SeaDataNet 2
First Plenary Meeting
Rhodes, Greece, 19 - 20 September, 2012

Report on the First SeaDataNet 2 Training Session
Venue: IOC Project Office for IODE
Oostende, Belgium, 2 - 6, July 2012

Project acronym: SeaDataNet II
Project full title: " SeaDataNet II: Pan-European infrastructure for ocean and marine data management "

Work Package WP3: Capacity Building and Training

- WP Objectives:

  • Training of data managers and technicians of data centres in the operation of SeaDataNet services

  • Training in the uptake of upgraded standards and data management procedures and in the implementation and configuration of new infrastructure components

  • Bringing all data centres onto an equal footing

- Deliverable D3.1) Training course 1: Training course 1 for data managers and technicians: programme and curriculum.

- Program of the training course will be available on the project Website. [month 10]

- The coordination of the training courses and associated programmes is undertaken by partner RBINS-MUMM.
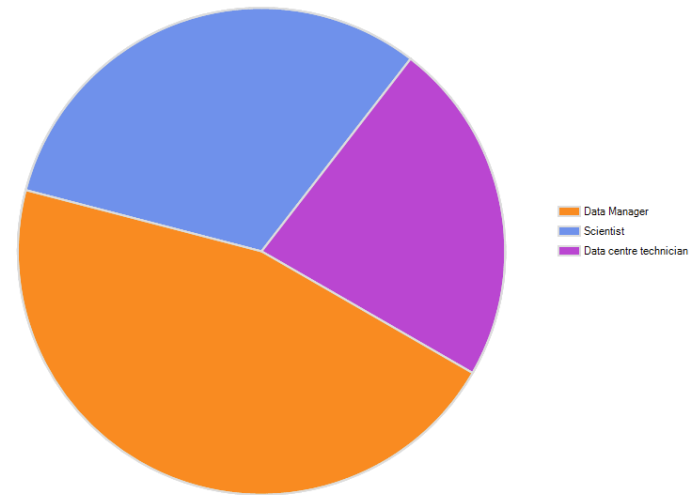
First SeaDataNet 2 Training Course

- ✓ 2-6 July 2012
- ✓ IOC Project Office for IODE in Oostende, Belgium
- ✓ 51 participants, of which 10 were trainers
- ✓ **course outline and contents (powerpoints and other materials provided by the trainers and links to videos are available at http://classroom.oceanteacher.org/course/view.php?id=156**
- ✓ **Videos are directly available at http://vimeo.com/album/2006287.**

Course feedback analysis

- At the end of the training course the participants were requested to fill a survey in order to express their opinion on several aspects on the course's organisation (Annex II – Survey template).

- **41** trainees attended the course, 37 started the survey, of which 28 (75.7%) finished the survey.

- The majority: **data managers** (45.7%); **scientists** (31.4%) and data centre **technicians** (22.9%)

- The survey was structured in order to assess each session independently and the course overall, as well as the course logistics.

Data Manager
Scientist
Data centre technician

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Session 1: General data management principles, vocabularies, metadata catalogues

Trainers:

- Sissy IONA, Head HNODC, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Anavyssos Institute of Oceanography, Greece

and

- Dr Lesley RICKARDS, Deputy Director BODC / Director PSMSL, National Oceanography Centre, Liverpool, United Kingdom
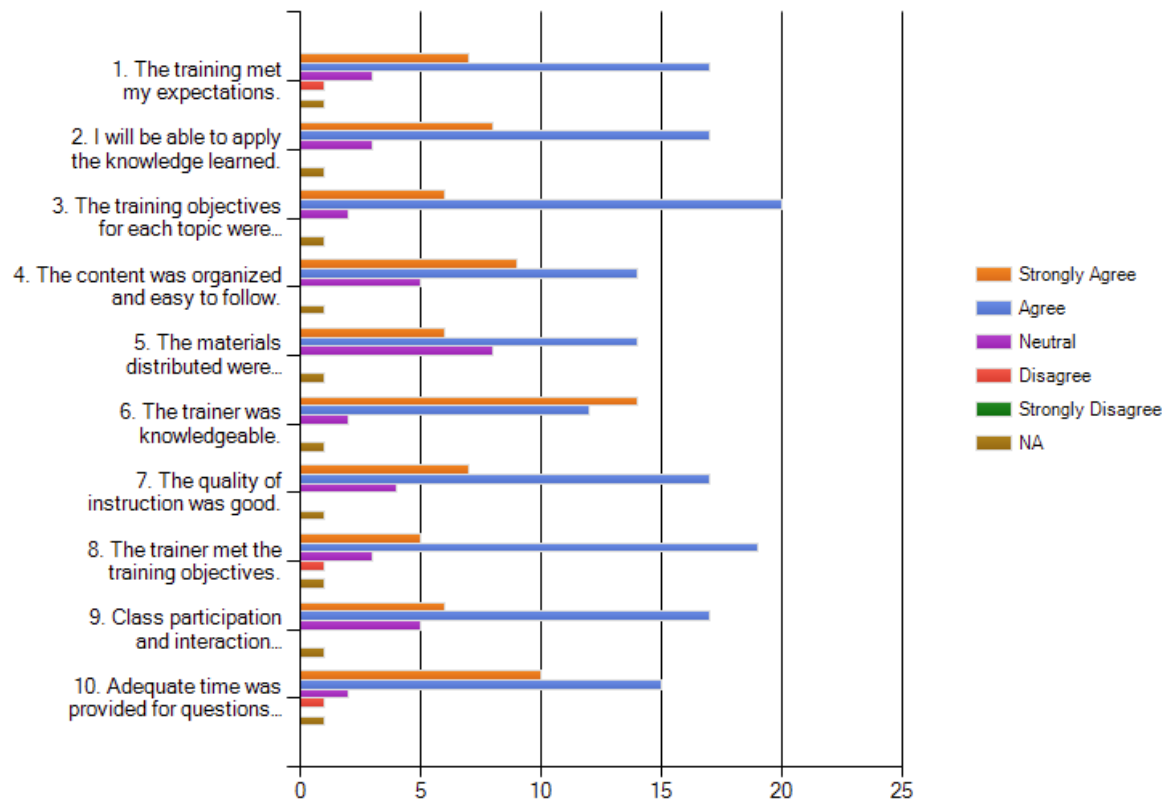
Comments and suggestions from the trainees:

