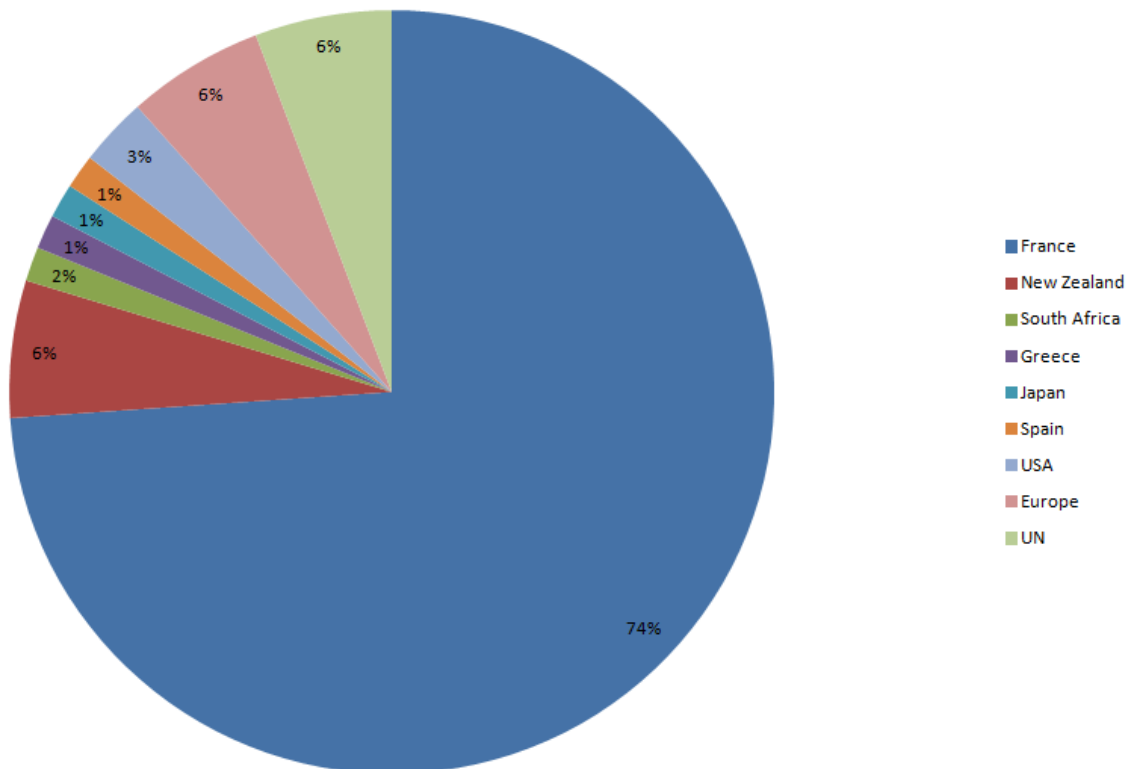


1st Ocean Observers Workshop

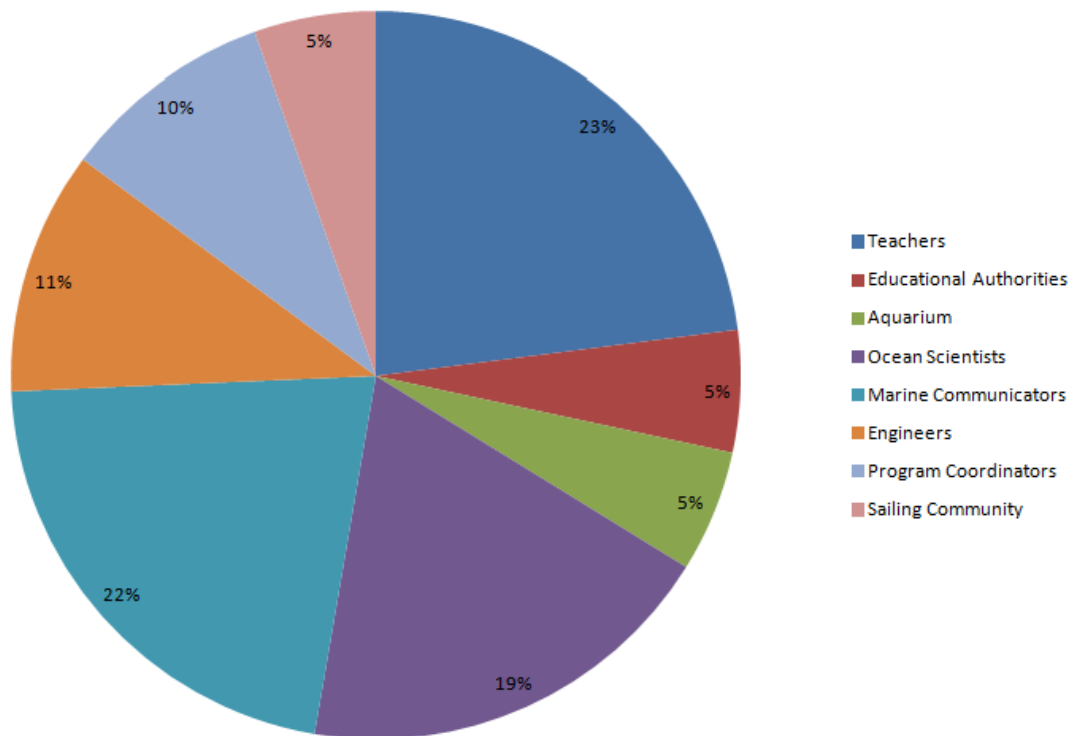
Discussions Report

This document reports on the main results and outcomes of discussions held during the 1st Ocean Observers workshop, jointly organized by JCOMMOPS and the Euro-Argo ERIC on 13-14 June 2017 in Océanopolis, Brest, France.

The international workshop gathered about 70 persons interested in ocean observations educational activities. 7 countries were represented, though around 3/4 of the participants came from France, with a wide repartition between people from diverse sectors. The workshop was very well welcomed by the participants and the feedback after the two days was globally positive.



Origin of workshop attendees



Background of workshop attendees

The idea to organize an educational workshop focused on *in situ* ocean observations came from discussions within the Argo community during the annual Argo Steering Team Meetings and from informal discussions between JCOMMOPS and the Euro-Argo ERIC, both engaged in the ocean observations. The ocean observing communities are more and more aware that marine science popularisation and outreach activities are fundamental to raise awareness that a healthy ocean is vital for the well-being of generations to come. This concept was also the fundament for the organization of the 1st Ocean Observers workshop.

After the first brainstorming between the two organizers teams, the necessity to expand the workshop to all *in situ* ocean observing networks was clear; many educational activities focused on *in situ* ocean observations exist today but they are frequently isolated and lack of national and international visibility. On these bases, the Ocean Observers workshop attempted for the first time to bring together different actors involved in marine science outreach activities to:

- do a review of existing initiatives;
- favour discussions and collaboration between people engaged in marine science outreach programmes;

