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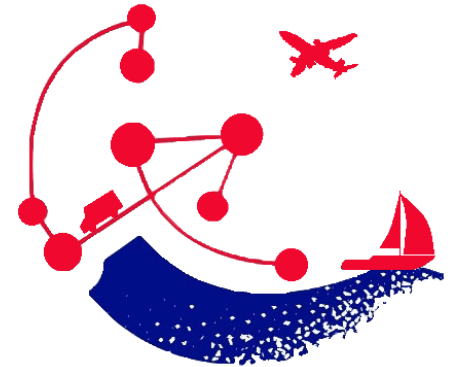
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## MARS Travel Award for Young Scientists 2013

By Herman Hummel

We are very happy to announce the eighth series of MARS Travel Awards for students and Young Scientists.

This year three awards of **maximum 750 €** will be granted to promising young scientists or students at MARS member institutions to study a research topic at another MARS member institute. Both institutes must be full members who have paid their dues for 2013, or have announced their intention to become a member.



The research topic should fall into one of the following themes:

- Marine biodiversity, including taxonomy, ecosystem functioning, observatories, indicators
- Marine genomics and molecular biology
- Marine model organisms and natural products
- Climate change problems
- Sustainable ecosystems and human factors
- Preservation and sustainable exploitation of marine ecosystems

After completion of the project an abstract of the results will be published in the MARS Newsletter.

Proposals should include a maximum 2 page outline of the intended research, the addresses of the sending and receiving MARS member institutes, a letter of support from the sending and the host institute, and a CV of the applicant (who may not be older than 35 years).

**! The deadline for proposals is 10 December 2013 !**

Proposals can be sent to the MARS Secretariat, at [christiaan.hummel@nioz.nl](mailto:christiaan.hummel@nioz.nl) or [mars@nioz.nl](mailto:mars@nioz.nl)

# MARS in the Horizon 2020 programme

By Christiaan Hummel and Herman Hummel

In the previous M@RS Newsflash, we wrote that in the new Horizon 202 programme there was little to no room for marine research. We have now found out that (two out of three) of the mentioned topics that had disappeared from the Environment SC5 group, have now returned under the Blue Growth banner. These topics are:

- BG 1 - 2015: Improving the preservation and sustainable exploitation of Atlantic marine ecosystems
- BG 8 - 2014: Developing in-situ Atlantic Ocean Observations for a better management and exploitation of the maritime resources

However, when overlooking all topics mentioned under Blue Growth the impression remains that most marine stations belonging to the MARS network should still be strongly alarmed. Most research mentioned under Blue Growth is focusing on socio-economical related issues and on the Atlantic Ocean. Good for the oceanographically oriented institutions. However, this still means that hardly any topic can be found for the Mediterranean and Baltic marine stations, if any at all. Moreover, in the Blue Growth theme no topics suitable for the fundamental (ecological and biodiversity) research oriented, the coastal bound, and the smaller stations can be found.



The shift of potentially interesting topics from Environment (SC5) to Blue Growth thus resulted in a rather strong decrease of chances for developing research at the MARS stations. Overlooking these aspects we, as MARS members, can only conclude this still creates a rather alarming situation. Marine research may still be included in Horizon 2020, yet narrowed down to a strongly restricted part of the marine realm and focused towards a few specific (applied) disciplines in marine sciences. Therefore, we strongly advise all MARS members to contact and mobilise their national delegates in the Programme Committee to emphasise marine sciences more specifically in the Horizon 2020 programme. A list of delegates' email addresses can be found below.

We may hope that future calls will have a more open view towards coastal pan-European research that can be of interest to a wider range of MARS stations and the European society at large.

