

Regional workshops held

Milestone 34

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1. Introduction

This milestone provides an overview of the regional workshops that DEVOTES partners have held or attended to during the first 36 months of the project. The workshops have been organized not only to encourage scientific collaborations but also to enhance relationships between researchers and stakeholders involved in the project.

The main objective of these workshops has been to disseminate the main findings of DEVOTES project and provide new views for future scientific (among scientists) and operational (between scientists and stakeholders) collaborations.

The workshops reported in this Milestone are related to:

- Task 7.1.2 (*Network with stakeholders using regional workshops and meetings*),
- Task 7.1.3 (*Provide outreach and networking activities with key SMEs during scientific and technology fairs in all 4 regional seas*) and
- Task 7.2.2 (*Joint workshops and special sessions in international conferences*),

All of these tasks are being done within Work Package (WP) 7.

The aim of these tasks is:

- to let DEVOTES generating improved interfacing mechanisms in the management process, among science, policy, decision makers and the general public,
- to encourage SMEs and stakeholders to actively take part in the project development and
- to disseminate scientific results.

All the workshops held/attended and the related material are available in the web page of DEVOTES project (<http://www.devotes-project.eu/conferences/>).

At the beginning of the project, ECOREACH (Partner 22) prepared a template for the stakeholder contact list in Month 3 and made it available for partners in the restricted area of the website. NILU (Partner 2) co-developed with ECOREACH the stakeholder data base and tested this providing lists of stakeholders for Poland and partial lists for Portugal and Norway. NILU has also checked inputs from the DEVOTES partners. This database is continuously updated. The stakeholder database has been mapped and analysed to prepare the regional workshops with stakeholders and SMEs.

ECOREACH, in close collaboration with NILU, has prepared an online form for the stakeholder involvement (<http://www.devotes-project.eu/stakeholder-involvement/>). Different target groups of stakeholders have been contacted directly and through newsletters.

2. Workshops

2.1. Participation to Regional Workshops

Below the detailed list of the stakeholder workshops can be consulted:

- HELCOM-CORESET. January 2014
- ICG-COBAM (OSPAR)- Intersessional Correspondence Group on Biodiversity Monitoring and Assessment. March 2014. Angel Borja (Coordinator) presented “DEvelopment Of innovative Tools for understanding marine biodiversity and assessing good Environmental Status: main outputs obtained (18 months) and coming tasks”
- UNEP-MED. April 2014
- MSFD Guiding Improvements in the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring System, 23-26 June 2014, Romania. Snejana Moncheva (IO-BAS) presented “DEvelopment Of innovative Tools for understanding marine biodiversity and assessing good Environmental Status: Activities of monitoring revision and recommendations”
- OSPAR-COBAM meeting, Dinard (France), July 2014. Angel Borja (Coordinator) presented “Overview and potential contribution from DEVOTES”
- ICES WRISCO: Workshop on Regional Seas Commissions and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Scoping. 17th-20th November 2014, Copenhagen (Denmark)
- Coastal Ecosystem Services and the Land-Sea Interface International Workshop. 22nd-25th March 2015, Kiel (Germany)
- Ecology at the Interface” Conference, 21st – 25th September 2015 – Rome (Italy). Ecoreach promoted DEVOTES progress and results during the whole conference. The DEVOTES stand included the panels on the Importance of Marine Monitoring, videos and demonstration of ARMS and ASUs
- Black Sea Convention, Istanbul, 8th October 2015. Kemal Can Bizsel (DEU) presented: “Development of innovative tools for understanding marine biodiversity and assessing good environmental status: the progress of the EU project DEVOTES”
- Regional Seas Commissions meeting. 20th October 2015, Istanbul. Alice Newton (NILU), Kemal Can Bizsel (DEU) and Angel Borja (AZTI) represented DEVOTES at this meeting. Angel Borja (Coordinator) presented “New tools for the assessment of biodiversity developed by the European FP7 DEVOTES project”

- First Meeting of the Regional Seas Indicators Working Group, 23rd October 2015, Istanbul, Turkey. Alice Newton (NILU) and Kemal Can Bizsel (DEU) represented DEVOTES at this meeting. The meeting was hosted by UNEP and attended by representatives of most Regional Seas. The contributions made by the DEVOTES project were much appreciated and, as an outcome, DEVOTES was invited to participate in the Working Group developing the Regional Seas indicators. Furthermore, several Regional Seas representatives expressed an interest in capacity building workshops for the demonstration of DEVOTES tools.
- Science-Policy Interface Inception Workshop. 15th-16th December 2015, Sophia-Antipolis (France), organized by UNEP-MAP (Plan Bleu). Angel Borja (Coordinator) presented “DEVOTES project: Developing tools for understanding marine biodiversity, assessing environmental status and assisting policy implementation”

Moreover, DEVOTES members attended meetings with representatives of Black Sea (two in October 2015), OSPAR (four in 2014 and two in 2015) and HELCOM conventions, and gave presentations at ICES Working Groups, like benthic ecology and biodiversity, in 2014 and 2015.

During 2016 is expected also to attend several regional workshops.

2.2. Organization of Regional Workshops

DEVOTES organized two Regional Workshops so far:

- **DEVOTES-STAGES Joint Stakeholder Consultation Workshop. 12nd February 2014, Brussels**

The STAGES and DEVOTES Stakeholder Consultation Workshop, held in Brussels on 12 February 2014, was attended by a lot of people from several institutions/countries. The participants had very different affiliations and interests (MS, academia, NGOs). There was a lot of interest in DEVOTES, with many questions addressing different perspectives in parallel, providing useful brainstorming. Existing DEVOTES products such as the Catalogue of Monitoring Networks, the Catalogue of Indicators and the DEVOTool were demonstrated. It was also very useful to network with representatives of other related EU projects (e.g. KnowSes, PERSEUS, and STAGES) and various organisations, for both potential collaboration and exchange of information.

Prior to the meeting, the stakeholders who had registered were consulted to determine what their main interests relevant to the research carried out in DEVOTES. Three members of the DEVOTES team attended to represent the project: Tiziana Luisetti (CEFAS), Nikoloas Zampoukas (JRC), Jon Atkins (U HULL). Presentations given by DEVOTES Team are available at <http://www.devotes-project.eu/presentations/>

- **“Tools for assessing status of European aquatic ecosystems” of the research programmes DEVOTES, WATERS (www.waters.gu.se) and MARS (www.mars-project.eu). 6th-7th May 2015, Malmö (Sweden)**

The key topics were: development of indicators for assessing ecological/environmental status of streams, lakes, transitional, coastal and offshore waterbodies; validation of indicators against pressures; assessing uncertainty of indicators; combining indicators into overall ecosystem assessments; compatibility and consistency of assessment criteria across policies and environments. The symposium was attended by nearly a hundred participants from 16 countries and the target audience was composed by scientists involved in research applied to the EU directives, managers in local/national/EU agencies and regional conventions and other stakeholders interested in scientific development of assessment tools. The two-day programme included 55 presentations on indicator development and assessment methods for ecological and environmental status of freshwater and marine ecosystems, as well as panel discussions and lots of networking between scientists, environmental managers and authority representatives. All the info is available at <http://waters.gu.se/scisymp>.

Angel Borja (Coordinator) presented, as key note speaker, “Development of innovative tools for understanding marine biodiversity and assessing good environmental status: the progress of the EU project DEVOTES”.

During 2016 is expected also to organize several regional workshops to disseminate our findings.