



Bulgarian Activities in the building of Black Sea In Situ Thematic Assembly Centre within MyOcean project

Atanas Palazov, Veselka Marinova, Violeta Slabakova, and Asen Stefanov

Institute of Oceanology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Varna, Bulgaria (palazov@io-bas.bg)

European Commission has granted MyOcean project within the GMES Program (7th Framework Program), which objective is to define and to set up a concerted and integrated pan-European capacity for ocean monitoring and forecasting. One of the various tasks of the MyOcean project - the In Situ Thematic Assembly Centre (INS TAC) – aims to provide operational oceanographic products for both, the Global Ocean and all European regions, and to develop improved common validation procedures for the products and services. The In-situ TAC is composed of three entities: coordination group, global In-Situ centre, regional In-Situ centres. The Bulgarian Institute of Oceanology (IO-BAS) started serving operational oceanographic data from Galata platform operated by the Bulgarian National Oceanographic Data Centre (BGODC) in 2006. Galata platform real time data is one of the most important sources of multi-parameter operational information in the Black Sea. Within the MyOcean project, the BGODC has become the regional assembly centre (RDAC) for Black sea in situ data. As a regional assembly centre the BGODC delivers in situ data to the global assembly centre and to the Black sea MFC (regional monitoring and forecasting center), where it is used for assimilation or validation of model output. The Black Sea component of the INS TAC is composed of a Production Unit (PU) and a Distribution Unit (DU) operated by BGODC. IOBAS is in charge of the data acquisition for temperature and salinity parameters, their real-time quality-control procedures (RTQC) and their assessment. Real-time quality-control procedures have been defined in the MyOcean project and all data go through these procedures and are flagged according to the SeaDataNet Quality flag scale. The data file format is an implementation of NetCDF OceanSITES format. Black sea RDAC distributes all its new data on its regional portal. The regional portal is a FTP site where data files are regularly distributed. The Bulgarian Institute of Oceanology has also started work on other data types gathered on Galata platform and research vessels. These data types include different kinds of biological and chemical data that will become available to internal and external users in near real time and delayed mode. Next step will be to include real time data available from Romanian and Ukrainian waters, mainly from coastal stations and offshore platforms.