

## The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) central portal

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Based on an extensive one-year consultation phase, the European Commission (EC) published a Maritime Policy Blue Book in 2007. One of the key-actions was the creation of a sustainable European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet). This data infrastructure would allow Europe's industry and academia to find, access, assemble, and apply data collected through marine observations efficiently and rapidly. Since May 2009, six preparatory actions were set up creating different pilot data portals for marine data.

In 2013, a follow-up phase was launched by the EC within the framework of the 'Knowledge base for growth and innovation in ocean economy: assembly and dissemination of marine data for seabed mapping'. A network of more than 110 partners from all European maritime countries is now assembling existing data relating to the environmental status of sea basins; processing data to create data products in interoperable formats, such as web map services; and assessing their accuracy and precision. The network is structured in 7 thematic areas: hydrographic data, marine geological data, chemical data, physical data, seabed habitats, biological data, and the recently added lot gathering data on human activities at sea.

Now, the construction of a central EMODnet portal is under way, providing easy access to and visualization of the thematic data products developed under the different thematic portals. The central Portal will provide a focal landing page where EMODnet users can find links and information about the data products compiled by the different thematic portals, and will later include specific tools to visualize, access and use the different EMODnet data products. The central landing page is currently available at <http://www.emodnet.eu>