



MARCONNECT

NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

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MARCONNECT Objectives

MARCONNECT aims to strengthen Europe's maritime awareness by making better use of existing civilian maritime assets, improving data sharing, and supporting the development of trusted digital services. The project will enhance situational awareness by enabling civilian vessels to securely and voluntarily share outward-looking sensor data that is already available on board, increasing maritime coverage by leveraging existing onboard systems and reducing the need to rely exclusively on additional dedicated surveillance assets. It will also support stronger cross-border cooperation between Coast Guard services and civilian authorities through timely, secure and trusted information exchange.

At the technical level, MARCONNECT will develop a modular and scalable platform that can integrate smoothly with existing maritime information systems and command-and-control environments. Privacy, cybersecurity, and legal compliance are built into the project from the beginning, following a privacy-and-trust-by-design approach based on voluntary participation, privacy-preserving data handling, appropriate anonymisation or pseudonymisation where applicable, and secure information exchange. Over its 36-month duration, these objectives will be validated through real operational use cases across different European sea basins.



Expected Impact of MARCONNECT

MARCONNECT is designed to create measurable impact for public authorities, the private sector, and European society by improving maritime awareness, cooperation, and the use of trusted digital services. At European level, the project will contribute to stronger maritime border management, improved interoperability, and greater technological sovereignty by helping to close awareness gaps at sea and supporting better cross-border coordination. For public authorities, MARCONNECT will complement existing maritime monitoring systems with additional civilian-sourced information, enabling faster, data-driven responses and more efficient operations.



The project will also create value for civilian vessel owners by enabling access to new digital and connectivity-based services that can improve safety and operational efficiency, while ensuring that participation remains voluntary and secure. For the private sector, MARCONNECT opens opportunities for innovative maritime services based on appropriately governed and authorised access to relevant data and platform capabilities. Any such use will remain subject to applicable legal, ethical, security and data-governance requirements. More broadly, the project contributes to safer seas, more efficient maritime operations, and a more resilient maritime environment for citizens, trade, and coastal communities.

MARCONNECT Project Kicks Off in Bucharest

The MARCONNECT project has officially started with a successful kick-off meeting hosted in Bucharest by SIMAVI - Software Imagination & Vision in December 2025.

MARCONNECT brings together a strong consortium of 13 partners from 8 countries, representing industry, research organisations, and public authorities. Over the next three years, the project will develop innovative, data-driven tools designed to strengthen maritime security, improve operational efficiency, and support cross-border cooperation across the European maritime sector.

The project will lay the groundwork for a more connected European maritime ecosystem by enabling smarter use of data, supporting the development of new value-added services for maritime stakeholders, and equipping authorities and operators with modern digital capabilities.

5 Dec 2025



MARCONNECT's mission is clear: better data, better decisions, safer seas.

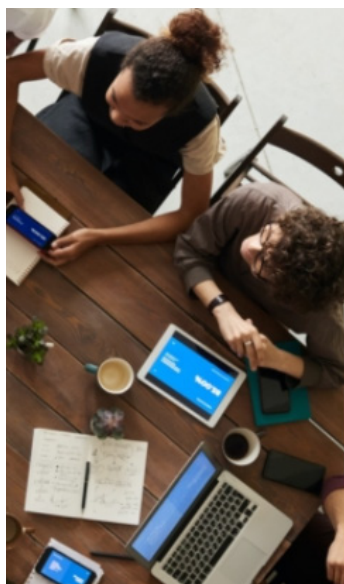
We would like to thank all project partners for their active contribution, with special thanks to the Project Coordinator and hosts, SIMAVI - Software Imagination & Vision, for the excellent start in Bucharest, and to the Technical Coordinator, INOV, for helping shape the project's technical vision.

MARCONNECT Presented at MASS2026

In March 2026, Dimitrios Kotiadis, Principal Research Engineer for Autonomy and Automation at Damen Shipyards Group, presented MARCONNECT during the Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships event. His presentation positioned the project within Damen's wider research on autonomous maritime operations, including sensor-based perception, situational awareness, decision-support systems and vessel control.

He outlined MARCONNECT's objective to develop a secure Vessel-Connected Services framework that enables civilian vessels to share outward-looking sensor data with maritime authorities. The project will develop an interoperable platform ecosystem enabling vessel-generated information to be securely shared with and integrated into relevant Coast Guard command-and-control environments. The presentation also highlighted MARCONNECT's planned real-world validation, its focus on privacy, ethics and security, and its contribution to European maritime policy and standardisation. Damen's PHAROS research vessel was also presented as part of the company's practical testing environment for maritime autonomy and sensor technologies.

