



FLANDERS MARINE INSTITUTE

www.vliz.be

Flanders
State of the Art
20th Anniversary of
UNESCO-Flanders
Cooperation Agreement



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OBJECTIVE

VLIZ is the central coordination and information platform for marine and coastal scientific research in Flanders - Belgium. VLIZ offers a central platform to identify and mobilize scientific expertise from Flemish and Belgian Marine Research Organizations (MRO). VLIZ promotes and integrates the international presence of marine scientific research and marine education in Flanders. As a partner in various projects and networks, VLIZ develops products and services in support of the marine research community as well as educational institutions, the general public, policymakers and the industry (in the context of the Blue Economy).



1. DATA CENTRE

Contributes to the development of international standards for managing and exchanging data and information.

2. RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Provides logistical support to marine researchers through the management, maintenance and operational support of the research facilities and equipment.

3. MARINE SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY

Public information centre that manages the largest collection of marine scientific and coast-related literature and multimedia in Belgium. It collects, discloses and redistributes marine scientific information to provide support to Flemish and international marine research.

4. POLICY INFORMATION

Provides an interface between the marine and maritime policy and the marine science community by making policy-relevant scientific information available for informed decision-making.

5. COMMUNICATION

Provides scientifically underpinned information to teachers, students, the media and the interested public-at-large in Flanders.

6. COORDINATION

Oversees the daily operations of VLIZ and constitutes the communication link with all other partners of the InnovOcean site in Ostend.

7. RESEARCH

Detects challenges and opportunities for marine research in Flanders and works towards implementation of the identified priorities.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AGREEMENTS



- Mombasa, KENYA | Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI)
- Texel and Yerseke, THE NETHERLANDS | Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ)
- Paris, FRANCE | Ethic Ocean
- QUÉBEC, CANADA | L'Institut des Sciences de la Mer de Rimouski (UQAR-ISMER)
- Ningbo, CHINA | NingBo University
- California, USA | University California Santa Barbara and Benioff Ocean Initiative (BOI)
- Hanoi, VIETNAM | Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST)
- Sevastopol, UKRAINE | National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU)
- BELGIUM | Collaboration agreements

INTERNATIONAL MANDATES

The Government of Flanders has mandated VLIZ to host and support a number of international organizations and partner institutions. This provides a unique opportunity to contribute to important European and global initiatives.

UNESCO/IOC
VLIZ represents Flanders in the Belgian delegation at the Executive Council and the General Assembly of UNESCO/IOC. VLIZ hosts and supports the UNESCO/IOC Project Office for IODE. VLIZ is member in the steering committee of the Flanders UNESCO Trust Fund to support the scientific activities of the UNESCO Science Programme (FUST). Since 2012 the International secretariat of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) is also housed at the UNESCO/IOC Project Office for IODE.
www.ioc-unesco.org

European Marine Board (EMB)
A pan-European platform of marine scientific organizations aimed at developing common priorities and bridging the gap between science and policy. VLIZ represents Flanders in the European Marine Board and hosts the EMB secretariat.
www.marineboard.eu

Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans)
A coordinating and integrating platform, open to all European countries that invest in marine and maritime research.
www.jpi-oceans.eu

European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)
Aims to open up the wealth of marine observations and optimize accessibility so as to invest in sustainable growth and employment. VLIZ hosts the EMODnet secretariat. VLIZ has created a central portal site for observation data from European monitoring series and is the coordinator of the Marine Biological Portal of the EMODnet Global Portal.
www.emodnet.eu

GLOBAL DATA SYSTEMS & SERVICES

APHIA Global Taxonomic register for marine species
The APHIA taxonomic register contains a list of all known marine species in the world and provides an overview of the accepted taxonomic names. It is the core platform in support of the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS).
www.marinespecies.org

European Ocean Biogeographic Information System
EuroBIS is an online marine biogeographic data system that centralizes biogeographic data on marine species. The system discloses marine biogeographic data from different European institutes.
www.eurobis.org

EMODnet biology
This online portal for marine biodiversity data sampled within Europe allows searching and showing metadata, measurement data and data products side by side. The portal is aimed at visualizing and publicizing biological measurement data and making them easily accessible and available.
www.emodnet-biology.eu

Marine Regions
This register of geographical areas and place names offers a standard for maritime boundaries and marine areas and locations. Marine Regions combines information from the VLIMAR Gazetteer and the VLIZ Maritime Boundaries Geodatabase.
• **VLIMAR Gazetteer** is a database with geographic, mainly marine names used in marine research.
• **Maritime Boundaries** database represents the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the world.
• **Marine Regions** is used as the geographic backbone in different data and information systems.
www.marineregions.org

LifeWatch
This distributed virtual laboratory is used for biodiversity research as well as climatological and environmental impact studies. The European research infrastructure integrates several biodiversity observatories, databases, web services and modeling tools. The Belgian node provides online data services and real-time information on marine research activities.
www.lifewatch.be

Sea Level Station Monitoring Facility
The web-based global sea-level station is a monitoring service for viewing sea-level data received in real-time from different network operators. It gives access to the operational status of global sea level monitoring stations and their raw data.
www.ioc-sealevelmonitoring.org