

### Contents

1. Coordinators Corner
2. EuroSITES meetings 2008/9
3. Oversight Committee
4. Outreach
5. Data management
6. Field work and Science missions
7. Workshops and meetings

#### 1. Coordinators Corner:

Welcome to the first issue of EuroSITES News! This issue reports on the first 18 months of the project. EuroSITES kicked-off in April 2008 in Vienna as one of the first FP7 Environment projects under Earth Observation. The first 18 months has seen integration activities including the launch of a common data policy for the network. In month 1 a project website was launched with a dedicated outreach website for communication and knowledge transfer activities soon after. In April 2009, EuroSITES partners INDP hosted the first Annual meeting in Cape Verde, home to the newest observatory in the network, TENATSO. 2009 was a benchmark year for EuroSITES field work and science missions (summarised on page 2.) For the latest information on activities and news visit the project website:

<http://www.eurosites.info>

#### Coordination office:

NERC-NOCS, UK

**Richard Lampitt:**

[rs1@noc.soton.ac.uk](mailto:rs1@noc.soton.ac.uk)

**Kate Larkin:**

[kell1@noc.soton.ac.uk](mailto:kell1@noc.soton.ac.uk)

#### 13 Partner institutes:

1. NERC-NOCS (coordinator);
2. UiB; 3. HCMR; 4. OGS; 5. CNR-ISSIA; 6. IFM-GEOMAR; 7. UNIABN;
8. CNRS; 9. IFREMER; SOPAB-Océanopolis; 11. ICCM; 12. INDP;
13. ULPGC.

8 countries (7 EU and 1 ICPC)

#### Upcoming EuroSITES meetings:

EuroSITES 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual meeting,

Trieste, 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010

### Introduction

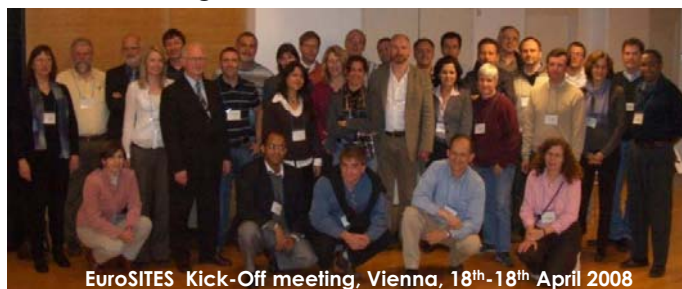
EuroSITES is a 3 year collaborative FP7 project ( 3.5M Euro) which has the objective to **integrate** and **enhance** the nine existing open ocean fixed point observatories around Europe. This multi-disciplinary *in situ* ocean observation network comprises the European contribution to the OceanSITES global array ([www.oceansites.org](http://www.oceansites.org)) and will contribute to progressing Europe's capability for **ocean observation** in the **ocean interior**, **seafloor** and **subseafloor**.



### EuroSITES Network of Ocean Observatories.

EuroSITES supports the maintenance and enhancement of 9 core sites (blue) across Europe including the Norwegian Sea, the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. Science missions (ocean interior and seafloor) are also carried out at associated sites (green). See website for more latest news.

### 2. EuroSITES meetings 2008/9



EuroSITES Kick-Off meeting, Vienna, 18<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> April 2008

EuroSITES held its **kick-off** meeting on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April 2008 in **Vienna** for Consortium members and the Oversight Committee. Representatives from all 13 partners were present and topics of discussion included:

- The current status and future development of fixed-point ocean observatories across Europe
- The role of European observational research as part of a global network.



Mindelo, São Vicente, Cape Verde



EuroSITES Annual meeting 2009

**EuroSITES Annual meeting 2009: April 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, Cape Verde:** After 1 year of Activity, the EuroSITES Consortium and Oversight Committee members reconvened for the first Annual meeting in 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 in São Vicente, **Cape Verde**. The meeting was hosted by partners **INDP** based in Mindelo, leaders of the newest EuroSITES observatory, TENATSO. Activity from each of the observatory sites and science missions were reported along with discussions on data management and outreach. The next Annual meeting will be hosted by partners OGS in Trieste, 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010.



### 3. The EuroSITES Oversight Committee

The EuroSITES Oversight Committee (OC) is a group of 12 international experts in observatory science, modelling, data management and programme management. The aim of the OC is to act as an independent advisory panel for EuroSITES including contributing to the future vision of EuroSITES and to help foster links with the international ocean and earth observation communities. The OC attend EuroSITES Annual meetings and also meet via teleconference. Further details of membership and role are listed on the website.

