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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The JERICO-S3 Transnational Access (TA) activity is built on the successful experience of the previous FP7 JERICO project, G.A. 262584 (Sparnocchia et al., 2014, 2016) and JERICO NEXT G.A. 654410 (Sparnocchia et al., 2019).

The range of facilities has continued to expand and will involve a greater number of observatories distributed, as before, in coastal and shelf seas all around Europe, including some dedicated to biological observation (see D8.1 for a detailed description of all the access facilities involved in TransNational Access). A limited number of supporting facilities (calibration and research laboratories) and one item of special equipment are also included in the TA service catalogue.

This document relates to WP13 - Outreach, communication and engagement, and in particular to Task 8.8: Implementing Transnational Access to coastal observatories. It describes the procedures adopted for providing TA during the three planned Calls for proposals, one per year from May 2020 until 2022. These procedures are a review and update of those already used by JERICO.

This is the second revision of the 13.3 Policy and Procedures deliverable (Gaughan et al., 2021) after the second Transnational access call was conducted. The purpose of this deliverable is to review and document any changes to the policies and procedures to the transnational access after the second call.

2. INTRODUCTION

As part of the Transnational Access (TA) activity implemented in WP8, JERICO-S3 offers opportunities to researchers or research teams from academic and industry to access original coastal infrastructures for measurement campaigns and instrument testing. Free-of-charge access to the facilities specified in the TA context will be granted following the evaluation and selection of proposals submitted by user groups for their utilization in response to three dedicated Calls during the lifetime of the JERICO-S3 project. The assessment and selection of submitted proposals will be conducted by an independent panel of experts (Selection Panel, SP), and will be based on scientific excellence, innovation and eventual impacts on the state-of-the-art. Users accessing the Infrastructure will not only get access to the best available equipment and facilities for their needs, but also the personnel. Having access to this detailed knowledge at each of the Facilities adds value for external users of the Infrastructure, improving research outputs and scientific excellence.

Between June 2020 and January 2024, Jerico-S3 will offer more than 4460 days of Transnational Access (TA) to more than 40 different integrated marine coastal observation facilities located at 21 Jerico RI partners throughout Europe. The TA management team will coordinate the evaluation process by pre-screening the proposals, depending on type of facility(ies) involved, and assigning them to the evaluators (the SP members and, in case of reception of a large number of applications, additional experts nominated to assist them).

The second TA call was implemented in Task 8.8. The call was announced on 29 March 2021 and closed on the 31 May 2021, the press release for the announcement is in Annex 1. The second call was conducted according to the 13.3 Policy and Procedures deliverable document (Gaughan et al. 2021) which outlines the procedure for how the calls would be run, and using the revisions in 13.4 Policies and Procedures (Loughlin et al. 2022). The second call saw 11 projects accepted of 12 submitted proposals.

3. Revisions to Policies and Procedures

The below revisions, 3.1 and 3.2, made in 13.4 Policies and Procedures (Loughlin et al. 2022) were considered and incorporated in the second call. One new revision, 3.3, was made in the procedure for the second call.

3.1. Transfer of funds

During the process of finalising the contracts and projects beginning to start, an issue arose pertaining to Covid restrictions. How to redirect travel expenses to support remote sampling if the user cannot travel to location due to COVID. In April 2021 The Ifremer Science Officer was consulted by the project coordination and clarified how to address this with the following points:

- Travel funds can be redirected to the Access Providers (to support increased effort of local staff etc.)
- Users **cannot** fund the development/ purchase of equipment on the TA "Travel and subsistence" funding allocations

BUT...

- **ONLY** the Access Provider can claim the cost of buying a device(s)/ equipment if the infrastructure is in **TA-uc** (unit costs)

Limitation: the equipment **cannot be claimed** if it is considered '*durable equipment*' and if the infrastructure is in **TA-ac** (actual costs)

3.2 Flexibility for project schedules

COVID restrictions have also caused issues with project start times due to travel related restrictions, delays in contract finalising, and shipping related delays. As a result, the JERICO TA coordination team have been accommodating in granting extensions for these schedule changes as long as there has been communication between the user and facility that confirms this change. Users have queried when is the latest a project can be conducted under the JERICO TA funding. For this, the JERICO TA coordination team has been advising all projects, including the final report, to be completed and submitted by September 2023. This will allow for JERICO-S3 final reporting to be finalised before February 2024.

