# PERSEUS

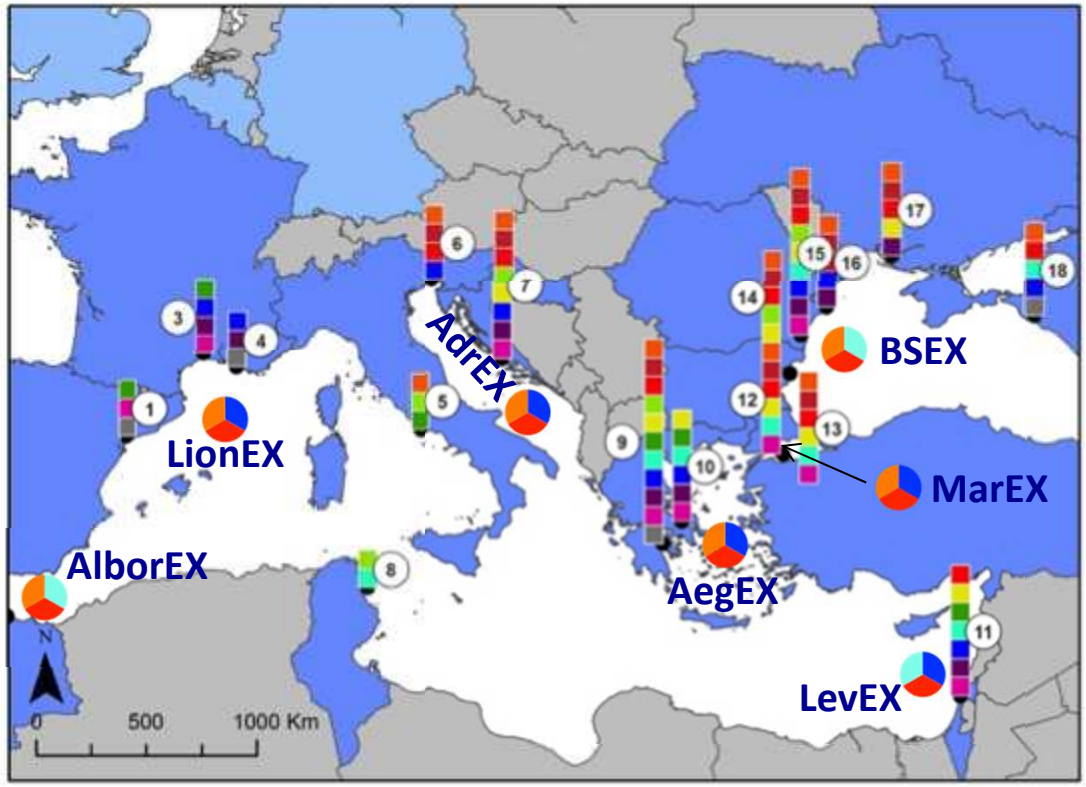
## Policy-oriented marine Environmental Research in the Southern European Seas

- 21 countries
- 53 partners (>300 scientists)
  - 65 Institutes & Universities
- 48 months (Jan '12-Dec '15)

## AIMS

- **Help** and **support** the EU and non-EU countries on MSFD/EcAp
- **Develop** a "Smart Monitoring" strategy
- **Develop** awareness groups & increase capacity building
- **Design** an innovative, small R/V for shallow areas
- **Provide science-based recommendations** for protection and management

# Field work on pressures and processes




- Changes in environmental parameters and impacts on plankton
- Pelagic fish
- Food web interactions (including jellyfish)
- Mapping habitat types with emphasis on sea grass meadows
- Impact of coastal development and urbanization on shallow water habitats
- Demersal fish aggregations; analysing functional community changes
- Non-indigenous Species
- Pollution - Contaminants
- Pollution - Bioaccumulation
- Litter
- Noise

- Impacts of environmental parameters on food web
- Primary productivity - planktonic biomass
- Non-indigenous Species
- Pollution - Contaminants

