



MERCES

Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas

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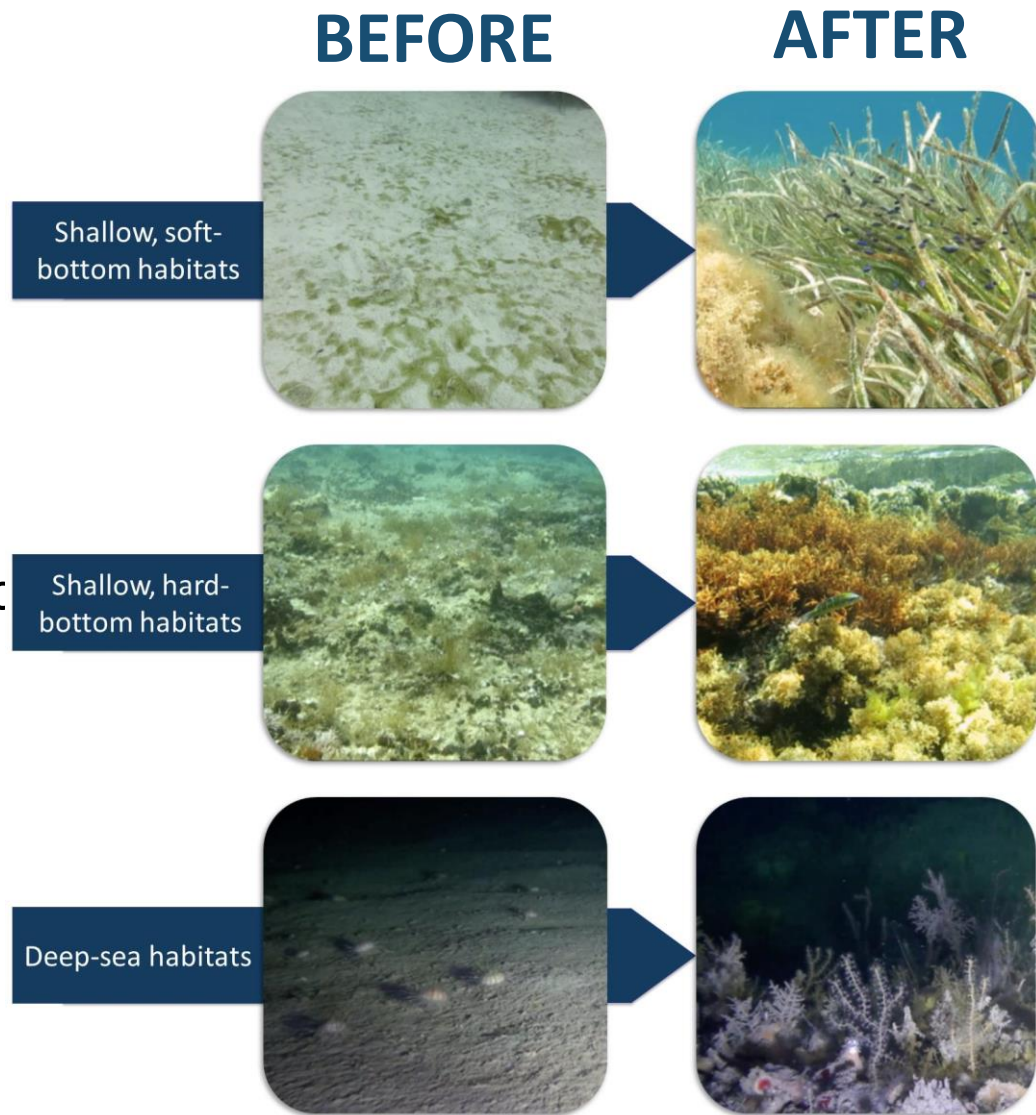
H2020 Funded project: 01.06.2016 - 31.05.2020

Grant Agreement: 689518

Budget: 6,651,118.20€

Ambitions

1. assess the outcomes of different solutions for marine restoration across habitats;
2. determine the degree of their effectiveness along with a socio-economic cost-benefit analysis;
3. define legal, policy and governance frameworks of the proposed actions.



