



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
RESEARCH DG HUMAN RESOURCES
AND MOBILITY

EST Final Activity Report

Project No: 20501

Project Acronym: ECOSUMMER

Project Full Name: ECOSystem approach to SUsustainable
Management of the Marine Environment and its living Resources

Marie Curie Actions

EST Final Activity Report

Period covered: from 01/01/2006 to 31/12/2009

Start date of project: 01/01/2006

Project coordinator name:

Dr Graham Pierce

Project coordinator organisation name:

The University Court of the University of Aberdeen

Date of preparation: 19/04/2010

Date of submission (SESAM):
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Duration: 48



Marie Curie Actions EST Final Activity Report

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project No:	20501
Project acronym:	ECOSUMMER
Project full name:	ECOsystème approach to SUsustainable Management of the Marine Environment and its living Resources
Period number:	1st
Period covered - start date:	01/01/2006
Period covered - end date:	31/12/2009
Project start date:	01/01/2006
Project duration [months]:	48
Project coordinator name:	Dr Graham Pierce
Project coordinator organisation name:	The University Court of the University of Aberdeen
Date of submission:	19/04/2010



PUBLISHABLE BRIEF SUMMARY OF ALL WORK PERFORMED DURING THE PROJECT AND RESULTS

This text should include all main keywords referring to the objectives and results of this project.

The ECOSUMMER project trained 23 early-stage researchers (14 long-stay, 9 short-stay; 5 male and 18 female) during 46 separate training periods at 8 institutes in 3 European countries (UK, Spain, Greece), delivering a total of 499 training months. Trainees were recruited from the UK, Germany, Denmark, France, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Mexico and Chile. Trainees carried out individual research projects within the training site theme, the majority undertaking projects at least partially designed by themselves.

Most of the long-stay trainees registered for PhDs. Two were awarded their PhDs during 2009 and a third trainee submitted her PhD at the end of 2009.

During the 4-year project, the consortium delivered three annual summer training courses (2006, 2007, 2008) and one short winter course (2008), focused on generic skills training, in particular applied statistics. In the final year of the project, trainees presented their work at the marine Ecosystems and Sustainability conference in Aberdeen, UK. A number of trainees have submitted papers to the associated special issue of the journal *Hydrobiologia*.

List of Keywords

living marine resources, sustainable exploitation, ecosystems, fisheries, aquaculture, marine ecology, climate, environment, oil industry

Websites where additional information may be found

www.abdn.ac.uk/ecosummer

RECRUITMENT SUMMARY

Contractor: The University Court of the University of Aberdeen

Name of the Researcher (as stated at time of selection)	Type	Origin		Gender	Start date of recruitment	End date of recruitment	Working time commitment	No. of full-time equivalent months
		Country	LFR					
Katara, Isidora	ESR (<4 years)	EL-Greece	Yes	Female	08/07/2006	07/01/2008	Full Time	18.0
Longo, Katie	ESR (<4 years)	IT-Italy	No	Female	01/07/2006	30/09/2007	Full Time	15.0
Gontikaki, Evangelia	ESR (<4 years)	EL-Greece	No	Female	01/10/2006	31/03/2008	Full Time	18.0
Fernandez Garcia, Ruth	ESR (<4 years)	ES-Spain	Yes	Female	01/09/2007	31/03/2008	Full Time	7.0
Longo, Katie	ESR (<4 years)	IT-Italy	No	Female	01/01/2008	31/03/2008	Full Time	3.0
Dias, Patricia Joana	ESR (<4 years)	PT-Portugal	No	Female	01/09/2009	31/12/2009	Full Time	4.0
Fernandez Garcia, Ruth	ESR (<4 years)	ES-Spain	Yes	Female	01/10/2009	31/12/2009	Full Time	3.0

Contractor: The Scottish Ministers, acting through Fisheries Research Services, Marine Laboratory

