

Extension of Argo in shallow coastal areas and expansion of the regional communities (Euro-Argo RISE project)

Introduction

The recent technological advances of the autonomous oceanographic monitoring platforms has allowed observations of unknown regions and dynamic processes that play a key role in the physical environment and marine ecosystem functioning. Under this context Euro-Argo RISE project aims towards the investigation of Argo extension in shallow coastal areas of European marginal seas as well as the seasonally ice-covered areas of the high latitudes.

Methods

Different float configurations are tested in each area of deployment. The development and implementation of operational systems to control the platforms are ongoing. The reinforcement and expansion of the Argo infrastructure at a regional scale is performed by approaching the regional research community with the aim of: promoting Argo data, cooperation at sea, collaboration in technical activities, sharing best practice, knowledge and expertise.

Results

Altogether, eight Euro-Argo RISE floats have been deployed in the Black Sea, the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and the number of floats in the Arctic Ocean is increasing. Workshops and political event will be organized within the project to engage new scientists, technicians and stakeholders. Initiative, collaborations at sea and float donations with/to new partners have already been successfully organized.

Conclusion

Euro-Argo RISE floats will provide indications for the best settings, the optimization of float missions and the improvement of the life expectancy and the sampling efficiency in shallow coastal areas. In addition, guidelines and best practices for operating floats in seasonally ice-covered areas will be provided. The collaboration with scientists, communities and stakeholders of the riparian countries will strengthen and foster the Argo activities in these regional domains.