- give educators marine science information they could apply to their unique environments to raise awareness of the importance of the ocean for human life among school children and local communities;
- engage “new” schools, educators and private associations in ocean observing outreach activities;
- give scientists (researchers and PhD students) tools and suggestions to share and make their results understandable by large public;
- federate a community around a coordinated project.

Most of these objectives were accomplished during the workshop.

During the meeting, two main discussions were animated, at the start of the 2nd day and at the end of the workshop. The simultaneous translation organized during the entire workshop was very appreciated from all participants who actively participated and contributed during the discussions.

Outcomes

The main idea that emerged during the workshop was the necessity to **establish an international Working Group** with representatives of each type of background (some of the participants already volunteered to be part of such a team). It is foreseen that the Working Group should meet (via web conferences) once every two-three months, for the project to move forward.

The main objectives of the Working Group will be:

1. to define the terms of reference of the Ocean Observers community, i.e. its missions and mode of operation
2. to maintain a lively community of people interested in ocean observing education activities
3. to gather the educational resources presented during the workshop for creating a platform with all material available
4. to set up some communication tools to help maintaining the network active (twitter, blog, etc.)

5. to look for sources of funding and possibly to write projects in that purpose
6. to help organize the next Ocean Observers Workshop

The main consensus about the next Ocean Observers workshop was that if progresses are made within next few months, the workshop could then be renewed, maybe in 2019 (every other year).

Even if the technical aspects of the next workshop organisation would be eased by the first edition, a deep reflexion to renew the content and the format should be engaged for the second workshop.

