

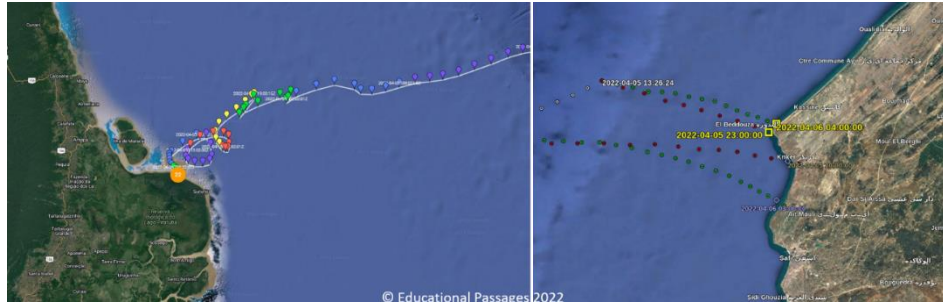
## iFADO project Newsletter #7



## Four iFADO miniboats were already launched at the Atlantic Ocean

Under the Educational Passages Miniboat Programme, the iFADO project consortium has been working on the launch of five miniboats in the Atlantic (one per each Atlantic Area country), which include novel technologies for ocean monitoring.

One of iFADO's objectives is to combine traditional maritime surveillance with new,



cost-effective and cutting-edge technologies, the importance of disseminating the project to citizens has also been identified. Within the [Educational Passages Miniboats](#) initiative, school communities from [France](#), [Ireland](#), [Portugal](#), [Spain](#) and the [United Kingdom](#), learned about the ocean through talks given by iFADO scientists. Then, students decorated the miniboats and included messages about local nautical activities, local symbols and some recently learned ocean literacy concepts.

By March 2022, 4 miniboats had already been launched. Three of them landed after long journeys, e.g. in [Norway](#), [North-eastern shore of Brazil](#) and [Morocco](#). Miniboats recovered in Africa and South America are being repaired by local science teams, who are aware to continue citizen science activities in schools of their respective regions, in close collaboration with iFADO scientific teams and already engaged schools.

The restored miniboats will be launched again to the Atlantic, spreading messages about conservation and sustainability of the oceans to other geographical locations.

To follow iFADO miniboat tracks, please access [here](#).

## IEO-CSIC and IPMA studied the pelagic environments in the Atlantic Ocean off the Iberian Peninsula

Data will contribute to several Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) descriptors for the assessment of the Good Environmental Status (GES) in the North Atlantic demarcation.

iFADO members from the Portuguese Institute of Sea and Atmosphere ([IPMA](#)) participated in the [PELAGO22](#) cruise (1 to 30 March), from Cádiz



to Vigo, while members from Spanish Institute of Oceanography ([IEO-CSIC](#)) participated in the [PELACUS0422](#) cruise (1 to 30 April), which started in Vigo and finished Pasaia Port, after surveying the Galician coast and the Southern Bay of Biscay.

These cruises represent a pilot demonstration of a coordinated, MSFD relevant, sampling strategy between Portuguese and Spanish iFADO partners. Data obtained from seawater samples will contribute to several MSFD descriptors, such as Descriptors 1 (Biodiversity), 4 (Food Webs) and 5 (Eutrophication), for the assessment of the Good Environmental Status (GES) in the North Atlantic demarcation. Additionally, temperature and salinity registration by devices integrated on fishing nets will significantly improve the spatial resolution of data for the assessment of MSFD Descriptor 7 (Hydrographical conditions). Finally, manta trawl deployments were carried out during PELACUS0422 to obtain data about superficial microplastics abundance and distribution, contributing to Descriptor 10 (Marine litter).

This international collaboration allows setting up sustainable strategies for natural resources exploitation while promoting innovation and regional strategies that secure and enhance the marine and coastal environments.

## iFADO showcased in Oceanology International 2022

The activity was held in London from 15 to 17 March

The iFADO project participated in the exhibition area of [Oceanology International](#) (OI), with a stand where the project was actively promoted for the industry with activities each of the days of the event. Our partners [PMBA](#), [NOC](#) and [PLOCAN](#) represented the consortium in a unique opportunity to increase awareness of our activities with a large audience. It enabled the project presentation with a focus on possible involvement of SMEs in collaboration with partners, to offer their products and services or develop innovative equipment.

OI is an annual forum to connect with the world's marine science and ocean technology communities. It gathers specialists in oceans and marine sciences, defence, marine exploration and geothermal energy. It is the largest ocean technology exhibition and conference in the world.



## iFADO selected to receive funding under the 3rd call of Interreg Atlantic Area

The call was open from 4 October to 30 November 2021, with an initial ERDF available of 8 million euros.



The [Interreg Atlantic Area](#) programme opened a restricted [call for proposals](#) for approved projects, including those

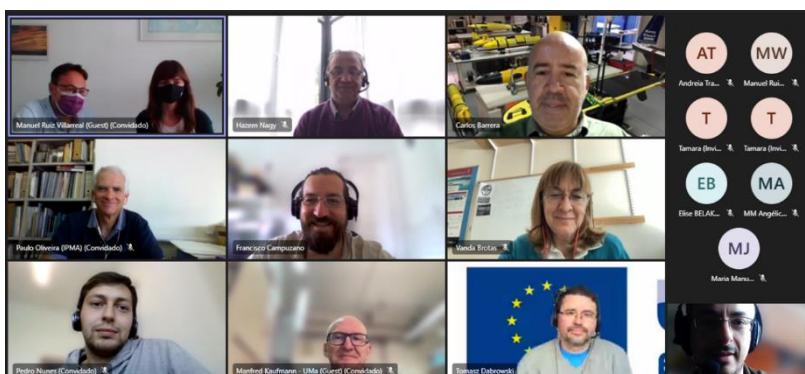
already closed. Fifty-two projects applied to this third call for projects extensions and capitalisation, in order to set up additional work, actions and partners. Additionally, the 3<sup>rd</sup> call will support projects to add further value to their activities and achieved results.

[iFADO](#) was one of the 23 approved project and will be extended during 2023. According to Interreg Atlantic Area “Given the nature of the call, the limited funding available, the large number of applications and high-quality proposals, the Programme was not able to approve them all. Based on future available funding, the Monitoring Committee established a reserve list of 19 projects”.

For additional information, access this [link](#).

## iFADO partners joined online for the 10th Project Meeting

This meeting was held from 19 to 20 May 2022



During the 10<sup>th</sup> Project Partner Meeting, discussions, presentations and decisions were carried out about the next semester's work plan, including the additional work foreseen during the

project extension until 2023.

The consortium discussed the last project achievements, technical and scientific deliverables, indicators and project outreach. The 10<sup>th</sup> Project Partners Meeting was probably the last to be held online, due to the withdrawal of travel restrictions established since the start of COVID-19 pandemic.

More information will be available soon in iFADO social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)).

Follow us on social media to keep up to date with our latest news!



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