

COST Action TD0902: SPLASHCOS
Scientific Report on the Meeting of 24–25 April 2012, Amersfoort, the Netherlands

Aims

This fifth major meeting of SPLASHCOS was hosted by the Cultural heritage Agency of the Netherlands in Amersfoort. The meeting had 6 principal aims:

1. Review progress of the four Working Groups
2. Come to an agreement on the database-structure for recording archaeological sites
3. Present recent results of national research on drowned underwater landscapes
4. Evaluate plans for future collaborative and multi-national research
5. Convene a meeting of the Deukalion Planning Group (DPG)
6. Convene a Management Committee (MC) meeting

Organisation

The meeting took place over 2 days with 49 participants, and included presentations and discussions in plenary session, separate meetings of the Working Groups, regional discussion groups, the MC and the DPG. Day 1 comprised parallel meetings of the WGs, 12 plenary presentations on research projects in different regions, discussions on coordinating a pan-European database, and parallel meetings of five regional groups to progress research proposals. In Day 2, there was a plenary session to discuss the results of the previous day's discussions and other issues arising, the MC meeting, and the DPG meeting.

Results

- The plenary session on Day 1 was important in giving an overview of recent research results by SPLASHCOS members in different countries, stimulating ideas for future research, collaboration, and progressing the development of a joint database to incorporate both archaeological and geoscience information from different sea areas of Europe. Presentations included recent work in collaboration with the Port of Rotterdam, with a Port representative present for this session, which is demonstrating how large-scale work can be done in collaboration with an industrial partner to mutual benefit.
- WG1 and WG2, which are the main drivers of our Action, work closely together and are jointly working towards a database viewer that can be implemented in already ongoing international marine database activities such as GeoSeas, and EMODNET. The Working Group sessions made clear that there is progress on all fronts, with the offer of a contract from Blackwell-Wiley to publish 2 volumes summarising the archaeological and geoscience results of the Action. In the regional sessions, specific regional problems were identified and discussed as a basis for developing large-scale research proposals
- The plenary discussions on Day 2 covered a range of issues, including the use of an electronic bibliography (Mendeley), on which members can upload bibliographies and pdfs of publications, and presentations on future training schools and the future meetings in Rome, Esbjerg and Szczecin.
- The MC confirmed decisions on the budget and plans for the remaining period of the Action, and the DPG reviewed ideas about long-term research strategy,

Conclusion

Overall, the Action is making good progress towards all its major objectives under the MoU, and continues to generate a high level of enthusiasm and collective sense of purpose amongst its members. Even more important is the notion that awareness of the presence of drowned landscapes on continental shelves is already growing among decision-makers and industrial partners in several countries.
