

INFORM



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End-User Newsletter

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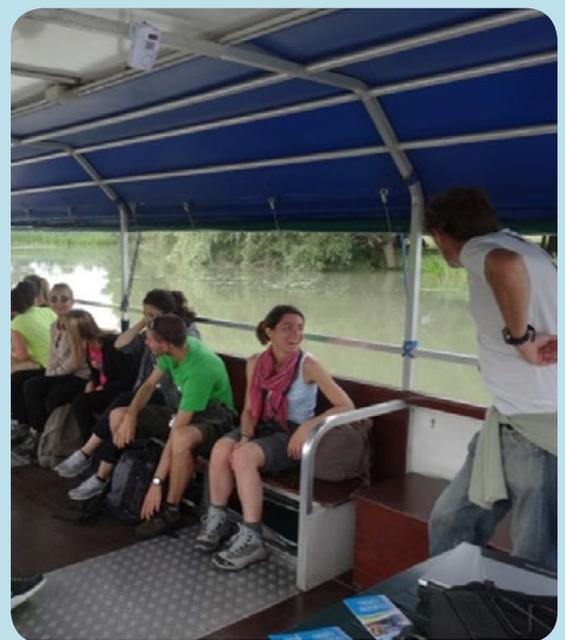
# Interaction with end-users of Mantua Lakes

With the aim of both involving local end-users and disseminating the INFORM project, products and methodologies, the Institute for the Electromagnetic study of the Environment (CNR-IREA, INFORM End-User Interaction Leader), with the collaboration of the University of Parma, organized a working day on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2015.

This workshop was dedicated to the application of remote sensing techniques for the study of Mantua Lakes. Students graduating in Environmental Sciences at the University of Parma, together with the “Barcaioli del Mincio” company and the Mincio Natural Park were involved.

In the morning, 23 students on board of one of the boats owned by the “Barcaioli del Mincio” (company in charge of transporting tourists on the lakes of Mantua) could directly work in the field, looking closely to the macrophytes growing inside the Mincio River waters and inhabiting the Superior Lake of Mantua. Thanks to the lectures given by Mariano Bresciani (CNR-IREA) and Marco Bartoli (University of Parma) the students also experimented with spectroradiometric instrumentation used for the retrieval of the water signal and learned specific measuring protocols for the water sampling and aquatic vegetation.

In the afternoon, a meeting was held in the Mincio Natural Park headquarters, where Cinzia De Simone (director of the Park) presented how the Mincio Natural Park is organized and which are its main activities, while Mariano Bresciani described the activities, main objectives and first results of the INFORM project. The meeting was also an opportunity for a constructive dialogue in view of a future cooperation between the INFORM project and the Mincio Natural Park: the director has expressed considerable interest in the maps of water quality and vegetation of the lakes of Mantua and she would like to exhibit the project products inside the Park headquarters.



Lessons by Marco Bartoli (University of Parma) and Mariano Bresciani (CNR-IREA) held on the boat on the Superior Lake of Mantua.



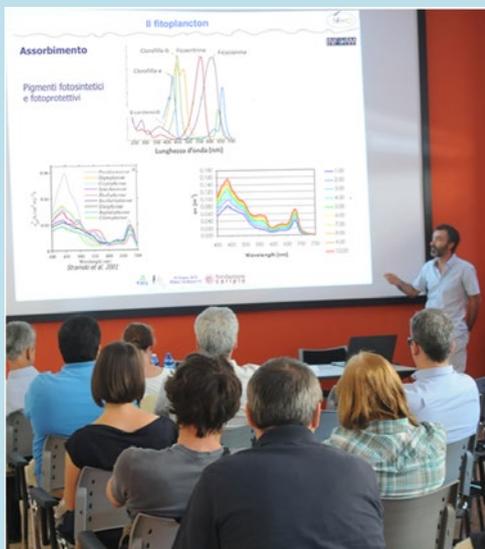
Group picture after the meeting at the headquarters of the Mincio Natural Park.

## INFORM Presentation @ BLASCO Kick-Off Meeting

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 the kick-off meeting of the BLASCO project has been held at CNR-IREA, Milan. The BLASCO project, just started in May 2015, will last for two years and is funded by the Fondazione Cariplo. The main objective of the BLASCO project is improving the knowledge about optical properties of cyanobacteria, trying to differentiate potentially toxic strains from non toxic ones. This knowledge, gained through laboratory activities, will help in the application of semi-empirical algorithms or semi-analytical models to satellite or airborne images capturing cyanobacteria blooms in lakes. Information that can be gathered from the application of remote sensing techniques could contribute in early warning systems and in the management programs of lacustrine environments affected by cyanobacteria blooms.

During the kick-off meeting Mariano Bresciani and Claudia Giardino presented some activities of the INFORM project, with a particular focus on the implementation of specific algorithms for different phytoplankton functional types. Also the activities going on in the Mantua Lakes have been shown. One brochure about

the INFORM project and the last newsletter of the INFORM project were distributed to all participants (about 50 people).



BLASCO Kick-Off Meeting. Mariano Bresciani (CNR-IREA) is presenting INFORM activities.

Inside the BLASCO project, information about the inherent optical properties of some cyanobacteria species may be provided, which can be of use in the INFORM project. Furthermore, interesting synergies may arise with different local end-users. As an example, during the kick-off meeting it has been possible to interact with local Environmental Protection Agencies (ARPA of Lombardy and Veneto), with the Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) and with experts in water treatment (Politecnico-University of Milan).



# ASITA National Conference

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2015, during the XIX National Conference ASITA, which will be held in Lecco (Milano Politecnico, learning center of Lecco) from 29<sup>th</sup> of September to 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2015, CNR-IREA (Milan) will organize a special session entitled “Lo studio e il monitoraggio dei laghi: dal microscopio alle immagini satellitari” (the study and the monitoring of lakes: from the microscope to the satellite images), which will be focused on the integration of traditional limnological monitoring methodologies with remote sensing techniques.

Chaired by Claudia Giardino, different Italian researchers will present their research activities: among them Mariano Bresciani will describe the remote sensing activities of the INFORM project.

The special session will be an opportunity to exchange advice and information, and to discuss with local end-users (Province of Lecco, Navy League, Fishermen’s associations) to gain a better understanding of their needs for the management of lacustrine environments.

For more information about the special session at the ASITA Conference, please visit <http://www.asita.it/blog/lo-studio-e-il-monitoraggio-dei-laghi-dal-microscopio-alle-immagini-satellitari>



# Partners

- Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek N.V. (VITO), Belgium
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- Stichting Deltares (Deltares), the Netherlands
- Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), United Kingdom
- Magyar Tudományos Akademia Okologiai Kutatokozpont (MTA OK), Hungary
- Klaipedos Universitetas (KU), Lithuania





INFORM Project Coordinator  
Dr. Ils Reusen

VITO NV  
Remote Sensing Unit  
Boeretang 200  
BE-2400 Mol  
Belgium  
Tel. +32 14 33 68 62  
Fax: +32 14 32 27 95  
E-mail: [ils.reusen@vito.be](mailto:ils.reusen@vito.be)