## Some Results…

- 5 Tools, including the AMP Toolbox for Stakeholders & Policy makers
- Plastic is the main issue in floating and sea bottom litter (Med>80%, BS>60%)
- Increasing trend of Non-indigenous species after 2000 at all coastal areas/Med
- Decreasing trend Nutrients and phytoplankton biomass in most areas
- A common eutrophication assessment methodology was developed (BS+Med)

# Scientific and Other Major Outputs

- 225 Publications + a position paper for SES
- 284 Conferences & Workshop presentations
- 29 PhDs
- 82 Deliverables & 48 Milestones
- 4 Tools on line to be used by stakeholders (Ecoregions-Med, TEAP, VMS, oil spills) + AMP Toolbox (connected with policy data base)
- 7 National Stakeholder Workshops (+2 for BS) & 4 Workshops on MSFD
- 2 EU Project Coordinators Meetings for coordinated actions for 35 Projects
  11 Fact Sheets for policy and a Policy Brief

*3rd Stakeholder Conference on the blue economy in the Black Sea, Odessa 14 June 2016*

# Lessons Learned for Basin-wide collaborations

- PERSEUS was one of the first research projects to work with the stakeholders from all countries around the two basins.
- Sincere need and for interest in transnational cooperation (common request from all the national stakeholder meetings)
- Many gaps to address policies - but fewer than in 2006…
- Knowledge at basin scale increased; actions should happen at regional, national or local level
- Capacity needs to be increased especially in the non-EU countries
- Collaboration from the beginning with stakeholders
- Digestion of the information for policy makers

  (Data → Information → Knowledge → "Wisdom")
- Clear questions asked from the policy makers and industry
- Connection with jobs and society needs to be improved (Blue Growth concept)

# The BLUEMED Initiative: Research and Innovation Initiative for Blue Jobs & Growth in the Mediterranean

**The BLUEMED Initiative fosters integration of knowledge and efforts to develop the blue growth in the Mediterranean Basin**

- It is developed under the Italian Presidency of the EC in 2014 jointly developed and agreed between CY, CR, FR, GR, IT, MA, SL, ES & PT;
- Facilitated with the support of the European Commission (DG R&I, DG MARE, DG JRC)
- It is developed by EU countries and will embrace the whole Med
- A Declaration has been ratified by the Ministries of the 9 MS +RO in Venice (Oct.'16); decided to advance the BLUEMED with concrete actions
- A CSA call in 2016 H2020, evaluated and will be operational (~Nov 2016)

# THE BLUEMED INITIATIVE: How is it evolved?

1. **(Starting point)** Mapping of existing/ongoing regional, national and European projects/initiatives by the Countries involved (~900)
2. Participation of experts, major public and private stakeholders including maritime clusters, and policy makers
3. Identification of the knowledge and technology/innovation gaps and of the "conditions" that could allow the gaps to be addressed
4. Inputs: from SEAS- ERANET, major EU funded R&I projects (finished or ongoing) & important pertinent European Technology Platforms and private associations (e.g. EATiP, Waterborne, Cruising)
5. Creation of Key Challenges: (Knowledge-Sectors-Technology & Innovation

*more info on BlueMed Initaitive Docs: https://www.researchitaly.it*

# BLUEMED : Why does it matter?

- Tries to exploit the potential of marine and maritime sectors to create new 'blue' jobs, promote social cohesion and improve the environmental status and citizens' wellness (useful science)
- Has an integrated approach across different sectors and disciplines and a long-term oriented, strategic coordination of R&I activities
- Provides added value to regional, national and EU investment, avoid duplication and reduce fragmentation by having synergies and complementarities between sectors & countries
- Countries could play a major role!
- A more stable R&I strategy will be provided (not just projects… but a strategy for MED where projects could implement it…..)

BLUEMED concept can guide actions in the future for the Black Sea….