



# Newsletter 1



*Esmeralda group photo. Credit: Christian Urban, Uni Kiel*

## What is ESMERALDA?

Humankind benefits in a multitude of ways from biodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide. Such services include, for example, provision of drinking water, food security, air quality regulation and recreation.

The new collaborative EU Horizon 2020 funded project "ESMERALDA - Enhancing ecosystem services mapping for policy and decision making" looks into the needs of policy- and decision-makers in EU member states for flexible methodologies, tools and data for sustainable management of ecosystems and their services.

The strength of the ESMERALDA consortium lies in its ability to make solutions for mapping and assessment problems available to stakeholders from the start of a project, because our expertise allows us to build on existing research projects and data sharing systems.

Learn more about the project on our website: [www.esmeralda-project.eu](http://www.esmeralda-project.eu)

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## Project Kick-off



*EMSERALDA Excursion. Credit: Linda Scholten*

The EU H2020 funded ESMERALDA project kick-off meeting took place between 5 - 7 May 2015 at the University of Kiel, Germany.

Around 70 representatives, including scientists, experts and stakeholders of 25 partner organisations from 20 European countries met for the start of the three and a half year coordination and support action.

The 3 day meeting presented an opportunity for partners to meet and discuss future plans for the successful development of the project. The meeting ended with an excursion to monitor ecosystem services around Kiel.

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## What's Next

### ESMERALDA Stakeholder Workshop

**When:** 13 - 16 October 2015

**Where:** Riga, Latvia.

The "ESMERALDA stakeholder workshop on ecosystem service mapping in EU member states at national level: identified gaps and possible solutions" aims to bring together the key stakeholders for all ES Member states to gain an overview on the progress in implementation of EU Biodiversity Strategy targets for mapping and assessment of ecosystem services, identification of gaps in data, knowledge, skills and capacities of the Member States as well as discussing the possible solutions and needs for support.

## News from the Community

### Ecosystem Services: Building Informed Policies to Orient Landscape Dynamics

A new special issue "Ecosystem services: building informed policies to orient landscape dynamics" was recently published in the International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services & Management as an outcome of the Symposia "Ecosystem Services: Building Informed Policies to orient Landscape Dynamics" and "Land system change impacts on European landscapes" at the 2013 IALE European Congress - Changing European Landscapes.

Access the Special Issue [here](#).

### Science for Environment Policy In-Depth Report: Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity

Science for Environment Policy has published a new on-depth report "Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity". In-depth reports are a feature of SEP, introduced in 2012, which take a comprehensive look at the latest science for key policy topics. This report we explore four core facets of the ecosystem services concept.

**Source:** Science for Environment Policy (2015) Ecosystem Services and the Environment. In-depth Report 11. Available [here](#).

### EU 2010 Biodiversity Baseline Adapted to the MAES Typology (2015)

The report 'EU 2010 biodiversity baseline - adapted to the MAES typology (2015)' presents a revised overview of the EEA's EU 2010 biodiversity baseline report. The revision is necessary because the typology of ecosystems used in 2010 has since been altered. The revised report provides recalculated information on the state and trends of the different biodiversity and ecosystem components, based on the new typology of ecosystems.

Find the report [here](#).

### European Environmental Agency (EEA) Annual Report 2014

The European Environmental Agency (EEA) has published its Annual Report describing the work carried out by the EEA in 2014. The EEA annual report includes the EMAS environmental statement 2014. The EEA aims to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policymaking agents and the public.

Download the report [here](#).

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## Events of Interest

### 8th ESP World Conference

When: 9 - 13 November 2015  
Where: Stellenbosch, Africa

Learn more [here](#).

### MAES Delivery Workshop

When: 15 - 16 December 2015  
Where: Brussels, Belgium

Learn more [here](#).

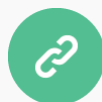
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