



**Interreg**  
Atlantic Area  
European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION

# High-frequency spot sampling versus passive sampling: steps towards the acceptance of DGTs for regulatory monitoring. Case study in two estuaries of the Basque Coast

**MONITOOL**   
new tools for water quality monitoring

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# MONITOOL 8 Full Partners



Università degli Studi di Cagliari



# MONITOOL 9 Associated Partners (stakeholders & end users)



Biggest European consortium working on DGTs

# Introduction



## European Water Framework Directive (WFD;2000/60/EC)

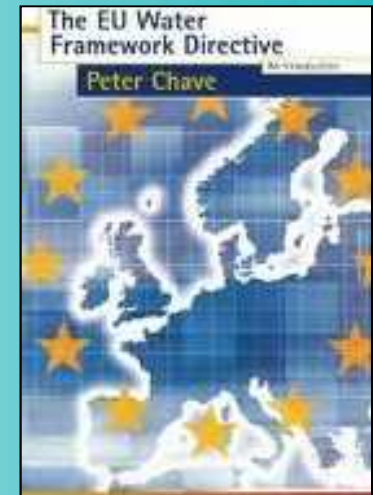
Aim: to achieve a “Good Ecological and Chemical Status” for all European Union waters (including transitional/estuarine and coastal waters)

### Ecological status

- Biological
- Hydromorphological
- Physico-chemical (main pollutants)

### Chemical status

- Priority substances



❖ WFD (2013/39/EU) → 45 priority substances

❖ Four toxic metals (Cd, Pb, Ni, Hg)

❖ Good chemical status (*sensu* WFD)

❖ [priority substances] < Environmental Quality Standards (EQS)

❖ ‘Compliance Checking’

# MONITOOL Project EAPA\_565/2016



Interreg Atlantic Area Transnational Cooperation Programme

3 years (2017-2020)

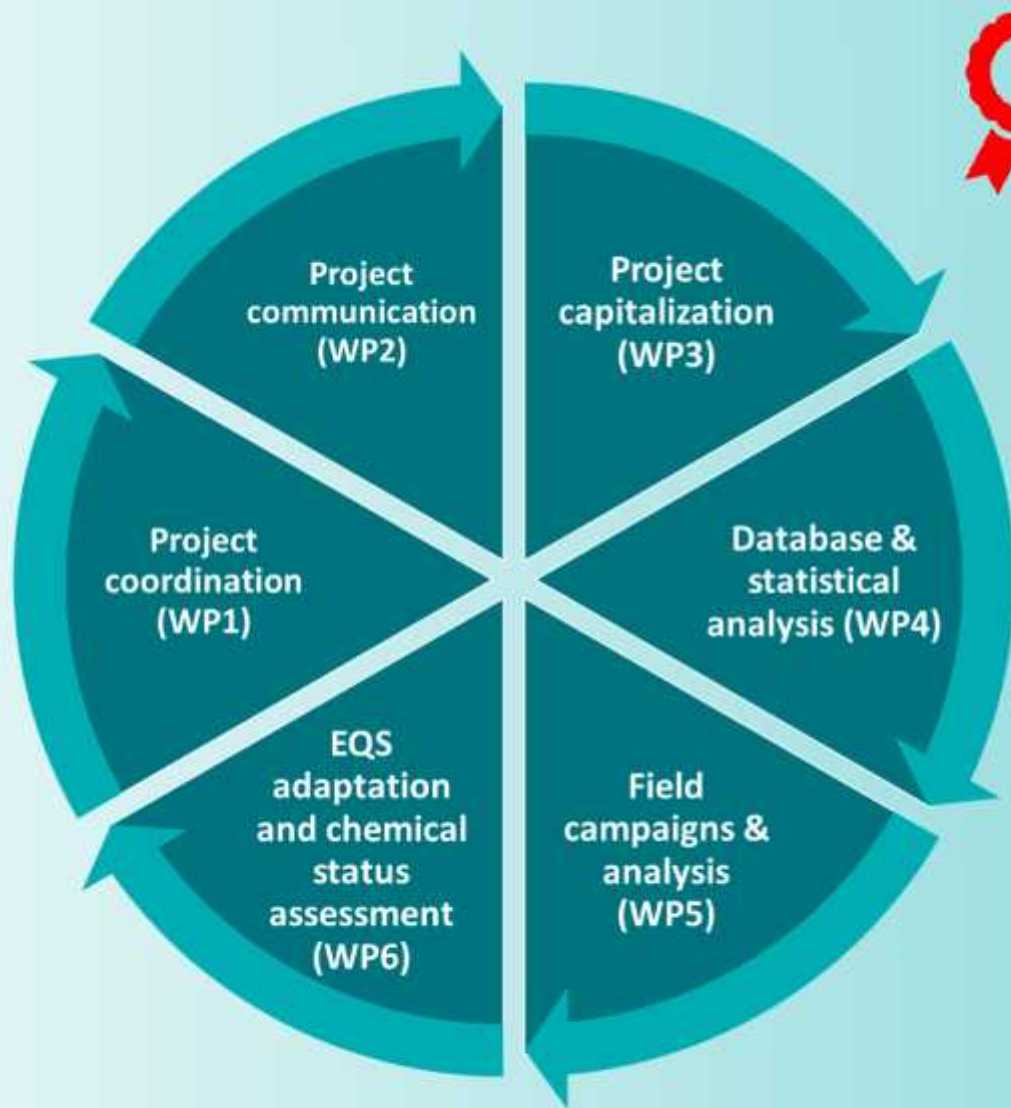
Total cost: 1.92 M€

ERDF 75 %: 1,5 M€

## Main objectives:

- To define Environmental Quality Standards and protocols for the use of DGTs in chemical monitoring within the European Water Framework Directive
- To develop a network of laboratories focused on the use of DGTs within the European Water Framework Directive

# Monitool Work Packages



Common protocols for sampling and analysis:

ALL partners followed the same protocol in the different regions



All samples were analyzed within the Consortium:

3 different labs for:

Metals in Waters by ICPMS.

