

BILAT-Workshop: Atlantic Ocean research - Detecting new ways of information exchange for enhanced collaboration

Brief for speakers

Morning Sessions and Best Practice Session Speakers

The workshop will present 5 to 6 best practices on collaboration – looking at the levels of RTDI-cooperation, dialogue processes, media and platform, ICT tools for sharing information. Best practice examples can be:

- A bilateral / trilateral / multilateral practical cooperation between research organizations (programme-level preferred to project-level)
- A successful policy dialogue initiative in the area of Atlantic Ocean research involving two or more countries
- A well-functioning information sharing tool (e.g. a database with search function for calls on bilateral level)
- A best practice on funding organization level (e.g. regular conferences, joint databases, joint calls)
- A general overview of possibilities for international research collaboration in Atlantic Ocean research in the respective country

Presenters can come from entities (EC, national governments, ICES), from international initiatives (e.g. bilateral Marine Boards/Councils), from research management/funding (project management agencies, ministries) and from research performers (national research organisations).

Presentations will last about 15 minutes plus 5 minutes (Q&A or a Q&A altogether in the end about 30 minutes).

Guiding questions to be answered by the presentations given:

- What kind of activity do you present (general description of context and setting)?
- How often do you exchange with your partners? Exchange what?
- How do you ensure the constant information flow with your partners?
- How do you tie the relevant information together at the right time to generate successful sustainable research collaboration?
- What supporting / information sharing devices do you apply?
- How do you share information about strategies?
- How do you share information about calls?
- How do you share information about budget available and how do you align and coordinate funds with your partners?
- Are there discussions in your organizations about how to lift cooperation to the next level (e.g. joint programming, joint research labs/infrastructures, alignment of funding)?

Panel Discussion (moderators and panelists)

It will be a co-moderation of two moderators - one with a scientific background in ocean research and one with a policy and communication background.

Guiding Questions for the moderators and panelists:

Introductory questions regarding structural processes:

- Can information flow regarding Atlantic Ocean collaborative research activities be more targeted and efficient, and at the same time more accessible for all?
- For more efficient and systematic international cooperation, do we need to improve policy level processes or is it more the operational level processes (research funding management and research performing organizations) that need to be improved? How to engage stakeholders and funding agencies which normally operate at bilateral level?

Questions regarding current challenges:

- What kind of information needs to be shared to boost joint research? And between whom?
- What processes or information are missing to boost international collaboration in Atlantic Ocean research?
- What is the deficit of current collaboration structures and current research funding mechanisms?
- What are the obstacles for sharing information about joint funding, cooperative research etc. (time constraints, contractual issues, reciprocity, level, interlocutors...)?

Questions for a better toolbox:

- What are good tools for an intelligent information sharing process to set a base for sustainable and systematic collaboration?
- How can policy / research funders better contribute to establish joint programmes and alignment of funding on international level?
- What can we learn from the best-practice examples to start an efficient alignment of funding?

Summary of expected workshop outcomes:

- An overview about what kind of information is currently shared and with which tools to collect, store and exchange them
- A suggestion for enhancing a constant information flow on Atlantic research initiatives and projects to boost international cooperation
- A commitment of the participants on what information should be shared and on future information exchange procedures
- A start of the discussion on how to effectively align available funding