

# EMSO ERIC

The challenge to Deep Seafloor monitoring to understand  
fundamental process in  
Global Change



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LifeWatch ERIC Scientific Community Meeting  
27-29 May, 2019 – Rome (Italy)





# MISSION

To establish a comprehensive and smart sensor system in water column, seafloor, and sub-seafloor environments as part of the integrated and sustainable organization EMSO ERIC

# REGIONAL FACILITIES AND TEST SITES

**8 Regional Facilities** and **3 Test sites** located at strategic sites from the North Atlantic through the Mediterranean, to the Black Sea

EMSO (European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and Water-column Observatory) is a strategic Marine European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), with the capacity to collect high quality environmental parameters



# EMSO Porcupine Abyssal Plain (PAP)



The PAP is a **sustained, multidisciplinary observatory** in the **North Atlantic**

This site has been studied for over 30 years. It is positioned between the North Atlantic current and the Azores Currents and it is crossed by clockwise and anticlockwise swirls and eddies. Its seabed hosts a rich living community, that is sampled and photographed.

## Deep sea Abyssal Plain

**Distance from land:** 300 miles

**Max water depth:** 4850 m

**Date 1st deployment:**

**Supported by:** United Kingdom



# EMSO Azores



Set atop an active volcano, **the Lucky Strike**, and its hydrothermal field, EMSO-Azores observatory gives unique research opportunities. The hydrothermal vent, which is a fissure in Earth's surface from which hot water come out, can be investigated with a multidisciplinary approach. The **hosted peculiar fauna and microbial communities**, the water composition and circulation are studied. Being at the Mid-Atlantic ridge, where tectonic plates diverge, the site allow to study closely tectonic and volcanic activities.

## Hydrothermal vents

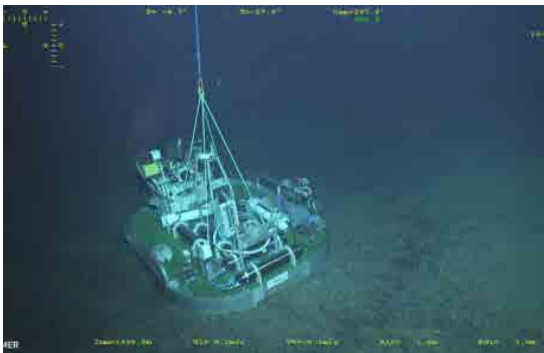
**Location:** Mid-Atlantic ridge near Azores

**Distance from land:** 200 NM

**Max water depth:** 1700 m

**Date 1st deployment:** October 2010

**Supported by:** France



# EMSO Obsea

OBSEA, a permanent underwater cabled seabed observatory located near Barcelona, at 20 m depth is used as a test site for different experiments related with marine sensors. A meteorological station is also available. Obsea offers power supply, **Ethernet and serial communications, and synchronization over PTP IEEE Std 1588. A continuous real-time communication** allows the tracing along the full experiment.



## Test site cable observatory

**Location:** :Northeast Med Spain coast

**Distance from land:** 4 km

**Max water depth:** 20 m

**Date 1st deployment:** 2009

**Supported by:** Spain

**Operated by:** U. Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)

**Website:** <http://www.obsea.es/>

**Status:** test site running (updated Nov. 2017)

**Regional Team Leader:** Joaquin del Rio UPC



# EMSO nodes: Western Ionian Sea



**LNS-INFN Catania**  
Radio Link @ 100 Mbps

10 Gbit GARR-X

Web

20 km

5 km

5 km

SN1

OvDE2

Capo Passero Site

NEMO JB

Shore Station

**INFRASTRUCTURE** NEMO-SN1 seafloor observatory, cabled to laboratory in the harbour of Catania by electro-optical cable

**OPERATING IN REAL TIME SINCE 2005** Integrated with land-based networks by transmitting real-time data to National Seismological Service Centre in Rome; Test-site for realisation of the underwater neutrino telescope

**RESEARCH** Geohazards, tsunamis, climate change, bioacoustics and ambient noise.

**PREVIOUS/RECENT ACTIVITIES** LAMS and SIRENA FESR projects (national), GNDT-SN1 (national), PEGASO project (Structural funds), ESONET demo missions (LIDO, Listening to the Deep Ocean environment), GENESI-DEC, SCIDIP-ES (FP7 infrastructures), KM3NET, TRANSFER

**FUTURE ACTIVITIES** extension of the Catania 30-km cabled; Off Capo Passero 100-km cabling, it has been operating from 2011; Further implementation adding water column and data management from 2012

**WESTERN IONIAN SEA**

## Geo-hazards

(earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity)

## Bio-acoustics

(mammal tracking)

## Oceanography

(e.g., deep water circulation, current intensity and direction, temperature, salinity)

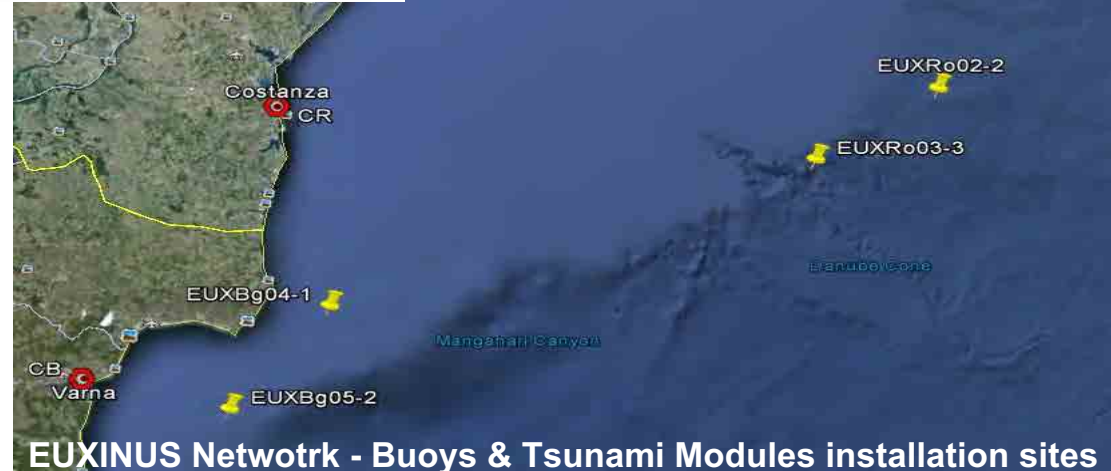


Stand-alone 2002-2003 - Cabled 2005-2008 & 2012-2013 real-time data

# EMSO Black Sea



## Romanian-Black Sea coastal area



## Geo-hazards

(earthquakes, tsunamis)

