**Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission***Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies*

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First session of the

IODE Steering Group for ODISCat

ODISCAT-SG-I

**Online**

**6 December 2021**

**Annotated Agenda**

**Table of Contents**

[1. Welcome and adoption of agenda 1](#_Toc89258259)

[2. ODISCat work plan 2](#_Toc89258260)

[3. Recommendations 4](#_Toc89258261)

[4. Date and place of next session 4](#_Toc89258262)

[5. Any other business 4](#_Toc89258263)

[6. Closing of the session 4](#_Toc89258264)

[Annex 1: Agenda and Time Table 5](#_Toc89258265)

[Annex 2: List of participants 5](#_Toc89258266)

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# Welcome and Agenda

Mr. Arno Lambert, overall coordinator of the ODISCat project opened the meeting and introduced the meeting goals and agenda. He informed the board that all the information and documents of this meeting are available on IOC’s OceanExpert database via the following link: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/3265>.

Mr. Lambert added ‘budget 2022’ to the existing agenda

The ODISCat Steering Group adopted the agenda.

# Reporting Progress 2021

Mr. Arno Lambert explained the work done by a student under his supervision.

* EOV: the possibility of adding an EOV to a link between sources
* Link to OE: till now we only had a link to the submitter/owner of a record. This was extended to the institutions of OceanExpert
* Obtaining From and Contributing To fields: links are only possible between entries in ODISCat, this to avoid unable links to projects and datasets of which we don’t have any information
* Fields were added to make a link to ODIS-Arch/OIH to point to a start point and ODIS-Arch technology used, this will enable the automatic ingestion/discovery of ODISArch JSON-LD data.

Mr. Cristian Muñoz gave a presentation about the work he has done for ODISCat in 2021

* New entries: Mr. Cristian Muñoz showed us the evolution of the number of entries in the database. He added a remark that the steep growth of that number does also mean there are a lot of records that still need some editing to be relevant. There are now about 3000 entries in the database.
* Dashboard: Mr. Cristian Muñoz showed us a map showing what countries are owning most of the records/resources in the database. Ms. Lucy Scott asked some questions about the African continent, as apparently there are none/very few entries owned by African counties. A recommendation to cure that was formulated (see recommendations). Also, Asian countries seem to be underrepresented.
* Other graphics also showed the imbalance between the different categories in the database. About half of the records belong to 3 categories (Data systems/portal, Data products and Data catalogues). An effort is needed to cure that.
* Imbalance is also to be seen with the themes, where half of the records is about Physical, Biological or Chemical oceanography (DS03, DS01 and DS02).
* QC: Mr. Cristian Muñoz explained what the criteria are used for the quality control but stressed that there is still a lot to do to improve/complete the quality of the records.
* Graph db: Mr. Cristian Muñoz explained that he also made a export from the current db to a graph db which gives us the possibilities to show the relations between the different records in the database. He showed us some examples of those relations and dataflows.
* API: Mr. Cristian Muñoz showed us the work he has done to create an API to the database and what can be done with that to make Dashboards.
* Gaps: As a final point, Mr. Cristian Muñoz showed us a list of gaps and needs to improve the catalogue. Most important points were:
  + Scope of the categories must be (better) defined.
  + List of categories must be redefined.
  + Standardize list of metadata standards and M2M tech.
  + Africa and Asia are underrepresented.
  + Add ECV, EBV and EGV.

# Recommendations

The ODISCat Steering Group proposed the following recommendations and action items for consideration by the project team:

ODISCat and OIH/ODIS

* We can have a link to ODIS-Arch/OIH mentioning that ODIS-Arch info can be found at a given place and that the info there is following one of the ODIS-Arch formats (embedded JSON-LD, complete graph, …), but there is no control if this info makes sense. In analogy with the current ‘source is up’ check it is advised that we add a check if the given info about the ODIS-Arch/OIH link is correct and working, indicating that this is usable information. We could imagine a system where we warn the owner of a record if the link to the ODIS-Arch info is no longer working or contains errors.
* A pattern for ODISCat info should be developed to be able to enter data in ODISCat in an automated, structured way.
* As we see very few entries for sources owned by African countries, we should ask the OIH partners in Africa to do a special effort to enter their source in ODISCat to fill that gap.

