

**3RD SEAS-ERA STRATEGIC FORUM
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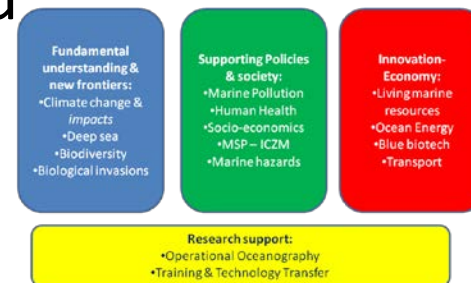
The SEAS-ERA Mediterranean Strategic Research Agenda

**Towards coordinated marine research in the Mediterranean
Sea for new knowledge, environmental protection and blue
growth**

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For the WP7 partners**

Key outputs of the work package (A)

- A **Strategic Research Agenda** for the Mediterranean Marine Science was developed
 - In consultation with the research community and regional stakeholders
- A **Common Program** has been identified and is supported by various stakeholders
 - *“Climate change impact on physical circulation and biogeochemical consequences”*. Emphasis on Infrastructure Sharing mechanism
- Mediterranean Funding Agencies actively participated to the **Joint Call**. Three (3) projects were funded



Key outputs of the work package (B)

- A complete mapping of **Marine Research Infrastructures** in the Mediterranean Sea was carried out with suggestions for future joint management and sharing
- The **Human Capacity Building** mechanisms in the Region were reviewed and proposals for new practices were made
- and.....: A “network” of Mediterranean Marine Research Funding agencies has been created



The Mediterranean SRA

The Vision

“By 2020 the Mediterranean Marine Science should be able to contribute with New Knowledge to efficient Policy Making and sustainable growth of Maritime Economy in response to the societal challenges for Food, Energy, Wellbeing, and a Healthy marine environment following the principles of Ecosystem Approach to Management of Natural Resources”

Regional specificities & context

- A **shared sea** between EU and partner countries
- Important economic & cultural gradients
- But strong **Mediterranean heritage** in many aspects
- Science can play an **integrating** role
- Examples of successful collaborative efforts by the **scientific community**
- Increasing joint initiatives by **Research Funding Organizations** (e.g. ESFRI:EMSO, EuroARGO; by-lateral collaborations)
- Various but not coordinated **funding opportunities** (e.g. structural funds)

The Mediterranean SRA

High level objectives

- Produce **new knowledge** – promote excellence
- Support **sustainable economic growth** ;
innovation; bridge gaps between research and industry
- Support **knowledge based policy making**
(environment, climate, fisheries, ..)
- Develop new **capacities** and promote **convergence**
between Mediterranean countries

Structure and Themes

Fundamental understanding & new frontiers:

- Climate change & *impacts*
- Deep sea
- Biodiversity
- Biological invasions

Supporting Policies & society:

- Marine Pollution
- Human Health
- Socio-economics
 - MSP – ICZM
- Marine hazards

Innovation-Economy:

- Living marine resources
- Ocean Energy
- Blue biotech
- Transport

Research support:

- Operational Oceanography
- Training & Technology Transfer

Future perspectives of the work package

- Focus on maximizing the impact of the SRA and achieve its Vision and Objectives
- At Regional Level:
 - Broad dissemination of the SRA to the various stakeholders
 - Efforts to implement parts of the SRA through national programs
- At European Level:
 - Include elements at a possible Art185 initiative for the Mediterranean
 - Use by JPI-Ocean initiative
 - Possibly Horizon2020 call for the Mediterranean Sea

Conclusions

- The Mediterranean component of SEASERA has contributed to a more coherent view of future Marine Science challenges in the Area
- The SRA provides an opportunity for more coordinated and effective research investments in the area
- It is designed to advance knowledge, provide support to policies and societal challenges and promote Innovative Blue Economic Growth
- Implementation barriers do exist in the context of the present economic recession in the area
- There is a need to make optimal use of Horizon2020 and the different implementation mechanisms (Art185, JPI, Large collaborative projects)