- no specific comments

Actions required and follow up (by whom):

- NA

Session 1: General data management principles, vocabularies, metadata catalogues

Session 2 - Cruise Summary Reports

Trainer:

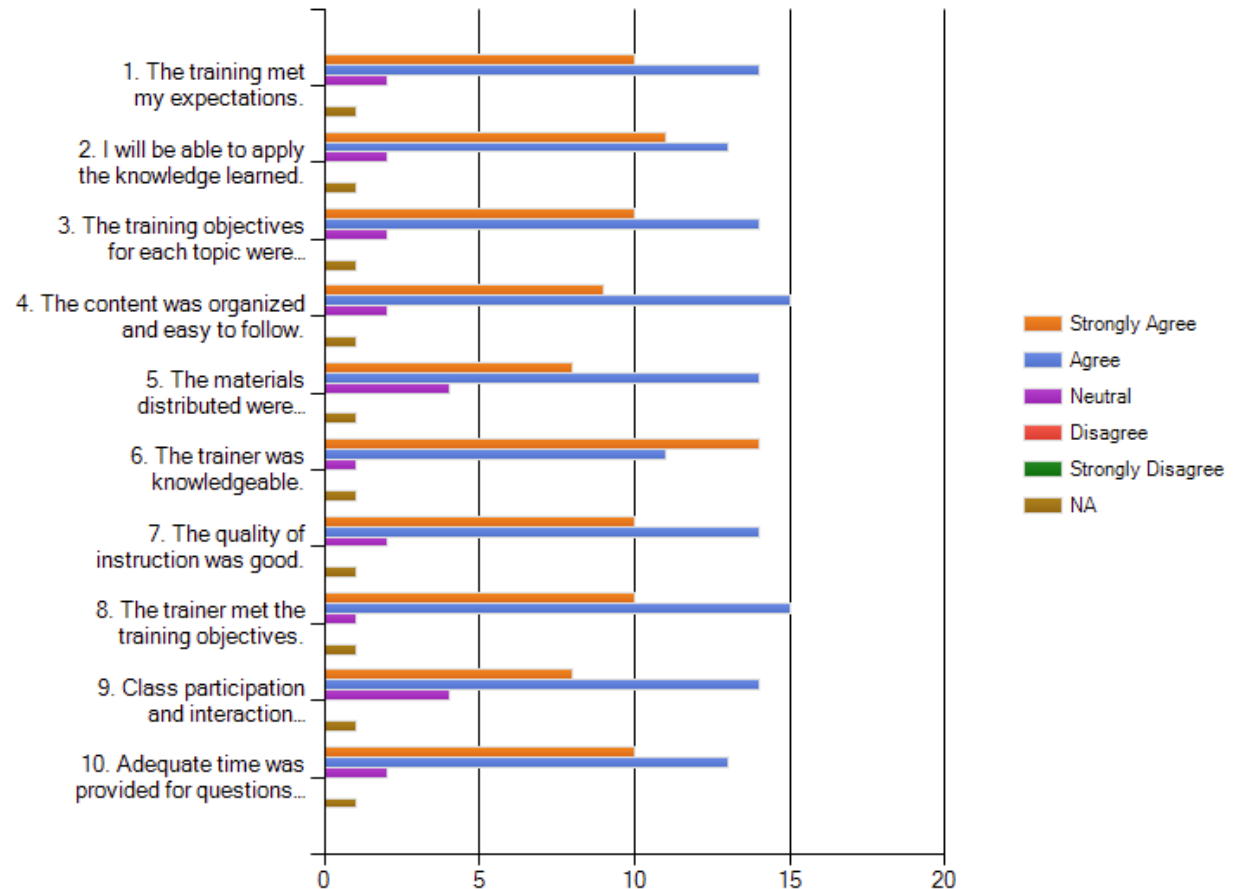- Dr. Anne CHE-BOHNENSTENGEL, Data scientist Deutsches Ozeanographisches Datenzentrum, Germany

