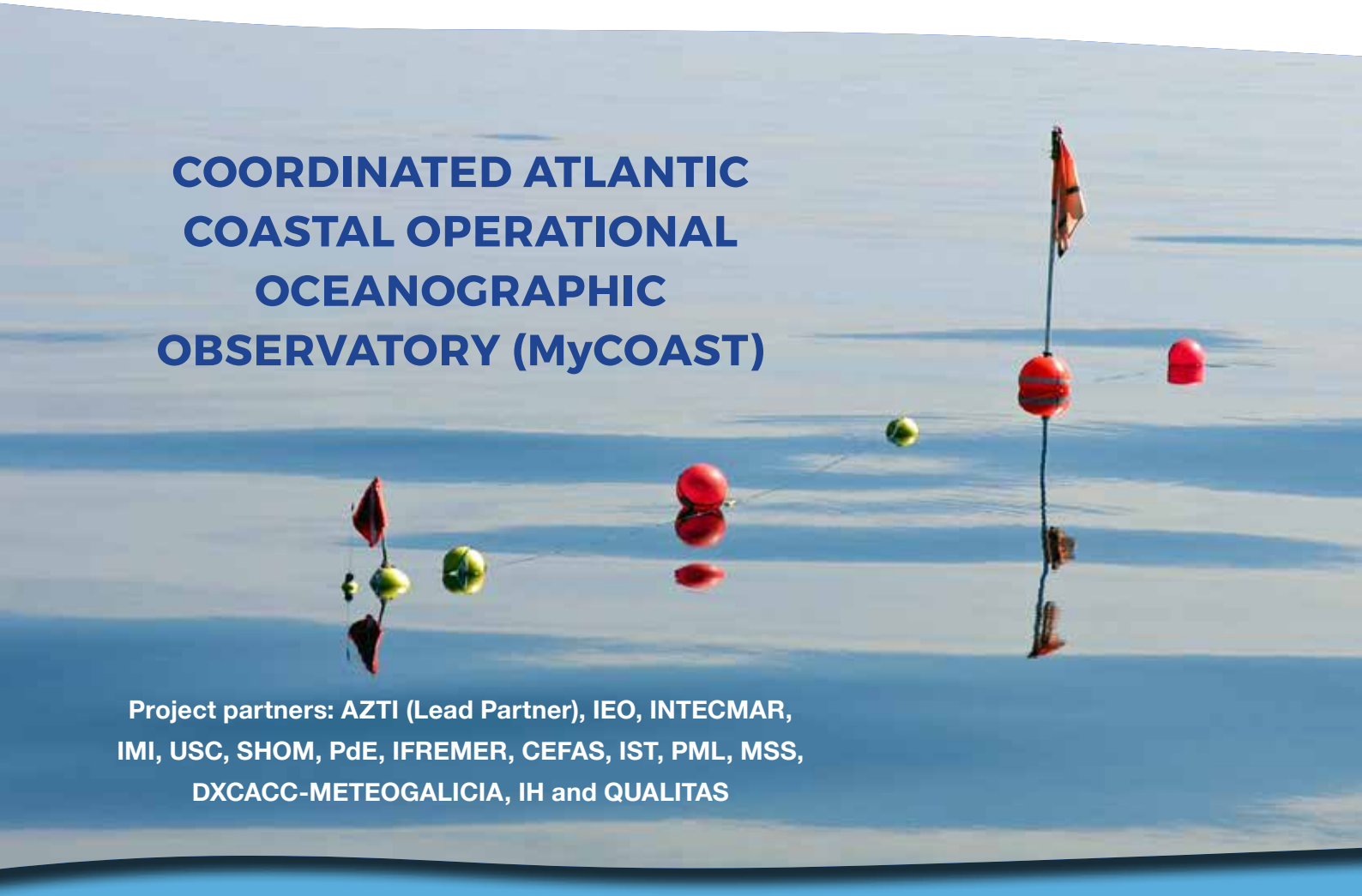
Interreg Atlantic Area
European Regional Development Fund

EUROPEAN UNION

MyCoast

COORDINATED ATLANTIC COASTAL OPERATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC OBSERVATORY (MyCOAST)



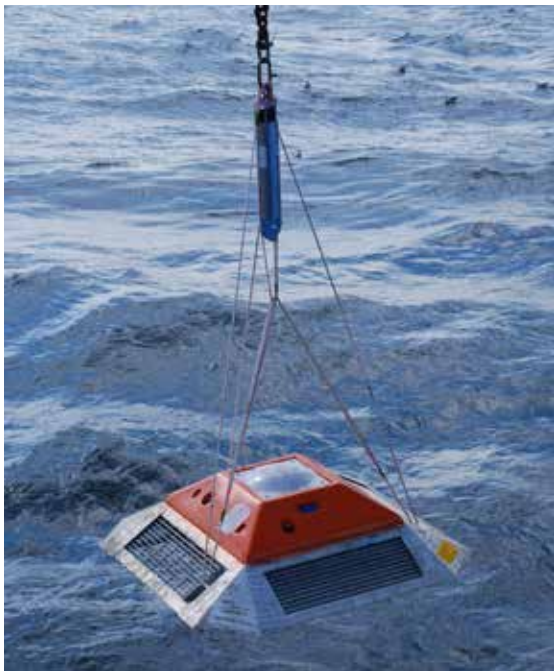
Project partners: AZTI (Lead Partner), IEO, INTECMAR, IMI, USC, SHOM, PdE, IFREMER, CEFAS, IST, PML, MSS, DXCACC-METEOGALICIA, IH and QUALITAS

