

ISSUE 2

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Dear ESMERALDA friends and collaborators,

One year since the project start has passed and ESMERALDA has successfully finalised the first project phase that was mainly dedicated to the identification of relevant stakeholders, network creation and reviewing of existing approaches for ES mapping and assessment.

We have just entered the second phase “Development of the multi-tiered ES mapping and assessment methodology”, which will then be tested in the following case study application phase.

Key achievements till present include the ESMERALDA fact sheets of all EU member states, now publicly available on [BISE](#); the stakeholder Workshop in Riga in October, resulting in an overview of current gaps and recommendations for the MAES process in the EU member states; and the establishing of supporting stakeholder groups in each member state. Moreover, we have connected ourselves to existing initiatives such as the [MAES Working Group](#), [BISE](#), [CICES](#), [ESP](#) and related projects such as MESEU, TRAIN, [OpenNESS](#) and [OPERAs](#).

One of our next major goals is the aspired consortium enlargement in order to eventually embrace all EU member states within ESMERALDA.

Please find more detailed information in this Newsletter or on our website <http://esmeralda-project.eu/> .

Looking forward to future collaboration,

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin Burkhard

(ESMERALDA Coordinator)

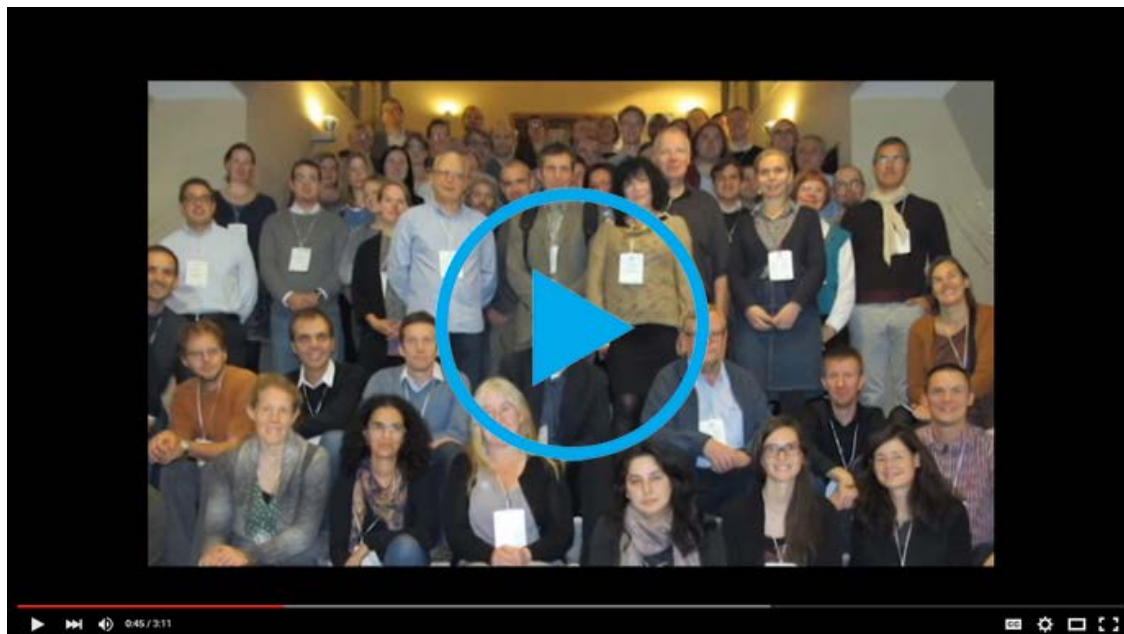
ESMERALDA meets key stakeholders from EU member states in Riga

The first ESMERALDA Stakeholder Workshop took place from 13 to 16 October 2015 in Riga, Latvia, as the first of a series of events planned to enhance the project collaboration with stakeholders. The event brought together project partners and stakeholders to discuss the state and gaps of ecosystem service mapping and assessment activities in their countries, and the ways ESMERALDA outputs can feed into their work to achieve Action 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy.



The event, organised by the ESMERALDA partners [Finnish Environment Institute](#) (SYKE) and the [Baltic Environmental Forum](#) (BEF), was attended by over 70 participants - policy and decision makers, as well as other professionals working in the field of ecosystem services, from across EU member states.

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Watch the Riga workshop video report

ESMERALDA Member States Fact Sheets available on BISE

The first period of ESMERALDA's duration was mainly devoted to identifying stakeholder needs and developing case study and EU member states profiles and relevant fact sheets.

The project has now successfully created fact sheets for EU Member states based on the initial analysis of member state profiles and a stakeholder network review carried out in June 2015. The fact sheets present summarised information on MAES activities in each member states, including details about the related policy and research activities and contact information about key persons involved in the MAES process.

The member states fact sheets are available to view on the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE) [website](#).

Workshop: "Customisation of CICES across Member States"

From 25 to 26 February 2016, around 20 experts from 10 different European countries met at the European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen, Denmark. The workshop is part of ESMERALDA (Milestone 19) and was organised by Marion Potschin and Roy Haines-Young from the ESMERALDA partner University of Nottingham (UNOTT, leader of Work Package 4 on Ecosystems Service Assessment Methods) and hosted by the European Environment Agency.

The aim of the workshop was to take stock of the experience gained in using the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) Version 4.3 for mapping and assessment, and to advise on the objectives for any future revision and the development of guidelines to help people apply it effectively. The workshop has drawn on interim results from the current consultation on CICES that will be completed in April 2016 (see www.cices.eu).

CICES

Towards a common classification of ecosystem services



Collaboration for healthier ecosystems in Europe

On 16 September 2015 ESMERALDA met key European projects and initiatives. This was a first of a series of workshops aimed to develop ESMERALDA communication with relevant initiatives to foster future collaboration and visibility of results. During this first workshop ESMERALDA met with representatives from the [OPPLA](#) and [BISE](#) online platforms, designed to collect information and foster collaboration between EU projects in the spheres of Biodiversity, Ecosystem services, and Ecology.

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Ecosystem services in EU enlargement countries

From January 26-28, 2016, around 20 experts from EU enlargement countries and member states met at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), Italy. ESMERALDA was represented by Joachim Maes (Chair), Grazia Zulian, Benjamin Burkhard, Fernando Santos, Davide Geneletti and Markus Erhard. The aim of this workshop was to take stock of the progress made in EU enlargement countries on mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services.

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Focused on the fields of ecology and sustainability, [One Ecosystem](http://oneecosystem.pensoft.net/) is an innovative open access scholarly journal that goes beyond the conventional research article publication. Launched in January 2016, the new journal is now open for submissions ranging across the [entire research cycle](#), including data, models, methods, workflows, results, software, perspectives and policy recommendations.

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MapNat - Try the ecosystem service mapping smartphone App



Go ahead and test an advanced beta version of MapNat, the ecosystem service (ES) mapping smartphone App.

MapNat lets you map the ecosystem services you are actually using in the very moment of mapping. So the mapping perspective is that of ES use or ES 'flow'. It is designed as a citizen science tool, to be used to get to know more about how people appreciate and use different ES. Just map which ES you are using. On the map display you can also assess which ES

have been used by others, what they commented and how often they use/enjoy the ES they mapped or how severe they judge the disservices they encountered.

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