3.3 Removal of Facilities exceeding allocated Unit of Access from 1st call

After the first call, it was apparent some facilities reached the limit of Unit of Access (UA) allocated to them assuming the projects from the first call claim all UA applied for. The three facilities, OBSEA, SmartBay observatory, and SOCIB were removed from the second call in order to give opportunities to the other facilities. This decision was approved by the Steering Committee and the three facilities before the call was announced.

4. Status of second TA call

The internal review panel met on June 10th to review the 12 submitted applications. The outcome from the meeting included comments to applicants for budget re-assessments or more clarity in certain fields of the application. The TA coordinator sent the comments to the applicants should they wish to resubmit a revised application to be reviewed by the external panel.

The external panel evaluated the 12 final submissions. They recommended to approve 10 applications and advised on 2 of the applications to be approved but contingent upon further clarifications from the applicant. These 2 applicants were notified and asked to submit further details on issues raised by the panel. After receiving the further comments, one project was approved and the other opted to remove their application from this call as the revisions were extensive.

For the 11 approved projects, the main type of facility requested was a Fixed Platform with 6 projects (Figure 1). As part of the TA program, applicants requested Travel and Subsistence for aide in travelling to the host facility location to complete their experiment. This estimated cost for the 11 accepted projects was an average of 4600EUR per project. As depicted in Figure 2, 8 countries were represented in the user group home institutions and 8 different host facility countries. This call was also the first to have an American PI home institution applying.

Table 1, below, outlines the status for each facility and the projects being hosted in call 2. As of the time of this writing, 3 projects have completed (C) and submitted a final report. One additional project recently completed; therefore, has not yet submitted their report and the access units not finalised with the TA Coordination team which are marked To Be Confirmed (TBC). The projects marked In Progress (IP) have confirmed the project has started and is on-going at this time. Projects indicated Not Started (N) have been in touch with TA Coordination/ host facility for revised schedule start times.

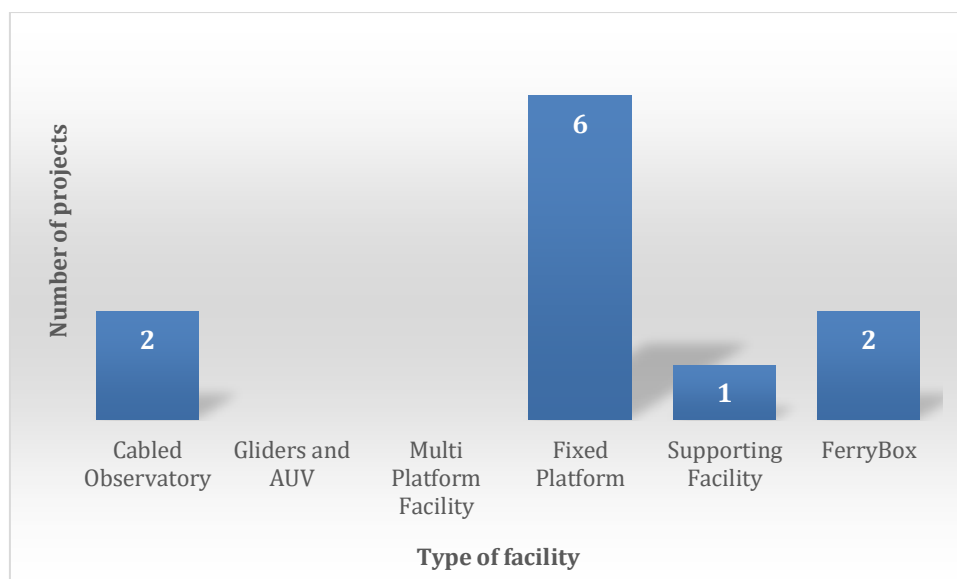


Figure 1. The chart shows the distribution of number of projects using each facility type in TA call 2.