## Oceanography

(e.g., deep water circulation, current intensity and direction, temperature, salinity)

**Joint regional early-warning system for protection of local communities, environment and assets within the cross-border area, from consequences of natural marine geo-hazards**

### Structural funds:

**CBC Romania-Bulgaria  
2007-2013 Programme**

### Period of implementation:

**December, 2010 - June,  
2013**

**Total value: 6,5 M€**





**Landscape of the European Research Infrastructures in the Environmental sector**

EMSO ERIC essential scientific objectives are to observe, in real time and in the long term, key environmental processes related to the interaction between the geosphere, the biosphere and the hydrosphere.

EMSO facilities require, in the medium and long term, constant technological interventions and enhancement; EMSO members are committed to ensure the assistance of European oceanographic vessels.

# WHY OBSERVE THE DEEP SEA?

## Oceans play a crucial role in human wellbeing

- The ocean regulates climate system, storing a thousand times more heat than the atmosphere and fifty times more carbon. Most of this storage goes to the deep ocean.
- Degradation and loss of biodiversity impacts marine resource exploitation
- Ocean circulation affects climate change
- Natural hazards such as tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions impacts human life

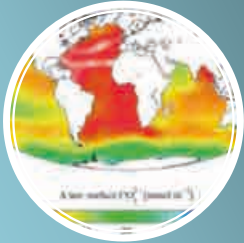
## EMSO ERIC Support investigations in:



**TO ACHIEVE**  
sustainable management and protection of marine resources  
**TO REACH**  
an efficient and reliable services

# Research Infrastructure Challenges

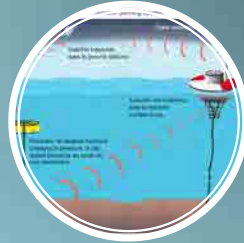
To fulfil European societal scientific demands targeted in the  
EU's H2020 Blue Growth Strategy



Global ocean  
warming and  
acidification



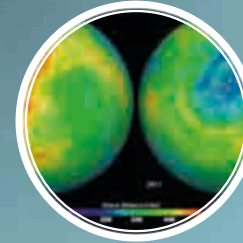
Impact and  
sustainability of  
Marine Resources  
exploitation



Real-time  
observations and  
early warning  
systems for  
earthquakes &  
tsunamis



Marine Ecosystems  
and Climate Change  
mitigation



Earth interactions  
hydrosphere,  
biosphere,  
lithosphere,  
atmosphere

**Access HIGH QUALITY MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA**

# SERVICES

Services represent EMSO's capacity to address common needs:



## Science

Climate Change, ecosystems interactions, Geohazards, gas hydrate releases, anthropogenic marine impact



## Engineering & Logistics

Testing and demonstration, marine operations, sensor & platform development, maintenance



## Data management

Data acquisition, storage, QC and validation, data processing and visualization



## Communications

Brand development, organizational cohesion, media, publications, capacity building, education

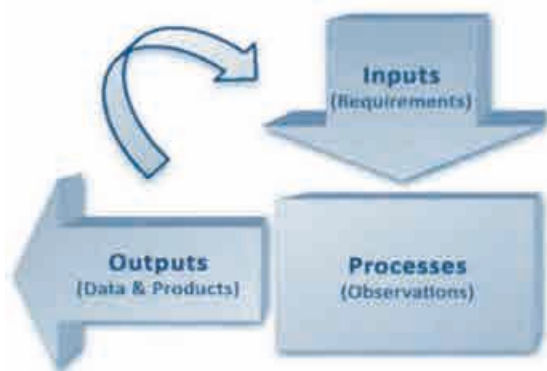


## Industry & innovation

Consultancy & management, commercialization, partnerships, technology transfer

# SCIENCE SERVICES

Open, long-term recording, coordinated, real-time, high resolution, reliable, FREE access



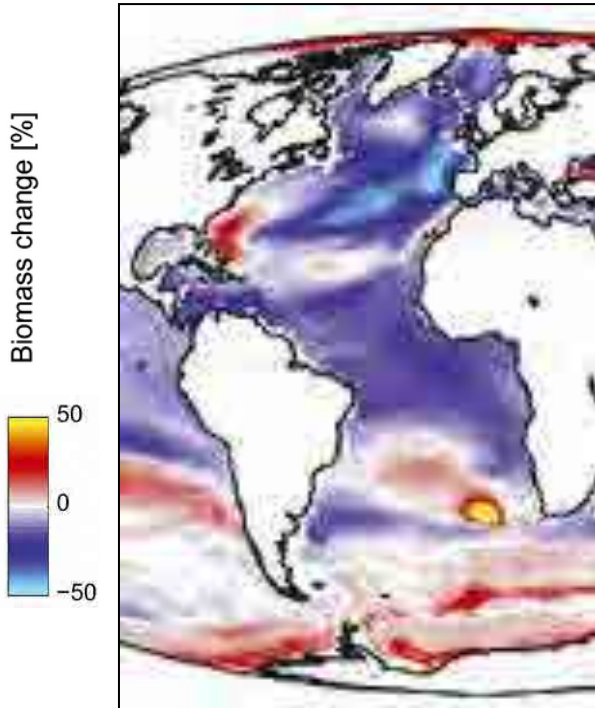
- ✓ Seismicity, Early warning systems, Slope stability, Hydrothermal vents, Sea level rise
- ✓ Ocean acidification, Dynamic of water masses, Mesoscale eddies and topography, Deep underwater circulation
- ✓ Marine ecosystems, biodiversity, Ocean plastic pollution, sustainable fisheries

