Seas, Oceans & Public Health in Europe

Strategic Research Agenda (SRA): Toolkit

We've created this toolkit to help you use the messages, recommendations and resources provided by the SRA, to share with your networks and potential funders.

What is the SRA?

The SOPHIE Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) is a comprehensive overview of the required research and capacity to develop Oceans and Human Health in Europe.

Where is the SRA?

View the online version or download the PDF here: Sophie2020.eu/SRA

What is the aim of SRA?

The SRA sets out existing evidence that the health of seas, oceans and humans are inextricably linked. The Agenda outlines vital research priorities and collaborations needed to inform policies and practices to protect them.

Who created the SRA?

The SRA was produced by a consortium of eight partners from across Europe, as part of the EU Horizon 2020 funded SOPHIE Project (Seas, Oceans and Public Health in Europe).

What happens next with the SRA?

The SRA can be used as a tool to support a wide range of local, regional and/or international activities linked to Oceans and Human Health including funding, collaborations, best practice development, training, stakeholder engagement and policy adaptation.

What is provided in the Toolkit to help me share and communicate the SRA?

The following content is provided in this document:

The following resources are also available for download here:

- Images and graphics with credited captions/descriptions
- Short overview presentation
- SRA fact sheet

Do you have social media messages I can use?

Yes here are some ideas to help you:

- **Oceans and Human Health discipline**
  - The #SOPHIESRA calls for international and interdisciplinary research funding to move #oceans and human #health goals forward until 2030.
  - Research, training and collaboration is needed now to inform #Europe's #seas #oceans and #health policies for the future: #SOPHIESRA.
- **The power of data**
  - The #SOPHIESRA advises action needed to inform #datacollection in #Europe to monitor connections and changes that could impact #oceans and #health.
- **Three action areas**
  - The #SOPHIESRA highlights 3 research priorities for oceans and health in Europe: 1) #sustainable #seafood 2) #bluehealth 3) #marine #biotechnology and #biodiversity.
- **Sustainable seafood a healthy people**
  - We need to understand how #pollution and #climate change will impact ocean food sources advises the #SOPHIESRA.
  - How do we ensure equal and sustainable access to #fish and #seafood in #Europe asks the #SOPHIESRA?
- **Blue spaces, tourism, well-being**
  - More research is needed to understand how #bluespace can positively impact #health and #wellbeing in #Europe advises the #SOPHIESRA
  - How do we maximise the #health benefits of #bluespace while mitigating impacts on the environment?
- **Marine biodiversity, biotechnology and medicine**
  - More research is needed to understand the fundamental unique characteristics of marine species in #Europe advises the #SOPHIESRA.
  - How can better understanding marine ecosystems help to target approaches to #sustainable #biodiscovery asks the #SOPHIESRA?

Who can I tag on social media when promoting the SRA?

@EMarineBoard	European Marine Board
@RIVM	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
@ECEHH	The European Centre for Environment & Human Health (ECEHH)
@Nuigalway	National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)
@Deltares	Deltares
@Submon	Submon
@Travelecoology	Travelecoology
@SeascapeBelgium	Seascape

What message can I add to my website or newsletters?

The Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) for Europe's Oceans and Human Health calls for funding to advance international and interdisciplinary research. Following two years of pan-European research, analysis and consultation, the Agenda has identifies three priority areas:

1) sustainable seafood and healthy people
2) blue spaces, tourism, well-being
3) marine biodiversity, biotechnology and medicine

Read the SRA and take action by visiting www.sophie2020.eu/SRA

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List of possible funders

The list below identifies European and International level funders who have previously funded research linked to aspects of Oceans and Human Health.

