



# **CONNECTing key players for a national marine observing system fitting to the Maltese Islands.....**

Third GOOS NFP Forum

27<sup>th</sup> October 2025

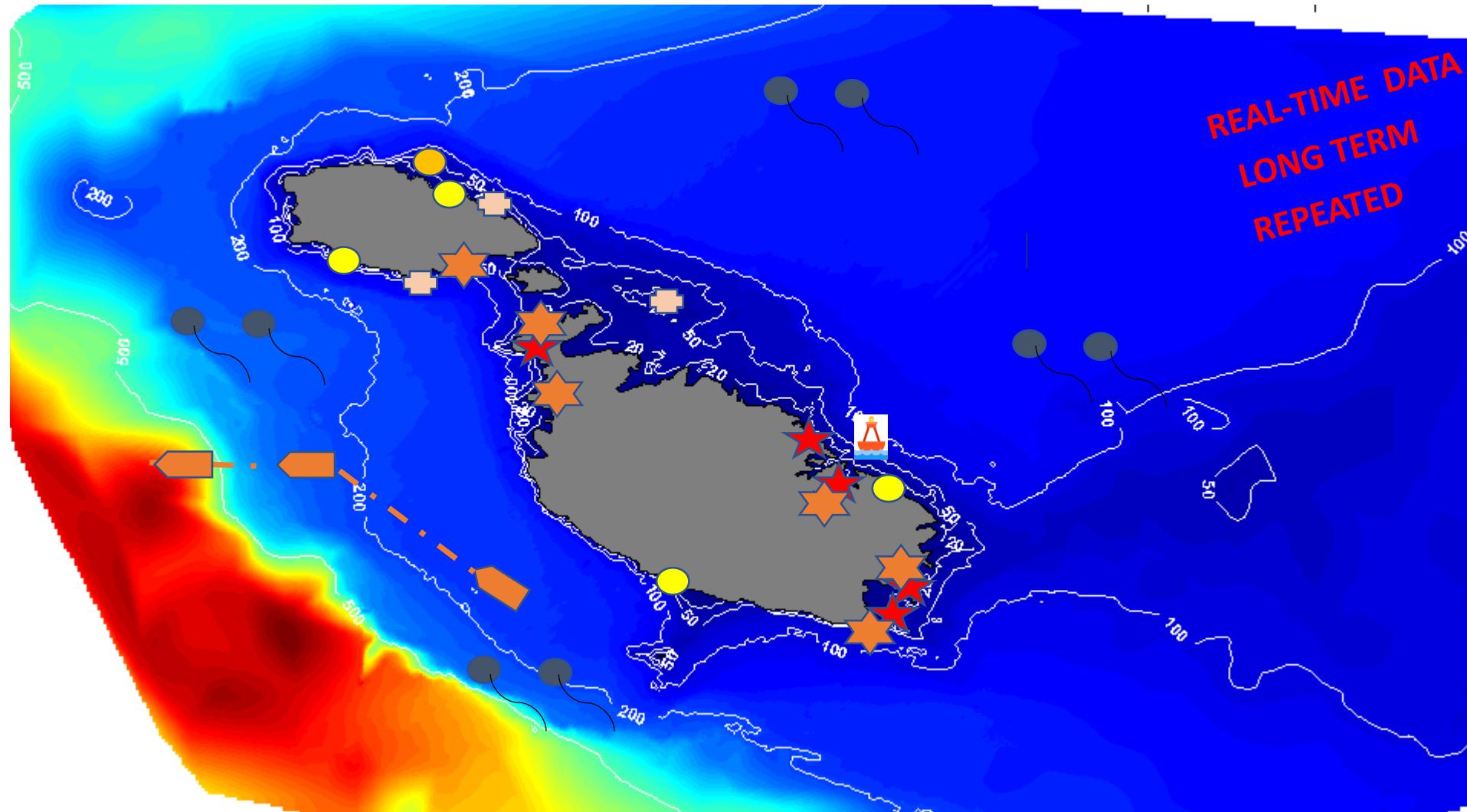
*Organised by the GOOS Office*



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**Building the national capacity to observe and manage the sea**

# PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY UNIT



- HFR STATION
- ★ SEA LEVEL
- ★ METEOROLOGY
- TEMPERATURE PROFILES
- SEA WAVES
- DRIFTERS
- ◀ SEA GLIDERS
- BUOY

EXPERIENCE WITH MARINE OBSERVATIONS IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS

# WHAT WE HAVE vs WHAT WE NEED



*Research-based*

*Project-based*

*Best effort*

*Ad-hoc funding*

*Restricted data access*

*Isolated efforts*

*Service- based*

*System-based*

*Functional effort and secure delivery*

*Regular long-term funding*

*Open FAIR data*

*Combined system*



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## *Pillars of the CONNECT project*

### CONNECTING THE STAKEHOLDERS

CLUSTERING OF INFRASTRUCTURE  
CAPITALISING ON PAST RESEARCH  
BUILDING THE NATIONAL MARINE CORE DATA PLATFORM

Discussion and co-design between stakeholders

Conference as a project milestone

Build a common plan and design for marine observations in Malta

Integrate marine core data into the national data ecosystem

Promote awareness on needs and benefits for marine observations

Submit plans to government for uptake and funding under a national governance framework

# DATA PRODUCERS

*In situ  
Satellite  
Model*

**COLLECT**

*Physics  
Biogeochemical  
Bio-Ecosystem  
+ other*



*Quality control  
Assembly  
Organisation  
Curation*

**DELIVER**

*Digital Products  
and Services*

*Added Value  
Multiple Users*

**USERS**

**USERS**

**USERS**

# DATA RECEIVERS

**DESIGN COMPONENTS OF A MARINE DATA ECOSYSTEM**

# INTERNATIONAL SCENARIOS

Facing challenges and goals as an EU Member State..... OCEAN Pact leading to a binding OCEAN Act in 2027 with revisions on policy and directive commitments (MSFD, CFP, MSP, etc)

Connect actively to European and global digital assets ....*not as passive receivers, but as active partners and recipients; Copernicus Marine, EMODnet, IOC/IODE system*

Intergovernmental Organization (IGO)  
Mercator Ocean....*Malta is a firm candidate to join as a founding Member State; intrinsically linked to the plans for the national marine data ecosystem*

A national ocean smart digital ecosystem not in isolation, but within international scenarios, networks & platforms for ocean data services

Working within the European dimension



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION STARTS WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS

Build on past and recent experiences  
*led regional projects with CNR; initiated the GOOS Regional Alliance for the Med..... OurOBS survey on r/v GAIA BLU*

A new dimension of cooperation.....*Italy putting Malta in its plans, Malta taking Italy as a partner*

Combining efforts....*More than joint courses, capacity building and training ....it is more about joint planning, co-design, sharing assets, know-how and people.....fitting in common governance structures*

**Connecting efforts is more than combining what we do separately**

*Sharing Assets and connecting people*





MCAST



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT  
FOR YOUTH, RESEARCH  
AND INNOVATION

**FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT  
A MARINE OBSERVATION SYSTEM FOR THE MALTESE ISLANDS  
MALTA 2025**

*Overarching guidelines and proposed actions to organize and synergize the cross-sectoral articulation of a national integrated and globally embedded marine observation system to assess and address environmental threats in the Maltese territorial waters, connecting marine data and research to society, and serving the wider interlinked contexts of security and control, monitoring and sustainability, and innovative smart applications to boost benefits within the Blue Economy.*

*Document presented as a deliverable of the CONNECT project led by the Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology and funded by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Youth, Research & Innovation*



*This document is written by Prof. Aldo Drago, with reflections and contributions by the CONNECT Core Group of stakeholders, from direct inputs by experts and consultations made at the CONNECT National Conference on marine observations held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2025.*



***CONNECTing with you***



**GRAZZI**

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