**Geo-hazards:** Tsunami, Seismic and Volcanic (real-time monitoring)

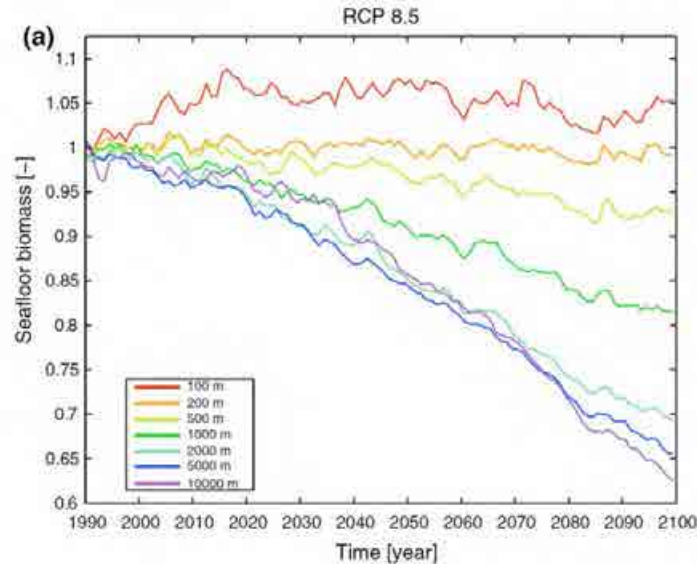
**Oceanography:** Seafloor and water column recording physical parameters (Temperature, Salinity, Pressure, Current, Turbidity, etc.)

**Environmental monitoring:** Anthropogenic noise, Marine mammals tracking, Algal bloom episodes

# ECOSYSTEMS AND CLIMATE



Jones et al. 2014 *Global Change Biology*

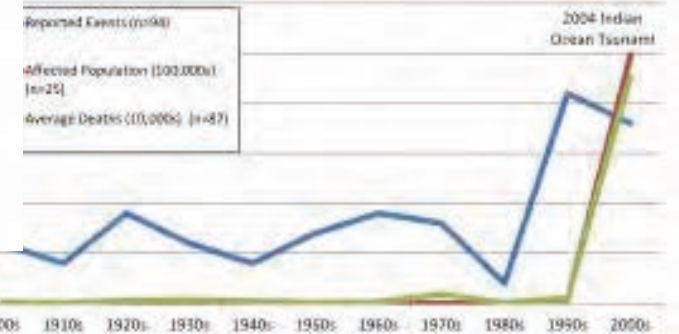
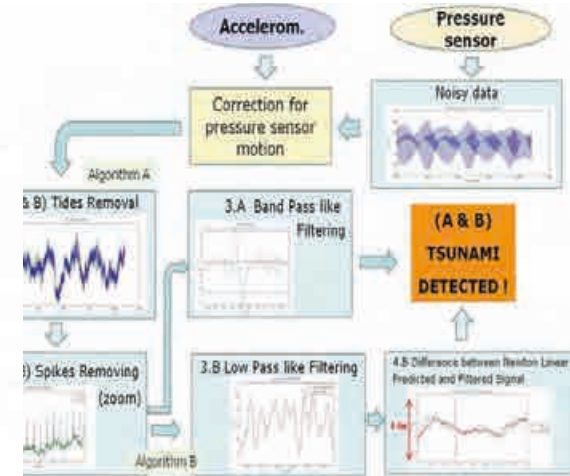
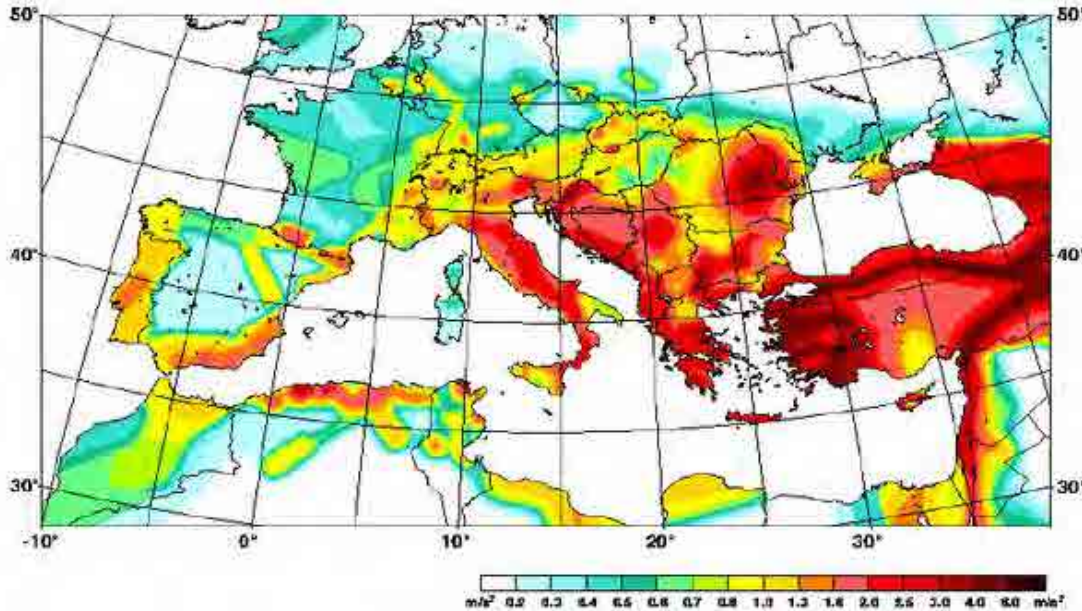


