



Marine Microbial Biodiversity, Bioinformatics & Biotechnology



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Deliverable 2.5

Final call for sampling sites

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Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services) (PP)	
Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services) (RE)	
Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services) (CO)	

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Summary

As described in D2.3, we will not conduct a final call for sampling sites associated with an 'open call' for participation since OSD is already up and running. We will channel equivalent efforts into increasing the number of sites involved right up to the June 2014 event. This flexibility in dealing with the sampling sites has turned out to be a major part of the success of the project so far.

Relevant Text taken from D2.3:

When we originally envisioned the Micro B3 project we placed the Ocean Sampling Day (OSD) event at month 30. We have now run pilot OSD events (as described in previous deliverables 2.1 and 2.2) and with the strong engagement of the community are re-thinking our OSD strategy. In the proposal we planned to write a call for participation and back the call with discretionary funding for sites to undertake samples. We planned to use a variety of criteria to judge sites and release funds according to criteria including 1) the amount and quantity of existing molecular data, 2) the link to environmental and other contextual data 3) the novelty of the site 4) the strategic value of the site with respect to creating a comprehensive survey of sites across Europe (and beyond). To evaluate our choice of sites for inclusion in OSD, we proposed to form an expert Selection Committee, and the funded sites would be the OSD 2014 event (additional sites could also join in on an unfunded basis).

Due to the successful recruitment of 60 sites (for June 2013) we have decided at the Micro B3 EEB meeting in Bremen May 6-8, 2013 that we would replace the action of having a call with the creation of an expert committee to decide how to allocated the funds against data generation, especially sequencing. This is now possible because of the tremendous in kind contributions of our sampling sites.

We now propose to go forward as follows:

- 1) Form an Micro B3 OSD Steering Committee with the leaders of the Micro B3 WPs
- 2) The OSD Core Team (WP2) puts together a proposal for spending the discretionary funding on the 2014 event
- 3) Micro B3 OSD Steering Committee to vote on action to spend the budget at the next Micro B3 General Assembly planned for April 2014
- 4) Spend the OSD budget to support OSD 2014 event.

In considering the budget, we also have decided to pull forward at least a small amount of funds to prioritize metagenomic (shotgun) sequencing of a number of metagenomes. We are currently discussing this with Argonne National Labs. We would aim to sequencing 20 metagenomes from the sites sampled to date based on our criteria above (i.e. best contextual information, but also good DNA yields, etc). We expect the cost of this sequencing effort to be less than \$10k and will generate strategic data for validating the existing and planned Micro B3 informatics pipeline.