Comments and suggestions from the trainees:

- no specific comments

Actions required and follow up (by whom):

- NA

Session 2: Cruise Summary Reports
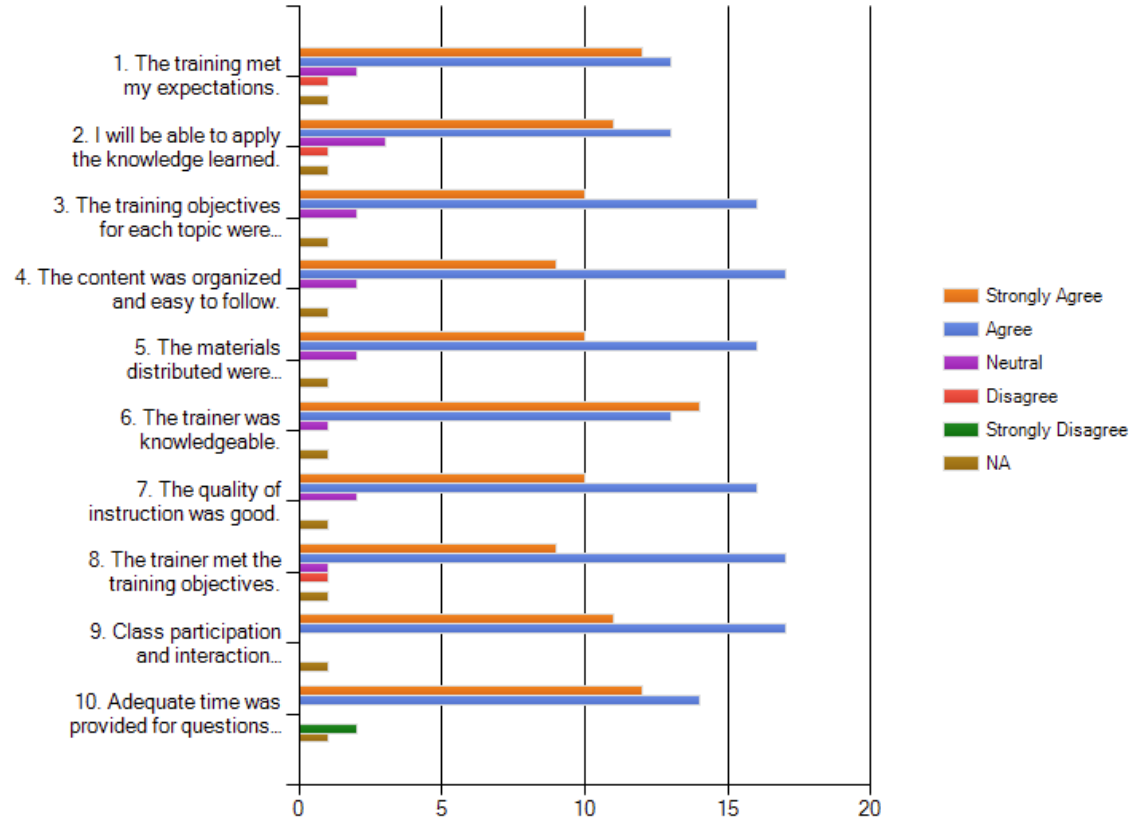
Session 3 – Nemo, Mikado

Trainer:

- Dr Michele FICHAUT, Data manager French Institute for the Exploitation of the Sea, IFREMER Centre de Brest, France

Comments and suggestions from the trainees (citations):

- "nemo and mikado should be presented rather in a way that each one having attended the course should be able to apply the information and the experience on his own database and data, but unfortunately during the sessions we could only make use of the files that were prior defined and build by the organization"
- "The building of routines to use NEMO and MIKADO could possibly be stressed even more so that their usefulness in everyday SDN work would come clear."
- "Nemo and Mikado - CDI creation, more practice using institution"
- more time dedicated to nemo mikado and more real experience on that,
- definitely it must be avoided virtual and artificial ideal situations which in the reality in our centers rather do not exist. Each one should be given the opportunity to train (for some time) on his own data and show the organizers which kind of problems occur."