Yool et al. 2017, *Global Change Biology*

- Global warming is not just an environmental disaster but an economic one as well. “If we do nothing, if we do business as usual, by 2100 the median low income country will lose **9 per cent of its GDP**. (IMF Chief Economist [Maurice Obstfeld](#))
- Ocean acidification will cost the world economy more than \$1 trillion annually by 2100, according to the [U. Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

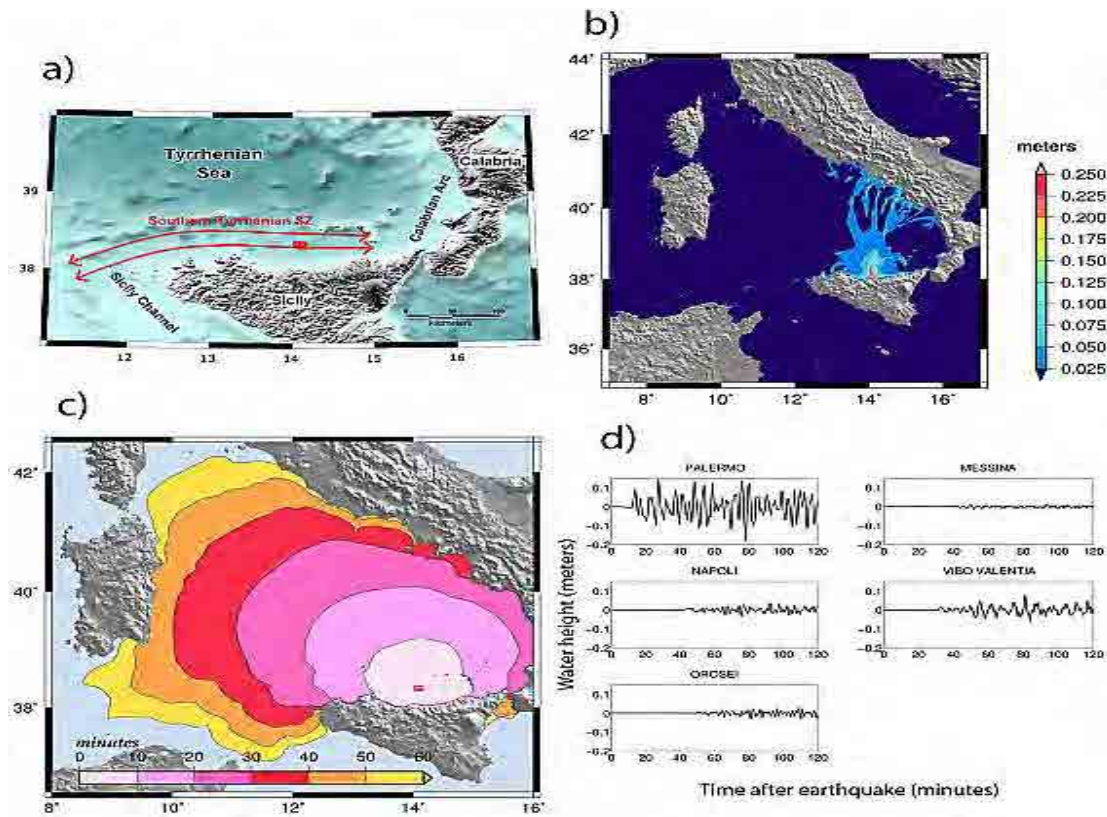


# GEO-HAZARDS



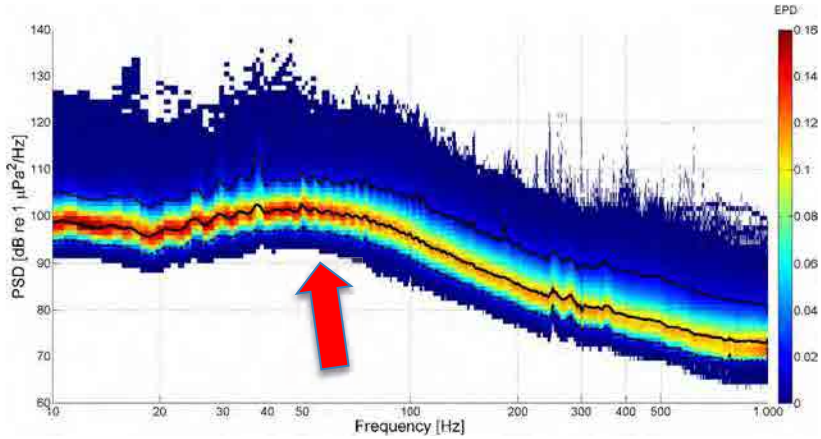
Tsunami events affecting human populations by decade

# Earthquake-generated tsunamis in the Mediterranean Sea: Scenarios of potential threats to Southern Italy





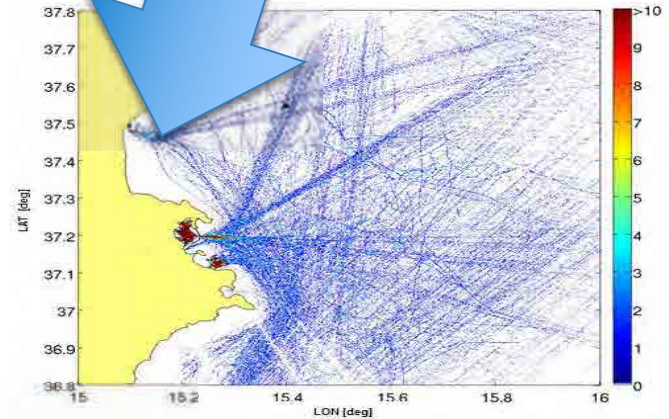
# Marine traffic monitoring



Acoustic noise and correlation with AIS data



Proprietary AIS data in real time on Google map web page (custom app)



Noise distribution showing average PSD (power Spectral Density) Up to about 70 Hz, the median of the average PSD often > 100 dB re 1 μPa<sup>2</sup>/Hz.