Metals in Waters by voltametry

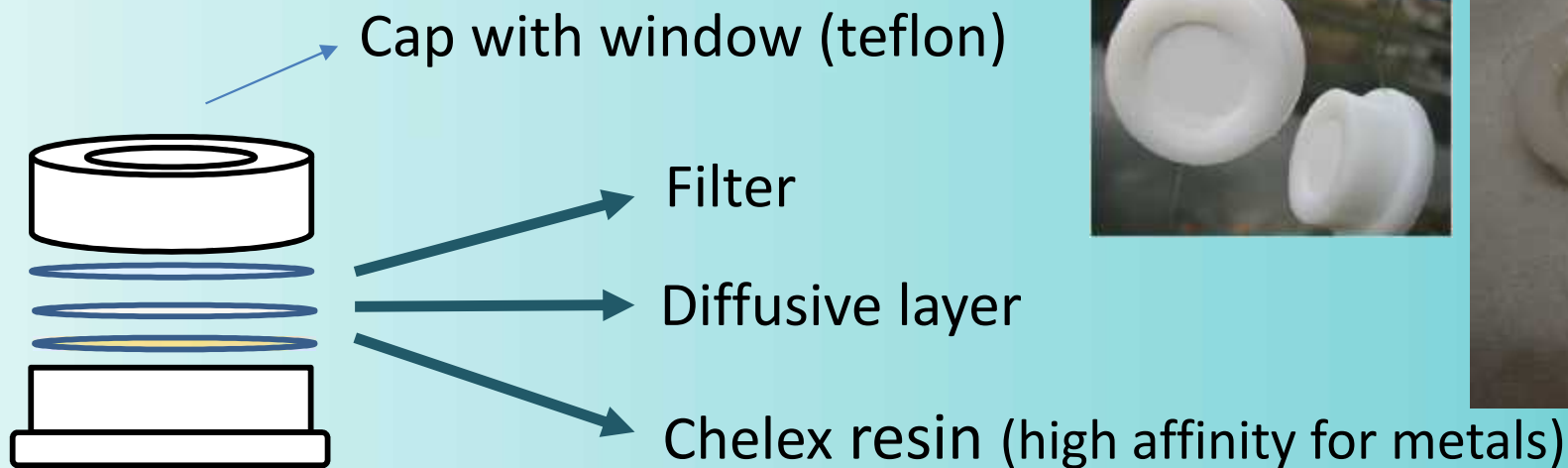
Metals in DGT resins by ICPMS



All results from the different regions are recorded in a common database

# Passive samplers for metals DGT type

- DGT: Diffusive Gradient in Thin Films
- Disc of  $\pm 4$  cm of diameter and 2.0 cm of diameter of the exposition window
- Filled by three membranes:
  - Polysulfone filter (0.45  $\mu\text{m}$   $\emptyset$ ; avoid particle abrasion)
  - Diffusive layer of hydrogel (0.8 mm thickness; **Polyacrylamide**)
  - **Chelex-100** resin immersed in polyacrylamide (0.4 mm thickness; cations exchange)

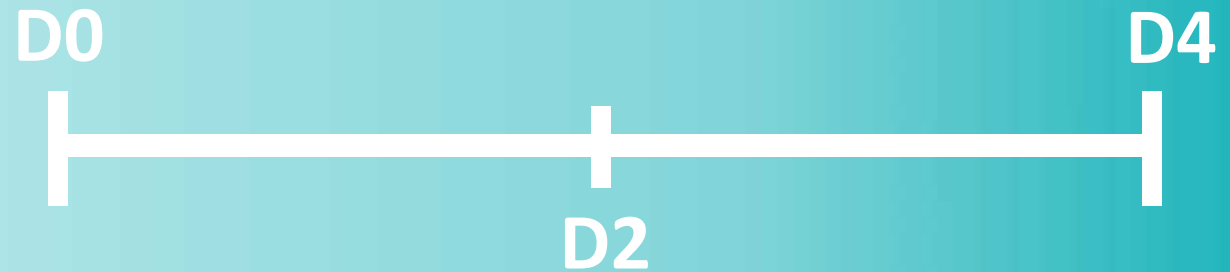


# WP5: Monitool sampling strategy

- 8 European regions
- 4 sampling sites per region (estuary or coast)
- In 2018: 2 sampling campaigns (wet and dry seasons)



days



**Coast: 3 days (1 sampling per day)**

**Estuary: 5 days and 2 sampling per day (at high and low tide)**



# WP4: Database and statistical analysis



The application of DGT to respond to the demands of the WFD in relation with the evaluation of the chemical status in the marine environment

Concentration of metal ( $\text{ng L}^{-1}$ )

