



# European Multidisciplinary Seafloor and Water-Column Observatory :

## A New Challenge for RV's

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*on behalf of the EMSO Consortium*

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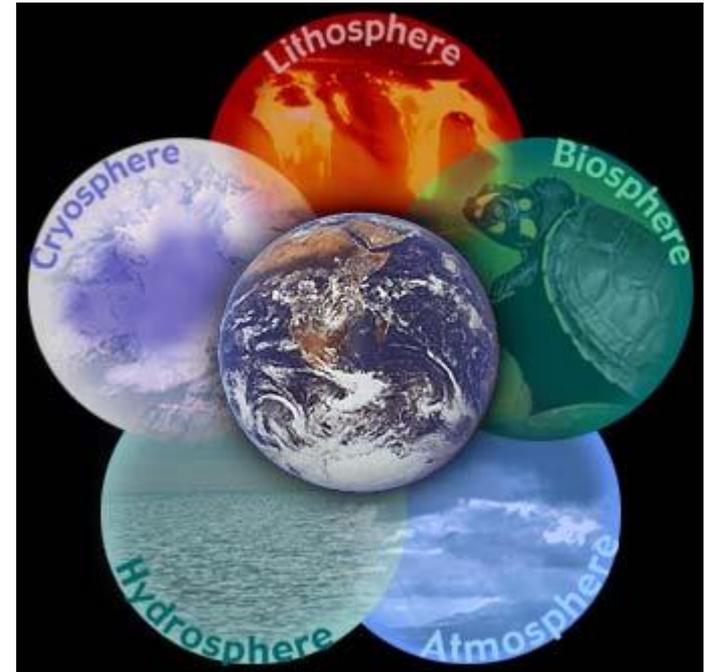
EMSO is a Distributed European Research Infrastructure of fixed seafloor and water column observatories constituting a Large Scale infrastructure for **long-term** monitoring of marine environmental processes

european  
multidisciplinary  
seafloor & water column  
observatory

emso



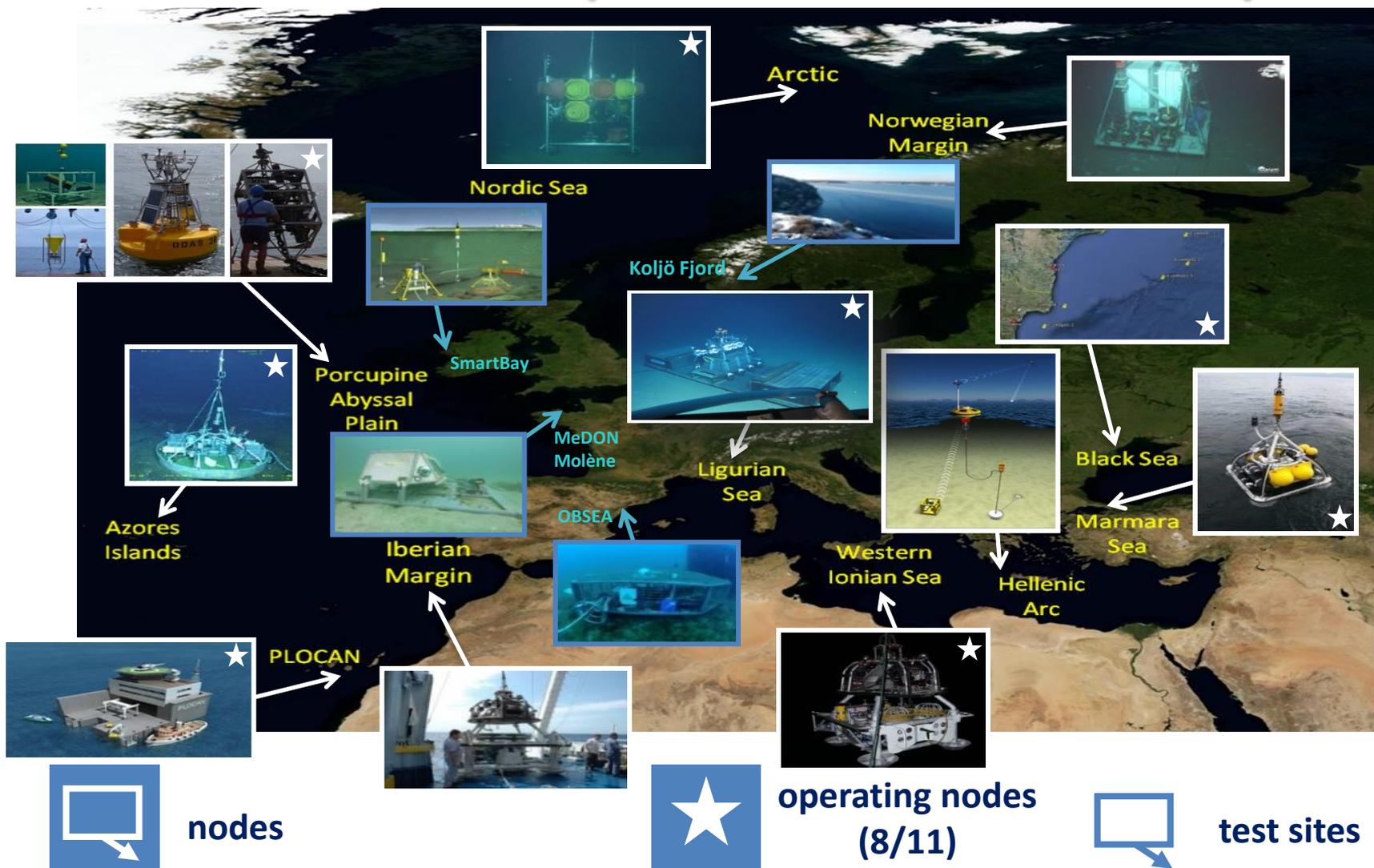
Earth's interactions  
hydrosphere,  
biosphere, lithosphere,  
atmosphere



