



WP 10

Milestone 40

MS40: First Annual Meeting

Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas MERCES

Grant agreement n. 689518

COORDINATOR: UNIVPM

LEAD BENEFICIARY: 1-UNIVPM

AUTHORS: Cristina Gambi & Emmanuelle Girardin (UNIVPM)

SUBMISSION DATE: 11/07/2017

MERCES 1st Annual meeting



The MERCES 1st annual meeting took place in Heraklion (Crete, Greece) from 20 to 22 June 2017. A large audience (more than 60 participants) including members of the Consortium, members of the project Advisory Board, invited speakers and the EU Project Officer attended the meeting. All work-packages were presented into plenary sessions including 30 oral talks on the specific progress of the different cases study, covering the WP1: European marine habitats, degradation and restoration; WP2: Restoration of marine, shallow soft bottoms habitats; WP3: Restoration of coastal shallow hard bottoms and mesophotic habitats; and WP4: Restoration of deep-sea habitats. The other WPs (WP5: Effects of restoration on the recovery of ecosystem services; WP6: Legal governance and policy; WP7: Socio-economic impacts of restoration; WP8: Putting Business at the Heart of the Restoration Agenda; WP9: Dissemination, communication and public engagement; and WP10: Project Management) were presented by an overview on the own progresses, followed by a general discussion with the audience. Overall 18 posters illustrated the different topics of the MERCES project, spreading from WP1 to WP9. The second day of the meeting opened with an Open Science Session with Prof Roberto Danovaro, the MERCES coordinator, who welcomed all participants and introduced the MERCES project, followed by the talks of different experts on ecological restoration (James Aronson from the

Society for Ecological Restoration), representatives of the H2020 projects ATLAS and SponGES, the EU Project Officer Ariana Nastaseanu and Eleni Hatziyianni from the Region of Crete.

The Open Science Session stimulated a rich discussion on the ecological restoration in marine ecosystems among different experts going from scientists with different background to socio-economists and politicians. During the meeting, the General Assembly met for the 2nd time, as well as the Steering Committee and the Advisory Board. The annual meeting was preceded by a two-days WP4 workshop and was followed by two-days WP5 and 6 workshops.

Conference Programme

Tuesday 20th June 2017

08:45 - 09:00	Participants registration
09:00 - 09:15	Roberto Danovaro: Welcome and General Introduction to MERCES annual meeting
09:15 - 09:45	Keynote talk – Cindy Van Dover: Restoration frameworks for environmental management: Scope for development in the deep sea
09.45 - 10.45	WP1: <i>European marine habitats, degradation and restoration</i> Chairs: Nadia Papadopoulou (HCMR), Anthony Grehan (NUIG)
9:45 - 10:05	Papadopoulou & Grehan: WP1 overview
10:05 - 10:15	Gerovasileiou et al. Cataloguing habitat map resources in the European Seas: highlighting limitations and gaps for future habitat mapping and restoration initiatives (MERCES WP1)
10:15 - 10:25	Bekkby et al. Key features and considerations for restoration; identifying commonalities and differences between case studies
10:25 - 10:35	Dailianis et al. Human activities and pressures acting on marine habitats in the European Seas; compiling and analysing data in the framework of MERCES Pressure Catalogue
10:35 - 10:45	Papadopoulou et al. Human activities and pressures acting on key MERCES habitats, impacts and consequences for restoration
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 - 12:15	WP2: <i>Restoration of marine, shallow soft bottoms habitats</i> Chairs: Christoffer Boström (ÅAU) - Johan van de Koppel (NIOZ)
11:15 - 11:30	Boström & van de Koppel: WP2 overview
11:30 - 11:40	Christianen et al. Regenerating cross-habitat interactions by combined mussel and seagrass bed restoration using Biodegradable structures (BESE)
11:40 - 11:50	Carugati et al. Long-term changes of restored seagrass meadows in the Adriatic Sea
11:50 - 12:05	Gagnon et al. A global review of plant-bivalve interactions: implications for marine ecosystem restoration