# WP5: Monitool Sampling Sites



TOTAL nº of sites:  
21 coastal sites  
13 estuarine sites

Over 250 DGTs and  
over 500 seawater  
samples from wet and  
dry campaign



# WP5: Monitool sampling strategy



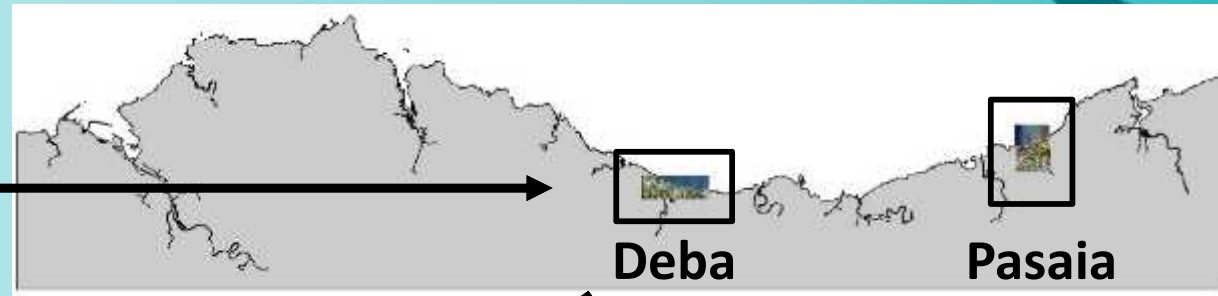
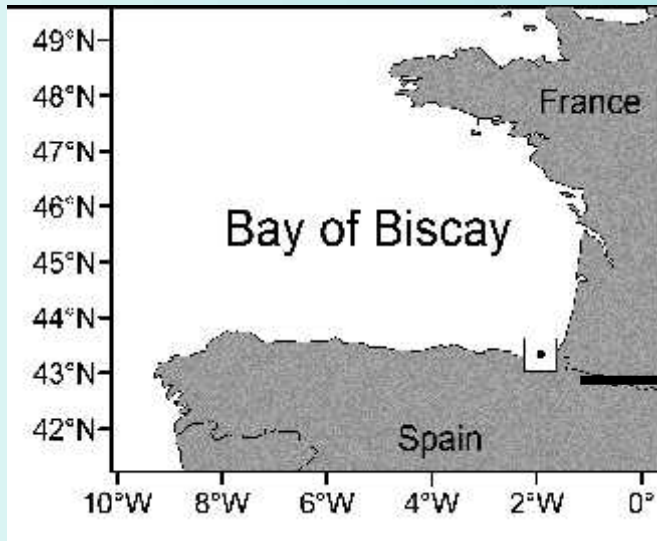
**IN SITU PHYSICO-CHEMICAL PARAMETERS** (at DGTs Depth)

Temperature, salinity, DO (mg/L and %), pH, turbidity, depth, specific conductivity, biofouling



# Sampling campaigns in the Basque Coast

## Basque coast



2 estuaries with different riverine/marine influence; different contamination sources.

4 stations

2 campaigns:

Wet season (February-March 2018)

Dry season (September 2018)



# Sampling sites in the Basque Coast



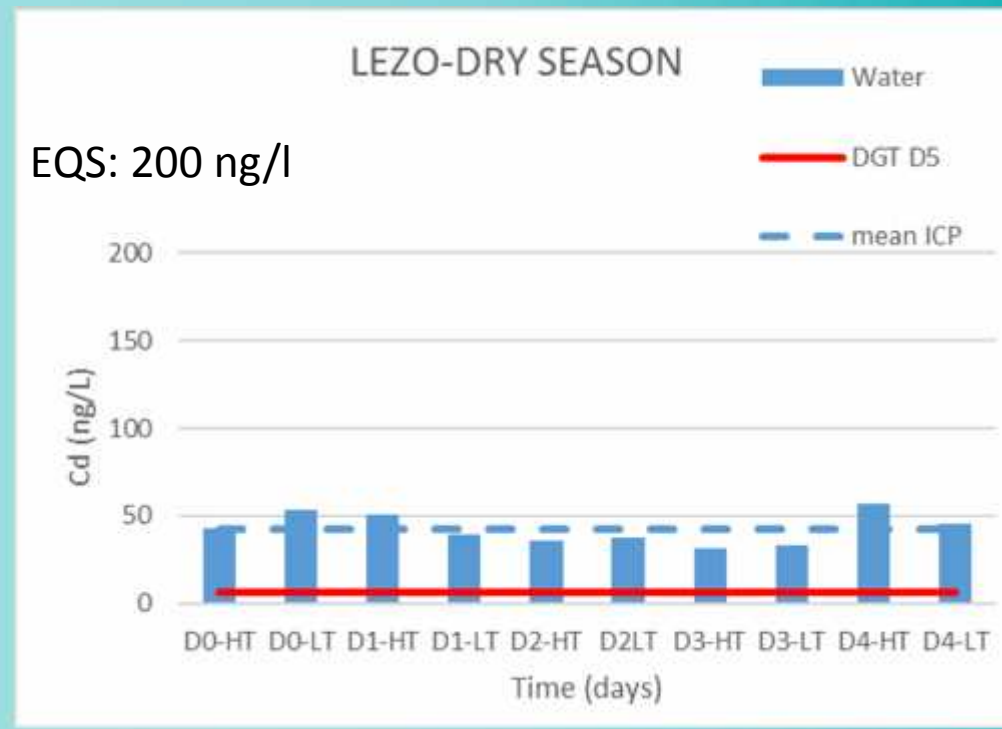
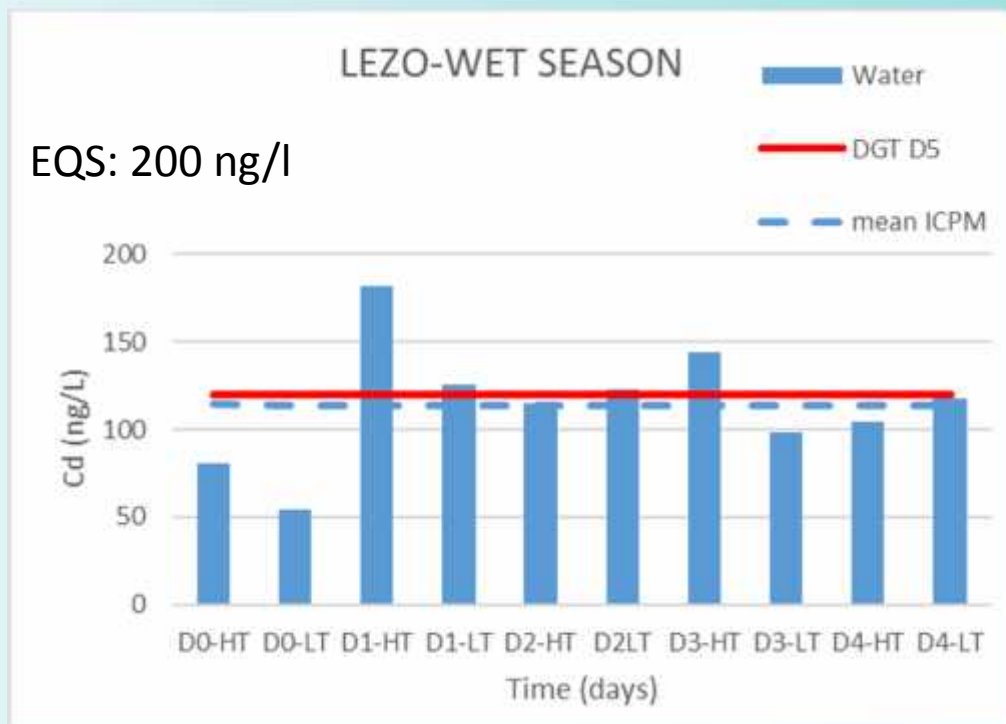
# Results

