

Get started in Responsible Research and Innovation

DEEP SEA MINING

An Opportunity To Do Things Right?



MARINA Project

9th March 2018 | Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Workshop | Portugal



DEEP SEA MINING

Many countries are waiting for the decision of the United Nations on the extension of their jurisdiction beyond their Exclusive Economic Zone. Small countries like Portugal could become the landlord of a seabed almost as large as the entire European Union dry land. With that comes an ocean of opportunities in terms of resources as well as marine research and innovation. However, this solution to the scarcity of raw materials on land can also impact a not so well-known environment and its unique biodiversity. Is the solution to our lack of materials at the bottom of the sea or in our homes? What can be done differently in terms of consumption behaviors, design and waste management? The debate is open in society. Only one thing is granted: this is a unique opportunity to do things right. Can DSM avoid the environmental mistakes of mining on land?

27 stakeholders from different groups expressed their opinion in this workshop:



RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) engages and brings together all stakeholders, creates dialogue and facilitates knowledge-sharing. It ensures the sustainable use of natural resources and makes sure that the needs of citizens and society are integrated into research and innovation. Participants put forth proposals of collective solutions based on the six RRI dimensions:



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

The participants defined three main sets of actions. Each set calls for the involvement of all the stakeholder groups, highlighting the need for collaboration between those with contrasting agendas in order to co-create solutions.

Each action was linked to various RRI dimensions. Governance and Ethics were the most important dimensions in this workshop, reflecting the fact that most stakeholders want the DSM decision-making to follow a precautionary approach.

Learn and inform

Train and convince

Communicate and manage

Stakeholder Groups



RRI Dimensions





Promote a deliberative

democracy in which the

public decides.



Invest in research about the deep sea resources and the DSM impacts.

activity.

Create laws that impose DSM as a non-profit

Create laws to oblige public participation and to make the decisionmaking process transparent.

Create a legal framework for DSM.

Impose a moratorium on DSM until the knowledge level is sufficient to support

decisions.

Disseminate information about DSM threats and risks.

Invest in the training of politicians and public institutions technicians Incentivise the circular economy.

Convert the deep sea floor into a World Heritage Site.

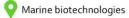
Invest in the development of new technologies and materials that do not require deep sea resources.

Increase the national sovereignty over the continental shelf.

The MARINA Project is funded by the EU Programme Horizon 2020. 14 partners across Europe are joining forces for a period of 36 months to bring together stakeholders around marine issues and societal challenges and propose RRI driven roadmaps of actions to respond to them.

45 workshops on marine issues in the European Union









Tourism and coastal cities







Pollution caused by human, land and sea pressures

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