In particular, the objectives of the 2nd Ocean Observers workshop would indeed be different, as the review of existing initiatives was already made in the first workshop. Regarding the format, the future workshop should be more interactive, with work in small groups, games, and concrete actions carried on during the workshop, as suggested by participants.

Future workshops could be organised in different countries, thus allowing to engage a bigger community, in particular in the educational sector, with an easier involvement of local representatives.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank everyone who made possible the 1st workshop happens, with particular thanks to our sponsors and all people who inspired us during the finalization of the workshop's content.

ANNEXE 1 - Questionnaire summary

A questionnaire was issued during the workshop. The 15 filled out questionnaires recovered were very useful to compile a list of next actions and to draw the conclusions of the 1st Ocean Observers workshop. The questionnaires will also be very useful to improve the organization of the next workshop.

Globally, participants much appreciated:

- the presence of people from diverse backgrounds
- the nice opportunity to discuss with new people and to make contacts and collaborations
- the opportunity to learn on what exists on the *in situ* observations educational activities
- to get a view of differences in countries and ideas on how to address this subject with students.

Participants less appreciated:

- the time allowed to speakers was too short
- not enough time was kept for discussions.

The outputs from the questionnaire are compiled below.

Q1. Was the content of this workshop relevant to my job?

Yes **x11**

Partly **x2**

No answer **x2**

Q2. How would you improve this workshop?

- Provide better information before the workshop
- Clarify the workshop objectives **x3**
- Reduce the content covered in the workshop **x3** (1: or allow more time)
- Increase the content covered in the workshop
- Update the content covered in the workshop
- Improve the instructional methods (in some cases) **x2**
- Improve workshop organisation (have the chairs stick to the time) **x2**
- Slow down the pace of the workshop

- Allow more time for the workshop x3
- Make the workshop more interactive

Q3. What is most valuable about this workshop?

- Diversity of speakers and countries, learn what others do x9
- leads for educational transposition x2
- Networking, partnership, contacts x6
- Coffee breaks, cocktail useful for discussions
- Location & welcome x2
- Meet passionate people
- Interpreters
- Learn about methods
- Hearing about difficulties some countries have to get support for their programs
- Scientific content

Q4. What is less valuable about this workshop?

- Redundancy on first day, too much presentations focused on “adopt a float”
- Presentation on mediation for scientists: useless (objectives not clear) x2
- Not enough time for discussion
- Not enough time for each speaker
- Too French oriented regarding teachers
- Presentations running overtime

Q5. Do you think the Ocean Observers workshop should be renewed regularly?

Yes x15 (x1: only if something happens from this one)

(When: Every year: x1; Every other year: x1; Every one or two years: x3)

Where: At a different but related venue; maybe Scripps)

Q6. Suggestions:

- Generate concrete results from this workshop in order to pursue these meetings and rise a community
- Importance of coordinating to establish one repository
- A team to be put in place to oversee this
- Recording the meeting and discussions
- Make links between scientific research and social sciences

- Start on time
- Keep on time schedule
- Include more practical aspect as excursion
- Have activities planned as icebreakers, gap fillers during technical breaks (games, songs)
- Organisers to move between groups during breaks to make links between participants
- Start with 5-10min activity to make introductions
- Have small group presentation or discussion session to allow meeting + sharing
- This network should be kept active and expand
- Volunteers for steering team
- Web page content (list of scientists who would like to answer students' questions; provide keys to interpreting data; youtube clips to create scientist story: why they do that? What they are looking for...; show how research is relevant for students and their lives; blog/facebook for communication between teachers & scientists)

Volunteers to establish a community/hub:

Carol Brieseman (Teacher, New Zealand)

Fatima Moujdi-Menaug: Teacher, France

ANNEXE 2 - Financial assessment

Expenses	Amount (Euros)
Océanopolis amphitheatre renting	3 756
Staff Océanopolis, Catering (coffee breaks + cocktail)	5 103
Puffersphere transport from Villefranche-sur-Mer (two-way)	1 661
Travel support for speakers from abroad	2 000
Simultaneous translation EN<>FR	6 768
TOTAL	19 288

Source of funding	Océanopolis (discount amphitheatre renting thanks to partnership with JCOMMOPS/COI)	LABEXMer	JCOMMOPS	EURO-ARGO	Technopôle Brest Iroise	TOTAL
Amount (Euros)	3 756	6 000	3 371	4 661	1 500	19 288