ODISCat data model for future us

* Categories: the steering group recognized the limitation of the current used list of categories. Some of those categories are under-populated and some records could match multiple categories. Ms. Lucy Scott raised the concern that adding categories to make every entry match a category will lead to an uncontrollable growth of the list of categories and will complicate the use of ODISCat. To tackle this complex problem a special meeting was planned to have a look at what can and should be done. Mr. Pier Luigi Buttigieg proposed that we look for some guidance from groups that already faced the same problem.
* EOV: we will need some extra info about the EOV’s. It’s not always good enough to just have some link to an EOV. Most of the EOV have a well-defined set of requirements and we could add some ‘seal of approvement’ to the link to an EOV indicating that this is a source/dataset completely compatible with the EOV definitions.

Visibility

* Mr. Pier Luigi Buttigieg raised the concern that we needed some more visibility and needed to promote the catalogue to a broader audience and use the momentum of the Decade of Ocean Science to do so.
* ‘ODISCat: accelerating digital discovery across the global ocean’ was proposed as the new slogan to be used.

Languages

* Mr. Pier Luigi Buttigieg proposed that we had a look at the language(s) used in the interface and added the remark that we might need to add at least Spanish.

API

* API needs further development and there should be more endpoints beside the current db-tables connectors.

# Roadmap 2022

Mr. Arno Lambert asked if we could define a clear roadmap for the next year (2022). We could not really provide that as we are not sure about budgets.

Mr. Pier Luigi Buttigieg proposed that we make some of the accomplishments of this year more visible, especially the work done with the graph. That could be done in some ‘developers’ release. Mr. Arno Lambert mentioned that he would look with Mr. Cristian Muñoz to see how we could integrate the work Mr. Cristian Muñoz did on that this year into the current ODISCat site. This would enable us to get some exposure and should be accompanied with a sort of a ‘press release’.

Ms. Lucy Scott and Mr. Pier Luigi Buttigieg stressed the importance of being visible and propose to contact members of the Decade teams to show what we are doing and show how our work fits very well into the FAIR principles everybody is talking about.

# Budget

Mr. Arno Lambert raised the question is we have any budget to be able to pay a consultant (as Mr. Cristian Muñoz is now) in 2022. Ms. Lucy Scott proposed to spend some money from the OIH/ODIS budget to pay for a consultant that would have to benefit OIH and would strengthen the ties between OIH/ODIS and ODISCat.

# Date and place of next meetings

In follow up of this meeting a next ODISCat meeting has been scheduled to deal with some of the issues that have been raised here and will take place on 09 December 2021 at 15:00 CET and will be held online.

# Any other business

No other businesses or concerns were raised.

# Closing of the Session

The first session of the IODE Steering Group for ODISCat (ODISCat-SG-I) concluded on 6 December 2021 at 11:10 CET.

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# Annex 1: Agenda and Timetable

All times in CET

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| --- | --- |
| 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Welcome and Agenda |
| 10:15 AM - 10:35 AM | Reporting Progress 2021 |
| 10:35 AM - 10:50 AM | Recommendations |
| 10:50 AM - 10:55 AM | Roadmap 2022 |
| 10:55 AM - 11:00 AM | Next meetings |
| 11:00 AM - 11:05 AM | Any other Business |
| 11:05 AM - 11:10 AM | Closing of the Session |

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# Annex 2: List of participants

**Ms. Lucy SCOTT** <https://oceanexpert.org/expert/12096>

**Mr. Cristian MUÑOZ MAS**  <https://oceanexpert.org/expert/30291>

**Dr. Pier Luigi Buttigieg** <https://oceanexpert.org/expert/34461>

**Mr. Arno LAMBERT** <https://oceanexpert.org/expert/35711>

Excused:

**Mr. Peter J. PISSIERSSENS** <https://oceanexpert.org/expert/6552>