EOREA
European Ocean Research and Education Alliance

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 9th December 2022

The Launch of the European Ocean Research and Education Alliance (EOREA) at the European Parliament on 8 December 2022:

An Historic Collaboration on European Ocean Research & Education

"An Ocean of Knowledge at the Service of Europe"

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Responding to the need for an increased awareness around ocean related threats, and the need to facilitate greater integration at the European level, fourteen Key Research and Education players have come together to launch the European Ocean Research and Education Alliance (EOREA), conceived to foster bottom-up and transnational cooperation throughout Europe.

Launching with an event at the European Parliament, hosted and supported by **MEP Maria da Graça Carvalho**, EOREA was further supported by the **Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth Mariya Gabriel**, who provided the Keynote address.

EOREA will:

- Contribute to achieving the ambition of EU and UN priorities, through structured participation in key implementation initiatives (i.e. Mission *Restore our Ocean and Waters,* Knowledge and Innovation Community on the Ocean, EU Climate Law, Blue Economy Partnership, etc.)
- Address the main EU and global challenges in the field of ocean-related issues, including the UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 (ocean-climate link, pollutants and contaminants dispersal, blue economy, digital twin of the ocean, space-ocean link, engagement with society at large, etc.)

"I would welcome the active contributions of this new Alliance to help us in mobilising key actors for the Mission Ocean and Waters and to contribute to all other EU strategic initiatives in the area of Ocean research and education."

- Commissioner Mariya Gabriel

To achieve these ambitions, EOREA Members will rely on the sharing of knowledge through the definition of interdisciplinary and transnational joint programmes of research and education. Through them, EOREA will contribute to tackle the lack of integration and collaboration at the EU level in the field of ocean science and set up or fuel EU-wide education programmes relying on excellent scientific capacities.

At the event, the alliance was welcomed and supported by existing key Marine Sciences focused initiatives' representatives such as Gilles Lericolais (Chair of the European Marine Board), Willem De Moor (Deputy Sec Gen of JPI Ocean), and Raffaele Liberali (Coordination team of the Sustainable Blue Economy partnership).

At the end of the Launch Event, Founding Institutions signed a joint statement laying the foundations for their collaboration.

"The alliance will be open to other R&I and Education stakeholders willing to contribute to achieve the goals of EOREA. We invite interested parties to get in touch with us."

- Anne Borg, NTNU Rector and Sophie Chauvet, Aix-Marseilles Université Vice-President

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For further enquiries, please contact the co-coordinators of the preparatory phase of EOREA

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EOREA in a nutshell

What does EOREA stand for? European Ocean Research and Education Alliance

What is the overall goal of EOREA? EOREA materializes the willingness of 14 founding institutions to pool their expertise and infrastructure to advance ocean research and education at the continental level. Other European institutions are welcome to join according to the development plan of the pilot phase. Hence, EOREA will help Europe take a step forward in sharing capabilities to shape a European integrated approach in Research and Education.

How will EOREA contribute to contemporary challenges? EOREA will

- Contribute to the EU agenda, including the implementation of the European Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters, and to the future Knowledge and Innovation Community 'Ocean', the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, the Joint Programming Initiative "Ocean", etc.
- Contribute to the United Nations agenda, including to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, to the IMO, and to the 2021-2030 UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
- Help structure and give visibility to ocean research and education governance at both European and global level

Who is behind this initiative? Fourteen research and higher education institutions wish to found an alliance that facilitate bottom-up initiatives building on their complementary strengths, with the support of the European Commission and Members of the European Parliament. The list of the institutions is reported hereunder.

How can institutions, which are not founding members, get involved in EOREA? During the three-year pilot phase, EOREA will launch thematic joint programmes where to align, de-fragment and possibly reduce activities duplication. The Joint programmes will be open to any public R&I and education institution willing to contribute. The EOREA Secretariat will act as entry point for the ones applying for membership willing to enter existing joint programmes or launch new ones.

What kind of activities EOREA will undertake? EOREA's activities stem from the alliance's bottom-up character. Through thematic joint programmes, institutions will

- Perform challenge-based research activities by exchanging and aligning on going activities running into each participating institution at national level
- Develop joint education activities on the basis of the knowledge derived from the aligned Research activities
- Nurture existing training programmes for them to benefit from the latest scientific findings
- Act as an arena to provide global, European and national institutions and authorities with policy advice.

