



Fixed point Open Ocean Observatory network (FixO₃): Multidisciplinary observations from the air-sea interface to the deep seafloor

Richard Lampitt and Luisa Cristini

National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, United Kingdom

The Fixed point Open Ocean Observatory network (FixO₃) seeks to integrate the 23 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 builds on the significant advances achieved through the previous Europe-funded FP7 programmes EuroSITES, ESONET and CARBOOCEAN. Started in September 2013 with a budget of 7 Million Euros over 4 years the project has 29 partners drawn from academia, research institutions and SME's. In addition 12 international experts from a wide range of disciplines comprise an Advisory Board.

On behalf of the FixO₃ Consortium, we present the programme that will be achieved through the activities of 12 Work Packages:

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) free 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.

Support actions include Transnational Access (TNA) to FixO₃ infrastructure, meaning that European organizations can apply to free-of-charge access to the observatories for research and testing in two international calls during the project lifetime. The first call for TNA opens in summer 2014. More information can be found on FixO₃ website (www.fixo3.eu/).

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 European 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.