### Challenging Topics

- Health of the Oceans; Ocean Circulation, warming and acidification
- Marine resources exploitation impact and sustainability
- **Natural Hazards; Early warning of tsunami & earthquakes**

# EMSO Nodes (11 nodes & 4 test sites)



## Participating Countries to EMSO RI\*

### 10 Countries confirmed:

- Italy (coordinator) (JRU in progress)
- France (IFREMER, CNRS, IPGP)
- United Kingdom (NERC-NOCS)
- Germany (KDM)
- Spain (CSIC, PLOCAN)
- Portugal (IPMA)
- Greece (HCMR)
- Romania (GeoEcoMar)
- Ireland (MI)
- The Netherlands (NIOZ)

### Planned participation:

- Norway (NRC)
- Turkey (TUBITAK)
- Sweden (UGOT)

- Total implementation costs: 300 M€
- Running costs: 20 M€/y

Italian Ministry Letter sent to the Funding Agencies	DONE
MoU Signature process	DONE
Interim Office establishment	DONE
ERIC Official Application submission (step1)	DONE by Permanent Representation of Italy to EU
ERIC Application review process	NEXT
ERIC APPROVAL  M1	NEXT

## Steps towards EMSO-ERIC

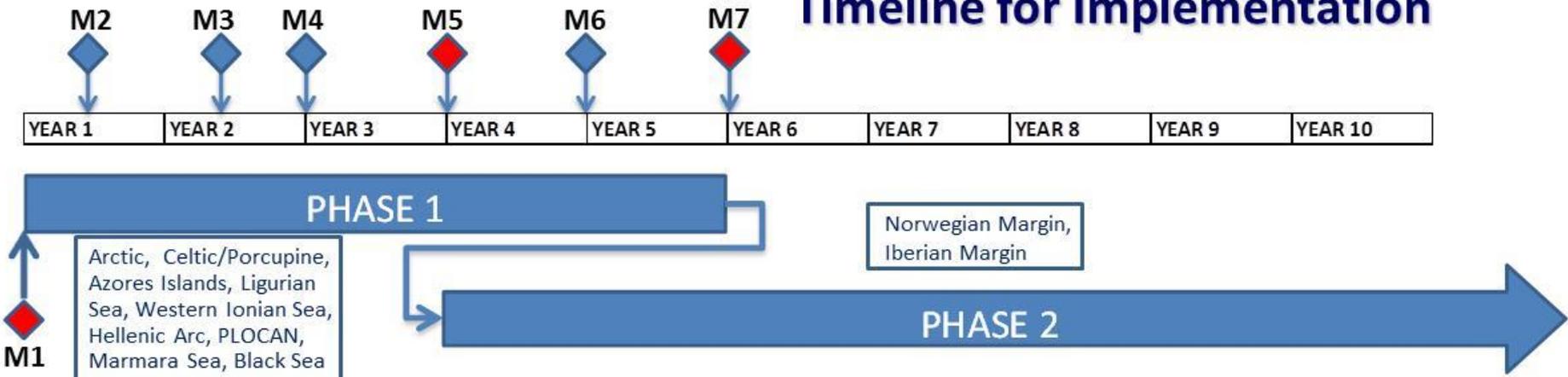
### 10 Signatory Countries:

