



## Coastal Waters Research Synergy Framework

Grant Agreement No. 687289

### User Board Meeting (UBM-3) Summary

### Report

### Version for External dissemination

**Version of the document:** 1  
**Led by:** UCC  
**Dissemination level:** Restricted (User Board & Project)



UCC, Cork, Ireland

3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2018

Prepared by: Eimear Tuohy

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## Thank you!

The Co-ReSyF team would like to take this opportunity to thank the User Board for attending the third board meeting and for their valuable contributions. Your efforts have helped us immensely, in our final push to develop and launch our Co-ReSyF system, the user support frameworks and defining the road forward for a sustainable platform beyond H2020. We finished the Cork meeting encouraged at the enthusiasm with which attendees engaged in the consultations regarding the platform and its sustainability, your concise and clear positive feedback and constructive criticism, observations, encouragement, and considered guidance and cautions.

Likewise, we would like to thank those User Board members who could not make it to Cork, yet still kindly committed to giving their time over the previous three years to keep an eye on the project development, and provide feedback and encouragement. We hope this document provides you some insight into the Cork 2018 meeting, and welcome any comments on, or suggested amendments to, its contents, and as always, on the Co-ReSyF project itself.

We look forward to seeing you again in the future. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact our team should you have any queries regarding the project, or if you have any insights you think are relevant. Also, keep an eye out for our team as we present Co-ReSyF across Europe and beyond to the maritime, coastal and Earth Observation sectors, and never hesitate to say hi and stop for a chat over coffee breaks.

*Eimear, Rory and the Co-ReSyF Team.*

## Overview

For the final User Board meeting, the Co-ReSyf partners and board members gathered in MaREI, Ireland. The meeting had two key objectives; (i) present the developed Co-ReSyF platform with working research applications (ii) present the user support services and (iii) gather feedback on the platform and advice for further actions to ensure a sustainable service and engaged community.

The User Board was consulted on a number of aspects regarding Co-ReSyF's services, support frameworks and opportunities for growth, training guidance and sustainability.

Facilitated group discussions focused on:

- A demonstration and feedback session highlighting platform accessibility, research applications and the user support framework.
- A session dealing with gathering feedback on strengths and weaknesses of Co-ReSyF, the potential barriers which would disincline users utilising Co-ReSyF in future research, and overall guidance on how to grow the platform and encourage sustainability.

Group consultations were implemented using participatory facilitated discussion methods developed by the staff of the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA) and more commonly known as Technology of Participation (ToP)<sup>®</sup>. The University College Cork (based in the MaREI Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy) staff deployed on this exercise have been trained in this methodology through the UCC Staff Training programme. Further information on ToP<sup>®</sup> can be found at [www.ica-usa.org/](http://www.ica-usa.org/).

User Board observations provided invaluable information to the project team on the work done during the project, user interfaces, research applications made available, community support and, finally, service and community growth. This is essential, as the project team do not have the same set of experience and skills as the User Board members. As such, these User Notes provide an important link to the experiences of the User Board, allowing the team to undertake improvements on the platform with a User Board frame of reference.

The data recorded were collated, and user board observations and recommendations were extracted. The data collation step ensured that User Board comment records were anonymised, ensuring User Board member confidentiality.

User Board recommendations were noted on a number of issues regarding growth and sustainability, e.g. training guidance, project management guidance, and risk management.

User Board notes were translated into a set of expert recommendations. Please note that as the project is entering final reporting, enhancements not addressed during the course of the Co-ReSyF initiative shall be noted as options for further development in post H2020 Co-ReSyF development. A summary of the recommendations, requirements, and observations are contained in this report.

The project partners would also like to take this opportunity to thank the contributing users consulted for their input, enthusiasm, and constructive criticism on the project, the system concept presented, and our overall project strategy.

**Participants:**

User Board	Local Users	Project Team	
13 User Board Members	4 Local users	Eimear Tuohy (UCC)	Nuno Catarino (DEIMOS)
		Rory Scarrott (UCC)	Koushik Panda (DEIMOS)
		Walther Camaro (UCC)	Nuno Grosso (DEIMOS)
		Hervé Caumont (Terradue)	Helen Snaith (NOC)
		Anne Vallette (ACRI-ST)	Jorge Da Silva (Instituto Hidrográfico)
		Alberto Azevedo (LNEC)	Pedro Goncalves (Terradue)
			Luísa Lamas (Instituto Hidrográfico)

		Ana Moura (Instituto Hidrográfico)  Francisco Sancho (LNEC)	Pedro Vilar (Instituto Hidrográfico)
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**Facilitated by:**

Rory Scarrott (UCC), Eimear Tuohy (UCC), Martha Gosch (UCC), Koushik Panda (DEIMOS).

**User Board 3 Meeting Outputs in brief.**

The conversations between the Co-ReSyF team and the User Board yielded a wealth of observations on:

- Constructive critiques of the operational platform, community support services and the developed research applications.
- Constructive guidance as to software and system improvements.
- Guidance on access rights to all platform components.
- Guidance on provision on additional input datasets.
- The potential issues associated with EO data, in-situ data and associated metadata.
- Opportunities for the expansion of the Co-ReSyF community.
- Guidance on methods addressing for addressing user issues and training.