Aims

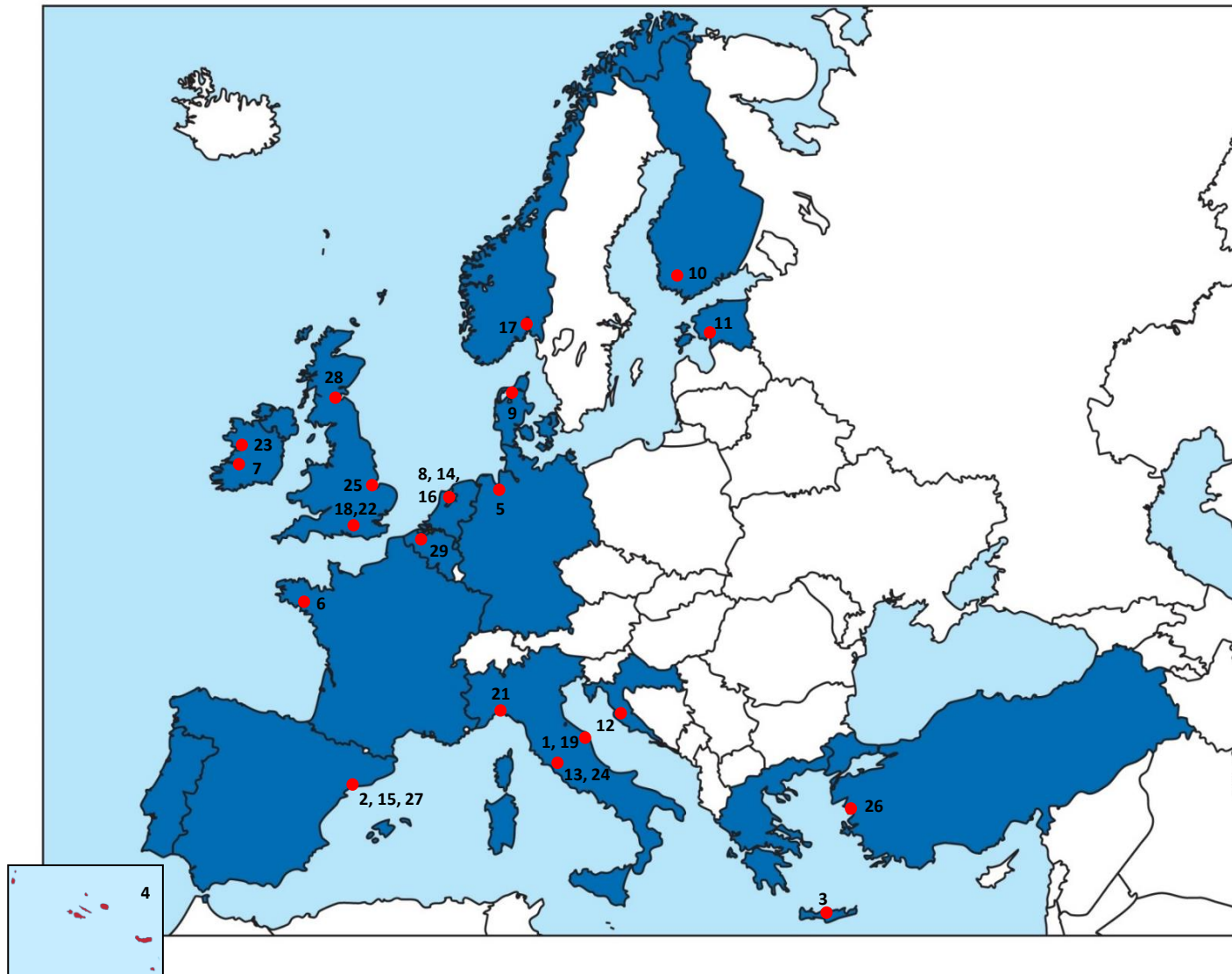
1. Develop **new restoration/ rehabilitation actions** on European marine habitats (shallow soft, hard bottoms and deep-sea ecosystems);
2. Provide **tools and guidelines for the integration of the Restoration Agenda** (“developing a Blue Agenda”);
3. **Develop measures** to increase the resilience to climate change;
4. Enhance **EU conservation capacity** and preserve natural capital;
5. Provide **robust contributions** to
 - EU ‘2020 Biodiversity Strategy’,
 - ‘Water Framework Directive’,
 - ‘Marine Strategy Framework Directive’
 - ‘Maritime Spatial Planning Directive’ objectives;
6. Conduct **cost-benefit socio-economic analyses** for marine restoration measures;
7. Identify the benefits of **establishing a network of restoration sites**;
8. Identify the **policy/legal/governance frameworks** facilitating the success of restoration actions;
9. Create new **employment opportunities** offered from **new professions** to develop the “restoration industry”.

