



**OSPAR
COMMISSION**

*Protecting and conserving the
North-East Atlantic and its resources*

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Dear Dr. Neves,

On behalf of the OSPAR Secretariat I am pleased to offer my support to your proposed project entitled *Innovation in the Framework of the Atlantic Deep Ocean (iFADO)* for the call in the Specific Objective 1.2 “*Strengthening the transfer of innovation results to facilitate the emergence of new products, services and processes*” from Priority Axis 1 “*Stimulating innovation and competitiveness and the specific objective*”.

OSPAR is the Regional Sea Commission acting as a coordination mechanism for the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) for the relevant countries of the North East Atlantic. It also works in the wider ocean and is able to reflect the priorities of the countries within its regions such as in this case the wider Atlantic and the Bay of Biscay/Iberian coast regions of OSPAR. Its work covers both policy and assessment and monitoring activities. Given these interests and regional focus we see the project is one that we can usefully input our perspectives via advisory or stakeholder functions. The proposed approach with cooperation and sharing of knowledge and technologies with other Atlantic Area countries and coastal managers would be a relevant approach to enhance the development of innovative products in the implementation of the MSFD.

Therefore, we confirm our involvement as an active stakeholder and a potential end-user of project results. The OSPAR Secretariat welcomes the opportunity to participate in stakeholder meetings, and to evaluate some of the final project tools, guidelines and methodologies.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Darius Campbell
Executive Secretary