

ISSUE 4

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Dear ESMERALDA friends and collaborators,

Just before you go away for your winter holidays, we would like to share some exciting project news and updates with you!

During the last period the project has marked an exponential growth of ESMERALDA's consortium, with all EU countries now represented among our 37 partners.

The project has also co-organized a dedicated workshop for Europe's Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories to share know-how and pave the way towards future collaborations with these territories.

Read all about these updates and more news from our meetings and workshops in this end-of-year bulletin.

Yours sincerely,
Benjamin Burkhard
(ESMERALDA Coordinator)

ESMERALDA is growing!

Having recently officially enlarged its consortium to 37 partners, ESMERALDA is now covering the whole of Europe and also Israel, thus making sure that MAES activities across countries will be monitored and relevant recommendations will be developed for all contexts.

Project partners

 Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany (LUH)	 Paris Lodron University Salzburg, Austria (PLUS)	 Foundation for Sustainable Development, the Netherlands (FSD)	 University of Copenhagen, Denmark (UCPH)
 Finnish Environment Institute, Finland (SYKE)	 Regional Environmental Centre, Hungary (REC)	 ETH Zürich, Switzerland (ETH Zurich)	 Naturvårdsverket, Sweden (SEPA)
 Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain (UAM)	 Christian Albrechts University Kiel, Germany (CAU)	 Joint Research Centre, European Commission (JRC)	 Baltic Environmental Forum, Latvia (BEF)
 Fabis Consulting, United Kingdom (FABIS)	 Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal (IST)	 National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Ireland (DAHRGA)	 Nature, Biodiversity and Landscape Protection Directorate Ministry of Environment, Slovakia (MOESK)
 University of Trento, Italy (UNITN)	 University of Bucharest, Romania (UB)	 Tel Aviv University, Israel (TAU)	 Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Norway (NINA)
 Pensoft Publishers Ltd, Bulgaria (PENSOFT)	 UNEP WCMC, United Kingdom (WCMC)	 Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia	 Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania (MRU)
 Free University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands (VU)	 University of Poznan, Poland (UPOZ)	 University of Patras, Greece (UPAT)	
 Flemish Institute for Technological Research, Belgium (VITO)	 Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary (MTA OK)	 Croatian Agency for the Environment and Nature, Croatia (CAEN)	
 Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria (NIGGG BAS)	 Institute for Environmental & Agricult. Science & Research, France (IRSTEA)	 Ministry for Sustainable Development and Infrastructure, Environment Department, Luxembourg (MDDI)	
 Global Change Research Centre, Czech Republic (CVGZ)	 Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology, Malta (MCAST)	 Cyprus Institute, Cyprus (CVI)	

Reaching out to Europe's Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories

While ESMERALDA has already achieved substantial progress towards analysing and supporting the process of implementing MAES across EU member states and to deliver a flexible methodology for pan-European and regional assessments, little has been said so far about Europe's Outermost Regions (ORs) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) in this context. The ORs and OCTs with their very specific social-ecological system settings are hotspots of biodiversity and need special consideration in management.

Initiated and organised as a joint activity of ESMERALDA, the European Commission DG Environment's Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST) and the University of Azores, a dedicated workshop on MAES in EU's ORs and OCTs took place from 28 Feb to 03 Mar 2017 in Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores, to start the process of exchanging knowledge and initiate coordinated MAES activities in these special regions and adjacent marine areas.

Read [more here](#).



Group photo of workshop participants taking during the field trip to Lagoa das Sete Cidades, São Miguel Island, Azores, Portugal.

Reporting back from meetings and workshops



Amsterdam, January 2017

From 9 to 12 January 2017, ESMERALDA held the second of a series of five planned project workshops aimed at testing the flexible ecosystem services (ES) mapping and assessment methodology under development using real-world case studies. During the workshop, the 60 participants received an update on the latest developments of the consortium and the flexible methodology developed within ESMERALDA, and had the opportunity to contribute to the methods classification, database generation and methodology development during different break-out sessions.

[Read more.](#)



Madrid, April 2017

ESMERALDA project partners and stakeholders met for a 3-days Workshop to test ecosystem services mapping and assessment methods across European biomes and regions and to plan future actions. The event took place from 4 to 7 April 2017, kindly hosted by the Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain. During the first day, ESMERALDA partners had the opportunity to present latest project results. Special focus was placed on presenting the progress in developing ESMERALDA's Flexible Methodology for Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES).

[Read more.](#)



Plovdiv, October 2017

For nearly two and a half years to date, the Horizon2020-funded EU project ESMERALDA has been working hard towards the development of a flexible methodology in support of pan-European and regional Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services (MAES).

From 2 to 5 October, in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, the ESMERALDA project met with key stakeholders from the EU member states, the European Commission and Science-Policy-Society Advisory Board members to present a final version of its ecosystem services mapping and assessment methodology, and collect feedback and ideas for improvements and implementation. Altogether 70 participants attended the meeting.

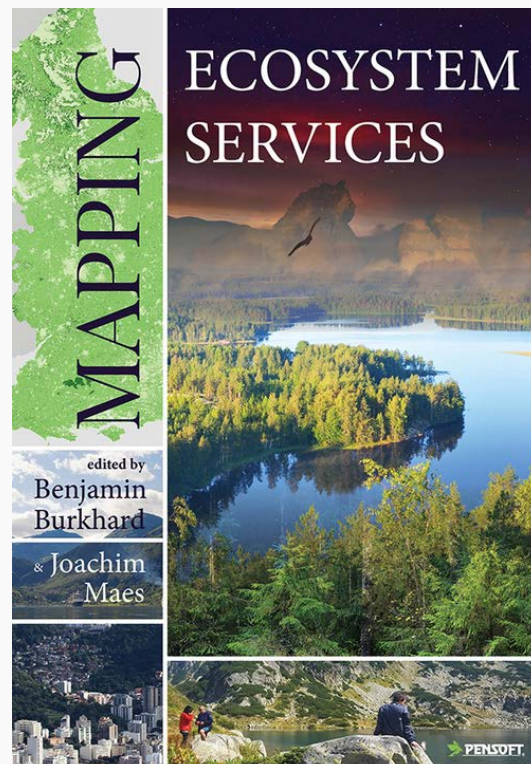
[Read more.](#)

In case you still haven't got your copy

The new book Mapping Ecosystem Services provides a comprehensive collection of theories, methods and practical applications of ecosystem services (ES) mapping, for the first time bringing together valuable knowledge and techniques from leading international experts in the field. Published by Pensoft, the book is both available in an [online open access version](#) via the publisher's [Advanced Books](#) platform, and can be ordered in [paperback and hardback](#) format.

"Our aim was to present concise chapters in a professional but understandable language in order to facilitate their readability and comprehension. For example footnotes with direct links and suggestions for further reading are provided at the end of each chapter"

Ecosystem Services. Advanced Books. <https://doi.org/10.3897/ab.e12837>
Order online
at: <http://books.pensoft.net/book/13161/mapping-ecosystem-services>



Happy Holidays from a Happy ESMERALDA Team!



Photo: ESMERALDA members at the 9th ESP Conference in Shenzhen, China (Photo: Kremena Burkhard).



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