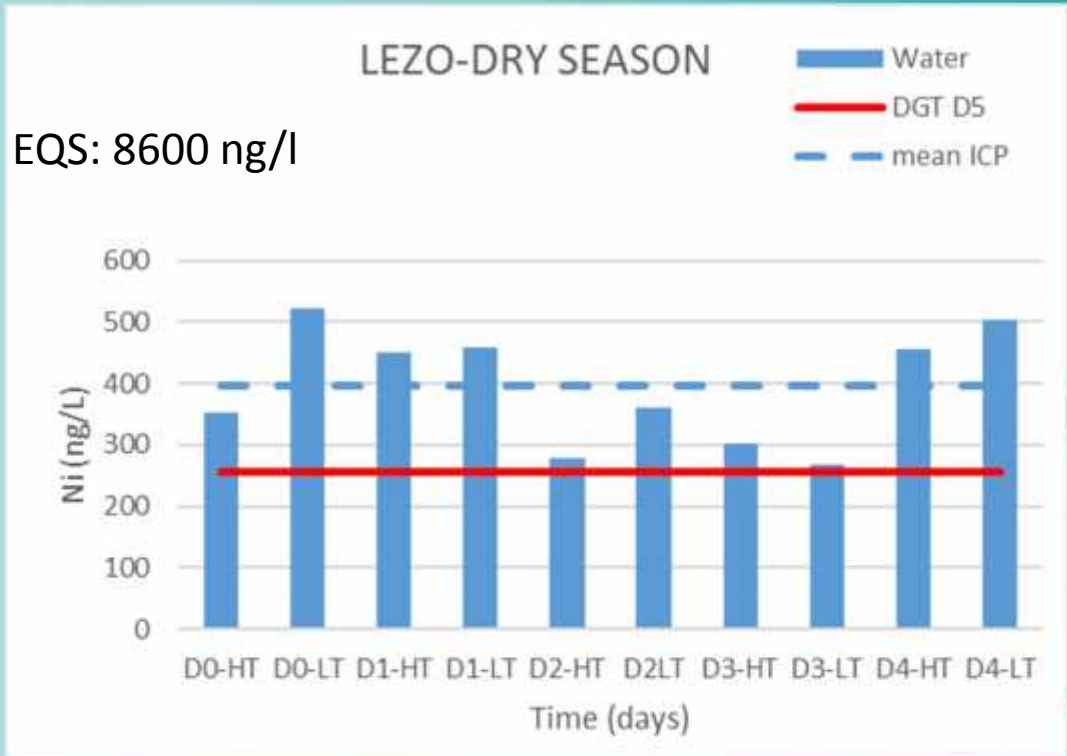
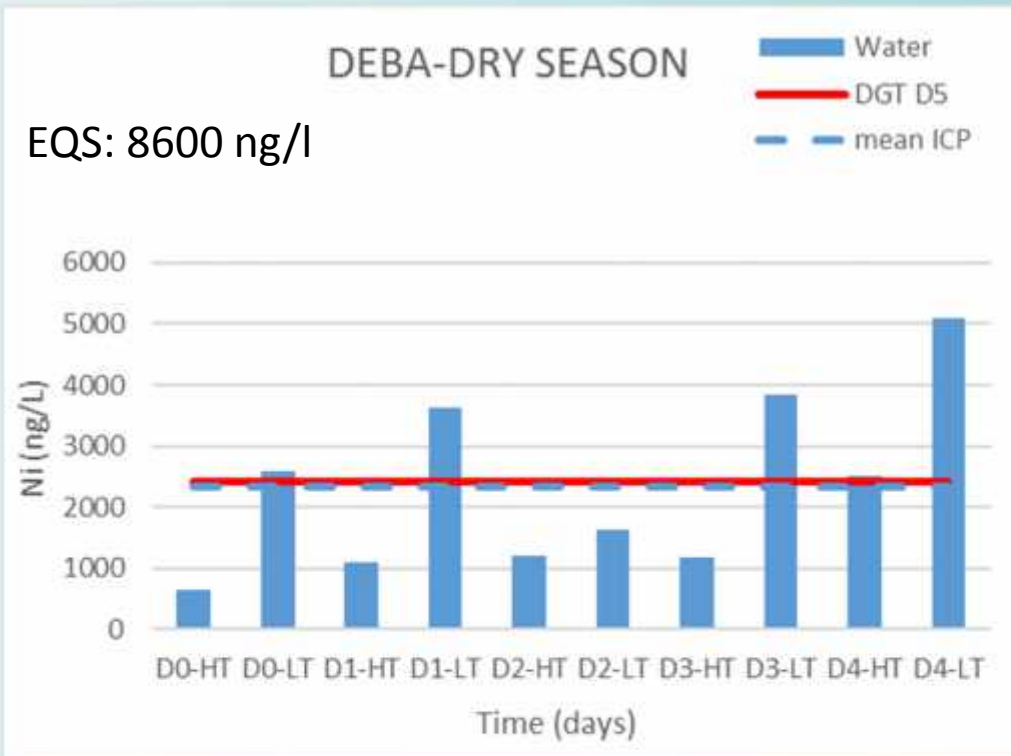
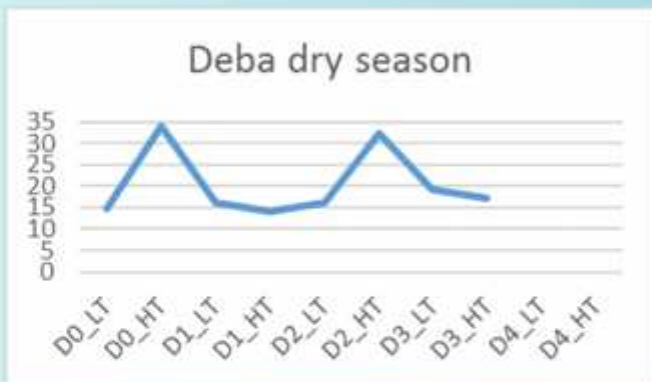
**Cd, Ni, Pb**, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mn, Zn

