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Title: Transnational Access to metrological labs and validation facilities: the example of Shom in the MINKE project

Abstract: MINKE or **M**etrology for **I**ntegrated marine ma**N**agement and **K**nowledge-transfer n**E**twork, is a recent UE project. It aims to integrate key European marine metrology research infrastructures, to coordinate their use and development and propose an innovative framework of "quality of oceanographic data" for the different European actors in charge of monitoring and managing the marine ecosystems. One of its tasks consists in providing access to metrological laboratories and validation facilities through well-established EC Trans National Access instruments.

Shom decided to open its facilities concerning the calibration of current-meters, the calibration in temperature/salinity and the dosage of Pigments.

The calibration of current-meters can be made in direction on a platform built in a controlled magnetic environment and in velocity thanks to a laboratory method allowing deviations in the Doppler effect measurements to be determined.

The master piece of instruments calibration and test in temperature/salinity is a bath of 800 litres filled with seawater which can be stabilized to better than 1 mK in a short time. This bath makes it possible to test large volume instruments. It is completed by salinometers and an automated pressure balance.

The laboratory can also make phytoplankton pigments tests in large quantities with a HPLC device following the Van Heukelem method.

Free access to these instruments will give European scientists access to unique facilities enabling them to test new sensors, to reduce the uncertainty of their measurements and to improve the quality of the data collected.