The MERCES Project will:

- **PREPARE** an inventory of degraded habitats in European seas (**WP1**)
- **TEST** novel and existing approaches, methods and protocols in already identified pilot restoration studies (**WP2, WP3, WP4**)
- **INVESTIGATE** the effects of restoration actions on the recovery of ecosystem services (**WP5**)
- **ANALYZE** the knowledge gained to improve legal, policy and governance outputs (**WP6**)
- **ASSESS** the social and economic outputs, acceptance and consequences of restoration and associated policy actions (**WP7**)
- **TRANSFER** scientific knowledge, involving public, private and industrial stakeholders (**WP8**);
- **DISSEMINATE** the results of the project to the largest audience possible (both experts and non-experts), including industry, administration (from the local to the EU level), and EU citizens (**WP9**)

MERCES Consortium:

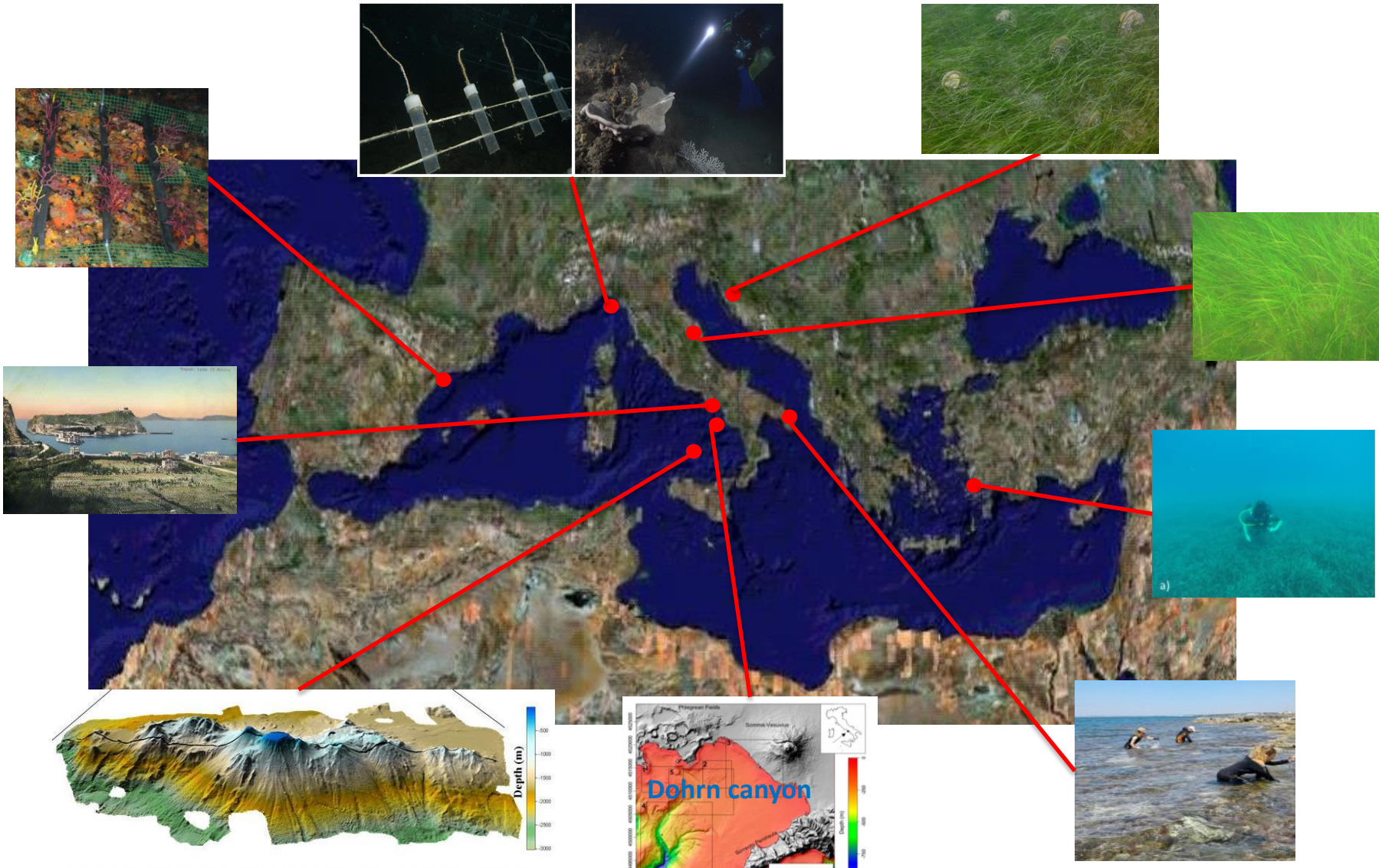
28 Partners from 16 Countries



- 1 UNIVPM (Coordinator)
- 2 CSIC
- 3 HCMR
- 4 IMAR-UAz
- 5 AWI
- 6 IFREMER
- 7 NUIG
- 8 WU
- 9 AAU-IFM
- 10 ÅAU
- 11 UTartu
- 12 PMF Zagreb
- 13 CoNISMa
- 14 NIOZ
- 15 EII
- 16 RU
- 17 NIVA
- 18 NERC
- 19 ECOREACH
- 21 GAIA
- 22 DSES
- 23 MLOPRS
- 24 WWF-IT
- 25 WCMC
- 26 MCS
- 27 UB
- 28 HWU
- 29 IODINE

