

Marine biodiversity research in Europe

Biostrat questionnaire

EPBRS meeting, 7-9 November 2007

Life on the Blue Planet:

Biodiversity research and the new EU marine policies

Aims of this review:

- to assess the research in marine biodiversity funded at national level relevant for the themes of the meeting**
- to have an overview of the organisations involved in marine affairs in the different countries**

A questionnaire was sent to all partners.

Questionnaire:

Part I. Programmes and projects

Marine Biodiversity research programmes running in each country in the last 5 years, or which can include marine biodiversity research.

If no programme, list of projects, themes and budget.

An indication of the number of projects directly relevant to different policies was also asked.

Part II. Institutions

Main institutions that have responsibility over marine research and institutions responsible for the development of marine policies at national level

Questionnaire:

Part III: Interactions

Structure and mechanisms involved in the coordination of policies and activities in the marine area

Part IV: Research for Policy

Research that influenced or that can influence policy

Questionnaire:

10 replies were received:

Portugal (12/09)

Finland (16/09)

Norway (24/09)

Belgium (04/10)

Russia (19/10)

Bulgaria (23/10)

Ukraine (26/10)

Croatia (31/10)

Ireland (30/10)

UK (02/11)

Part I: Programmes and projects

- Misunderstandings in definition of programme/project, and of the definition of “biodiversity research”
- Information incomplete: duration? budget?
- Discrepancies in total number of projects indicated/no. of projects per theme

Information was retrieved from MarinERA and BiodivERsA ERA-Nets databases of projects

BiodivERsA information

BiodivERsA database:



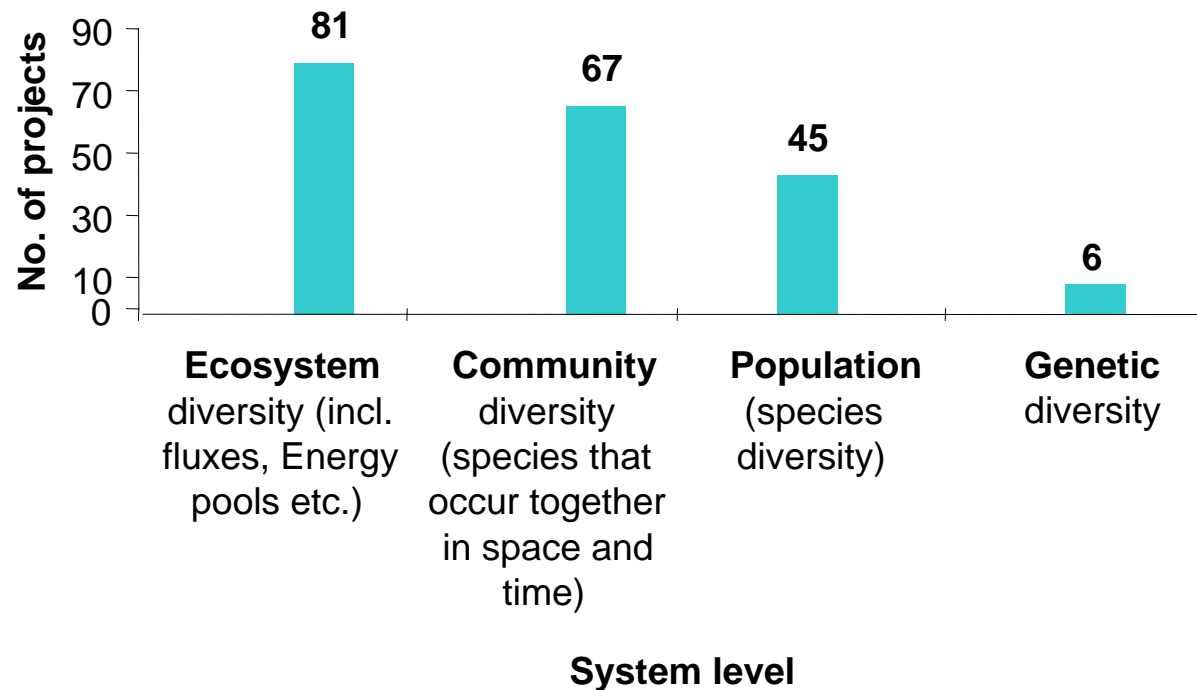
BiodivERsA is an ERA-Net in Biodiversity research
(www.eurobiodiversa.org)
Call for proposals to be launched very soon