Session 3: Nemo Mikado

Legend: Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree, NA

1. The training met my expectations.
2. I will be able to apply the knowledge learned.
3. The training objectives for each topic were…
4. The content was organized and easy to follow.
5. The materials distributed were…
6. The trainer was knowledgeable.
7. The quality of instruction was good.
8. The trainer met the training objectives.
9. Class participation and interaction…
10. Adequate time was provided for questions…

Suggested actions:

- **more hands-on sessions dedicated to both Nemo and Mikado, using data provided by the trainees rather than by the trainees/organizers**

Session 4: Ocean Data View

Trainer:

- Mr Reiner SCHLITZER, Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven, Germany
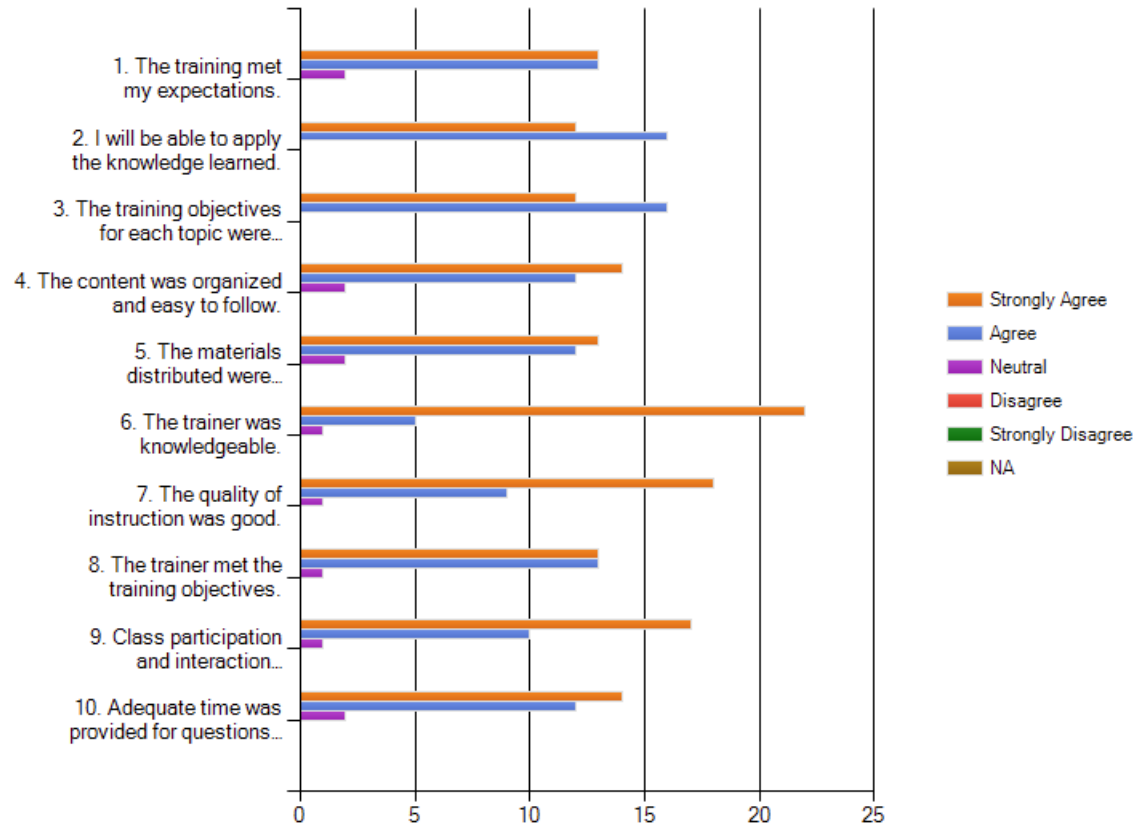
Comments and suggestions from the trainees:

- no specific comments

Suggested actions:

- NA

Session 4: Ocean Data View

Session 5: DIVA

Trainers:

