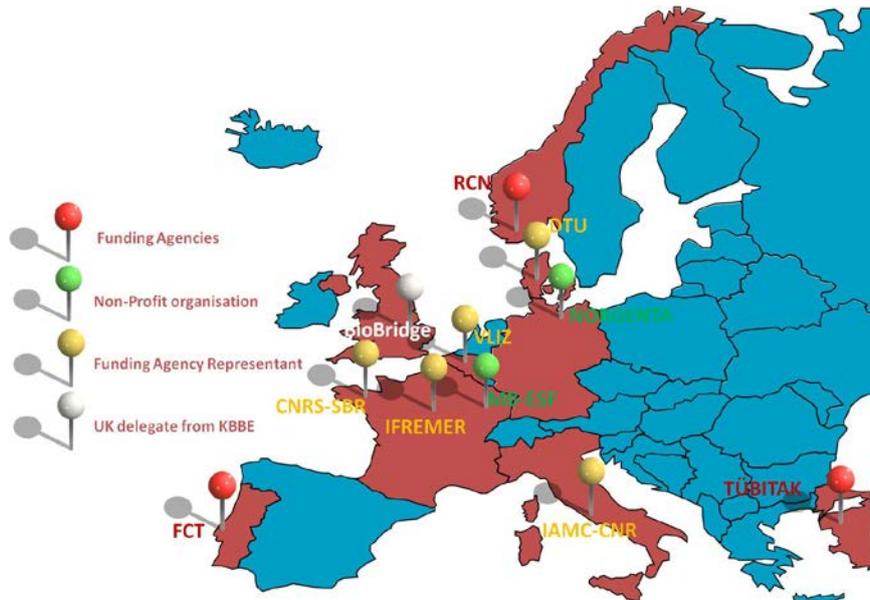


MarineBiotech

- Coordination and support action in Marine Biotechnology -

CSA MarineBiotech is a collaborative network of 11 partners who support marine biotechnology research and development (Annex I). This coordination and support action in marine biotechnology is funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme.



1. Preparation of a future ERA-NET in marine biotechnology

The main goal of the CSA MarineBiotech is to prepare the foundation for a potential ERA-NET in marine biotechnology. The CSA MarineBiotech will concentrate its efforts on the mobilisation and engagement of funding agencies and stakeholders from the start of its lifetime, through the establishment of two key groups, a Strategic Forum and a Stakeholder Group, which will provide strategic advice to the project consortium and contribute to a high-quality proposal for a future ERA-NET in marine biotechnology.

The **MarineBiotech Strategic Forum** will be established and composed by Research, Technology Development and Innovation (RTDI) funding agencies from EU Member and Associated States with interest in marine biotechnology. The Strategic Forum aims to:

- strengthen the CSA MarineBiotech by networking core policy makers and funders from the project partners;
- provide important information and insight in scoping and preparing for a future ERA-NET;
- **form the basis of the future ERA-NET consortium.**

The **MarineBiotech Stakeholder Group** will be established with key stakeholders from research, industry, public support and policy communities relevant to the development of marine biotechnology in Europe. These will contribute to the identification of priority topics and the development of an achievable approach to an ERA-NET. This group will become the advisory group for the future ERA-NET, maintaining impact beyond the end of the CSA.

We invite you, as a funding agency with interests in Marine Biotechnology, to join our **MarineBiotech Strategic Forum**.

Expectations for members of the MarineBiotech Strategic Forum

- Strong focus on strategic support of marine biotechnology research, development and application.
- Act as advisory forum for the MarineBiotech to identify shared strategic areas for action.
- Contribute to trans-national exchange of information (help to exchange and disseminate relevant information also to non-CSA member states).
- Identify and mobilise funding agencies at regional and national level.
- Help to identify realistic targets and innovative topics for projects launched by a future ERA-NET or similar.
- Participation in workshops described below.
- Help to position a future ERA-NET in marine biotechnology within the multiple initiatives of the European Research Area (ERA) landscape, providing strategic and scientific advice on marine biotechnology.

