

Operating a network of integrated observatory systems in the Mediterranean Sea

ODYSSEA Status & Challenges Three and a half years into the project

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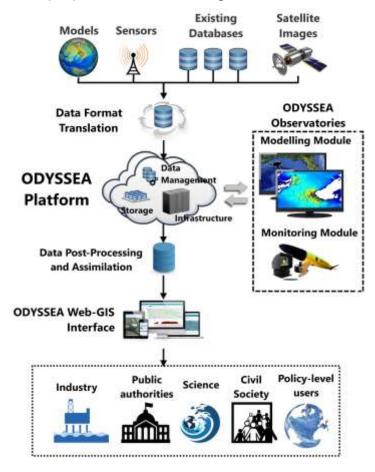
ODYSSEA General Assembly Virtual Meeting

Date: October 26 - 29, 2020

Venue: Zoom

In the DoA, we have stated that the ODYSSEA project with its user-centered approach is designed around four main phases: (A) Preparatory Actions (WP1 – WP3), (B) Data Collection (WP4 – WP5), (C) Generating Services (WP6 – WP8) and (D) Impact Generation (WP9 – WP12). However, in practice there are really three main interrelated main activities: (A) Setting up and operating the observatories (WP2, WP4 – WP5), (B) Developing the platform (WP3, WP6 – WP8) and (C) Ensuring the uptake of the results by a large audience in general and Blue Growth in particular (WP9 – WP12). Put it otherwise, these three main activities are the data input (A), processing and information output (B) and use (C).

Being at over 75% of the project, the various blocks have started to converge and we are beginning to roll out the ODYSSEA platform. Platform should be understood in the wide sense of the word: it is not only the computer platform that is being developed in WP6 under leadership of Nicolas Granier and Simon Keeble with the algorithms developed in WP7 integrated, but the entire "production chain" of obtaining and processing the data, including models, to produce the services for our end-users. We would like to point out to the diagram that we already put in the proposal for the first stage.



Observatories have been set up and some have already received and even operated instrumentation; most of the other Observatories will already have deployed instrumentation by the time the GA meeting will take place; version 2 of the platform is launched and improved; and the services that we selected are being integrated. We are already identifying demand for these services and the business development is in full swing.

We need to ensure that the integration and convergence of activities will continue and, when required, intensify. Ahead of the meeting, we may distribute a small number of documents that will be the base of our discussions. Regarding the format of the meeting, the objective is to ensure that a constructive discussion and analysis will take place about the current status of the main activities and steps that have to be taken in the next phase.

Due to the Corona outbreak, we will not meet physically, but only virtually through Zoom.

In order to provide some structure, we would like to focus on the following issues:

- 1. The services that we are developing, both analysing the full "production chain" and the business potential of each service
- 2. The sustainability of the ODYSSEA after the funded project will end and the legal aspects of the sustainability
- 3. Deployment of the equipment at the observatories and the impact of Corona
- 4. Development of the computer platform

On purpose, we have left the agenda rather open in order to facilitate and encourage the frank and open discussions that are required to make progress in the main activities. We are aware that we have a number of unknowns in the equation that we need to solve, but we strongly believe that our meeting will allow us to make (significant) progress here. Therefore, there will be few presentations, if any at all, but lots of discussion moderated mainly by the management team. **Ghada and Lorinc** will moderate the discussion regarding the production chain of the services, **Claire D.** will moderate the discussion related to the use and business cases of those services and **Nicolas and Simon K.** will moderate the discussion related to the platform that will produce the services. **Raanan** will moderate the discussion related to the observatories. If time allows, we will discuss the capacity building as well – this discussion will be moderated by **Slim & Menelaos**. Last, but not least, **Meny and Simon vD** will moderate the discussion related to the legal aspects of the sustainability, based upon the attached document. The preparation of the sustainability session would be greatly enhanced if each of you could send us your questions about this document.

An important practical note: we have listed some people as moderators, but we encourage everybody to participate in the discussion and collect your opinions as they matter a lot.

Agenda

Date	Timing (CET)	Topic	Moderator
Oct 26	14:00 - 16:00	Objectives meeting; Overview current status	Georgios
Oct 27	10:00 - 12:00	ODYSSEA services (production chain)	Ghada, Lorinc, Nicolas, Simon K & Claire D
Oct 27	14:00 - 16:00	ODYSSEA services (production chain)	Ghada, Lorinc, Nicolas, Simon K & Claire D
Oct 28	10:00 - 12:00	Legal Issues of Sustainability	Meny & Simon vD
Oct 28	14:00 - 16:00	Sustainability of the Observatories	Raanan
Oct 29	11:00 - 13:00	Open Session	Menelaos & Simon vD
Oct 29	15:00 - 17:00	Wrap Up Meeting	Georgios

Wishing us all a successful and enjoyable ODYSSEA Meeting!