MS42: Third Annual Meeting

Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas MERCES

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COORDINATOR: UNIVPM

LEAD BENEFICIARY: 1-UNIVPM

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MERCES 3rd Annual meeting

The MERCES third annual meeting took place in Paris, at the Sorbonne University from the 21st to the 24th May 2019. Overall 50 participants including members of the Consortium and members of the project Advisory Board attended the meeting. 30 oral contributions and 6 posters were presented during the sessions dedicated to the project's WPs:

  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;

WP4: Restoration of deep-sea habitats.

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.

The meeting has been an excellent occasion to present the progress of the project's activities of the last year, to open fruitful discussions and develop new collaborations among the partners of the Consortium, within WPs and between WPs in order to finalise the deliverables expected by the end of the project .

On behalf of the MERCES coordinator Roberto Danovaro, Cristina Gambi as scientific project manager presented an overview of the progress of the project in the last three years. This overview was the useful occasion to present the MERCES project to the new EU Project Adviser Victoria Beaz Hidalgo, nominated at the beginning of May 2019. Dr Hidalgo provided some comments and feed-backs on the activities carried out until this third annual meeting and presented some suggestions for the last year of the project.

After these two presentations, the meeting started with the presentations of all WPs with the contributions of the WPs co-leaders for an overview of the WP and of the presentations of the results achieved by the partners involved in each WP.

The second day of the meeting opened with the meeting of the Advisory board, followed by the Steering Committee and the General Assembly. The annual meeting was concluded by a half-day WP5 workshop that saw a large participation of members from all WPs.

The meeting programme is reported below.

Conference Programme

Tuesday 21st May 2019

13:00 - 13:45	**Participants registration**
13:45 - 14:00	**Roberto Danovaro** Welcome and General Introduction to the 3rd MERCES annual meeting
14:00 - 14:30	**Dr Victoria Beaz Hidalgo,** EU Project Adviser
14.30 - 16.00	**WP1:** *European marine habitats, degradation and restoration* Chairs: Nadia Papadopoulou (HCMR), Anthony Grehan (NUIG)
14:30 - 14:45	**Papadopoulou & Grehan**: WP1 overview
14:45 - 15:00	**Papadopoulou et al.** Linking activities and pressures to restoration and mitigation options
15:00 - 16:00	**General discussion**
16:00 - 16:30	**Coffee break**
16:30 - 18:00	**WP2:** *Restoration of marine, shallow soft bottoms habitats* Chairs: Christoffer Boström (ÅAU) - Johan van de Koppel (NIOZ)
16:30 - 16:45	**Boström & van de Koppel**: WP2 overview
16:45 - 17:00	**Gagnon et al.** Co-restoring eelgrass and mussels to increase restoration success – challenges and implementation
17:00 - 17:15	**Gambi et al.** Seagrass restoration in the Adriatic Sea: the Gabicce case study
17:15 - 17:30	**Siteur et al.** Patchiness as indicator for seagrass meadow restoration success and resilience
17:30 - 18:00	**General discussion**
18:00 - 19:30	**WP3:** *Restoration of coastal shallow hard bottoms and mesophotic habitats* Chairs: Joaquim Garrabou (CSIC), Simonetta Fraschetti (CoNISMa)
18:00 - 18:15	**Garrabou & Fraschetti**: WP3 overview
18:15 - 18:30	**Guarnieri et al.** Large-scale sea urchin culling to support the recovery of disturbed infralittoral rocky habitats in the Mediterranean Sea
18:30 - 18:45	**Ledoux et al.** Enhancing the effectiveness of restoration actions in coralligenous habitats: insights from a transregional thermotolerance experiment
18:45 - 19:00	**Kipson et al.** Can facilitation processes enhance the effectiveness of restoration actions in the coralligenous habitat? Insights from a 15 month field experiment
19:00 - 19:15	**Cerrano et al** Experimental techniques for the restoration of coralligenous assemblages. A focus on habitat forming species
19:15 - 19:30	**General discussion**
20:30	**Social dinner:** La Barge du Crous de Paris

