Last weeks were very busy for us. Especially the last one.



I am very pleased to announce that the official opening of the Marbefes project is behind us! Remember its full name, because you will hear about us more than once: MARine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning leading to Ecosystem Services

This Kick-Off Meeting took place at the leading Institution Instytut Oceanologii PAN.

Project is a HORIZON action, starting 1 September 2022 and its duration is 48 moths. We have 23 international partners which leading 8 working packages.

PROJECT BIO
The European Union and its Member States (MSs) have a fundamental need to understand how biodiversity and ecosystem functioning must be maintained to ensure that they deliver ecosystem services, goods and benefits, which in turn must be sustainably used by society. Central to this, and as the raison d'être of this call, the MSs need to value these natural and social capital aspects of ecosystems. The overall aim of MARBEFES is to determine the links between the biodiversity and functioning of coastal and marine ecosystems and the resulting ecosystem services and societal goods and benefits. In this it will achieve ecological and socio-economic valuation through a validated set of innovative tools in a distributed toolbox (TRL 6) to enhance policy and governance to secure benefits for current and future generation.
We will progress substantially beyond the current state-of-the-art understanding of the causes and consequences of the maintenance, loss and gain of biodiversity and ecological and economic value and the repercussions of this for the management and governance of European seas. Involving 23 highly experienced partners, the project outputs and outcomes are based on developing and validating a set of ecological, economic and socio-cultural valuation tools using existing and new information and data in 12 Broad Belt Transect case studies. These cover the breadth of European marine biodiversity, from the Arctic to semi-tropical areas, across dominant habitats and iconic species, and from shallow to deep areas and encompass a range of socio-economic contexts. As such, and through stakeholder co-creation for policy relevance, MARBEFES shows the tools to value different natural capital resources and inform planning from financial
allocations to management and with monetary and non-monetary benefits. In this, the

project advances our knowledge through linking marine biodiversity and its ecological structure and functioning to ecological and economic valuation.

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