



**SeaDataNet**

*PAN-EUROPEAN INFRASTRUCTURE  
FOR OCEAN & MARINE DATA  
MANAGEMENT*

***Exploitation agreement and legal entity***

## ***Exploitation agreement***

- The SeaDataNet infrastructure needs to be kept operational after the end of SeaDataNet II.
- On one hand we keep looking at new sources of funding.
- On the other hand we need to commit ourselves to keeping the SeaDataNet services alive.
- This is the purpose of an *ad hoc* **exploitation agreement** between the former project partners and sub-contractors.

## *Summary*

“The exploitation agreement has been developed to ensure the sustainability of the SeaDataNet infrastructure for 3 years beyond the end of the project and to encourage partners to continue to support the data discovery and access service through the delivery of further marine datasets.”

- The SeaDataNet technical partners will keep the SeaDataNet pan-European directory services operational and will process updates and new entries by data providers from SeaDataNet and beyond
- The SeaDataNet data centres will keep their CDI - data connection operational and maintained at the current level to ensure continued service for the discovery and retrieval of data.
- The SeaDataNet data centres and technical partners will perform regular monitoring of the SeaDataNet services and in the case of configuration changes or observed discontinuities, the SeaDataNet data centres concerned will immediately undertake actions to restore the operational system.

- SeaDataNet data centres that fail to maintain their connectivity with the SeaDataNet infrastructure and do not maintain a good level of service may risk exclusion from any future continuation projects.
- To ensure that each data centre remains fully functional, each partner will implement updated and new data handling software applications that may be developed in the framework of other ongoing projects.
- Funding opportunities for supporting the SeaDataNet infrastructure and its further development will be explored by partners including calls launched within the framework of EU HORIZONS 2020.

## *Status as of Sept. 15, 2015*

- 46 potential signatories
- 33 parties signed
- 1 refused to sign



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## ***Brainstorming → Giving a legal personality to the project partnership could allow to:***

- collect and manage the legacy of the SDN projects in a **formal and sustainable** manner;
- formalize **rights and duties** between partners, and their contribution to maintaining an operational infrastructure;
- define **common goals** for further developments, and establish the governance of the partnership;
- facilitate expanding the partnership with **additional data provider**;
- facilitate the positioning of the partnership as a counterpart for the EU, to discuss & contract **data management services**.

## ***Brainstorming → Common goals and objectives***

- foster **cooperation and coordination** among SDN partners;
- sustain SDN **e-infrastructure** (tools, metadata, data, products, services) on the long run (beyond current project), including the monitoring of the infrastructure as a whole;
- act as **authoritative and competent voice** on data management and information systems at EU level;
- encourage **links** between national systems;
- promote the **pan-European** e-infrastructure at a high level;
- contribute further to data management and information systems, in support of **EU policies**;
- foster the necessary **developments** on data management and information systems, and their implementation.



## ***We go for the « International Non-Profit Association » under Belgian law***

### General objective

- The Organization, which does not seek financial gain, aims to work in the collective interest of its members to improve the quality and cost effectiveness in the management and the dissemination of oceanographic data at national, regional and global levels.

## Specific objectives

- Promote the SeaDataNet network, tools and services and the development of underpinning science and technology;
- Foster cooperation and coordination within its Members in the field of data management and dissemination ;
- Promote and coordinate the development of commonly available products and services; and
- Coordinate the contribution of the pan-European oceanographic data management community to the European Union initiatives for a better environmental status of the seas and oceans and for an improved marine knowledge in general.

## Roadmap

When	What
September 2014 – Now	Analysis of existing AISBL/IVZW statutes and preparation of a draft version adapted to the needs of SeaDataNet
Now	Submissions of the draft statutes to the Steering Committee
End September 2015	Comments on the objectives of the association from Steering Committee members.
October 2015	Statutes V2 distributed to all signatories of the SeaDataNet Exploitation agreement for comments
End November 2015	Comments from potential associates
December 2015	Statutes V3 ready for final polish by lawyers
February 2016?	SeaDataNet aisbl/ivzw created
March 2016?	First General Assembly of SeaDataNet aisbl/ivzw