



# Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas

## MERCES Final Meeting, 10-11 November 2020

**Coordinator: Prof Roberto Danovaro**  
**UNIVPM – Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy**

**MERCES**

**H2020 project: 01.06.2016 - 30.11.2020**

**Grant Agreement: 689518**

**Budget: 6,651,118.20€**





# Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas

**Final Meeting, 10 November 2020**

<b>9:45 - 10:00</b>	<b>Participants connection</b>
<b>10:00 - 10:30</b>	<b>Roberto Danovaro: Welcome and General Introduction to the MERCES final meeting</b>
<b>10:30 - 15:30</b>	<b>Success of restoration and lessons learnt from field work - Summary &amp; recommendations</b>
<b>10:30 - 11:30</b>	<b>European marine habitats, degradation and restoration</b> Nadia Papadopoulou (HCMR) - Anthony Grehan (NUIG) Discussion & Final Remarks
<b>11:30 - 12:30</b>	<b>Restoration of marine, shallow soft bottoms habitats</b> Christoffer Boström (ÅAU) - Johan van de Koppel (NIOZ) Discussion & Final Remarks
<b>12:30 - 13:30</b>	<b>Restoration of coastal shallow hard bottoms and mesophotic habitats</b> Joaquim Garrabou (CSIC) - Simonetta Fraschetti (CoNISMa) Discussion & Final Remarks
<b>13:30 - 14:30</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>14:30 - 15:30</b>	<b>Restoration of deep-sea habitats</b> Telmo Morato (IMAR-Uaz) - Andrew K. Sweetman (HWU) Discussion & Final Remarks
<b>15:30 - 16:30</b>	<b>Overall opinion of the Advisory board</b> <b>James Aronson, Roberto Cimino, Paul Snelgrove, Cindy Van Dover</b>
<b>16:30 - 17:15</b>	<b>General Assembly (restricted to the Consortium)</b>



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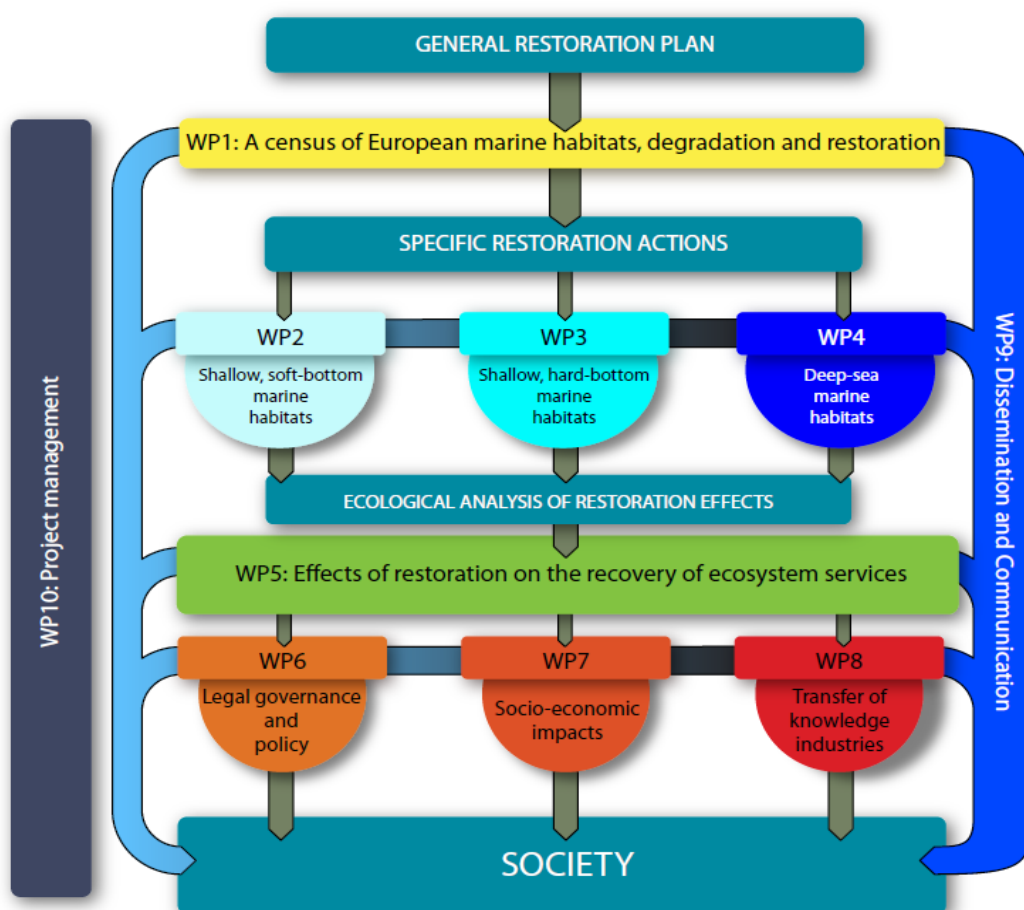
<b>9:15 - 9:25</b>	<b>Participants connection</b>
<b>9:25:9:30</b>	<b>Roberto Danovaro: Welcome</b>
<b>9:30-10:00</b>	<b>A word on MERCES results and legacy &amp; relevant EU policy developments</b> by <b>Victoria Beaz Hidalgo</b> , MERCES Project Adviser, EASME & <b>Nerea Aizpurua</b> , Policy Officer, DG R&I
<b>10:00-13:00</b>	<b>Ecosystem services, policy-making and society - Summary and recommendations</b>
<b>10:00 - 11:00</b>	<b>Effects of restoration on the recovery of ecosystem services</b> Hazel Thornton (WCMC) - Trine Bekkby (NIVA) Discussion & Final Remarks
<b>11:00 - 12:00</b>	<b>Legal governance and policy</b> Jan P.M. van Tatenhove (AAU) - Ronan Long (MLOPRS) Discussion & Final Remarks
<b>12:00 - 13:00</b>	<b>Socio-economic impacts of restoration - Summary and recommendations</b> Wenting Chen (NIVA) - Stephen Hynes (NUIG) Discussion & Final Remarks
<b>13:00 - 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>14:00-16:00</b>	<b>Business and Public engagement - Summary and recommendations</b>
<b>14:00 - 15:00</b>	<b>Putting Business at the Heart of the Restoration Agenda</b> David Billett (DSES) - Eva Ramirez-Llodra (NIVA) Discussion & Final Remarks
<b>15:00 - 16:00</b>	<b>Dissemination, communication and public engagement</b> Martina Milanese (GAIA) - Silvia Bianchelli (ECOREACH) Discussion & Final Remarks
<b>16:00-16:30</b>	<b>Take home messages-wrap up</b>



