

ANNUAL REPORT ON GEOTRACES ACTIVITIES IN ITALY

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GEOTRACES activities

Unfortunately, Italy lost one of its most important research vessels (*R/V Urania*) in 2015 due to an accident while it was dry docked in Livorno. This accident has (and is having) major consequences on the activities at sea for the Italian scientific community working on GEOTRACES related topics. A new research vessel, the icebreaker *Laura Bassi*, operated by the Italian National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS) in collaboration with the Italian National Research Council (CNR) and the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA), started its operations in 2019 in the Ross Sea (Antarctica). A GO-FLO system for trace metal clean sampling should be purchased soon, allowing to undertake GEOTRACES research in the next couple of years.

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