

CSA deliverable D2.10

Public Report: Workshop 1, Olhão Portugal 26-27 April 2012



On 26-27 April 2012 the **CSA MarineBiotech's** first workshop was held, to encourage the 'mobilisation and engagement of funding agencies and stakeholders' in supporting a future ERA-NET in the area of marine biotechnology. CSA MarineBiotech is an EU-funded preparatory Coordination and Support Action aimed at laying the foundations, and preparing a high-quality proposal, for this ERA-NET.

Day 1 consisted of informative presentations on different aspects of the marine biotechnology landscape in the EU, including the MarineBiotech project itself. The first session was presented by members of the project consortium and speakers representing other existing European collaborations; [JPI Oceans](http://www.jpi-oceans.eu) (Joint Programming Initiative on Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans, www.jpi-oceans.eu), [EuroMarine](http://www.euromarineconsortium.eu) (integrating European marine research networks of excellence, www.euromarineconsortium.eu) and [ERA-IB-2](http://www.era-ib.net) (an ERA-NET focusing on industrial biotechnology, www.era-ib.net). The second session was open for researchers from the University of Azores (Portugal), GEOMAR (the Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research, Kiel Germany) and the University of Bergen (Norway), who presented the use of marine biological resources in fields including pharmacology and human health, aquaculture and biofuel production. A speaker from Unilever UK presented examples of food application of marine biotechnology.

Day 2 introduced the attendees to the two important groups created and supported by the CSA MarineBiotech: the Strategic Forum of funding agencies, intended to collaborate in the evolution of an ERA-NET and the Stakeholder Group, whose input is important to ensure timeliness, relevance and context of collaborative research activities in marine biotechnology. Each of these groups organised its own workshop, followed by a plenary session summarising the main outcomes and allowing the MarineBiotech consortium to confirm necessary actions and recommendations for the next stage of the project. The workshop concluded with a visit to [CCMAR](http://www.ccmarmar.com) (Centro de Ciências do Mar) at the University of Algarve, where groups of attendees were introduced to researchers and their marine bioresources projects.

The CSA MarineBiotech's first workshop was successful in enlarging the group of interested funding agencies, some of whom attended and others who were unable to attend but have expressed continuing interest. Continuing exchanges on research priorities and gaps, resource problems and the need to bring complementary expertise together will pave the way forward towards the establishment of the MarineBiotech ERA-NET.

This workshop was organised by Portugal's funding agency FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia), one of the project's 11 partners, in the small sea-side fishing town of Olhão, close to Faro. For the complete programme, attendee list and presentations see <http://www.marinebiotech.eu/conference>. A 2nd invitation workshop on 8-9 October in Hamburg Germany will continue the exchanges of views and information between stakeholders and the CSA MarineBiotech. The MarineBiotech project will finish with a public conference in the first quarter of 2013 at which the progress towards an ERA-NET will be announced. Details will be available in due course, via <http://www.marinebiotech.eu>, the [MarineBiotech e-Newsletter](#) and other marine bio-related electronic mailings. To subscribe to the e-Newsletter email a request to newsletter-subscribe@marinebiotech.eu.

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