

Restricted distribution

Oostende, 1 February 2023

English only

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Information document on the OceanExpert Project
(realisations 2022 + workplan 2023/2024)

Overview of the activities in 2022

1) New server

Timing: January - June 2022

New server went live on 28 June 2022

The switch to a new server was done, as the old server was EOL (end of life). To achieve this, the underlying framework (Symfony) had to be upgraded which was only possible by moving the complete codebase to the latest LTS (long term support) version of the PHP language. By doing this we can now provide a better bug fixing and developing cycle as we are no longer relying on the live server to test bug fixes or new features. After updating Symfony all the different steps/fields/... needed to be tested before going live. This test and bug fixing took several weeks and was successful. Once the updated website was live, there were only a few modifications required, addressed by OE users.

2) Bug fixing and improvements

Timing: January - December 2022

Upon request, we can provide you with an overview of the bugs solved in 2022.

3) Connection to OceanTeacher platform

Timing: March - September 2022

- Single Sign On (SSO):
OceanTeacher Global Academy (OTGA) platform (www.oceanteacher.org) is now using OceanExpert to authenticate its users. By doing so, OTGA can now retrieve user information from the OceanExpert directory, freeing the users from maintaining their profile on different interlinked sites.
- New Events:
Together with implementing the OTGA SSO, a new API was created to enable OTGA to automatically create events in OE when new courses are created on the OTGA Moodle platform.

4) Ocean Decade roster

Timing: April - June 2022

The OceanExpert team invested a possible collaboration with the OceanDecade team for the Decade roster. After some communication, the Decade team decided to collaborate with another partner.

5) Links to other websites

Timing: January- December 2022

The OceanExpert website is, through an API, linked with +/- 18 IOC website (e.g. Ocean Literacy, IOC site, Ocean Infohub, IOCaribe, ODINAfrica, IODE, GOOS, ...). The OceanExpert directory is very well integrated in the storage/management of IOC events (documents, participants list, general information, ...).

6) Quality control

Timing: January- December 2022

Quality control of institutes/ events / groups/ expert details.
The mail failures decreased in 2022 due to a daily reporting of failed emails (mainly due to invalid email addresses) that was dealt with on regular base.

7) Meetings

Weekly/2-weekly meetings on Wednesday (Arno-Sofie) to manage the tickets/issues recorded in GitHub and check together for improvements/solving problems.

8) Statistics

<https://oceanexpert.org/statistics>

info per 6 January 2023 - compared to 25 November 2021

Experts: 22948 -19686 (increase of 3292 experts)
Institutions: 7574 - 6972 (increase of 602 institutions)
Events: 3146 - 2746 (increase of 400 events)
Documents: 30406 - 28222 (increase of 2184 documents)

Workplan 2023

1) Update the registration process

Based on hick ups users notice during the registration process and the continuously changing insights on how registrations should be organized, Arno and Sofie decided to review the entire registration process.

The outline is ready (created in 2022) and will be implemented in 2023. Initially, in a test phase and only when approved by the SG members , this will be updated on the live version (mid 2023).

We would like to have 2 SG members on board to test the registration process on the test site, before going live. We ask volunteers to get back to us by 15 February 2023.

2) Data policy

Check the current GDPR and UN regulations on storing personal data and update the OE policy if required.

3) Bug fixing

Priorities beginning 2023:

- when an email is sent to a large group, emails sometimes get stuck.
- There are still functions that OceanExpert misses compared to Paperclip. (list is available in Github)

Continuation of bug fixing

4) Further development connection with OceanTeacher website

The next phase is that OceanTeacher can push even more information into OceanExpert (details unknown for the moment)

5) Updating the current manual - guidelines

Assistance is requested from SG members to complete this task. We currently only have a technical guide (<https://oceanexpert.org/documentation/api.php>).

6) SG-OE-II

Organize a 2nd Steering Group meeting for the OceanExpert project - 2nd half of 2023. Date to be defined - online meeting.

7) Weekly meetings

Arno - Sofie

Workplan 2024

The further investigation for connection to other 3rd parties' website

This was agreed on during the SG-OE-I in 2021. We would like to investigate closer connections to online 'identity providers' (such as ORCID, LinkedIn, EDMO, Solid, ...)

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