

THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATORS GROUP

 **CSIC**
CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS



ERVO WAY AHEAD

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16th ERVO Annual meeting
June 11-12, 2014
CSIC (UTM-CMIMA), Barcelona (Spain)

BACKGROUND

- ✧ Informal pan-European long-lasting network, with no legal status and financial resources
- ✧ Created in 1999 as an initiative of the European Science Foundation - Marine Board (ESF/MB)
- ✧ Co-ordination of small to medium sized RV operators in Europe
- ✧ The number of participating countries has risen from 7 to 18, proving to be a useful platform for about 25 regular attendees
- ✧ Very useful independent network
- ✧ Its activity is entirely driven by participants
- ✧ The group does not report to any other group, organization or authority

OBJECTIVE

To create and maintain a forum for European RV operators

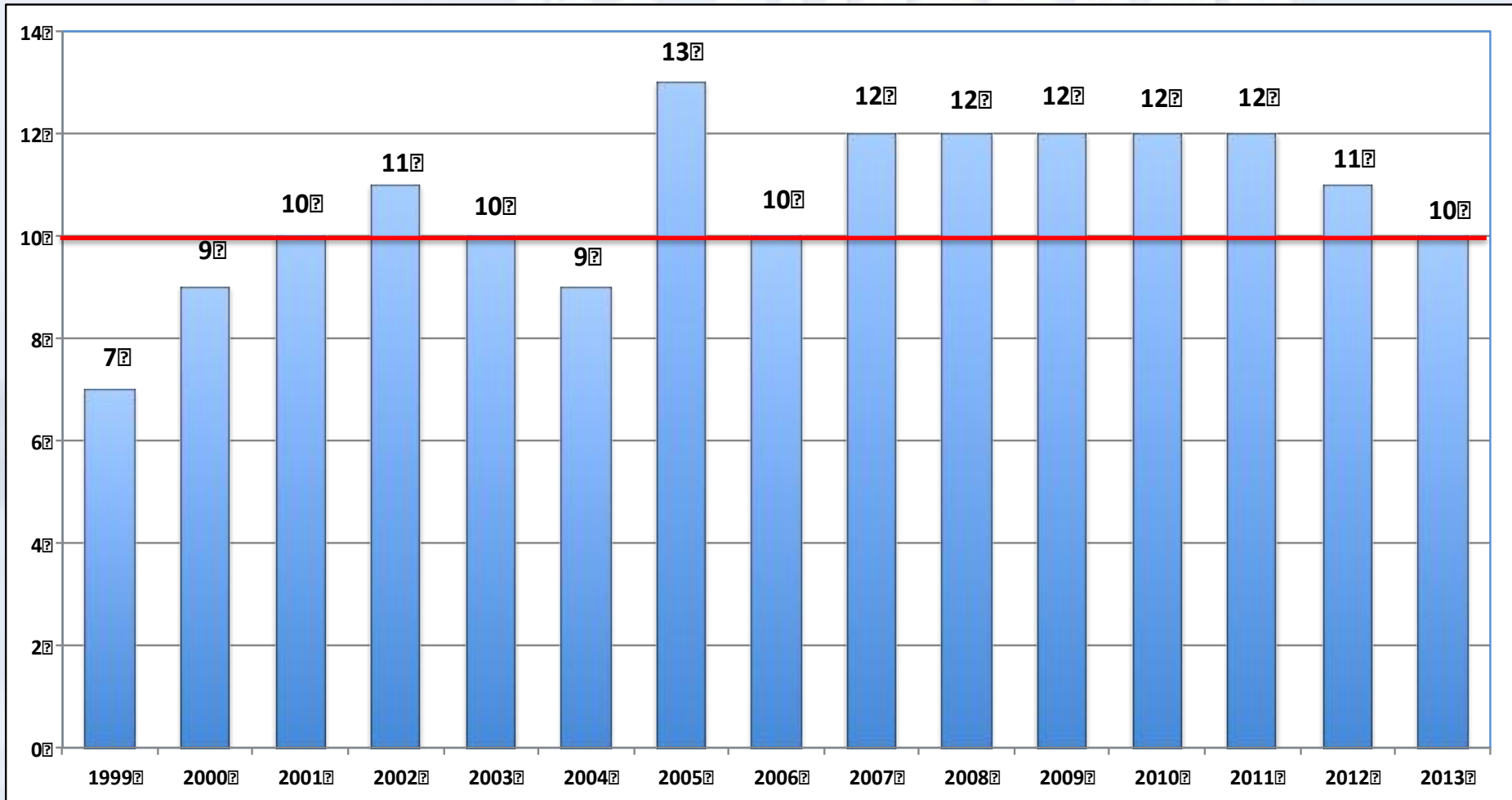
- ✧ attend ERVO meetings where common **technical, operational, safety, environmental and legal issues/problems** are identified and discussed, and possible solutions presented
- ✧ contribute to the development within Europe of **best practices in the operation of RVs and associated equipment**
- ✧ learn about **developments and plans for procurement** of new RVs, equipment and instruments, and **upgrades** of existing ones
- ✧ be a member of a **pan-European network** of RV operators
- ✧ identify **methods and ways to minimize the impact of the operations** of RVs and associated instruments and equipment on the environment and marine life

