

**PMT-SC 6-month meeting, Olhão, Portugal, 27.4.2012**  
**PUBLIC REPORT**

The consortium of the EU-funded coordination and support action CSA MarineBiotech (CSA MBt) met for their 6-monthly review meeting in the coastal town of Olhão Portugal the last week in April 2012, during the 1<sup>st</sup> project workshop for engaging and mobilising funding agencies and stakeholders. In addition to reviewing progress and planning activities for the following period, the consortium noted that 12 funding agencies attended, an enlargement from the core of 3 within the consortium, and further agencies had expressed interest but were not able to attend. This result is very positive for the potential for an ERA-NET in Marine Biotechnology (ERA-MB) as well as fulfilling the objectives of CSA MBt in creating a Strategic Forum for funding agencies (MarineBiotech SF). 29 stakeholders (academic, industry and policy) also attended. The workshop discussions were positive for marine biotechnology, and the attendees provided numerous constructive comments for the consortium to take into account in developing the ideas for an ERA-MB.

In particular, the questions of how an ERA-MB would sit alongside and work with other initiatives (such as the Joint Programming Initiatives JPIs) and relevant ERA-NETs (eg SEAS-ERA) and also what useful contributions such an ERA-NET could in reality make to the Bioeconomy of the future were noted as ones that the CSA MBt needed to address. Industry also emphasised their interest in this area and desire to be kept involved in the process of developing transnational strategic research agendas.

The initial MarineBiotech SF will be established as soon as possible, to start discussions of the ERA-NET topic within the next draft call for EU FP7, which should be published in final form in July 2012.

The consortium is now looking forward to providing reports on European and international marine biotechnology, following up opportunities for dissemination of the work of CSA MBt and information on marine biotechnology (including the OECD Global Forum on Marine Biotechnology and the European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology), organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop in Hamburg Germany in October 2012, and starting planning for the final conference in Belgium March 2013.

A full public report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop can be found on the project website [www.marinebiotech.eu](http://www.marinebiotech.eu) under the tab 'Workshops'.

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