



Society for Ecological Restoration
Europe (SER-Europe)

**Annual Report
2023-2024**

European Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration
aisbl/ivzw (in short: SERE or SER-Europe)

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in *SER Europe*

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INTRODUCTION

In 2023 and 2024, the Society for Ecological Restoration Europe (SER Europe) continued to play a pivotal role in advancing ecosystem and biodiversity restoration across the continent and our seas. As a leading voice in ecological restoration, SERE actively shaped policy debates, promoted the integration of scientific knowledge into practice, and strengthened collaboration among policymakers, scientists, and restoration practitioners—both at the EU level and within individual Member States. The Annual Report presents some of the highlights of these efforts.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our members, supporters, and donors whose continued commitment and generosity have made these achievements possible.



I. GOVERNANCE AND TEAM

SER-Europe renewed its professional team, governance bodies, Board and Executive Committee

Since June 2012, SERE has been officially established as an international non-profit organization with a legal seat in Belgium, hosted by the Research Institute for Nature and Forest in Brussels. The full text of the SERE statutes is available on the SERE website <https://chapter.ser.org/europe>

On 26 August 2024 the General Membership Meeting gathered members from across the continent to review the past year's achievements, discuss financial standing, and set strategic goals for the future. Held during the **14th European Conference on Ecological Restoration** (SERE2024), the meeting aligned with the conference's theme: *Bridging the gap between science, policy, and practice in ecological restoration*. In addition to reviewing the past years' progress, the agenda included board elections, farewells to board members, and updates to the organisation's statutes.

Elections and Farewells

SERE membership elected two new **board members**: Cristina Gambi (Italy) and Sébastien Gallet (France); and re-elected eleven existing members during the meeting. SERE also bid farewell to long-serving board members, including outgoing Chair **Jordi Cortina Segarra** (Spain), **Anne Tolvanen** (Finland), and **Johannes Kollmann** (Germany), all of whom played pivotal roles in advancing the organisation's mission. The Board expressed deep gratitude for their years of service.

In August 2024 the Board of Directors appointed three new members who were endorsed by large majority votes by the General Membership Meeting. In November 2024, the Board duly elected the new SERE **Executive Committee** to serve in the leadership roles for the next two years.

SER-Europe Executive Committee

SERE Board Members are elected by the General Membership.

The members of the Executive Committee were elected by the Board Members from within its members.



Aveliina Helm

•
Chair

•
*Institute of Ecology
and Earth Sciences*

•
University of Tartu

•
📍 Estonia



Alice Nunes

•
Vice – Chair

•
*Centre for Ecology, Evolution
& Environmental Changes*

•
University of Lisbon

•
📍 Portugal



Elise Buisson

•
Secretary

•
*IUT de L'Université
d'Avignon*

•
IMBE – UMR CNRS IRD

•
📍 France



Kris Decler

•
Treasurer / Policy Interface

•
*Research Institute
for Nature and Forest*

•
INBO

•
📍 Belgium

SER-Europe Board Members at large



Pauliina Louhi

Board member at large

Natural Resources Institute

University of Oulu

📍 Finland



Sébastien Gallet

Board member at large

University of Western Brittany

Brest

📍 France



Melinda Halassy

Board member at large

*Institute of Ecology and Botany
Centre for Ecological Research*

Vácrátót

📍 Hungary



Sabine Tischew

Board member at large

Hochschule Anhalt (FH)

Bernburg

📍 Germany



Astrid Brekke Skrindo

Board member at large

*Norwegian Institute for
Nature Research*

📍 Norway



Klára Řehounková

Board member at large

*Department of Botany,
Faculty of Science*

University of South Bohemia

📍 Czech Republic



Josu G. Alday

Board member at large

*Department of Agricultural and
Forest Sciences and Engineering*

Universitat de Lleida

📍 Spain



Richard Scott

Board member at large

UK Urban Ecology Forum

Eden Project

📍 United Kingdom



Kristin Svavarsdottir

Board member at large

*Land and Forest
Iceland*

📍 Iceland



Cristina Gambi

Board member at large

*Department of Life and
Environmental Science – DiSVA*

Università Politecnica delle Marche

📍 Italy

SER-Europe Professional team

In June 2023, **Jordi Pietx** (Programme Manager) was replaced by **Boris Barov** (COO) who together with **Sébastien Guillé** (Admin & Finance Officer) took care of SERE management, administration and fundraising. The programme team included **Marcello de Vitis** (Project Officer) who joined SERE in July 2024 replacing **Andrea Troncoso** (Programme Officer) who left the organisation in March. From August 2024 **Sahar Stevenson-Jones** (Marine Restoration Project Officer) leads our work at sea taking over this role from **Fedra Herman**, who left the organisation in June 2024.

Changes to the Statutes

SERE updated its statutes to comply with Belgian legislation and the New Code of Companies and Associations (CCA). Key changes, adopted on August 25, 2024, include extending board members' terms to four years, tightening conflict-of-interest policies, and enhancing financial reporting transparency.

Optimism for the Future

The meeting concluded with a strong sense of optimism, as SERE continues to strengthen its influence and leadership in ecological restoration across the continent. The recent adoption and implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Law largely supported this positive outlook. Many view this law as a cornerstone in the policy landscape and a major opportunity for large-scale restoration in Europe. As SERE looks forward to the coming years, the organization stands ready to dedicate significant resources in supporting the successful implementation of this new law.



2. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

SER-Europe is a Network of Networks, Bridging Science, Policy and Practice of Ecological Restoration



14th European Conference on Ecological Restoration (SERE2024)

Held from August 26–30 in Tartu, Estonia, SERE2024 convened 673 participants from 47 countries. The conference featured 36 thematic sessions, 390 oral presentations, 84 posters, 10 workshops, and 25 field excursions. Key discussions addressed restoration strategies across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine.

Video recordings of the main sessions are available to watch on the [SER-Europe YouTube channel](#).

A significant outcome was the adoption of the Tartu Declaration, endorsed by the participants. The declaration emphasised the urgent implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Law (NRL), highlighting the need for immediate action, long-term financing, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and rigorous monitoring. It also advocated for the creation of ambitious, scientifically grounded National Restoration Plans.

[Download the full text](#)

Special Award for SERE2024

The SERE2024 conference received the 2024 **Deed of the Year Award** of the Estonian Convention Bureau, recognising its outstanding contribution to scientific dialogue and sustainable environmental practices. The accolade, presented by the City of Tartu, acknowledges the event's significant impact on the local and international conference landscape.