- Belgium: mieke.houwen@ewi.vlaanderen.be, martine.vanderstraeten@belspo.be
- Croatia: lana.zutelija@mobilnost.hr, franic@imi.hr
- Cyprus: cpastavros@cytanet.com.cy, dfatta@ucy.ac.cy
- Denmark: bep@fi.dk, hepo@fi.dk, jjm@fi.dk, sbs@mst.dk, rnc@fi.dk
- Finland: laura.raaska@aka.fi
- France: claire.hubert@developpement-durable.gouv.fr, michel.leblanc@recherche.gouv.fr
- Germany: andrea.fischer@bmbf.bund.de
- Italy: barbante@unive.it
- Malta: denise.bartolo@gov.mt
- Netherlands: j.t.c.m.sprangers@minez.nl, robbert.droop@minienm.nl
- Poland: cecylia.lesniewska@nauka.gov.pl, maria.antosiewicz@kpk.gov.pl
- Portugal: anabela.carvalho@fct.pt, cborrego@ua.pt
- Spain: rodriguez\_carolina@cdti.es, b.artinano@ciemat.es
- Sweden: erik.arnberg@gov.se
- Slovenia: ivan.skubic@gov.si
- UK: mike.collins@defra.gsi.gov.uk, mitr@nerc.ac.

**! Final announcement of the topics will be at 19 November and the full call of 2014-2015 will be announced on 11 December !**

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## 3rd World Conference on Marine Biodiversity

The 1st WCMB was held in Valencia, Spain in November 2008 (<http://www.marbef.org/worldconference/>) and was followed by WCMB2 (<http://www.marine-biodiversity.org/>) in Aberdeen, Scotland in 2011. The 3rd World Conference on Marine Biodiversity will be held from October 12-16, 2014 in Qingdao, China. Qingdao is one of the most important marine science and technology centres in China. About one third of China's marine research institutions and half of the country's high-level marine researchers are located in Qingdao.



Themes will be:

- Marine Biodiversity & Global change
- Marine Ecosystem Structure & Function
- Marine Ecosystem Safety
- Marine Biological Observation
- Marine Biological Resources and
- Deep sea Biodiversity.

Deadline for Abstracts and Early registration = 30 May 2014

Grants for people from developing countries from SCOR and IABO are provided, see following link: <http://wcmb2014.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/70018>

Link: <http://wcmb2014.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/1>

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## Website 49<sup>th</sup> EMBS

As already announced in the MARS newsletter of September, the latest European Marine Biology Symposium will be held in St. Petersburg. Now, the website for the 49<sup>th</sup> EMBS is also online. The web address is <http://onlinereg.ru/embs49>

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## Marine station highlighted

By Ferdinando Boero

The Museum of Marine Biology at Porto Cesareo and the Laboratory of Marine Biology and Zoology at the University of Salento, Lecce.



Our research facilities are based in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences and Technologies at the University of Salento, Lecce. The Department is located at 20 km from the Ionian Sea and 10 km from the Adriatic Sea. With our pick-up truck and a trailer we can bring our research boat anywhere along the Salento Peninsula in a very short time. We have easy access to both rocky and soft bottoms, including marine caves. White coral banks thrive in the deep sea nearby the lab. Most of our work is performed in situ, using SCUBA diving. We also use oceanographic vessels for deep sea and off shore studies. A fully equipped 14-m-long research boat is under construction, to further support our field activities.

The lab is about 900 square meters and we have facilities to study benthos, plankton and nekton, two cold rooms to rear animals under controlled conditions, and a molecular lab for genetic and developmental studies. Further facilities will soon become available within the framework of the EU infrastructure Lifewatch.

Our main focus is on marine biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, with a great emphasis on experimental approaches. We are also strong in taxonomy (especially copepods, polychaetes, molluscs, and cnidaria) and dedicate much attention to the biology and ecology of life cycles and on the impact of alien species. The design and management of Marine Protected Areas and the definition of habitats is also one of our main research themes.



