

<b>WP 2</b>	<b>Deliverable 2.3</b>
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### MARBEFES Project

<b>Title: Joint activities with sister projects</b>
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MARBEFES Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 101060937 and UKRI under Grant Agreements 10040216, 10048815 and 10041354



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### 1. Introduction

In accordance with the Horizon call requirements the MARBEFES team established direct contacts with other project coordinators for collaboration, especially with the projects funded under the same Horizon Europe topic (BIOcean5D and Marine SABRES). The MARBEFES project team got involved in joint activities, including organization of workshops with the other projects to identify synergies, set-up common indicators and frameworks and created joint communication and dissemination activities.

### 2. MARBEFES Kick-off meeting (3-6 October 2022)

The need for integrating activities with the sister projects, namely BIOcean5D (<https://biocean5d.org/>), Marine SABRES (<https://www.marinesabres.eu/>) and GES4SEAS (<https://www.ges4seas.eu/>) was discussed during the kick-off meeting in Sopot in 2022.

At the end of the second day of the meeting a joint discussion led by Herman Hummel (HuFoSS) on stakeholders' involvement and outreach took place, based on following 5-minutes inspirational presentations:

- Stakeholder identification; Stakeholder communication platform - Herman Hummel (HuFoSS)
- BIOcean5D outreach - Sara Verstraeten (EMBL)
- Bioblitz events – Jan Marcin Węśławski (IO PAN)

This session presented the specific information on the areas of the activities in which each of the projects can overlap with the other sister projects. Based on that further discussions were carried out and the joint activities were carried out by all projects.

### 3. MARBEFES joint activities with sister projects

A Marine SABRES workshop, which was co-ordinated with the MARBEFES team in Zandvoort brought together 13 stakeholders and 19 researchers to discuss key findings from earlier interviews and surveys. Its goal was to gather input and suggestions to help co-create decision-making tools for managing marine and coastal areas.

The San Sebastian three-day school, was led by the Spanish team and co-created by team members from the MARBEFES and BIOcean5D projects. The event aimed to improve how science is communicated to policy-makers by showcasing tools and methods through both theory and practice.



It brought together scientists, communicators, and decision-makers to exchange experiences and foster more effective science-policy connections.

The second workshop for the MARBEFES and Marine SABRES projects in Zandvoort brought together researchers and stakeholders to review recent findings and policy tools. Islanders showed stronger involvement in local governance, while mainland communities leaned toward national policy. New tools like the “Toolbox” and “Shiny App” were well-received, and the event strengthened collaboration between science and practice.

The Mission Arena event in Sopot brought together stakeholders from the Baltic and North Sea regions to promote a carbon-neutral, circular blue economy. It culminated in a joint roadmap aligned with the EU Mission: *Restore our Ocean and Waters*, aiming to protect marine environments through 2030 and beyond. By fostering cross-border collaboration and sharing expertise, the initiative supports a greener, more resilient Baltic Sea region. A dedicated session also highlighted the goals and progress of the MARBEFES project and the results from BiOcean5D were also promoted.

A rapid biodiversity assessment took place in Sopot’s Seaside Park and coastal waters led by MARBEFES, involving researchers from BiOcean5D, TREC, and Tara. As part of the Science Picnic at IO PAN, teams identified local species and collected samples for further cellular and molecular analysis. The event combined public engagement with scientific research to deepen understanding of local marine biodiversity.

#### 4. Description of particular joint activities


##### 1. Project activities matching.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Project activities matching between the sister Horizon projects
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
October 2022 – June 2023
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GES4SEAS (lead)</li> <li>• ACTNOW</li> <li>• BiOcean5D</li> <li>• MARBEFES</li> <li>• MarinePlan</li> <li>• MarineSABRES</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
Series of meetings, email discussions and activities mapping between the sister projects to identify areas of joint focus and/or collaboration opportunities, as well as management of stakeholder activities to prevent stakeholder fatigue. Several of the following activities came from this initial process.
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>