SER-Europe's Impact

EU Nature Restoration Law Advocacy

SER Europe played a crucial role in supporting the adoption of the EU Nature Restoration Law, which set binding targets for ecosystem restoration across member states. The organisation's efforts included providing expert input and mobilising the scientific and professional communities behind the principles outlined in the **SERE2022 Declaration**. In 2023, more than 6000 scientists signed a **letter** supporting the NRL and indicated misinformation spread in the public discussion. SERE-Europe's Legal Working Group actively engaged in debunking myths and misconceptions misused by opponents of the Law and published six **legal analyses**. These efforts were picked up and consolidated by a large number of organisations, behind the **#RestoreNature** campaign, which was pivotal to mobilise public opinion for the later adoption of the law (adopted in June 2024). The EU Nature Restoration Regulation is a significant milestone in European environmental policy, marking a major achievement of SERE's strategic objectives.

Soil Monitoring Directive

SERE took part in a stakeholder consultation by the European Commission on the proposed Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive. In addition, **A critical analysis by SER-Europe**, authored by Pilar Andrés (CREAF) and Pere Rovira (CTFC), submitting in 2024 welcomed the efforts to enhance soil monitoring but criticized the low ambition to address key threats to soil health effectively.

Representation at key EU policy arenas

SERE is a permanent observer at the EU Biodiversity Platform, a stakeholder working group advising the Commission. Our representative Kris Decler took part in numerous meetings and consultations, including as a respected member of the European Habitats Forum (environmental NGO platform). SERE advocates for ecological restoration to be recognized as a critical tool for achieving the targets of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy. This includes restoring degraded ecosystems to improve biodiversity and ecosystem services, which is central to the goals of the Habitats Directive.

SERE is also a member of DG Environment's Marine Expert Group, and Expert Group guiding the implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation.

Organizational Developments

Board meetings

The SERE Board conducted nine meetings in 2023 and eight meetings in 2024. The Board discussed and decided on the following topics:

Governance and Administration

- Recruitment and onboarding of key staff: new Program Officer (March 2023), COO (June 2023).
- Organizational restructuring and leadership planning for 2024.
- Development and adoption of a set of internal regulations, such as Terms of Reference of the Board, Executive Committee, SER-Europe Working Groups, Travel Policy and Staffing Policy.
- Adoption and review of key internal policies: Gender Equality Plan, Due Diligence Policy.
- Continued attention to legal, tax, and bookkeeping improvements, including contracting external services.
- Budgetary matters: Closure of the 2022 budget, adoption of the 2023 and 2024 budgets, and adoption of the “real-use method” for VAT accounting from 2024.
- Team structure reviews and proposals for role adjustments and contract changes.
- Adoption of reports: 2022, 2023 and 2024 Financial Reports and Activities Reports.

Policy Engagement

- Policy work focused on the **EU Nature Restoration Law (NRL)**, including strategy during trilogue negotiations, and input into the Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive.
- Endorsements and policy statements, e.g., Swedish Forest Vision NGO appeal and Mission Ocean Charter Signatory.
- Preparation of SER standards policy brief for the Nature Restoration Regulation and participation in related policy forums.

Conference and Outreach Activities

- Preparations for **SERE2024**: venue bids for SERE2026, call for workshops, keynotes, and sessions.
- Representation at international events, including the Colombian and Iberoamerican Restoration Congresses.
- Internal webinar planning and external webinar support (e.g., AEET on NRL, Mediterranean Forest Restoration).

Working Groups and Member Engagement

- Review of Terms of Reference for SER Working Groups and discussion on external participation.
- Updates and initiatives by Working Groups on Meadows Restoration, Education and Training, and Nature Restoration Law.
- Development of strategies to support and engage the **YOUNG#ER**, including workshops, social media involvement, and contract options.

Fundraising and Partnerships

- Initiatives under the **SER Partnership Fund** for improving communication and collaboration.
- Approval of a € 5,000 fund provision for future conferences.
- Updates on the Microsoft-SER partnership and exploration of new fundraising efforts.



Membership

On 30 July 2024, SERE reached 539 members. Our diverse, international community boasts strong academic and research foundations, with expertise across various biomes and professional areas, essential for ecological restoration. This diversity reflects the interdisciplinary nature of ecological restoration, and serves as a key strength of SERE, fostering a community where members can share knowledge and stay informed about current advancements in the field. Most members are based in Europe, aligning with SERE's Mission to boost ecological restoration on our continent.

Highlights:

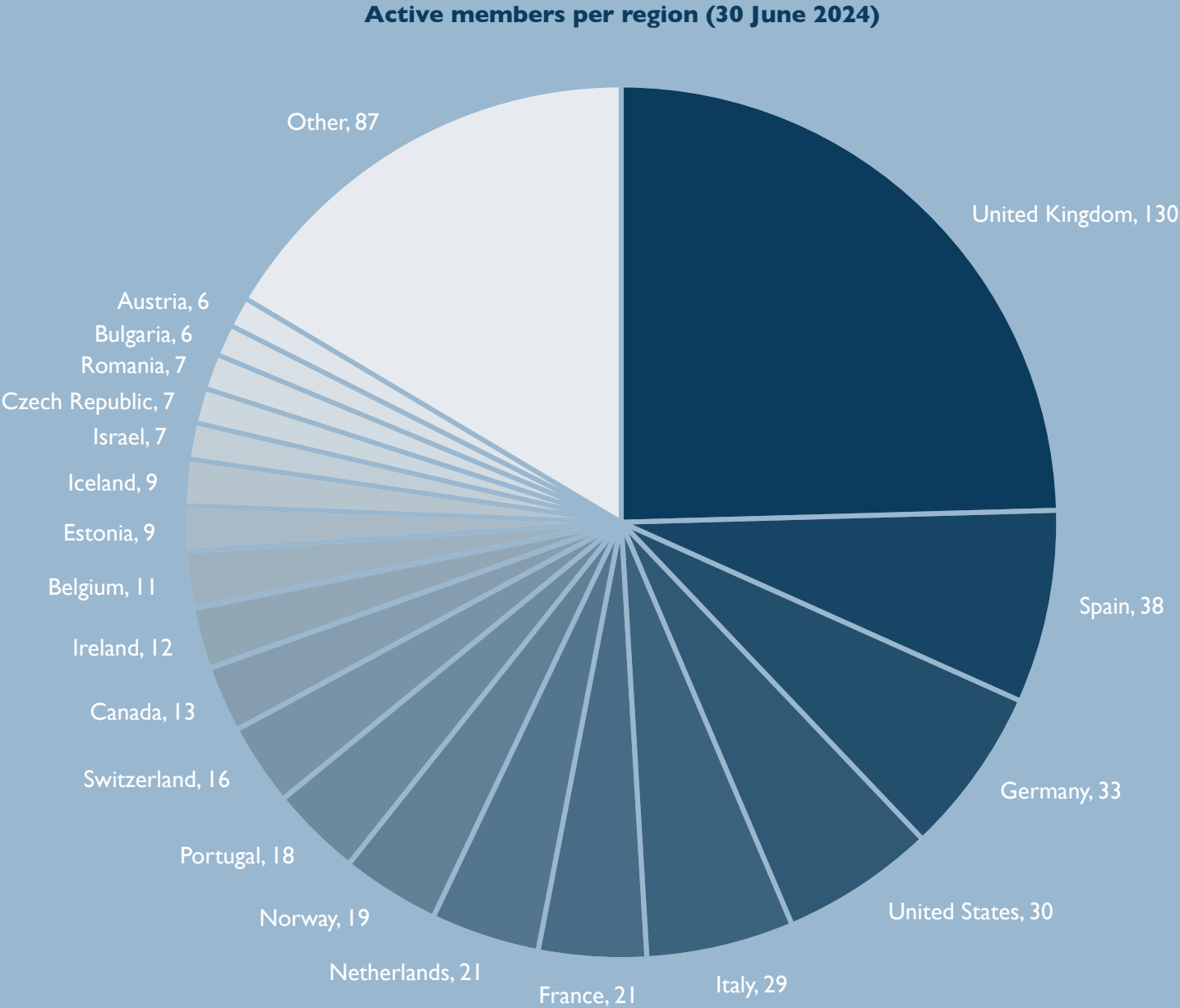
Diverse Expertise: SERE Members come from varied fields, emphasising the interdisciplinary nature of ecological restoration.