Results show differences with seasonality and between estuaries (different salinity ranges, DOC, spm, turbidity, different contamination sources....)

Salinity range: 3-28 psu

Salinity range: 24-34 psu

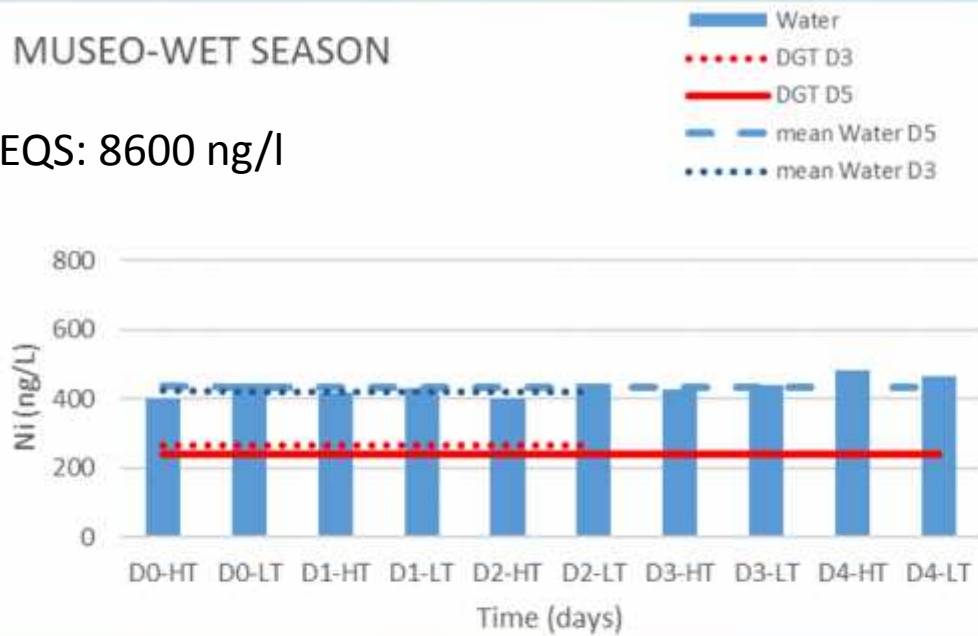