Beyond its security and safety objectives, MARCONNECT was also presented as an expanding maritime ecosystem. As more modern and better equipped vessels participate, the platform can benefit from increasingly rich and diverse sensor data, strengthening the overall maritime picture. Its decentralized and interoperable architecture also creates opportunities for integration with third party systems and future commercial maritime navigation services. Access to better real-time information could support more efficient route planning, helping vessels reduce fuel consumption, lower operating costs and improve profitability, while also decreasing emissions and supporting more environmentally sustainable maritime transport.



About MASS

Bringing digital trailblazers and maritime stakeholders together

Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) is a think tank that brings stakeholders from the entire maritime value chain and technology providers together to share (technical) knowledge by presenting and discussing ongoing projects resulting in a 360° perspective on the challenges that are being faced.

MARCONNECT at the Projects to Policy Seminar

Dana Oniga, Project Manager at SIMAVI, represented MARCONNECT on behalf of the Project Coordination Team at the Projects to Policy Seminar 2026, held in Brussels on 10-11 June 2026, together with Nicoletta Dimosthenous from IANUS. The seminar brought together representatives from EU institutions, agencies, policymakers, practitioners, and Horizon Europe security research projects to discuss how research and innovation can better support European security policymaking and operational needs.

The event provided an important opportunity for MARCONNECT to present its vision, exchange with related initiatives, and strengthen its visibility within the wider EU Border Management and maritime security research landscape.



10 & 11 June 2026



Day 1 - Connecting Research with Policy and Operational Needs

The first day focused on the role of EU security research in supporting evidence-based policymaking, practitioner needs, and the future uptake of project results.

Within this context, Dana Oniga presented the MARCONNECT project and its contribution to maritime security through the development of Vessel-Connected Services. The presentation highlighted how civilian vessels can support maritime situational awareness through the secure and voluntary sharing of outward-looking sensor data with Coast Guard Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies.

10 & 11 June 2026



Border Management Thematic Breakout Session

MARCONNECT participated in the Border Management thematic breakout session, alongside other relevant initiatives addressing border security, maritime monitoring, interoperability, data sharing, and situational awareness.

The session created a useful platform to explain the MARCONNECT concept to a policy-oriented audience, focusing on its practical contribution to maritime security and border protection.

Particular attention was given to the potential use of the MARCONNECT ecosystem in operational scenarios such as:

- drug trafficking and other forms of cross-border smuggling
- organised maritime crime
- detection of anomalous maritime traffic patterns
- commercial maritime traffic monitoring
- broader border protection needs

10 & 11 June 2026



1. Key Discussion Points for MARCONNECT

The discussions during the seminar were highly relevant to MARCONNECT, especially around the practical use and future uptake of project results. Several important topics were raised, including operational scenarios, practitioner involvement, interoperability with existing systems, data availability,

and sustainability beyond the end of EU funding. For MARCONNECT, these points are directly connected to the project's ambition to create a secure, interoperable, and sustainable Vessel-Connected Services ecosystem that can support European maritime security authorities in real operational contexts.

10 & 11 June 2026



2. Exchanges with Related Projects

The seminar also supported exchanges with related projects and initiatives, including CROSSMARE and ORBIS.

Discussions with CROSSMARE were especially relevant, as both projects are exploring potential synergies in maritime surveillance, interoperability, data sharing, and the creation of a more complete situational awareness picture for border protection authorities.

These exchanges provided a useful basis for identifying possible areas of complementarity and future cooperation.

10 & 11 June 2026



Day 2 - Practitioner Engagement and Sustainability

The second day included cross-thematic discussions on the role of practitioners in EU security research projects.

Participants discussed the importance of involving operational actors, collecting meaningful requirements, validating use cases, and ensuring that project results remain useful after EU funding ends.

These discussions were particularly relevant for MARCONNECT, as the project relies on input from Coast Guard Authorities, Law Enforcement Agencies, and other operational stakeholders to ensure that its solutions are practical, credible, and aligned with real maritime security needs.

10 & 11 June 2026



1. Main Takeaways

The seminar confirmed that MARCONNECT is highly relevant to current EU discussions on border management, maritime situational awareness, interoperability, and public-private cooperation.

A key takeaway was the importance of presenting the project's value in clear operational terms. Policy-facing communication should avoid overly technical

explanations and focus instead on real scenarios, practical capabilities, expected benefits, and long-term impact.

The seminar also highlighted the importance of sustainability. For MARCONNECT, this means continuing to define how the project's ecosystem and services can remain useful, maintained, and adopted beyond the project lifetime.

10 & 11 June 2026



The Projects to Policy Seminar 2026 was a valuable opportunity to position MARCONNECT within the European security research and policy landscape.