- Prof. Jean-Marie BECKERS, Professor, and
- Dr Ouberdous MOHAMED, Research associate University of Liège, Department of Astrophysics, Geophysics and Oceanography, Belgium
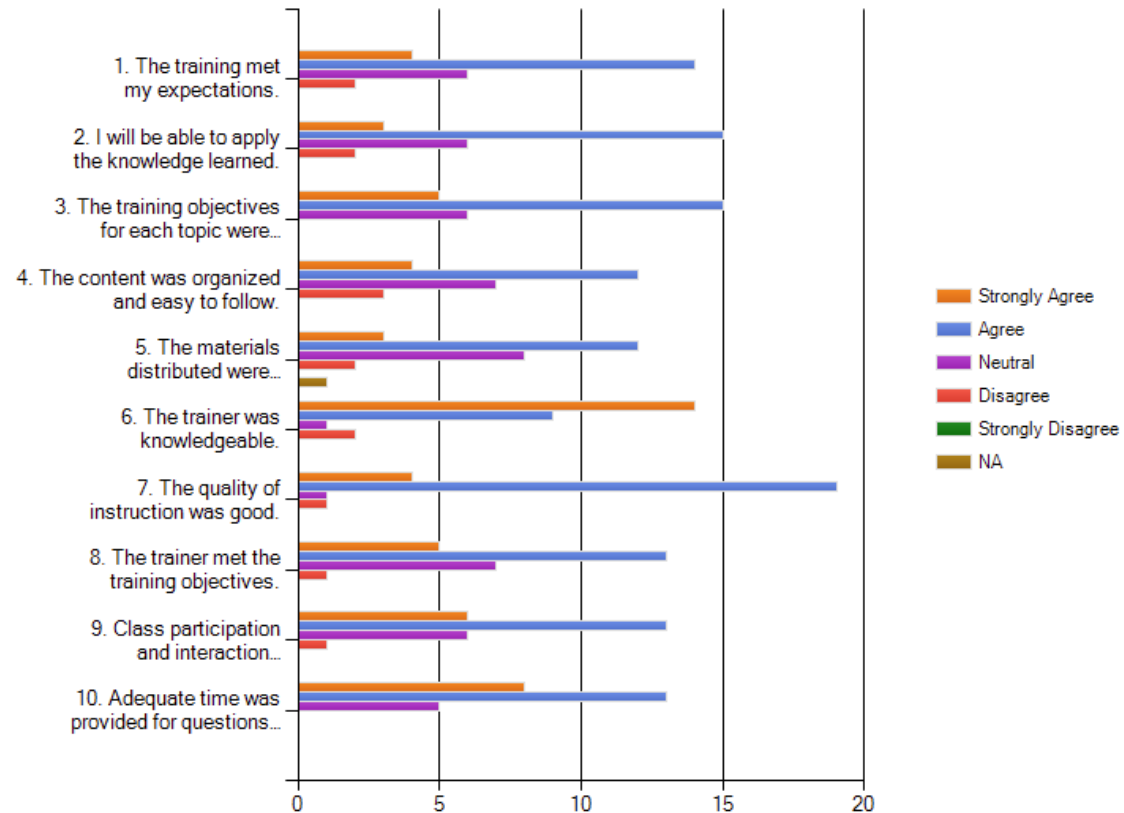
Comments and suggestions from the trainees (citations):

- "DIVA training is not appropriate for data managers"
- "I expected a less mathematical approach to DIVA, but more explicit examples of how tuning parameters in ODV versus DIVA"
- "to be improved: The DIVA section was the most theoretical and therefore the flow of the lecture may be made a little better by duplicating slides in their places rather than jumping back and forth in the slides. The theoretical aspects of DIVA are important to bring to the knowledge of the participants as was done, but it seemed that many participants felt that it was very theoretical. However, I think that it is good to point out the theoretical aspects to get participants to think the different methods in drawing sections and maps most correctly."

Suggested actions:

- **focus on the end-users' aspects of DIVA and not so much on the theoretical background**

Session 5: DIVA

Session 6: CDI, Download manager, Request manager

Trainer:

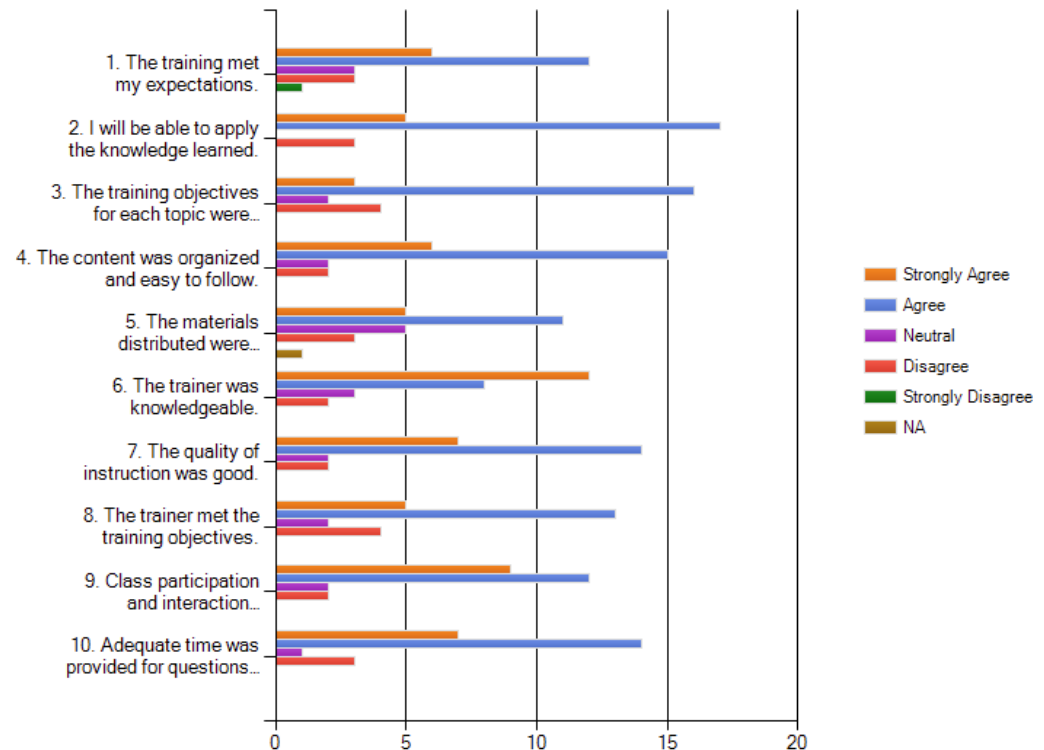- Peter THIJSSE, Marine Information Service, Netherlands

