PT3  TOOLS AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY MAKERS BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE PERSEUS EU PROJECT

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PERSEUS (Policy-oriented marine Environmental Research in Southern European Seas) was a large-scale, four-year EU project (2012-2015) involving 53 partners from 21 countries and 300+ scientists that assessed the combined effects and impacts of human and natural pressures on the Mediterranean and Black Seas and used the objectives and principles of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) to achieve its goal. PERSEUS was a first-of-its-kind, marine environmental research project that targeted a large part of its activities at creating science-based governance tools for policy makers and supported them in developing adaptive policies for the achievement of Good Environmental Status (GES) across the Mediterranean and Black Sea. Scientific findings from PERSEUS showed that pressures on both the Mediterranean and the Black Sea are still increasing. In addition, and related to knowledge-based policy it seems that there is a lack of data accessibility and long time series, while in many cases poorly constrained processes cannot really support policy making (e.g. ecosystem functioning, climate change, fisheries management, etc.). Resource exploitation, industrial pollution, tourism and transportation affect their ecosystems, but can also have negative effects on socio-economic activities. Working closely with the Regional Conventions of Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and providing a set of tools for the policy makers, PERSEUS enhanced the understanding of the true added value of the policy-science interface.