

News release: JPI Oceans publishes its first Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

The first copies of the [Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) were handed over to Norwegian State Secretary Dilek Ayhan, Belgian State Secretary Bart Tommelein and, Director General of DG Research and Innovation, European Commission Robert-Jan Smits.

The official hand over took place at the First JPI Oceans conference on 7 May in Brussels. The conference was opened by the Chair of the JPI Oceans Management Board, Caron Montgomery. At the event, Belgian State Secretary Bart Tommelein presented himself as a man of the ocean, born by the sea and still living at the sea. The State Secretary highlighted the role of Belgium in the initiative and especially looked forward to joint initiatives on marine spatial planning. Norwegian State Secretary Dilek Ayhan underlined the potential and complexity of the oceans. "Therefore nations need to cooperate to maximize this oceans potential." She presented JPI Oceans as a part of the solution in order to achieve a stronger cooperation between nations. The session was concluded by Director General Robert-Jan Smits who highlighted that the JPI Oceans Vision document and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda have made a significant contribution to the Blue Growth agenda of the European Commission and that now it is time to focus on its implementation.

The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, which was officially launched at the conference, presents ten Strategic Areas, developed and agreed by JPI Oceans (with the support of the FP7 CSA Oceans project), as priorities for marine and maritime research in Europe. As it moves into an implementation phase, the Member Countries of JPI Oceans will create actions within these ten Strategic Areas to align the European marine and maritime landscape.

The Research and Innovation Agenda was developed through an extensive stakeholder consultation which involved a series of workshops targeting different stakeholder groups, a questionnaire to the funding bodies of JPI Oceans' Member Countries, and an open web consultation. The ten strategic areas are:

1. Exploring Deep Sea Resources
2. Technology and Sensor Developments
3. Science Support to Coastal and Maritime Planning and Management
4. Linking Oceans, Human Health and Wellbeing
5. Interdisciplinary Research for Good Environmental Status

6. Observing, Modelling and Predicting Oceans State and Processes
7. Climate Change Impact on Physical and Biological Ocean Processes
8. Effects of Ocean Acidification on Marine Ecosystems
9. Food Security and Safety Driving Innovation in a Changing World
10. Use of Marine Biological Resources through Development and Application of Biotechnology

New actions will add to the four existing Pilot Actions which are already running. These Pilot Actions are designed to test new tools of cooperation. The four Pilot Actions are:

- Multi-use of infrastructures for monitoring
- Ecological aspects of micro-plastics in the marine environment
- Ecological aspects of deep-sea mining
- Intercalibration for the EU Water Framework Directive

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