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Policy Brief dal Simposio “Transformative Ocean Science”

Mario Sprovieri

CNR-ISMAR Director



Abstract - The Ocean is fundamental to life on Earth, yet much of it remains poorly understood. Advancing ocean knowledge is becoming increasingly urgent to address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and the growing impacts of human activities on marine ecosystems. At the same time, the Ocean represents an immense reservoir of biological, genetic, and biotechnological resources with major societal and economic potential. Despite this importance, ocean science capacity and observing systems remain fragmented, underfunded, and overly dependent on short-term funding schemes.

In March 2026, more than 300 ocean scientists from 23 countries gathered in Venice during the International Symposium on Transformative Ocean Science to discuss the future of Ocean Science and contribute to the development of the EU Ocean Research & Innovation Strategy. The resulting policy brief delivers a clear message: the European Union has a unique opportunity to position itself as a global leader in transformative Ocean Science.

This seminar will present the main outcomes of the symposium, highlighting key strategic messages and recommendations for the EU Ocean Pact and Ocean R&I Strategy. Topics will include the need to strengthen long-term ocean observing systems as critical infrastructure, promote transformative and inclusive ocean science, improve the science-policy interface, foster innovation, and reinforce ocean literacy and public engagement.