Name of the Researcher (as stated at time of selection)	Type	Origin		Gender	Start date of recruitment	End date of recruitment	Working time commitment	No. of full-time equivalent months
		Country	LFR					
Martinez Saez, Iñigo	ESR (<4 years)	ES-Spain	No	Male	01/10/2006	30/09/2009	Full Time	36.0
Dias, Patricia Joana	ESR (<4 years)	PT-Portugal	No	Female	01/01/2007	31/05/2009	Full Time	29.0

Contractor: The Scottish Association for Marine Science

Name of the Researcher (as stated at time of selection)	Type	Origin		Gender	Start date of recruitment	End date of recruitment	Working time commitment	No. of full-time equivalent months
		Country	LFR					
Longborg, Christian	ESR (<4 years)	DK-Denmark	No	Male	12/06/2006	15/07/2007	Full Time	13.25
Strittmatter, Martina	ESR (<4 years)	DE-Germany	No	Female	01/06/2007	31/01/2009	Full Time	20.0
Gontikaki, Evangelia	ESR (<4 years)	EL-Greece	No	Female	02/06/2008	01/06/2009	Full Time	12.0
Longborg, Christian	ESR (<4 years)	DK-Denmark	No	Male	16/07/2008	11/06/2009	Full Time	11.0
Strittmatter, Martina	ESR (<4 years)	DE-Germany	No	Female	01/05/2009	31/12/2009	Full Time	8.0

Contractor: Hellenic Center for Marine Research

Name of the Researcher (as stated at time of selection)	Type	Origin		Gender	Start date of recruitment	End date of recruitment	Working time commitment	No. of full-time equivalent months
		Country	LFR					
Rivero Rodriiguez, Susana	ESR (<4 years)	ES-Spain	Yes	Female	15/07/2006	14/01/2007	Full Time	6.0
Faulwetter, Sarah	ESR (<4 years)	DE-Germany	No	Female	01/11/2006	30/04/2008	Full Time	18.0
Fletcher, Neil	ESR (<4 years)	UK-United Kingdom	No	Male	01/09/2006	28/02/2007	Full Time	6.0
Longo, Katie	ESR (<4 years)	IT-Italy	No	Female	01/10/2007	31/12/2007	Full Time	3.0
Hermosilla, Consuelo	ESR (<4 years)	CL-Chile	No	Female	01/11/2007	31/01/2008	Full Time	3.0

Contractor: Hellenic Center for Marine Research

Name of the Researcher (as stated at time of selection)	Type	Origin		Gender	Start date of recruitment	End date of recruitment	Working time commitment	No. of full-time equivalent months
		Country	LFR					
Fernandes, Ricardo	ESR (<4 years)	PT-Portugal	No	Male	01/03/2007	30/11/2007	Full Time	9.0
Martinez, Gema	ESR (<4 years)	ES-Spain	Yes	Female	01/05/2007	31/08/2007	Full Time	4.0
Hermosilla, Consuelo	ESR (<4 years)	CL-Chile	No	Female	01/11/2009	31/12/2009	Full Time	2.0
Guijarra, Beatriz	ESR (<4 years)	ES-Spain	Yes	Female	18/08/2008	17/12/2008	Full Time	4.0
Dias, Patricia Joana	ESR (<4 years)	PT-Portugal	No	Female	01/06/2009	31/08/2009	Full Time	3.0
Fernandez Garcia, Ruth	ESR (<4 years)	ES-Spain	Yes	Female	01/05/2009	30/06/2009	Full Time	2.0

Contractor: INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DE OCEANOGRAFÍA