Comments and suggestions from the trainees (citations):

- "I expected a much more technical approach to the download manager: like tips and tricks about installation, use, and so on."
- "Download manager: installation - feedback of users. It could be improved"

Suggested actions:

- **Focus more on the technical aspects Download Manager, eventually create a FAQ section**

Session 6: CDI, Download manager, Request Status Manager

Session 7: Service Monitoring

Trainer:

- Angelos LYKIARDOPOULOS, Helleni Centre for Marine Research, Anavyssos, Institute of Oceanography, Greece
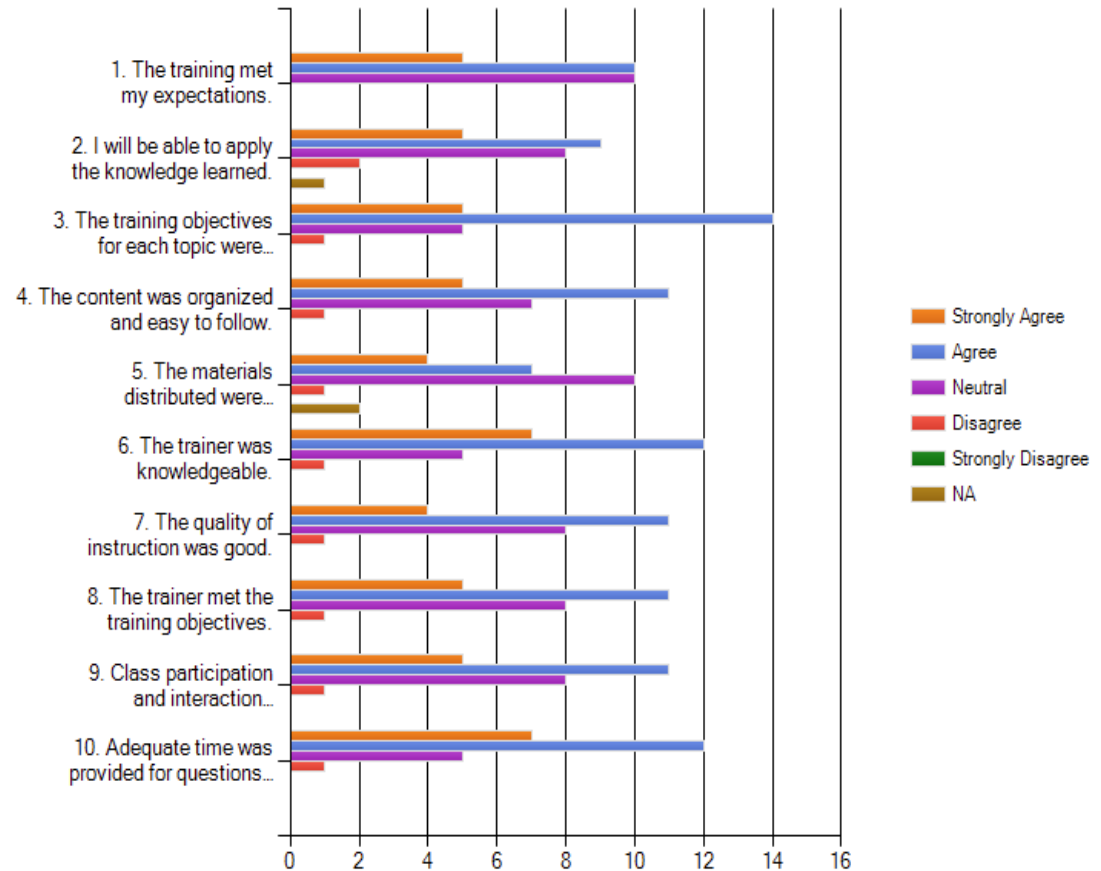
Comments and suggestions from the trainees:

