

The European Project MERCES: Restoring European marine habitats

The project MERCES (Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas), funded in H2020, is the first European project focused on the development of tools and solutions for restoring degraded marine habitats, and recovering their biodiversity and functioning. The project, coordinated by the Polytechnic University of Marche (Italy), involves 28 institutions from 16 different countries: from Norway to UK, across the Mediterranean Sea up to Turkey, and will be focused on the development of new approaches and tools for the restoration of seagrass meadows, shallow hard bottoms and mesophotic habitats, and deep-sea ecosystems.

The project started on June 1st, 2016 and will have a duration of 4 years.

"MERCES is a cutting edge project, starting a "revolution" on our approach to natural ecosystems. We need to go beyond sustainability. We need to restore marine degraded habitats to ensure the good and services they provide to future generations" declares Professor Roberto Danovaro, the Coordinator of the MERCES project.