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CSA MarineBiotech prepares the foundation for an ERA-NET in marine biotechnology. The CSA MarineBiotech concentrates its efforts on the mobilisation and engagement of funding agencies and stakeholders through the establishment of a Strategic Forum and a Stakeholder Group, which provide strategic advice to the project consortium and contribute to a high-quality proposal for a future ERA-NET in marine biotechnology.

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CSA MarineBiotech Final conference held

The [Final Conference of the CSA MarineBiotech project](#) brought together scientists, industry representatives, policy makers, advisors and other key stakeholders involved or interested in Marine Biotechnology



research and its development in Europe. The conference provided insight into some of the most important recent and ongoing Marine Biotechnology projects and initiatives, discussed the status and recent progress of European Marine Biotechnology efforts and capacities at various scales; and identified critical needs, gaps and challenges to inform future Marine Biotechnology policy and coordination efforts. The conference will guide and shape the new Marine Biotech ERA-NET, drive national, regional and pan-European science policy initiatives and developments & improve coherence between them, help the ERA-NET to address major challenges such as capturing new opportunities and bridging gaps & eliminating barriers to progress, enable the transfer of experiences between countries and regions, and enable pan-European coordination of RTDI and science policy. The programme, presentations, pictures, abstract book, key highlights and summary of the conference are available at www.marinebiotech.eu/conference.

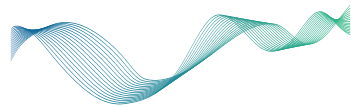
Marine Biotechnology information and WIKI pages CSA MarineBiotech has set up a user-friendly information system on www.marinebiotech.eu, which the future ERA-NET in marine biotechnology will develop to a single portal for all marine biotechnology interests in Europe. It offers access to a new [database](#) with information about Marine Biotechnology stakeholders (persons and institutions) and projects in Europe. This database will be expanded during the subsequent ERA-NET. In the longer term, it will provide a publicly-accessible resource regarding the Marine Biotechnology RTDI landscape in Europe.

If you are active in the field of Marine Biotechnology you can add your contact details to the information database. This will increase your visibility in the European community of marine biotechnology. Please download and fill out the relevant spreadsheets for Person, Institution or Project details, to be found on <http://www.marinebiotech.eu/database>, and send them back to info@marinebiotech.eu – thank you!

Once registered, you are authorised to edit and contribute from your own expert knowledge to the [Wiki pages of the Portal on Marine Biotechnology](#) within the Coastal and Marine Wiki.

News from the Consortium

- ▶ The Project Manager Meredith Lloyd-Evans of BioBridge has published 'Who's Investing in Marine Biotechnology?' in the on-line industry journal Chemistry & Industry, March 2013. Find the downloadable pdf under project publications at the [CSA MBt web-site library](#). Meredith also chaired and facilitated a pre-conference workshop at BioProsp 2013 in Tromsø, Norway on 'Biotechnology as Business'.
- ▶ On behalf of the 20 partner ERA-NET consortium resulting from the CSA Strategic Forum, the coordinator (Steinar Bergseth, The Research Council of Norway) delivered a proposal for a four year ERA-NET project with a minimum of three joint calls, the 28th of February. The ERA-NET expects to kick off late 2013.
- ▶ A consortium led by CNRS-Roscoff (Catherine Boyen) has just completed the [sequencing of the genome of Chondrus crispus](#), the red seaweed also known as Irish moss, and will shortly publish this in PNAS.