<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>
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2. AZTI summer school 2023.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
AZTI Summer School 2023 - Innovative and practical tools for monitoring and assessing multiple human pressures affecting biodiversity in marine systems
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
San Sebastian, Spain, 5 – 7 June 2023
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MARBEFES - taught the session on 'Ecosystem services mapping and assessment'</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> <li>• BioOcean5D</li> <li>• ACTNOW</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
The main objective of the school was to present the innovative tools that are already practically used in monitoring the ocean, and the tools used to assess the cumulative effects of multiple pressures, as well as the status of the ocean and the ecosystem services it provides.
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<p>The activity was promoted via projects' promotional channels and other media, including institutional channels.</p> <p>The Summer School produced a journal paper on communicating science, jointly published by the sister projects: <a href="https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10661-024-12861-2">https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10661-024-12861-2</a></p>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>




3. MARBEFES Bioblitz event.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Bioblitz in Sopot
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Sopot, 16-17 June 2023
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BIOcean5D</li> <li>• TREC <a href="https://www.embl.org/about/info/trec/">https://www.embl.org/about/info/trec/</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b></p> <p>A rapid biodiversity assessment was conducted in the Seaside Park and coastal waters of Sopot. A group of researchers, including teams from MARBEFES and BIOcean5D, sampled and identified local fauna and flora within the designated area. The activity was part of the Science Picnic, an annual public science event held at the IO PAN.</p> <p>The TREC and Tara teams also participated, collecting samples in advance for in-depth analysis of biodiversity at the cellular and molecular levels.</p> <p>The bioblitz events are the part of the WP7 (Task 7.4 Training, education and ocean literacy) of the MARBEFES project.</p>
<p><b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b></p> <p><a href="https://oceanofchanges.com/en/odn-2023/spn2023/">https://oceanofchanges.com/en/odn-2023/spn2023/</a>  <a href="https://marbefes.eu/uploads/files/icons/Bioblitz%20Sopot%20table.xlsx">https://marbefes.eu/uploads/files/icons/Bioblitz%20Sopot%20table.xlsx</a></p> <p>MARBEFES, team from the IO PAN took part in the event</p> <p>The activity was promoted via projects' promotional channels and other media, including institutional channels.</p>
<p><b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.embl.org/news/lab-matters/connecting-scientists-engaging-citizens/">https://www.embl.org/news/lab-matters/connecting-scientists-engaging-citizens/</a>  <a href="https://old.iopan.pl/Albumy/Bioblitz_tent/index.html">https://old.iopan.pl/Albumy/Bioblitz_tent/index.html</a>  <a href="https://youtu.be/9wiGWBcl4No">https://youtu.be/9wiGWBcl4No</a></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>

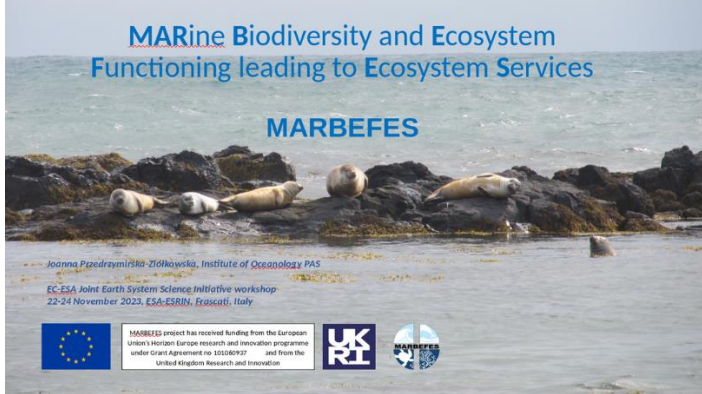
#### 4. Earth System Science Initiative Workshop.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
EC-ESA Earth System Science Initiative Workshop
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Frascati, 22 – 24 November, 2023
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MARBEFES</li> <li>• BIOcean5D</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> <li>• MARCO-BOLO</li> <li>• Multiple other EC and ESA projects</li> </ul>