MERCES Med

Pilot studies and field work



MERCES: a highly diverse partnership

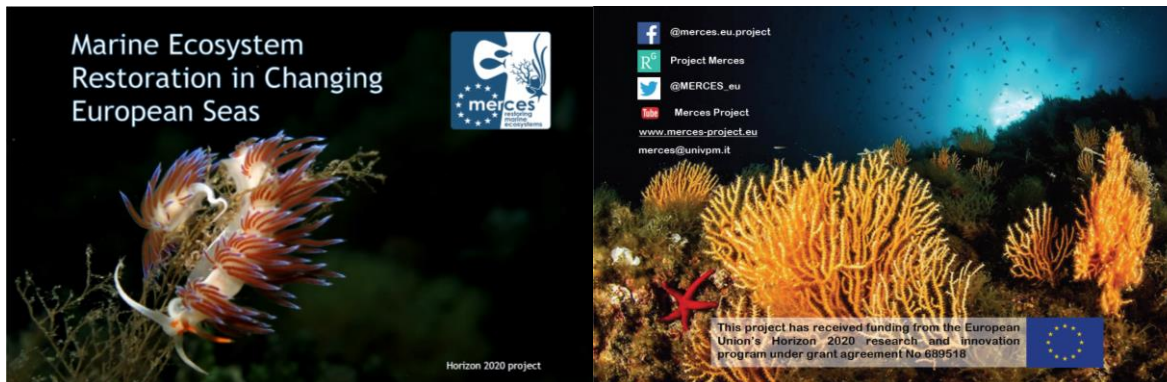
MERCES is a multi-disciplinary Consortium with skills in marine ecology, spatial modelling, marine ecosystem restoration, law, policy and governance, socio-economics, knowledge transfer, dissemination and communication, from the multifaceted worlds of:

- **business** (6 SMEs from 4 EU countries),
- **academia** (11 partners from 10 EU countries),
- **research** (8 partners of which 7 from EU countries and 1 from Norway) and
- **environmental associations** (3 partners of which 2 from EU countries and 1 from Turkey).



www.merces-project.eu

Contact: merces@univpm.it

**NEWSLETTER 01**


NOVEMBER 2016



NEWSLETTER02


JUNE 2017





Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas

Factsheet





Marine Ecosystem Restoration in Changing European Seas

OBJECTIVES

The project MERCES is focused on the restoration of different degraded marine habitats, with the aim of:

- 1) assessing the potential of different technologies and approaches;
- 2) quantifying the returns in terms of ecosystems services and their socio-economic impacts;
- 3) defining the legal-policy and governance frameworks needed to optimize the effectiveness of the different restoration approaches.






PRODUCTS and OUTPUT

- Manuals for users: "Restoration of marine ecosystems"
- Reports
- Conferences
- Workshops
- Webinars
- Scientific papers
- Maps (in GIS format) showing case study sites

All deliverables will be available at:
<http://www.merces-project.eu/?q=content/list-deliverables>

"It's time to restore marine ecosystems"

Roberto Danovaro
MERCES's coordinator




HORIZON 2020
grant no 689518

1st June 2016
31th May 2020

Total budget:
6,651,118.20 Euros

Consortium:
28 partners, 15 countries
18 research institutes,
6 SMEs, 3 NGOs

More than
300 researchers



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Merces Project

Project Mercés

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MERCES and BlueMed objectives

- develop innovative marine-based methodologies and approaches for the conservation and upgrading of the marine environment, resources and cultural heritage;
- foster innovative multidisciplinary research and cooperation activities addressing the relevant Mediterranean challenges;
- provide knowledge-based support for the implementation of EU policies and directives on marine and maritime issues in the Mediterranean;
- promote public awareness and understanding of how important sustainably prosperous resources of the Mediterranean Sea;
- create new generations of scientists and qualified 'sea-based' jobs opportunity.

KEY CHALLENGES

- **Mediterranean Sea Ecosystems:** services, resources, vulnerability and resilience to natural and anthropogenic pressures



Marine Ecosystem Restoration in
Changing European Seas (MERCES)
Grant agreement n. 689518



www.merces-project.eu

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