‘Science-meets-Policy’ Conference in Brussels (IC2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M1.</strong></td>
<td>WG5 team formation &amp; agenda-setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M2.</strong></td>
<td>Continuous scientific Exchange &amp; Synergy Creation (4yrs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M3.</strong></td>
<td>Early Career Mentoring</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>M5.</strong></td>
<td>Training module development for Training School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M6.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>M7.</strong></td>
<td>Panel organisation for mid-term Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M8.</strong></td>
<td>Contribution to ongoing EU Policy Dialogue &amp; Stakeholder Engagement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M9.</strong></td>
<td>WG-presentation during final ‘Science-meets-Policy’ conference (IC2)</td>
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### WG 6: Fisheries Governance

**Exploration of knowledge gaps in European fisheries governance and EU Common Fisheries Policy; Advance conceptual approaches to the study of access rights systems, fisheries’ organizational structures, together with value chain and marketing challenges.**

**Scale level:** Local & National

<p>| | |</p>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D1.</strong></td>
<td>Contribution to kick-off Ocean Governance Conference (IC1)</td>
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<td><strong>D2.</strong></td>
<td>Transdisciplinary workshop with policymakers (with WG5)</td>
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<td><strong>D3.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>D4.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>D5.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D6.</strong></td>
<td>2 Joint peer-reviewed publications</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>D7.</strong></td>
<td>Contribution to public photo exhibition in Brussels</td>
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<td><strong>D8.</strong></td>
<td>Contribution to ‘Science-meets-Policy’ Conference in Brussels (IC2)</td>
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<td><strong>M7.</strong></td>
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<td>Contribution to ongoing EU Policy Dialogue &amp; Stakeholder Engagement</td>
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<td><strong>M9.</strong></td>
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3.1.2. GANTT Diagram

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<tr>
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<td>MS</td>
<td>IC2</td>
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<td>PP</td>
<td>TS</td>
<td>MS</td>
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<td>WG 3: Seabed Resource Management</td>
<td>IC1</td>
<td>TW</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>IC2</td>
</tr>
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<td>WG 4: Nutrition</td>
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<td>PP</td>
<td>PP</td>
<td>IC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security and Food Systems</td>
<td>IC1</td>
<td>TW</td>
<td>TS</td>
<td>IC2</td>
</tr>
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<td>WG 6: Fisheries Governance</td>
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<td>TW</td>
<td>MS</td>
<td>TS</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**LEGEND:**
- Network building, Team formation (export database) & Early Career Mentoring
- Public Relations (Website, regular Newsletters)
- Scientific Exchange, Synergy Creation, Concept & Governance Framework Development
- Event Organisation
- EU Policy Dialogue & Stakeholder Engagement
- Inter-network staff exchange
- Ocean Governance Dissemination & Publication Strategy (long-term & institutionalized)

3.1.3. Risk and Contingency Plans

In the event of unforeseen changes in WG leadership, Deputy WG leaders take on the role and additional Deputy WG leaders are collaboratively appointed. Network participants who are in charge of organising specific events, compiling specific publications or fulfilling any other pre-defined deliverables have to name at least two appointed back-up members in the event of being unable to fulfil the required tasks. Any difficulties or requirements to postpone events, publications and other deliverables have to be communicated 3 months prior to the deadline to the respective
WG leaders, who in turn will discuss the raised points with the Action Chairs and the overall Management Committee members. Jointly, solutions, alternative ways forward and responsible people will be identified and implementation assured. Finally, in order to reduce the error margin of written output, document drafts will be shared across WGs. Inter-WG peer-review efforts and consequent discussions are actively promoted at each significant stage of content development and further encouraged during the jointly organised Transdisciplinary Workshops, Training Schools and the Mid-term Symposium.

3.2. Management Structures and Procedures

The OceanGov Network’s key Action objective entails the formation of a science and praxis-oriented community, jointly advancing the emerging field of integrated ocean and coastal governance. Overall coordination of the Action and its implementation will be the responsibility of the Management Committee, comprising 6 Principal WG Leaders and 6 Deputy WG Leaders, 1 Chair and 1 Vice Chair. All Management Committee members are collaboratively appointed for four years, with attention paid to maintaining the gender and age balance. Furthermore, roles within the Management Committee may overlap to support internal thematic coherence and coordinated action. Apart from coordinating the Action and assuring deliverable fulfilment through regular teleconference and in person meetings (attached to Action events), the Management Committee will concertedly work at pulling in diverse pools of expertise and facilitate exchange between scientists, policymakers and civil society representatives from across Europe and its Near Neighbour Countries (NNCs). One of the core standard operating procedures will entail a Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Strategy, developed within the first three months of the Action, with the appointment of a Stakeholder Relations Coordinator (SRC) to drive knowledge dissemination forward. To further strengthen partnership and create unique synergies, a rolling database of external stakeholders and affiliated experts will be shared across the OceanGov Network.