From BiodivERsA database: projects specifically related to marine biodiversity (198) were selected.

BiodivERsA information

BiodivERsA database: projects classified according to a previous BiodivERsA study

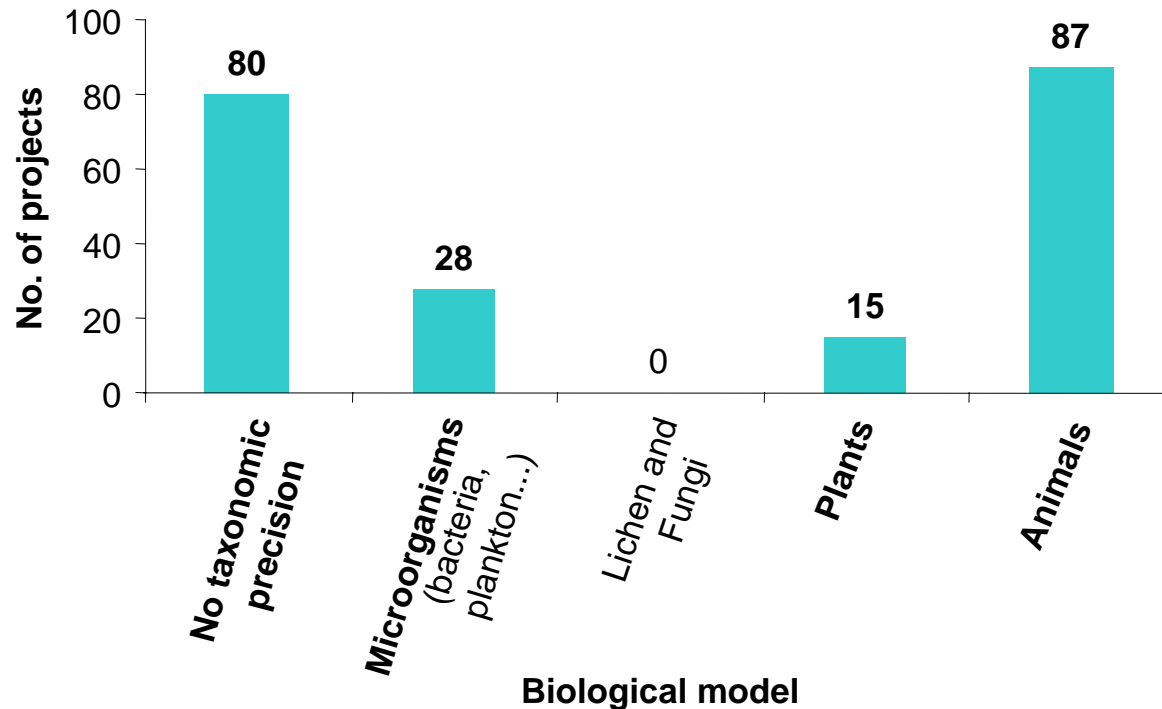
Marine research projects: system level



BiodivERsA information

BiodivERsA database

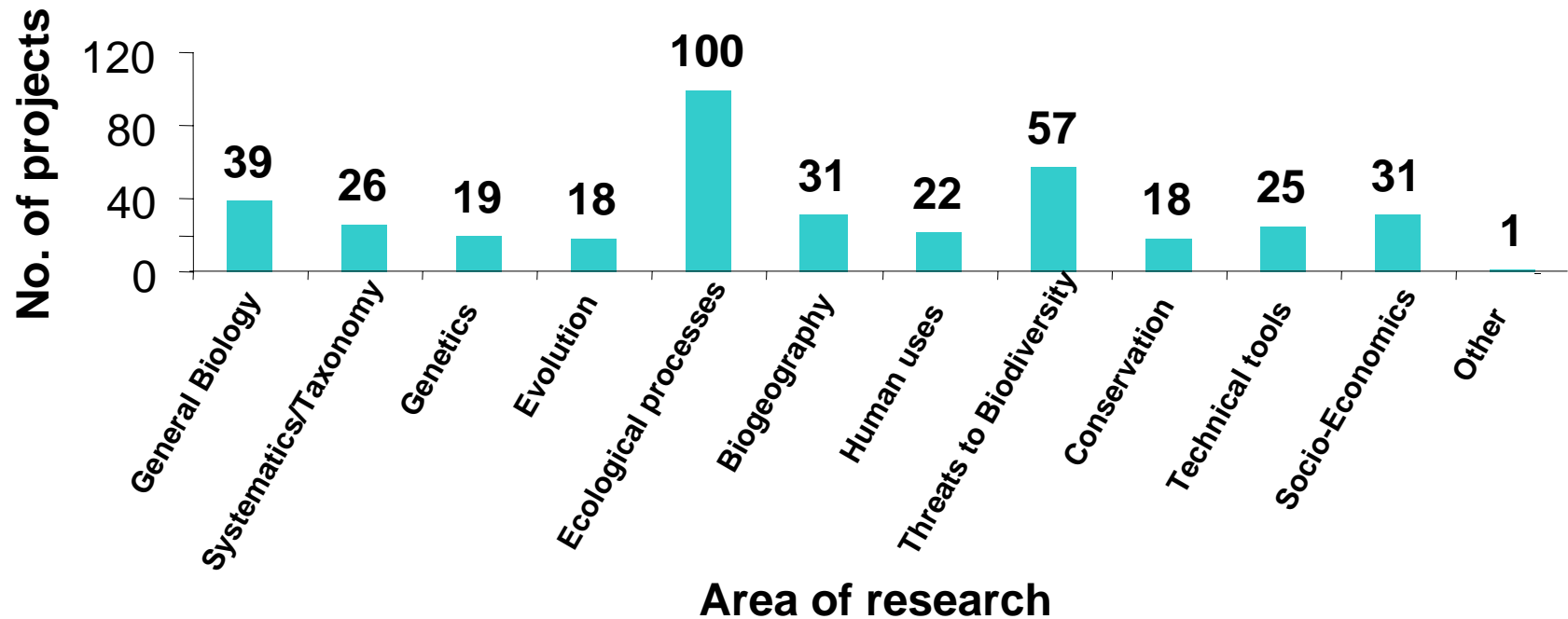
Marine research projects: biological model



