

# Harmonising Water Quality

Water quality is a key worldwide issue relevant to human consumption, food production, industry, and environment.

The Copernicus programme includes satellite sensors designed to observe water quality - however, water quality data production is split across Copernicus services with different approaches, and with some areas, notably transitional waters, not supported by any service.

The aim of CERTO is to *harmonise* between the variety of Copernicus services to produce water quality data for the continuum from lakes to oceans, adding capabilities for near coastal waters, estuaries, lagoons, bays and river systems.

Monitoring and maintaining good water quality is pivotal to fulfilling the UN Sustainable Development Goals and is enshrined in European policy through the *Water Framework Directive* and the *Marine Strategy Framework Directive*.



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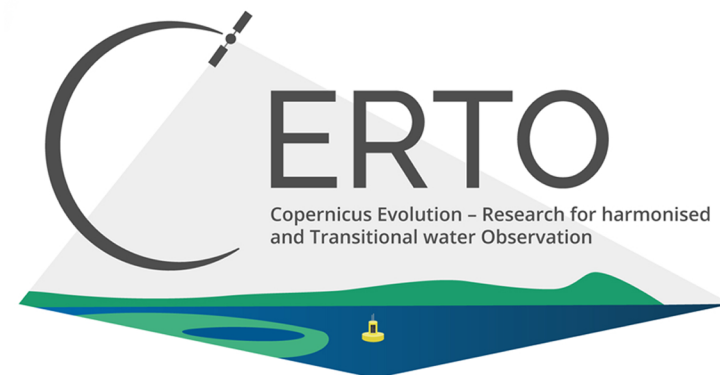
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Funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement n° 870349



**CERTO will provide  
easy to use maps and indicators  
to better monitor  
the water quality status  
across all water types  
and benefit the community in Europe,  
supporting more efficient planning  
decisions at a lower cost.**

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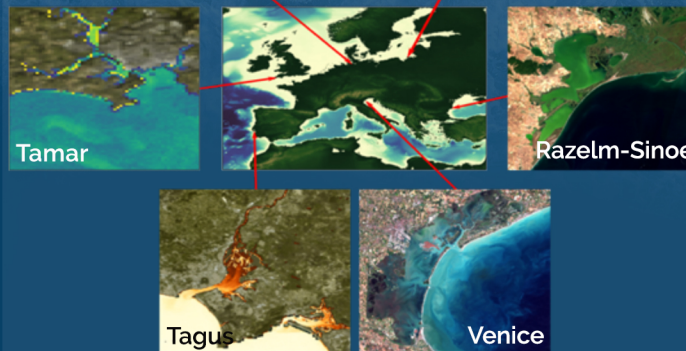
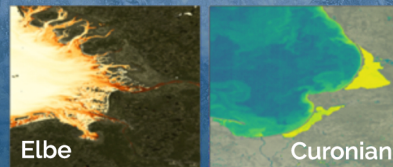
# Copernicus Evolution - Research for harmonised and Transitional water Observation

## About the project

Transitional, inland and near-shore waters are challenging for satellite-based Earth Observation because of the heterogeneity and variety of water conditions, impact of nearby land, and water body bottom visibility.

Satellites offer a cost-effective solution to monitor water quality at a global scale. A variety of methods and approaches are currently used for different water bodies such as oceans and lakes.

CERTO provides a harmonised capability to monitor water quality from lakes, deltas, coastal waters and to the open ocean.



## Case study areas

The project has six European case-study regions which will be used as test sites for the CERTO prototype.

- Elbe estuary, Germany
- Curonian lagoon, Russia/Lithuania
- Tamar estuary, UK
- Razelm-Sinoe lagoon, Romania
- Tagus estuary, Portugal
- Venice lagoon, Italy

In-situ sampling is ongoing at the six CERTO Case study areas.

## Objectives

- Harmonise between the different Copernicus services approaches.
- Develop indicators relevant to management, policy and science users operating in transitional waters.
- Develop specific in-water and atmospheric correction methods for water quality in transitional waters.
- Interact and consult with commercial, industrial, scientific, policy and monitoring stakeholders.
- Provide a prototype system for use by the Copernicus Services.

*In-situ data collection,  
Tagus Estuary*