Active Participation: Many members are involved in multiple chapters and have varied professional interests, indicating active engagement within the community.

Detailed membership data: provides valuable insights into the composition and possibilities for engagement of SERE members, helping to understand the strengths and areas for potential growth within the organisation.

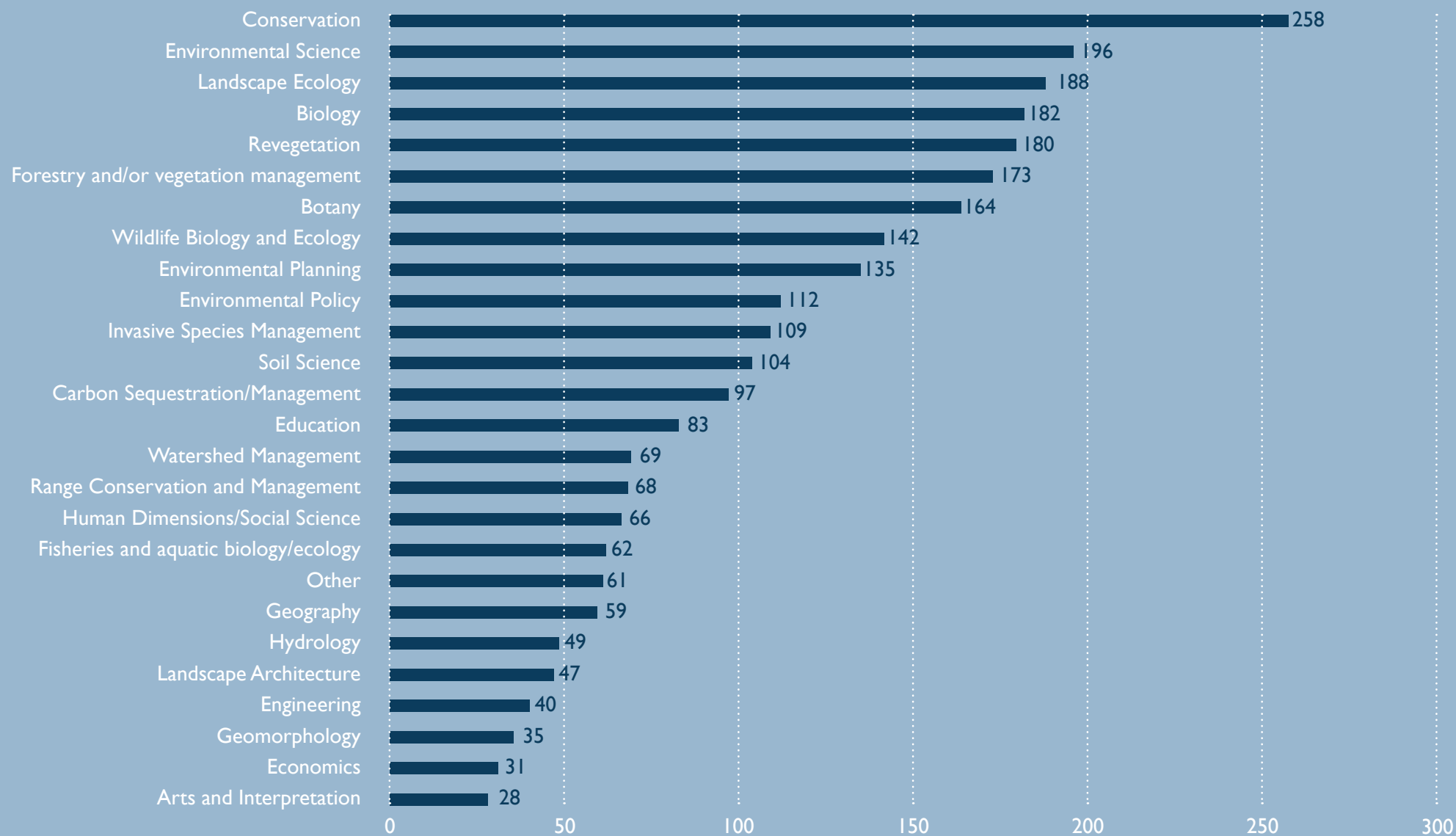


Country of affiliation of SER-Europe members in 2024



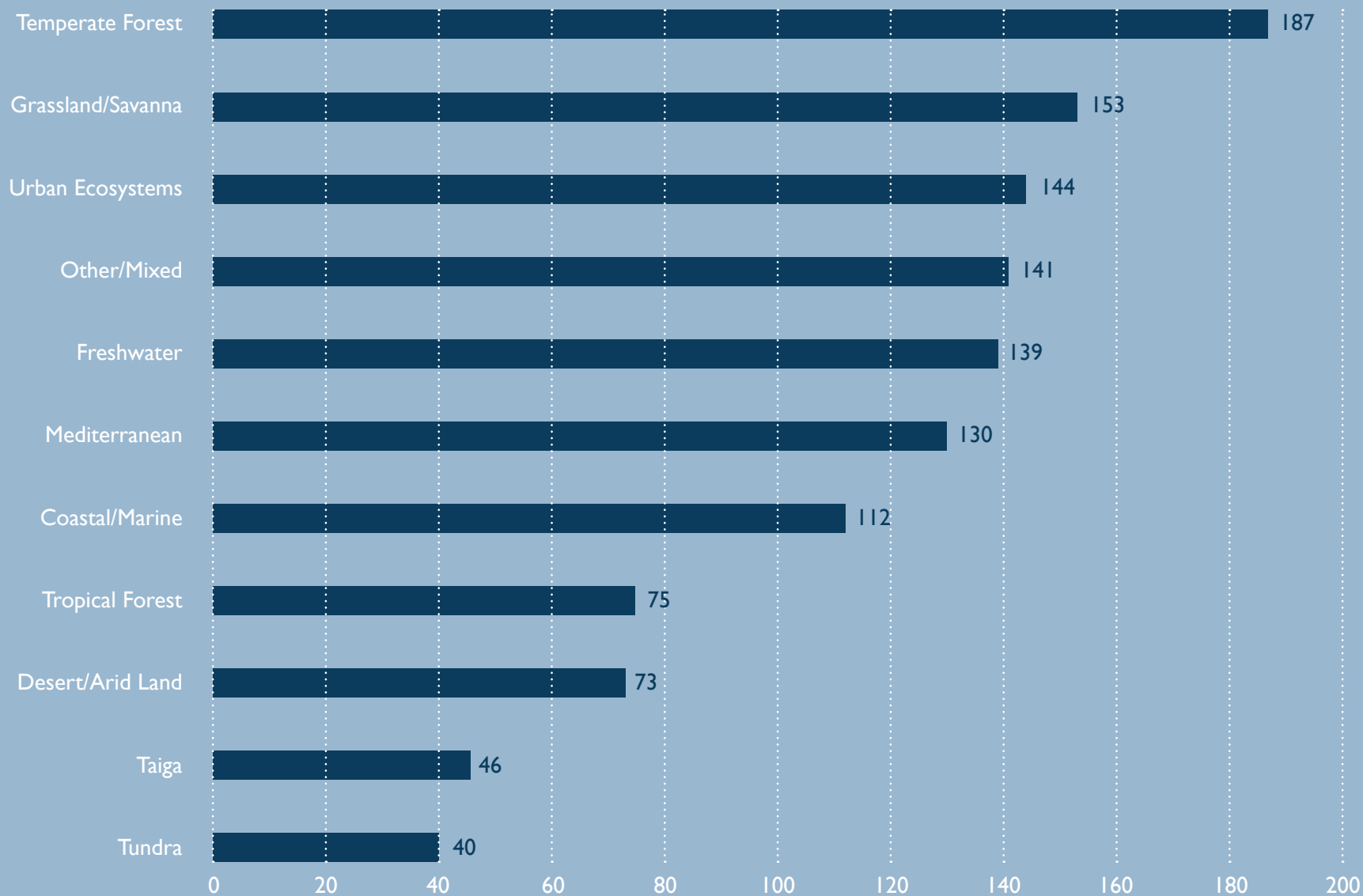
Field of expertise: discipline, area of interest

Occurrences per area of expertise



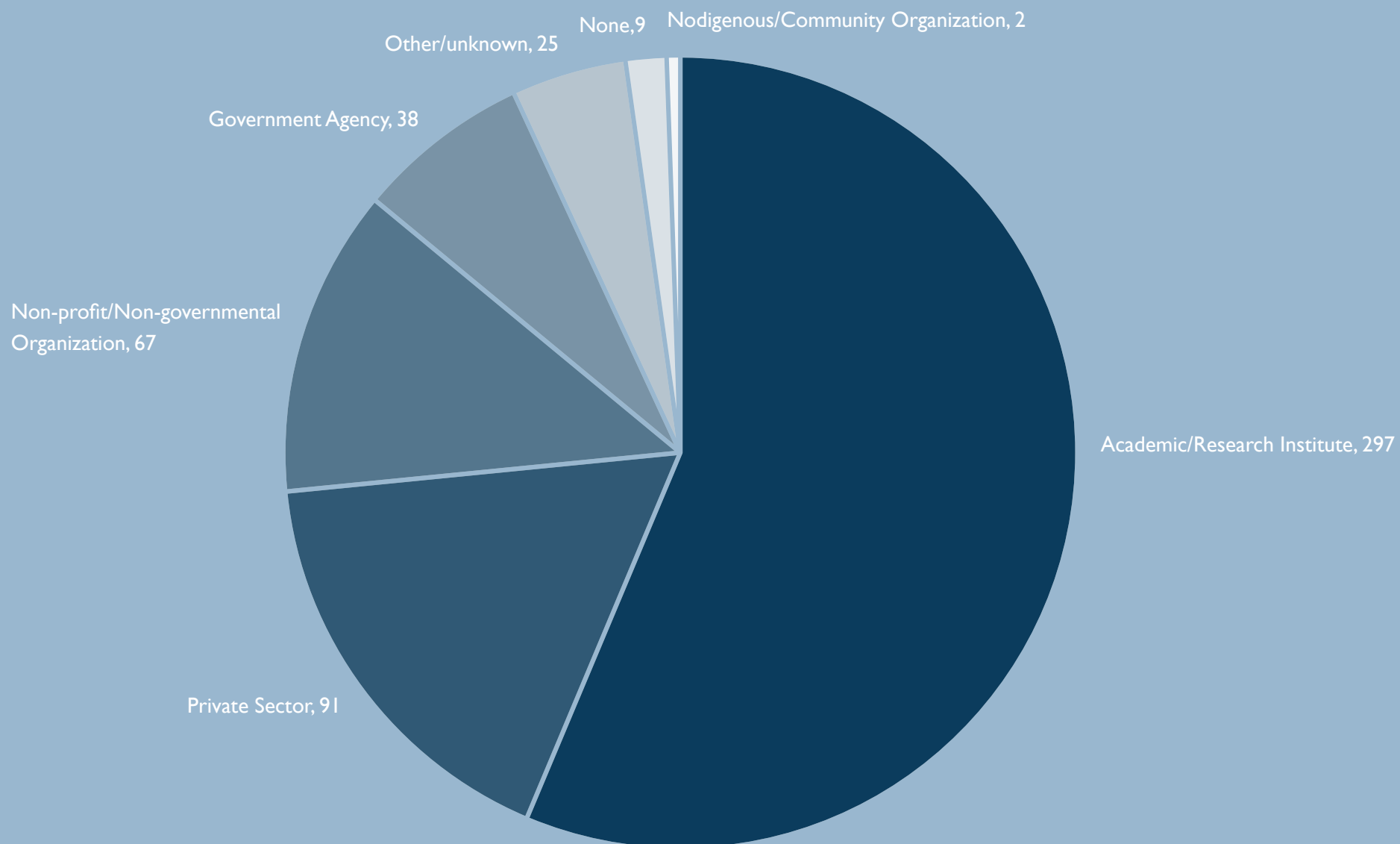
Biome of expertise: specific biomes such as grassland, forest, urban, etc.

