



MARCONNECT

PRESS RELEASE

December 2025

MARCONNECT Project Officially Launched in Bucharest to Strengthen European Maritime Connectivity and Security

Bucharest, Romania – December 2025

The MARCONNECT project officially launched with its kick-off meeting held in Bucharest, marking the beginning of a new Horizon Europe research and innovation initiative dedicated to strengthening maritime security, operational efficiency, and cross-border cooperation across Europe.

MARCONNECT brings together a strong and diverse consortium of 13 partners from 8 European countries, including industry leaders, research organisations, technology providers, and public authorities. The project responds to the increasing complexity of maritime operations and the growing need for improved situational awareness, interoperability, and coordinated decision-making in the marine domain.

Over a three-year period, MARCONNECT will design, develop, and validate innovative, data-driven digital tools to enhance maritime domain awareness and support more effective collaboration among naval stakeholders. The project focuses on improving how maritime data is collected, shared, and exploited, addressing long-standing challenges of fragmentation, interoperability, and information silos across systems and organisations.



Building a Connected European Maritime Ecosystem

A core objective of MARCONNECT is to lay the groundwork for a more connected and resilient European maritime ecosystem. The project aims to enable more innovative and more efficient use of maritime data by integrating heterogeneous data sources and improving system interoperability. This approach supports the development of value-added digital services tailored to the needs of authorities, operators, and other maritime stakeholders.

By equipping maritime actors with modern digital capabilities, MARCONNECT seeks to improve operational efficiency, enhance safety and security, and support timely and informed decision-making in complex maritime environments. The project's solutions are designed to be scalable and adaptable, ensuring alignment with evolving operational requirements and regulatory frameworks at both national and European levels.

The mission of MARCONNECT is clear: to support better data use, better decisions, and safer seas across Europe.

Kick-Off Meeting and Consortium Alignment

The kick-off meeting in Bucharest served as a key milestone for the project, allowing consortium partners to align on the project's vision, objectives, governance structure, and implementation roadmap. During the meeting, partners discussed the technical approach, coordination mechanisms, and timelines that will guide the project throughout its lifecycle.

Special emphasis was placed on ensuring close collaboration across work packages and on maintaining strong links between technical development, operational needs, and policy considerations. The discussions confirmed a shared commitment to delivering high-quality results that respond to real-world maritime challenges while remaining compliant with European policy, security, and safety requirements.

The consortium also addressed horizontal project activities, including communication and dissemination, sustainability and exploitation planning, liaison with relevant European initiatives and agencies, and the management of intellectual property, standardisation, and technology transfer. These activities are critical to ensuring that MARCONNECT's results are not only developed but also adopted, sustained, and used beyond the project's lifetime.

Coordination and Acknowledgements

The MARCONNECT consortium would like to extend its sincere thanks to SIMAVI Software Imagination & Vision, the Project Coordinator, for hosting and organising the kick-off meeting in Bucharest and for providing strong leadership at the start of the project. Appreciation is also extended to INOV, the Technical Coordinator, for shaping the project's technical vision and contributing to a coherent and ambitious system architecture.

The successful organisation of the kick-off meeting and the constructive discussions among partners have established a solid foundation for effective collaboration and implementation in the months ahead.

Looking Ahead

As MARCONNECT moves into its implementation phase, consortium partners will begin detailed technical development, stakeholder engagement, and validation activities. The project will actively engage with relevant maritime stakeholders, contribute to ongoing European discussions on maritime security and digitalisation, and support alignment with existing and emerging policy and standardisation initiatives.

Communication and dissemination activities will ensure that project progress and results are shared with the broader community. At the same time, sustainability and exploitation planning will focus on maximising long-term impact and uptake of the project's outcomes. Through these efforts, MARCONNECT aims to contribute meaningfully to Europe's maritime resilience, safety, and digital transformation.

Further information about the project will soon be available on the official website, www.marconnect-project.eu, which is currently under construction and will be launched shortly.

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MARCONNECT Fact Sheet



Topic

- Call: HORIZON-CL3-2024-BM-01
- Topic: HORIZON-CL3-2024-BM-01-01
- Type of action: Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Action (RIA)
- Project title: Securing Europe's MARitime domain against threats through vessel-CONNECTed services
- Project acronym: MARCONNECT



Dates

- Start date: November 1st, 2025
- End date: October 31st, 2028
- Duration: 36 months



Funding

- EU contribution: €2,979,319.69
- Funding programme: Horizon Europe
- Grant Agreement ID: 101225772
- Grant type: Lump Sum



Consortium

- 13 partners from 8 European countries
- Consortium composition:
- Coast Guard Authorities and Ministries
- Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs)
- Universities and research institutes
- SMEs and large maritime industry players



Project Focus

- Vessel-Connected Services (VCS) for maritime situational awareness
- Secure and voluntary sharing of outward-looking vessel sensor data
- Cross-border interoperability and data protection
- Integration with existing and legacy maritime systems

MARCONNECT Partners



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