3.3. Network as a Whole

The COST Action entails 58 proposers, across 19 COST Country Institutions, one Central/Federal Government partner, one EU Agency, one NNC, and four COST International Partners outside Europe, to cover the global governance scale level. Over 87.1% of the proposers comprise Higher Educations and Associated Organisations - mostly publicly owned - with a representation of almost 8% from the non-profit/third sector, and 2.7% from Governmental Organisations. The core expertise of the Action comprises of 17.2% participation from Political Science, 13.8% from Biological Sciences, together with 13.8% from Social and Economic Geography, 10.3% from Law, and a residual 36.2% from interdisciplinary fields. 43.1% of the Action comprises female scientists and policymakers, of whom one is the Main Proposer. 21 of the 58 proposers are Early Career Investigators. Once the Action commences, three network-related aspects will be prioritized. First, the Action will increase its female participation rate by an additional 10%. Gender-sensitive practices will focus on flexible parenthood-based participation while assuring fair distribution of co-authorships, third-party funds, and other networking rewards with those momentarily on parental leave. Second, to increase the present COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (currently at 31.6%), institutions particularly from the Balkans, Baltic States and the Euro-Mediterranean Research Area will be identified as key nodes for partner recruitment. Third, to increase the participation of Early Career Investigators, the three Training Schools will serve as strategic entry-points in recruiting younger talent into the WGs, assuring that the Action’s content will live on after funding has ceased. Additional steps for gender-balanced early career talent include a three-pillared mentoring programme (mentor, peer, group – with particular emphasis on parenthood-work balances) and the engagement of young investigators through platforms such as Earth System Governance, FutureEarth, and others.

15
References


Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on Blue Growth: Opportunities for marine and maritime sustainable growth (2012), 494 final, Luxembourg.

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on A European Strategy for more Growth and Jobs in Coastal and Maritime Tourism (2014), 86 final, Brussels.


**COST Mission and Policies**

**Ocean Governance for Sustainability (OceanGov) Network**

**PREAMBLE:**

The COST Action’s core objective entails the formation of a science and policy-oriented community for the advancement of the fast emerging field of integrated ocean and coastal governance. The Action is unique in the way that it studies ocean and coastal governance through the lens of the three crosscutting sustainability dimensions (environmental, social and economic) and with a multi-scalar focus (local, national, regional and global). The Network is driven by the principles of inclusive interdisciplinary scientific research, transdisciplinary research-policy bridging, and capacity development among early career scientists and policymakers, on integrated marine-coastal expertise for sustainability. The Action will invest into conscious open networking through a concerted multi-scalar and cross-sectoral effort.

At the time of proposal submission, this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was accepted by 58 Parties, of which 19 proposers comprise COST Country Institutions, of whom six are Inclusiveness Target Countries. Moreover, the network comprises one Near Neighbour Country, four COST International Partners outside Europe (required expertise on global level ocean governance), one Central/Federal Government Organisation and one European Commission/EU Agency. 87.1% of the proposers comprise Higher Educations and Associated Organisations with a representation of 8% from the non-profit/third sector, and 2.7% from Governmental Organisations. The core expertise of the Action comprises of 17.2% participation from Political Science, 13.8% from Biological Sciences, together with 13.8% from Social and Economic Geography, 10.3% from Law, and a residual 36.2% from interdisciplinary fields.

**GENDER BALANCE**

43.1% of the Action comprises female scientists and policymakers, of whom one is the Main Proposer. The Network will further strengthen its gender balance by 10% through means of qualitative inclusion: Firstly, parenthood-work balances will be achieved by supporting flexible parenthood-based participation and assuring fair distribution of co-authorships, third-party funds, and other networking rewards with those momentarily on parental leave. Secondly, early female career capacity development and one sensitive to sexual orientation (across the LGBTIQ spectrum) will entail a three-pillared mentoring programme (mentor, peer and group), to nurture leadership talent within the network.

**GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION**

The network intends to increase its COST Inclusiveness (currently at 31.6%) by an additional 20%. This will be through targeted publicity, partnership building, and recruitment among national and regional science councils, as well as civil society networks and policy fora, with a focus on the Balkans, the Baltic region and other spaces across Eastern Europe. This will include platforms such as BalticSea2020 and the Balkan Heritage Foundation.

**EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATORS**

21 of the 58 proposers are Early Career Investigators. Here, three Training Schools will serve as strategic entry-points for further recruitment, also to ensure that the Action’s content will persist after funding has ceased. Additional steps for gender-balanced early career talent include: A three-pillared mentoring program (mentor, peer, and group – with particular emphasis on parenthood-work balance); the engagement of young investigators through research networks and nationally embedded science and research-policy associations, combined with opportunities for early career mobility and exposure through intra-network staff exchanges.
Network of Proposers - Features

COST Inclusiveness target countries
31.58 %

Number of Proposers
58

Gender Distribution of Proposers
56.9% Males
43.1% Females

Average Number of years elapsed since PhD graduation of Proposers with a doctoral degree
13.7

Number of Early Career Investigators
21

Core Expertise of Proposers: Distribution by Sub-Field of Science
17.2% Political Science
13.8% Biological sciences
13.8% Social and economic geography
12.1% Other social sciences
10.3% Law
24.1% Other
8.6% Unspecified

Institutional distribution of Network of Proposers

87.1% Higher Education & Associated Organisations
8.0% Private Non-Profit without market revenues, NGO
2.7% Government/Intergovernmental Organisations except Higher Education
2.2% Business enterprise

Higher Education & Associated Organisations:196

- **Number by Field of Science of Department/Faculty of Affiliation**
  Sociology:4
  Other social sciences:5
  Law:5
  Social and economic geography:8
  Interdisciplinary:6
  Earth and related Environmental sciences:8
  Civil engineering:1
  Political Science:4
  Economics and business:3
  Biological sciences:4

- **Number by Type**
  Education Oriented:24
  Research Oriented:25

- **Number by Ownership**
  Fully or mostly public:46
Fully or mostly private: 3
Private Non-Profit without market revenues, NGO: 18

- **Number by Type**
  - Advocacy/Membership Organization: 3
  - Other: 3

- **Number by Level**
  - International or European: 2
  - National: 4

Government/Intergovernmental Organisations except Higher Education: 6

- **Number by Level**
  - European Union - EU: 1

- **Number by Type**
  - R&D Funding and/or R&D Performing bodies: 1
  - Government department or government-run general public services: 1

Business enterprise: 5

- **Number by Market sector of unit of affiliation**
  - Professional, Scientific And Technical Activities: 1

- **Number by Type**
  - Private enterprises: 1

- **Number by Ownership and International Status**
  - Independent Enterprise: 1

- **Number by Size**
  - SME (EU Definition provided underneath after selection): 1

**COST Country Institutions** (19): Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom

**COST International Partners** (4): Australia, Canada, French Polynesia, United States

**Near-Neighbour Country Institutions** (1): Ukraine

**European Commission and EU Agencies** (1): European Commission
## Network of Proposers - Details

### Main Proposer's Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title:</strong></th>
<th>Prof</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender:</strong></td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>First Name:</strong></td>
<td>Anna-Katharina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year of birth:</strong></td>
<td>17/03/1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last Name:</strong></td>
<td>Hornidge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Years from PhD:</strong></td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:anna-katharina.hornidge@zmt-bremen.de">anna-katharina.hornidge@zmt-bremen.de</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Telephone Number:</strong></td>
<td>+4942123800168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution:</strong></td>
<td>Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Institution:</strong></td>
<td>Higher Education &amp; Associated Organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address of the Institution:</strong></td>
<td>Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT), Fahrenheitstrasse 6, 28359, 28359 Bremen, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-field of Science of Department:</strong></td>
<td>Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Core Area of Expertise:</strong></td>
<td>Sociology (Sociology of science)</td>
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Secondary Proposers’ Details

**Australia**

**Dr Katherine Daniell** (The Australian National University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: katherine.daniell@anu.edu.au
Telephone: +61261258100
Core Expertise: Other social sciences: Decision-aiding and participatory management
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 7.0