Occurences per biome of expertise

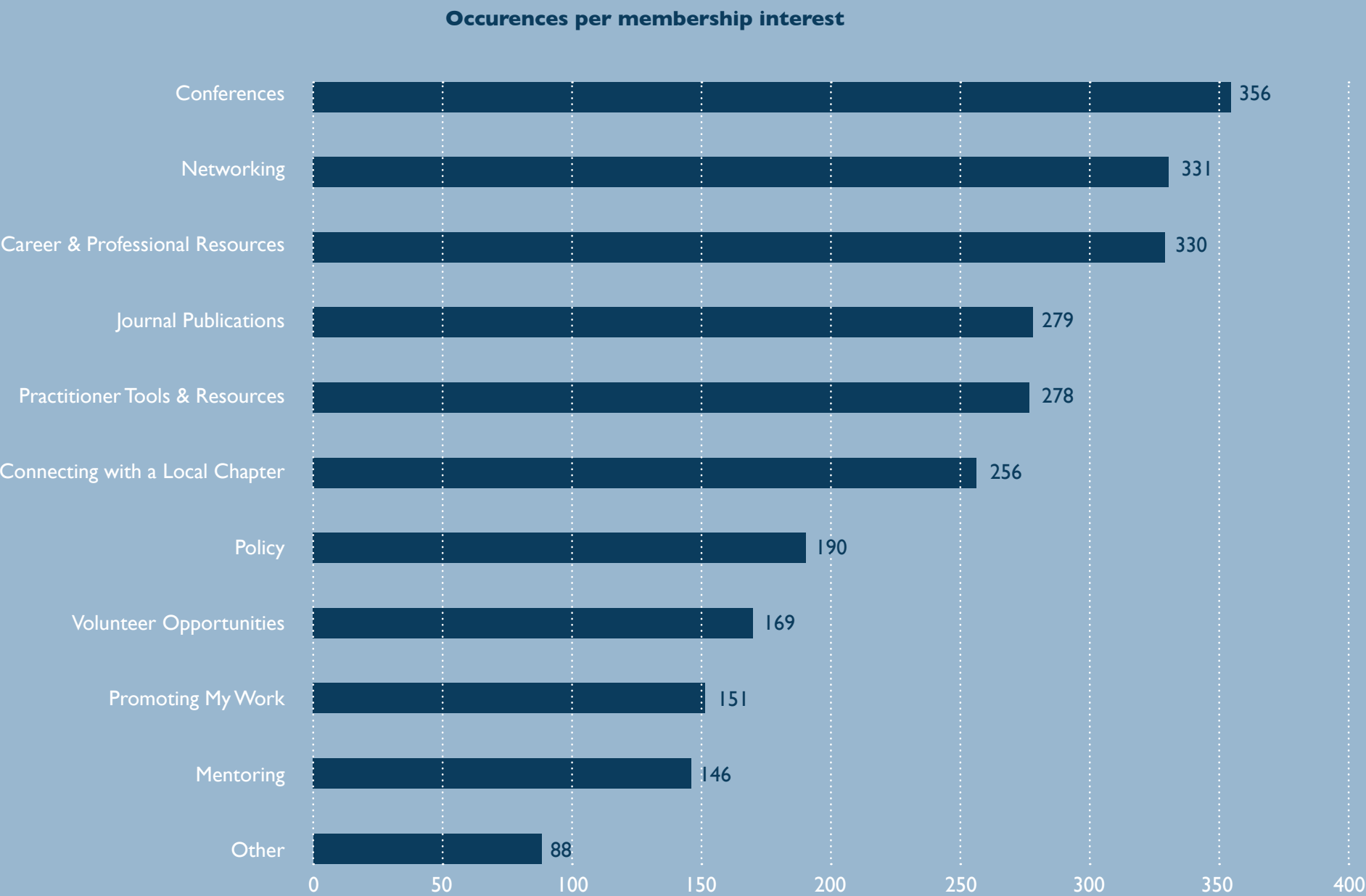


Organisation type: professional affiliation of members

Active members per organization type (30 June 2024)



Members' interest: highest interest in Conferences & Networking signifying a strong community presence.



Knowledge sharing and capacity development

SER-Europe Working Groups (WG) are an integral part of the Society network and play an important role in connecting communities of restoration scientists, professionals and practitioners on shared thematic priorities of interest to SERE and its members. They are informal associations established, overseen and promoted by the SERE Board and supported by the Programme Office. WGs can advise and support the SERE Board, ExCo and staff on technical issues and in forming SERE positions on policy issues linked to restoration.

Working groups organise their activities under the *Terms of Reference of SER-Europe WGs* adopted by the Board.



Legal Working Group (LWG)



The **Legal Working Group** acts as a think tank on the legal aspects of ecological restoration in Europe, and works to facilitate the exchange of information of legal knowledge and understanding with relation to ecological restoration. Consisting of 20 experts, the LWG meets regularly to discuss legal issues affecting ecosystem restoration.

The **Legal Working Group (LWG)** aims to contribute to legal symposia, participate in SER(E) conferences, provide legal advice on ecological restoration to the community of restoration practitioners, develop legal best practice guidelines and publish their work when appropriate.

Membership



The LWG is coordinated by **An Cliquet**, Professor of International and European Environmental and Biodiversity Law at the University of Ghent, Belgium, where her research encompasses both biodiversity and restoration law.

The current working group is composed of 20 experts from across Europe, with input from additional experts when requested.

New members can be proposed by at least 2 permanent members, must prove that they have expertise in restoration law, and clarify their motivation to join the group. Membership is decided through consensus of the LWG.

Working Group OBJECTIVES

In 2024-5 the **LWG** has prioritised discussion of the final text of the Nature Restoration Law, as well as its implementation in European Member States, including the drafting of National Restoration Plans and monitoring of output.

They have also been considering possibilities for restoration litigation, and have contributed to the SERE2024 Conference and the Tartu Declaration. There is a common effort within the group to apply for funding to further support the activities of the group.



Education and Training Working Group (ETWG)



The **Education & Training Working Group** aims to improve education and training opportunities, and integrate knowledge exchange related to the restoration of degraded ecosystems as the primary basis to contribute to the training of high quality restoration professionals.