Benefits for members of the MarineBiotech Strategic Forum

- Participate in the formation of a well-organised research coordination structure within marine biotechnology as established by a future ERA-NET or similar.
- Contribute to reduced fragmentation of research efforts in marine biotechnology through better coordination and cooperation between key member states.
- Be central in forming the basis of the future ERA-NET consortium.

2. Actions

The CSA Marine Biotech will promote networking events for all interested parties to assist mobilisation and engagement of funding agencies and stakeholders.

Two workshops will be held in spring and autumn 2012. Plenary workshops will allow all funding agencies and stakeholders interested in building marine biotechnology to meet. Specific workshops focusing on funding and preparation for an ERA-NET will be restricted to funding agencies only. The parties will be briefed on preliminary outputs of the CSA MarineBiotech, discuss the status of European marine biotechnology, clarify issues of concern, gather input on priorities, help to identify gaps and discuss European competitiveness.

3. Background

Europe has a 70.000 km coastline along two oceans and 4 seas: the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, the Baltic, the North Sea, the Mediterranean, and the Black Sea. The EU's maritime regions account for some 40% of its GDP and population. The CSA MarineBiotech recognises that Europe's marine ecosystems and organisms are largely unexplored, understudied and underexploited. This access to an extensive and diverse set of marine ecosystems, supporting an enormous marine biodiversity should therefore be better explored for sustainable utilisation.

Marine biotechnology utilises biological resources for the production of goods and services or modifies marine organisms for improved properties. These developments can positively or negatively affect the natural environment, so CSA MarineBiotech is devoted to sustainable use and social acceptance for the use of biotechnology for bio-based production from the marine environment.

While the field of marine biotechnology represents a large potential for European added value, the current level of collaborative research is not sufficient. Interdisciplinary cooperation and networking is needed. Multi and cross disciplinary collaborations between basic research in marine biology, physiology of marine plants and animals, taxonomy, microbiology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, systems biology, bioinformatics, toxicology, *-omics* technologies and chemistry are needed. The result will be new innovations and application in fields such as drug discovery, novel foods and food ingredients, bio-remediation, biomaterials, aqua- and agriculture, diagnostics, production processes and bio-energy. Europe should focus and strengthen its effort in the area of marine biotechnology in order to find competitive niches. Attention should be given to sustainable exploitation of Europe's marine biosphere and the understanding of its biodiversity and natural heritages.

Marine biotechnology has a horizontal scope, with a vertical focus within all thematic areas relevant to its application and represents an enormous economic potential for Europe. No single country or region has the necessary capacity, knowledge or resources to exploit research and innovations from the marine environment. Advanced infrastructures both at sea and in the laboratories will be needed, and **trans- European collaboration will provide synergies and more value for the money by a coordinated European funding activity within this area.**

The CSA MarineBiotech is designed to deliver the first concrete steps towards better coordination of relevant national and regional RTDI programmes. Reduced fragmentation and duplication, and paving the way for common programmes and cooperation in the provision and use of research infrastructures through a **future ERA-NET in marine biotechnology** will be the result. In doing so, the CSA MarineBiotech will advance progress in this field towards the vision of a European Research Area (ERA)¹ and promote and position marine biotechnology as a sector which can deliver '*smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*', a core objective of the Europe 2020 Strategy².

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/index_en.htm

² http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

Annex I – List of CSA MarineBiotech partners

| Organisation | Acronym | Country | Contact point |
|--|-----------|----------------|---|
| NORGES FORSKNINGSRAD | RCN | Norway | Steinar Bergseth (Project Coordinator) E-mail: stb@forskningsradet.no Tel.: +47 22 03 73 23 |
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| DANMARKS TEKNISKE UNIVERSITET | DTU | Denmark | Torger Børresen E-mail: torgr@food.dtu.dk Tel.: +45 45 25 25 77 |
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| INSTITUT FRANCAIS DE RECHERCHE POUR L'EXPLOITATION DE LA MER | Ifremer | France | Jacqueline Penez Jacqueline.Penez@ifremer.fr Tel.: +33 1 46 48 21 94 |
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Project structure