How will EOREA ensure complementarity with other existing initiatives in ocean science? The alliance will build its strategy on existing instruments and roadmaps designed by other alliances and networks such as the Euromarine Board, the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership or the Joint Programming Initiative 'Ocean'.

What will EOREA governance look like?
EOREA will be governed by a Strategic Board coordinated by NTNU and Aix Marseille University and composed by one representative for each founding member. The Board will be supported by a Secretariat responsible for the implementation of the Alliance activities including the creation and launch of the Joint programmes that will be defined by the Board.

Who are the founding members of EOREA?

Country	Institution
France	Aix Marseille Université (AMU)
Norway	Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
Finland	Aalto University
Denmark	Technical University of Denmark
Belgium	Université Libre de Bruxelles
Greece	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)
Sweden	Chalmers University of Technology
Italy	National Research Council of Italy
Portugal	University of Lisbon - CENTEC
The Netherlands	Delft University of Technology
Slovenia	Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana
Romania	Institutul National de Cercetare-Dezvoltare Marina (NIMRD)
Great Britain	University of Southampton

Strategy board

Coordinators

Siri Granum Carson

Siri Granum Carson is Director of NTNU Oceans, a strategic research area at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). She chairs the Norwegian UN Ocean Decade National Committee and is part of the leader group of the Norwegian Marine University Consortium (NMU). She is a professor of applied ethics, and her main research areas are corporate social responsibility and responsible innovation.

Richard Sempéré

Oceanographer, marine and atmospheric geochemist and CNRS senior scientist. His own research studies concern the carbon cycle, plastics and plastic additives in atmospheric and aquatic systems. He has created and been the director successively of several laboratories including LMGEM, Mediterranean institute of Oceanography (MIO) and recently the Aix-Marseille University (AMU) -graduate school Ocean Sciences Institute, gathering 14 laboratories in marine sciences from Oceanography to law of the sea.

Board members

Pentti Kujala

Professor, Emeritus of Marine Technology, previously Vice Dean for Research and Impact and Vice Dean (2016-2021) for research at School of Engineering in Aalto University, chairing a CoE for Arctic shipping and operations funded by Lloyd's Register Foundation during 2013-2022. The main research interests have been devoted to the safety and risk analysis of marine operations both in open water and in ice. He was nominated as the best senior researcher in EU for waterborne research area in 2020.

Carlos Guedes Soares

Distinguished Professor of the Engineering Faculty (Instituto Superior Técnico) of the University of Lisbon and is Founder and Scientific Coordinator of the Centre for Marine Technology and Ocean Engineering (CENTEC). He concluded his postgraduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA in 1976, and at the Norwegian Institute of Technology, in 1984 and has since then been at Instituto Superior Técnico. He is a Member of the Portuguese Academy of Engineering.

Alexandra Gogou

Chemical oceanographer, holding a Research Director position in the Institute of Oceanography, Hellenic Centre of Marine Research (HCMR), Greece. Her research is focused on deciphering present and past marine biogeochemical processes in respect to environmental conditions (e.g. hydrological, redox, pH, anthropogenic pressures) and climate variability that are recorded in the chemical structure, abundance and isotopic composition of organic molecules. She has published 71 articles in peer-reviewed journals with over 2000 citations.

Milena Horvat

Prof. Dr. Milena Horvat is the head of the Department of Environmental Sciences www.environment.si (since 1997) at the Jožef Stefan Institute and the dean of the Jožef Stefan International Postgraduate School - www.mps.si (since 2016). Her main expertise is in the field of mercury research, which is interdisciplinary in nature and covers the fields of analytical chemistry, human health, polluted areas, the marine environment, clean technologies and sensor development.

Christian Riisager-Simonsen

Marine science and policy officer, National Institute of Aquatic Resources (2017-present) with responsibilities related to strategic research development through e.g. development of input to international marine research and innovation programmes. Work is performed through coordination with national ministries and direct participation in European networks (e.g. EFARO), Horizon coordination and support actions (JPI Ocean's CSAs, BlueMissionBANOS) and cofunding actions. Additionally, CRS acts as the coordinator of the Danish Center for Marine Research (2019-present)

Valeria Abaza

PhD Valeria Abaza, biologist and currently, director general of NIMRD, a flagship Romanian marine research institution with a continuous and prestigious activity of over 50 years, started her career in early 1990ies as research assistant in the marine ecology laboratory. She participated in numerous national and international projects of NIMRD related to the implementation of European marine policies such as Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive, in collaboration with international organisations.