Mission statement

Large parts of the world present important degradation processes that severely affect biodiversity, water and soil quality, and the dynamics of our atmosphere. The main causes of degradation are overexploitation and unsustainable use of natural resources.

Recent scientific and technical progress offers useful techniques to reduce the impacts of human pressures on ecosystems, and also to improve ecosystem restoration techniques. However, the implementation of these approaches has been limited, due, at least partly, to the lack of knowledge transfer between professionals, and particularly to the challenges faced by a new generation of practitioners.

To contribute to solving these challenges, the **Education and Training Working Group (ETWG)** aims to promote the advancement of scientific, technical and environmental efforts whilst reinforcing the transfer of new and existing knowledge, and the involvement of diverse actors.

Membership

The **ETWG** is co-ordinated by **Patricia Rodríguez González**, Assistant Professor at the School of Agriculture (ISA) of the University of Lisbon. The ETWG includes the Coordinator of the YOUNG#ER group.

Membership of the ETWG is voluntary. There is no compensation for participation in the ETWG but there is no membership fee. Both Members of SER and non-members are welcome to join, with existing members also welcome to suggest new members.

Working Group OBJECTIVES

The **Objectives** of the **ETWG** include

- to gather and share innovative educational approaches to impart scientific and technical knowledge on ecosystem restoration to a variety of audiences
- to promote building a collaborative environment between actors who are directly or indirectly involved in ecological restoration actions
- to encourage the involvement of the next generation in ecological restoration
- to encourage educators and communication experts to engage in ecological restoration
- to encourage scientists and practitioners to share their knowledge on ecological restoration
- to encourage learning within the ecological restoration community, based on successes and failures.

Marine Restoration Working Group (MRWG)



The **Marine Restoration Working Group** aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange amongst the network of experts and stakeholders dedicated to the restoration of marine environments, particularly focusing on the deep sea and on coastal habitats in its initial stages.

The **MRWG** will drive the development of marine restoration standards and methodologies, addressing current gaps and promoting best practices.

Consisting of a core panel of experts (currently 65) with a depth and breadth of knowledge and expertise, the MRWG is supported by a broader community of participants who can engage in meetings, online discussions and events. New members can be proposed by one member of the core group, must prove

that they have expertise in marine ecosystem restoration, and clarify their motivation to join the group.

Mission statement

The **Marine Restoration Working Group (MRWG)** aims to advance the science, practices and policies of marine ecosystem restoration (MER) in order to sustain biodiversity, improve resilience in a changing climate and re-establish ecologically healthy relationships between nature and coastal communities.

Membership

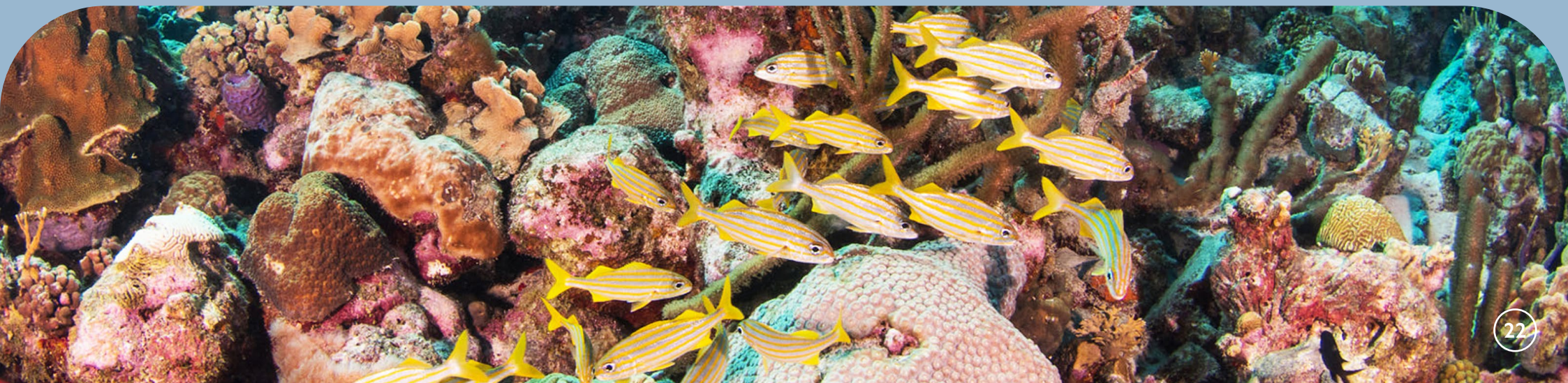


Chair

Roberto Danovaro






Replaced Bernadette Pogoda April 2025 UNIVPM.

He will hold the position of Chair of the Marine Restoration Working Group until the 14th October 2028, when new elections will take place. Roberto will be supported by Joel Lindholm (UnderYtan) in the role of Vice-Chair.



Working Group OBJECTIVES

The 2024-5 objectives of the MRWG were agreed by the core membership at the inaugural meeting, held on the 14th October 2024:

TF1	TF2	TF3	TF4	TF5
CO-Authored paper	Adapt SER standards to marine	Facilitate knowledge exchange	Conduct a guideline inventory	Contribute to an EAF for MER
<p>To co-author a position paper on Marine Ecosystem Restoration that integrates lessons learned from ongoing global projects. The paper will identify and articulate common principles that align with the forthcoming national restoration plans and relevant legislation, aiming to inform stakeholders and support the implementation of restoration initiatives.</p>	<p>Adapt the SER 5* System for the marine environment by conducting a comparative analysis of its application in MER. This will include identifying specific restoration actions and documenting practical examples of the system's implementation, aiming to provide recommendations for enhancing its effectiveness in marine restoration efforts.</p>	<p>Facilitate the exchange of knowledge on the implementation of the National Restoration Law (NRL) across member states, with a focus on the preparation of national restoration plans, inviting key individuals from key member states to present relevant information and best practices, with the goal of identifying areas requiring restoration and estimating the "restorability" of these habitats.</p>	<p>Conduct an inventory of existing marine restoration guidelines and interventions across European countries to prioritise effective marine restoration strategies.</p> <p>This process will involve assessing the current landscape of marine restoration practices, identifying gaps in basic scientific knowledge, and evaluating existing or proposed mechanisms for prioritisation. The findings will be used to develop comprehensive marine restoration guidelines and recommendations tailored to target audiences, including practitioners and policymakers, while also identifying new restoration practices that can be implemented at scale. This initiative aims to enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders, ultimately strengthening the collective understanding and effectiveness of marine restoration efforts across the region.</p>	<p>Contribute to a comprehensive economic assessment framework for marine restoration that evaluates costs, benefits, financing, and funding mechanisms. This assessment will integrate insights and findings from the CLIMAREST and REDRESS projects, as well as other relevant marine restoration initiatives. The framework aims to provide actionable recommendations for stakeholders to enhance funding strategies and investment in marine restoration efforts.</p>
				
Roberto Donovaro & Cristina Gambi	Philine Zu Ermgassen	Martina Gagliotti	Pablo Sanchez Jerez	Kirsty Schneeberger MBE



3. FLAGSHIP PROJECTS IN 2023/2024

Since 2020, and in the context of **SERE Strategy 2027**, SERE has started to engage in European projects, always in collaboration and partnership with other organisations. The aim is to contribute to developing ecological restoration in Europe, which will enlarge the capacity and influence of SERE.