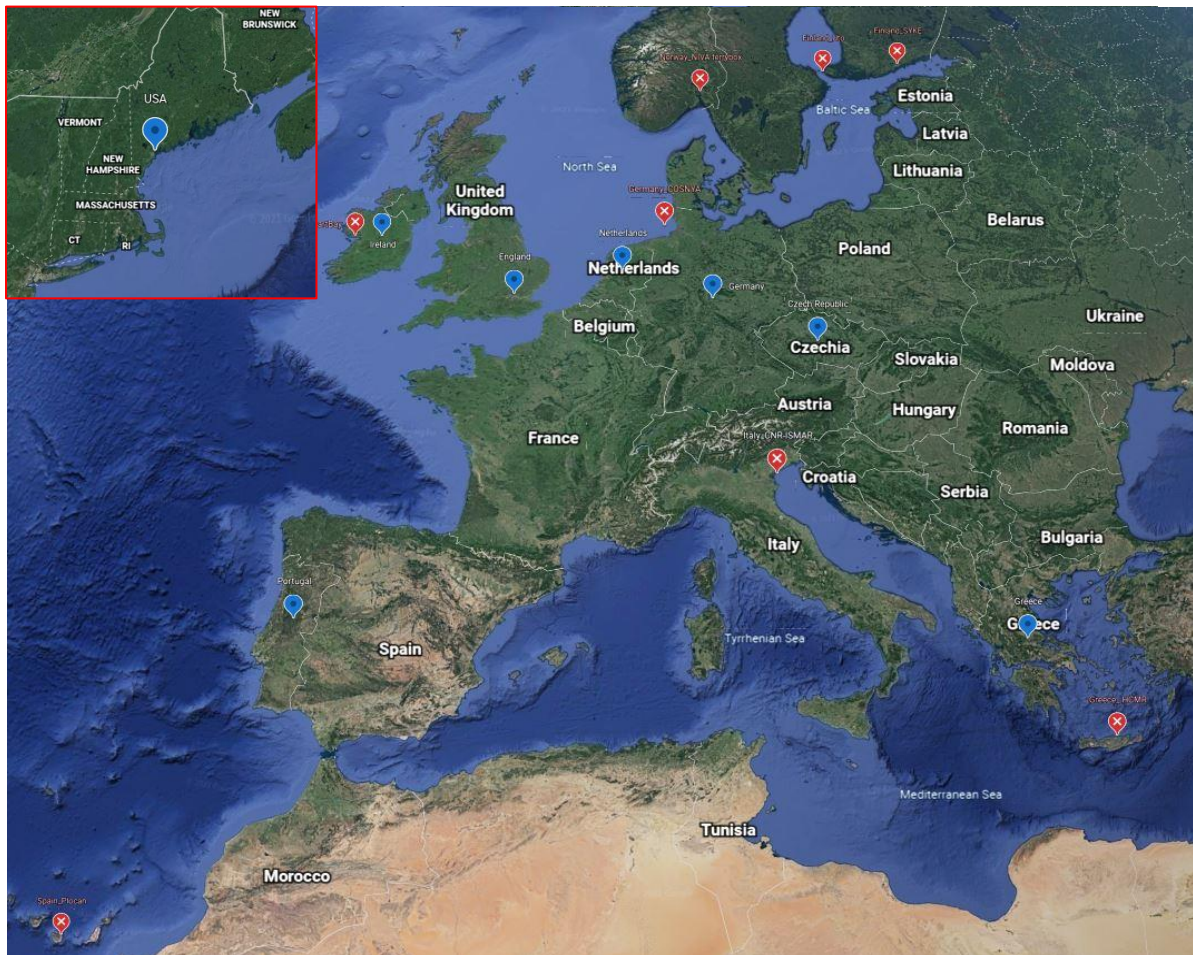


Figure 2. The map shows the home country of user group institution location in **blue** and the location of facilities used in the first call in **red**.

Table 1 The facilities used in first TA Call with their associated access unit allocation, projects for this call, and break down for access provided for each project (TBC: To Be Confirmed). The last column indicates the status for each project C: Completed; IP: In Progress; N: Not Started (Table adapted from Sparnocchia and Ferluga, 2018).

