

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

Third GOOS NFP Forum

27th October 2025

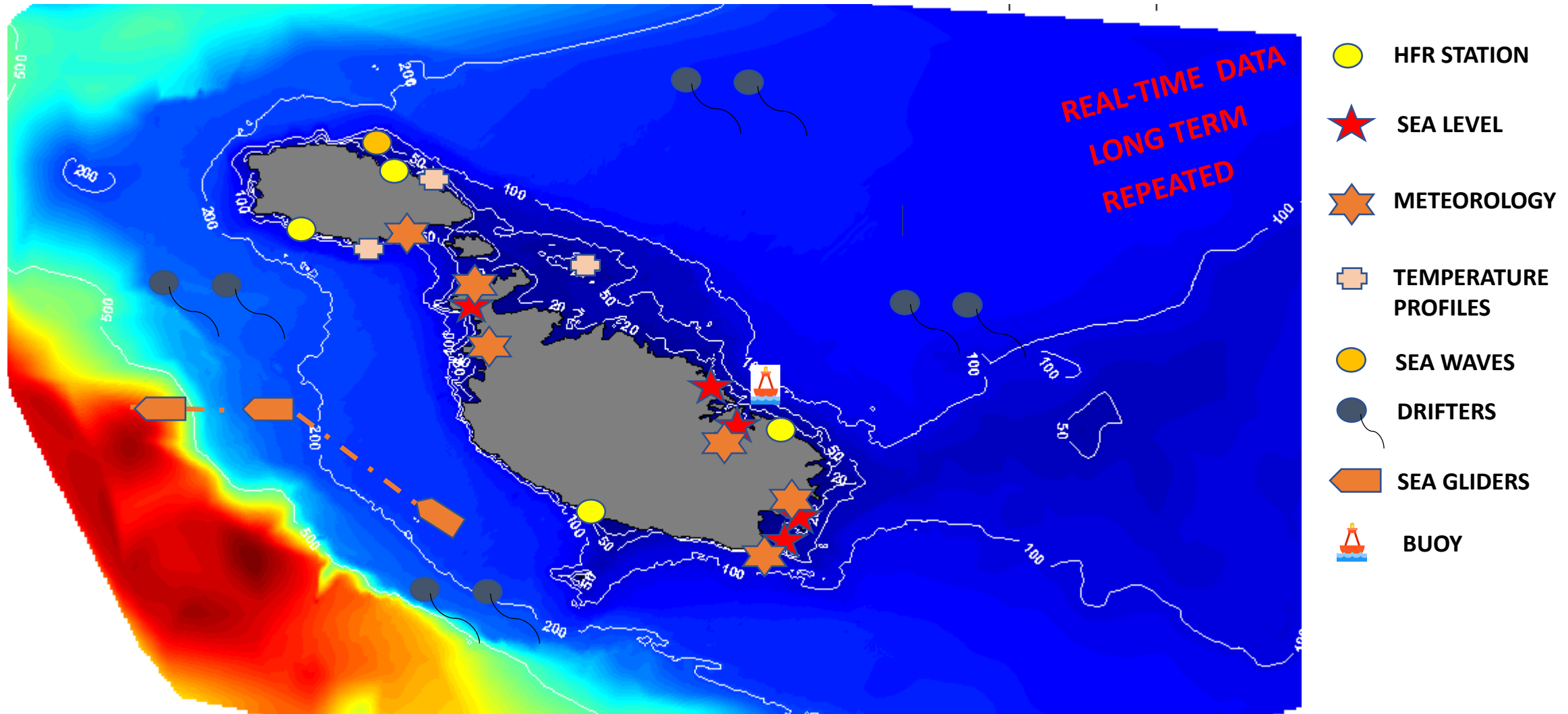
Organised by the GOOS Office



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

PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY UNIT



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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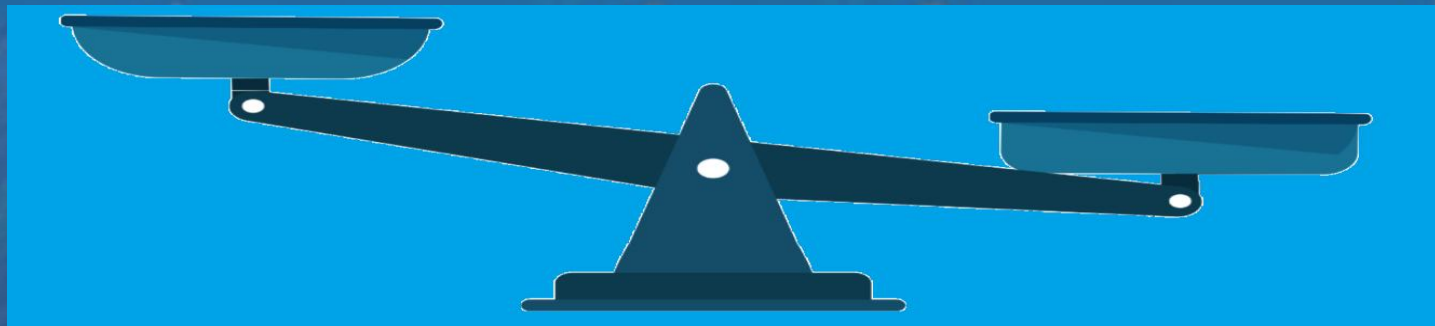
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*Pillars of the **CONNECT** project*

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*

**Data
Management
& Harnessing**

*Quality control
Assembly
Organisation
Curation*

DELIVER

*Digital Products
and Services*

INTERMEDIATE USERS

USERS

USERS

USERS

*Added Value
Multiple 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*

Working within the European dimension



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



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 trainingit 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.

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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 29th September 2025.



CONNECTing with you



GRAZZI

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