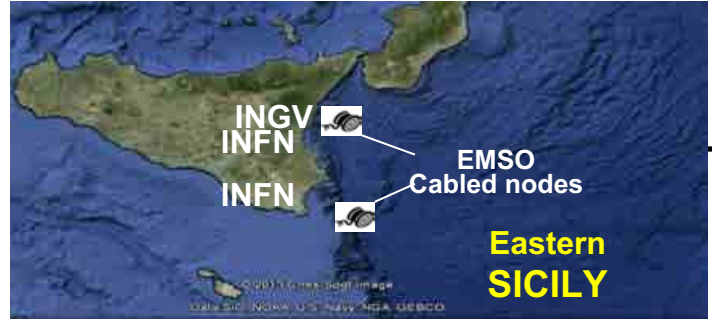
European Marine Strategy

Western Ionian Sea

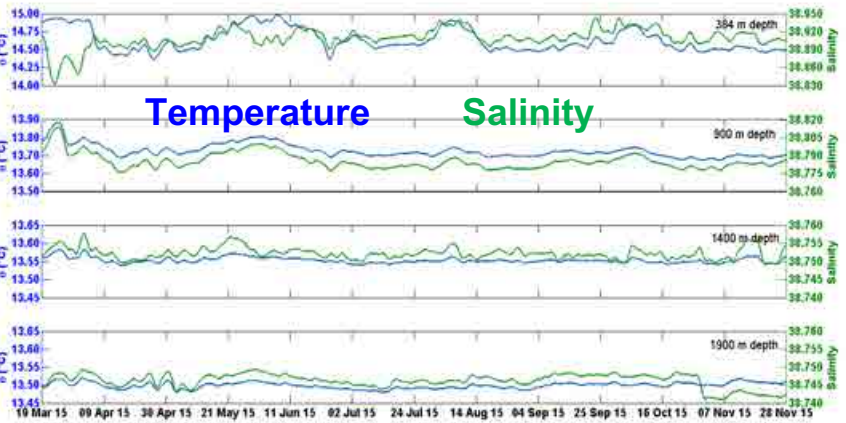
# Global change and Ocean circulation

## Water Column (mooring) - WC-SN1

Physical and biogeochemical parameters

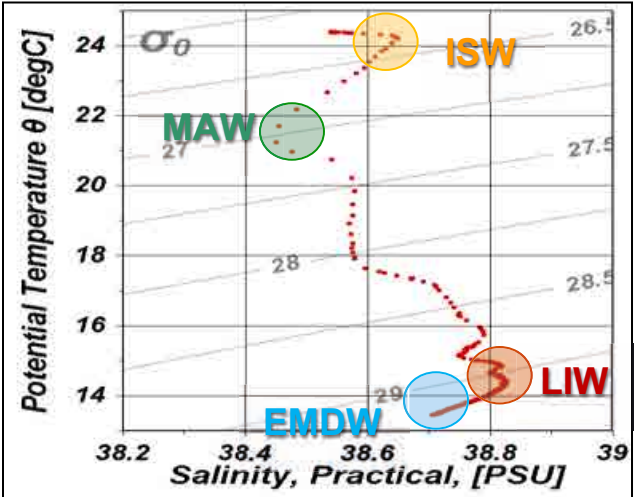
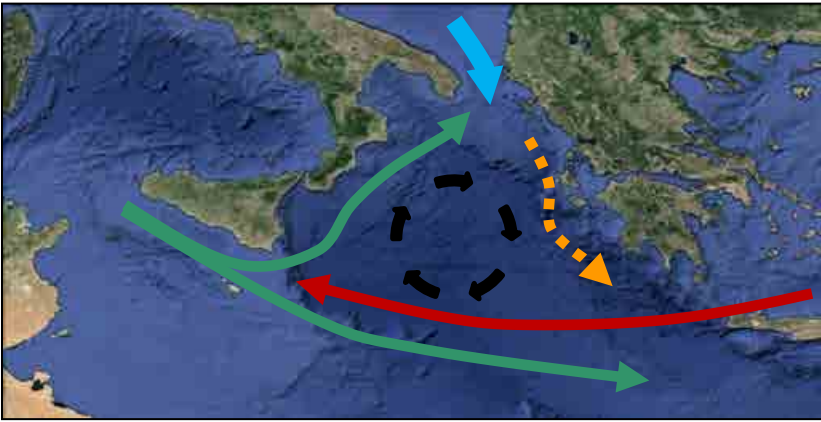


