

Europe is surrounded by two oceans and five seas. It has some 70,000 km of coastline and about 150 regions are located along its shoreline. With 575 islands (362 of which with a permanent population of more than 50 inhabitants), insularity is a significant aspect of the European geography, as brought out by the geo-historian Fernand Braudel.

Almost half of all the EU citizens live within 50 km of the seashore, 40% of the European GDP is generated in maritime regions and a staggering 80% of EU foreign trade is conducted by the sea. With more than 20 million sq. km, Europe's maritime zone is the largest on the planet.

The EU maritime economy alone employs roughly 5.4 million people, generates a Gross Added Value of almost €500 billion a year and has a high potential for further growth. Europe's security of supply of fish protein, minerals and renewable energy depends decisively on the availability of ocean resources.

The OCEANID Jean Monnet Chair intends to contribute to an improvement in maritime and marine knowledge along the lines of the European Commission communication COM (2012)494 entitled "Blue Growth, Opportunities for Marine and Maritime Sustainable Growth". This contribution will be implemented both through traditional academic education and professional training – be it to the public (DG on Maritime Policy, DG on Marine Resources, Municipalities Association, secondary level teachers) or the private sectors (Forum on Maritime Economy, Portuguese Industrial Association), as the accompanying letters put in evidence. And will also be complemented with R&D activities and the organisation of two conferences and three workshops.

This Chair will increase dramatically the dimension of European studies at Nova, both at education and research levels and also at cooperation between public and private institutions. It is the research team goal to create new lines of investigation and to open new platforms for multidimensional processes that, at end, should promote the reinforcement of clustering opportunities in the context of Portuguese Economy and, where European scale is concern, new ways to develop benchmarking activities. Its name pays tribute (as the tone poem of Sibelius) to the fact that in Greek and Roman mythology, the Oceanids were sea nymphs who were the three thousand daughters of Oceanus and Tethys. Each was the patroness of a particular sea, river, island, lake or pond, mirroring as such the European natural features.