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<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
Presented MARBEFES project and discussed linkages to ESA projects, at the invitation of the ESA.
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>


## 5. Stakeholder engagement workshop.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Stakeholder engagement workshop
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Zandvoort, 19-20 March 2024
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine SABRES</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
The workshop shared key findings from earlier stakeholder interviews and surveys, aiming to engage 13 selected stakeholders and 19 researchers in focused discussions. It sought feedback, suggestions, and input to support the co-creation of decision tools for marine and coastal management in the project areas.
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<a href="https://www.marinesabres.eu/post/postcard-from-the-overarching-stakeholder-workshop-in-zandvoort-netherlands">https://www.marinesabres.eu/post/postcard-from-the-overarching-stakeholder-workshop-in-zandvoort-netherlands</a>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>
<a href="https://www.marinesabres.eu/post/postcard-from-the-overarching-stakeholder-workshop-in-zandvoort-netherlands">https://www.marinesabres.eu/post/postcard-from-the-overarching-stakeholder-workshop-in-zandvoort-netherlands</a>

## 6. European Maritime Day 2024 proposal.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
European Maritime Day 2024
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Svendsborg, 31 – 31 May 2024



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<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MARBEFES (lead)</li> <li>• ACTNOW</li> <li>• BiOcean5D</li> <li>• GE4SEAS</li> <li>• MARCO-BOLO</li> <li>• MarinePlan</li> <li>• MarineSABRES</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
<p>The sister projects co-developed a proposal for a workshop at EMD2024.</p> <p>Co-creating solutions to achieve sustainable seas: We proposed to present lessons-learned of effective engagement with stakeholders who play a crucial role in shaping the dynamics, sustainability and management of marine social-ecological systems. We will discuss pathways across the science-policy interface, showing how stakeholders and researchers can co-produce knowledge and co-create sustainable marine solutions for marine policy. Thus, the whole community (projects, researchers, practitioners &amp; policy makers) can harmonize top-down and bottom-up approaches to strengthen competence and collaboration for sustainable and biodiverse marine ecosystems</p> <p>The proposal was rejected by the EMD2024 organisers.</p>
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>

## 7. AZTI summer school 2024.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
AZTI Summer School 2024 - Bridging the gap between marine science and policy: Communicating for an informed society and decision-making
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
San Sebastian, Spain, 11 – 13 June 2024
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GES4SEAS (lead)</li> <li>• MARBEFES, three persons from the project partner institutions co-ran the school.</li> <li>• BIOcean5D.</li> <li>• Marine SABRES</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> <li>• ACTNOW</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
<p>The main objective of the school was to present, both theoretically and practically, different tools and methods for a better transmission of the ideas, connecting science and policy in an effective manner. To achieve this objective, the school lasted three days, dedicating each of them to a target audience, combining the experiences from scientists, journalists, practitioners and managers in making science available for policy-makers. The course was open for early career</p>



scientists, senior scientists wanting to better communicate, communicators, managers and policy-makers, to jointly debate this current hot topic.

**Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.**

AZTI Summer School information folder and agenda can be found at:

<https://www.azti.es/en/event/summer-school-2024/>

The activity was promoted via projects' promotional channels and other media, including institutional channels. The Summer School produced a journal paper on communicating science, jointly published by the sister projects (shortly to be published).

**Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.**



## 8. B-USEFUL General Assembly.

**Title (name) of the activity.**

B-USEFUL General Assembly meeting 2024

**Place and date of the activity.**

Lowestoft, 11 – 15 November 2024

**Information which sister project was involved.**

- B-USEFUL

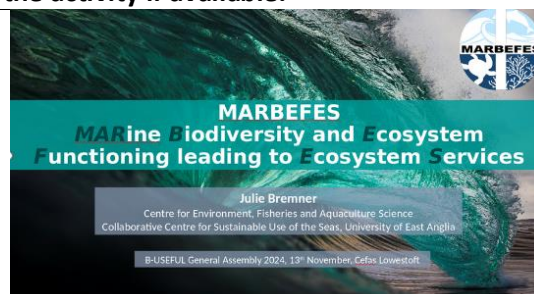
**A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).**

MARBEFES presented project activities to B-USEFUL, followed by a discussion session on potential added value and joint activities (follow-up meeting March 2025).

**Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.**

Presentation of Julie Bremner, participation in discussions Julie Bremner and/or Marie Nordström.

**Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.**



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## 9. ECSA60 symposium session.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Challenges in the integration of ecological, socio-ecological and socio-economic aspects in estuarine, coastal and marine management
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Hangzhou, China, 2-5 September 2024
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MARBEFES (lead)</li> <li>• GES4SEAS</li> <li>• Marine SABRES</li> <li>• MarinePlan</li> <li>• ACTNOW</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
<p>ECSA60 Session Proposal</p> <p>Challenges in the integration of ecological, socio-ecological and socio-economic aspects in estuarine, coastal and marine management.</p> <p>Michael Elliott, Angel Borja, Roland Cormier, Emma Verling, Julie Bremner, Venessa Steltzenmüller and Myron Peck.</p> <p>The session will aim to cover a set of interlinked themes to give an holistic approach to integrated science and management of estuaries, coasts and marine areas. This will cover major recent and ongoing developments in the following themes: techniques, tools and approaches for ecological status assessments; the treatment of these areas as socio-ecological systems thereby requiring systems analysis for their study and management; the role of maritime spatial planning including different types of designations such as designated and de-facto Marine Protected Areas, Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Areas, and Other Effective Conservation Measures; the role of Systematic Conservation Planning, and the approaches to the ecological, socio-ecological and socio-economic valuation of biodiversity in these areas. The session is coordinated by lead members of several large European projects and their international collaborators with the aim of demonstrating outputs from those projects and allowing their comparison with similar initiatives worldwide. In doing so, it will allow consideration of the achievements and constraints in marine and coastal natural and social sciences for management and the role of the various outputs in policy and other governance of complex areas. As such, the papers from worldwide contributors will increase collaboration, learning and the exchange of skills and information for mutual benefit. Furthermore, the session aims to encourage Early Career Researchers and Practitioners to develop their understanding across natural and social disciplines.</p>
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<a href="https://nc-marbefes.iopan.pl/nextcloud/s/RAdRP8TDy5MD29t">https://nc-marbefes.iopan.pl/nextcloud/s/RAdRP8TDy5MD29t</a> <a href="https://nc-marbefes.iopan.pl/nextcloud/s/gWAFngCdWejWb3W">https://nc-marbefes.iopan.pl/nextcloud/s/gWAFngCdWejWb3W</a>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>

## 10. BIOcean5D General Assembly Meeting.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
BIOcean5D was hosting its second General Assembly Meeting in Barcelona



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<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Barcelona, Spain, 11-13 February 2025
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BIOcean5D</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
A dedicated session of the General Assembly was held on day 3 and it aimed at strengthening collaboration and alignment with representatives from 7 EU partner projects working on marine biodiversity issues. Through the close cooperation, all projects contribute to creation of knowledge to sustainably manage and preserve marine ecosystems.
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
Presentation of Jan Marcin Węśławski <a href="https://marbefes.eu/uploads/files/MARBEFES_BIOCEAN5D_13022025_compressed.pdf">https://marbefes.eu/uploads/files/MARBEFES_BIOCEAN5D_13022025_compressed.pdf</a>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>
<a href="https://biocean5d.org/biocean5d-general-assembly-2025/">https://biocean5d.org/biocean5d-general-assembly-2025/</a>

## 11. Cluster workshop – Restore and protect marine biodiversity.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Joint REA & RTD Cluster Event on Marine Biodiversity. Cluster Restore and Protect Marine Biodiversity
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Brussels, 13 March 2025
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BioAgora (organiser)</li> <li>Eclipse (organiser)</li> <li>HIFMB (organiser)</li> <li>B-USEFUL (organiser)</li> <li>EC (DG RTD, DG MARE, DG ENV, REA) (organiser)</li> <li>30 projects within the cluster</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
Attendance at the first Cluster workshop at the invite of the cluster leads, to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint approaches across projects for marine conservation, restoration and management that incorporate the needs and perspectives of different stakeholder groups</li> <li>How to maximise the impact of the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects within the cluster</li> </ul>
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>