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## WP co-leaders:

**WP1:** Nadia Papadopoulou (HCMR) & Anthony Grehan (NUIG)

**WP2:** Christoffer Boström (ÅAU) & Johan van de Koppel (NIOZ)

**WP3:** Joaquim Garrabou (CSIC) & Simonetta Fraschetti (CoNISMa)

**WP4:** Telmo Morato, Marina Carreiro Silva (IMAR-UAz) & Andrew K. Sweetman (HWU)

**WP5:** Hazel Thornton, Chris McOwen (UNEP-WCMC) & Trine Bekkby (NIVA)

**WP6:** Jan P.M. van Tatenhove (AAU) & Ronan Long (MLOPRS)

**WP7:** Stephen Hynes (NUIG) & Wenting Chen (NIVA)

**WP8:** David Billett (DSER) & Eva Ramirez-Llodra (NIVA)

**WP9:** Silvia Bianchelli (Ecoreach Srl) & Martina Milanese (Studio Associato GAIA)

**WP10:** Roberto Danovaro, Cristina Gambi, Emmanuelle Girardin (UNIVPM)



# Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas

## List of deliverables:

### **WP1 European marine habitats, degradation and restoration**

- D1.1 State of the knowledge on European marine habitat mapping and degraded habitats (Lead: NIVA)
- D1.2 Current marine pressures and mechanisms driving changes in marine habitats (Lead: NUIG)
- D1.3 State of the knowledge on marine habitat restoration and literature review on the economic cost and benefits of marine and coastal ecosystem service restoration (Lead: HCMR)

### **WP2 Restoration of marine, shallow soft bottoms habitats**

- D2.1 Manual of restoration measures in soft bottoms based on surveys and experiments (Lead: ÅAU)
- D2.2 Restoration results in the case study sites (Lead: UTARTU)
- D2.3 Mathematical model of the interactions between seagrass and other engineering species (Lead: NIOZ)

### **WP3 Restoration of coastal shallow hard bottoms and mesophotic habitats**

- D3.1 State of knowledge on key eco-evolutionary processes and factors driving the resilience of the shallow hard bottoms and mesophotic habitats (Lead: CoNISMa)
- D3.2 Criteria and protocols for the restoration of shallow hard bottoms and mesophotic habitats (Lead: CoNISMa)
- D3.3 Exploring tools to enhance the effectiveness of restoration actions under a changing ocean scenario (Lead: CSIC)
- D3.4 Evaluation of the effectiveness of pilot restoration actions (Lead: CSIC)

### **WP4 Restoration of deep-sea habitats**

- D4.1 Review on the principles of deep-sea restoration and on the ecological benefits of passive and active restoration (Lead: HCMR)
- D4.2 Effectiveness of passive restoration in fjord ecosystems, hydrothermal vents and in cold-water corals (Lead: HWU)
- D4.3 Development and effectiveness of tools and techniques for active restoration in the deep-sea (Lead: UB)