Facility ID	Facility ID & Name	Access Unit Allocated	Country	TA Project Title	Access Unit Provided	Project status
25.2	NIVA Infrastructure: NorFerry/NorSO OP Installation: 1 - M/S Color Fantasy (FA) FerryBox	133 Days	Norway	Automated phytoplankton monitoring at ship of opportunity	8 days	C
34.2	SYKE MRC-lab	21 Days	Finland	AQUACOSM-JERICO pilot supersite action @ SYKYE	13 days	C
15.1	Utö marine station	64 Days	Finland	AQUACOSM-JERICO pilot supersite action @ Utö	5 days	C
16.1, 16.2	HCMR - Poseidon POSEIDON E1-M3A and HCB buoys, HCMR Cal lab (supporting facility)	1 (6 month); 2 (1 week)	Greece	Integrated Multilevel Active Passive Ocean Current Education Advancement Network		IP
				Levels and air-sea exchange of nitrated and oxygenated polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the marginal sea of Europe	TBC	C
				ANB Sensors S Series: High temperature and high salinity		IP
				CTD inter-comparison: existing and emerging sensors		N
7.2	CNR-ISMAR (S1-GB)	192 Days	Italy	JERICO-DANUBIUS-RI Observation initiative		IP

23.2	SMARTBAY SBDatabuoy	84 Days	Ireland	Enhancing Wave Measurement with energy autonomous Wave Sensing Buoby		IP
3.1	COSNYA Underwater Node Helgoland (UNH) Helmholtz- Zentrum Geesthacht (HZG) & Alfred- Wegener-Institut (AWI)	2 (2 week)	Germany	Underwater radioactivity measurements		IP
29.1	Plocan	40 Days	Spain	Coastal BOuNDary Exchages		N

5. OUTREACH, DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The JERICO-RI website was utilized for communicating about the second call with the press release uploaded in the blog section and relevant TA pages updated about the call. The website was also updated with short summaries of the successful projects along with the relevant host facilities. Final project reports were uploaded for the first and second call once approved.

During this call, a month-long "Facility of the Week" was featured on the website to highlight facilities that did not host projects in the first call and to increase the social media awareness of the second call. 4 host facilities and infrastructures that are offered in the TA call were highlighted in a blog post and shared on JERICO-RI twitter feed. This "Facility of the Week" feature ran from 20 April to 19 May to coincide with the time the call was open. Figure 3 is an example of one of the blog posts from the website.

Outreach on the website and twitter continued to promote projects from the first and second call as work completed. One such [post](#) (Figure 4) discussed the preliminary results of Eurofluoro project at HCMR Poseidon from the First TA call. These posts and twitter communications will continue as projects finish work.



Figure 3. An example of the Facility of the Week blog post from the JERICO-RI website.

[Home](#) > [News](#) > A Single Turnover Active Fluorometry sensor LabSTAF tested successfully in the oligotrophic Cretan Sea PSS

A Single Turnover Active Fluorometry sensor LabSTAF tested successfully in the oligotrophic Cretan Sea PSS

Posted on 5th November 2021 |

The Cretan Sea (CS) is a subpart of the ultra-oligotrophic eastern Mediterranean Sea. In this area, major research challenges include gaining a better understanding of the trends and drivers of pH and the air-sea CO₂ flux as well as improving our estimates of net primary productivity (a large part of the primary production being at depths out of satellite reach for most of the year).

The **JERICO-S3 Cretan Sea Pilot Supersite (PSS)** aims to demonstrate the contribution of a PSS approach to study such challenges via six actions: #1 Solubility and biological pumps; #2 Improved approximations of primary production; #3 Extreme events affecting phytoplankton – AQUACOSM collaboration; #4 Upscale of regional data to a wider area; #5 New sampling strategies, new technologies, best practices; #6 Partnership building.