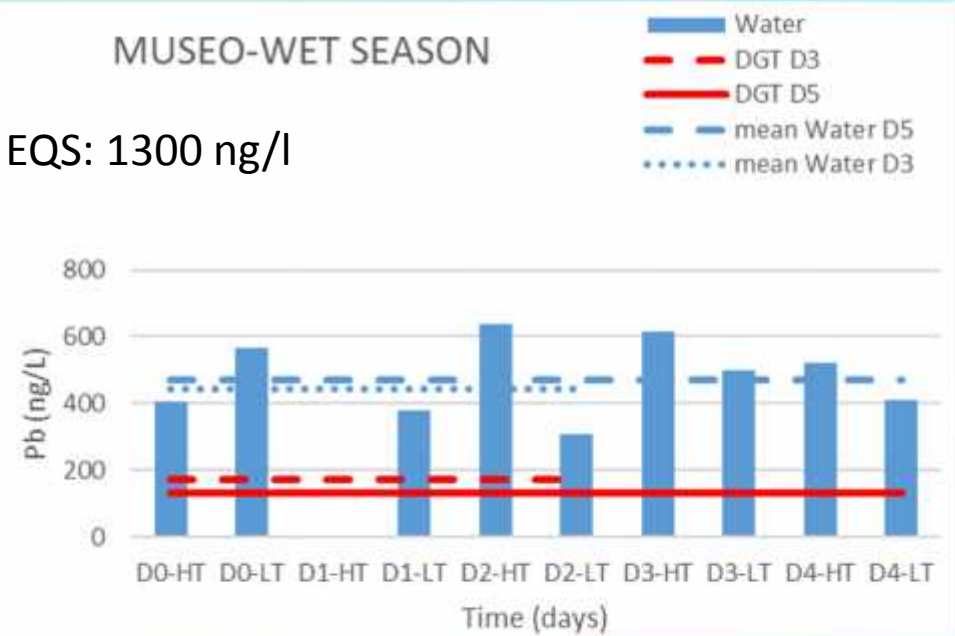
### MUSEO-WET SEASON

EQS: 8600 ng/l



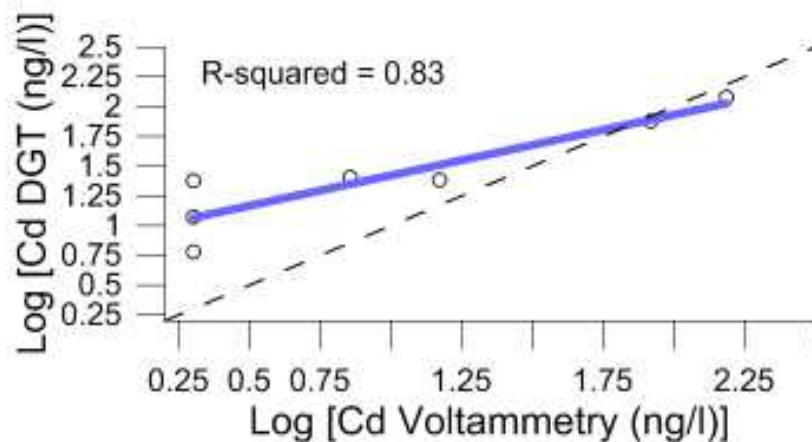
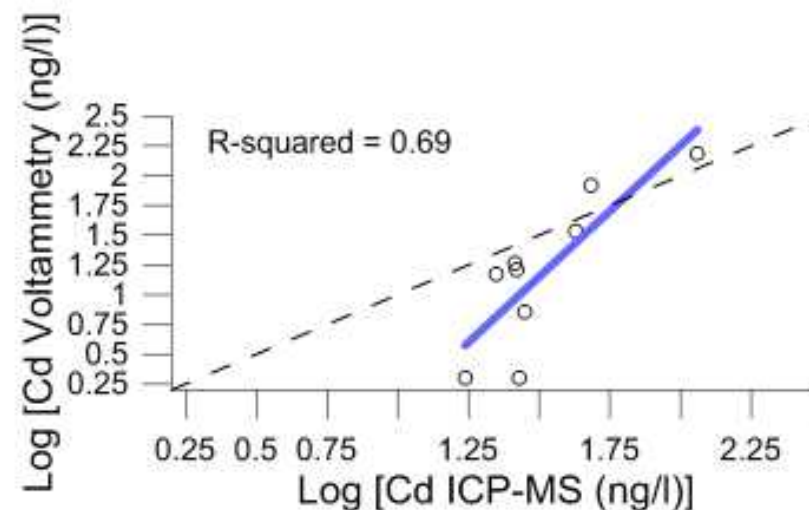
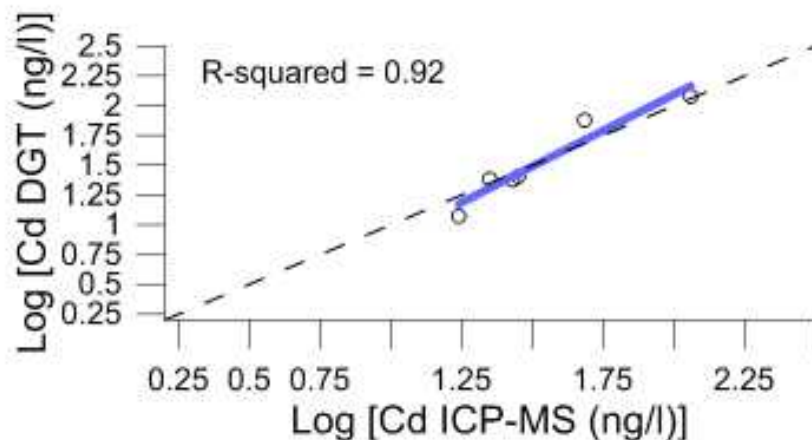
### MUSEO-WET SEASON

