

# European Research Vessels Operators (ERVO) Group Coordinating access to research vessels *20 years of activity!*

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**EMSO ERIC Workshop on Sea Operations for Ocean Observatories**  
*Session 4B – Mutualisation of heavy means for servicing observatories*

**26<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Toulon, France**

# THE ERVO GROUP

- ✧ **Informal pan-European long-lasting network, with no legal status and financial resources**
- ✧ **Created in 1999** as an initiative of the European Science Foundation - Marine Board (ESF/MB), as a complement to the **Ocean Fleets Exchange Group (OFEG)**, to promote the **co-ordination of small to medium sized RV operators in Europe**
- ✧ Since its birth, ERVO has found **wide consensus**
- ✧ The success of ERVO can be measured from the fact that the number of participating countries has risen from 7 to 20, proofing to be a **useful platform for up to 50 attendees**
- ✧ Very useful **independent network** and **its activities are entirely driven by participants** who are not 'biased' by ERVO being funded by specific interests

# ERVO OBJECTIVE

To create and maintain a forum for European RV operators:

- ✧ *attend ERVO meetings where common **technical, operational, safety, environmental and legal issues/problems** are identified and discussed, and possible solutions presented*
- ✧ *contribute to the development within Europe of **best practices in the operation of RVs and associated equipment***
- ✧ *learn about **developments and plans for procurement** of new RVs, equipment and instruments, and **upgrades** of existing ones*
- ✧ *be a member of a **pan-European network** of RV operators*
- ✧ *identify **methods and ways to minimize the impact of the operations of RVs and associated instruments and equipment on the environment and marine life***

# THE ERVO GROUP

## MEMBERSHIP

50 members  
from  
20 countries



VLIZ - Flanders Marine Institute (BE)

RBINS-OD Nature - Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (BE)

DTU-AQUA - National Institute of Aquatic Resources (DK)

FAMRI - Faroe Marine Research Institute (FO)

SYKE - Finnish Environment Institute (FI)

IFREMER - French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (FR)

UHH - University of Hamburg (DE)

AWI - Alfred-Wegener-Institut (DE)

GEOMAR - Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel (DE)

HCMR - Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (GR)

MRI - Marine Research Institute (IS)

MI - Marine Institute (IE)

INFOMAR- Geological Survey of Ireland (IE)

CNR - National Research Council (IT)

OGS - National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (IT)

University of Malta (MT)

NIOZ - Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NL)

IMR - Institute of Marine Research (NO)

GDA (PL)

UA - University of Aveiro (PT)

Dop/UAç - Universidade dos Açores (PT)

GeoEcoMar - National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology (RO)

CSIC - Spanish National Research Council (ES)

IEO - Spanish Institute of Oceanography (ES)

SOCIB - Balearic Islands Coastal Observing and Forecasting System (ES)

Sven Lovén Centre for marine Infrastructure (SE)

SLU - Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SE)

TUBITAK - The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TR)

ECPI (TR)

CEFAS - Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (GB)

NERC - Natural Environment Research Council (GB)

NCL (GB)



