

JOMOPANS Newsletter - 2021

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Interreg
North Sea Region
Jomopans

European Regional Development Fund



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Dear Jomopans followers,

It took longer to get this newsletter out than usual. That doesn't mean we have been idle, although we enjoyed a well-deserved vacation. Jomopans has got extra time to do extra work. In this newsletter you can read what we will do the coming year, but we look back to the successful End Event in June. If you missed it or want to see some topics again, you can find a recording via our website.

I hope you will continue to follow and inspire us.

On behalf of the Jomopans project team,

Niels Kinneging

Project manager

niels.kinneging@rws.nl

The 10th of June End Event was not the end

The initial JOMOPANS project was originally scheduled to conclude on 30 June 2021. At that time almost all objectives were met with the resulting soundscape maps exceeding expectations. Therefore, the maps and standards we put forward had an enormous impact informing policies regarding underwater noise. To celebrate the initial success and to present the JOMOPANS results to stakeholders and the public, an End Event was organised on 10 June 2021.

Shortly after the End Event, Interreg North Sea Region decided to grant us an extension year to elaborate on some of the project's results and to make serious steps in policy implementation. You can read more about the extension in this newsletter.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic all of us have become accustomed to online meetings, but not on the scale of our End Event with about 150 people from all over the world registered. Hosted from a professional studio in Utrecht, the Netherlands,



the meeting was a dynamic mix of talks in the studio, presenters at home displayed on a big screen, and multi-panel Q&A sessions (Figure 1).



Figure 1. JOMOPANS End Event from a studio in Utrecht. From left to right: Berry Gersonius (support), Niels Kinneging (project manager JOMOPANS), Leila Hatch (on screen, keynote, NOAA) and Hans Slabbekoorn (day chair, Leiden University).

All eleven JOMOPANS partners got the opportunity to present their varied contributions to the common project objectives. Hans Slabbekoorn, associate professor at Leiden University and specialist in bioacoustics, chaired the event where

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he held various discussions with Niels Kinneging and other JOMOPANS partners on the different goals and accomplishments of the project.

Other highlights of the day was the keynote speech by Dr. Leila Hatch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from the United States of America (Figure 1). She highlighted their efforts to study and map underwater noise at the other side of the Atlantic and the need for global co-operation.

In addition to the projects results, an underwater concert was given by the creative team of BetweenMusic from Denmark.

All presentations of the day can be viewed on YouTube (search JOMOPANS End Event), or accessible through the Jomopans website: <https://northsearegion.eu/jomopans/news/end-event-news/>.

JOMOPANS extension

Early 2021, the Interreg North Sea Region opened a call for applications to extend running or recently finished projects. The call was for extensions that are in line with the original project, but should contain both new ideas and added value to the original project.

The JOMOPANS team composed a plan for another year of collaboration on ambient underwater noise monitoring in the North Sea. During the original project, some topics could not be explored in detail, and the year 2020 provided a unique opportunity due to Covid-19

and the resulting changes in the global shipping industry. The JOMOPANS extension proposal contained the following topics:

- The pandemic in 2020 caused a drop in maritime transport by almost 20% in the second quarter, followed by a recovery (Figure 2). We will investigate whether this disruption is noticeable in North Sea shipping noise. JOMOPANS will analyse noise data from 2020 to compare with 2019, which was analysed in the original project. Continued measurements and new soundscape maps will be generated.
- We have found that we can perform additional analyses on all the measurements gathered, in 2019 and 2020, that considers other noise sources than commercial ships. In addition, the AIS data incorporated in our soundscape modelling needs a more rigorous inspection on quality and completeness, due to complications we discovered in our initial project.
- Finally yet importantly, JOMOPANS wants its legacy to be relevant and accessible for all people working on underwater noise. This involves storing measurement and soundscape maps in (open) databases, working on the standards in the ISO working groups, and updating the publically available GES Tool for other projects to build on.

In line with our project objectives, JOMOPANS will continue to communicate with policy makers, other projects and organisations, and with the interested public.

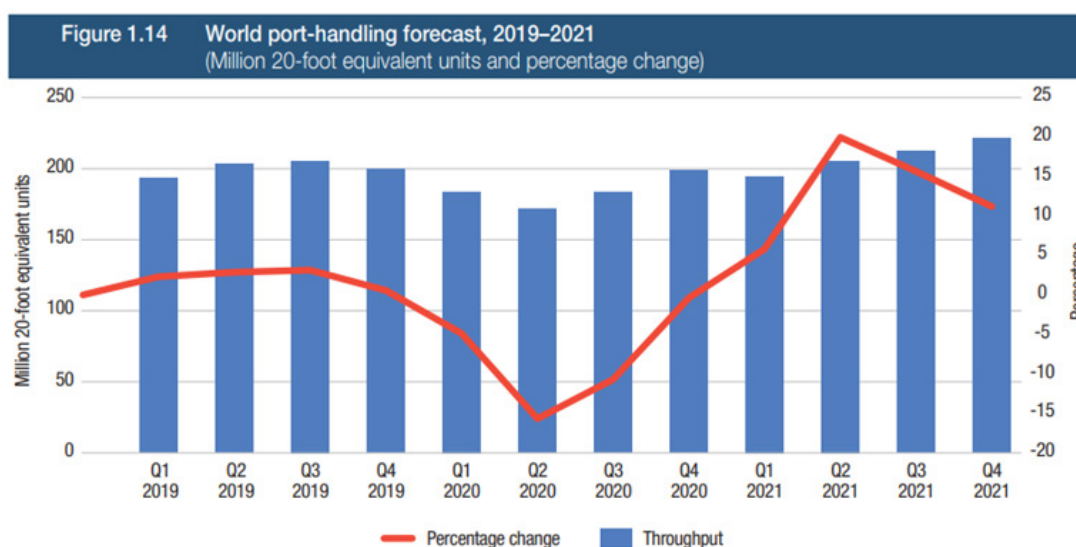


Figure 2. Source: UNCTAD report "Review of Maritime Transport 2020"