## 12. Overarching Stakeholders workshop.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Second Overarching Stakeholders workshop
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>



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Zandvoort, the Netherlands – 1-2 April 2025
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine SABRES</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
<p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> overarching workshop for stakeholders and researchers took place in Zandvoort, Netherlands. In the framework of the Horizon Europe projects MARBEFES and Marine SABRES, researchers and stakeholders from various regions came together to discuss and evaluate the results that emerged from the recently completed 2<sup>nd</sup> round of interviews and the various planning and policy instruments developed within both projects.</p> <p>Among other results, it confirmed that islanders (prominently in Marine SABRES) are more involved in local policy and governance compared to those on the mainland (mainly in MARBEFES), where national policy and governance are considered more important.</p> <p>From these consultations, valuable insights and feedback were obtained for the further development of management tools for coastal areas. The prototypes developed within the projects, the “Toolbox” and a “Shiny App” for a Decision Support System for policy, were received with great enthusiasm.</p> <p>The workshop in Zandvoort not only led to valuable insights for the MARBEFES and Marine SABRES projects but also a strengthened connection between academia and practice through the exchanges that took place between stakeholders and researchers.</p>
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<p>Thirteen (13) Stakeholders, and 20 MARBEFES project researchers were involved in the workshop</p> <p>Short report on <a href="https://hufoss.nl/language/en/second-overarching-workshop-in-zandvoort-netherlands-marine-sabres-and-marbefes/">https://hufoss.nl/language/en/second-overarching-workshop-in-zandvoort-netherlands-marine-sabres-and-marbefes/</a></p>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>
<p>Photo credit Lars Olav Sparboe</p> 



## 13. EU Mission Arena.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Mission Arena
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Sopot, 28-30 April 2025
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue Mission Banos</li> </ul>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BIOcean5D</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
<p>The event aimed to inspire and support stakeholders from the Baltic and North Sea regions in advancing a carbon-neutral, circular blue economy. It concluded with the joint creation of a roadmap to help the region meet the goals of the EU Mission: Restore our Ocean and Waters—promoting awareness, action, and solutions to protect marine environments through 2030 and beyond. By connecting people, projects, and ideas across borders, we foster collaboration, share expertise, and support a greener, more resilient Baltic Sea region.</p> <p>A session was held to present the objectives and progress of the MARBEFES project.</p>
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<a href="https://bluemissionbanos.eu/event/mission-arena-4/">https://bluemissionbanos.eu/event/mission-arena-4/</a>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>
 

## 14. ICES Annual Science Conference 2025.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
ICES Annual Science Conference 2025
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Klaipeda, 15 – 18 September 2025
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MARBEFES</li> <li>• Marine SABRES</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
<p>During early 2025 the projects proposed a session for the ICES Annual Science Conference on 'Marine biodiversity and ecosystem services for a sustainable future'. The proposal was accepted. Co-led by the two projects, the session will contain many presentations from both projects and focuses on the big question for marine environmental management, "how to protect and maintain the natural structure and function of marine ecosystems that lead to ecosystem services and deliver societal goods and benefits sustainably"? The session will explore Social Ecological Systems, Ecosystem Based Management and the tools available to identify and navigate the trade-offs and conflicts involved in achieving conservation and restoration targets. It will also focus on the equity of existing, and proposed new, interventions and measures.</p>
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<a href="https://www.ices.dk/events/asc/2025/Pages/Theme-session-Q.aspx">https://www.ices.dk/events/asc/2025/Pages/Theme-session-Q.aspx</a>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>



