

Summary of the DRAGONESS Project

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The 3-year duration DRAGONESS project, Funded by the European Commission (EC) under the European Union's (EU) Framework Programme (FP6), was finished in August 2010. An inventory on procedures in operational ocean monitoring and services including data accessibility and management approaches has been produced with particular relevance for the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Space Component program and the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) implemented system of systems (GEOSS). Monitoring of the marine environment is crucial to tracking pollution, forecasting and tracking extreme events, understanding climate change, and aiding operational oceanography. Because the world's oceans are all interconnected, a global system for sustainable monitoring is an obvious priority as spelled out in GMES and GEOSS. Such a system requires common standards, protocols, and harmonized tools and methods for data integration and data and information portals and services. Bringing together in situ and satellite data and the sharing of this data, jointly with validated models, is a key to the success performance of such systems. In establishing this inventory, the DRAGONESS project has therefore also provided and first assessment and comparison of existing European and Chinese integrated marine monitoring systems.