



UNDERSTANDING MICROPLASTICS PATHWAYS IN THE DOURO ESTUARY

TOPIC:

In situ multidisciplinary campaigns, Hydrodynamics, Microplastics, Water masses, Laboratory, Data analysis

IDEA / PROPOSAL:

Microplastics are considered one of the most dangerous contaminants of emergent concern. Once they entered into the waterways, they are extremely difficult to trace and remove. Data from specially designed in situ campaigns can be used to help the policy makers to understand the microplastic pathways and hotspots to be intervened. The topic here proposed intends to continue the work already started in the INSPIRE project (<https://inspire-europe.org/>) to understand the local pressures that produce microplastics around the Douro Estuary and link their presence with the main estuarine current patterns using in situ data obtained in specially designed multidisciplinary campaigns. Additional data from previous research projects will also complement the analysis, as well as new data obtained during the INSPIRE project and other initiatives as, for example, CIIMAR Watch. During this research period, the student will gain a multidisciplinary experience participating in in situ campaigns and working with the data obtained, analysing microplastic samples in the laboratory, and link their presence with the estuarine hydrodynamic characteristics and the local pressures.

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