

One Mediterranean:
practices, results and strategies for a common Sea

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Strategic Action - Regional Task Force on Coastal Observing Systems

Priority Goal n°4 – Towards an observing system of systems

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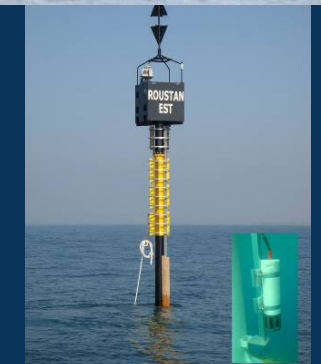
blue**med** Research and Innovation
for blue jobs and growth
in the Mediterranean Area

Regional Task Force on Coastal Observing Systems

Context

Sustainably manage the resources and develop services offered by the Mediterranean Sea faces several challenges:

- The **lack of up to date knowledge on the state of the marine environment** and its evolution
- The **difficulty of characterizing the pressures** exerted by human activities and **their impact** on the sea and the coast
- The **complexity** of the functioning of the coastal marine "socio-ecosystem" and the interactions at work, with the consequent lack of reliable predictive models and thus the **difficulty of building scenarios** and **predicting the consequences of large-scale changes** (global warming, sea level rise, biodiversity erosion, etc.) **that will significantly impact Blue economy** sectors
- **Coastal areas concentrate most anthropogenic pressures** and are the site of many **small-scale processes** that are difficult to observe

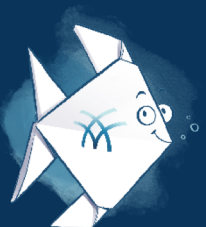
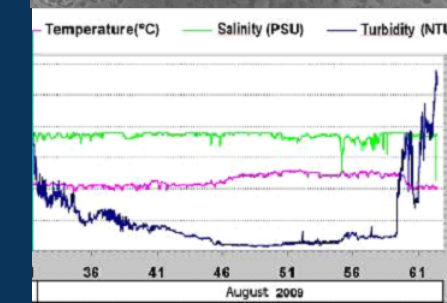
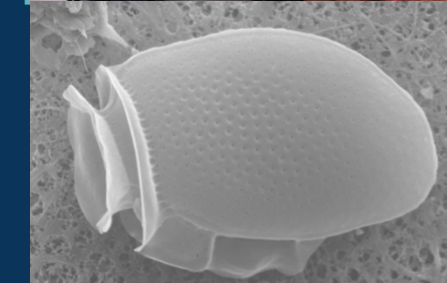


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Objectives

- Set-up a **coordinated network of Mediterranean coastal multidisciplinary observing stations**
- **Harmonize methodology, share approaches** and identify laboratories of reference
- Reinforce the access to land-based facilities and **strengthen Transnational Access** calls to facilitate access for non-EU scientists
- Promote **Open data policies** for observation and monitoring data

⇒ **Link with SA “Cooperation Programme for environmental data collection and sharing between marine economic sectors, environmental authorities, research, and citizens”**



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How to implement ?

- Indicative timing: **Second semester 2021** (identify lead organizations and launch a start-up action)
- Proposed instruments: **Cross-border cooperation Programme, Horizon Europe, EMFF, Interreg Med**
- Associated actors: **UfM, UNEP/MAP, JPI Oceans, Ocean Decade, GFCM, MPAs**
- Tentative budget: **€€€**



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Expected impact

- **Support marine policies** by providing essential information for **sound decision-making** (e.g. MSP, biodiversity and resources preservation, climate change mitigation, pollution reduction...)
- Improve the collection of **quality data** and their **accessibility** to marine research projects
- **Strengthen the collaboration between EU and non-EU Mediterranean countries** by promoting the sharing of environmental data
- **Feed the “Digital twins” of ocean and marine ecosystems**
- Develop the **interactions between the public and private sectors**