FIFTEEN MEETINGS

Date	Venue	Host Organisation
13-14, December, 1999	Roscoff, France	ESF, Marine Board and CNRS/INSU
27-28, April, 2000	Galway, Ireland	Marine Institute
19-20, April, 2001	Rome, Italy	National Research Council of Italy
24-26, April, 2002	Bergen, Norway	Institute of Marine Research
25-26, April, 2003	Constanza, Romania	GeoEcoMar
16-17, June, 2004	Barcelona, Spain	CSIC
7-8, April, 2005	Lisbon, Portugal	COI/MCTES
19-21, June, 2006	Reykjavike, Iceland	Icelandic Institute of Marine Science
19-20, June, 2007	Oostende, Belgium	Flanders Institute
20-21, May, 2008	Varna, Bulgaria	Institute of Oceanology – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
13-15, May, 2009	Copenhagen, Denmark	DTU Aqua – National Institute of Aquatic Resources
04-06, May, 2010	Southampton, UK	National Oceanography Centre (NOC)
10-11, May, 2011	Oristano, Italy	National Research Council of Italy
08-09, May, 2012	Faial, Portugal	DOP/University of Azores (DOP/UAç)
05-06, June, 2013	Brest– Plouzané, France	French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea

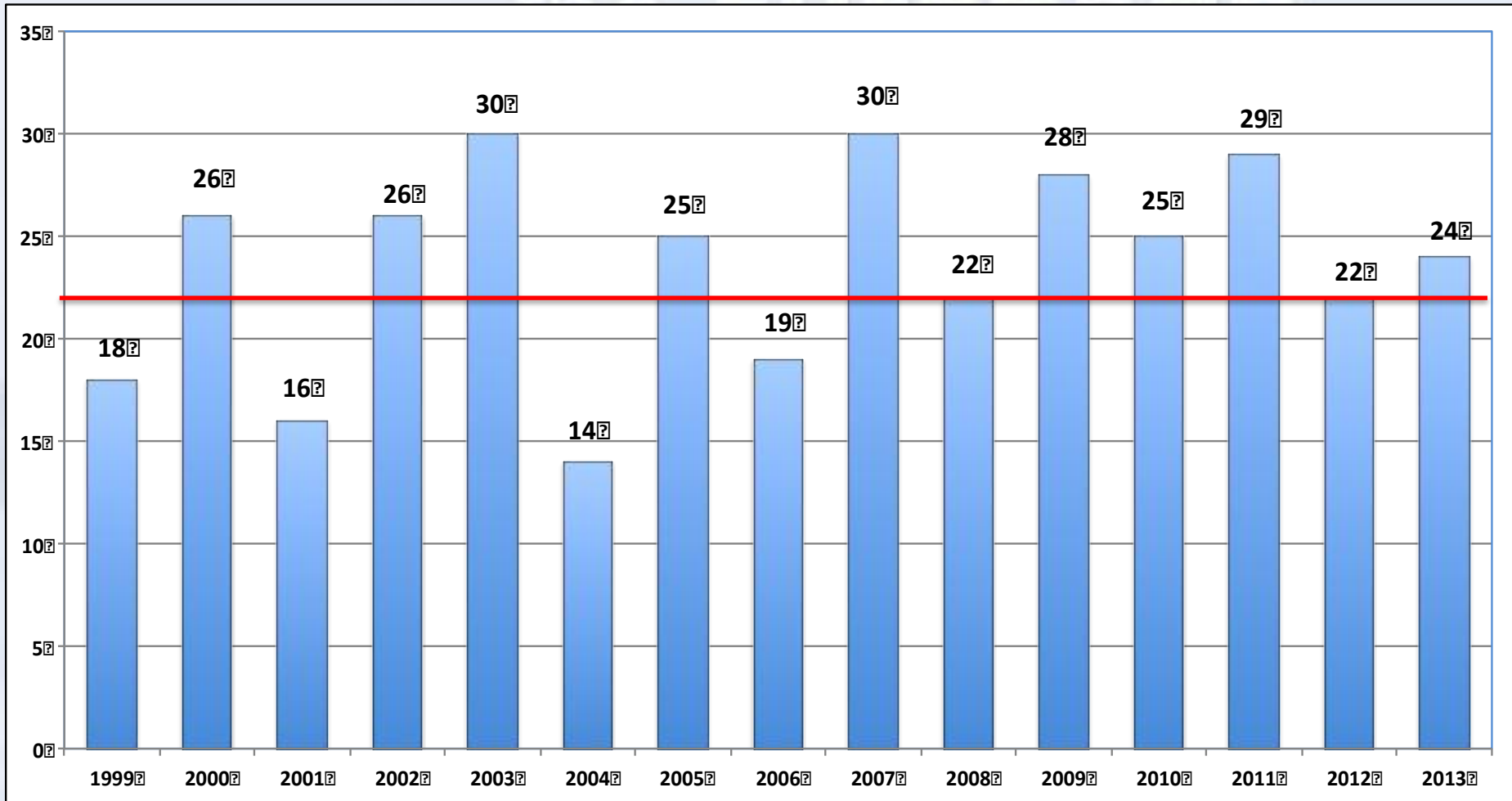
SOME FIGURES (1/3)

Number of participating countries per ERVO meeting



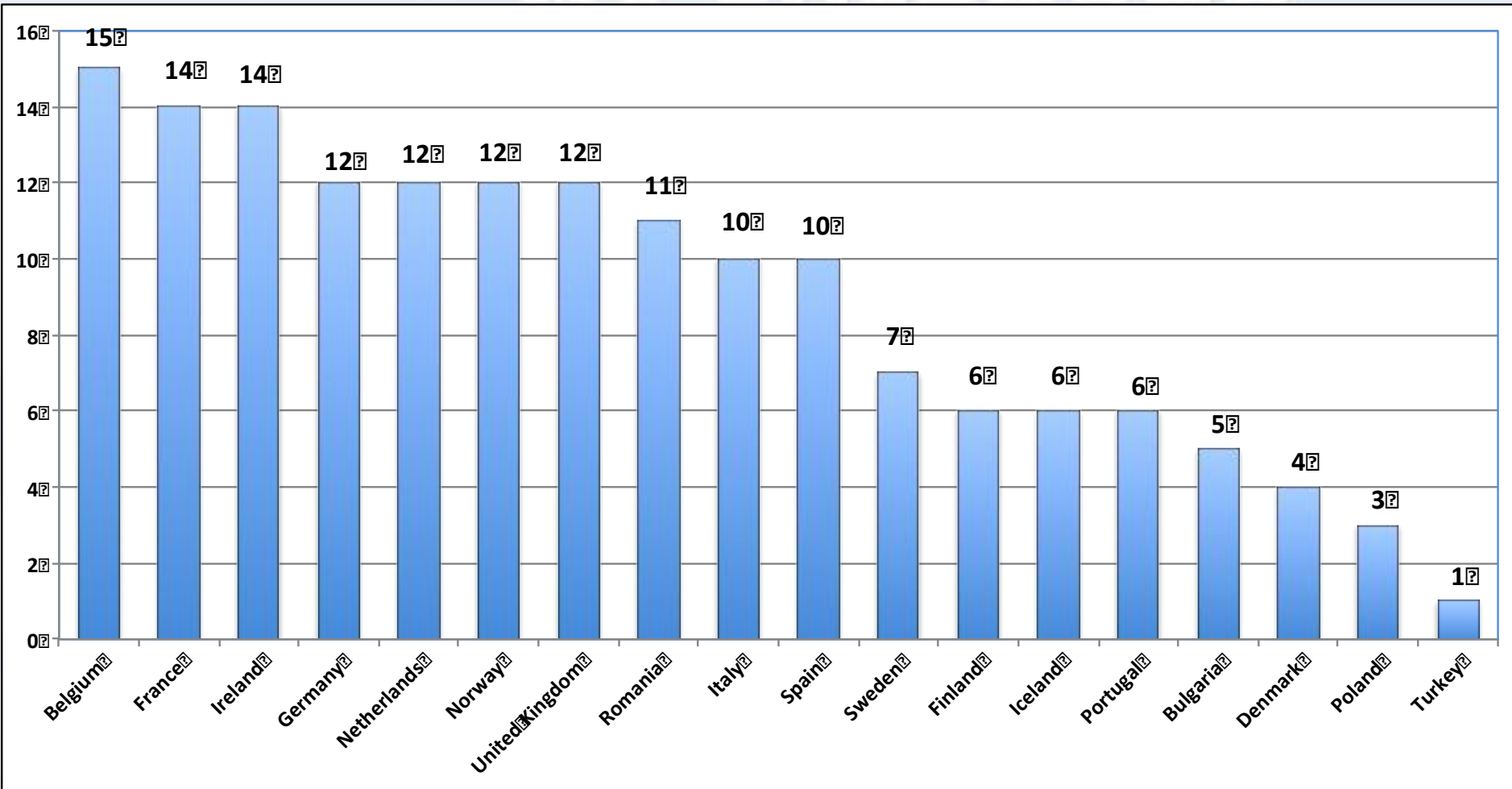
SOME FIGURES (2/3)