12:05 - 12:15	Discussion on the Microbial sampling
12:15 - 13:15	WP3: Restoration of coastal shallow hard bottoms and mesophotic habitats Chairs: Joaquim Garrabou (CSIC), Simonetta Fraschetti (CoNISMa - UniSALENTO)
12:15 - 12:35	Garrabou & Fraschetti: WP3 overview
12:35 - 12:55	Garrabou et al. State of knowledge on key eco-evolutionary processes and factors enhancing the resilience in coralligenous habitats: insights for efficient restoration protocols
12:55 - 13:05	Hereu et al. State of knowledge on key eco-evolutionary processes and factors driving the resilience of macroalgal habitats
13:05 - 13:15	Linares et al. Life history traits and modelling tools to assess the success and timescales of restoration actions
13:15 - 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 - 15:40	WP4: Restoration of deep-sea habitats Chairs: Telmo Morato (IMAR-Uaz), Andrew K. Sweetman (HWU)
14:30 - 14:40	Morato & Sweetman: WP4 overview
14:40 - 14:50	Jones & Gates Insights for restoration from deep-sea communities colonising existing structures
14:50 - 15:00	Sarrazin et al. Response of active vent communities to an induced disturbance: a case studies on hydrothermal vents from the MAR
15:00 - 15:10	Gambi et al. Restoration of deep-sea ecosystems: the Palinuro Seamount case study
15:10 - 15:20	Gori et al. Ecological Restoration of Deep Mediterranean Gorgonian Populations
15:20 - 15:30	Carreiro-Silva et al. Methodologies and tools for restoration of degraded deep-sea coral gardens in the Azores
15:30 - 15:40	Bilan et al. Fishermen meet scientists: essential collaboration for deep-sea coral restoration
15:40 - 16:30	WP5: Effects of restoration on the recovery of ecosystem services Chairs: Chris McOwen (WCMC) - Trine Bekkby (NIVA)
15:40 - 16:10	McOwen & Bekkby: WP5 overview
16:10 - 16:30	Discussion
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 - 18:00	WP6: Legal governance and policy Chairs & introduction: Jan P.M. van Tatenhove (WU) - Ronan Long (MLOPRS)
17:00 - 17:30	van Tatenhove & Long: WP6 overview
17:30 - 18:00	Discussion
18:00 - 19:00	MERCES publications, events, books and special issues

19:00 - 19:30	Advisory Board meeting
20:30	Social dinner on the Roof Taratsa

Wednesday 21st June 2017

9:00-11:00	Open Science Session
9:00 - 9:05	Roberto Danovaro: Welcome and Introduction to the Open Science Session & MERCES
09:05 - 09:25	James Aronson: Links between global trends in (terrestrial) ecological restoration and the MERCES project
09:25 - 09:45	General discussion on what's different between marine and terrestrial ecological restoration?
09:45 - 10:00	Fraschetti et al. Meta-analysis of marine ecosystem restoration worldwide
10:00 - 10:15	Georgios Kazanidis: introducing ATLAS project
10:15 - 10:30	Martina Milanese: introducing SponGES project
10:30 - 10:45	General discussion on common initiatives and contributions of MERCES, ATLAS and SponGES projects working together
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 - 11:35	Eleni Hatziyianni, Region of Crete: Blue Growth, MSP, regional policies and marine restoration
11:35-12:00	Ariana Nastaseanu, Project Officer: MERCES's support to EU policies, synergies with other related H2020 projects and administrative aspects
12:00 - 13:00	WP7: <i>Socio-economic impacts of restoration</i> Chairs: Wenting Chen (NIVA) - Stephen Hynes (NUIG)
12:00 - 12:30	Wenting Chen: WP7 overview
12:30 - 13:00	Discussion
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 15:00	WP8: <i>Putting Business at the Heart of the Restoration Agenda</i> Chairs: David Billett (DSES) - Eva Ramirez-Llodra (NIVA)
14:00 - 14:30	Billett & Ramirez-Llodra: WP8 overview
14:30 - 15:00	Discussion
15:00 - 16:00	WP9: <i>Dissemination, communication and public engagement</i> Chairs: Martina Milanese (GAIA) - Silvia Bianchelli (ECOREACH)
15:00 - 15:30	Martina Milanese: WP9 overview
15:30 -16:00	Discussion
16:00 - 16:15	WP10: <i>Project Management</i> Cristina Gambi -Emmanuelle Girardin (UNIVPM)
16:15 - 16:45	Coffee break
16:45 - 18:00	WPs prepare the wrap-up and plan joint work for the next year
18:00 - 19:00	Steering Committee meeting

19:00 - 19:45	General Assembly
----------------------	-------------------------

Thursday 22nd June 2017

9:00-11:00	Wrap-up Session
9:00 - 9:15	WP1 synthesis of the working group and future work: Nadia Papadopoulou (HCMR), Anthony Grehan (NUIG)
9:15 - 9:30	WP2 synthesis of the working group and future work: Christoffer Boström (ÅAU) - Johan van de Koppel (NIOZ)
9:30 - 9:45	WP3 synthesis of the working group and future work: Joaquim Garrabou (CSIC), Simonetta Frascchetti (CoNISMa - UniSALENTO)
9:45 - 10:00	WP4 synthesis of the working group and future work: Telmo Morato (IMAR-Uaz), Andrew K. Sweetman (HWU)
10:00 - 10:15	WP5 synthesis of the working group and future work: Chris McOwen (WCMC) - Trine Bekkby (NIVA)
10:15 - 10:30	WP6 synthesis of the working group and future work: Jan P.M. van Tatenhove (WU) - Ronan Long (MLOPRS)
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 - 11:15	WP7 synthesis of the working group and future work: Wenting Chen (NIVA) - Stephen Hynes (NUIG)
11:15 - 11:30	WP8 synthesis of the working group and future work: David Billett (DSES) - Eva Ramirez-Llodra (NIVA)
11:30 - 11:45	WP9 synthesis of the working group and future work: Martina Milanese (GAIA) - Silvia Bianchelli (ECOREACH)
11:45 - 12:00	Conclusions
13:00 - 14.30	Lunch