

Newsletter



March - April 2015

In this newsletter:

1. MARS Travel Awards 2015
2. Horizon 2020 Infraia call: Important for Marine Stations
3. Fellowsea programme for post-docs
4. Absence of the MARS secretariat during summer holidays

1. MARS Travel Awards 2015



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

Nadezhda Rimskaya-Korsakova, from the Faculty of Biology, of the Lomonosov Moscow State University, traveling to the Marine Biology Section of the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, where she will be working on the detailed investigation of the nervous system and sensory organs of adult *Osedax priapus* and non paedomorphic male *Osedax priapus*, to reconstruct an ancestral state of the nervous system in order to compare *Osedax* worms with other siboglinids and annelids.

Valentina Pitacco, from the Marine Biology Station of Piran, Slovenia, traveling to the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Crete, Greece, to compare the associated fauna of stony coral (*C. caespitosa*) in the Northern Adriatic and Aegean Sea, and to investigate if there is a difference in species composition. Also the application of the same Species Area Relation (SAR) model for both areas will be studied.

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

2. Horizon 2020 Infraia call: Important for Marine Stations

Recently we were informed by the Dutch delegates in the Programme Committee on a coming Infrastructure call on Marine Biological Stations. It was judged by them as a possible follow-up of our earlier attempts to launch a marine biological (observation) infrastructure. Moreover, it is also a link to the EMBRC (see draft call below).

Earlier attempts of a cooperation between MARS, EMBOS and EMBRC members to launch such an infrastructure through the MarBEcoS and IPBISCO proposals have unfortunately failed. Nevertheless, the present description of the draft call seems to be a major chance to MARS members to (again) submit a proposal.

Now there is still sufficient time left to influence/inform our national delegates in order to optimise the call (see below), and there is also sufficient time to prepare an excellent proposal. The next meeting of the Programme Committee will be at the end of June, and the call will only be launched at the end of this year.

Please inform us on your opinion, or possible changes, to optimise the preliminary call text. Also let us know if you want to join in the possibility to make a unique proposal! You can email to mars@nioz.nl, herman.hummel@nioz.nl or christiaan.hummel@nioz.nl.

The preliminary text of the call is as follows:

Marine biological stations. This activity aims at improving and further integrate access to a wide range of marine biology and ecology resources for research, including: marine biodiversity and associated historical time-series data; culture collections of marine biological resources; marine model organisms, including specific genetic resources; up-to-date equipment for biological research (“omics”); and rare and unique facilities for experimental biology and ecology. It should also stimulate knowledge and technology transfer to industry and to public policy-makers. Synergies with relevant ESFRI Infrastructures, in particular EMBRC, should be duly exploited.

3. Fellowsea programme for post-docs



FELLOWSEA is a programme at the University of Vigo to attract post-doctoral talent, and is co-funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission. It intends to build a favourable environment for the best experienced researchers in marine and maritime science, technology and management. The programme offers three-year grants to 10 incoming experienced non-Spanish researchers.

Fellows will be hosted by one of the research groups at the University of Vigo, the University of Coruña, or the Spanish Institute of Oceanography. They will be facilitated to work freely in their research project with the support and mentoring of the research group.

Candidates are asked to elaborate a research project related to the research topics shown in the “available positions” document available at www.campusdomar.es/fellowsea.

The deadline for submission of proposals is June 30, 2015.

4. Absence of the MARS secretariat during summer holidays

Due to the summer holidays, the MARS secretariat will be closed from 26 June to 20 July. If you have any urgent questions regarding MARS during this period, you can mail them to the MARS President, Herman Hummel. Email address is herman.hummel@nioz.nl.



The MARS secretariat wishes everyone a pleasant summer holiday!