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## 15. ECSA61 symposium proposal.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
ECSA61 symposium – Bridging the gap between science and policy in estuarine and coastal marine biodiversity: the way forward
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Brussels, 24 – 27 August 2026
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GES4SEAS</li> <li>• MARBEFES</li> <li>• Marine SABRES</li> <li>• ACTNOW</li> <li>• BIOcean5D</li> <li>• DiverSEA</li> <li>• EDNAAqua_Plan</li> <li>• MARCO-BOLO</li> <li>• MarinePlan</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
During 2025, the sister projects co-developed a proposal for a dedicated day to discuss how outcomes from the Horizon Europe programmes can support the implementation of marine biodiversity policies across Europe. This is aligned with the broader ECSA61 symposium and will be a day to conduct dialogue between the Horizon projects, EC officers/experts, Regional Sea Convention representatives, EU Parliament members, NGOs, National Authorities and broader stakeholders. Expected audience 500-600.
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>

## 16. Early career researcher network: Monthly meetings.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
HE ECR monthly meetings
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Online, Teams Meetings Monthly since March 2024 and occur on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am (CET) until the end of the project.
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine SABRES</li> <li>• MARBEFES</li> <li>• Marine Plan</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> <li>• Future Mares</li> <li>• OBAMA NEXT</li> <li>• GES4SEAS</li> </ul>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue4All</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
This group aims to enhance the professional profiles of its members, including students, doctoral candidates/students, and post-doctoral researchers – generally, anyone who identifies as an ECR within the HE projects. It is a self-organising community to promote knowledge exchanges, networking and communication between ECRs within the Horizon Europe sister projects. The group meets monthly to discuss relevant topics, host seminar sessions to share project work, and provides an opportunity for networking between members.
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">LinkedIn group members - 136</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mailing List of HE interproject ECRs – 61</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Number of Meetings: 22</a></li> </ul>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>
ECR Webpage: <a href="https://www.ges4seas.eu/ecr/">https://www.ges4seas.eu/ecr/</a> LinkedIn: <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12769181/">https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12769181/</a>

## 17. Early career researcher network: Capacity Building Session.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Publishing Papers and Grant Writing for ECRs in Marine and Coastal Research
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Teams Meeting – 7 December 2023
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine SABRES</li> <li>• MARBEFES</li> <li>• Marine Plan</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> <li>• Future Mares</li> <li>• OBAMA NEXT</li> <li>• GES4SEAS</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
The main objective of this workshop was to equip ECRs within MARBEFES and other HE sister projects with the tools and strategies for successful paper publication and grant writing. By enhancing understanding of these processes, we aimed to increase our research productivity, visibility, and opportunities for funding. The content included navigating the publication process, grant writing essentials, and effective communication and outreach.
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
14 ECRs participated in the session and the YouTube recording has been viewed 59 times.
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>



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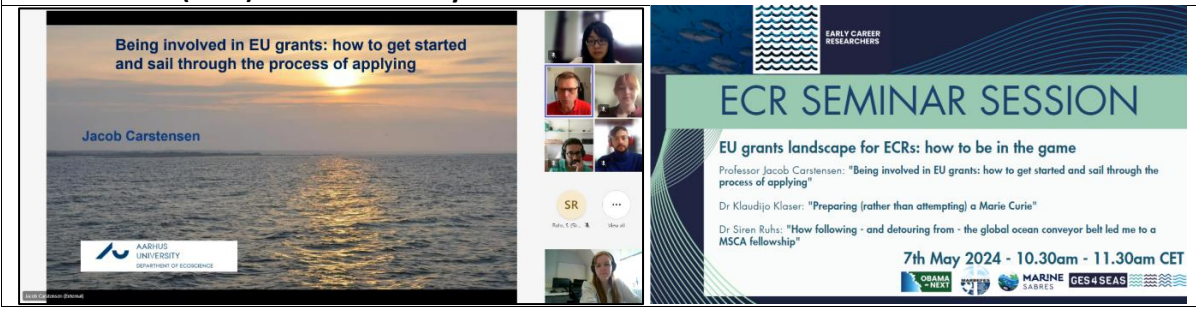






