HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH (HCMR)

http://www.hcmr.gr

The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) is a large Governmental Research Centre that belongs to the Ministry of Development, General Secretariat for Research and Technology. It is the main responsible for the Oceanographic, Fisheries and Inland Waters, Marine Biology and Genetics, and Aquaculture research in Greece, constituted of five relevant Institutes with 180 research staff, 110 technicians and 50 administrative and secretarial staff. Almost the 60% of the research staff is working for the Institute of Oceanography (IO), which can support research on the fields of Physical, Chemical, Biological Oceanography, Marine Geology and Geophysics and Operational Oceanography.

The Centre has participated in numerous EU-funded RTD projects like EC Stimulation Action EUROECOMARGE, PELAGOS, OTRANTO, CINCS, MTP-II MATER (Coordinator for E. Mediterranean part), METROMED (Coordinator), KEYCOP, MEDATLAS, INTERPOL (Coordinator), ADIOS, MARSAIS, BEEP, STRATEGY, DANUBS, IASON,SESAME-IP (Coordinator). HCMR has major field research facilities and equipment, including 2 multipurpose research vessels, 1 manned submersible, 3 Remote Operated Vehicles (ROVs) and a wide range of water column and seabed monitoring and surveying instruments. These resources are supported by well-equipped laboratories and analytical facilities.

PARTICLE DYNAMICS

The HCMR-IO has a long tradition in projects related to the study of the Eastern Mediterranean since the 1980s, with particular focus on physical oceanography. In the early 1990s the interactions between the land, the continental shelf and the deep sea concentrated the interest of many projects, and at this time the first continuous light transmission (LT) profiles were collected in the region, providing information about particle distribution in the water column. Over the years, this subject expanded, and particulate matter concentration, particulate organic carbon concentration, particle chemistry and mineralogy became new promising fields of study. The collection of LT data became routine measurement accompanying standard CTD casts. However, those data were used to support the needs of certain research projects, thus information was geographically specific. A long and tedious data mining resulted in the collection of more than 2500 casts. LT profiles were homogenized and corrected from instrumental drifts and a comprehensive view of the Eastern Mediterranean particle dynamics was achieved. This data base will be now shared with the World Data Center for Oceanography and become publicly available. The results of this work were published in Deep-Sea Research I 55, 2008, pp. 177-202.