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***Abstract**: This report documents the strategy and plan leading to the deployment of the Virtual Research Environments that are expected to serve the needs of the Ecosystem Approach Community of Practice.*

iMarine (RI – 283644) is a Research Infrastructures Combination of Collaborative Project and Coordination and Support Action (CP-CSA) co-funded by the European Commission under the Capacities Programme, Framework Programme Seven (FP7).

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DISCLAIMER

iMarine (RI – 283644) is a Research Infrastructures Combination of Collaborative Project and Coordination and Support Action (CP-CSA) co-funded by the European Commission under the Capacities Programme, Framework Programme Seven (FP7).

The goal of iMarine*, Data e-Infrastructure Initiative for Fisheries Management and Conservation of Marine Living Resources*, is to establish and operate a data infrastructure supporting the principles of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and Conservation of Marine Living Resources and to facilitate the emergence of a unified Ecosystem Approach Community of Practice (EA-CoP).

This document contains information on iMarine core activities, findings and outcomes and it may also contain contributions from distinguished experts who contribute as iMarine Board members. Any reference to content in this document should clearly indicate the authors, source, organisation and publication date.

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DELIVERABLE SUMMARY

D6.1 'Virtual Research Environments Plan' is a crucial delivery of WP6 'Virtual Research Environments Deployment and Operation' since it documents the detailed choices leading to the delivery of VREs that serve the needs of the Ecosystem Approach Community of Practice. It is a ***living document****, i.e. it is implemented by relying on a Wiki which enables work package participants to make updates, refinements, improvements and to monitor the plan.*

The plan is expected to evolve for the entire duration of the project to document when the release of new VREs will be decided and the extension of existing ones for including new resources and additional functionality will be planned. When needed, WP6 will liaise with WP5 'iMarine Data E-Infrastructure Deployment and Operation' to negotiate the plan governing the whole infrastructure evolution [1].

The Wiki implementing the deliverable is available at:

http://wiki.i-marine.eu/index.php/Virtual_Research_Environments_Deployment_and_Operation:_Plan

This Wiki is organised as follows:

- *a main page introduces the overall plan. It provides the reader with a summary view of the planned activities through which it will be possible to monitor the status of these atcivities also;*
- *an "analysis" page for each VRE scenario, as defined by the Ecosystem Approach Community of Practice. It documents the requirements and use cases analysis in each scenario. It also describes the actions that have been planned to serve each scenario from a Service Activity point of view, e.g. to create a new VRE, make available a new dataset;*
- *a "plan" page for each VRE, dedicated to report the activity plan to deliver and update the addressed VRE. In particular, it describes the VRE, documents its current state as well as its evolution plan from the 'data', 'functionality' and 'software' point of view.*

No further releases of this report are planned. However, the Wiki pages described above will evolve following the progress of the WP6 activity, i.e. the creation and management of VREs, as well as the production of additional requirements and comments guiding the shaping of the VRE services by the Ecosystem Approach Community of Practice.

REFERENCES

[1] A. Manzi. *iMarine Data e-Infrastructure Plan.* iMarine D5.1 Project Deliverable. January 2012