**Belgium**

**Prof Frank Maes** (Ghent University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: Frank.Maes@ugent.be
Telephone: +3292646895
Core Expertise: Law: International law
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 19.0

**Canada**

**Dr Anthony Charles** (Saint Mary’s University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: tony.charles@smu.ca
Telephone: +19024205732
Core Expertise: Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries: Aquaculture, fisheries
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 33.0

**Switzerland**

**Prof Bettina Beer** (University of Lucerne)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: Bettina.Beer@unilu.ch
Telephone: +410412295570
Core Expertise: Other social sciences: Qualitative methods for the social sciences
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 20.0

**Cyprus**

**Prof Nicholas KATHIJOTES** (Cyprus University of Technology - International Ocean Institute (Cyprus) [Focal Point])
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: nicholas.kathijotes@cut.ac.cy
Telephone: +35796716550
Core Expertise:
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 14.0

**Dr Maria Hadjimichael** (University of Cyprus)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: maria.m.hadjimichael@gmail.com
Germany

Mr Sebastian Unger (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS))
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: sebastian.unger@iass-potsdam.de
Telephone: +033128822328
Core Expertise: Biological sciences: Environmental and marine biology
Gender: M
Years from PhD: No PhD

Dr Marion Glaser (Leibniz Center of Tropical Marine Ecology)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: marion.glaser@zmt-bremen.de
Telephone: +494212380066
Core Expertise: Sociology: Social structure, inequalities, social mobility, social exclusion, income distribution, poverty
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 26.0

Prof Achim Schlueter (Centre for Tropical Marine Ecology)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: achim.schlueter@zmt-bremen.de
Telephone: +4942123800104
Core Expertise: Economics and business: Sustainability
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 14.0

Dr Rapti Siriwardane-de Zoysa (Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology GmbH)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: rapti.siriwardane@wolfson.oxon.org
Telephone: +4942123800174
Core Expertise: Sociology: Social structure, inequalities, social mobility, social exclusion, income distribution, poverty
Gender: F
Years from PhD: No PhD

Prof Andrea Koschinsky (Jacobs University Bremen)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: a.koschinsky@jacobs-university.de
Telephone: +494212003567
Core Expertise: Earth and related Environmental sciences: Chemical oceanography
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 21.0

Dr Jan Stefan Fritz (KDM German Marine Research Consortium [Brussels Office])
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: fritz@deutsche-meeresforschung.de
Telephone: +3227338948
Core Expertise: Political Science: Ocean governance and marine science
Mr John Hanus (KDM - German Marine Research Consortium [Brussels Office])
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: hanus@deutsche-meeresforschung.de
Telephone: +3227420803
Core Expertise: Political Science: European studies
Gender: M
Years from PhD: No PhD

Prof Martin Visbeck (GEOMAR)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: mvisbeck@geomar.de
Telephone: +494316004100
Core Expertise: Earth and related Environmental sciences: Physical oceanography
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 22.0

Dr Barbara Neumann (Kiel University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: neumann@geographie.uni-kiel.de
Telephone: +494318805319
Core Expertise: Earth and related Environmental sciences: Physical geography
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 13.0

Dr Annette Breckwoldt (Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) GmbH Bremen)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: annette.breckwoldt@zmt-bremen.de
Telephone: +494212380045
Core Expertise: Biological sciences: Environmental and marine biology
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 8.0

Denmark
Prof Jesper Raakjaer (Aalborg University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: jr@ifm.aau.dk
Telephone: +4599493637
Core Expertise: Political Science: Political systems and institutions, governance
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 6.0

Spain
Dr Jose J. Pascual-Fernandez (Universidad de La Laguna)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: jpascaul@ull.es
Telephone: +34922317739
Core Expertise: Other social sciences: Qualitative methods for the social sciences
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 26.0
Prof Patrizia Ziveri (ICREA-ICTA, Universitat Autonoma Barcelona)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: patrizia.ziveri@uab.cat
Telephone: +34659579091
Core Expertise:
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 21.0

Dr Panagiota Kotsila (Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: panagiota.kotsila@gmail.com
Telephone: +34615211284
Core Expertise: Social and economic geography: Socio-economic aspects of environmental sciences
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 1.0

Prof Sebastian Villasante (UNIVERSITY SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: sebastian.villasante@usc.es
Telephone: +34981563100
Core Expertise: Economics and business: Sustainability
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 6.0