Name of the Researcher (as stated at time of selection)	Type	Origin		Gender	Start date of recruitment	End date of recruitment	Working time commitment	No. of full-time equivalent months
		Country	LFR					
Goetz, Sabine	ESR (<4 years)	DE-Germany	No	Female	15/10/2007	14/10/2009	Full Time	24.0
Read, Fiona	ESR (<4 years)	UK-United Kingdom	No	Female	09/04/2008	30/11/2009	Full Time	19.75
Mehault, Sonia	ESR (<4 years)	FR-France	No	Female	01/04/2008	31/01/2009	Full Time	10.0
Rodriguez, Rebeca	ESR (<4 years)	MX-Mexico	No	Female	17/12/2008	16/10/2009	Full Time	10.0

Contractor: UNIVERSIDADE DE VIGO

Name of the Researcher (as stated at time of selection)	Type	Origin		Gender	Start date of recruitment	End date of recruitment	Working time commitment	No. of full-time equivalent months
		Country	LFR					
Santos Diniz, Tania	ESR (<4 years)	PT-Portugal	Yes	Female	01/06/2006	30/11/2006	Full Time	6.0
Ribeiro, Angela	ESR (<4 years)	PT-Portugal	Yes	Female	01/06/2006	30/11/2006	Full Time	6.0
Spyrakos, Vagelis	ESR (<4 years)	EL-Greece	No	Male	01/07/2007	31/12/2009	Full Time	30.0
Hermosilla, Consuelo	ESR (<4 years)	CL-Chile	No	Female	01/09/2008	30/09/2009	Full Time	13.0

Contractor: UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN

Name of the Researcher (as stated at time of selection)	Type	Origin		Gender	Start date of recruitment	End date of recruitment	Working time commitment	No. of full-time equivalent months
		Country	LFR					
Fletcher, Neil	ESR (<4 years)	UK-United Kingdom	No	Male	01/03/2007	31/08/2009	Full Time	30.0
Martinez, Gema	ESR (<4 years)	ES-Spain	Yes	Female	01/02/2007	30/04/2007	Full Time	3.0
Faulwetter, Sarah	ESR (<4 years)	DE-Germany	No	Female	01/03/2009	31/07/2009	Full Time	5.0
Hermosilla, Consuelo	ESR (<4 years)	CL-Chile	No	Female	16/02/2008	15/05/2008	Full Time	3.0
Fernandez Garcia, Ruth	ESR (<4 years)	ES-Spain	Yes	Female	22/09/2008	21/04/2009	Full Time	7.0
Visser, Fleur	ESR (<4 years)	NL-Netherlands	Yes	Female	02/02/2009	01/06/2009	Full Time	4.0

Contractor: UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN

Name of the Researcher (as stated at time of selection)	Type	Origin		Gender	Start date of recruitment	End date of recruitment	Working time commitment	No. of full-time equivalent months
		Country	LFR					
Strittmatter, Martina	ESR (<4 years)	DE-Germany	No	Female	01/02/2009	30/04/2009	Full Time	3.0

Contractor: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas

Name of the Researcher (as stated at time of selection)	Type	Origin		Gender	Start date of recruitment	End date of recruitment	Working time commitment	No. of full-time equivalent months
		Country	LFR					
Hermosilla, Consuelo	ESR (<4 years)	CL-Chile	No	Female	01/11/2006	31/10/2007	Full Time	12.0
Lonberg, Christian	ESR (<4 years)	DK-Denmark	No	Male	16/07/2007	15/07/2008	Full Time	12.0
Read, Fiona	ESR (<4 years)	UK-United Kingdom	No	Female	09/04/2007	08/04/2008	Full Time	12.0
Mehault, Sonia	ESR (<4 years)	FR-France	No	Female	01/04/2007	31/03/2008	Full Time	12.0
Rodriguez, Rebeca	ESR (<4 years)	MX-Mexico	No	Female	16/07/2007	15/12/2008	Full Time	17.0
Rodriguez, Rebeca	ESR (<4 years)	MX-Mexico	No	Female	17/10/2009	31/12/2009	Full Time	2.5
Read, Fiona	ESR (<4 years)	UK-United Kingdom	No	Female	01/12/2009	31/12/2009	Full Time	1.0

