

Euro Argo-Black Sea Meeting
Varna, 7-8 December 2009
Minutes

Attached to the minutes is the agenda of the workshop. Therefore here only major issues from the discussion during the afternoon session are documented.

Short presentation of Partners:

Alexander Postnov from Russia addressed some legal issues. He stated that agreement between Black Sea countries is needed. He mentioned that the Organization of Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) can be used, as well as diplomatic channels. He mentioned also that formal problems at the moment should not stop the implementation of Euroargo project.

Violeta Velikova from the Black Sea Commission expressed the opinion that solving Euroargo specific problems through BSEC promises a long and difficult procedure. She suggested that it is necessary to identify appropriate channels of notification and use the instruments available to the Black Sea Commission to facilitate the execution of the Black Sea part of Euroargo.

Vladimir Belokopitov from Ukraine presented the experience and interest in MHI in the field of Argo floats. He focused on possible drift of sensors and observation errors.

Hasan Örek from Turkey talked about the use of new sensors.

Romanian Delegation expressed the opinion that there are no important legal problems and proposed to use/approach the BS Commission if needed.

The afternoon discussion was moderated by Pierre Yves Le Traon, who raised the issue about the committed number of floats and sampling. From the discussion it appeared clear that 5 floats would be a good target, as well as to use in the future new sensors (oxygen and others) to address Black sea specific problems.

Burgarian delegation expressed the interest to support Euroargo and announced that a national project "BULARGO" has been prepared and submitted for funding to the National Research fund. Furthermore, a regional: Research Infrastructures: Foresight and Impact (RIFI) activity is under way, which considers Euroargo as a basic component. Therefore there is a hope that sustainability will be secured.

Turkish delegate stated that they could contribute to the floats deployment, however they do not have funding to purchase equipment at the moment.

Romanian delegates are not optimistic for national funding however they will familiarize with BULARGO and consider submitting a proposal.

There is a consensus that Black Sea scientists should attend user meetings of Euroargo and present Black Sea aspects.

Among the planning activities identified at the workshop attendees stress on the need of capacity building through PhD works, data analysis and data assimilation.

22.12.09

Prof. E. Stanev