MyCOAST is a project funded by the INTERREG Atlantic Area European transnational cooperation programme. It includes 15 partners from 5 Member States plus 7 associated partners, made up of national and regional public institutions, R&D organisations and a SME. The project duration is 32 months and started in November 2017.

BACKGROUND

The EU has been funding large scale initiatives and programmes with the main objective of protecting, securing and developing the potential of marine and coastal environments. MyCOAST will fill the gap between products at regional scales and the end-users, whilst addressing a transnational handling of coastal observatories. The resulting synergy will allow to deploy and capitalize innovative and standardized risk management systems and tools which can be applied in areas such as extreme weather events leading to flooding, maritime safety or coastal pollution prevention and mitigation.

The common challenge addressed by MyCOAST is the need to secure the improvement in the capacity of the Atlantic territories to manage the existing coastal risks. The identified opportunities arising in the European Blue Economy along the Atlantic coast coexist with natural and anthropogenic threats in a sensitive coastal area that is often highly impacted. Extreme storms events, increasing human activities in renewable energy or offshore aquaculture need reinforced environmental monitoring and prevention systems. Maritime security and prevention and mitigation of pollution are all important issues in the Atlantic area in need of an integrated and interoperable smart system encompassing European, national, regional and local infrastructures in order to achieve sustainable monitoring and prevention coastal systems.



OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The aim of MyCOAST is to enhance the capability of risk management systems in the Atlantic region by improving co-operation between national and regional observational and forecasting systems, and end users (citizens, public administrations, …). MyCOAST aims to build a coordinated Atlantic Coastal Operational Observatory in the Atlantic area, joining capabilities along the 5 Member State partners, and leveraging efforts from already existing cross-border cooperation activities, European projects (best-practices and new technologies from JERICO-NEXT; links with open ocean observations from AtlantOS), and from long-term synergies already created in the framework of the IBIROOS regional alliance. All efforts are targeted towards the improvement of coastal monitoring and forecasting tools to support threat and emergency response.

OUR APPROACH

MyCOAST will strengthen a transnational perspective for the coastal observatories. The actions on data management will promote open and free information sharing and interoperability between coastal observatories and the common European data systems (EMODnet, Copernicus INSTAC, SeaDataNet). Then, the technical networking and specific synergies will strengthen the use and dissemination of downstream applications of the Copernicus Marine and Environmental Monitoring Service (CMEMS) in order to address the common challenge of resilience to coastal risks.

The integration of interoperable data from the coastal observatories into risk management tools will ensure replicability and transferability along the Atlantic Area. To ensure effective implementation, the tools will be jointly developed and validated together with key actors involved in managing and preventing coastal risks such as flooding or coastal erosion, water quality issues, and those responsible for managing maritime safety and response to pollution incidents. Finally, MyCOAST will improve the awareness to these risks in the Atlantic Area, and help to identify and promote opportunities for the private sector.

MAIN EXPECTED OUTPUTS & RESULTS

The contributions and impacts of MyCOAST aim to spread across and align with the EuroGOOS strategy and priorities for 2020

Priority 1 : Sustained Observing Systems

- Inventory of observing platforms, gap analysis and cost-benefit studies, developments of observing capabilities in the IBI region.
- The integration of established coastal observing systems by sharing data best practices, experiences and resources (18 buoys, 15 HF radars, 3 ships of opportunity, 50 drifters, 10 profilers).

Priority 2 : Marine data management

- Development of standardized and interoperable data systems, delivering real-time observations and model outputs across the 9 coastal observatories connected with European structures (CMEMS INSTAC, EMODnet, SeaDataNet), INSPIRE compliant, using state of the art geographical information service standards.
- Guidelines and handbooks to support data providers.

