






## Project partners


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# ★ ESMERALDA ★

### Keywords

ecosystem services, mapping, assessment, Europe,  
network, biodiversity strategy, ecosystem restoration,  
policy making, flexible methodology

**Consortium** of 25 partners from 20 European countries

### Structure

6 closely interlinked work packages (WPs)

### Duration

February 2015 – July 2018

### Website

[www.esmeralda-project.eu](http://www.esmeralda-project.eu)

### Project coordinator

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# ★ ESMERALDA ★

## Enhancing ecoSystem sERvices mApping for poLicy and Decision mAKing

EU Horizon 2020 Coordination and support action



## Background

Mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services (ES) are core to the EU Biodiversity (BD) Strategy. They are essential if we are to make informed decisions for the future of European biodiversity. Action 5 sets the requirement for an EU-wide knowledge base designed to be:

- ★ a primary data source for developing Europe's green infrastructure;
- ★ a resource to identify areas for ecosystem restoration, and;
- ★ a baseline against which the goal of 'no net loss of BD and ES' can be evaluated.

**In response to Actions 5 requirements ES MERALDA aims to:**

- ★ create ES mapping and assessment strategies in the EU member states;
- ★ deliver a 'flexible methodology' for pan-European, national and regional ES mapping and assessment;
- ★ transmit experience through active dialogues and co-creation of knowledge, and;
- ★ mobilise all relevant actors, increase participation of citizens in science and decision making.

## ESMERALDA will

- ★ coordinate and streamline existing European ES research, exchange of information, data and methods;
- ★ strengthen existing networks and create new European collaborations between ES scientists, practitioners, policy makers and the society;
- ★ link European and national research and funding activities with international activities;
- ★ create innovative ES mapping and assessment methods and cross-disciplinary systemic approaches;
- ★ build on existing knowledge and experience, to enhance mapping and assessment of ecosystems and their services;
- ★ support national stakeholders to carry out their obligations according to the EU BD Strategy and national requirements, and;
- ★ develop a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) for ES mapping and assessment and enable long-term ES-based management strategies.

## Main outcomes

- ★ an overview of the state of ES mapping and assessment in EU member states;
- ★ a flexible methodology and tiered approach for ES mapping, valuation, accounting and assessment;
- ★ methods for developing high quality and consistent information on the condition of ecosystems and their services;
- ★ exemplar applications in selected representative case studies (agriculture, forestry, marine areas, others);
- ★ an online data sharing system for maps;
- ★ a set of practical policy recommendations;
- ★ a set of recommendations for the future development and implementation of related policies, and;
- ★ practical guidance, data and tools for using BD and ecosystem-related data in other policies.

**ESMERALDA consortium:** 25 project partners, 20 European countries, 2 linked Baltic countries, linked western Balkan countries