Italy, UK, Portugal, Romania, Greece, The Netherlands, Ireland, Germany, France, Spain

### Foreseen:

Norway, Turkey, Sweden (postponed)

## Timeline for Implementation



## Fixed-point observatories

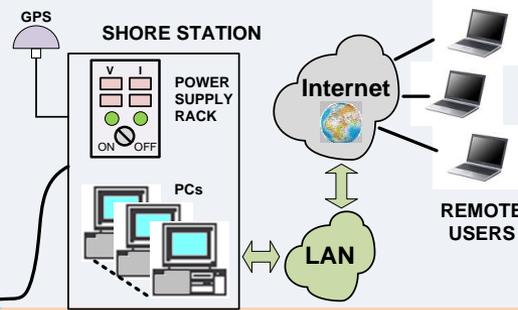
In order to explore the time changing properties of the oceanic environment, sustained observations are essential at a sufficiently high frequency

These provide the means to examine complex interrelations between processes and properties:

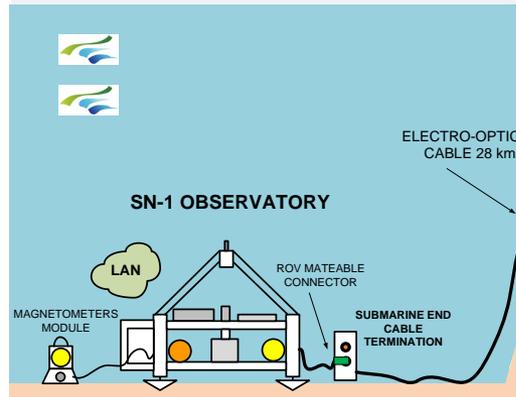
- Short-time scales (minutes, hours to days)
- Longer-time scales (up to decades)

A key attribute of many current fixed observatories is that they are real-time multidisciplinary interactive and some cover several environments from the top of the ocean to the seabed

## Cabled



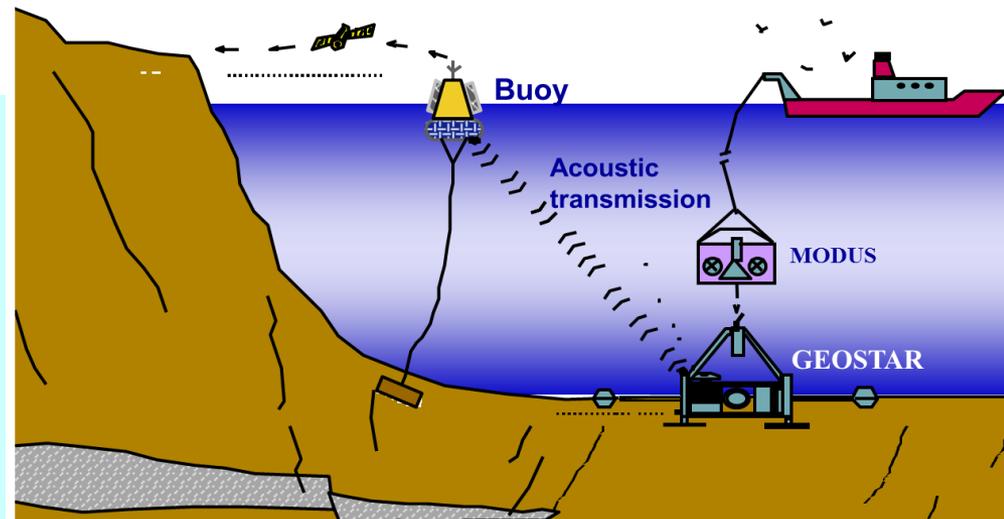
**Payload:**  
seismological, geomagnetic,  
gravimetric, oceanographic,  
hydro-acoustic, bio-acoustic



## Standalone

### Iberian Margin – NEAREST EC Project

#### Satellite Link



**Rationale for the missions:**  
i) characterise ambient noise (marine mammal sounds, environmental/anthropogenic sources);  
ii) study earthquake and tsunami generation in Iberian Margin & Western Ionian Sea  
Detection algorithm runs in the Shore Station

# EMSO nodes: present status

## Geo-Hazard

Tsunami Early Warning system prototype

Seismometer, bottom pressure data;

Marine ecosystem & climate change: CTD,  
hydrophone, gravity meter, current meter, ADCP,  
turbidity meter, seismic, sea bottom pressure