YouTube recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCf68UA8SFA&t=7343s>

## 18. Early career researcher network: Capacity Building Session.


<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
EU Grant landscape for ECRs: how to be in the game
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Teams Meeting – 7 May 2024
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine SABRES</li> <li>• MARBEFES</li> <li>• Marine Plan</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> <li>• Future Mares</li> <li>• OBAMA NEXT</li> <li>• GES4SEAS</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
<p>The purpose of this session was to equip ECRs with the learning of experienced researchers in approaching EU grant applications. The sessions three speakers included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Professor Jacob Carstensen titled "Being involved in EU grants: how to get started and sail through the process of applying" followed by a discussion.</li> <li>- Presentation by Dr Klaudio Klaser titled "Preparing (rather than attempting) a Marie Curie".</li> <li>- Presentation by Dr Siren Ruhs titled "How following - and detouring from - the global ocean conveyor belt led me to a MSCA fellowship".</li> </ul>
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
110 ECRs joined as this was an open session.
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>




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## 19. Early career researcher network: Capacity Building Session.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Beyond the Bounds of Academia: Career Insights for Marine Early Career Researchers
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Microsoft Teams – 6 March 2024
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine SABRES</li> <li>• MARBEFES</li> <li>• Marine Plan</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> <li>• Future Mares</li> <li>• OBAMA NEXT</li> <li>• GES4SEAS</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
The purpose of the event was to showcase different career options beyond academic research. This was achieved through a Q&A session with professionals whose responsibilities often include research and innovation in non-academic settings. This session was an ECR-moderated discussion panel between 3 speakers engaged in EU-funded projects, including MARBEFES, alongside with experience working outside of academia (government, EU structures, NGOs, industry/consultancy).
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
27 ECRs attended the session.
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>


## 20. Early career researcher network: Capacity Building Session.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Can we produce trustworthy artificial intelligence to support marine research and policy needs?
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Microsoft Teams – 1 April 2025
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine SABRES</li> <li>• MARBEFES</li> </ul>



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine Plan</li> <li>• OBAMA-NEXT</li> <li>• Future Mares</li> <li>• OBAMA NEXT</li> <li>• GES4SEAS</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
The first talk introduced three critical pillars necessary to ensure AI systems supporting marine science, fisheries, and its stakeholders can be trusted. The first pillar, socio-economic and legal viability. The second pillar, data governance. The third pillar, technical and scientific robustness. The talk focussed on this pillar that highlights the importance of rigorous practices to assess entire AI pipelines and systematic testing with ground truth and alternative datasets. The second talk highlighted ethical aspects of AI use in research and inspired a discussion on environmental and social aspects of AI systems. Following this an open Q&A session took place.
<b>Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.</b>
14 ECRs attended the session. Agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions and welcome</li> <li>• Presentation from Josean Fernandes, titled: 'Can we produce trustworthy artificial intelligence to support marine research and policy needs?'</li> <li>• Presentation from Pablo Cerezo Martínez, titled: 'Ethics of AI in research'</li> <li>• Reflections from Pablo and Josean on the ethical use of AI in marine research and practice.</li> <li>• Q&amp;A from the group for the panel to reflect upon, discuss, and share their experiences/advice</li> <li>• Session close</li> </ul>
<b>Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.</b>

## 21. Early career researcher network: Joint Paper Initiative.

<b>Title (name) of the activity.</b>
Promoting Early Career Researcher Contributions to Marine Environmental Science Policy
<b>Place and date of the activity.</b>
Submitted: February 2025 (In review)
<b>Information which sister project was involved.</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine SABRES</li> <li>• MARBEFES</li> <li>• Marine Plan</li> <li>• GES4SEAS</li> <li>• Blue4All</li> </ul>
<b>A short description of the activity (max. 1,000 characters).</b>
This paper explores the key yet underrepresented role of Early Career Researchers (ECRs) in bridging marine science and policy, offering an up-to-date perspective on how their inclusion can contribute to sustainable marine management through the science to policy interface. The integration of scientific evidence into policy is a foundation of effective marine governance. While the contributions of senior researchers are often acknowledged, we suggest that the valuable



