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## What are the benefits of becoming a Member of EurOcean?

With the support of fourteen Members Organisations and three Cooperating Members, EurOcean has now demonstrated the appropriateness and the usefulness of a flexible European focal point based on e-tools and dedicated to information on marine science and technology.

Some main benefits in joining the EurOcean membership are pinpointed below.

1. The Members are part of a network unique in Europe aiming to create synergy through sharing information between all actors with an interest in marine RTD, tackling gaps for information at European level and, when appropriate, at national level on marine science and technology issues such as:
  - inventory of marine research infrastructures: research vessels, underwater research vehicles, large exchangeable instruments, aquaculture facilities and,
  - inventory of European funded marine research projects: FP6; FP7; Interreg III; LIFE; COST; ESF; EUREKA and, SMAP.
2. The Members get involved in innovative and proactive initiatives in the domain of marine information management, as for example:
  - EurOcean has proposed ways to facilitate cross-thematic cooperation for P7 marine RTD through the developments of interactive e-tools;
  - EurOcean is stressing the importance of information management and communication for a European Marine Research Area and for a European Maritime Policy and,
  - EurOcean has developed unique analytical tools of support to the European marine scientific and policy community namely: dedicated infobases; statistical reports; public outreach materials and, the support and hosting of European initiatives and resources (EuYmast, OFEG, ERVO, EU Projects websites and info or databases).
3. EurOcean promotes its Members skills and expertises towards the rest of Europe's Marine/Maritime sectors.
4. EurOcean identifies and promotes funding opportunities for its Members or associated institutions.
5. EurOcean actively participates in the development and execution of strategic EU project where it always involves most of its suitable Members.
6. The Members may have access to the resources of the EurOcean Office in order to:
  - carry out dedicated analysis and reports of special interest at least for the Member, for example: statistical overview of national participation in FP6 marine projects; statistical analysis of national research fleets and,
  - use the database software's and other information management tools developed by EurOcean.

**7.** The Members are encouraged to be actively involved in the development of the activities of EurOcean:

- the Members can propose tasks for and decide on the work programme of EurOcean;
- depending on their expertise and on their domain of interests, the Members can take in charge tasks of the work programme which will be carried out in close cooperation with the EurOcean Office and,
- the exchange of staff and trainees between the Office and the Members is welcome.

**8.** EurOcean is a simple and flexible mechanism:

- the EurOcean Office is keen to rapidly and easily adapt to the requirements of the Steering Committee;
- the present Memorandum of Understanding and the legal statute are not restraining commitments for the Members.

**9.** The membership contributions allow maintaining a permanent Office ensuring the continuity required for information management, which is not possible with the EU projects funded on a non-renewable limited time.

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