



## **The European Fixed point Open Ocean Observatory network (FixO<sup>3</sup>): Multidisciplinary observations from the air-sea interface to the deep seafloor**

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The Fixed point Open Ocean Observatory network (FixO<sup>3</sup>, <http://www.fixo3.eu/> ) integrates 23 European open ocean fixed point observatories and improves access to these infrastructures for the broader community. These provide multidisciplinary observations in all parts of the oceans from the air-sea interface to the deep seafloor. 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 coordinated by the National Oceanography Centre, UK.

Here we present the programme's achievements in the 18 months and the activities of the 12 Work Packages which have the objectives to:

- integrate and harmonise the current procedures and processes
- offer free access to observatory infrastructures to those who do not have such access, and free and open data services and products
- innovate and enhance the current capability for multidisciplinary in situ ocean observation

Open ocean observation is a high priority for European marine and maritime activities. FixO<sup>3</sup> provides important data and services to address the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and in support of the European Integrated Maritime Policy. FixO<sup>3</sup> provides 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.