



# LIFE MAPPER

**MAPping, ProtEcting, and Restoring Marine Ecosystems**



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

## **LIFE MAPPER**

**Project title:** Guidelines for MAPping, ProtEcting, and Restoring Marine Ecosystems

**Call:** LIFE-2024-PLP

**Type of Action:** LIFE-PJG

**Acronym:** LIFE24-PRE-IT-LIFE MAPPER

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**Estimated Project Cost:** €1,290,850.61

**Requested EU Contribution:** €1,161,765.55

**Coordinated by:** CNR ISMAR

### **Summary:**

Healthy marine habitats are vital for maintaining marine biodiversity and providing ecosystem services like food supply and climate regulation. However, decades of intensive exploitation and poor management have led to degradation of many European marine habitats, weakening larger ecosystems and reducing their resilience to climate change. The EU has introduced the

Nature Restoration Law to halt biodiversity loss and restore ecosystems, positioning itself as a global leader in addressing environmental crises. Recent research highlights that vast areas of EU marine habitats remain unmapped, with existing maps often lacking detailed biological data on species and communities. To address this, comprehensive guidelines are needed to systematize habitat information across EU marine regions and align efforts with directives like the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive, and the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030.

LIFE MAPPER initiative seeks to consolidate current knowledge and best practices in marine habitat mapping and restoration.

LIFE MAPPER Objectives:

1. Develop guidelines for mapping marine habitats, selecting suitable technologies, and conducting a cost/benefit analysis of mapping benthic habitat types;
2. Create methodologies to assess habitat quality, quantity, and connectivity, and identify reference conditions for both habitats and species;
3. Provide guidelines for selecting restoration methods, identifying knowledge gaps, and estimating costs for habitat restoration;
4. Develop a framework for prioritizing conservation and restoration actions to maximize ecological benefits and optimize resource allocation.

LIFE MAPPER will deliver its results through the **LIFE MAPPER Manual and the Knowledge Platform**. By working with EU Member States, the European Commission, and relevant agencies, LIFE MAPPER will help advance the implementation of environmental directives, ensuring effective marine conservation and restoration across Europe.

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**Partnership:**

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2. UNIVERSITA POLITECNICA DELLE MARCHE UNIVPM (IT)
3. UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II UNINA (IT)
4. Space42 Europe (IT)
5. PANEPISTIMIO AIGAIU UNIVERSITY OF THE AEGEAN (GR)
6. UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE (IRL)
7. ISTITUTO SUPERIORE PER LA PROTEZIONE E LA RICERCA AMBIENTALE (IT)