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International News

- ▶ The **EnAlgae** project, a four-year Strategic Initiative of the INTERREG IVB North-west Europe programme, has been funded to establish a network of algal pilot plants across the region. It brings together 19 partners and 14 observers across 7 EU Member States with the aim of developing sustainable technologies for algal biomass production. Information from these facilities is being used to inform decision-makers, establish technology requirements and work out the economics and environmental aspects of growing algal biomass and converting it to bioenergy in the region. Open days at the pilots, workshops and an e-Newsletter provide an opportunity for interested parties to find out more about this exciting new field.
- ▶ The **American Chemical Society** recently published **results** of a collaboration between academic and industry researchers in USA and China looking at gasification of duckweed into petrol, diesel or jetfuel, as an alternative to microalgae, with claims that the process would be competitive with petroleum-based fuel at prices of US\$70-100 per barrel.
- ▶ A feasibility study is underway in the USA, in a collaboration funded by the National Science Foundation between **Montana State University and Sustainable Bioproducts**, using a thermotolerant fungus isolated from Yellowstone National Park to convert algae into lipids. **Sapphire Energy** has started to deliver algal biofuel to Tesoro Corporation; at only 2 barrels of crude per day, this is just the start of commercial reality.
- ▶ The companies Affymetrix and AquaGen, based in Santa Clara USA and Trondheim Norway respectively, and CIGENE, the Center for Integrative Genomics at the University for Life Sciences in Norway, are collaborating to develop a **genome array for Atlantic salmon**. The array, based on over 900,000 SNPs, will focus on disease, environmental and other indicators that will help improve Atlantic salmon for aquaculture. The genomes of Atlantic salmon and trout are also being examined in a US\$17M **collaboration** between AquaGen Norway, Chile AquaGen, Vaxxnova and the BioBank Norway, supported by Corfo, the Chilean economic development agency, to determine genetic determinants of resistance and susceptibility to major diseases.

Recent Events

The **2nd SEAS-ERA Strategic Forum** was held on 6 February 2013, Brussels Belgium: the regional Strategic Research Agendas for three sea basins (Atlantic, Mediterranean and Black Sea) was presented together for the first time.

The European Commission in collaboration with the Irish Presidency hosted the **2nd Stakeholder Conference - "Bioeconomy in the EU: achievements and directions for the future"**, February 14 – 15 2013, Dublin, Ireland. Marine biotech was one of the themes discussed to support development of the biobased economy. **Presentations are now available.**

BioProsp 2013, 20-22 February 2013, Tromsø Norway: This event focussed on the challenges and possibilities related to industrial applications of marine bioactive compounds.

Algae World MENA 2013 Middle East and North Africa region on 25-26 February 2013, Dubai.

Baltic Med workshop, 21-22 March 2013, Marseille France: session focused on blue biotech.

Farewell!

Finally — thank you very much for your attention and support for the CSA MarineBiotech project during the past 18 months. We hope you can equally welcome and support the future ERA-NET in marine biotechnology that we hope will follow this.

Meredith Lloyd-Evans and Sue Addison: project secretariat CSA MarineBiotech, BioBridge Ltd UK

Fien De Raedemaeker, Leader of Communication and Information Management work package, VLIZ Belgium

Çınar Adalı, Begüm Sargin and colleagues, Newsletter style and layout design, TÜBİTAK Turkey

And all the partners in CSA MarineBiotech.

Forthcoming events

World Ocean Council 2nd Sustainable Ocean Summit, 22-24 April 2013, Washington DC USA: follows on from the highly successful inaugural SOS convened by the World Ocean Council (WOC) in Belfast in 2010, and the steady growth of the WOC since then as the only international, multi-industry leadership alliance on Corporate Ocean Responsibility. (Please note that registration for non-business stakeholders closed on 28 February.)

3rd European Algae Biomass Summit, 24-25 April 2013, Vienna Austria: will bring together senior executives from industry and academia to discuss the latest commercial and technical developments, challenges and research breakthroughs throughout the entire algae value chain.

9th Summer Course on Marine Ecological & Evolutionary Genomics, 3-14 June 2013, SB Roscoff France: will give insight into aspects of marine phylogenetics, and population genetics as well as comparative, environmental and functional genomics.

Summer School 15-17 July 2013, San Sebastian Spain: is part of the EU-funded DEVOTES project (Development of innovative tools for understanding marine biodiversity and assessing good environmental status). Or contact aborja@azti.es, for further information.

SUBMARINER Final Conference 5-6 September 2013, Gdańsk Poland: will bring together high-level policy makers and representatives of companies and research institutions dealing with new marine uses around the Baltic Sea Region. The conference will be marked by presentation of the SUBMARINER Roadmap and the official launch of the SUBMARINER Network.

CIESM Congress, 28 October-1 November 2013, Marseilles France: offers a great opportunity to interact with researchers from all around the Mediterranean Basin (and beyond) — further details during summer 2013.

CERF (Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation) Conference, 3-7 November 2013, San Diego USA: Toward Resilient Coasts and Estuaries, Science for Sustainable Solutions.