Being based in a University, we perform lots of capacity building activities, focused on marine science. In 2010 we launched a master course in English: Coastal and Marine Biology and Ecology ([http://www.scienzemfn.unisalento.it/cmbe\\_homepage](http://www.scienzemfn.unisalento.it/cmbe_homepage)) that is attracting students from the whole of Italy and also from abroad. We also have a PhD course in collaboration with the Euromediterranean Center for Climate Change.

We are involved in many EU projects, and two are currently coordinated by our scientists (CoCoNet and Med-Jellyrisk). Our facilities are part of CoNISMa, the National Interuniversity Consortium

of Marine Science that gathers 33 Italian Universities engaged in marine sciences. The Consortium chose a researcher from the University of Salento as representative in the European Marine Board.

The Museum of Marine Biology at Porto Cesareo, in direct connection with the Marine Protected Area of Porto Cesareo, is our centre of ocean literacy. The Museum attracts more than 11.000 visitors per year, and half are students, from kinder garden to university. We use art as a major vehicle of ocean literacy and have started a very successful campaign of citizen science to record the presence of gelatinous plankton along the 8.500 km of the Italian coast.



Besides having published hundreds of scientific papers, books, and monographs, we are much concerned in dissemination. Our research on jellyfish hit the cover of Time Magazine of November 2nd 2009.

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## Printed newsletter?

By Christiaan Hummel



Until now, the MARS secretariat has received a number of requests for a printed version of the MARS newsletter. If you also want a printed version of the MARS newsletter to put for example in the library, coffee room or the cantina at your institute, please send an email with your postal address to the MARS secretariat at [christiaan.hummel@nioz.nl](mailto:christiaan.hummel@nioz.nl), and we will send you a printed version of every MARS newsletter by mail.

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## From the President

By Herman Hummel

In the last M@RS Newsflash, we announced the coming Biodiversa call, for it was potentially of interest to MARS members. Unfortunately, in October, with the addition of only one word, the call was changed from a broad scope to a very narrow scope. The topic for the newest Biodiversa call is "Promoting synergies and reducing trade-offs between food supply, biodiversity and ecosystem services", which is a potentially interesting topic for MARS members.

The two themes in this overarching topic would have been:

- T1: To what extent can biodiversity better support ecosystems in terms of multi-functionality and outcomes in a global change context?
- T2: Which policies and governance systems can promote the emergence and support of ecosystems benefiting from and beneficial to biodiversity and ecosystem services?

Unfortunately, these two themes were changed to:

- T1: To what extent can biodiversity better support **agro-ecosystems / agricultural production systems** in terms of multi-functionality and outcomes in a global change context?
- T2: Which policies and governance systems can promote the emergence and support of **agro-ecosystems / agricultural production systems** benefiting from and beneficial to biodiversity and ecosystem services?

The latter themes seem to be a very narrowed down spin-off of the first (preliminary) themes. Our Dutch liaison-officer responsible for Biodiversa affairs, reacted quite shocked when we informed him (!! ) and a week later, after consulting Brussels, confirmed that we were right. The topic is even interpreted as agriculture in the most narrow sense, i.e. nothing about aquaculture (as also not forestry or husbandry). This leaves absolutely no room for marine sciences, and fundamental sciences.

This again is an example and proof of how fundamental (and) marine sciences are moved to the side of the scientific arena. If we do not take care we can soon close down all our scientific activities as far as they are not part of an economically applied and strategic segment of scientific research.

As marine stations we should protest strongly on this evolution, join forces, and contact our national (ESF and EC) delegates in Strasbourg and Brussels in order to put a hold to this eradication of marine sciences from present and future scientific programmes in Europe. Therefore, we propose to send a letter to the ESF and the EC in Strasbourg and Brussels on behalf of the MARS members to stop this tendency. Please contact us in case you want to participate in this joint action.

You can either mail the MARS president directly at [herman.hummel@nioz.nl](mailto:herman.hummel@nioz.nl) or the MARS secretariat at [mars@nioz.nl](mailto:mars@nioz.nl).