



## Draft stocktaking of EU member state needs

### Milestone 11

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## Summary

Milestone 11 was an interim checkpoint for work carried out in Task 2.2 “In-depth evaluation of stakeholder needs”. The initial analysis of ES mapping and assessment activities in EU member states of Task 2.1, coupled with in Task 2.2, produced individual country fact sheets giving information on each country’s phase in MAES-related work. The ESERALDA partner institutes worked together with their countries’ stakeholders to check and update that information. A special review of the status of each country was carried out at the end of September 2015. This draft stocktaking fed into the pre-clustering of member states for the ESERALDA Workshop 1 in Riga, Latvia, 13-16 October 2015. Much of the workshop work was done in smaller break-out groups which were formed based on this pre-clustering.

The Workshop 1 produced further information of member state needs. All the gathered knowledge will be systematically analysed and the results will be published in Deliverable 2.1 “Clustering of all 28 EU member states according to their prerequisites and needs to perform ES mapping and assessment” as well as in Deliverable 2.2 “Overview of gaps and recommendations to overcome them”. This Milestone 11 report gives a quick view on how the preliminary pre-clustering of member states was carried out. The Deliverable 2.1 and 2.2 reports will present the detailed stocktaking of member state needs as well as the final clustering, which might differ from the preliminary one presented in this report.

### **1. Pre-clustering of member states based on stakeholder network survey and country fact sheets**

One important means of the ESERALDA project is to develop MAES support actions for the EU member states. In order to develop tailored solutions for all member states, they were clustered according to their level of readiness for implementation of mapping and assessment activities. This is done in terms of availability of data, tools and personnel with appropriate knowledge and expertise. The reports of ESERALDA Milestone 7 (Stakeholder survey method ready for implementation), Milestone 8 (EU member state profiles completed) and Milestone 9 (Fact sheets per member state / case study available) (available at the ESERALDA internal communication platform at: <http://esmeralda-project.eu/documents/6>) describe how the national MAES-stakeholders were identified and how the MAES-implementation status of each member state was investigated. This was one of the first tasks of the ESERALDA project. An initial status assessment was done in early spring 2015 and it was revised in September 2015 by several consortium members based on the content of the recently updated country fact sheets.

The status assessment was done in a general level mainly to allow the pre-clustering of member states based on their stage in national MAES-related activities. The countries were pre-clustered using the following three classes:

- 1) Countries in an initial phase of activities.
- 2) Countries with ongoing activities but still needing support.
- 3) Advanced countries.

The outcome of the pre-clustering is presented in Table 1.

The resultant pre-clustering was then used in dividing the member state representatives into three break-out groups in the ESERALDA Workshop 1 in Riga, Latvia. However, member states in different phases were blended and distributed evenly in the three groups, to enhance knowledge exchange between countries in different stages of progress. This was actually the idea behind the pre-clustering. A thorough stock-taking of member state needs was planned to be carried out only

after the Workshop to allow making use of information gained there. The pre-clustering was thus mainly done for organisational purposes and the status given to each member state in that stage was not announced to participants of the workshop to avoid any confusions or distraction from the tasks of the Workshop.

**Table 1. Pre-clustering of EU member states plus Switzerland.**

<b>Status: Advanced</b>	<b>Status: Activities on-going</b>	<b>Status: In initial phase</b>
Netherlands	Belgium	Austria
Portugal	Croatia	Bulgaria
Sweden	Czech Republic	Cyprus
Switzerland	Denmark	Estonia
United Kingdom	Finland	Greece
	France	Hungary
	Germany	Italy
	Ireland	Latvia
	Lithuania	Malta
	Luxembourg	Romania
	Poland	Slovakia
	Spain	Slovenia

## 2. From pre-clustering to actual clustering of member states

The main aim of the clustering of member states is to allow efficient and practical organization of the following ESERALDA testing workshops and successive supporting actions. Therefore, all the gathered material will be analysed after Workshop 1 using a systematic analysis of ecosystem service mapping and assessment activities in each member state. The process leading to so far final clustering will be described in detail in the ESERALDA Deliverable 2.1 Report 'Clustering of EU member states according to their prerequisites and needs to perform ES mapping and assessment', which will be a public report available on the ESERALDA website. Especially the preliminary clustering, but also the final clustering of countries, need be used with some caution, however, when evaluating individual countries. The stocktaking is not an exhaustive study of all activities in each country and important studies may be left out because of not knowing of them. It is the task of future support groups to reach relevant actors in ecosystem service assessment and mapping from different levels and sectors in each country and thus compile a deep knowledge of country's position in the work.

The ESERALDA Deliverable 2.2 Report 'Ecosystem service mapping and assessment gaps in EU member states and recommendations to overcome them' will bring the draft stocktaking forward by presenting what challenges member states face in implementing ecosystem service mapping and assessment. Solutions proposed by the member state representatives in Workshop 1 in Riga to overcome the different problems and hurdles will be presented in the D2.2 report as well. The D2.2 report will also be publicly available on the ESERALDA website.

### **3. Finally**

The Milestone 11 as a checking point for a completed task was achieved in the planned schedule (by the end of September 2015) and the resultant outcome was immediately put into use in Workshop 1 in Riga, Latvia, 13-16 October 2015.

### **4. Acknowledgements**

Member state official contacts and their representatives as well as ESMERALDA consortium partners were a vital source of information for the draft stocktaking of member state needs. They allocated their precious time for contributing to this work, which is highly appreciated.