TOTAL PMM PER CONTRACTOR

Contractor: The University Court of the University of Aberdeen

No. of full-time equivalent months to be delivered according to the contract: 65

No. of full-time equivalent months covered by this recruitment during this reporting period

68.0

Contractor: The Scottish Ministers, acting through Fisheries Research Services, Marine Laboratory

No. of full-time equivalent months to be delivered according to the contract: 65

No. of full-time equivalent months covered by this recruitment during this reporting period

65.0

Contractor: The Scottish Association for Marine Science

No. of full-time equivalent months to be delivered according to the contract: 65

No. of full-time equivalent months covered by this recruitment during this reporting period

64.25

Contractor: Hellenic Center for Marine Research

No. of full-time equivalent months to be delivered according to the contract: 65

No. of full-time equivalent months covered by this recruitment during this reporting period

60.0

Contractor: INSTITUTO ESPAÑOL DE OCEANOGRAFÍA

No. of full-time equivalent months to be delivered according to the contract: 65

No. of full-time equivalent months covered by this recruitment during this reporting period

63.75

Contractor: UNIVERSIDADE DE VIGO

No. of full-time equivalent months to be delivered according to the contract: 55

No. of full-time equivalent months covered by this recruitment during this reporting period

55.0

Contractor: UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN

No. of full-time equivalent months to be delivered according to the contract: 55

No. of full-time equivalent months covered by this recruitment during this reporting period
55.0

Contractor: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

No. of full-time equivalent months to be delivered according to the contract: 65

No. of full-time equivalent months covered by this recruitment during this reporting period
68.5

TOTAL PMM FOR ALL CONTRACTORS

No. of full-time equivalent months to be delivered according to the contract	No. of full-time equivalent months covered by this recruitment during this reporting period
500.0	499.5

RESEARCH RESULTS RELATED TO THE PROJECT

Participation in conferences and other scientific events

Type of Event	Active participation			Passive participation
	Oral	Poster	Of which were invited presentations (oral + poster)	
Conferences	49	31	0	21
Workshops	9	2	2	12
Other Scientific Meetings	4	1	4	9

Patents

Type of Patent	Application filed	Pending	Granted
National Patents - Member States and/or Associated States	0	0	0
National Patents - Third Countries - US	0	0	0
National Patents - Third Countries - Japan	0	0	0
National Patents - Third Countries - Other	0	0	0
European Patents (EP number)	0	0	0
International Patents (WO number)	0	0	0

Publications

Type of Publication	Where fellows appeared as main author	Total	Joint	
			Number	Members concerned
Peer Reviewed - Articles in Journals	0	29	0	0
Peer Reviewed - Chapters in Books	0	2	0	0
Peer Reviewed - Articles in Conference Proceedings	0	2	0	0
Peer Reviewed - Books and Monographs	0	1	0	0
Non-Peer Reviewed	0	12	0	0
Submitted	0	15	0	0
Manuscripts in preparation	0	27	0	0

Teaching and Transfer of Knowledge

	Number of hours	Number of participants	
		Early stage researchers	Other
Lectures	0		
Training Courses	216	54	13

Other outcomes

Type of other outcomes	Number	Type
Academic qualifications	0	
Prizes and Awards	0	
Spin-off companies	0	

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

Scientific and technological highlights

Teaching and Training activities

The project delivered four training courses, all of which combined lectures and practical training, with a strong emphasis on statistics and scientific writing and presentation:

2006: 8 day summer course in Vigo, attended by 11 trainees and 1 other PhD student

2007: 8 day summer course, attended by 16 trainees and 1 other PhD student

2008: 9 day summer course, attended by 14 trainees and 7 other students.

2008: additional 2 day course in December, attended by 13 trainees and 4 other students

These courses together offered training totalling 3640 trainee hours.