Pierre Regnier

Professor, Head, Biogeochemistry & Earth System Modelling and Chair, Dept. Geoscience, Environment & Society. Pierre Regniers' overarching research revolves around biogeochemistry, global greenhouse gas (CO2, CH4, N2O) cycling and their feedbacks on climate. He has a strong expertise in the study of carbon-nutrient dynamics from land-to-ocean, with a focus on global inland and coastal waters. He relies on model-data fusion approaches, advanced statistical methods and Earth system modelling. P. Regnier is a steering committee member for the Global Carbon Project and Rector's Counsellor for European Research at ULB.

Emilio Fortunato Campana

Head of the Engineering, ICT, Energy and Transport Department of CNR. Degree in Mechanical Engineering and PhD in Fluid Dynamics from University of Rome "Sapienza". Has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers in international journals and conferences. Principal Investigator of several European Defense Agency and Office of Naval Research grants. Currently, scientific coordinator of the National Technology Cluster of the Blue Growth, national representative for the NATO Science and Technology Board, JPI Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans, and WATERBORNE Technology Platform. Awarded several scientific high-standing awards and board memberships.

Ida-Maja Hassellöv

Professor in Maritime Environmental Science and Director of studies for the graduate school Shipping and Marine Technology, Chalmers University of Technology. Hassellöv is dedicated to research, teaching and utilization related to assessment of impacts of anthropogenic activities on the ocean, especially shipping impacts and the relation between ship pollution prevention and marine environmental management. She is chairing the ICES WGSHIP and supports Swedish national delegations in e.g. the IMO, OSPAR and HELCOM.

Riccardo Riva

Associate Professor, specialized in the study of the Earth's dynamic behaviour through the combination of model predictions and space geodetic observations. In particular, doing research into the elastic and viscoelastic deformation of the solid earth, its effect on gravity and its relation with sea level change. Previously worked as a researcher at University of Trieste, at University of Milano, at Utrecht University and at TU Delft, where becoming faculty member in 2011. Since 2013, a Vidi laureate of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO).

University of Southampton

Damon Teagle

Professor Damon Teagle is Director of the Southampton Marine & Maritime Institute (SMMI) at the University of Southampton and Professor of Geochemistry in the School of Ocean and Earth Science, National Oceanography Centre Southampton. The SMMI is a pan-University community that unites our large community of ocean-facing scholars from across the University with emphasis on climate change, maritime decarbonisation, coastal communities, ocean futures, and the application of new technologies to better understand our planet.

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Secretariat members

Massimo Busuoli

Massimo Busuoli is Director of NTNU Brussels office since 2016 and EARMA Board Member. Physicist, he started his career in ENEA (Italy) becoming the Head of the European Affair Unit located in Brussels. Active in Brussels since 2006, he is an expert in EU policies and strategies and he coordinated several EU networks (like IGLO and the EERA Secretariat) and projects. He has been instrumental in the creation of some important EU initiatives such as the European Energy Research Alliance, the Italian Node in the KIC Raw Materials and the UnILiON network (www.unilion.eu).

Luminata Lazar

Dr Luminita LAZAR is a senior scientist at NIMRD. Her bachelor's in Chemistry was achieved in Bucharest (University Politehnica) and her PhD in Biology (Ecology and environmental protection) in Constanta with a thesis on the Black Sea's eutrophication. She is the chairman of the advisory group Land-Based Sources (Black Sea Commission) and the national expert for the implementation of the MSFD. She is involved in the Black Sea's eutrophication, ecology and sustainable development research projects.

Karl Stoeckel

Karl Stoeckel is Head of Aix-Marseille Université's Brussels Office since 2018 and Co-Chair of UnILiON. He studied law and political science at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University and the University of Paris Est Créteil. As a professional, he has more than 10 years of experience at the French national level (nonprofit health insurance sector and at the French Rector's Conference) and at the European level in Brussels. He is also a lecturer in European R&I policies at Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University.

Spyros Hirdaris:

Eur.Ing Dr. Spyros Hirdaris is Associate Professor of Marine Technology at Aalto University, Finland. He completed his PhD in 2002 on Ship Science at the University of Southampton, UK. He has worked on EU sponsored research since 2001. Before his current role he worked for 14 years for Lloyd's Register research division internationally. In his research he focuses on sustainable maritime operations, marine hydromechanics and the prediction of sea loads in extreme conditions.

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