

**MEDAR/MEDATLAS 2001: A NEW MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA
OCEANOGRAPHIC DATABASE AND A DATA MANAGEMENT NETWORK**

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The objective of the MEDAR/MEDATLAS II project (Mediterranean Data Archaeology and Rescue of temperature, salinity and bio-chemical parameters, 1998-2001) is to rescue, safeguard and make available a comprehensive data set of temperature, salinity and bio-chemical parameters collected in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, through a wide co-operation of the Mediterranean countries. This project was carried out in the frame of a European Union MAST concerted action (MAS3-CT98-0174 & IC20-CT98-0103) initiated by a consortium of 20 partners from bordering countries and international organisations. The MEDAR network enlarged during the project implementation and involves now 19 National Oceanographic Data Centres or Designated National Agencies for International Exchange of the bordering countries, 3 International Data Centres, 3 Modelling Centres and 2 Intergovernmental Organisations. It involves also cooperation links with the worldwide

GODAR project, National Data Centres from other countries carrying sea work in the Mediterranean and Black Sea and the Operational Mediterranean Forecasting Project (MFSPP).

The result of three year of intensive work at the national and regional levels has been to produce a major update of the data released in the public domain. This release consists of:

- 88 128 bottle casts of temperature, salinity, oxygen, phosphate, nitrate, nitrite, ammonium, silicate, pH, alkalinity, chlorophyll, hydrogen sulfide (Black Sea), total phosphorus and total nitrogen. These parameters were recognised to be necessary for the following up of the climate change and the calibration of ocean modes.
- 35566 CTD casts of temperature, salinity and oxygen data
- 161 890 MBt and Xbt temperature profiles including recent data produced in near real time by the MFSPP project.

This data set, that is now available from the nodes of the network, multiplies by a factor of more than 2 the available data. Moreover, it is remarkable is that all these data have been checked for quality by compatible and coherent procedures based on the international standards.

An objective analysis has been performed by the MEDAR Analysis Centre (GHER, Liege) and an electronic atlas published on Internet. All the data, meta-data, analysed data, maps, processing software and documentation will be published on a set of four CDrom.

In addition to these technical tasks, sharing the knowledge and know-how among the participants was an important issue of the project. In this perspective, MEDAR enhanced the overall capacity of the Mediterranean and Black Sea data centres network, in oceanographic data management. This is a very important issue, as an important volume of new data is expected in the years to come, from classical oceanographic cruises and also from the data collected in real time for the needs of the operational oceanography, on ship of opportunity and by automatic sensors.