Phase 2  
implemented  
March 2016



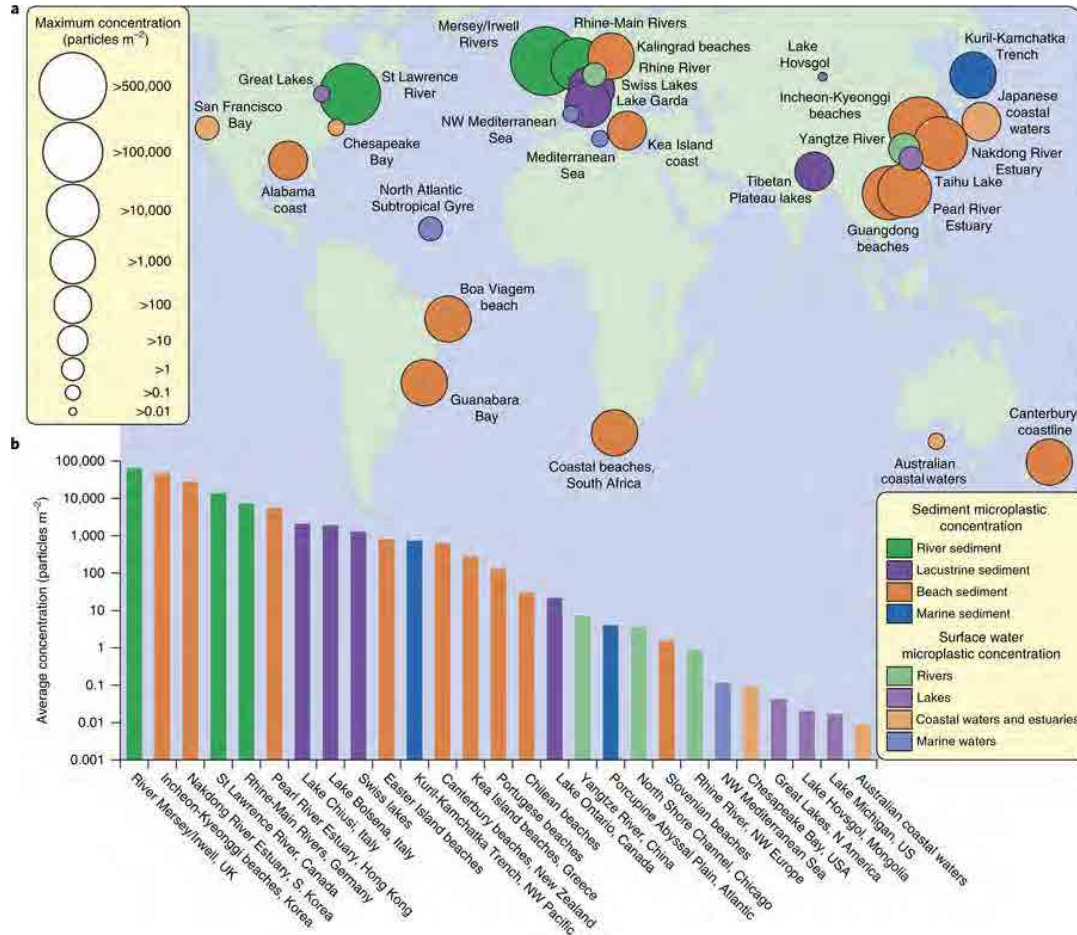
Phase 1  
implemented  
March 2015

# Global change and Ocean circulation



- Modified Atlantic Water (MAW)**
- Levantine Intermediate Water (LIW)**
- Eastern Mediterranean Deep Water (EMDW)**
- Ionian Surface Water (ISW)**
- Bios decadal inversion**

# PLASTICS



‘current estimate for the number of particles in the ocean – is a major underestimate.’

Hurley et al. 2018, *Nature Geoscience*

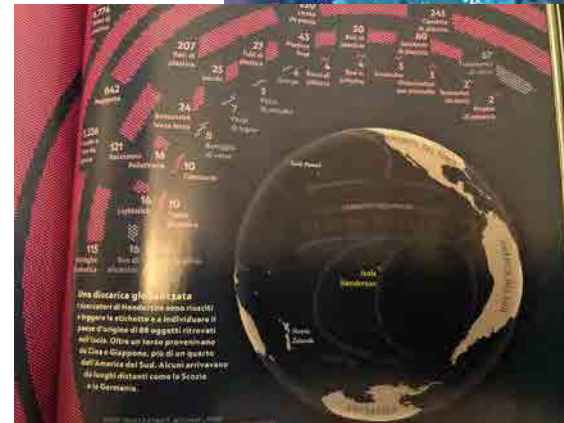
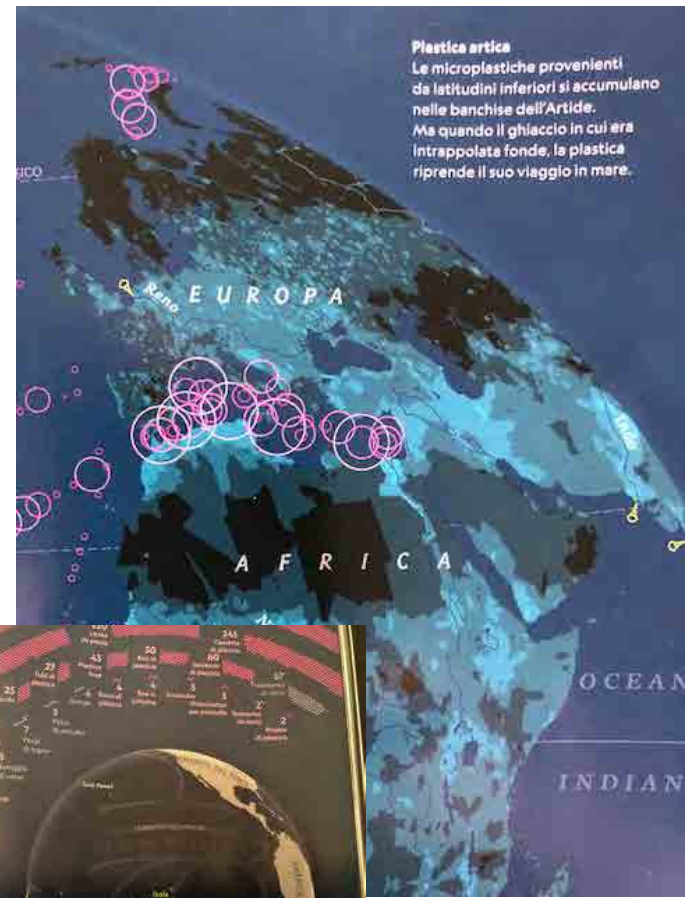
Micro plastics are highly bioavailable to marine organisms, either through direct ingestion, or indirectly by trophic transfer from contaminated prey (Sarah E.Nelms et al., 2018, *Environ. Pollut.*)



