



# MERCES: Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

MERCES is a new EU project on the restoration of degraded **marine habitats**. The aim of the project is to improve existing and develop new **restoration approaches** to recover vulnerable and damaged European marine habitats, including **shallow soft, hard bottoms** (e.g. seagrass meadows and macro-algal beds) and **deep-sea ecosystems** (as deep-sea corals) (Fig.1).

MERCES will adapt restoration measures to increase the **resilience of ecosystems** to climate change in European seas, enhancing EU conservation capacity and preservation of natural capital.

MERCES will provide **tools and guidelines** for the integration of the Restoration Agenda into the delivery of major policy objectives related to (blue and green) economic growth.

Cost-benefit and socio-economic analyses for marine restoration measures will be conducted, identifying the benefits of establishing a network of restoration sites, creating new employment opportunities and developing world markets for European industry.

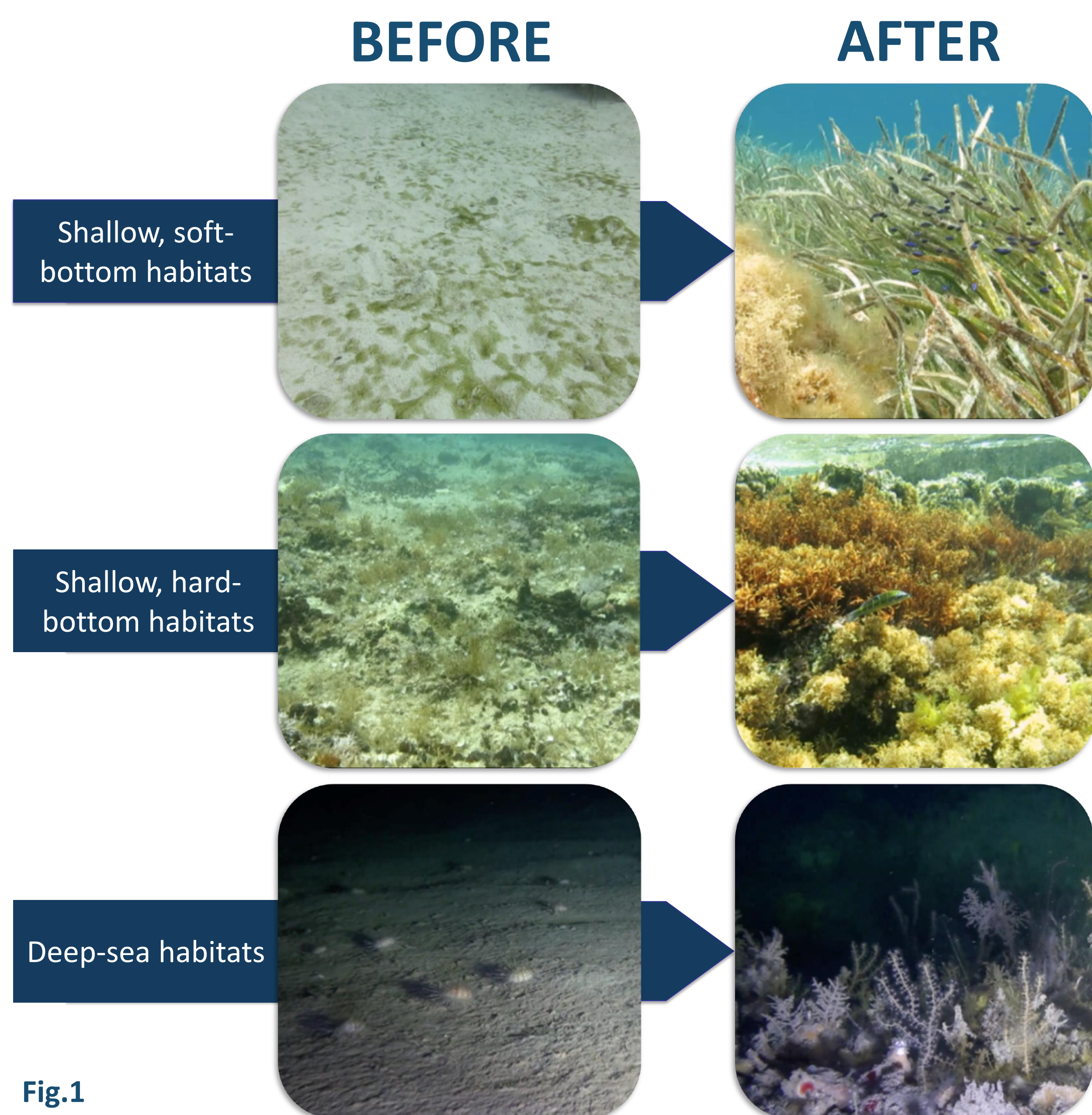


Fig.1

## MERCES STRUCTURE

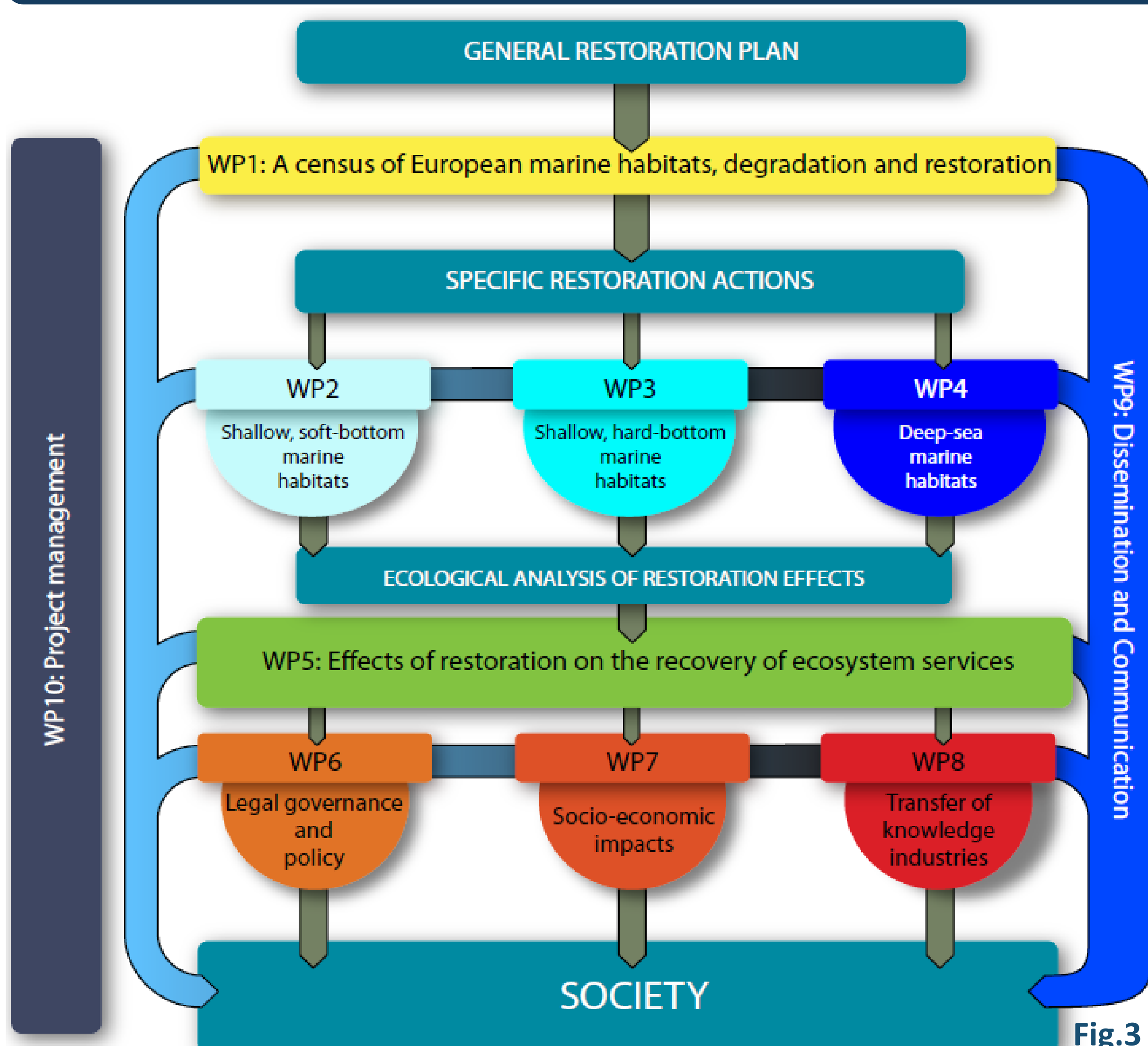
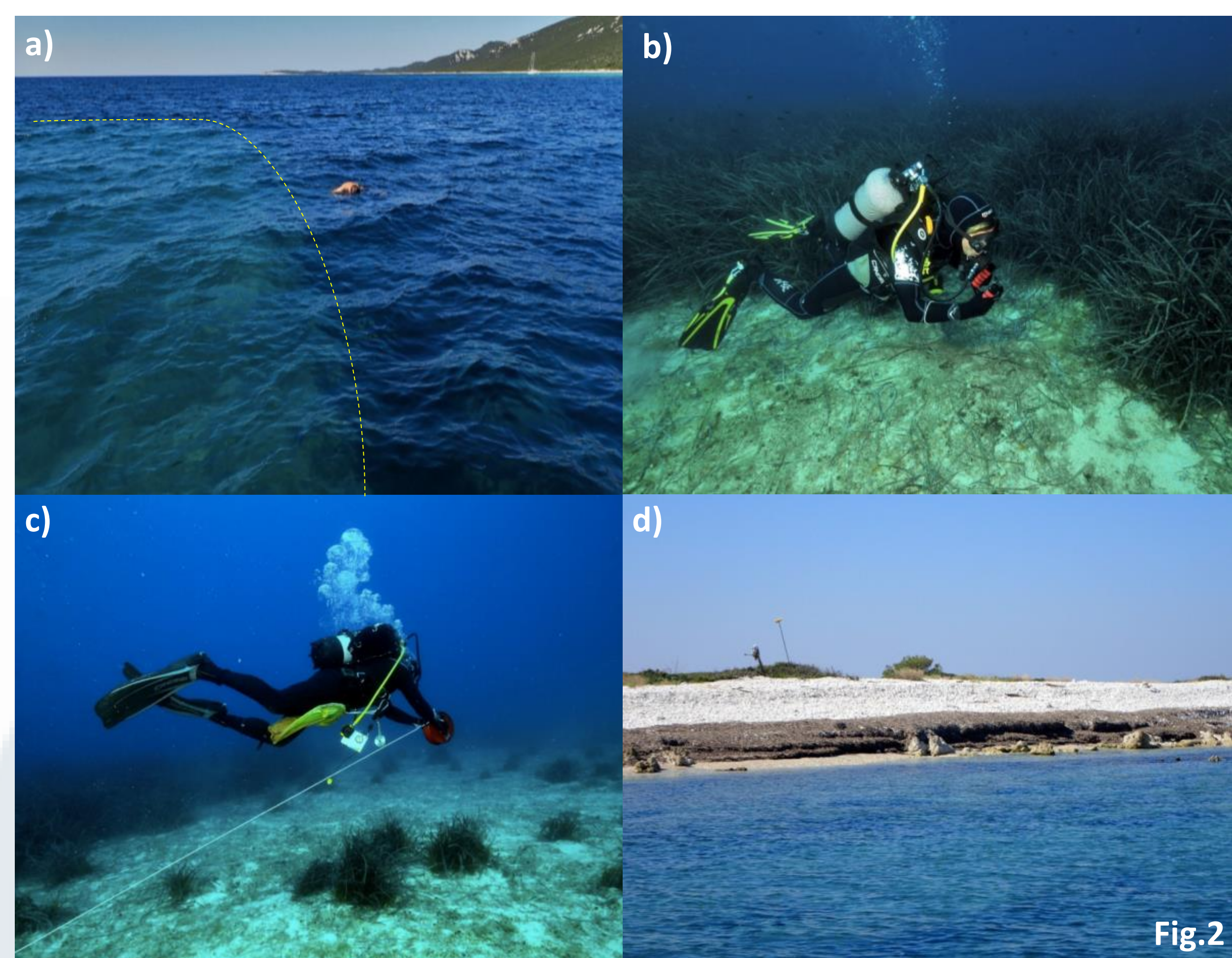


Fig.3

## MERCES CONSORTIUM

MERCES is a multi-disciplinary Consortium of **28 partners** under the coordination of UNIVPM – Prof. R. Danovaro. It includes business, academia, research and environmental associations from **16 countries** (Fig.4).



