

In this newsletter:

1. MARS Directors Meeting 2014
2. Program MARS Directors meeting
3. Travel arrangements MARS Directors meeting
4. **Additional meeting:** A joint MARS/WAMS initiative within EC Framework Programme Horizon 2020
5. MARS @ LinkedIn
6. MARS travel awards

[MARS Directors meeting 2014, Amsterdam, The Netherlands](#)

By Herman Hummel and Christiaan Hummel

Dear colleagues,

We proudly announce the sixth MARS Directors meeting and the second WAMS International Assembly will be organised locally by the Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) and will be held from 26-28 March in Amsterdam.

The topic of this meeting will be “[Future perspectives for marine sciences](#)”.

We cordially invite you to this meeting, which gives you the perfect opportunity for networking and discussions on current issues, new trends and ideas for new marine research to be supported by the MARS institutes, and also other similar organisations organized at a global scale in WAMS.

Further on in this newsletter you will find the meeting program, information on the meeting location and some suggestions for travel arrangements.

For those of you who need a visa, please contact us at mars@nioz.nl to send you an official invitation.

We are looking forward to seeing you in two months' time in Amsterdam!!



Program MARS Directors meeting

By Herman Hummel

First day : Wednesday 26 March - 13:00-17:00 (Social programme 17:30-22:00)

MARS Directors meeting

- 13:00 - 13:45 : *Registration*
13:45 : Opening and welcome by the officials and hosts:
 - Herman Hummel, President MARS
 - Mike Thorndyke, Chair WAMS
14:00 : The MARS Business Plan : An overview of the recent actions
14:30 : International actions and cooperation
14:30 : European Research and Resource networks (e.g. EuroMarine, EMBRC)
14:45 : International Observatory networks (EU-GOOS, GEOSS)
15:00 : European Observatory networks (EMBOS, FixO3, JERICO)
15:15 : Plenary discussion
15:30 : *Coffee break*
16:00 : Latest developments at the ESF Marine Board, OBIS and JPI Oceans
16:30 : What's new in the EC Framework Programme Horizon 2020
16:45 : Plenary discussion and establish working group for INFRASUPP 6 (see appendix)
17:30 – 22:00 : *Social Programme:*
17:30 *Guided tour in the old city of Amsterdam*
19:30 : *Dinner (a typical Dutch Dinner)*

Second day : Thursday 27 March - 09:00-15:00 (Social programme 15:30-22:00)

MARS Directors meeting (continued)

- 09:00 : MARS minutes of the last meeting, Members and Finances, MARS Newsletter
09:30 : The role of MARS in Horizon 2020
09:45 : Plenary discussion on the role of MARS in Horizon 2020 : Concerted actions needed for the coming calls ?!
10:30 : *Coffee break*

WAMS International Assembly: Global Perspectives

- 11:00 : The MARS Initiative for WAMS supported by UNESCO-IOC
11:15 : WAMS and marine science around the world (presented by regional delegates from North America, Africa, South America, Australia, Asia, Arabian countries)
12:30 -13:30 *Lunch*
13:30 : Plenary discussion on concerted global WAMS actions: What priorities to chose
15:00 : *Coffee break*
15:30 – 22:00 : *Social Programme:*
15:30 : *Bus tour (characteristic Dutch polder landscape and picturesque villages)*
19:30 : *Dinner (another typical Dutch Dinner)*

(18:30 Board Meeting: drafting resolutions (WAMS Board members only)

Third day: Friday 28 March - 09:30-12:00

WAMS International Assembly : Global Perspectives (continued)

09:00:	Plenary discussion on concerted global WAMS actions (continued)
10:00:	A roadmap for global WAMS actions
10:15:	The WAMS resolution
10:30:	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00:	Plenary discussion of the WAMS resolution
11:30:	Adoption by participants of a WAMS resolution
11:45:	a.o.b.
12:00:	Closure of the MARS/WAMS meeting

Travel arrangements MARS Directors meeting

By Christiaan Hummel

The address of the meeting location is:

Studio Out of the Blue
Eerste Nassaustraat 7
1052 BD Amsterdam

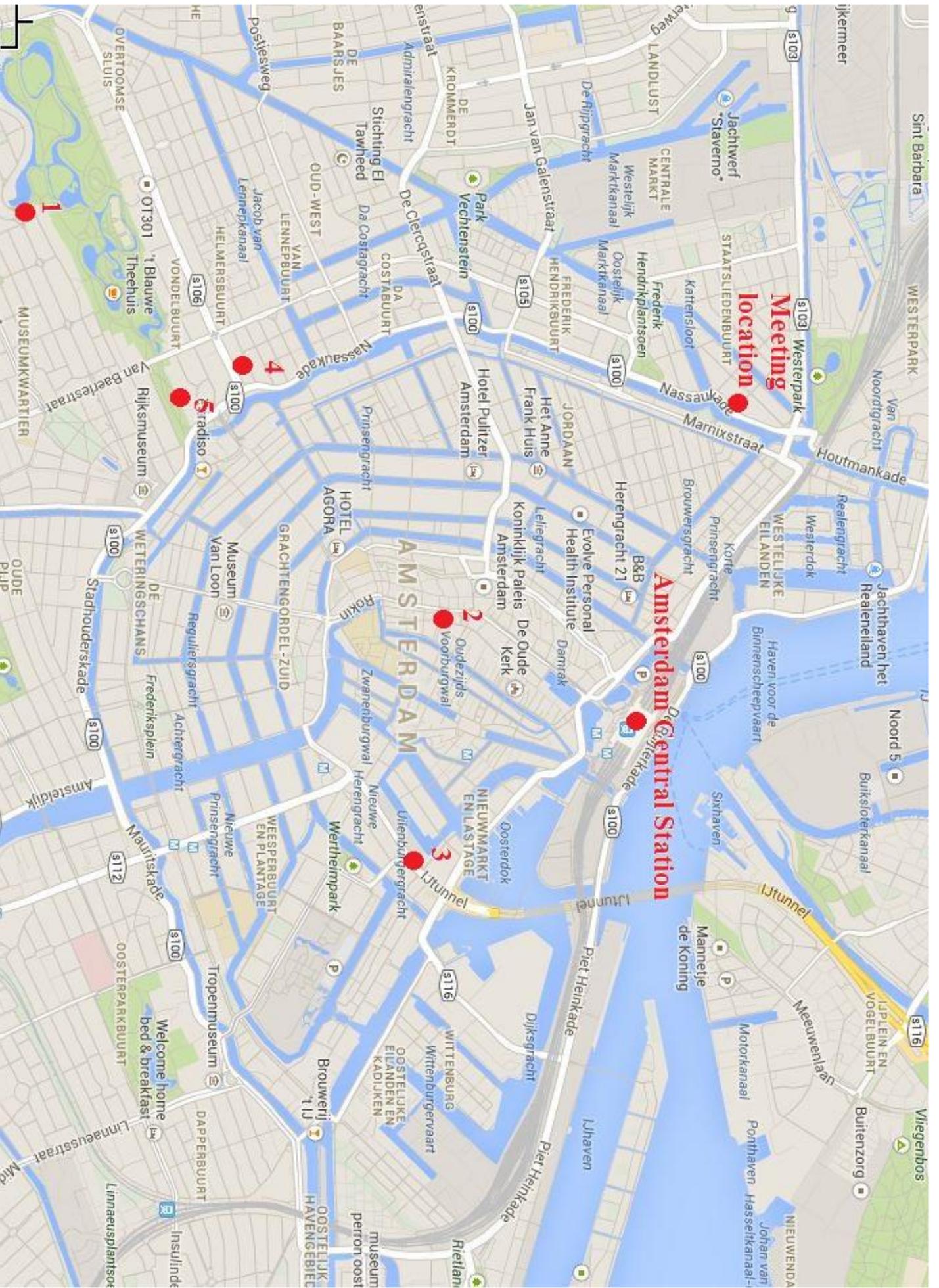
Good areas to find a hotel in Amsterdam are: city centre (but avoid the Rokin area because of a large rather noisy metro building site), and “oud West” (old West). The area to avoid is “de Wallen”, although hotels may be cheap here, this is the Amsterdam red light district. Cheap and cheerful accommodation may be found in the youth hostel (called Stayokay), also indicated on the map below.