Marine	Public Health / Medical	Other
EC Funding Programmes (DG ENV, DG MOVE, DG RTD, DG MARE, DG ENER)	EC Funding Programmes (DG SANTE, DG RTD)	EC Funding Programmes (DG EMPL)
EMFF	EU Health Programme	MSCA
JPI Oceans	JPI HDHL	Gulbenkian Foundation
JPI Water	JPI FACCE	Oak Foundation
LIFE Programme	JPI AMR	Lloyd's Register Foundation
COST	Global Fund	The Joseph Rowantree Charitable Trust
EFSA	Wellcome Trust	
Belmont Forum	Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	
Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation	King Baudouin Foundation	
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	Big Lottery Foundation	
Marine Stewardship Council	Fund 1818	
Waitt Foundation	Viz Dom Foundation	
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	Foundation Santé	
	The Wolfson Foundation	

SRA reference

H2020 SOPHIE Consortium (2020) A Strategic Research Agenda for Oceans and Human Health in Europe. H2020 SOPHIE Project. Ostend, Belgium. ISBN: 9789492043894 DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.3696561.

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About the SOPHIE Project

Seas, Oceans and Public Health in Europe (SOPHIE) is a pan-European project working towards protecting both human health and the health of the marine environment.

Funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme SOPHIE as brought international and interdisciplinary communities together and created a collaborative network untangling the complex interactions between the marine environment and human health and wellbeing. SOPHIE resources, such as the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA), call for vital research to cement the emerging scientific discipline of Oceans and Human Health (OHH).

Useful links

SRA: sophie2020.eu/SRA
SOPHIE website: sophie2020.eu
SOPHIE resources: sophie2020.eu/resources
SOPHIE projects and publications: sophie2020.eu/activities
SOPHIE people: sophie2020.eu/people

Key definitions used in the SRA

Aquaculture: the rearing of aquatic animals or the cultivation of aquatic plants for food

Biotechnology: the exploitation of biological compounds and processes for industrial and other (in this case medical) purposes, especially the genetic manipulation of microorganisms for the production of antibiotics, hormones, medicines etc.

Blue health – benefits to human physical and mental health and well-being through interaction with coastal and marine environments, and land-based natural environments which incorporate water

Blue space: a term used to refer to any space where there is visible water

Blue zone: regions of the world (e.g. Okinawa, Japan and Icaria, Greece) where it has been claimed that people live much longer and healthier lives than on average, with the term first appearing in a National Geographic magazine cover story called "The Secrets of a Long Life"

Citizen Science: the collection and analysis of data relating to the natural world by members of the public, typically as part of a collaborative project with professional scientists

Degradation: the process in which the quality of something is reduced

Evidence: any scientifically based data produced and analyzed in a way that is supported by previous study, to enable a judiciary and transparent approach to decision-making using a cumulative weight of evidence

Exposure: experience of or contact with something, in this case including locations, activities, and substances

Green health: benefits to human physical and mental health and well-being through interaction with land-based natural environments

Greenwashing: an unsubstantiated claim to deceive others into believing that products or practices are environmentally friendly

Human Health: the complete state of physical, social, and mental well-being, not merely the absence of illness, disease, or infirmity

Interdisciplinary: combining two or more disciplines to a new level of integration suggesting component boundaries start to break down. There is a recognition that each discipline can affect the research output of the other

Ocean Literacy: an understanding of the ocean's influence on you and your influence on the ocean

Oceans: in this document this is used as the term for any marine space, both coastal and offshore

Optimize: trade-offs for social, environmental and economic aspects have been considered to find the best and most balanced solution in a given context

Pollution: the presence of or introduction into the environment of a substance or energy that has harmful or poisonous effects

Public Health: the branch of medicine dealing with public health, including hygiene, epidemiology, and disease prevention

Sustainability: the ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level, in this case applied not only to ocean ecosystems and natural resources but also to human society

Sustainable access: equitable access to services and resources that is sustainable for the resource provider, and the resource user, and the resource itself

Sustainable development: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987) in this case taking into account the “needs” of the ocean not just humans

Transdisciplinary: two or more disciplines transcend each other to form a new holistic approach. The outcome will be completely different from what one would expect from the addition of the parts