EQS: 1300 ng/l



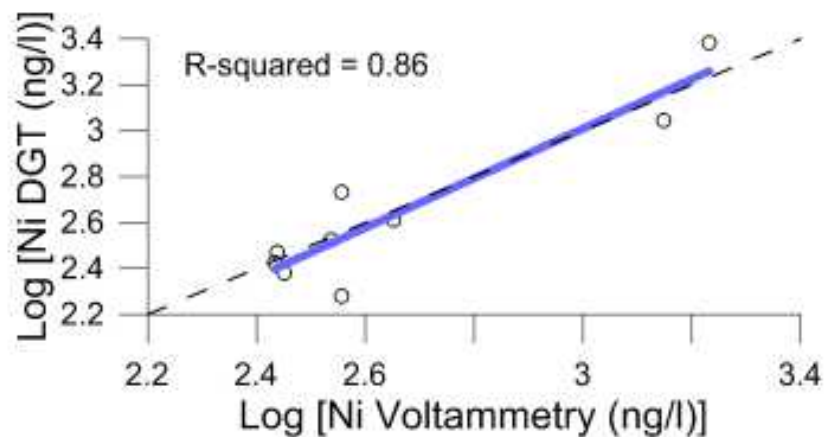
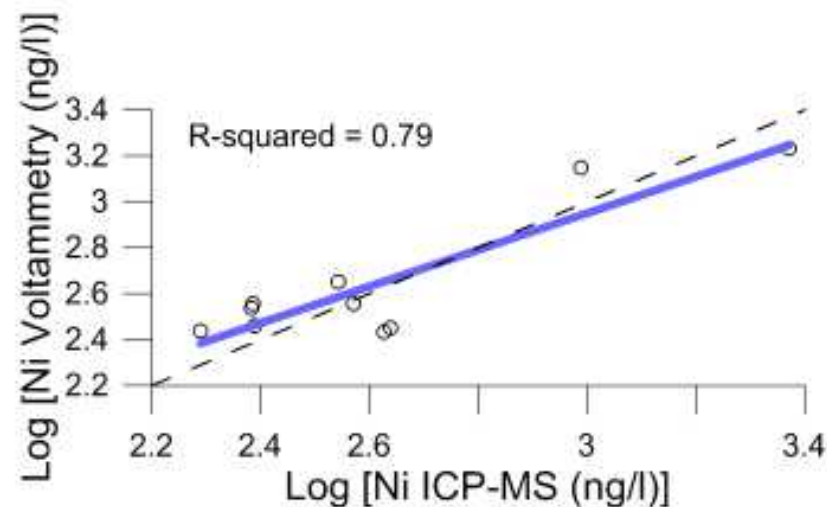
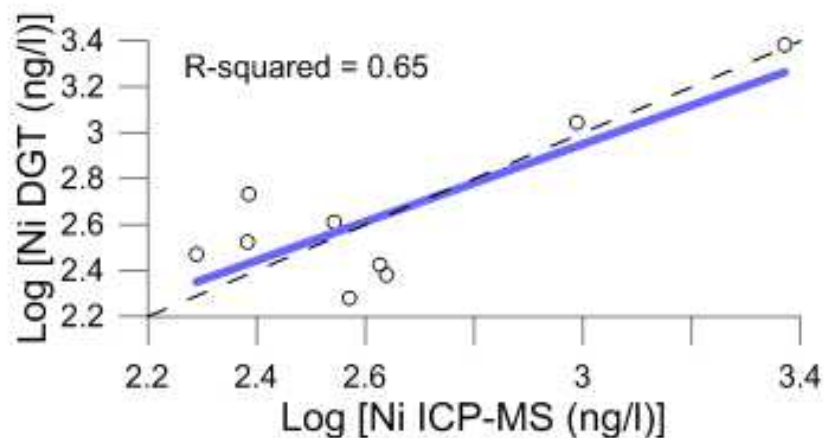
# Results: correlations

## Cd



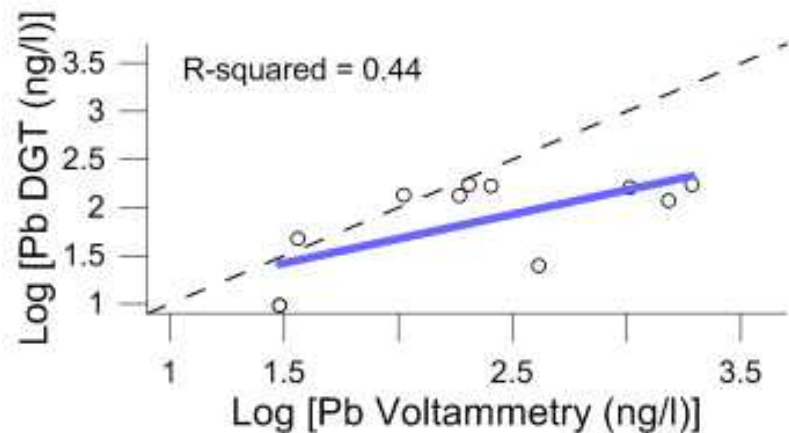
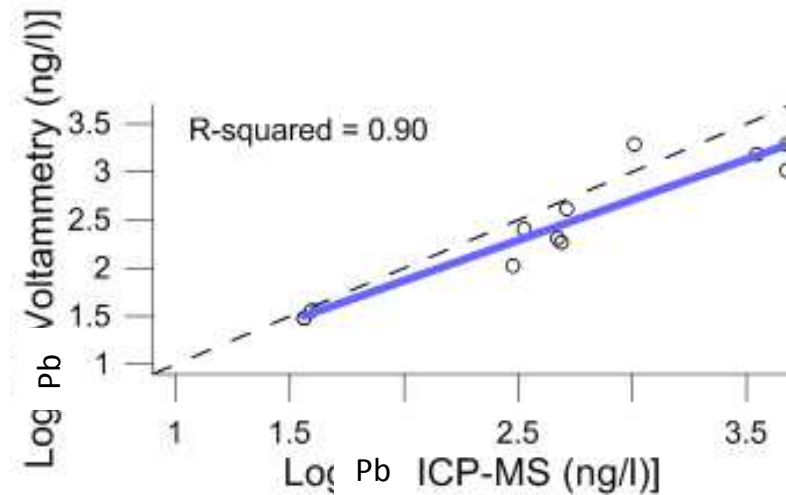
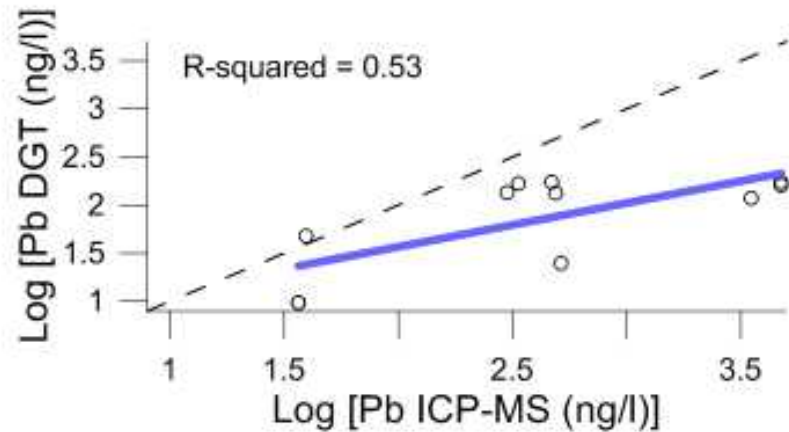
# Results: correlations