Near the venue many smaller hotels and Bed-and-Breakfasts can be found. This part of Amsterdam is called “Jordaan”, and is a typical Amsterdam neighbourhood with small narrow streets, and small houses, therefore virtually no big hotels are situated here.

For cheap hotel bookings in Amsterdam, the website www.booking.com might be useful, as it gives an extensive overview of the available hotels in Amsterdam

Below you will find a map of Amsterdam and a table, in which are indicated 5 suggestions for accommodation ranging from more expensive to cheap hotels with contact details, and prices per person including breakfast, based on a single room. They are all located within a 20 minute travel range from the meeting location, either by public transport or by foot.

Number on map:	Name	Approximate price per person per night	Address	Telephone number	Website
1	Park Plaza Vondelpark	€150,-	Koninginneweg 34-36 - 1075 CZ, Amsterdam	+31 (0)20 655 10 80	http://www.parkplaza.com/amsterdam-hotel-nl-1075-cz/netvonde?s_cid=tl.gp.ppvo
2	Rho Hotel	€120,-	Nes 5-23 - 1012 KC, Amsterdam	+31 (0)20 620 73 71	http://www.rhohotel.com/
3	IBIS Amsterdam Stopera	€89,-	Valkenburgerstraat 68 - 1011 LZ, Amsterdam	+31 (0)20 531 91 59	http://www.ibis.com/nl/hotel-3044-ibis-amsterdam-centre-stopera/index.shtml
4	Hotel ABBA	€85,-	Overtoom 118-122 - 1054 HM, Amsterdam	+31 (0)20 618 30 58	http://www.hotel-abba.nl/
5	Stayokay Vondelpark	€39,80	Zandpad 5 - 1054 GA, Amsterdam	+31 (0)20 589 89 96	http://www.stayokay.com/nl/hostel/amsterdam-vondelpark



Additional meeting: A joint MARS/WAMS initiative within EC Framework Programme Horizon 2020

In the EC Framework Programme Horizon 2020 a call is launched for global cooperation between research infrastructures in order to “Support to Innovation, Human resources, Policy and International cooperation”.

The specific topic “INFRASUPP-6-2014 – International cooperation for research infrastructures” aims to support multilateral cooperation on research infrastructures in one or several of the following areas: Arctic research, marine science, biodiversity, food research and medicine (see full text below).

Particular emphasis will be made on cooperation with USA, Canada (including for implementing the Transatlantic Research Alliance, launched by the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation) and Russia, without excluding other relevant countries such as Australia and New Zealand.

Marine stations connected in networks as MARS, NAML, and the overarching WAMS are well positioned to launch a proposal dedicated to this topic.

In case you are interested in joining this proposal, an additional meeting will be held prior to the MARS directors meeting in Amsterdam, on **Wednesday 26 March, from 10 to 12, at the same venue as the MARS Directors meeting.**

If you have any questions concerning this meeting, or on the topic, please contact the MARS secretariat at mars@nioz.nl.

MARS @ LinkedIn

By Christiaan Hummel



The MARS network now has its own LinkedIn page. You can join this page via your own LinkedIn account. Just search for MARS network and click “Join”. On this LinkedIn page there is a forum where you can post questions to other MARS members, find partners for research proposals, have discussions etc. You can submit your topic, and after review by the MARS secretariat, your topic will be visible. We hope you will all join the MARS LinkedIn page.

MARS travel awards

By Christiaan Hummel

We are proud to announce that this year’s MARS student travel awards have been awarded to:

Daniel Crespo, a PhD from the University of Coimbra, Portugal, traveling to the University of Southampton, UK, where he will do an extensive experiment exploring whether the relationship between biodiversity and nutrient generation in naturally assembled communities changes with scale; and make an assessment of biodiversity compositional changes (species identity and relative abundance) and its consequences for ecosystem functioning.

Alessia Dinoi, a Master student from the University of Salento, Italy, traveling to the Centre de Recherches Insulaires et Observatoire de l’Environnement, Perpignan, France, to employ *Donacilla cornea* as model to determine its genetic structure and to investigate if there is any large scale genetic connectivity throughout the Mediterranean and Black seas.

We wish them both a fruitful travel, and will publish their results in one of the coming MARS newsletters.