### 4. EuroSITES Outreach launches website and Fact Sheet

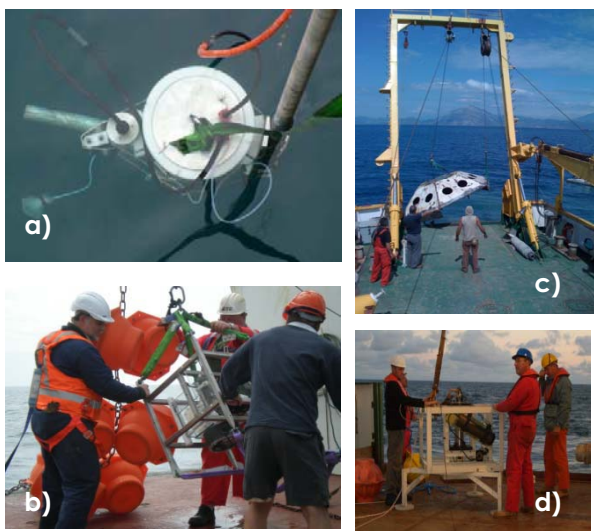
EuroSITES outreach is led by SOPAB-Océanopolis. In the first 18 months an **outreach website** has been launched along with an educational **Fact Sheet**. An interactive comparison tool is being developed for the website along with a EuroSITES film. <http://outreach.eurosites.info/>



### 5. Field Work and Science Missions:

In the first 18 months, all 9 observatory sites have been active with field work and cruises. Highlights include the **enhancement** of many observatories with **biogeochemical** sensors to measure in particular  $O_2$ ,  $pCO_2$ , chlorophyll, nitrate and pH. A technical meeting for WP3 has been planned for 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November 2009 (Villefranche) focusing on biogeochemical measurements. EuroSITES **Science missions** have also been active progressing ocean observation beyond the current state-of-the-art:

- **Ocean interior:** deep ocean oxygen consumption, ocean acidification and mesozooplankton
- **Seafloor and subsurface:** fluid flow, tsunami detection, benthic biology monitoring.



a) pH sensor (Task 3.4): Trial deployment 2009  
b) IODA6000  $O_2$  consumption (Task 3.2): PAP deployment, July 2009  
c) FluSO: Fluid Flow (Task 4.3): Deployment May 2009  
d) Benthic biology monitoring (Task 4.4): Bathysnap time-lapse camera. Deployments in May 2010 (stand-alone and MODOO)

### 6. EuroSITES Data management launches Open Access Data Policy.

EuroSITES Data management is led by NERC-NOCS. **Open data access** is the underlying philosophy for EuroSITES as a component and regional implementation of OceanSITES ([www.oceansites.org](http://www.oceansites.org)). Within the first year a **common EuroSITES data policy** was launched and adopted by all partners. EuroSITES data currently enter the public domain through the **EuroSITES DAC** (NERC-NOCS), EuroSITES website and the **CORIOLIS ftp data server** <ftp://ftp.ifremer.fr/ifremer/oceansites/> in **OceanSITES NetCDF** format. Real-time temperature and salinity data are currently made available daily to the **WMO/GTS** (through Météo-France) and EU **MyOcean** in-situ Thematic Assembly Centre available to European operational oceanography models e.g. MERCATOR Ocean. In 2010 this will further develop to include more biogeochemical datasets to increase users.



### 7. International links and contributions

EuroSITES partners attended many international meetings during 2008 and 2009 to promote EuroSITES research. One key meeting was OceanObs'09. Community white papers and additional contributions from OO'09 can be viewed at: [www.oceanobs09.net](http://www.oceanobs09.net). EuroSITES continues to develop links with other relevant EU projects including ESONET, EMSO, HYPOX and the Hausgarten Arctic observatory. DG Environment projects were promoted at the EC sustainable development conference in May 2009. Other meetings include a joint meeting between **ESONET** and **EuroSITES** in April 2008, ESONET All Regions and best practice workshops and the first VISO workshop in Tromsø, in June 2009. Internationally, EuroSITES is contributing to OceanSITES and working with the \$400M NSF funded **Ocean Observatories Initiative** (OOI) which started its implementation phase in autumn 2009 and **NEPTUNE Canada** which goes live on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009: <http://www.neptunecanada.ca>.

**ESONET and EuroSITES Joint mission:** In May 2009 the ESONET demonstration mission **MODOO** kicked off. Led by IFM-GEOMAR, Kiel and with ESONET and EuroSITES partners, MODOO will enhance the ocean observation capabilities at the PAP observatory, NE Atlantic with a seafloor lander system and near real-time transmission of data from 4800m depth <http://www.modoo.info>.

**GEO:** EuroSITES is funded under Earth Observations and is a key contributor to the **Group on Earth Observations (GEO)** through **OceanSITES**. EuroSITES has registered to task **AR-09-03c** 'Global Ocean Observing Systems' (led by GOOS, IEEA and POGO). Other tasks and societal benefit areas are of interest. In 2008 and 2009 EuroSITES partners attended GEO Workshops and Science and Technology panel meetings.