BiodivERsA information

BiodivERsA database

Marine research projects: areas studied



MarinERA information

MarinERA database



MarinERA – ERA-Net www.marinera.net

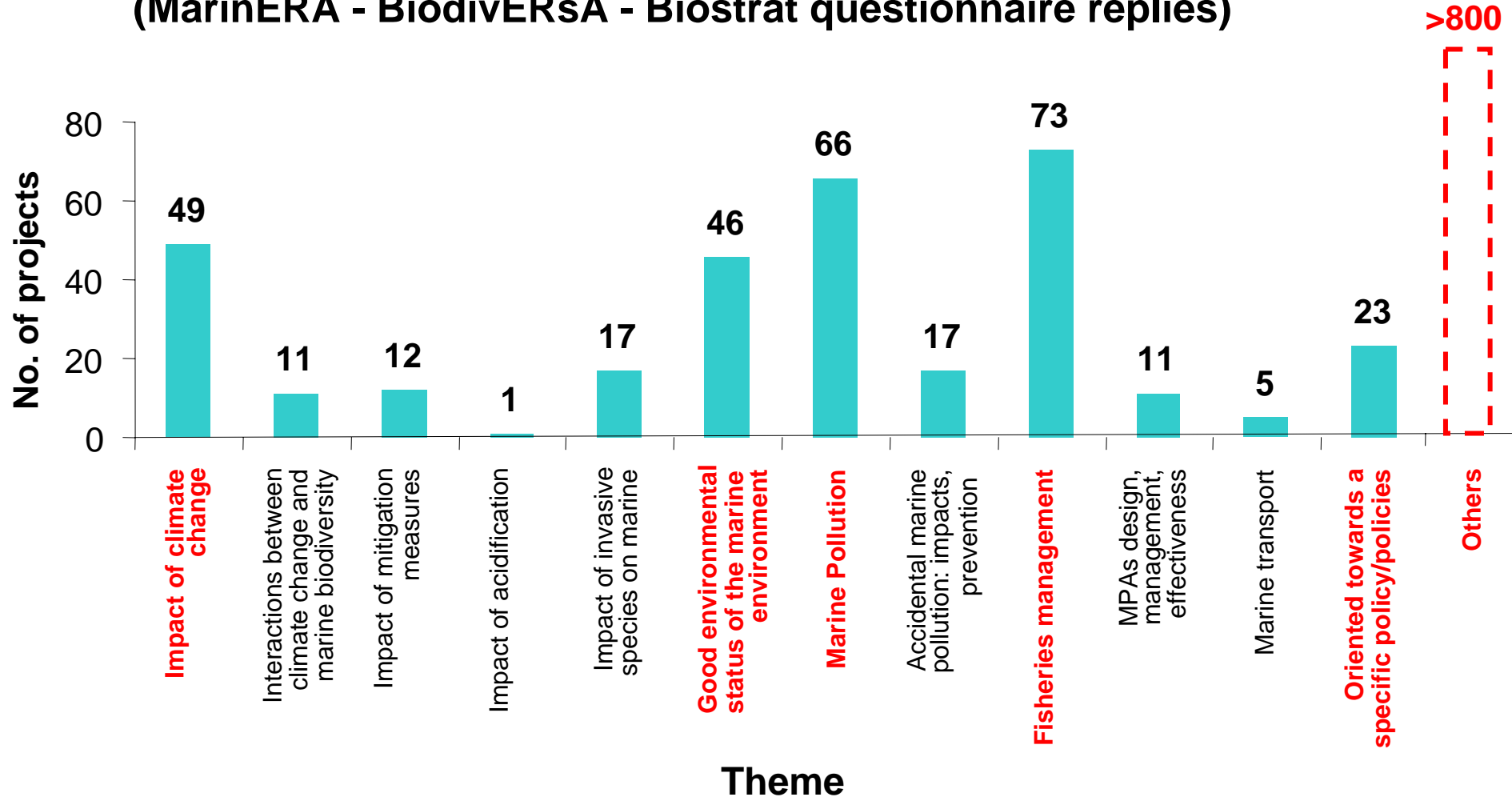
New pilot on-line searchable marine research projects database (October 2007):

- over 900 current marine research projects funded by MarinERA partners
- 14 Funding Organisations from 13 countries.

BiodivERsA and MarinERA projects were classified according to the criteria of the Biostrat questionnaire.