Monitoring before restoration actions in shallow habitats: surface (a) and underwater (b) view of the inner border of *P. oceanica* meadow ; c) setting a transect across damaged *P. oceanica* meadow; *P. oceanica* leaves accumulations on the beach. Credits: T. Bakran-Petricoli, M. Belošević, S. Kipson

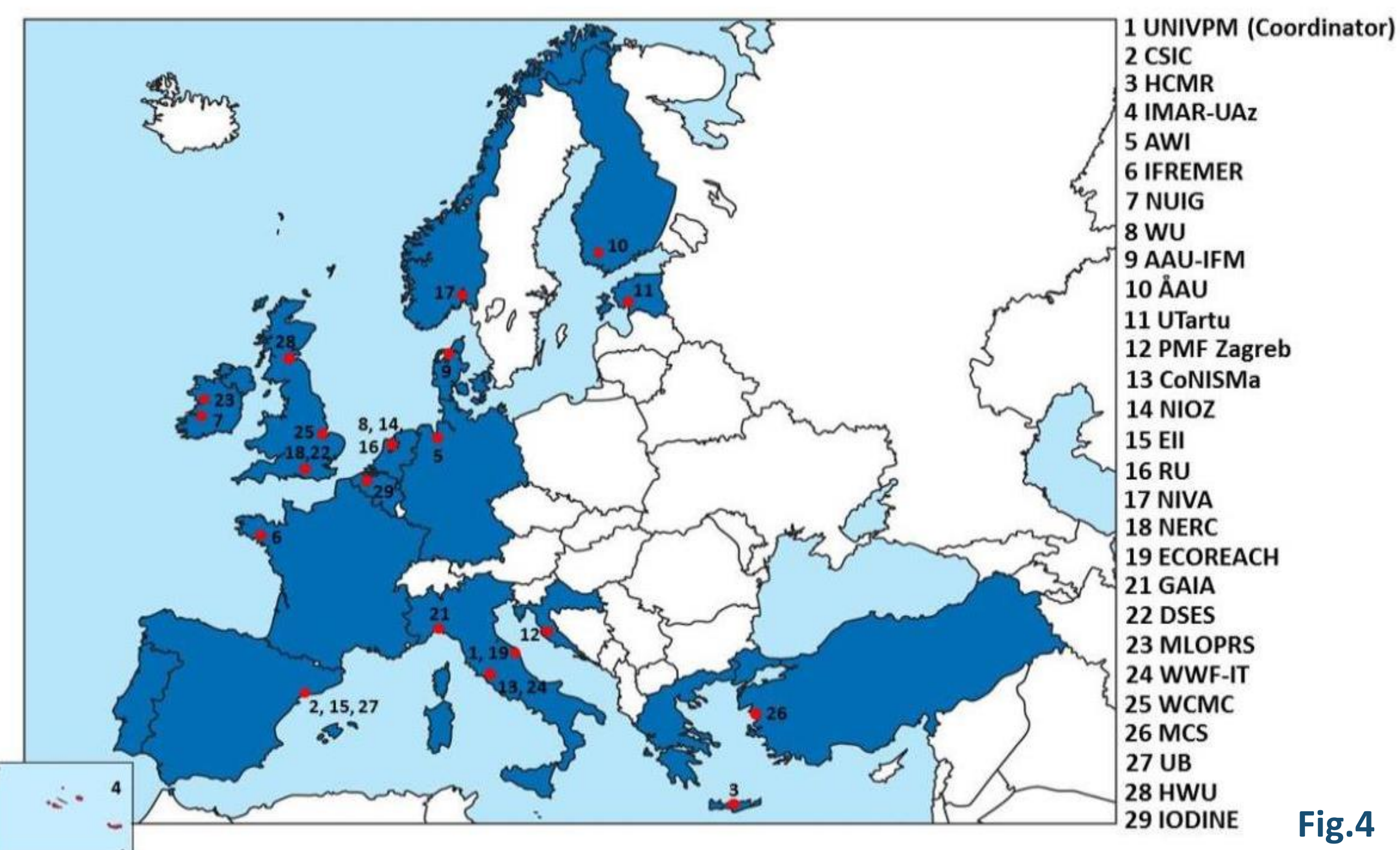


Fig.4

## JOIN MERCES COMMUNITY