In 2023/2024 SERE played a key role in several EU-funded projects, showcasing its ability to spread restoration knowledge and expertise across Europe. Notable projects included **LIFE-Biodiver'Cité** and **LIFE-**

WoodMeadows, which demonstrated SERE's added value as a European network capable of multiplying and replicating efforts and results delivered at local level in different countries. The **TEAM#UP** project, funded by the EU Erasmus+ programme, focuses on developing educational curricula and resources for professional training in restoration. Meanwhile, marine restoration initiatives, such as **CLIMAREST** and **REDRESS**, contribute to advancing the recognised need to restore our ocean from coast to deep-sea.

Laying the foundations of marine restoration

SERE Europe participated in several large-scale ecological restoration projects funded under the EU's Horizon 2020 program. Projects like **CLIMAREST** and **REDRESS** are critical to restoring marine ecosystems and are tasked to enhance expert capacities across Europe on these topics, as well as to develop essential toolkits, guidelines and best practices for replication. To build on the momentum gained by mobilising experts by these projects, SERE has decided to establish a Marine Restoration Working Group. The initial steps included the recruitment of Marine Restoration Project Officer and coordinating administrative arrangements such as the Terms of Reference. The MRWG was launched in 2024 at the SERE2024 Conference in Tartu. The inaugural meeting was held online on the 14th October 2024, and the group is currently chaired by Prof. Roberto Danovaro and Joel Lindholm.

Advancing SER restoration standards

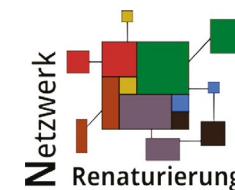
Since 2021, SERE, SER, and WWF have collaborated to develop **Standards for Mediterranean Forest Restoration** projects, which were officially presented on June 19, 2024, at the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition. The revised Standards, now in version 4.0, provide comprehensive guidelines for planning, implementing, and managing forest restoration efforts, with a focus on enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services in Spain. Supported by the **Audemars-Watkins Foundation**, these standards will potentially be used across the Mediterranean countries. They provide a foundation for a systematic and science-led implementation of forest restoration under the requirements of the Nature Restoration Law, and they also help align with global biodiversity goals.

Fostering knowledge and education on ecological restoration

The **TRAIN#ER** project was completed in February 2023, and managed to identify training needs in Ecological Restoration (ER) in Czechia, Germany, Norway and Spain. It contributed to establishing a network of professionals and demonstration sites across Europe, to promote on-site ER training activities. In online surveys and focus group interviews, knowledge producers and users in Europe were approached to gain a deeper understanding of the barriers and tools for knowledge access and about important topics for vocational Education and training (VET) and continuous education in the field of ecological restoration. SERE was the leader and coordinator of this project, managed the communication and outreach plan and organised the survey.

The **TEAM#UP** project builds on the results of TRAIN#ER to bridge gaps in green vocational education by creating four Centres of Vocational Excellence focused on different aspects of ecological restoration: sustainable land use (Germany), infrastructure restoration (Norway), urban and rural landscape restoration (Czechia), and forest restoration (Spain). Through collaboration among vocational schools, universities, research institutions, and industry partners, the project will develop vocational curricula and multilingual educational resources, accessible via an open platform DERTO, to be hosted by SER.

GBO (members in Germany, Luxembourg, Switzerland)

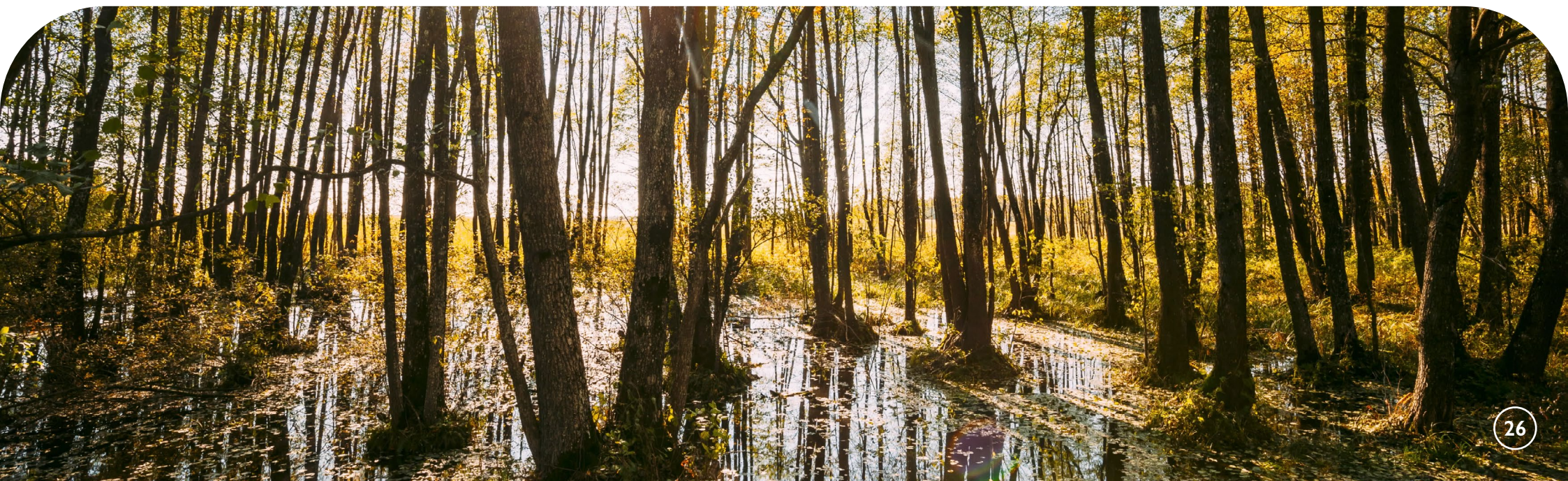


In 2023 and 2024, the German Restoration Network (GBO), comprising members from Germany, Luxembourg, and Switzerland, significantly expanded its activities to strengthen collaboration among over 250 scientists, practitioners, and administrators.