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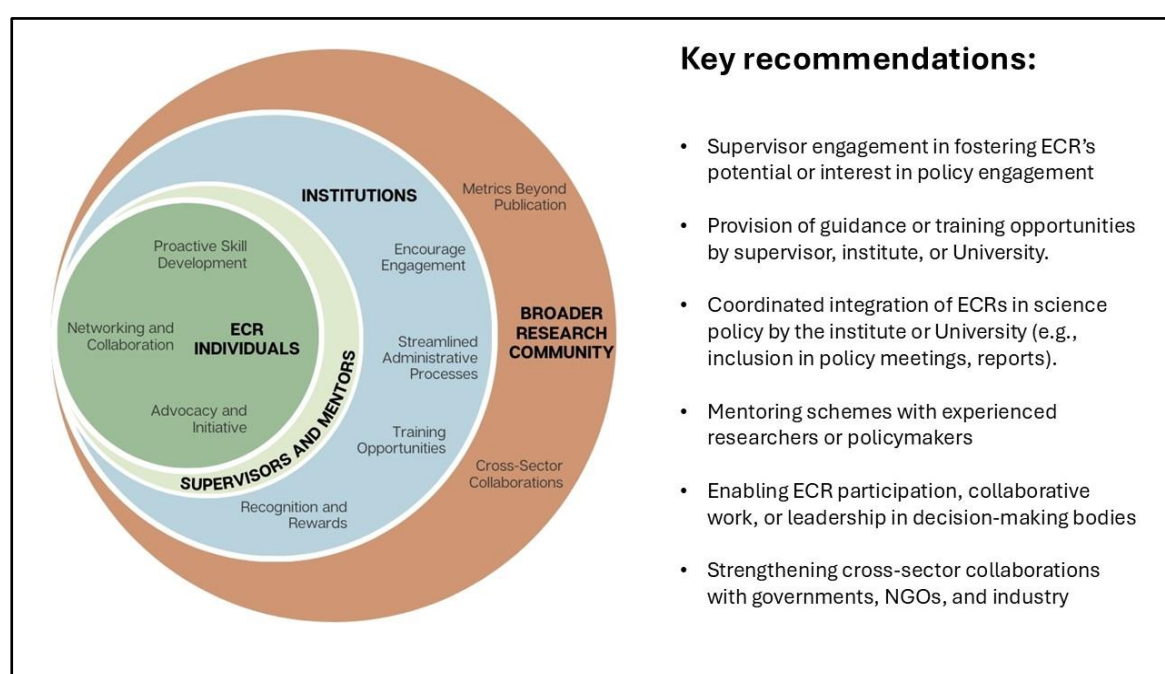


perspectives, skills, and innovative approaches of ECRs remain underutilised. Our study examines the unique contributions of ECRs, the barriers they face, and the strategies for overcoming these obstacles, with a specific focus on European context. Through a targeted survey, we identify key challenges faced by ECRs, including limited access to policy-making spaces, institutional constraints, and systemic pressures, alongside highlighting opportunities to enhance their involvement. The findings underscore the need to enhance ECR inclusion in policy formulation, particularly through actionable recommendations that address institutional constraints, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and facilitate access to decision-making platforms.

**Any other relevant information, if available, including links to the agenda, number of participants, forms of promotion, etc.**

Submitted to Marine Policy, February 2025 and is in review. Included ECRs from several projects following the AZTI summer school on the topic, ECRs are: Gemma Smith (MARBEFES), Furqan Asif, Linda Del Savio, Josefin Ekstedt, Deevesh Ashley Hemraj, George Hoppit, Dorota Kolbuk (MARBEFES), Olga Lukyanova, and Ryan Smazal (MARBEFES).

**Some visuals (links) from the activity if available.**



*A schematic from the paper in review of the various scales in which support for Early-Career Researchers (ECRs) in accessing the Science to Policy Interface may be enacted.*