- no specific comments

Actions required and follow up (by whom):

- NA

Session 7: Service Monitoring

Session 8: Biological Data Management

Trainer:

- Ms Leen VANDEPITTE, Flanders Marine Institute, Belgium
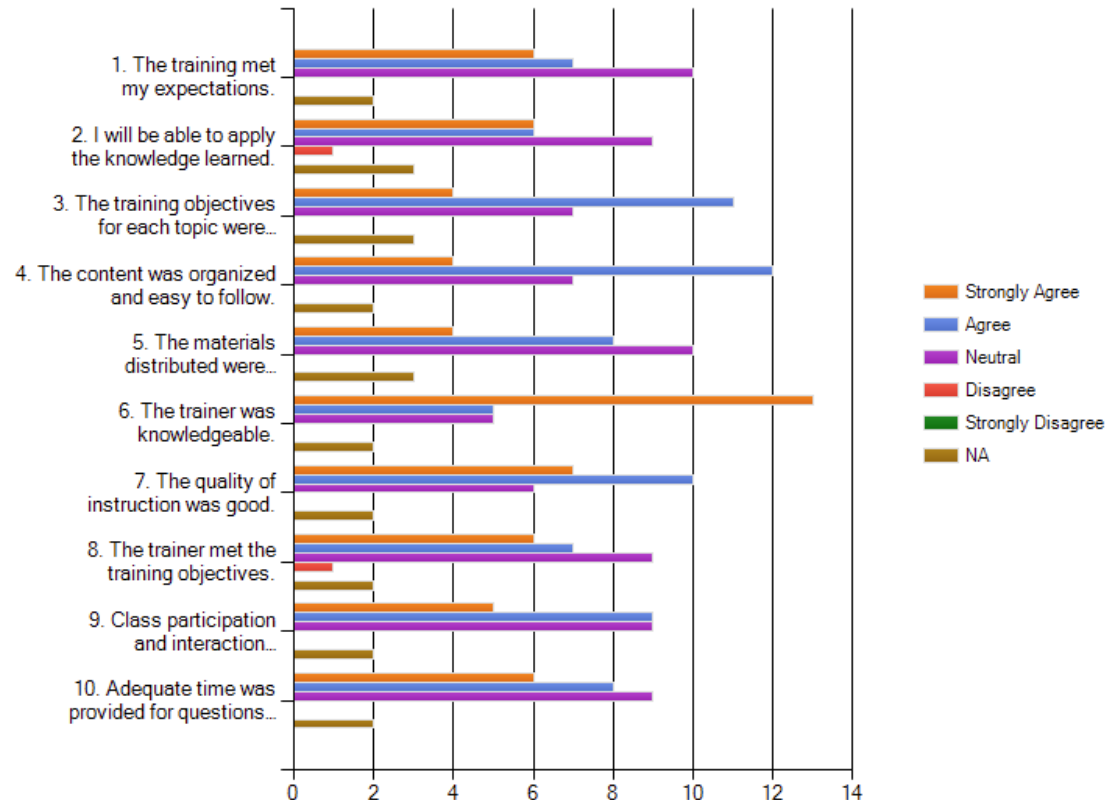
Comments and suggestions from the trainees:

- no specific comments
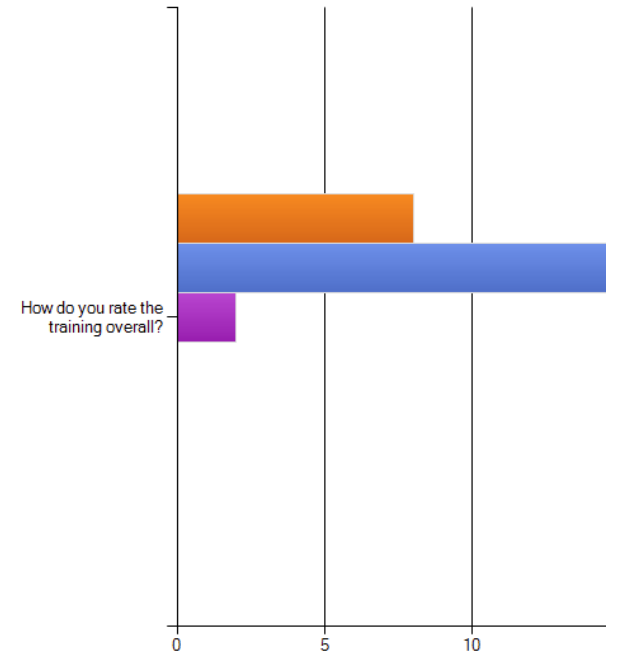
Actions required and follow up (by whom):

- NA

Session 8: Biological Data Management

Overall Assessment

Comments and suggestions from the trainees (citations):

