Objective

The general scientific objectives of SESAME are to assess and predict changes in the Mediterranean and Black Sea ecosystems as well as changes in the ability of these ecosystems to provide goods and services. The Mediterranean and Black Sea will be approached as a coupled climatic/ecosystem entity, with links and feedbacks to the world ocean. The assessment of ecosystem changes will be based on the identification of the major regime shifts in ecosystems that occurred during the last 50 years. Mathematical models, validated and upgraded using existing and new observations, will be used to predict ecosystem responses to changes in climate and anthropogenic forcing during the next five decades.

The new data will be gathered during multidisciplinary; multi-ship oceanographic cruises in the Mediterranean and Black Sea. These will provide an overall picture of
the Mediterranean and Black Sea that does not yet exist as well as essential data sets for model validation. SESAME will also study the effect of the ecosystem variability on key goods and services with high societal importance like tourism, fisheries, ecosystem stability though conservation of biodiversity and mitigation of climate change through carbon sequestration in water and sediments.

The innovative character of SESAME is reflected in the close merging of economic and natural sciences to study the changes in the western and eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea within the period from 50 years in the past to 50 years in the future. SESAME will create a platform for disseminating the research results to all levels of society. It will stimulate and strengthen international cooperation in the Mediterranean and Black Sea regions through the participation of research organisations from Member States, Associated States, Associated Candidate countries, non-EU Mediterranean and NIS countries as well as international organisations.

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal

FP6-2005-GLOBAL-4

Funding Scheme

IP - Integrated Project

Coordinator

HELLENIC CENTRE FOR MARINE RESEARCH

Address

47Th Km Athens - Sounio Av.,
Mavro Lithari
Anavissos Attiki
Greece

Website
Participants (47)

CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE
France
Address
3, Rue Michel-ange
Paris
Website

P.P.SHIRSHOV INSTITUTE OF OCEANOLOGY - RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
Russia
Address
Nakhimovsky Ave. 36
Moscow
Website

ORTA DOGU TEKNIK UNIVERSITESI
Turkey
Address
Inonu Bulvari
Ankara
Website

UNIVERSITE DE LIEGE
Belgium
Address
Place Du 20 Aout 7
Liege
Website

CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS
Spain
Address
Calle Serrano 117
Madrid
CONSORZIO NAZIONALE INTERUNIVERSITARIO PER LE SCIENZE DEL MARE
Italy
Address
Via Isonzo 32
Roma
Website

PANEPISTIMIO AIGAIOU
Greece
Address
Administration Building,
University Hill
Mytilene
Website

INSTITUTE OF OCEANOLOGY - BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
Bulgaria
Address
Parvi Maj Street, 40
Varna
Website

ISRAEL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND LIMNOLOGICAL RESEARCH LIMITED
Israel
Address
Tel-shikmona
Haifa
Website

ATHENS UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS RESEARCH CENTER
Greece
Address
Kefallinias 46
Athens
Website
BOGAZICI UNIVERSITESI  
Turkey  
Address  
Rectorate Bebek  
Istanbul  
Website

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH  
Lebanon  
Address  
Sports City Boulevard, Bir Hassan  
11-8281 Beirut  
Website

CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE  
Italy  
Address  
Piazzale Aldo Moro,7  
Roma  
Website

SOFIISKI UNIVERSITET "SVETI KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"  
Bulgaria  
Address  
Tzar Osvoboditel Boulevard  
15  
Sofia  
Website

AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER LE NUOVE TECNOLOGIE, L' ENERGIA E LO SVILUPPO ECONOMICO SOSTENIBILE  
Italy  
Address  
Lungotevere Grande  
Ammiraglio Thaon Di Revel 76  
Roma
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<td>Prospekt Nakhimova 2, Sevastopol</td>
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ISTITUTO SUPERIORE PER LA PROTEZIONE E LA RICERCA AMBIENTALE

Italy

Address
Via Vitaliano Brancati, 48
Roma

Website

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI OCEANOGRAFIA E DI GEOFISICA SPERIMENTALE

Italy

Address
Borgo Grotta Gigante 42/C
Sgonico-trieste

Website

FONDAZIONE IMC CENTRO MARINO INTERNAZIONALE ONLUS

Italy

Address
Località Sa Mardini,
Torregrande
Oristano

Website

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES - DIRECTORATE GENERAL
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Belgium

Address
Rue De La Loi 200
Brussels

Website

INSTITUT NATIONAL DES SCIENCES ET TECHNOLOGIES DE LA MER

Tunisia

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Website

PANEPISTIMIO KYPROU
udad
Cyprus
Address
Kallipoleos Avenue 75
20537 Nicosia
Website

INSTITUTION OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES THE SOUTHERN
SCIENTIFIC CENTRE RAS
ccd
Russia
Address
Chekhova 41
Rostov-on-don
Website

STAZIONE ZOOLOGICA ANTON DOHRN
nad
Italy
Address
Villa Comunale
Napoli
Website

IVANE JAVAKHISHVILI TBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY
ned
Georgia
Address
J. Chavchavadze Avenue 1
Tbilisi
Website

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UNIVERSITE DU LITTORAL COTE D'OPALE
France
Address
1, Place De L'yser
Dunkerque
Website

CARL VON OSSIETZKY UNIVERSITAET OLDENBURG.
Germany
Address
Ammerlander Heerstrasse
114-118
Oldenburg
Website

UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH
United Kingdom
Address
Drake Circus
Plymouth, Devon
Website

CYPRUS INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Cyprus
Address
Akademias, 21, Aglantizia
Nicosia
Website

CLU SRL
Italy
Address