In addition, 17 of the trainees attended a range of courses offered by host institutes and, on occasion, third parties, completing an estimated total of 2540 trainee hours of additional training.

In December 2009 we held a conference in Aberdeen at which many of the trainees presented their work, along with a range of talks by senior scientists and other students. Many of these presentations have been submitted to a special "ECOSUMMER" issue of the journal *Hydrobiologia*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide any additional information, which you consider of interest in order to evaluate the results achieved.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT

Feasibility of the overall project:	b) Some minor modifications were needed
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If you answered b) or c), were the modifications due to	Unforeseen problems
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If you answered b) or c) please include a detailed description of the modifications in the report

The modifications were largely a consequence of the recruitment process, in particular the fact that the majority of projects were trainee-driven (applicants selected the research topic) and involved stays at several partner institutes. In addition, we found it beneficial to take a flexible approach to allocation of training periods between years and between partner institutes.

Firstly, and fairly obviously, trainees staying at several host institutes visited them sequentially rather than simultaneously and there was thus a mis-match between the timing of appointment and the time at which a trainee started work at each institute.

Secondly, rather than follow precisely the proposed time-schedule of recruitment we found it appropriate to modify this according to the number and quality of applicants for projects with each host institute. In particular we had a high number of excellent candidates for the first round of applications.

Thirdly, some adjustments to funding decisions were made once it became apparent that matching funding was available from other sources for some projects. Thus in the first round of applications the University of Aberdeen received several exceptionally good applications and we were able to secure matching funding for two of the best applicants thus allowing funding to be spread to cover more trainees.

Fourthly, due to a combination of few applicants and internal administrative issues, not all partners recruited in the first year of the project.

Fifthly, certain partners, notably HCMR, found it administratively easier to work with many short projects. Conversely, others, notably FRS, preferred to have only two long-stay projects.

Finally, some adjustments were needed due to some trainees leaving to take up jobs and due to changes in the nature of trainee projects as they progressed.

TRANSFER OF EXPERTISE/TRAINING

Has the project resulted in transfer of knowledge and/or technology/training activities between academia and industry?	Yes
The transfer of knowledge and/or technology/training activities took place through	
research collaboration	High
exchange of students/researchers (including secondments)	Very low
training given in experimental techniques	Very low
participation in networking activities, lectures, seminars and talks	High
other means	High

other means, please specify:

A majority of the trainee projects had some projects were relevant to industry, including several which involved direct research collaboration with industry, for example:

- (a) Joana Dias - collaboration with the Scottish aquaculture industry
- (b) Inigo Martinez - collaboration with the oil industry in Scotland
- (c) Sabine Goetz - collaboration with the Spanish fishing industry (long-lining vessels)

Two projects were directly related to aquaculture. Several other projects involved data collection from fisheries or use of previously collected fishery data. A substantial proportion of the projects will contribute information to underpin improved fisheries management, some directly by developing improved stock assessment methods, most indirectly by generating improved knowledge of interactions between fisheries and other ecosystem components, including the marine environment at local and broad scales and top predators.

Were the fellows actively involved in the

further planning of the research project?	Yes
management of the research project?	Yes
planning of future research projects related to the obtained results?	Yes

Please comment:

In keeping with the stated approach to recruitment, the majority of the ECOSUMMER trainees wrote their own projects in consultation with project staff. Projects were to be related to the project theme and to the research interests of the host(s) but otherwise trainees were free to choose their subject. In addition we offered a small number of projects for which the objectives were predefined. In all cases, trainees worked with their hosts/supervisors, regularly reviewing project progress and updating objectives where this proved to be necessary. We believe that this approach to recruitment, which required applicants to have both a good idea about their research and a good CV, contributed to the very high quality of trainees in the ECOSUMMER project.

To date, two trainees (Rebeca Rodriguez, Sabine Goetz) have secured further research funding to continue the work started during their training periods.

Attachments	
Name	
Date	
Signature	