The event strengthened the project's visibility, supported exchanges with related initiatives, and provided useful input for future dissemination, exploitation, stakeholder engagement, and sustainability activities.

For MARCONNECT, the seminar reinforced the importance of building solutions that are not only technically innovative, but also operationally relevant, policy-aligned, and sustainable beyond the project lifetime.

MARCONNECT 2nd Plenary Meeting

In June 2026, the 2nd Plenary Meeting of the MARCONNECT project took place in Lisbon, hosted by project partner INOV. The meeting brought together the full consortium for two days of productive collaboration, technical exchange, and project coordination.

The first day included a dedicated joint workshop with Law Enforcement Agencies and technical partners and representatives of the vessel manufacturing sector. The session focused on sensor technologies and concept solutions that can support MARCONNECT's objectives. Discussions highlighted how different operational contexts require different technical approaches, while also underlining the importance of connecting end-user needs with advanced maritime situational awareness technologies.

The second day focused on progress across the project, with presentations from all active Work Packages and tasks. Partners reviewed the progress achieved so far, discussed ongoing activities, and outlined the next steps for the coming period.

MARCONNECT would like to thank all partners for their active participation and valuable contributions. The consortium looks forward to the next project milestones.

17 & 18 June 2026



MARCONNECT Synergies

1. MARCONNECT and VIGIMARE Explore Synergies to Strengthen Maritime Infrastructure Protection

VIGIMARE and MARCONNECT, two EU-funded Horizon Europe projects, are exploring synergies to support a shared mission: protecting Europe's maritime and submarine infrastructure.

VIGIMARE, funded under Grant Agreement No. 101168016, is developing a Virtual Control Room for real-time situational awareness over submarine critical infrastructure, including submarine telecommunications cables, power cables and gas pipelines. The project combines AI-driven anomaly detection, satellite data, underwater sensors, AIS information, and demonstrations across the Mediterranean, the Baltic Sea, and the Irish Sea.

MARCONNECT, funded under Grant Agreement No. 101225772, is developing a vessel-connected services ecosystem that enables civilian ships to become active nodes in Europe's maritime safety network. Through the integration of vessel sensor data with Coast Guard systems, the project aims to improve maritime security, operational awareness, and cross-border cooperation.



The connection between the two projects is highly relevant. MARCONNECT's civilian vessel sensor feeds could enrich VIGIMARE's Virtual Control Room with a broader real-time picture of maritime activity near critical infrastructure. At the same time, both projects share interoperability goals and links with existing European maritime safety architectures.

With SIMAVI - Software Imagination & Vision coordinating MARCONNECT and also participating in VIGIMARE, there is a natural bridge between the two consortia. Together, the projects can support a more complete operational picture of Europe's maritime domain, combining VIGIMARE's focus on fixed submarine infrastructure with MARCONNECT's dynamic vessel-layer awareness.

2. MARCONNECT and CROSSMARE Explore Synergies for Safer Maritime Borders

MARCONNECT and CROSSMARE actively explore synergies, both striving towards safer, more secure maritime border protections and enhanced coastal defense strategies.

Funded under the same Horizon Europe call, the two projects are identifying strong areas of complementarity. MARCONNECT introduces the Vessel-Connected Services concept, enabling civilian vessels to voluntarily share sensor data with Coast Guard Authorities in order to improve maritime situational awareness. CROSSMARE is developing an advanced multi-domain interoperability framework that brings together space, air, surface, and underwater surveillance assets into a unified, AI-powered maritime picture.



Together, these approaches can create a richer and more complete operational picture for border protection authorities. While CROSSMARE focuses on aggregating surveillance data across multiple domains, MARCONNECT adds a novel and underexplored source of information: the civilian maritime fleet.

This potential collaboration supports a more interoperable, collaborative, and data-driven European maritime security ecosystem. Further updates will be shared as discussions progress.