## Ni



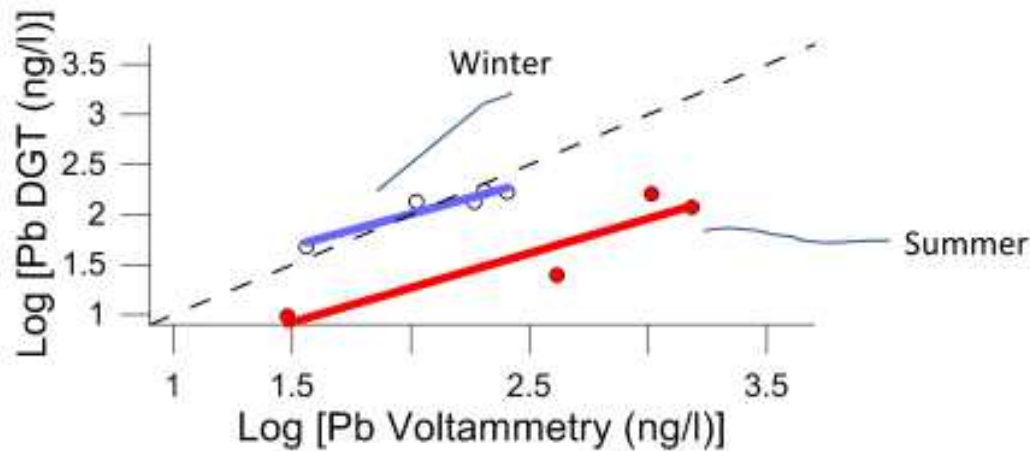
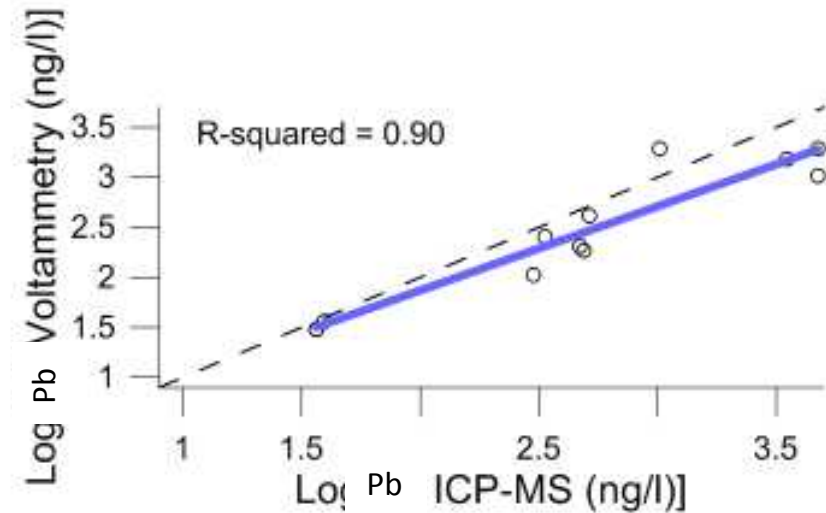
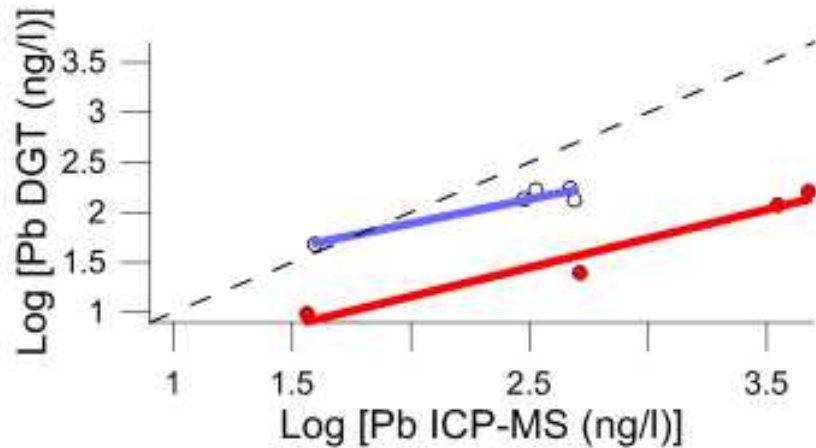
# Results: correlations

## Pb



# Results: correlations

## Pb



# Next steps:

- Correlation analysis of metal concentrations with environmental parameters.
- Statistical analysis with all data from 8 regions.
- To derive the EQS



# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!



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