



# Interreg EUROPEAN UNION

## Balkan-Mediterranean HERMES

A HarmonizEd fRamework to Mitigate coastal EroSion promoting ICZM protocol implementation

September 2019

### Newsletter # 3

#### **HERMES oceanographic Station in Bulgaria (BG1) deployed at the entrance of Varna bay**

After a long process involving compliance with national legislation and intense consultations with key institutional stakeholders, the Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (UBBSLA) deployed in mid-June (2019) the Oceanographic Station at the entrance of Varna bay.



Located on a traverse in Cape St. George, half a mile from the shore and equipped as a navigational east cardinal buoy in accordance with state-of-the-art requirements, the HERMES BG1 oceanographic station will now provide valuable information on a real-time basis about the status of the Black Sea.

This information is expected to meet the increasing demand to serve fishermen, boat

*B. Savov presenting HERMES to Varna stakeholders*

operators, the marine research and scientific community as well the emerging Blue Economy entrepreneurs for reliable and timely flow of data that can be used to improve their daily operations and support their longer-term objectives.

A little more than a month later, on 26th July, UBBSLA Chief External Expert, Mr Boyan Savov, was invited by the Institute of Hydrology and Meteorology to give a presentation about the functionalities and operational capacity of the deployed Oceanographic station HERMES BG1 and the first steps in gathering data on different parameters of the sea waves.

The Meeting held in Grand Hotel Dimyat was attended by about 20 representatives of Public Administration services and of scientific and research community.

The HERMES BG1 Oceanographic Station, explained Boyan Savov, a Coastal Engineer with over 40 years of international experience, will evolve into a reliable source of information for the dedicated users. One of the first expected results of the operation of the Oceanographic Station is the completion of the design of the modelling of coastal erosion, which will be a valuable tool for the local authorities of the broader area and the scientific and research community. These information and data are already accessible via a web-based portal ([www.dbi0.com](http://www.dbi0.com)) and will serve the general public, the marine sector, and the scientists and researchers dealing with coastal and nearshore studies and solving practical problems.

“In this way”, explains Ms Mariana Ivanona, UBBSLA Managing Director, “we take a big step towards the achievement of our objective to leverage the experience gained through the HERMES project and contribute to building resilient coastal communities in the Black Sea.”



*A snapshot of the Oceanographic Station deployment operation in Varna bay*

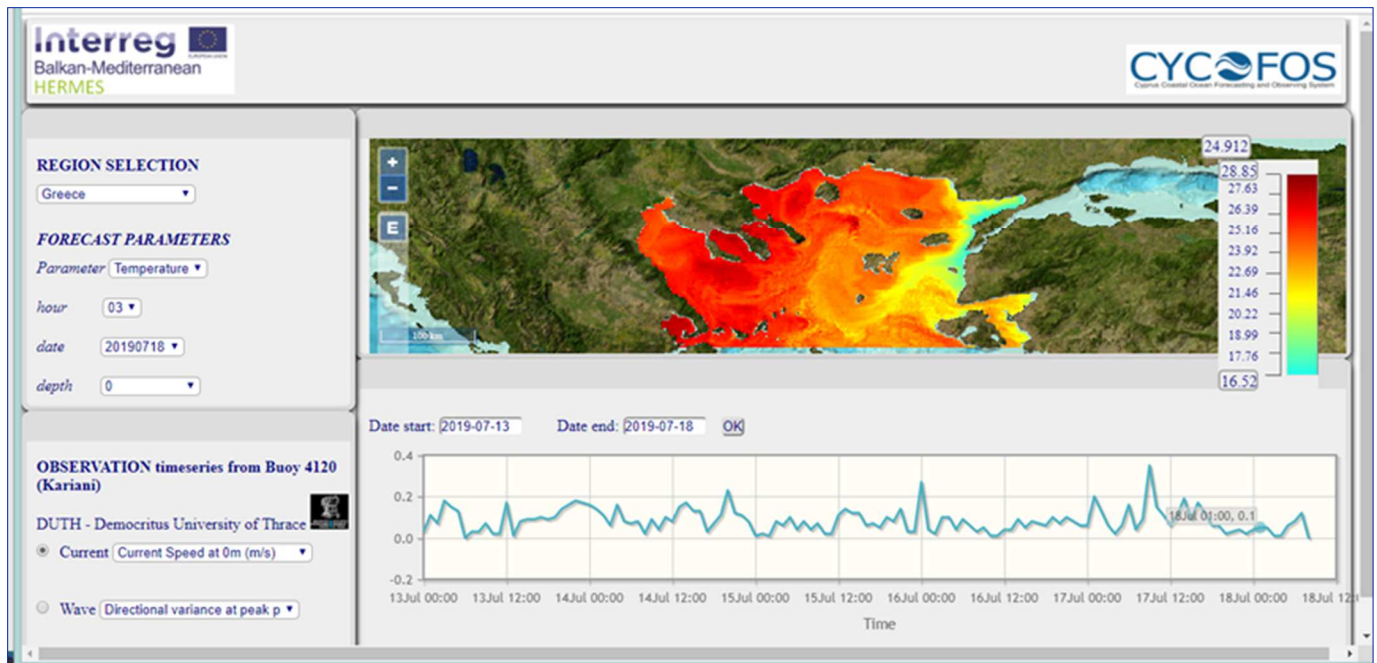
## Beta Version of the HERMES Web GIS released