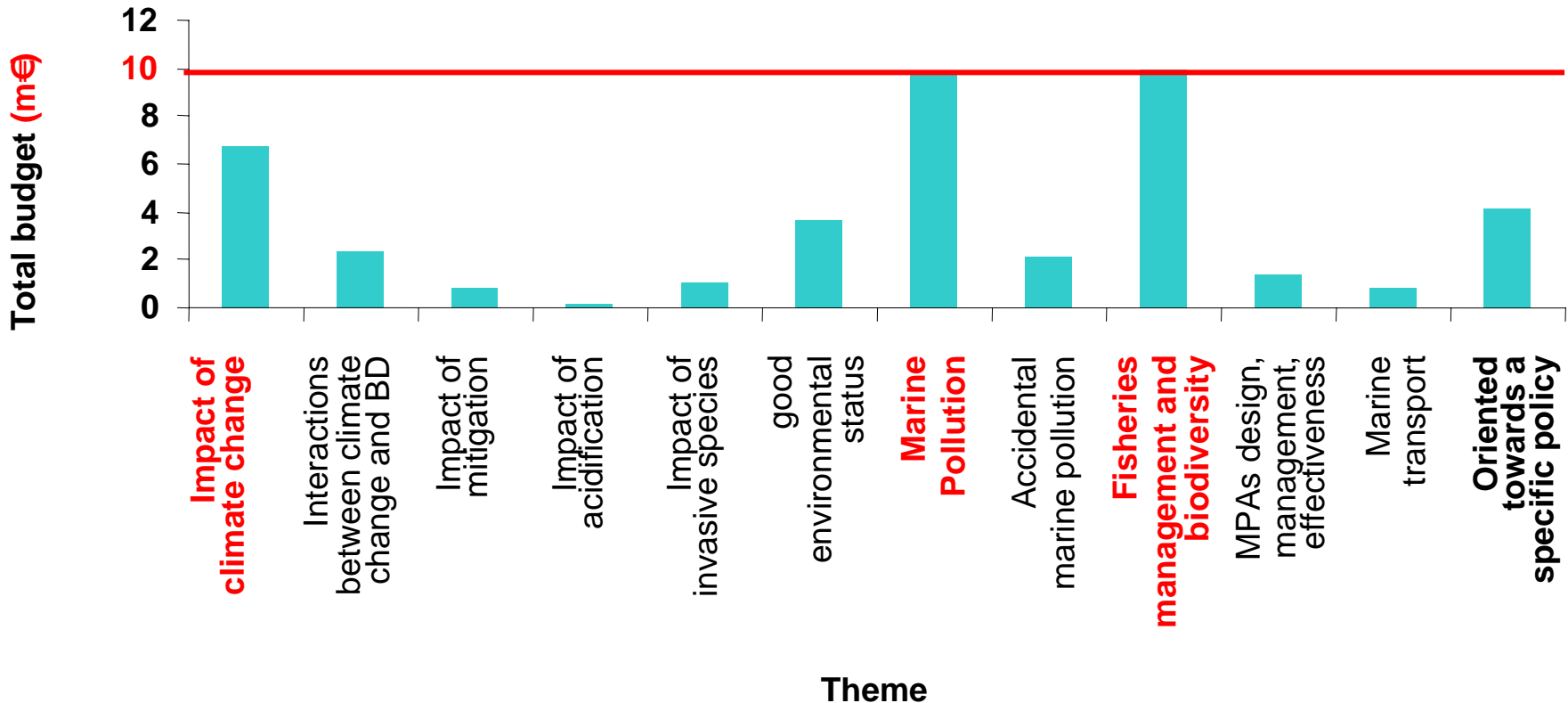
Data for Russia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Croatia were extracted from their replies to the questionnaire and added to that list (1086 projects in total).

