

# EMODnet Stakeholder Conference and Sea-basin Workshops

The [EMODnet Stakeholder Conference](#), to be held from 14-15 February 2017 in Brussels, Belgium, will bring together EMODnet experts and interested stakeholders to consider whether the marine data collected via current observation and monitoring activities in Europe serves the needs of those who rely on marine knowledge based on observations and monitoring data.

During the conference, the findings of a series of EMODnet Sea-basin data stress tests (Checkpoints) will be presented and delegates will consider how to strengthen open data repositories to better serve actual user needs. Finally, the participants will discuss possible solutions and way forward to improve and better coordinate the existing and future monitoring and observation activities in Europe.

The [conference programme](#) includes two invited keynote presentations:

- Qu Tanzhou (director, Department of Forecasting and Disaster Prevention, Chinese State Oceanic Administration) - China's marine monitoring activities and data applications
- Val Cummins (Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster): Importance of marine data resources for key stakeholder communities & the maritime industry dimension

The EMODnet Stakeholder Conference aims to mobilise a wide group of interested stakeholders to discuss common findings and the important differences between the sea basins, as identified by the Sea-basin Checkpoints, to a diverse body of relevant stakeholders. These findings will be considered in terms of existing and future monitoring and observation activities, data availability and their usefulness to address real problems.

## Sea-basin Checkpoints

EMODnet [Sea-basin Checkpoints](#) assess the quality of the current observation monitoring data at the level of the regional sea-basins. By testing the data against specific end-user challenges, the checkpoints aim to demonstrate how well the current monitoring systems and data collection frameworks provide data to meet the needs of users. In doing so, data gaps and duplications as well as significant bottlenecks are being highlighted.

Six sea basin checkpoints are in operation. The first two checkpoints were initiated in the Mediterranean Sea and the North Sea in 2013. Four other Checkpoints covering the Arctic, Atlantic, Baltic and Black Sea were launched mid-2015.

The Conference is free to attend but registration is compulsory. To register please complete the registration form as soon as possible. Places are limited and attendance is granted on a first-come, first-served basis.