



Towards an Alliance of European Research Fleets

Local Project Leader: Associate Professor Dr. Ali Cemal GÜCÜ

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The marine environment represents a vast universe of natural resources that has yet to be fully explored. This universe holds a myriad of possibilities that can help support European economic development. While the marine environment holds such potential, it is costly to access, highly variable and very unpredictable. This, together with increasing societal demands, means that marine research needs to come together and work in a holistic fashion with a long-term approach. The EU-funded EUROFLEETS project will work to do just this by creating an alliance of marine research centers across Europe that will be able to work together and share resources, improving the quality of marine research in Europe.

EUROFLEETS is clearly a process aiming at bringing together the existing European research fleet owners, to enhance their coordination and promote the cost-effective use of their facilities in order to support the efficient provision of essential research services for monitoring and sustainable management of the Regional Seas and the Oceans and allow access to all European scientists. This would in turn, give generic support to protect environment and biodiversity, understand climate change and better predict related impacts, facilitate the sustainable exploitation of marine resources and increase employment through education and training.

EUROFLEETS aims to:

- Structure and durably integrate, on European scale, through an e-platform the way that the research vessels are operated and their interoperability capacities,
- Use more cost-efficiently the existing European Ocean/Global and Regional fleets,
- Facilitate a wider sharing of knowledge and technologies across fields and between academia and industry,
- Promote greener and sustainable research vessel operations and responsibility,
- Provide all European researchers with a full access to high performing research fleets to conduct marine research,
- Foster the coordinated and joint development of European fleets in terms of capacity and performances.

URL: www.eurofleets.eu