# PLASTICS

we are dumping around 10 tons of plastic to the oceans every year, ESA is already indirectly capable of measuring the large distribution of plastic, we are in the way to implement smart sensors capable to detect the "in situ" the volume of **microplastics** in the ocean

**Henderson Island is a tiny, uninhabited island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, 4,000 km from major population centers. It is half the size of Manhattan, more than 19 tons of garbage pollute its white sand beaches.**



From Laura Parker & Randy Olson, National Geographic, June 2018

# COPERNICUS SERVICE

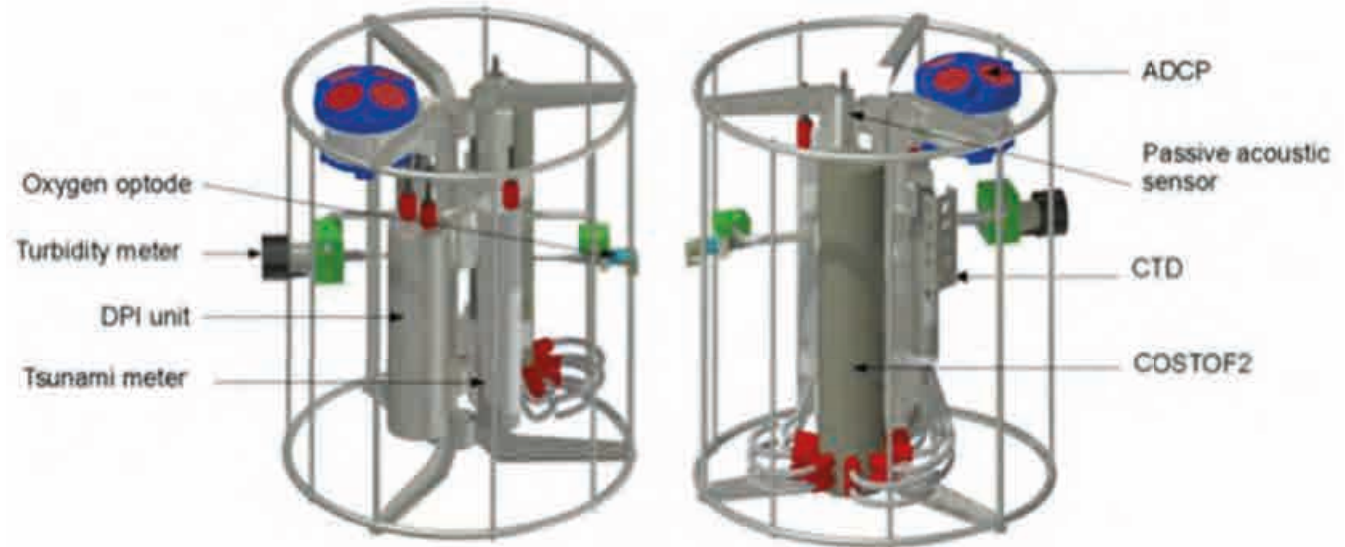
- Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS) provides regular and systematic reference information on the physical state, variability and dynamics of the ocean and marine ecosystems for both the global ocean and the European regional seas.
- Relies on the timely provision of both satellite and in-situ observations. While satellites provide a global view of the surface of the oceans, in-situ systems (i.e. OceanSITES locations, Argo floats via its fleet of ~3,800 in-situ floats) provide complementary data primarily by monitoring their interior.
- Themes include
  - marine safety,
  - marine resources,
  - coastal and ocean environment
  - weather, climate and seasonal forecasting



# ENGINEERING & LOGISTICS

EGIM measurements:

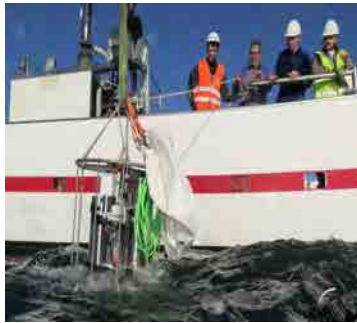
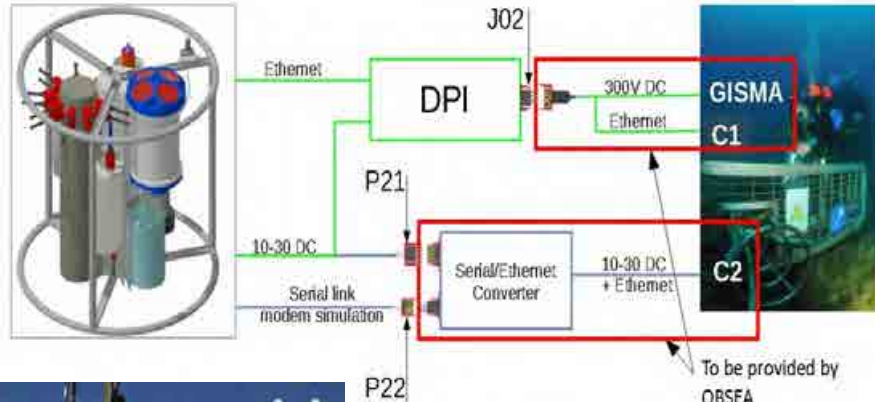
- Temperature
- Conductivity
- Pressure
- Dissolved O<sub>2</sub>
- Turbidity
- Ocean currents
- Passive acoustics



The development of EGIM is an example of the engineering services that EMSO can provide.

