

**The EU-funded ODYSSEA Project was presented at the III. National Marine Sciences Conference, İzmir, Turkey, May 9-12, 2018.**

Marine Sciences and Technology Institute hosted the Conference in order to bring together several actors and stakeholders in the field of marine sector/science and discuss the problems of the sector, current situation within the framework of physical, chemical and biological oceanography, marine geophysics, technology, archaeology and also Antarctic researches.

About 400 people from various universities, non-governmental organizations, private corporations and public institutions participated to the meeting with 209 presentations in the sponsorship of İzmir Municipality, İZSU, Turkish Chamber of Shipping, Hoytek, Inoc, Derinsu Underwater Engineering, DenAr, Ekoton, MCH Marine Survey Company, Geomarine, Marex, Tramola and Mediterranean Conservation Society.

In the conference, Project team at ODYSSEA Turkish partner, made a presentation about the ODYSSEA's goals and vision that is aimed to create Mediterranean marine data easily accessible and operational to multiple end-users. During the presentation, the targets of "Blue Growth" for a sustainable management of the marine and coastal regions through the sectors of tourism, marine biotechnology, energy, management were emphasized. Additional explanations were done relating with the importance of integrate information obtained from existing observation platforms and databases in the Mediterranean Sea, held by hundreds of institutions, towards a more systematic, unifying, cost-effective and user-driven system.

By drawing attention to the approach of the prioritized project area "innovative technologies and education", participants were informed about "The 1<sup>st</sup> ODYSSEA Summer School Operational Oceanography for science, business and society".

During the congress, information about Gökova Observatory was given and feedbacks were received by discussing with participants on present situations, knowledge gaps and requirements of end-users in the Gulf of Gökova and Turkish coast of Eastern Mediterranean.

