



Upgrade Black Sea SCENE

News Spot No.1

Overview

Upgrade Black Sea SCENE (www.blackseascene.net) is a three year project supported by the European Union under the Seventh Framework Program (FP7) for research and development. It is a continuation of the Black Sea SCENE, dedicated to the development of a scientific network of leading environmental and socio-economic research institutes, universities and NGOs from the countries around the Black Sea, contributing to a growing data and information infrastructure. The project consists of a large consortium of Black Sea institutes and European experts comprising over 50 partner organisations.

The project aims to improve and harmonise the marine data management practices in the region, and expand the coverage of the data infrastructure. Furthermore, it will enhance the exchange of scientific knowledge, and regional cooperation of institutes for environmental problems and better protection, rehabilitation and sustainable development of the Black Sea ecosystem.

More specifically the Upgrade Black Sea SCENE is going to realise its objectives by:

- Implementing the results of the Joint Research Activities of the FP6 RI SeaDataNet project (common communication standards and adapted technologies to ensure the data centres interoperability).
- Building a network of the existing and new Black Sea data centres, active in data collection, and provide integrated databases of standardized quality online.
- Realising and improving online access to *in situ* and remote sensing data, metadata and products.
- Adopting standardised methodologies for data quality checking to ensure the quality, compatibility and coherence of the data issuing from so many sources.

Activities

The implementation of the project started with a kick-off meeting in Istanbul in April 2009. A substantial emphasis has been put on training and harmonisation of standards and data quality control (DQC) methods. New partners in the project took part in a DQC workshop in Brussels, Belgium in September. Another extensive training took place on the premises of the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange programme (IODE) in Ostend, Belgium in October. The training was aimed at those partners in the project that are managing and holding data sets in order to get acquainted with the SeaDataNet services, formats and tools and to get hands-on experience with their use. At the beginning of November the second progress meeting was organised in Bucharest to evaluate the workshops, monitor the progress of actions regarding metadata collection and system development and further detail the project plans.

Outcomes

A tangible outcome of Upgrade Black Sea SCENE is the data access service, implemented through the Common Data Index (CDI). Its primary objective is to give users a highly detailed insight in the availability and geographical spread of marine data across the different data centres and institutes across Europe. The CDI provides an index (metadatabase) to individual data sets. Furthermore, it provides direct online data access or direct online



The project is funded by the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for research infrastructures.



requests for data access or file downloads. Currently, the Black Sea CDI V1 metadatabase contains more than 90 000 individual data entries, covering a broad scope and range of data. In the coming months additional data centres from the network will further populate the CDI metadatabase and other institutes in their countries will be encouraged to participate.

A number of additional catalogues are available from the predecessor project Black Sea SCENE. Now they are upgraded to a higher version, responding to international standards. The metadata services are aimed to make Black Sea scientific information and data more easily traceable by scientists and the general public and can be divided in:

- EDMED - Marine and Environmental Dataset catalogue
- Data Quality Control - DQC methods overview and reference to support tools
- EDMERP - Marine and Environmental Project catalogue
- EDMO- Directory of Marine Organisations active in Black Sea region
- CSR - Directory of Marine Research Cruises in the Black Sea
- Scientists - Directory of Marine Scientists active in Black Sea region
- Bibliography - Scientific Reports and Publications on the Black Sea
- Socio Economic Data on the Black Sea
- Black Sea data products - An overview of specific data products developed under SeaDataNet by Black Sea partners.
- Black Sea EDIOS (ASCABOS project) - An overview of the current operational oceanography in the Black Sea by the bordering countries.

Partners

The joint effort of Black Sea SCENE has run from 2005 to 2008. The consortium has been continued and extended in Upgrade Black Sea SCENE, 2009-2011, adding 23 new partners to the existing 33.

Partners since 2005

Marine Information Service (MARIS), Netherlands

Institute of Fishery Resources (IFR), Bulgaria

Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, Maritime Branch in Gdynia (IMWM MB), Poland

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Hellenic National Oceanographic Data Centre (HCMR/HNODC), Greece

TNO Built Environment and Geosciences, Geological Survey of the Netherlands, Netherlands

Institute of Limnology RAS, Russian Federation

All-Russia Research Institute of Hydrometeorological Information - World Data Centre (RIHMI-WDC) National Oceanographic Data Centre (NODC), Russian Federation

P.P.Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, RAS, Russian Federation

P.P.Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Southern branch, Russian Federation

Institute of Hydrogeology and engineering geology of Georgian Academy of Sciences (GAS), Georgia

Bulgarian National Oceanographic Data Centre(BGODC), Institute of Oceanology, Bulgaria

Iv.Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Centre of Relations with UNESCO Oceanological Research Centre and GeoDNA (UNESCO), Georgia

Scientific-Industrial Center of Research and Governance of Coastal Formation Processes SAKNAPIRDATSVI, Georgia

Centre of Monitoring of Environmental Pollution of the Department of Hydrometeorology of Georgia, Georgia

Institute of Marine Sciences, Middle East Technical University, Turkey

National Institute for Marine Research and Development Grigore Antipa, Romania
State Oceanographic Institute of Roshydromet (SOI), Russian Federation
Marine Hydrophysical Institute, Ukraine
Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Marine Sciences, Turkey
Sinop University, Fisheries Faculty, Turkey
Space Research Institute of RAS, Russian Federation
Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, NAS of Ukraine, Ukraine
National Institute of Marine Geology and Geoecology - GEOECOMAR, Romania
Moscow State University, Geography Department Russian Federation
M. Nodia Institute of Geophysics of Georgian Academy of Science, Georgia
Technical University Varna, Bulgaria
Black Sea NGO Network, Bulgaria
Ukrainian scientific center of Ecology of Sea (UkrSCES), Ukraine
Scientific Research Institute of Ecological Problems (USRIEP), Ukraine
Odessa National I.I.Mechnikov University, Ukraine
Norwegian Institute of Water Research (NIVA), Norway
International Bureau for Environmental Studies (IBES), Belgium
Fieldfare International Ecological Development plc. (FIED), United Kingdom

Partners since 2009

Laboratory of Marine Ecology-Central Laboratory of General Ecology, Bulgaria
Southern Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography, Ukraine
Cyprus Oceanographic Data Center, Oceanography Center, Cyprus
Dokuz Eylul University, Institute of Marine Science and Technology, Turkey
Istanbul University, Institute of Marine Science and Management, Turkey
Marine branch of Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Institute , Ukraine
The Centre for Monitoring and Prognostication of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Georgia
National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - IODE, Belgium
Scientific - Research Firm "GAMMA", Georgia
Permanent Secretariat Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, Turkey
Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IO-BAS), Bulgaria
Marine Sampling Holland BV, Netherlands
Institute of Environmental Geoscience RAS, Russian Federation
Georgian Institute of Water Management, Georgia
Ankara University, Turkey
Balkan Environmental Association (BENA), Greece
Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority, Romania
Taurida V.I. Vernadsky National University, Ukraine
Institute of Geological Sciences - IGS, Ukraine
Center Dynamics of the Nearshore Zone , Russian Federation
University of Mining and Geology - Saint Ivan Rilski, Bulgaria
Danube Hydro-meteorological Observatory, Ukraine