In 2023, GBO held two major workshops: one in Rothenburg ob der Tauber focusing on native seed propagation and restoration site visits, and another in Königswusterhausen highlighting wet woodland restoration as part of the LIFE Floodplain Forests project. These events combined expert presentations

with field excursions. The network also decided to revamp its website and logo, appointing Annika Schmidt and Simone Schneider as coordinators.

In 2024, the 9th network meeting took place in Luxembourg, centering on the restoration of open-land habitats with a focus on grasslands. Organized by SICONA and partners, the event featured cross-country presentations and field visits to various restoration sites, including grasslands, wetlands, and native seed cultivation fields, further deepening knowledge exchange and practical learning within the network.



Spanish Ecological Restoration Network (AEET)



In 2023, the Spanish Ecological Restoration Network (SERN is a working group inside AEET that is the Spanish Association of Terrestrial Ecology) continued its mission to promote knowledge exchange among scientists, practitioners, and broader audiences to advance ecological restoration in Spain.

Key activities focused on maintaining and strengthening network connections through regular communications, web meetings, and collaborations with NGOs and public bodies. The network organized a thematic session on restoration lessons and future criteria at the XVI AEET National Ecology Congress in Almería, featuring 21 talks and fostering in-person engagement. AEET also promoted the EU Nature Restoration Law (NRL) through a webinar with around 200 participants and outreach talks to educational and professional audiences. Educational efforts included field trips, such as to quarries in Tarragona, and participation in events like the wildfire education workshop in Santiago de Compostela. These initiatives supported the dissemination of restoration knowledge, built community, and enhanced the visibility of ecological restoration efforts across Spain.



Portuguese Ecological Restoration Network - ResECO



The Portuguese Ecological Restoration Network (ResECO), a working group of the Portuguese Ecological Society (SPECO), now includes over 280 members from academia, government, private sector, and NGOs.

Co-chaired by Alice Nunes and Patrícia Rodríguez-González, with contributions from Amélia Martins-Loução and Bruna Reis, ResECO was active throughout 2024 in advancing ecological restoration at national and international levels.

Internationally, the network participated in the SER Europe Working Group on Education and Training, contributed to the EU-level “RestoreNature” coalition, and collaborated with the eLTER network through a joint publication, a thematic session planned for the 2025 eLTER Science Conference, and participation in a workshop on ecosystem restoration. ResECO also co-organized a session with the Spanish Ecological Society (AEET) for the 2025 SIBECOL conference.

Nationally, ResECO took part in the Advisory Group for the National Pollinator Action Plan and helped establish the Knowledge Network for Nature Restoration, which it also represents in the official working group drafting Portugal’s National Nature Restoration Plan.

The network supported the submission of the “MOVIDA” project on climate resilience and co-supervised two student projects, including a webSIG prototype mapping restoration efforts.

Communication activities included presentations at national conferences, webinars, media interviews, and contributions to SPECO’s #SPECOcorner. The ResECO mailing list has been consistently updated, serving as a key tool for sharing restoration-related initiatives and fostering informal dialogue with professionals across sectors.

Through these efforts, ResECO has strengthened its role as a leading voice in ecosystem restoration in Portugal, actively contributing to research, policy, education, and public engagement aligned with the EU Nature Restoration Law.



French Network for Knowledge Sharing and Advancement in Restoration Ecology - REVER



The 13th REVER Workshop Days (REVER13), held from May 27–29, 2024, at Aix-Marseille University under the auspices of the Population Environment Development Laboratory (LPED), brought together practitioners, researchers, students, and decision-makers in the field of ecological restoration. Organized by the French network REVER (Réseau d'Échanges et de Valorisation en Écologie de la Restauration), which has been fostering dialogue and collaboration among restoration professionals since 2008, this year's conference explored the theme “Restaurer et cohabiter” (Restoring and Coexisting).

The event came at a crucial moment, with the imminent adoption of the European Nature Restoration Law and its national implementation, underlining the importance of coordinated action and shared expertise. Over two days of thematic sessions and roundtables, participants discussed a wide range of topics, from the effectiveness of restoration techniques and ecological monitoring to stakeholder engagement and restoration in urban and coastal environments.

Highlights included sessions on the LITTOREX platform for coastal restoration knowledge sharing, the role of rewilding with large herbivores, and evaluating restoration in post-industrial and agricultural contexts. The program concluded with field visits on the third day, offering hands-on insights into ongoing restoration initiatives in the region. REVER13 reaffirmed the importance of cross-sector dialogue and experience-sharing to advance the science and practice of ecological restoration in France and Europe.

CIEEM: the UK Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management



CIEEM is the leading professional membership body representing and supporting ecologists and environmental managers in the UK, Ireland and abroad.

CIEEM was formed in 1991 as the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. From small beginnings, it has grown into an increasingly influential professional body – setting standards, sharing knowledge and providing sound

advice to governments on all aspects of ecological and natural environmental management practice.

Website: <https://cieem.net>

Contact email for Ecological Restoration Special Interest Group of CIEEM: er@cieem.net



4. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2024, SER Europe received more contributions and grants doubling from €49,778 in 2023 to €104,638 in 2024. The registered drop in turnover from €26,277 in 2023 to only €2,500 in 2024 reflects a change in the accounting method, whereby multi-annual grants are deferred across several years.

Operating expenditures rose sharply, with the recruitment of new staff, reaching €132,604 in 2024 compared to €91,126 in 2023, driven by higher costs for services and other goods. This resulted in a net deficit of €23,884 for the year, compared to a deficit of €14,725 in 2023.

Despite this, the Society maintained strong liquidity, with cash reserves of over €285,000 at year-end. The accumulated reserves carried forward decreased from €94,913 in 2023 to €71,029 in 2024, and total equity also declined but remained positive at €76,529.

Overall, while SER Europe maintained financial stability through substantial reserves, the growing expenditure trend and negative annual results signal the need for strategic planning to ensure sustainability and increase and diversify fundraising.


Category	2024 (€)	2023 (€)
Income		
Turnover	2,500.00	26,276.75
Contributions, gifts, grants	104,637.83	49,777.66
Financial income	1,893.67	409.80
Total Income	109,031.50	76,464.21
Expenditure		
Operating charges	132,604.01	91,125.65
Financial charges	311.41	64.00
Total Expenditure	132,915.42	91,189.65
Result of the Year	-23,883.92	-14,725.44
Accumulated Result Carried Forward	71,029.05	94,912.97
Equity	76,529.05	100,412.97
Cash reserves in Bank	285,728.81	288,231.75



SERE thanks all the members and other donors
who contributed to the Society in 2023/2024.

Join SERE and SER to support our efforts to
advance ecological restoration.

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