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## **WP5 Effects of restoration on the recovery of ecosystem services**

D5.1 Maps (in GIS format) showing case study sites and variation in the recovery potential of different ecosystem services; and, information on changes in ecosystem services provision following habitat restoration (as metadata). Link: <https://arcg.is/0aXGq9> (Lead: WCMC)

D5.2 Visual representation (e.g. infographic) of relationships between habitat characteristics, pressures, restoration methods, ecosystem change, and recovery potential (Lead: NIVA)

D5.3 Policy briefing summarizing the key transferable findings from Tasks 5.1-3 (Lead: WCMC)

## **WP6 Legal governance and policy**

D6.1 Review of existing international governance structures, regarding the conservation, restoration and recovery of marine ecosystems (Lead: AAU)

D6.2 Review of current EU and international legal frameworks (Lead: MLOPRS)

D6.3 Review on restoration, conservation and recovery of marine ecosystems in the four regional EU seas (Lead: WU)

D6.4 Policy brief providing input and options for the development of legitimate governance arrangements and effective regimes regulating the conservation, restoration and recovering of marine ecosystems (Lead: WU)

## **WP7 Socio-economic impacts of restoration**

D7.1 Social acceptance of restoration activities (Lead: HCMR)

D7.2 Popularized mainstream or industry article on social benefits of marine restoration activities (Lead: NUIG)

D7.3 Use of Choice Experiment to estimate number of ecosystem service values from restoration project (Lead: NUIG)

D7.4 Popularized mainstream or industry article on social costs of marine restoration activities and cost-effective analysis of restoration measures by case study (Lead: WU)

D7.5 Report, including a policy relevance section, on full social-benefit analysis for the selected case studies (lead: NIVA)



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## WP8 Putting Business at the heart of restoration agenda

D8.1 Report on consolidated lists by country and by business sector of the European Marine Restoration Business Clubs (Lead: DSES)

D8.2 Annual publication of business-focused e-newsletters and final report synthesising the MERCES business-focused e-newsletters as industry brief (Lead: UTARTU)

D8.3 Recording and long-term archiving of 5 industry webinars and final report on the webinars outcomes (Lead: NIVA)

D8.4 Final report summarizing industry and authorities engagement in MERCES through the Business Club and Industry Portal and highlighting any tangible outcomes (e.g. new methods and new projects) created from these interactions (Lead: DSES)

**MERCES Business Club:** <http://www.merces-project.eu/?q=content/welcome-merces-business-club-5>

### MERCES webinars:

Getting Better Value from Our Coasts, link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5r0vO2ww5pA>

Private finance in marine ecosystem restoration, link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmF5cRbQvdc>

Building a Business Case for Marine Ecosystem Restoration, link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Opl9-U6i1Xw&t=25s>

Ecosystem Restoration in Deep Waters, link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WakLhV9dgd8>

Moving to Industrial-Scale Coral Habitat Restoration, link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWlczFrNoqY>

All webinars have been submitted to the SER (Society for Ecological Restoration) webinars collection.

## WP9 Dissemination, communication and public engagement

Newsletters

[http://www.merces-project.eu/sites/default/files/MERCES\\_newsletter\\_6M.pdf](http://www.merces-project.eu/sites/default/files/MERCES_newsletter_6M.pdf)

[http://www.merces-project.eu/sites/default/files/MERCES\\_newsletter\\_03\\_LQ.pdf](http://www.merces-project.eu/sites/default/files/MERCES_newsletter_03_LQ.pdf)

[http://www.merces-project.eu/sites/default/files/MERCES\\_newsletter\\_05\\_LQ.pdf](http://www.merces-project.eu/sites/default/files/MERCES_newsletter_05_LQ.pdf)

## WP10 Project management

D10.6: Restoration of marine ecosystems: a manual for users (Lead: UNIVPM)

**MERCES brochure:** <http://www.merces-project.eu/?q=system/files/Brochure-eng.pdf>



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# Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas

## MERCES Products:

44 Deliverables

6 newsletters

1 Business Club Business & 5 business focused newsletters

5 Webinars business - oriented

> 80 publication in ISI journals

## MERCES AT A GLANCE

**TITLE:** Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas (MERCES)

**CALL:** Growing a low carbon, resource efficient economy with a sustainable supply of raw materials (H2020-SC-7-2015)

**TOPIC:** More effective ecosystem restoration in the EU

**INSTRUMENT:** Research and Innovation Action

**DURATION:** 54 Months (01/06/2016 – 30/11/2020)

**CONSORTIUM:** 28 partners from 16 countries plus two linked third party

**COORDINATOR:** Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy

**PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM:** Roberto Danovaro, Cristina Gambi & Emmanuelle Girardin

## PARTNERS:



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Project Merces



Merces Project community



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This project has received funding from the EU's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 689518. This output reflects only the author's view and the European Union cannot be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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