- "Overall could have been shorter, ie, 3 to 4 days at the most"
- "It was an intensive and useful week providing a good overview and insight of all SDN tools"
- "Probably, it would be good to do the exercises in groups of two person in order to avoid that one person get lost in the practices."
- "there should be more specialised (subject oriented) trainings than one covering all subjects."
- "Practicing aspect about using SDN tools and generating directories. The setup of DM will be helpful if you could detail it for us next time."
- "To plan time for some open sessions ... or to make some kind of thematic workshops focused on use cases (e.g. how to deal with situations when we are blocked because of missing information or dirty data ... or which level of CTD post-processing is required before we can use such data for grid calculation) so that participants can exchange their best practice and share experience."
- "A lot more practicing'; "Practicing aspect about using SDN tools and generating directories."
- "The setup of DM will be helpful if you could detail it for us next time."
- "Teaching material could be better organized. Training folders and files kept being updated and it was quite hard to retrieve a final version of the digital content."

How do you rate the training overall?

Excellent
Good
Average
Poor
Very poor

Suggested actions:
- **Make shorter, subject-oriented workshops**
- **Split students into groups**
- **Organise more hands on sessions, especially with real data, brought by the trainees (i.e., the data originators)**
- **Teaching materials should be handed over to the IODE/OceanTeacher beforehand so that teaching materials and course outlines are organised and made available in advance/'real time' to the participants**

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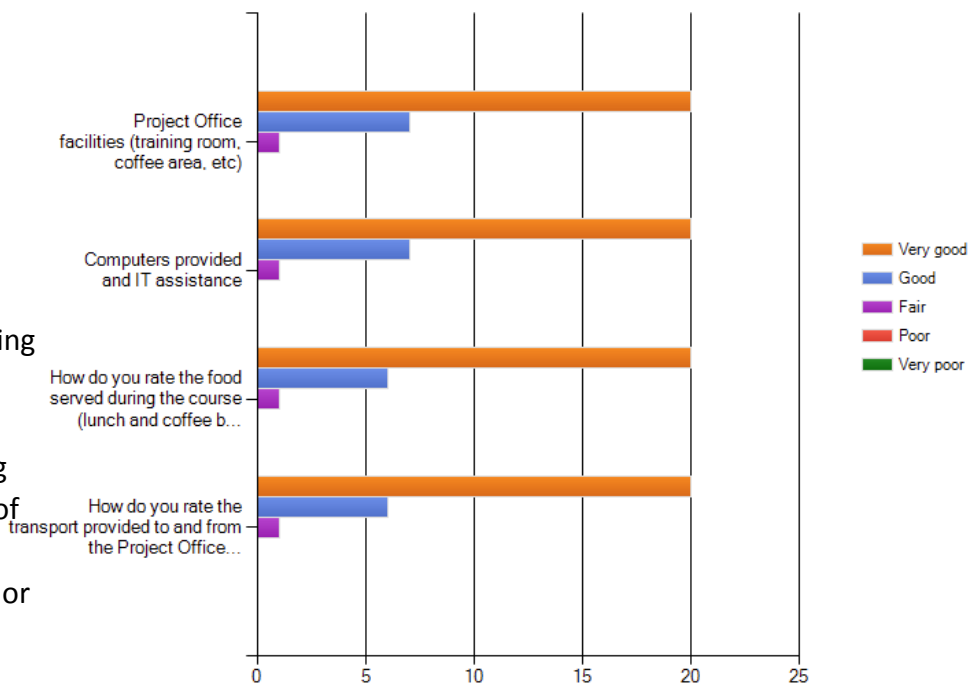
In general**, over 70%** >>> **'Very Good'**.

Some remarks by the participants and improvements will be foreseen by the IODE-PO team for the next training event, namely:

- Improve room **acoustics**, namely by making microphones available to the trainees (e.g. during the introductory session);
- Set up a more **workshop style room**, in order to promote interaction amongst all trainees (e.g. tables distributed in islands in order to promote working in small groups);
- Improve **wireless** connection availability (as far as technically feasible);
- Provide other **web browsers** other than Internet Explorer (Firefox and Safari);
- Provide some seating places in the reception area as far as feasible;

Lessons learned

- A more direct contact between the IODE/OceanTeacher Training Coordinator and the SeaDataNet 2 will be needed before the training course takes place in order to overcome some difficulties noticed during this training event namely regarding the formats of the training materials as well as the recording of the sessions.
- Seats should not be assigned beforehand (e.g. in alphabetical or country order).

Please assess the quality of the services provided by and/or outsourced to the IOC Project Office for IODE.

Final Suggestions

- Organise a training needs assessment before the next training event (at least 6 months in advance)

- Invite only the data managers and technicians for the training courses

- Improve contact between the hosting organisation and the trainers