Number of participants per ERVO meeting



SOME FIGURES (3/3)

Number of attended ERVO meetings per country



WHAT WE HAVE DISCUSSED

- ✧ to evolve into a (more) formal and pro-active group in order to become a more visible organisation
- ✧ to develop true co-operation besides the annual informative meetings
- ✧ to develop a strategy paper and/or work-plan for the next 5 years for ERVO which could be revised periodically
- ✧ to establish an annual membership fee to cover the running cost of ERVO
- ✧ to avoid overlaps with IRSO and other fora
- ✧ to develop and maintain a strategy for the future growth of ERVO in terms of membership, topics and activities
- ✧ to make an effort to maintain and improve relationships with EurOcean, ESF/Marine Board, EUROFLEETS (1&2), IRSO, OFEG, ESFRI, etc.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE SINCE 2010

- ✧ Terms of Reference of the ERVO Group, adopted in 2011 at the 13th ERVO meeting in Oristano (Italy)
- ✧ Annual membership fee (300 Euro), established at the 14th ERVO meeting (Faial, Portugal, 2012) to cover the cost of the services provided by the EurOcean Office to the ERVO Group
- ✧ EurOcean/ERVO Agreement, officially signed in April 2014
- ✧ EUROFLEETS participates actively to ERVO meetings (topic in the ERVO agenda since 2008, 10th ERVO meeting, Varna, Bulgaria)
- ✧ Since 2012 ERVO is a permanent invitee to EUROFLEETS meetings and its present and future chairs are beneficiaries of EUROFLEETS2. Moreover, 13 (42%) EUROFLEETS2 beneficiaries are active members of the ERVO Group

PROPOSAL FOR ERVO'S FUTURE

- ✧ Ad-hoc working group (few persons)
 - ✧ To initiate a strategic discussion about aspirations, goals and opportunities
 - ✧ To draft a document to be presented during the next ERVO meeting
 - ✧ Suggested topics:
 - ✧ *EUROFLEETS legacy*
 - ✧ *Relations to OFEG and IRSO*
 - ✧ *Cooperation with EurOcean*
 - ✧ *Regional approach (decentralized organization by European maritime eco-region or groups of them)*



Thanks for your attention!

Any volunteers?

Any comments?

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