**Lieven Naudts, ERVO Chair**

*Coordinator RV Belgica, RBINS – OD Nature (Belgium)*

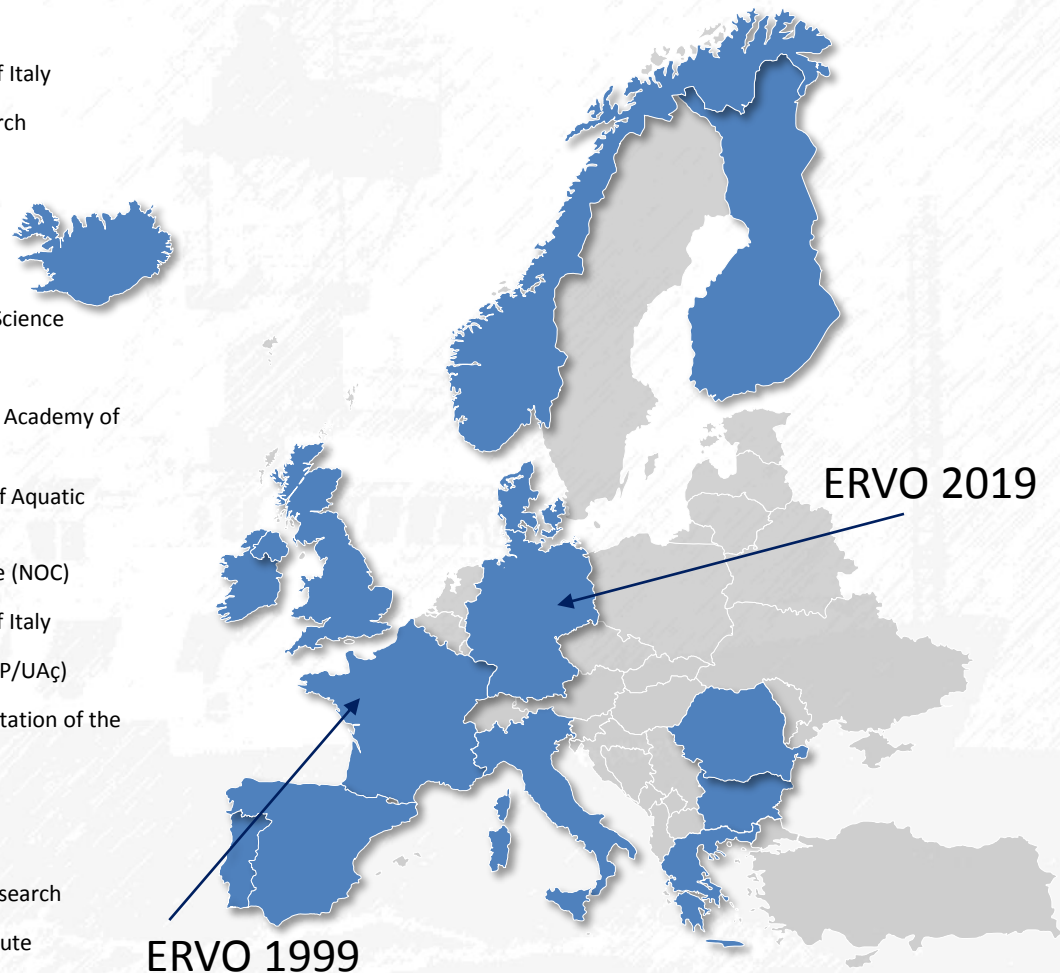


**Riccardo Codiglia, ERVO Vice-Chair**

*Technologist, OGS (Italy)*

# ERVO MEETINGS LOCATION

Year	Venue	Host Organisation
1999	Roscoff, France	ESF, Marine Board and CNRS/INSU
2000	Galway, Ireland	Marine Institute
2001	Rome, Italy	National Research Council of Italy
2002	Bergen, Norway	Institute of Marine Research
2003	Constanza, Romania	GeoEcoMar
2004	Barcelona, Spain	CSIC
2005	Lisbon, Portugal	COI/MCTES
2006	Reykjavike, Iceland	Icelandic Institute of Marine Science
2007	Oostende, Belgium	Flanders Institute
2008	Varna, Bulgaria	Institute of Oceanology – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
2009	Copenhagen, Denmark	DTU Aqua – National Institute of Aquatic Resources
2010	Southampton, UK	National Oceanography Centre (NOC)
2011	Oristano, Italy	National Research Council of Italy
2012	Faial, Portugal	DOP/University of Azores (DOP/UAç)
2013	Brest, France	French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea
2014	Barcelona, Spain	CSIC (UTM-CMIMA)
2015	Galway, Ireland	Marine Institute
2016	Rhodes, Greece	Hellenic Centre for Marine research
2017	Helsinki, Finland	Finnish Environment Institute
2018	Valletta, Malta	University of Malta
2019	Hamburg, Germany	University of Hamburg



# ERVO “NEW” ORGANISATION

- ✧ **Approved** at the 17<sup>th</sup> ERVO meeting, Marine Institute, Galway (Ireland), June 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 2015
- ✧ **More formal and structured group without losing identity and flexibility**
  - ✧ **ERVO Executive Committee** - 8 members, ERVO chair and ERVO vice-chair as ex-officio ERVO ExCom members, EurOcean and EUROFLEETS+ project (the coordinator) as invited observers on request, **inputs to the agenda, agenda standard format, maintain and adapt ToR, annual work plan, strategy paper for the next 5 years**
  - ✧ **ERVO General Assembly** - Members only, ExCom reports its annual work and presents its plans for the coming year to be approved by the ERVO GA
  - ✧ **Regional focus** - half a day meeting before the annual meeting, to foster more regional cooperation among ERVO members, to present issues and opportunities, region where the meeting takes place (**Eastern Mediterranean and Black sea, ERVO 2016; Baltic Sea, ERVO 2017; Central and Western Mediterranean, ERVO 2018; ARICE Project Workshop, ERVO 2019**)
  - ✧ **More visibility** - foster more direct or indirect links/representation/communication/ to promote the Group, ERVO members as ERVO representatives towards other EU Groups, projects and ERIC: **EOOS, EurOcean, BONUS, EFs+, ARICE, EMSO, etc.**