First mission (2007-2008)

(NEAREST EC project)



November 2009  
deployment

June 2011  
recovery

## Iberian margin

Second mission (2009-2011)

NEAREST - ESONET LIDO DM

GEOSTAR recovered in June 2011



# International Dimension

Ocean Networks Canada

DONET Japan



ECSSOS China

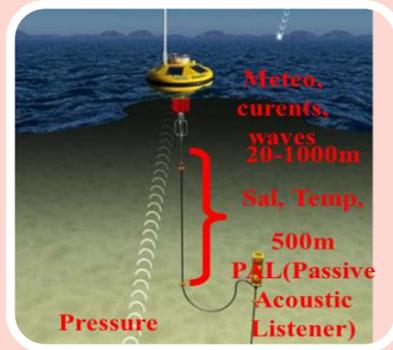
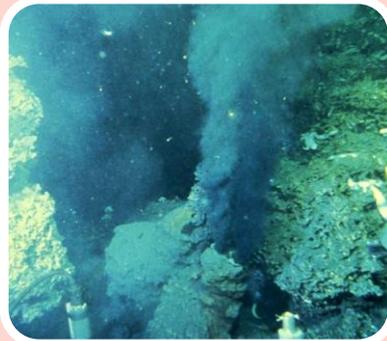
MACHO Taiwan

OOI United States

IMOS Australia



# SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OBJECTIVES



## Geosciences

- Seismicity
- Gas hydrate stability
- Seabed fluid flow
- Submarine landslides
- Submarine volcanism
- Geo-hazard early warning

## Physical Oceanography

- Ocean warming
- Deep-ocean circulation
- Benthic and water column interactions
- Marine forecasting

## Biogeochemistry

- Ocean acidification & Solubility pump
- Biological pump
- Hypoxia
- Continental shelf pump
- Deep-ocean biogeochemical fluxes

## Marine Ecology

- Climate forcing of ecosystems
- Molecules to microbes
- Fisheries
- Marine noise
- Deep biosphere
- Chemosynthetic ecology

Opportunities exists through **EMSO- ERIC** consortium

## Key Socio-Economic Impacts (1/2)

**EMSO** addresses several  
Horizon 2020 challenges



Natural resources; Oil, Gas, Deep Sea mining, etc.

Environment; Civil protection, Marine mammals protection, Biodiversity

**Marine Technology**; Sensor, vehicles, Seafloor Observatories, seismic tools

Energy; Submarine cabling, wind farming, wave energy, etc.

Shipping Cia; Shipyards, ship design, green ships

Management; Services, HSE Control, Training, etc.



# Links to Other Major EU and Intl. Initiatives (1/2)

## Europe

- Partnership Agreement with RI SIOS - Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System ([www.sios-svalbard.org](http://www.sios-svalbard.org))



- Cross collaborations with other RIs, such as: EURO-ARGO, EPOS, ICOS, EMBRC, LIFEWATCH and KM3NeT
- Participation in many EU projects (e.g., FixO<sub>3</sub>, ENVRI, MARsite, SCIDIP-ES)
- Links with other EU initiatives (e.g., EUROFLEETS-2, SeaDataNet, EMODnet)
- Future cooperation with European Centres of Excellence (e.g., CAGE-Centre for Arctic Gas Hydrate, Environment and Climate in Norway)
- Cooperation and co-investment with industry (e.g., oil and gas, renewable energy, deep-sea mining, fisheries)

# Links to Other Major EU and Intl. Initiatives (2/2)

## Global

- **Contacts and exchanges with sister research infrastructure initiatives:**
  - ONC - Ocean Networks Canada**
  - OOI - Ocean Observatories Initiative (USA)**
  - DONET - Dense Oceanfloor Network for Earthquakes & Tsunamis (Japan)**
  - IMOS - Integrated Marine Observing System (Australia)**
- **Partnership Agreement with DONET**
- **Collaboration with OOI is on-going within the EU-US research cooperation project, CoopEUS**
- **Also, have teamed up with ONC, OOI, IMOS to propose an extended continuation of CoopEUS under Horizon 2020**
- **ONC is joining EMSO as an Observer**
- **The EMSO Coordinator nominated to the ONC International Science Advisory Board**