The ORION, the HERMES partner based in Cyprus, has developed the beta version of a Web GIS system which visualize in operational mode the in-situ sea currents and waves data from the HERMES observing buoy network, deployed in the four participating countries.

Moreover, the Web GIS system provides the visualization of the forecasting sea currents, temperature, salinity, waves and winds data from the Copernicus CMEMS MFC Med, the CMEMS MFC Black Sea and the CYCOFOS in the coastal areas of the HERMES project. Furthermore, the Web GIS system will provide the possibility to freely access and download the observed in-situ data of the HERMES observing buoy network.

A wide variety of end-users will benefit from the HERMES Web GIS system providing solid marine data and information useful to professionals and private individuals working in the fields of Coastal Zone Management, coastal fisheries, recreational coastal facilities, tourist industry, scuba divers, coastal navigation and sailing, search and rescue operations, local port authorities, marinas, fisheries shelters and many others.

The beta version of the HERMES project Web GIS can be accessed from the link: [hermes.orioncyprus.org](http://hermes.orioncyprus.org) <http://www.orioncyprus.org/hermes/>



*Figure: Example of the HERMES project Web GIS showing the CYCOFOS forecast of the sea surface temperature at 03:00 UTC of the 18 July 2019, and the time series of the sea surface currents from the HERMES observing buoy 4120 from 13 to 18th July 2018. The above in-situ data provided operation ally from the buoy 4120 deployed at Kariani (North Aegean Sea) by the project partner DUTH.*

## HERMES workshop in Tirana confirms need for closer cooperation in fight against Coastal Erosion

The HERMES partnership held its 3rd Steering committee meeting and Open Workshop in Tirana, 3-4 July 2019 at the premises of the Institute of GeoSciences, Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE).

“HERMES is actually building a transnational network” says the Project Scientific Coordinator, Prof. Georgios Sylaios (Democritus University of Thrace) “that is capable to collect oceanographic data and transmit them on a real-time basis to all interested users”.

These users can range from local authorities, to fishermen, industry, hotel owners and professionals who work at the sea or / and the coast and need the information to improve their performances. How to take care of the environment while harnessing sustainable place-based development was in simple terms the main topic of the Open Workshop.



*HERMES Workshop at IGEWE premises*

The Workshop was attended by close to 50 people representing a wide array of key national actors involved with the issues related to Coastal erosion in Albania.

The Workshop was co-organised by IGEWE and TEULEDA Development Agency which is based in Shkodra and is the second HERMES project in Albania, highlighted the real need for monitoring the coastal and sea



*IGEWE Director, Fatos Hoxhaj at the Opening of the Workshop*

## Paggaio Municipality will host HERMES Final Conference in Eleftheroupoli, Greece, 23-24 April 2020

HERMES partners unanimously agreed to hold the Final Conference of the project 23-24 April, 2020 in Eleftheroupoli, the seat of Paggaio Municipality.

The Conference will cover two (2) full days, including a site-visit in Ammolofi, the world-renowned beach of Paggaio Municipality, and will aim to connect scientists, engineers from public technical services and professionals involved in the design, development and management of port, coastal and offshore works with coastal local authorities and communities.

“The HERMES Conference will be an opportunity for us to ally with the knowledge sector and move toward a more sustainable model of coastal zone management and development”, says the Mayor of Paggaio, Philippos Anastasiadis.

In effect, attendees and speakers will include numerous representatives from local authorities, engineers from the public sector and leading Coastal Zone Management experts from top Universities in Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Albania.



*Apollonia Tower in Paggaio Municipality*



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*Project co-funded by the European Union and National Funds of the participating countries*