Prof Juan L Suarez-de Vivero (Universidad de Sevilla)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: vivero@us.es
Telephone: +34954551365
Core Expertise: Other social sciences: Marine Geography (Political Geography)
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 31.0

Ms Irmak Ertör (Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: irmakertor@gmail.com
Telephone: +34633068468
Core Expertise: Social and economic geography: Political Ecology, Fisheries and Aquaculture Governance, Environmental Justice
Gender: F
Years from PhD: No PhD

France
Dr Julien Rochette (Institute for sustainable development and international relations (IDDRI))
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: julien.rochette@iddri.org
Telephone: +33145497672
Core Expertise: Law: Legal aspects of environmental regulations and climate negotiations
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 8.0

Dr Gilles LERICOLAIS (IFREMER [Directorate for European and International Affairs])
Participating as Secondary Proposer
Mr Jean-Emmanuel Rougier (Lisode)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: jean-emmanuel.rougier@lisode.com
Telephone: +33984494096
Core Expertise: Other social sciences: Qualitative methods for the social sciences
Gender: M
Years from PhD: No PhD

United Kingdom

Prof Philip Steinberg (Durham University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: philip.steinberg@durham.ac.uk
Telephone: +441913341945
Core Expertise: Social and economic geography: legal and political geography
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 19.0

Prof Douglas MacMillan (University of Kent)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: dcm@kent.ac.uk
Telephone: +1227834902
Core Expertise: Economics and business: Microeconomics, institutional economics
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 20.0

Dr Kimberley Peters (Aberystwyth University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: kip2@aber.ac.uk
Telephone: +4401970622583
Core Expertise: Social and economic geography: Transport planning and socio-economic aspects of mobility, transport and logistics
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 4.0

Dr Wesley Flannery (Queen's University Belfast)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: w.flannery@qub.ac.uk
Telephone: +440289097
Core Expertise: Social and economic geography: Spatial development, land use, regional planning
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 3.0

Greece

Ms Nadia Papadopoulou (Hellenic Centre for Marine Research - Institute of Marine Biological Resources & Inland Waters)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
Croatia

Dr Olga Jovanovic (Josip Juraj Strossmayer University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: jovanovic.olga@gmail.com
Telephone: +38531399917
Core Expertise: Biological sciences: Conservation biology, ecology, genetics
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 6.0

Italy

Mr Tullio Scovazzi (Università di Milano-Bicocca)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: tullio.scovazzi@unimib.it
Telephone: +027610149
Core Expertise: Law: International law
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 42.0

Israel

Dr Michelle Portman (Technion -- Israel Institute of Technology)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: michellep@cc.technion.ac.il
Telephone: +97248294067
Core Expertise: Social and economic geography: Socio-economic aspects of environmental sciences
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 8.0

Ireland

Prof Poul Holm (Trinity College Dublin [Business])
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: holmp@tcd.ie
Telephone: +353876188039
Core Expertise: History and Archeology: Social and economic history
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 24.0

Dr Anne Marie O'Hagan (University College Cork)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: a.o'hagan@ucc.ie
Telephone: +353214864300
Core Expertise: Law: Legal aspects of environmental regulations and climate negotiations
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 13.0

Netherlands
Prof Maarten Bavinck (University of Amsterdam)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: j.m.bavinck@uva.nl
Telephone: +31205254185
Core Expertise: Social and economic geography: Socio-economic aspects of environmental sciences
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 17.0

Prof Jan van Tatenhove (Wageningen University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: jan.vantatenhove@wur.nl
Telephone: +31317482447
Core Expertise: Political Science: Marine Governance
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 22.0

Dr Martijn Duineveld (Wageningen University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: martijn.duineveld@wur.nl
Telephone: +031624261142
Core Expertise: Political Science: Public administration, public policy
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 9.0

Dr Christoph Humrich (University of Groningen [Centre for International Relations])
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: c.humrich@rug.nl
Telephone: +31503638137
Core Expertise: Political Science: International studies, strategic studies, human rights, global and transnational governance
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 6.0

Dr Philipp Pattberg (VU University Amsterdam [Department of Environmental Policy Analysis])
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: philipp.pattberg@vu.nl
Telephone: +0031205989542
Core Expertise: International studies, strategic studies, human rights, global and transnational governance
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 9.0

Prof kristof van assche (Wageningen University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: kristof.vanassche@wur.nl
Telephone: +15875942730
Core Expertise: Management of Technology and Innovation
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 11.0