# Needs for sampling and monitoring deep seafloor :

## Some amazing numbers

- **Three humans have managed to reach deepest point of the world's oceans—the Marianas Trench.**
- **By contrast, more than 500 people have journeyed into space and 12 people have actually set foot on the surface of the moon.**
- **Fiscal year 2013 NASA's annual exploration budget was roughly \$3.8 billion. That same year, to NOAA's Office of Exploration and Research received just \$23.7 million.**
- **There are some similarities between space and ocean travel: Both are dark, cold, and completely inhospitable to human life.**
- **Scientists estimate that we still have not discovered 91 percent of the species that live in our oceans.**
- **The deep seabed is a much more likely source of so-called rare-earth metals than distant asteroids. Recently the United Nations published its first plan for management of mineral resources beneath the high seas that are outside the jurisdiction of any individual country.**

## FREIRE SHIPYARD -Since 1895-



SIGNIFICANT VESSELS – Specialized Vessels

**ROV/CONSTRUCTION VESSEL. POLAR KING AND POLAR QUEEN**



# Why Seafloor Observatories are a challenge opportunity for RV's ?

The **deep sea is the engine** that controls the overall climate—but we don't yet understand enough about how this engine works. Monitoring deep-sea changes could better predict future crises, such as rising sea-level, for heavily populated coastal areas.

Species that live closer to the surface are depleted, commercial fisheries are seeking other species at even greater depths. But we know little about the biology of these delicious deep-sea habitants.

Around the hydrothermal vents, there are very valuable mineral deposits, covering thousands of square km of the deep-sea floor are billions of tons of so-called “manganese nodules” that are rich in cobalt, nickel, and manganese. International consortia are pressing to get started! What effects will mining have on fragile deep-sea habitats?

There are almost four thousand offshore oil wells in the Gulf of Mexico. When will we have another gigantic oil spill like the Deepwater Horizon accident of 2010, and how much short-term and long-term damage will it do? Do we have enough information now, so we can accurately judge the extent of possible future damage and recovery times?

Credits: Charles Fisher

# Why Seafloor Observatories are a challenge and an opportunity for RV's ?

🌊 **The deep sea**—that part of the ocean that is perpetually dark—is 280 million of km<sup>2</sup> in area. Canada extends for 9,9 million km<sup>2</sup> . However, despite a significant increase in exploration in recent decades, we still know very little about this “inner space.” **We urgently need to know a lot more**

## RECENT HISTORY

🌊 **HERMIONE** (Hotspot Ecosystem Research and Man's Impact On European Seas (2009-2012) EU funded project mobilized hundreds of scientist and marine technicians across Europe, more than 1000 days at sea, 50 RV's, ROV's, AUVs, etc.

🌊 **HERMES AND HERMIONE** mobilized a substantial amount a marine research infrastructures between 2006-2012 without any thoughtful preparation on the side of ship operators. Lesson learned

🌊 Currently there are few Submarine Labs operative (Canada Neptune, OOI-USA, etc.) RVs are part of the program by installing sensors, reparations, and some maintenance, etc.

🌊 **ERVO** has a unique opportunity to anticipate events and prepare our Rv's in an efficient and collaborative way to address the challenge of early implementation of undersea laboratories.

# CONCLUDING REMARKS

## Scientific & Societal demand for Deep Sea and Water Column

- **Oceans** are essential to quality of life on Earth. **Largest most complex Biome on Earth- ORIGIN OF LIFE**

- **Oceans dynamics** drive most of the ecosystems on Earth, and control on the Planetary Climate

- **70% of Volcanism on Earth** Occurs Underwater. Source of Hazards- Often Unpredictable

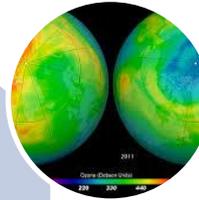
- **Oceans** are the **last unexplored frontier on Earth**

- There is a **increasing exigency to understand de oceans**

**EMSO AIMS:** For long-term monitoring series of sub-seafloor, seafloor and water column

**To study** Ecosystems, Global changes, Earth Sciences and Geo-hazards and for Environment protection

Marine component of **GMES** and **GEOSS**  
Platform for **Data Access and management**



Earths interactions hydrosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, atmosphere



Geohazard and early warning capacity for earthquakes ,tsunamis, gas-hydrates release and submarine slope failure and sediments instability

Research and long term and continuous monitoring has the highest priorities?



Interactions between ecosystems , biodiversity, biogeochemistry physic and climate for e.g. understanding present and past climate changes in the poles?

Regular operations are needed and prioritized for research, monitoring purposes, and maintenance of permanently installed observatories, based on the previous items?



Impact of exploration and extraction of natural resources and living resources



Observation on how Natural and Anthropogenic changes  
Connecting scientific outcomes to stake holders and policy makers

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