# Overview of key networks and projects related to European RVs

## EOOS European Ocean Observing System

Coordinating framework designed to align and integrate Europe's ocean observing capacity, promote a systematic and collaborative approach to collecting information on the state and variability of our seas, and underpin sustainable management of the marine environment and its resources.

## EurOcean

The European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology is an independent scientific non-governmental organization established in 2002. Its aim is to facilitate information exchange and generate value-added products in the field of marine science and technology between a wide range of governmental and non-governmental bodies.

## EMSO ERIC

## ERVO European Research Vessels Operators

## OFEG Ocean Facilities Exchange Group

OFEG represents Europe's leading oceanographic research organisations from 6 EU countries and provides a forum to consider barter exchange and co-operation opportunities for the Global and Ocean Class research fleet. It aims to maximise the overall scientific output using its state-of-the-art facilities in support of the worldwide oceanographic community.

## EUROFLEETS+ project

## ARICE project Arctic Research Icebreaker Consortium for Europe

## UNOLS

### University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System

Organisation of 59 academic Institutions and National Laboratories involved in oceanographic research and joined for the purpose of coordinating ships' schedules and research facilities.

## IRSO

### International Research Ship Operators

Founded in 1986, it is a global group of RV operators representing 49 organizations from 30 countries worldwide, who manage over 100 of the world's leading marine research vessels. IRSO acts as a voice to promote the research vessel operators' community globally and to provide independent advice to policy makers and funding agencies worldwide.



After: European Marine Board

# ERVO MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✧ **Terms of Reference** of the ERVO Group, **adopted in 2011** at the 13<sup>th</sup> ERVO meeting in Oristano (Italy)
- ✧ **Annual membership fee** (300 €/country), **established** at the 14<sup>th</sup> ERVO meeting (Faial, Portugal, **2012**) to cover the cost of the services provided by the **EurOcean Office** to the ERVO Group (**EurOcean/ERVO Agreement** officially signed in **April 2014**)
- ✧ Since **2012** ERVO is a **permanent invitee to EUROFLEETS meetings**
- ✧ **2015**, new ERVO logo  + **2016**, new ERVO Website ([www.ervo-group.eu](http://www.ervo-group.eu))
- ✧ **2017** October, ERVO participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> JPIOcean conference in Lisbon, submitting an abstract and presenting a poster
- ✧ **2017** November/December, ERVO (**12 out of 17 WG members**) and the European Marine Board (EMB) have started a **new collaboration to update the EMB Position Paper #10 on Ocean Research Fleets (2007) – Position Paper #25 “Next Generation European RVs”** will be published in November this year
- ✧ **2018** June, ERVO response to the consultation on the **EOOS strategy and its implementation plan**
- ✧ **2018** November, ERVO participation in the **EOOS conference** in Brussels
- ✧ **Eurofleets+ project funded under the RI Work programme 2018-2019 of H2020** (kick-off meeting, March 2019, Galway/Ireland): several subjects are “connected” to ERVO: TNA, regional bartering, sharing annual cruise programme and best practice...



# CONCLUSIONS

- ✧ ERVO, with its broad membership of operators representing the majority of European countries who have their own research vessel fleet, is the **ideal focal point for any organization in Europe looking for ways to communicate directly with the experts on research vessels and related instruments and equipment**
- ✧ ERVO meetings provide **an opportunity** for research vessel managers to **exchange information on their national fleets, highlighting trends in the requirements for sea-going vessels and new technological developments for research vessel operations**
- ✧ **Long-term and strong relationship with** EUROFLEETS projects, OFEG, EurOcean, IRSO and other European and international initiatives
- ✧ Since 2015 **new ERVO organisation to be more visible**, both nationally and on a pan-European level, **and to have a “voice” within the European Marine Research community**
- ✧ ERVO **is willing to help out** in any process to the extent necessary **to further foster integration and efficient use of seagoing research infrastructure**



# The ERVO Group !



# Thanks for your attention!

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