Dr Raoul Beunen (Open University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: raoul.beunen@ou.nl  
Telephone: +31455762735  
Core Expertise: Political Science: Political systems and institutions, governance  
Gender: M  
Years from PhD: 5.0

Portugal

Prof Marta Chantal Ribeiro (Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research [Law of the Sea Research Group])
Participating as Secondary Proposer  
E-mail: mchantal@direito.up.pt  
Telephone: +351964403643  
Core Expertise:  
Gender: F  
Years from PhD: 4.0

Prof Isabel Sousa-Pinto (Centro Interdisciplinar de Investigação Marinha e Ambiental [Laboratory for Coastal Biodiversity])
Participating as Secondary Proposer  
E-mail: ispinto@ciimar.up.pt  
Telephone: +351223401806  
Core Expertise: Biological sciences: Biodiversity, comparative biology  
Gender: F  
Years from PhD: 21.0

Prof Ricardo Serrão Santos (University of the Azores [Department of Oceanography and Fisheries])
Participating as Secondary Proposer  
E-mail: ricardo.serraosantos@europarl.europa.eu  
Telephone: +3222845655  
Core Expertise: Biological sciences: Biodiversity, comparative biology  
Gender: M  
Years from PhD: 23.0

Dr Vasco Becker-Weinberg (CEDIS - Centro de Investigação e Desenvolvimento sobre Direito e Sociedade)
Participating as Secondary Proposer  
E-mail: vasco_bw@hotmail.com  
Telephone: +351917347130  
Core Expertise: Law: International law  
Gender: M  
Years from PhD: 1.0

Dr Isabel Torres de Noronha (Future Ocean Alliance, FOA - Future Ocean Alliance)
Participating as Secondary Proposer  
E-mail: itnoronha@future-ocean-alliance.org  
Telephone: +351919036434  
Core Expertise: Political Science: International studies, strategic studies, human rights, global and transnational governance  
Gender: F  
Years from PhD: 3.0

Romania
Dr Natasa Vaidianu (University of Bucharest)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: natasa.vaidianu@geo.unibuc.ro
Telephone: +722266174
Core Expertise: Social and economic geography: Socio-economic aspects of environmental sciences
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 4.0

Sweden
Dr Henrik Österblom (Stockholm Resilience Centre)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: henrik.osterblom@su.se
Telephone: +46737078816
Core Expertise: Earth and related Environmental sciences: Sustainability Science
Gender: M
Years from PhD: 9.0

Mr Ruben Zondervan (Lund University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: ruben.zondervan@esg.lu.se
Telephone: +46462220478
Core Expertise: Political Science: Environmental regulations and climate negotiations (policy and political aspects)
Gender: M
Years from PhD: No PhD

Slovenia
Prof Alenka Malej (National Institute of Biology [Marine Biology Station])
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: Alenka.Malej@mbss.org
Telephone: +38659232903
Core Expertise:
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 30.0

Turkey
Dr Nilufer oral (Istanbul Bilgi University)
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: noral@bilgi.edu.tr
Telephone: +902123115208
Core Expertise: Law: International law
Gender: F
Years from PhD: 2.0

Ukraine
Dr Victoria Radchenko (NGO "Ecological initiative")
Participating as Secondary Proposer
E-mail: vnrs68@gmail.com
Telephone: +380677156281
Core Expertise: Biological sciences: Environmental and marine biology
Gender: F
**United States**

*Prof Edward Allison (University of Washington)*
- Participating as Secondary Proposer
- E-mail: eha1@uw.edu
- Telephone: +12066850694
- Core Expertise: Other social sciences: Global fisheries and aquaculture policy in the context of international development
- Gender: M
- Years from PhD: 12.0

**French Polynesia**

*Mr Pablo CHAVANCE (Innovation and Technology Park of New-Caledonia)*
- Participating as Secondary Proposer
- E-mail: pablo.chavance@adecal.nc
- Telephone: +687802203
- Core Expertise:
- Gender: M
- Years from PhD: No PhD

**European Commission**

*Dr Joana Patricio (European Commission - DG Joint Research Centre - Joint Research Centre)*
- Participating as Secondary Proposer
- E-mail: joana.patricio@jrc.ec.europa.eu
- Telephone: +393889505306
- Core Expertise: Biological sciences: Environmental and marine biology
- Gender: F
- Years from PhD: 10.0