In terms of recommendations for actions, the Co-ReSyF User Board provided both directly and indirectly a number of recommended actions for the project team to take on board and implement. The following summaries present recommendations extracted from facilitated discussions and post presentation conversations throughout the day.

**Platform Development and User Support**

- Investigate the potential for a potential complimentary relationship with C-TEP
- Monitor which datasets and tools are being used
- Users would like an option for visualising before processing e.g. quicklook function

- Expanded search capability to search by parameters e.g. search by mission
- Add a “search” component tool to the workflow
- Connect the workflow to the portal so users own data may be uploaded and incorporated
- The user community would like to see all platform components as open source. This would increase collaborations with other platforms and organisations.
- Open source tools and publishing of code will allow code reviews and distribution and therefore sustainability and user uptake of the platform
- The platform offers a shared mechanism for scientists to collaborate and share. Publicise this valuable tool, to further increase user uptake.
- Provide easy access to historical EO archives.
- Provide clear descriptions of what exactly Co-ReSyF provides for scientists of differing levels
- The whiteboard concept is great for sharing and adding additional information about your processing ideas
- Associate datasets with DOI
- Provide video tutorials. A very good example is the ESOV Tutorial

### **Research Applications Feedback**

- Expansion of dataset is recommended e.g. the Seamaps collection
- Access to the required data, through each research application, is intuitive.
- Processing progress bar/time indicator would be a great addition.
- Provide link/DOI for completed processing jobs
- Research applications are difficult for users outside the research area to understand. Provision of short descriptions on the functions of each application would be an improvement.
- The Knowledge Base and Workflow tools are acknowledged as important and impressive services.
- Promote any analysis outputs from the beta testers. This will highlight user benefits

- Communicate what Co-ReSyF essential is i.e. It facilitates achieving an outcome rather than providing an outcome. Manage expectations as novice users may expect more.
- Meta data information must be provided for all datasets
- Improved data visualisation capabilities needed e.g. image viewer

### **Platform Growth and Sustainability**

- Expansion of the range of users may be achieved by: providing local data, provide access to in-situ data, the scientific whiteboard must be developed, link coastal data archives to relevant EO data and connect with GOOS.
- Provide in-situ data. Collaborations must be established data institutes and organisations in order for there to be incentives to provide data to the platform e.g. The Coriolis Centre, Brest, France.
- If incorporating in-situ data, Co-ReSyF needs to have clear guidelines and standards for data inclusion. Make metadata standards mandatory.
- Make metadata standards mandatory e.g. similar to framework already adopted by NOAA.
- Provide clear terms and conditions surrounding uploaded data.
- Increase networking with coastal communities in order to create collaborations.
- The platform needs both expert and non-expert users to evolve mutually.
- Provide a registry of main datasets available
- Maintain the dedicated technical solutions support.

### **Community Growth**

- Showcase the applications e.g. step-by-step videos with example outputs on YouTube, step by step tutorials.
- Allow users to use and test the platform and provide feedback.
- Drive scientific research by allowing students to solve problems on the platform e.g. “organise hackathons”. These may be promoted as case studies to the wider community.

- Build a community of students through problem solving calls/competitions to promote platform in 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses.
- Seek to continue the project under new funding mechanisms.
- Market Co-ReSyF at environmental and geospatial events through face-to-face interactions and presentations.
- Hold a condensed version of the summer school with hands on demos and teaching at an event e.g. Living Planet. Increased promotion of what the platform can already do.
- Provide guidance on how to handle data and solve problems, similar to stack-overflow.

### **UB-3 Response actions for the Co-ReSyF Team arising from recommendations and comments:**

1. The Co-ReSyF team collated all User Board recommendations and comments.
2. The team categorised all recommendations thematically;
  - *Platform Development and User Support*
  - *Research Applications Feedback*
  - *Platform Growth and Sustainability*
  - *Community Growth*
3. Recommendations and actions, if required, were organised into short, medium and long term actions.

## User Board Oral and Poster Presentations

Poster Presentations	Presented by:
<a href="#">Coastal Altimetry</a>	BOC
<a href="#">SAR Bathymetry</a>	LNEC
<a href="#">Optical Bathymetry &amp; Benthic Habitat Classification</a>	ARGANS (formerly ACRI-HE)
<a href="#">Oil Spill and Vessel Detection</a>	UCC & DEIMOS
<a href="#">Ocean-surface Heterogeneity Mapping (OHMA): the modular programming approach</a>	UCC
<a href="#">Ocean-surface Heterogeneity Mapping (OHMA): the underpinning science</a>	UCC
<a href="#">Assessment of the utility of the ESA SST CCI product for environmental research using data from meteorological buoys in the North Atlantic</a>	UCC
<a href="#">The Use of ASCAT 12.5km Coastal Observations for Offshore Wind Farm Site Selection in Ireland</a>	UCC

Oral Presentations	Presented by:
<a href="#">Co-ReSyF Project Update</a>	DEIMOS
<a href="#">Co-ReSyF Platform Concept</a>	Terradue
<a href="#">Co-ReSyF User Support Services</a>	Terradue/Argans
<a href="#">Co-ReSyF Sustainability Plan</a>	DEIMOS
<a href="#">Co-ReSyF Community &amp; Sustainability</a>	UCC

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