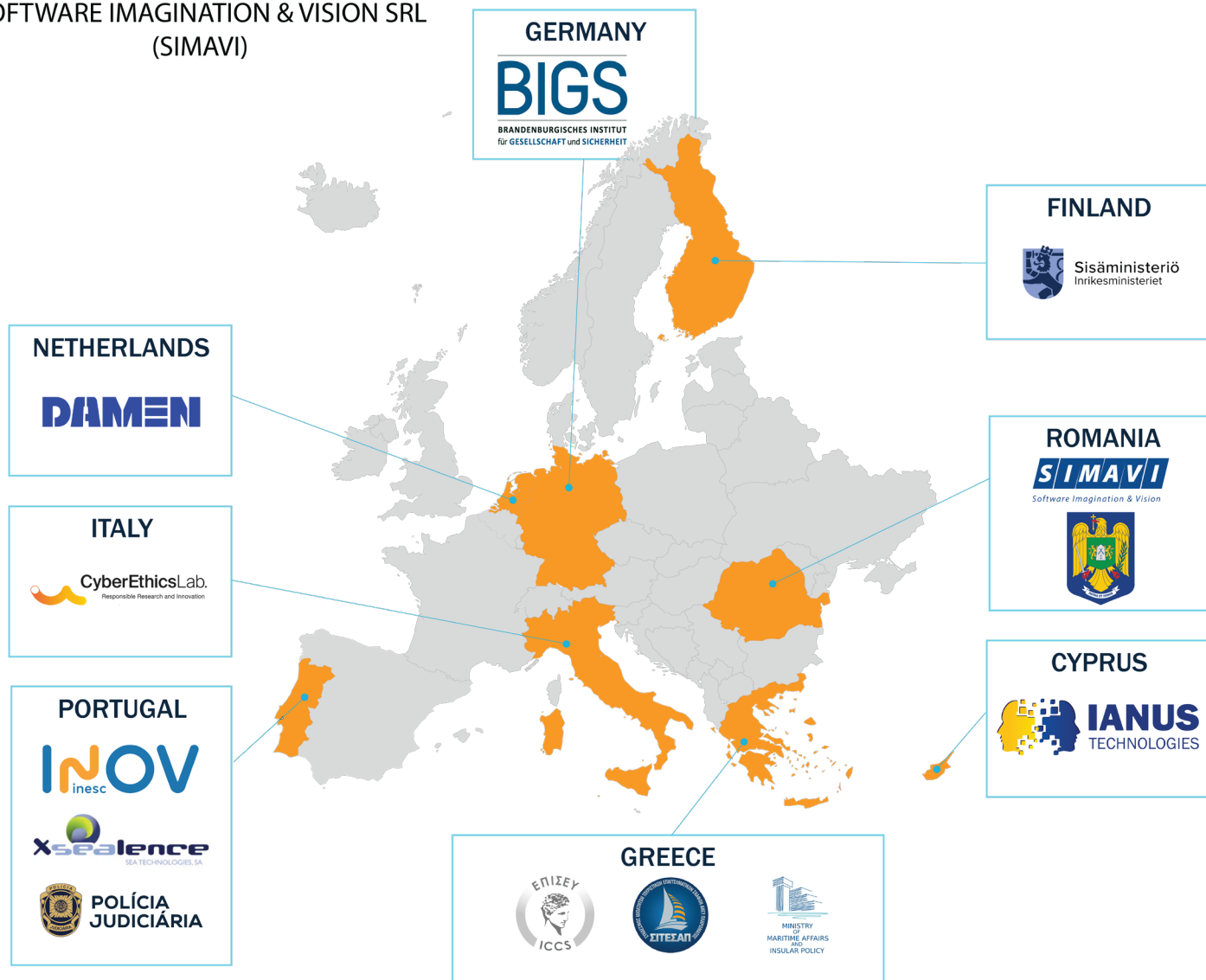


CONSORTIUM

No.	Participant organisation name	Short Name	Country
1	SOFTWARE IMAGINATION & VISION SRL	SIMAVI	RO
2	INOV INSTITUTO DE ENGENHARIA DE SISTEMAS E COMPUTADORES INOVACAO	INOV	PT
3	BRANDENBURGISCHES INSTITUT FUR GESELLSCHAFT UND SICHERHEIT GGMBH	BIGS	DE
4	DAMEN RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION BV	DAMEN	NL
5	ENOSI IDIOKTITON TOURISTIKON EPANGELMATIKON SKAFON ANEF PLIROMATOS	HPBA	EL
6	CYBERETHICS LAB SRLS	CEL	IT
7	EREVNITIKO PANEPISTIMIAKO INSTITOUTO SYSTIMATON EPIKOINONION KAI YPOLOGISTON	ICCS	EL
8	XSEALENCE-SEA TECHNOLOGIES, SA	XSL	PT
9	IANUS TECHNOLOGIES LTD	IANUS	CY
10	SISAMINISTERIO (SM)	FMOI	FI
11	GARDA DE COASTA	RCG	RO
12	YPOURGEIO NAFTILIAS KAI NISIOTIKIS POLITIKIS	MMAIP	EL
13	Ministerio da Justica	PJ	PT

Project Coordinator

SOFTWARE IMAGINATION & VISION SRL
(SIMAVI)



CONNECT WITH MARCONNECT



MARCONNECT

<https://marconnect-project.eu>



The first MARCONNECT project video is currently in production and will be released soon.



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