



# EMODnet



European Marine  
Observation and  
Data Network

## EMODnet Biology

EASME/EMFF/2016/006 – Lot No 5 - Biology

EMODnet Phase III

Call for data grants



## 1. Background information

Marine ecosystems provide a vast amount of services that are essential to society and human wellbeing and their conservation is essential to ensure sustainable development. We need to improve our understanding about complex ecosystem functioning and our knowledge about the status and trends on marine biodiversity. There is a considerable amount of marine biological data but these data are often collected with limited spatial and temporal scope and are scattered over different organizations in small datasets for a specific species group or habitat.

EMODnet Biology aims to contribute to expanding our current knowledge on ecosystem functioning and the status of biodiversity by narrowing the current knowledge gaps, unlocking long-term series of curated and QC-ed biological datasets, producing end-user led data products from these data, and making both data and products available in interoperable formats through the web portal.

EMODnet Biology is composed by a consortium of 23 organizations (governmental departments, marine research institutes and SME's) from 13 coastal countries. Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) is the project coordinator. EMODnet biology uses the EurOBIS data system to harmonize and centralize biogeographic data on marine species collected by European institutions. EurOBIS is the European node of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). Both initiatives are fully interoperable and share the same data standards.

## 2. Objective of the call

This call seeks grant proposals that will help EMODnet Biology to increase the amount of data made available and to cover existing geographical, temporal and/or taxonomic data gaps. Additional objectives of the call are to expand the EMODnet Biology network, raise awareness about open data and build capacity on biodiversity data sharing standards and FAIR data. The grant is provided to cover for the necessary resources for the applicant to describe and process the selected dataset(s), standardize and publish them in EMODnet Biology, as well as to attend the EMODnet Biology data workshop, foreseen in May-June 2020.

## 3. Expected outcomes and deliverables

- Applicants will enroll and complete the EMODnet Biology online course in order to become familiarized with EMODnet, the marine biodiversity data landscape, the data standards applied and the publishing process.
- Applicants will attend the EMODnet Biology data workshop foreseen in May-June 2020. This workshop will gather EMODnet Biology partners and data grant beneficiaries to process and standardize datasets with thematic sessions and in-situ support from EMODnet Biology data managers. Applicants are also welcome to join the EMODnet Biology general meetings.
- Applicants will provide rich descriptive metadata and provenance information. Selected datasets will be published under a Creative Commons license (CC-BY or CC-0).
- Applicants will be required to harmonize the selected datasets according to the syntactic and semantic standards: Darwin Core Event Core (OBIS-Env), World Register of Marine Species LSID, NERC controlled vocabularies, etc.

- Applicants will be required to set up an [IPT](#) installation (either external or VLIZ-hosted) to streamline data publication and flow to (Eur)OBIS and EMODnet Biology.
- Applicants must submit three specific deliverables following the templates provided. VLIZ might request additional information and/or amendments before the deliverables are accepted.
  - D1: Full metadata record for each selected dataset, by month two (M2).
  - D2: Interim report on data standardization and publishing status, by month nine (M9).
  - D3: Final report on data standardization and publishing status, by month fifteen (M15).

## 4. Application procedure

Interested institutions can submit a proposal before the announced deadline. To apply for a data grant, it is necessary to fill in the proposal template at the end of this document and send it by electronic mail to [bio@emodnet.eu](mailto:bio@emodnet.eu) with subject "EMODnet Biology data grant proposal + [Institution Name]". Deadline for proposal submission: 17 November 2019. Any question regarding the application procedure can be submitted to the above email address.

## 5. Selection procedure and scoring criteria

Received applications will be reviewed by the EMODnet Biology Coordination Board and they will be scored according to the following criteria:

- Availability of biota quantification (biomass, abundance and/or density).
- Contribution of the datasets to temporal, geographical and taxonomic gaps and size of datasets.
- Temporal length of the datasets. Data from long-term monitoring series, with homogeneous sampling methodologies and identification procedures are encouraged.
- Availability of additional biotic (e.g. sex, development stage) or abiotic information.
- Complementarity with existing or under development data products.
- Significance of the dataset for European policy needs (e.g. MSFD indicators, invasive species).
- Overall relevance to EMODnet Biology and cost-benefit.

The results of the selection process will be communicated to the applicants on 9 December 2019.

## 6. Contract and payments

Once the selection process is finished, a contract will be signed between VLIZ and the selected applicants, indicating the scope and value of the grant, start and end date of the contract, the deliverables and payment procedures.

The duration of the contract will be of 15 months.

Grant funding will vary depending on the size of the contribution, up to a maximum of €20,000.

Grants will be paid based on two invoices (40% and 60% of the total value) and payments will be subject to the acceptance of the deliverables.

**EMODnet Biology - Call for Grant**

Operation, development and maintenance of a European Marine Observation and Data Network. Ref.:  
 EASME/EMFF/2016/006 – Lot No 5 – Biology

**Proposal from [Institution name]**

**General information**

Name	
Email	
Organization	
Current involvement or relation to EMODnet	
Requested funding	

**Dataset contribution**

*Please provide one table per dataset.*

<b>Dataset 1</b>	
Dataset description (including information under which framework they were collected)	
Temporal coverage and resolution	
Geographical coverage	
Taxonomic scope	
Number of occurrence records	
Sampling methodology / methodologies	
Biota quantification (e.g. biomass, density)	
Additional biotic or abiotic measurements	
Is the data already available in another repository / data portal? If so, provide link.	

<b>Dataset 2</b>	
Dataset description (including information under which framework they were collected)	
Temporal coverage and resolution	

Geographical coverage	
Taxonomic scope	
Number of occurrence records	
Sampling methodology / methodologies	
Biota quantification (e.g. biomass, density)	
Additional biotic or abiotic measurements	
Is the data already available in another repository / data portal? If so, provide link.	

Does your institution intend to participate in EMODnet Biology general meetings? (Y/N)