Wednesday 22nd May 2019

9:00 - 9:30	**Advisory Board meeting**
9:30 - 10:00	**Steering Committee meeting**
10:00 - 11:00	**General Assembly**
11:00 - 11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30 - 13:00	**WP4:** *Restoration of deep-sea habitats*
	Chairs: Telmo Morato (IMAR-Uaz), Andrew K. Sweetman (HWU)
11:30 - 11:45	**Morato & Sweetman**: WP4 overview
11:45 - 11:55	**Harbour et al** Trophic structure surrounding wood and kelp falls in deep Norwegian fjords
11:55 - 12:05	**Marticorena et al.** Towards a restoration approach in the deep sea: ecological and molecular approaches of a disturbance experiment in the Lucky Strike hydrothermal vent field
12:05 - 12:15	**Gambi et al.** Resilience of the Palinuro Seamount ecosystem after mechanical disturbance
12:25 - 12:35	**Bilan et al.** Natural regeneration of seamount fauna and colonization of artificial substrates in the Azores
12:15 - 12:25	**Montseny et al.** Restoration of cold-water gardens on the Mediterranean continental shelf: The Cap de Creus case study
12:35 - 12:45	**Carreiro-Silva et al.** Feasibility of cold-water corals transplantation techniques for the restoration of degraded deep-sea coral gardens in the Azores
12:45 - 13:00	**General discussion**
13:00 - 14.30	**Lunch break**
14:30 - 16:00	**WP5:** *Effects of restoration on the recovery of ecosystem services*
	Chairs: Hazel Thornton (WCMC) - Trine Bekkby (NIVA)
14:30 - 14:45	**Thornton & Bekkby**: WP5 overview
14:45 - 15:00	**Thornton et al** MERCES WP5 – how are we translating data from 130+ restoration sites to inform policy-makers and practitioners?
15:00 - 15:15	**Coll & Horn** Determination of ecological effects of restoration using dynamic food web modelling
15:15 - 15:30	**Bekkby & Andersen** Presenting the model framework for assessing the recovery potential for different habitats and ecosystem service restoration success and the plan for a webinar on new restoration methods and best practices (MERCES WP5)
15:30 - 16:00	**General discussion**
16:00 - 17:00	**WP6:** *Legal governance and policy*
	Chairs & introduction: Jan P.M. van Tatenhove (WU) - Ronan Long (MLOPRS)
16:00 -16:30	**van Tatenhove & Long**: WP6 overview
16:30 - 17:00	**General discussion**
17:00 - 17:30	**Coffee break**
17:30 - 18:30	**WP9:** *Dissemination, communication and public engagement*
	Chairs: Martina Milanese (GAIA) - Silvia Bianchelli (ECOREACH)
17:30 - 18:00	**Bianchelli & Milanese**: WP9 overview
18:00 -18:30	**General discussion**

Thursday 23rd May 2019

9:00 - 10:00	**WP7:** *Socio-economic impacts of restoration*
	Chairs: Wenting Chen (NIVA) - Stephen Hynes (NUIG)
9:00 - 9:30	**Chen & Hynes:** WP7 overview
9:30 - 10:00	**General discussion**
10:00 - 11:00	**WP8:** *Putting Business at the Heart of the Restoration Agenda*
	Chairs: David Billett (DSES) - Eva Ramirez-Llodra (NIVA)
10:00 - 10:30	**Billett et al** MERCES WP8 - Putting Industry at the Heart of the Marine Ecosystem Agenda
10:30 - 11:00	**General discussion**
11:00 - 11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30 - 12:30	**WP2** workshop: Christoffer Boström (ÅAU) - Johan van de Koppel (NIOZ)
12:30 - 13:30	**WP3** workshop: Joaquim Garrabou (CSIC), Simonetta Fraschetti (CoNISMa)
13:30 - 14.30	**Lunch break**
14:30 - 15:30	**WP4** workshop: Telmo Morato (IMAR-Uaz), Andrew K. Sweetman (HWU)
15:30 - 16:00	**WP6** workshop: Jan P.M. van Tatenhove (WU) - Ronan Long (MLOPRS)
16:00 - 16:30	**WP7** workshop: Wenting Chen (NIVA) - Stephen Hynes (NUIG)
16:30 - 17:00	**Coffee break**
17:00 - 18:30	**Meeting conclusions**

Friday 24th May 2019

9:00 - 11:00	**WP5 workshop:** Hazel Thornton (WCMC) - Trine Bekkby (NIVA): inputs from all WPs
11:00 - 11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30 - 13:00	**WP5 workshop:** Hazel Thornton (WCMC) - Trine Bekkby (NIVA): inputs from all WPs