



How to monitor the Ocean with IN-SITU observations

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📍 Inspire Area – European Digital Ocean Pavilion

🌐 United Nations Ocean Conference 2025

Abstract

CONNECT - Building blocks for a national marine observing system in the Maltese Islands

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With a 360-degree view of the sea surrounding the Maltese Islands, and a marine area under national jurisdiction up to the 12 nm limit that is 14 times the size of the land, the challenge to measure, monitor and manage territorial waters is even harder than for other EU countries. Several experiences in operational oceanography have been made in the last 25 years. CONNECT is an initiative run by the Malta College for Arts, Science & Technology under the patronage of the Parliamentary Secretariat for Youth, Research & Innovation that is taking these experiences to a higher level by putting plans and funds together for synergy and complementarity to build a sustained national marine observation system that delivers essential marine data to the nation, and to the benefit of society.

High-quality marine data is key to the monitoring of the state of health of the sea, and the conservation and management of its resources. Marine data is required by users to meet their operational (e.g. port activities, shipping and navigation, oil exploration, aquaculture & fisheries, oil pollution response, search & rescue), and strategic planning and management needs (e.g. marine spatial planning, marine food resources and ecosystem services, climate change, mitigation and adaptation), on top of the broader ambitious targets of the European Green Deal, and other international agreements.

