



## English

The Cold-water corals of Cyprus: Environmental settings and ecological features (CYprus Cold-corals Levantine SeA, Eastern MEditerranean: CYCLAMEN), funded by the TOTAL Foundation, commenced in December of 2014.

Within the framework of the two-year project, **CYCLAMEN** will conduct a detailed study of deep coral communities in Cypriot waters, the first of its kind in the the eastern Mediterranean. The research will include an environmental characterization of the area, as well as a study of the spatial distribution of deep coral communities. In addition to the study of the biology of the coral species and their responses to environmental changes through ecophysiological examinations, genetic studies of the corals will also be conducted. This is a pioneer project for Cyprus and, through its associated scientific outreach programme, it aims to disseminate information about these ecosystems, still mostly unknown, to the general public.

The project is led by a researcher at the Spanish Institute of Oceanography (**IEO**), and counts on the participation of institutions in Cyprus: The Cyprus Institute (**CyI**) and NGO Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre, (**EPERC**); in France: Aix-Marseille University – Mediterranean Institute for Biodiversity & Ecology (**AMU-IMBE**); in Greece: The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (**HCMR**); in Mónaco: Centre Scientifique de Monaco (**CSM**); in the United Kingdom: National Oceanography Centre (**NOC**), and in Spain: University of Barcelona (**UB**).