



Abstract

The Fixed point Open Ocean Observatory network (FixO³) seeks to integrate European open ocean fixed point observatories and to improve access to these key installations for the broader community. These will provide multidisciplinary observations in all parts of the oceans from the air-sea interface to the deep seafloor. Coordinated by the National Oceanography Centre, UK, FixO³ will build on the significant advances achieved through the FP7 programmes EuroSITES, ESONET and CARBOOCEAN. Started on 1st September 2013 with a budget of 7 Million Euros over 4 years the Network includes 29 partners drawn from academia, research institutions and small and medium enterprises (SME). In addition 12 international experts from a wide range of disciplines comprise an Advisory Board.

The programme will be achieved through:

1. **Coordination activities** to integrate and harmonise the current procedures and processes. Strong links will be fostered with the wider community across academia, industry, policy and the general public through outreach, knowledge exchange and training.
2. **Support actions** to offer a) access to observatory infrastructures to those who do not have such access, and b) free and open data services and products.
3. **Joint research activities** to innovate and enhance the current capability for multidisciplinary *in situ* ocean observation.

Open ocean observation is currently a high priority for European marine and maritime activities. FixO³ will provide important data on environmental products and services to address the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and in support of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy. The FixO³ network will provide free and open access to *in situ* fixed point data of the highest quality. It will provide a strong integrated framework of open ocean facilities in the Atlantic from the Arctic to the Antarctic and throughout the Mediterranean, enabling an integrated, regional and multidisciplinary approach to understand natural and anthropogenic change in the ocean.