

ISSUE 3



Dear ESMERALDA friends and collaborators,

The last six months have marked the beginning of the second project phase "Development of the multi-tiered ES mapping and assessment methodology".

During this period we have worked towards developing a common understanding within the project of methods for mapping and assessing ecosystems and their services. We also looked at how these methods could be used in the context of different ecosystem types, services, "tiers" and spatial scales, cross-referenced to the CICES framework.

We are also pleased to present our new rubric ESMERALDA Insider, which will give you the opportunity to learn more about the life, interests and research of our scientists.

Enjoy the reading!

Yours sincerely,

Benjamin Burkhard

(ESMERALDA Coordinator)

Testing ecosystem services mapping and assessment methods across Europe

First of a series of five, the recent ESMERALDA Workshop was dedicated to testing methods for mapping and assessment of ecosystem services identified in the second project phase using real-world case studies.

Taking place from 26 – 29 September 2016 in Prague, Czech Republic, ESMERALDA thematic Workshop III was attended by about 60 project partners and stakeholders, who have been directly involved in the case studies, and who provided valuable feedback on the suitability of the methods to be used in different decision-

making processes. The event was organized by the ESMERALDA partner CzechGlobe (Global Change Research Institute CAS).



Group photo from the "Testing the methodology across Europe" Workshop, Prague; Credit: CzechGlobe

The ESMERALDA Workshop "Testing the methodology across Europe" not only updated participants on the latest scientific and supporting developments within the project, but also aimed at stimulating discussions on a set of selected methods.

Focused on understanding how the selected methods have been applied in three case studies from Latvia, Czech Republic, and Germany, the overall purpose of the Workshop was to start drafting ESMERALDA's flexible ecosystem services mapping and assessment methods data base, for which among others specific "method cards" were applied. [Read more.](#)

Workshop in Nottingham: Towards a Europe-wide integrated framework for mapping and assessment of ecosystem services

With the aim of supporting EU countries in the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES) process, ESMERALDA held a dedicated workshop to look at and discuss existing methods and how they could be used as part of an integrated assessment.

The workshop, which took place from 14 to 16 April 2016 in Nottingham, UK, brought together 51 representatives from countries across Europe, including all ESMERALDA partners, together with potential new consortium members.



Participants at the ESMERALDA Workshop in Nottingham, UK, 14-16 April 2016; Photo Credit: Pensoft

Using results from existing and ongoing ESMERALDA [reports](#), participants looked at developing a common understanding within ESMERALDA of methods for mapping and assessing ecosystems and their services, and how they could be used in the context of different ecosystem types, services, "tiers" and spatial scales, cross-referenced to the CICES framework.

Results and feedback from the workshop will serve as a basis for the selection of methods to be used and tested within the project's selected case studies. The final aim is to get an overview of available methods, their strengths and weaknesses and potential application for ES mapping and assessment to serve for building a holistic flexible methodology in the next phase of ESMERALDA. [Read more.](#)

Watch the workshop video report:



ESMERALDA Insider: Meet our scientists!

[ESMERALDA Insider](#) is a new project rubric, where every few weeks we will post profiles of our consortium members to give you insights on their research interests and role in the project. Tune in to learn about what motivates scientists in their work, and how are they hoping to contribute to society with their research. Click on the images below to read the full profiles of these people:



Benjamin Burkhard
Project Coordinator



Marion Potschin-Young
WP4 Leader



Joachim Maes
Project Officer



Petteri Vihervaara
Researcher

Don't forget about our country factsheets on BISE

Member states fact sheets with summarised information on MAES activities in each member state are available to view on the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE) [website](#).

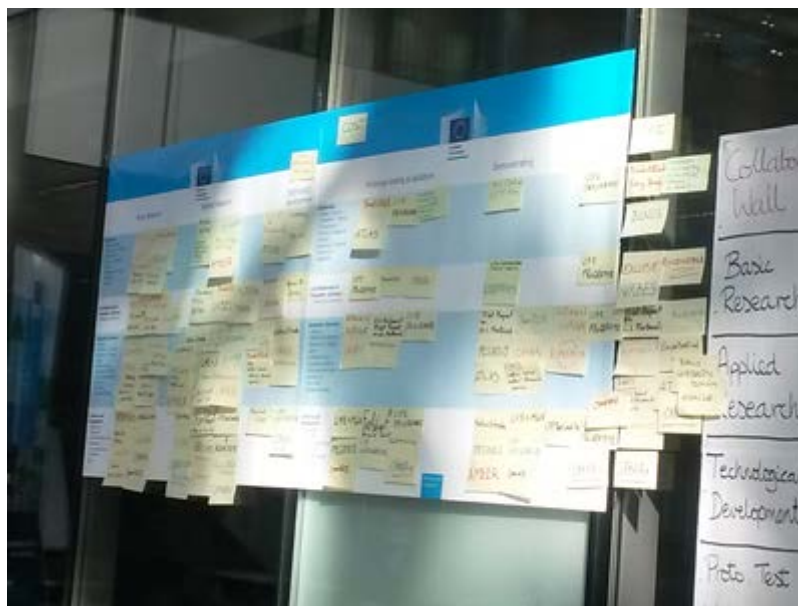


Please [inform us](#) in case you know about MAES-related activities in your country, so that we can keep the information up-to-date.

European biodiversity and ecosystem service research & innovation strategic science dialogue

The Climate Action and Resource Efficiency Directorate of DG Research and Innovation organised on 29 February 2016 in Brussels a science – policy interface workshop with an emphasis on biodiversity and ecosystem services related themes. The objective of the meeting was to identify synergies between EU funded research and networking projects and actions; foster collaboration on scientific and technical issues, as well as communication and science-policy strategies.

Projects funded under various funding schemes such as FP7, Horizon 2020, Biodiversa, LIFE+, and COST were invited to the meeting. Joachim Maes represented ESERALDA at the meeting. Read [more](#).



Relevant publications:

National ecosystem services mapping at multiple scales – The German exemplar

Authors: Sven-Erik Rabe, Thomas Koellner, Stefan Marzelli, Paul Schumacher, and Adrienne Grêt-Regamey
Ecological Indicators, (2016)

Available [here](#).

UNEP GEO-6 Assessment for the pan-European region

As part of the new 6th Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) UNEP has just released a separate Assessment for the pan-European region.

Full report [here](#).



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