

Newsletter



January - February 2016

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1. International Conference “Marine biological research: achievements and perspectives”

To celebrate the 145th anniversary of the oldest marine biological research institution in Russia, Sevastopol Biological Station, a symposium will be organised at the A. O. Kovalevsky Institute of Marine Biological Research in Sevastopol, from 19 September to 24 September, 2016.

The major topics will be:

- History of the development of marine biological research
- Biology and ecology of hydrobionts
- Ecological bio-energetics, biochemistry and genetics of aquatic organisms
- Marine biodiversity and problems of its conservation
- Functioning, productivity and dynamic of marine ecosystems under the natural factors and anthropogenic impact
- Radioecology, the problem of pollution and the bio-indication of water quality
- Rational use of natural resources, marine and terrestrial protected areas
- Marine biological resources, biotechnology and aquaculture

Deadlines for this symposium are:

- April 15, 2016 – for on-line registration
- June 15, 2016 – for submission of papers

More information can be found on the symposium website:

<http://sbs145.imbr-ras.ru/>

2. 51st EMBS in Rhodes, Greece



In our last newsletter, we announced that the 51st European Marine Biology Symposium will be held from 26 to 30 September 2016 in Rhodes, Greece.

The important dates for this symposium are:

- March 30, 2016 – Deadline for submission of abstracts
- May 31, 2016 – Notification of abstract acceptance
- June 30, 2016 – Early registration deadline
- September 5, 2016 – Late registration deadline

The website for this symposium is now available, more information on the symposium can be found here:

<http://www.embs51.org/>

3. MARS supports the declaration of EuroLag at the EuroMedLag Conference in Murcia (Spain)

Lagoon researchers from all over Europe have been meeting from 1 to 4 March at the 7th EuroLag conference in Murcia in Spain. The meeting was organized by Angel Perez-Ruzafa and Concepción Marcos of the University of Murcia.

Four intense days of discussion have allowed to fulfill the Conference scope of '*Vindicating the biological and socio-economic importance of transitional waters*' and to go beyond that. Discussions highlighted the exceptional value of lagoon ecosystems, as well as, their opportunities, challenges and needs for a *Blue Growth* development of the EuroMediterranean territories hosting lagoon ecosystems.

- ⇒ Value: valuing and pricing ecosystem services of lagoon ecosystems are fast evolving fields of science, which have been widely discussed in the conference and are synthesized in the following point:
 - Lagoons have exceptionally high ecological, cultural and economic value; they cover 0,6% of the Biosphere but contribute to 25% of its ecosystem services;
 - The scientific community has the knowledge to translate ecosystem services into social benefits and enhanced well-being, when and where biological and ecological processes underlying services are well studied.
 - Lagoons are also exemplary for other coastal seas, and studies in lagoons are applicable to a wider range of coastal areas
- ⇒ Opportunities: it was clear from the contributions and the round table discussion that the scientific research on lagoon ecosystems offers the opportunities for future sustainable socio-economic development through:
 - Reinforcing the knowledge base for sustainable *Blue Growth* development based on lagoon ecosystem services and for the achievement of good ecological/environmental status demanded by the WFD and MSFD; and,
 - Providing exceptional value in the framework of Blue and Green Growth for the innovative practices due to their accessibility and vast natural resources
 - Ensuring climate change mitigation with wise and pro-active management of disturbance regulation and nutrient cycling services of lagoons
- ⇒ Challenges: lagoon science has produced and presented examples of trans-disciplinary studies and of problem-solving intervention on lagoon ecosystems, highlighting that:

- A trans-disciplinary approach is a must for *Blue Growth* development in lagoon landscapes, no single science has '*the solution*' to the trade-offs that need to be solved;
- Trans-boundary ecosystems, even those generated by migratory species, require trans-national coordination and concerted approaches; and,
- Conflicts among uses have to be addressed for lagoon management and solutions have to be implemented in practice, by:
 - using all available knowledge and research facilities supplied by research networks and European Research Infrastructures; and,
 - building upon and strengthening the science-management interfaces in which many lagoon scientists are currently involved, accounting for ICZM and MSP..

⇒ Needs: in a world changing both ecologically and socio-economically implementation of solutions had fundamental needs, which are basic requirement for the success of any intervention

- Citizens have to be part of the process and have to support the process, being informed and active participants;
- Data observations and collections, and ecosystem function and services studies have to be adequately funded where and when required for implementing proper and low uncertainty solutions in the response;
- Trust has to be established at the citizen-science-policy interface to cope with the development regarding the threshold limits of Biosphere sustainability.

These concluding remarks are endorsed by the EUROMEDLAG member networks, which represent the scientific community active on lagoon ecosystem research. The European network of Marine Research Institutes and Stations (MARS) supports the conclusions and reflections as presented above.