Priority 3 : Marine products and services

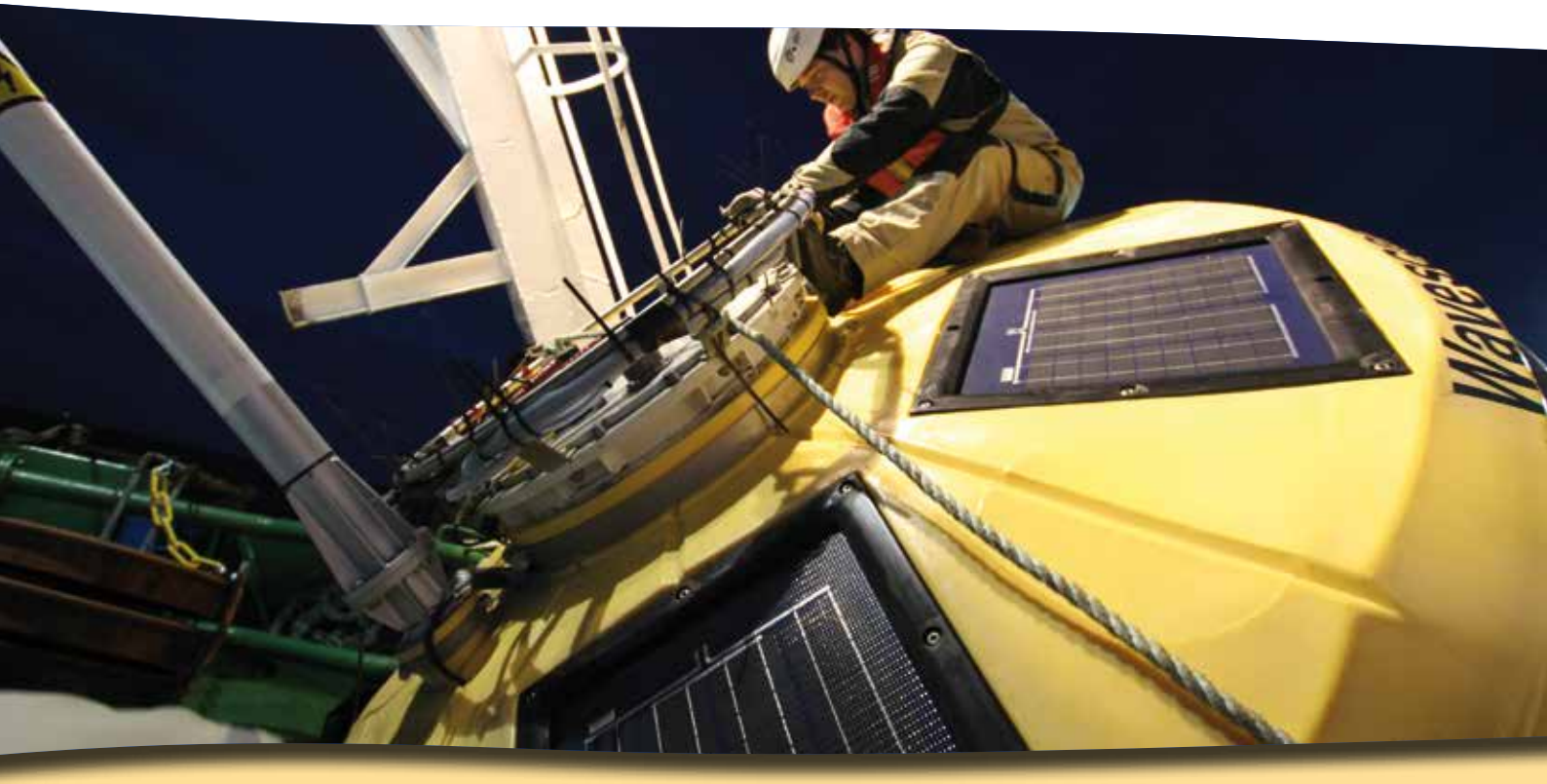
- Optimization, validation and intercomparison of 9 different forecasting coastal and local models connected to the Copernicus core service.
- Development of pilot tools and instruments applied to specific coastal risks: extreme events and flood risks (around 9 municipalities with a larger population of 900,000), maritime security and harbour management (1 pilot area), search and rescue and oil spill management (1 pilot area), marine renewable energy and offshore aquaculture (1 pilot area) and coastal pollution (2 pilot areas). 8 pilot demonstration and case studies for implementation in national and regional prevention and management systems in 5 participating Member States along the Atlantic coast.
- Support and transfer of opportunities to the private sector in the 5 participating Member States.

Priority 4 : Communication

- Dissemination actions (press releases, stakeholders events, participation in scientific conferences and events, regional workshops, etc.). Technical and scientific publications.
- Increased awareness of the importance of marine observations, data management in the mitigation of coastal extreme events, risk assessment and marine pollution

FINALLY ...

The contribution of MyCOAST in strengthening the coastal observing system in the Atlantic area is fully aligned with the long-term initiative to establish a sustainable, integrated and fit for purpose European Ocean Observation System (EOOS) framework to foster and better coordinate Europe's ocean observing capacity, which is being promoted, among others, by EuroGOOS (associated partner) and the European Marine Board. MyCOAST will provide a coordinated use of the CMEMS programme through the implementation of downstream products and services to support threat and emergency response.



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