# 8 March 2024

# **PRESS RELEASE**

# Nine projects selected as winners of DTO-BioFlow Open Call for marine biodiversity (monitoring) data

*Summary: Nine projects have been selected to make previously inaccessible biodiversity data from a broad spectrum of sources available for long-term ingestion via EMODnet Biology.*

[Nine projects](https://dto-bioflow.eu/open-call-beneficiaries?utm_source=outlook.com&utm_medium=mail&utm_campaign=202303_press%20release_open%20call) have been selected as beneficiaries of the DTO-BioFlow project FSTP grants. The selection process aimed to identify data holders capable of facilitating sustained and long-term ingestion of previously inaccessible biodiversity data for uptake by the EDITO infrastructure serving the EU Digital Twins of the Ocean programme through EMODnet, the European Marine Observation and Data Network, aligning with the project's commitment to the Horizon Europe Mission to restore our oceans and waters by 2030.

With over 20 applications received by the January 17th deadline, the project witnessed remarkable interest from diverse regions including the UK, Netherlands, Sweden, Portugal, Norway, Italy, and Israel.

“*From the project coordination we are glad about the good reception of this call and the interest shown by applicants collecting data on a wide variety of biodiversity observations. DTO-BioFlow will facilitate the resources to bring these data into the EU Digital Twin Ocean initiative via EMODnet, helping to strengthen the accessibility of key marine biodiversity data and its future application in tools to advance research and policy applications. After the high quality of the applications received, we look forward to support more applications with the second FSTP call that will take place early next year*” highlighted the team at the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ).

## A broad spectrum of data sources

The selected projects represent a diverse range of topics and institutions, ensuring a multifaceted approach to data collection. With a wide array of methods such as citizen science observations, AI-assisted imaging, net trawls and benthic grabs, focusing on a variety of organisms, such as cetaceans, plankton and benthos, being collected from different regions, ranging from the Arctic Ocean to the Mediterranean Ocean to the Azores, the chosen projects guarantee a broad spectrum of data sources. This diversity reinforces the project's goal of sourcing data from different avenues, promising a comprehensive dataset that will significantly contribute to a wider understanding of marine biodiversity.

## Meet the Successful Applicants:

These nine teams are set to contribute significantly to DTO-BioFlow's ocean conservation efforts by offering previously unavailable or unstandardized biodiversity data via EMODnet Biology:

* [Bangor University](https://www.bangor.ac.uk/) (United Kingdom): “Marine Megafauna Data for EU Digital Twin Ocean”
* [Futurismo Azores Adventures](https://futurismo.pt/) (Portugal): “Futurismo: linking whale watching tourism with cetacean research in the Azores”

* [Institute of Polar Sciences, National Research Council (ISP-CNR)](https://www.isp.cnr.it/index.php/en/) (Italy): “KAIROS - ZooplanKton data from Arctic marIne time-seRies to understand biOdiversity dynamicS”
* [Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute](http://www.naf-iolr.org/?page_id=24) (Israel): “Integration of southeastern Mediterranean long-term biodiversity data into EU-DTO”
* [Menter Môn](https://www.mentermon.com/) (United Kingdom): “Management and publication of Marine Characterisation Research Project data”
* [National Oceanography Centre, (United Kingdom):](https://noc.ac.uk/) “Pipeline for biodiversity data from the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) to the OBIS network and EMODnet”
* [Nord University (Norway):](https://www.nord.no/en) “Managing and publishing biodiversity data from Nord University”
* [Stichting ANEMOON](https://www.anemoon.org/) (Netherlands): “Strandaanspoelsel (beach washup) Monitoring Project (SMP)”
* [Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute](https://www.smhi.se/en/q/Stockholm/2673730) (Sweden): “Plankton Imaging Data Flow: Establishing a European data flow for phyto- and microzooplankton data from automated AI-assisted imaging in flow analyses”

The next step for the selected projects is to participate in a data training workshop scheduled for April 2024, in Ostend, hosted by DTO-BioFlow coordinator VLIZ. The training will guide data providers on how to reformat and quality control data to conform to international standards and to make these available to EMODnet Biology and the EU Digital Twin Ocean.

Follow DTO Bioflow at:

* Website [dto-bioflow.eu/](https://dto-bioflow.eu/)
* Twitter [@DTOBioFlow](https://twitter.com/home)
* LinkedIn [/company/dto-bio-flow](https://www.linkedin.com/company/dto-bio-flow)
* YouTube [@DTOBioFlowProject](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-zZyXHX-8jrijl5GqfMkEA)