In late October 2021, a key Transnational Access (TA) activity took place in the Cretan Sea PSS contributing to actions #2, #5, #6. The EuroFluoro TA, applied by Chelsea Technologies Ltd (CTL), was hosted at the [HCMR POSEIDON Calibration lab](#) and Plankton ecology lab, and organised jointly with the Cretan Sea PSS partners (HCMR, NIVA, SYKE, CNRS-MIO). It provided tests of a new Single Turnover Active Fluorometry sensor, LabSTAF with two initial aims: a) to test the limits of detection of LabSTAF under oligotrophic conditions, and b) to compare with conventional primary production measurements by ¹⁴C-tracer incubations. The ultimate aim is to allow a transition to an easy, non-hazardous, highly automated and non-invasive estimate of phytoplankton primary production.

Figure 4. Eurofluoro blog post on the JERICO-RI website.

6. CONCLUSIONS

This report gives a status update of the second call projects and provides revisions to the policy and procedures from 13.3 deliverable (Gaughan et al 2021) and 13.4 deliverable (Loughlin et al. 2022). New revisions may be made to this report after the third call is conducted.

7. REFERENCES

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Annex 1 TA Second call Press Release

*****Jerico S3 Transnational Access call Press Release*****

The Jerico S3 Research Infrastructure (www.jerico-ri.eu/) wishes to announce the 2nd call of 3 Transnational Access funding calls to support a wide range of marine researchers by giving free of charge access to high-quality infrastructures and support services at unique multi-disciplinary sites consisting of a mix of gliders, fixed platforms, ferryboxes, cabled observatories, HF radar, benthic stations, and bio-sensors. The call is open for project proposals from 29th March 2021 to 31st May 2021.

Successful applicants will be able to carry out first-class experiments on one or more of the multi-disciplinary, multi-platform coastal observing systems thus maximising impact for science, environmental managers, industries and other relevant stakeholders. Users will have access to the best available equipment and knowledgeable personnel at each of the facilities to enable improved research outputs and scientific excellence.

In this 2nd call, Jerico S3 would like to highlight and support the collaboration between Jerico RI TA facilities and AQUACOSM-plus(<https://www.aquacosm.eu/>)

infrastructures. As a specific action, JERICO-S3 and AQUACOSM-plus study jointly how extreme events affect plankton ecosystem, by applying both observations on natural communities and by experimentation at selected sites (Cretan Sea, North-West Mediterranean and Baltic Sea). Jerico S3 TA projects supporting these actions are especially welcomed and strongly encourage the involvement between the RI-RI facilities.

Between June 2020 and January 2024 will offer more than 4466 days of Transnational Access (TA) to 43 different integrated marine coastal observation facilities located at 21 Jerico RI partners throughout Europe. Detailed information about each Jerico RI facility, technical design and available resources etc. can be found here - (<https://www.jerico-ri.eu/ta/jerico-facilities-in-ta/>)

To determine the capabilities and service offerings of each facility we strongly encourage all TA applicants to contact the respective facility providers as early as possible in the proposal process about possible usage of facilities and cooperation at the infrastructures. Please ensure that the objectives and aims of the call are fully addressed before submitting a proposal for Transnational Access. The TA application form and Guidelines can be found online <https://www.jerico-ri.eu/ta/call-program/second-call/>.

This is a unique opportunity for scientists and engineers to avail of high-quality, interlinked instrumented infrastructures operating in coastal and shelf-sea areas for carrying out research and/or testing activities.

Contact JERICO.TA (at) marine.ie /jerico.ta@marine.ie for more details

*******Ends*******

The Jerico RI invites you to respond to the call and request access to the JERICO RI facilities and to please circulate this announcement with your networks and potentially interested parties.

The successful Jerico RI S3 TransNational Access fist call in 2020 resulted in 19 accepted projects with 10 marine observation hosting facilities. This TA call connected marine researches of a total 14 nationalities to facilities in 7 Jerico RI partner countries. The accepted projects utilise the array of multi-disciplinary facilities offered by Jerico RI with use of the cabled observatories, gliders and AUV, multi-platform facilities, fixed platforms, and calibration labs. Due to COVID related delays, projects are in the last steps of finalising and are anticipated to begin research in the coming months. Stay tuned for more information of the successful projects.