

The GEOTRACES Mediterranean Planning Workshop, Nice 6-8 Oct. 2010

Since the inception of the international GEOTRACES Programme, a strong interest developed in carrying out GEOTRACES-related activities on trace elements and their isotopes (TEI) in the Mediterranean Sea, due to the proximity and importance of the ocean-land-atmosphere domains, as well as the variety and intensity of exchanges between these domains. A funding opportunity from COST Action ES0801 culminated in a GEOTRACES Mediterranean Planning Workshop, which was held in Nice, France, during the 6-8 October 2010. More than 50 participants from 15 countries met and discussed various aspects of implementing GEOTRACES in the Mediterranean. On day-1, keynote speeches demonstrated the large variety of themes that could be handled under the umbrella of GEOTRACES in the Mediterranean Sea. Among other things, the SOLAS-GEOTRACES cooperation in the Mediterranean was enhanced. Advocacy speeches were focusing on key parameters, tracers, processes, and sites of interest for Mediterranean GEOTRACES. Several parallel break-out sessions took place on day 2 with the goal of defining key questions and how a GEOTRACES section in the Mediterranean Sea (and Black Sea) could bring new insights regarding TEI fluxes and processes at ocean interfaces, particle cycles, Western and Eastern Mediterranean process study/studies, TEI as proxies for past change and TEI and models. The ideal Mediterranean GEOTRACES section(s) was/were discussed: (1) one central (W-E) section by the R/V Pelagia (Netherlands) will likely occur in 2013 and (2) other sections dedicated to focused process studies in key areas such as the Gulf of Lions, Adriatic Sea, Black Sea, off the Egypt/Israel coasts etc. will have to be organized concomitantly to the central section, with other research vessels. Complementary to the work during GEOTRACES sections, process studies at key sites (such as time series coupling atmospheric deposition and sediment traps) were also discussed and will be considered in the implementation. Deliberations from the GEOTRACES Mediterranean Planning Workshop will be recorded in a Workshop Report which is currently in the draft form.

Web site of the workshop: <http://www.cybaes.org/gtmed/GMPW/index.html>