# EGIM tests at OBSEA

european  
multidisciplinary  
seafloor and water-column  
observatory development



[www.emsodev.eu](http://www.emsodev.eu)

EGIM prototype was deployed on October 24, 2016  
and recovered on April 24, 2017 (6 months)

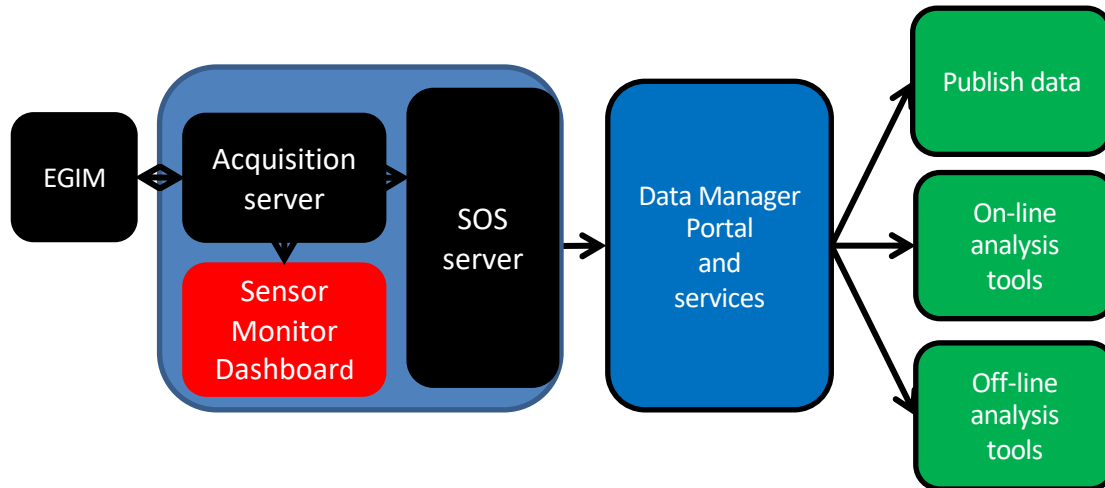




# DATA MANAGEMENT

EMSO offers **data and services** to a large and diverse group of users, **from scientists and industries to institutions and policy makers**

It is an versatile infrastructure to provide relevant information for defining environmental policies based on scientific data



# MOODA

An Python package to help scientist to analyze data from different ocean observatories.

Example of compatible data sources:



# MOODA DATA SOURCES



# PACKAGE OVERVIEW



Marine  
observatory input  
data

**mooda**  
Data access  
modules

WaterFrame

**mooda**  
Analysis  
modules

Download data  
from observatory  
portals if it is  
possible

Controlled via GUI

**Other programs**  
GUI modules



Controlled via Python code

```
import oceanobs.emso as emso

path_data = "data.nc"
ob = emso.EMSO(data)

ob.plt_all()
```

## QC PROCEDURES

Detect  
impossi  
ble  
values



Detect  
local  
impossi  
ble  
values



Detect  
spikes



Detect  
suspec  
+  
slopes

# SUMMARY



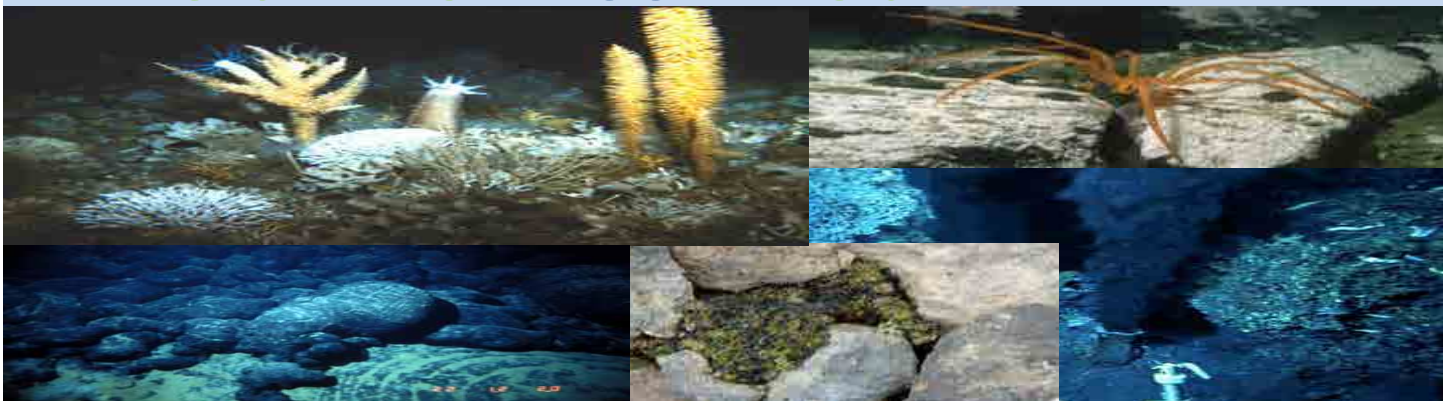
- The development of Distributed RI at seafloor and water column of EMSO nodes (cabled or stand alone) provides a unique European operational capacity in collecting scientifically relevant datasets
- The use EGIM sensor developed within EMSO implements, common, standardized technologies based on architectures and interoperability, enabling EMSO observatories to serve the science community, industry and governmental organizations as well as other key stakeholders and even similar infrastructures



- **EMSO ERIC will provide** information and knowledge impact
- Climate Change & Ocean acidification
- How warming seas are forcing fish to seek new waters
- Appraisal of Economic Impact of Algae Blooms
- Mitigation of Natural disasters (i.e., submarine volcanoes, submarine landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis)
- Copernicus services, marine safety, marine resources, climate forecasting, etc.



OBSERVING THE OCEAN TO SAVE THE EARTH



Thank you for your attention

[www.emso-eu.org](http://www.emso-eu.org)



The EMSO-Link project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements N° 731036.

