



KEY FIGURES

Project name: New operational steps towards an alliance of European research fleets

Project acronym: EUROFLEETS2

Funding scheme (FP7): Combination of Collaborative Projects (CP) and

Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) for Integrating Activities (IA)

EU financial contribution: €9 million

Duration: 52 months

Start date: 01 March 2013

Coordinator: Valérie Mazauric and Jacques Binot, Ifremer

Number of countries: 20

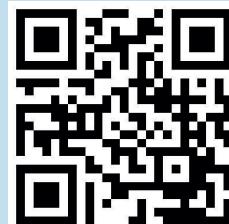
Number of beneficiaries: 31 institutions

Number of vessels in EUROFLEETS2: 22

Number of pieces of research equipment: 6

This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 312762

Download the full report at:
<http://www.eurofleets.eu/np4/83/>



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THE EUROFLEETS SHIP-TIME PROPOSAL EVALUATION SYSTEM



THE EVALUATION PROCESS

The EUROFLEETS ship-time proposal evaluation system is based on the best procedures of European evaluation systems. It has been accepted by the operators of 28 European research vessels (RVs), as members of the EUROFLEETS and EUROFLEETS2 projects. This is especially relevant as this is the first time that a European evaluation system grants ship-time on national RVs. It has been tested in the evaluation of 104 proposals and proven successful, as this system ensures that only excellent proposals are granted ship time.

1. ELIGIBILITY

Upon call closure the Evaluation Office (EO) checks if proposals meet the eligibility criteria. When proposals fail to meet these, they are excluded from the further evaluation process and rejected by the EO.

2. SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION

A member of the Scientific Review Panel (SRP), expert on the respective proposal topic, is allocated to each proposal by the chair of the SRP and the EO. This SRP member accompanies the proposals and he/she is responsible throughout the different steps of the evaluation process and – if the proposal is successful – even afterwards for the cruise reporting. One member of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) participates at the SRP meetings ensuring the transparency of the evaluation process.

a) Selection of reviewers: The Scientific Review Panel suggests external experts to evaluate each of the proposals.

b) Individual assessment: The review is carried out by three external experts per proposal.

c) Consensus evaluation: Every SRP member reports on his/her allocated proposal and comments on the received reviews. This is followed by an open discussion where the SRP members reach a consensus.

d) Interranking: In a second round, the proposals are ranked and recommended for scheduling or rejected.

3. LOGISTIC EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

Only the proposals ranked as excellent are recommended for scheduling and forwarded to the Logistic Review Panel (LRP). The LRP evaluates the proposals for their logistical feasibility following their assigned ranking number, independently of the RV requested, and they ultimately decide which RV fits each proposal best.

4. FEEDBACK AND NEGOTIATION OF SUCCESSFUL PROPOSALS

All applicants receive a funding decision accompanied by a Consensus Evaluation Report (CER), which is prepared by the allocated SRP member. The CER is based upon the individual reviews and takes comments and judgement made during the SRP discussion into account. Proposals selected for funding start the negotiation phase to include the cruise in the respective RV schedule.

This shared evaluation system, developed under the umbrella of EUROFLEETS, has proved to be efficient and its criteria should be used as a baseline for future evaluation of European calls for ship-time.

