

# ASSEMBLE



ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES EXPANDED

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## GENERAL DATA

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## Abstract

**This deliverable describes the outcomes of the trans-national access programme (TNA) offered at TSL UK, in terms of: installations available, applications received and user's projects performed (through on-site and / or remote access), users' profile and other stats (country of origin, career profile, type of organization, satisfaction of the services used).**



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## 1. Introduction

Transnational Access in ASSEMBLE Plus is provided to a total of 36 marine stations in 15 countries. In the whole consortium, the stations provide access to a high diversity of marine environments; from the high Arctic (IOPAN) and Antarctic (UKRI-BAS) to the tropics (IUI and NIOZ-CNSI) and the mid-Atlantic ridge (CCMAR and IMAR). Within mainland Europe, access is provided to the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and the Baltic seas. Habitats comprise estuaries (e.g. SZN, ISMAR, CCMAR, AWI, IOPAN, UG), mega-tidal seas (SBR), cold-water coral reefs (KMRS, NUIG, SAMS), brackish seas and sea ice communities (IOPAN, TSZ, ARI, HBS), near-shore deep sea (HCMR, IMEV, NUIG, UGOT, SAMS) and volcanic seeps (high CO<sub>2</sub> – low pH; HCMR, SZN, IMAR). The TA-providing stations (access providers) have modern research laboratories and a wide array of specialized research facilities to support internal and external users. Several of these also have technological backup of nearby university institutions.

This deliverable describes the outcomes of the trans-national access programme (TNA) offered at TSL-UK, in terms of: installations available, applications received and user's projects performed (through on-site and / or remote access), users' profile and their stats (country of origin, career profile, type of organization, satisfaction of the services used).

## 2. Objective

This deliverable intends to show the outcomes of the transnational access programme executed at TSL UK, hence contributing to the ASSEMBLE Plus objectives:

- Enhance transnational access to a coordinated set of state-of-the-art European infrastructures for marine biology and ecology;
- Improve service provision by these infrastructures in line with their areas of excellence in marine biology and ecology, with emphasis on developing novel key enabling technologies and data solutions;
- Strengthen complementarity and interoperability within the consortium and with related infrastructures;
- Lay the logistical and strategic foundations to expand the coverage of the European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) in both its scope and its geographical distribution and to consolidate its long-term sustainability.

## 3. Outcomes of the Transnational Access programme

### 3.1 Overview of the access provider(s)

Tritonia provided a full UK-compliant dive team plus commercially endorsed work boat in support of scientific diving operations. Scientific diving operations varied, but included: specimen and/or sample collection; equipment deployment and recovery; and ecological surveys. Applicants applied for the



time of a whole dive team or dived as part of the dive team when their diving qualifications and medical certification complied with UK Diving at Work Regulations.

### **3.2 Installations offered**

TSL UK offered access to a scientific diving team and small boat facilities based at or near Oban, west coast of Scotland.

## **4. Applications received**

### **4.1. Origin country of applicants**

TSL-UK received a total of four applications in the nine calls of TNA. Among these, three applicants were based in European countries while one applicant came from other non-European countries.

### **4.2. Applicants profile**

#### **4.2.1. Home institution type**

Applicants were mostly based in academic institutes (universities: 100%; research organizations: 0%).

#### **4.2.2. Career status**

The most recurring career profile of the applicant was full-time scientist with two PhD student projects.

## **5. User hosted and their stats**

### **5.1. Projects completed**

Overall, TSL UK has hosted four projects for a total of four users. All four projects were carried out on-site. The list of projects completed at TSL UK is available in "[Appendix 1 – List of user-projects completed](#)" further below.

### **5.2. Installations used**

Scientific services were all scientific diving facilities with associated computer support for photogrammetry.

### **5.3. User satisfaction**

Overall, users have positively evaluated the services offered (Very good: 100%). In general, comments from the users were very positive and have resulted in ongoing collaborations between the users and TSL science staff, and a number of joint publications.

### **5.4. Projects not completed or cancelled**

None of the projects awarded to be hosted by TSL were not completed or cancelled.



## 6. Use of resources

<b>Beneficiary / Linked Third Party</b>	<b>PM</b>	<b>short name of the installation(s)</b>	<b>explanations of tasks</b>
TSL	0.2	Scientific Diving	Providing water and algae samples for the project of Carrano
TSL	0.2	Scientific Diving	Equipment deployment, retrieval and seabed photogrammetry for the project of Attard
TSL	0.2	Scientific Diving	Providing water and algae samples for the project of Protopapa
TSL	0.4	Scientific Diving	Diving services and photogrammetry computer support for the project of Mantas

## 7. Conclusion

The TNA programme introduced our scientific diving team to new users and to new uses for our services. All four projects created ongoing collaborations although, sadly, Carrano passed away recently. Joint scientific publications have come from two projects so far, and additional ones are planned.

No difficulties were experienced and on three of the four projects, scientists from outside of UK were able to be accommodated within the UK Diving at Work Regulations in addition to the full team provided and so had the opportunity to dive as part of the project.



## 8. Appendices

### 8.1. *List of user-projects completed at TSL UK*

- Project title: Exploring the impact of the iodine store in *Laminaria digitata* on coastal seawater chemistry. Users: Carl Carrano (San Diego State University, USA). Services used: Seawater and algal sampling; Scientific Diving
- Project title: Exploring metabolism patterns in benthic habitats using eddy covariance fluxes and seabed imaging techniques. User: Karl Attard (University of Southern Denmark). Services used: Equipment deployment and retrieval; in-situ imaging; Scientific Diving; Geo-referenced 3D-photogrammetry
- Project title: Do kelp (*Laminaria*) forests have distinct zooplankton communities, and, if yes, is there any impact of kelp iodine emissions? Users: Maria Protopapa (Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece). Services used: Seawater and algal sampling; Scientific Diving
- Project title: Temperate Biogenic Reefs. Users: Torcuato Pulido Mantas and Camilla Roveta (Università Politecnica delle Marche – Ancona, Italy). Services used: in-situ imaging; Scientific Diving; Geo-referenced 3D-photogrammetry