No. of projects per theme (1086 projects)
(MarinERA - BiodivERsA - Biostrat questionnaire replies)



MarinERA information

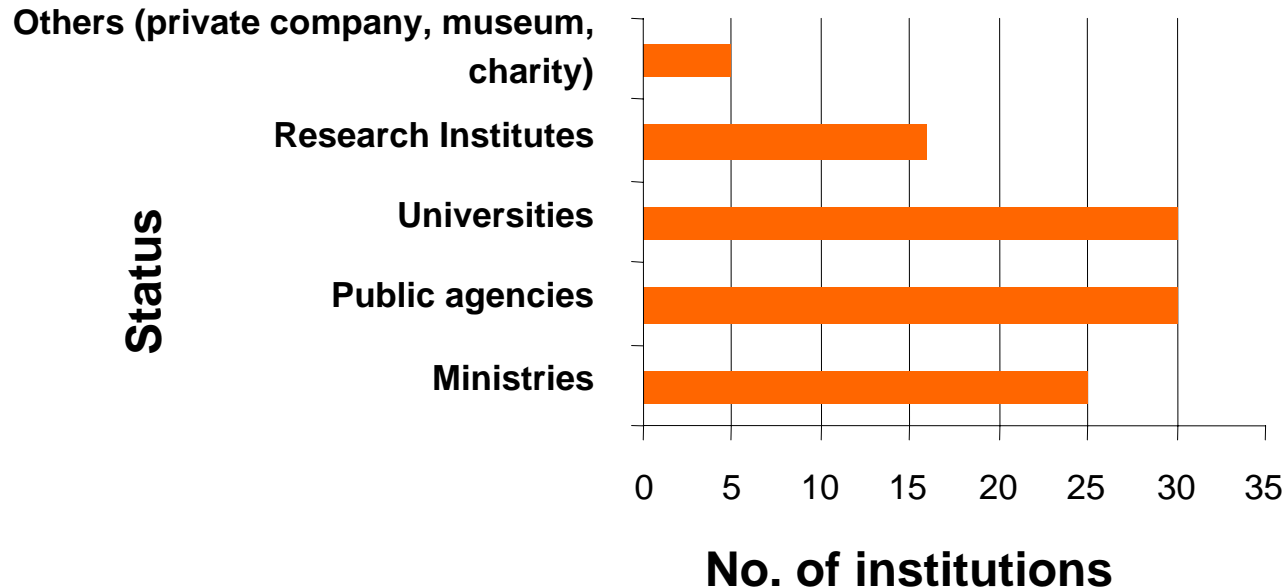
Total budget per theme (Biostrat criteria - MarinERA data)



Part II: Institutions

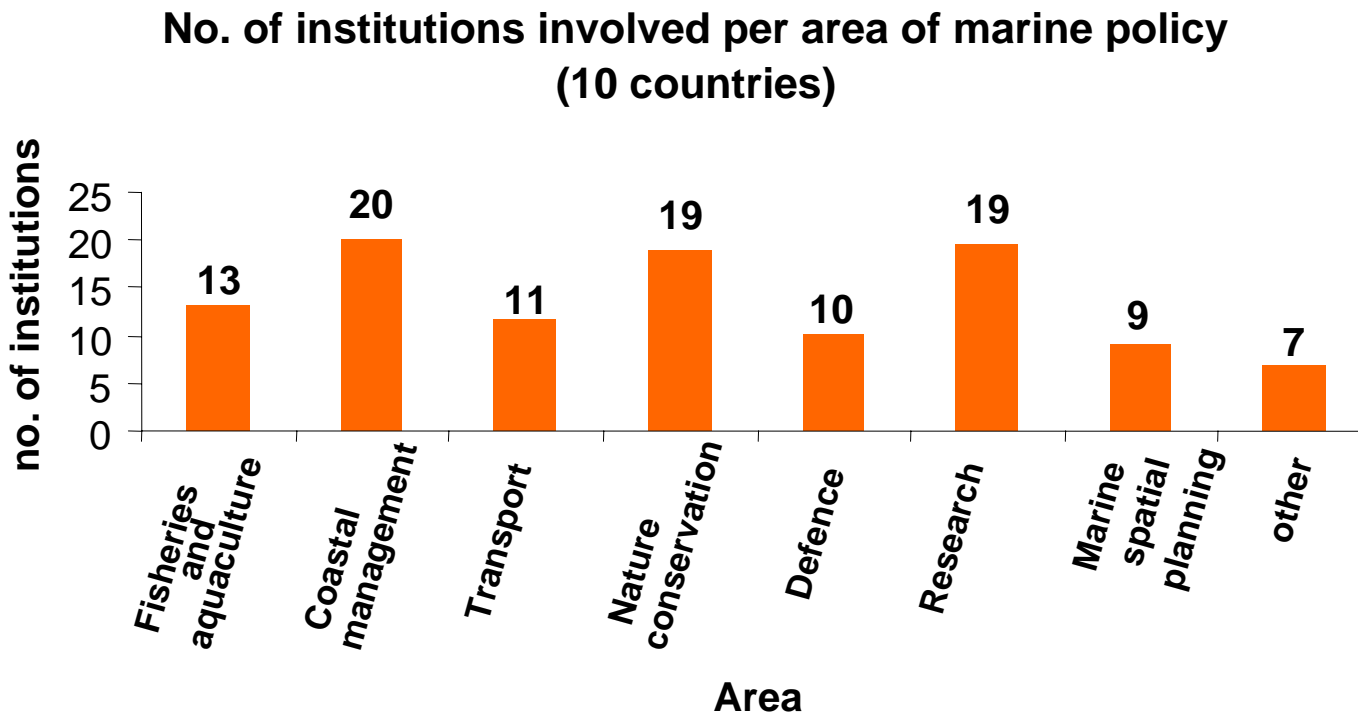
- 117 institutions involved in marine research were listed from the 10 countries that replied:

No. of institutions involved in marine research and status (10 countries)



Part II: Institutions

Institutions involved in marine policy:
68 institutions were listed between the 10 countries.



Part III: Interactions

- 4 countries said to have a structure or mechanism to coordinate policies and activities from the different sectors in the **marine** domain at national level

In **Portugal**: Interministerial panel with representatives from all ministries which aims at coordinating transversal actions from the different ministries regarding marine affairs (EMAM - CIAM)

In **Belgium**: coordination with the regions within the “North Sea and Oceans” Steering Group attached to the Coordinating Committee for International Environmental Policy (CCPIE). Forum for close consultation between the federal public services and the regions on all subjects relating to protection of the marine environment.

Part III: Interactions

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In Ireland: *Inter-Departmental Steering Group on biodiversity* . Helps coordinate biodiversity activities (including marine biodiversity) in different government departments. Forum for all relevant government departments to provide input into future biodiversity policy and assist in the drafting of the National Biodiversity Plan.

Part III: Interactions

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In the **UK**: ***Marine Bill Steering Group*** - established between the various Government departments to discuss the marine bill and the proposals presented.

UK Marine Biodiversity Steering Group - Defra led group used to discuss marine nature conservation policies and direction with other governmental departments. Many informal forums and ongoing discussions - eg. Sea Users Developers group.

Part III: Interactions

- At other levels:

In **Finland**: Helsinki Commission HELCOM coordinates national policies and actions and issues recommendations aimed towards the protection of the Baltic Sea environment.

In **Bulgaria**: Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea against pollution

In the **UK**: UK Government is looking to establish a Marine Management Organisation to facilitate coordination and management of the marine environment. Also includes the development of a Marine Spatial Plan to better manage different sectoral activities occurring in the marine environment

Part IV: Research that influenced policy

Examples of projects:

Projects on the monitoring of the Baltic Sea (Finland):

**Direct information input to support national water protection policies,
Influence through HELCOM on a regional sea scale**

Part IV: Research that can influence policy

Some projects (Finland, Ireland, UK) also provide direct information to support the development of national policies in relation to international agreements

Example:

BioChange (Ireland): integrative, multi-disciplinary research framework to support national and local biodiversity policy in Ireland

- Format of final report: Policy targeted report, Technical reports, Research publications**
- Dissemination through National Media, Conferences, policy reference manuals**
- Direct meetings with policy makers**