

AtlantOS: Optimizing and Enhancing the Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System

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We will introduce AtlantOS (www.atlantos-h2020.eu) - an EU/Horizon2020 project started on 1. April 2015. The AtlantOS vision is to improve and innovate Atlantic observing towards a more systematic, cost effective and user-driven and international accepted Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System (IAOOS). AtlantOS will work follow the "Framework of Ocean Observing" to achieve a transition from a loosely coordinated set of existing ocean observing activities, producing fragmented, often mono-disciplinary data, to a sustainable, efficient, and fit-for-purpose AOOS.

The research and innovation activities focus on: (1) Defining requirements and systems design, (2) Improving the innovation and readiness of observing networks and data systems, (3) Engaging stakeholders around the Atlantic.

AtlantOS will strengthen Europe's contribution to the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), a major component of the Group on Earth Observations' (GEO), its Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), and specifically on the emerging "Oceans and Society: Blue Planet" initiative. AtlantOS contributes to "Blue Growth" by merging new information needs relevant to key sectors such as transport, tourism, fisheries, marine biotech, resource extraction and energy with existing requirements. AtlantOS significantly contributes to trans-Atlantic cooperation (in particular in the framework of the "The Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation") by integrating existing observing activities established by European, North and South American, and African countries and by filling existing gaps to reach an agile, flexible IAOOS and associated ocean information systems around the Atlantic.

In particular, work package (WP5) will investigate the Regional Atlantic observing with a focus on climate (incl. AMOC) and ecosystem research - in the North Atlantic subpolar gyre and in the South Atlantic subtropical gyre.

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