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anean Sea offers unique opportunities to study these DSP as it represents one of the very few seas with warm deep-waters. Results from the CIESM-SUB campaigns have begun to address some key issues in the microbial oceanography, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in the deep-Mediterranean Sea. The speakers highlighted the large demand of better knowledge of deep-sea processes and the associated microbiota. In particular, there is a need for a Mediterranean Sea Deep Ocean Monitoring Station to assess hydrological, chemical and biological dynamics and for an adequate technology to determine actual metabolic rates under in situ pressure conditions to allow full exploitation of genomic information contained in organisms.

Inge Jonckheere illustrated the key-role of ESF in providing a common platform for its Member Organisations (MOs) to advance European research and explore new directions for research at the European level. Through its activities, ESF serves the needs of the European research community in a global context and in a variety of scientific domains. I. Jonckheere illustrated in detail the EuroDEEP programme (2007-2010), which focuses on ecosystem functioning and biodiversity in the deep sea.

Eva Ramirez presented an outline of the recently ESF-EURODEEP approved programme BIOFUN, which aims to characterize mid-slope, bathyal and abyssal habitats to understand linkages between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in four key sites with contrasting environmental conditions.

An intense discussion followed the talks, with various interventions from the audience. The main points can be summarized as follows:

- a. There is a clear need for investing more in the deep-sea Mediterranean research and to create opportunities for sharing facilities, equipments and infrastructure;
- b. There is a need for long time-series measurements, which are necessary to understand natural processes exhibiting slow or irregular change;
- c. There is a need to investigate more the southern part of the Mediterranean Sea and to identify tools to involve the southern countries (north African countries) in deep-sea research;
- d. specific priority should be given to episodic events (such as the cascade event of the Catalan margin and EMT) and their impact on deep-sea ecosystems.

CIESM and ESF are establishing a very fruitful collaboration, which can be extremely important not only to set up strategic scientific priorities, but also to identify tools for sharing infrastructures and allocate new resources and funding to carry on long term programs. There is a clear need for engaging more the national Mediterranean governments on deep-sea issues and to explain how important and strategic is to invest more in deep-sea research.