

Seagrass meadows are among the most important coastal ecosystems in Europe, supporting high levels of marine biodiversity and providing critical ecosystem services. They improve water quality, stabilize sediments, protect coastlines from erosion, contribute to long-term carbon storage, and provide habitat and nursery grounds for thousands of marine species that support coastal livelihoods and food security. Across Europe, however, these vital ecosystems have suffered severe losses. Despite a growing number of restoration initiatives, efforts remain fragmented and small-scale, falling short of what is needed to reverse decline.

The REBORN Project

REBORN, total budget of 4.9 million EUR, has already received 2.95M EUR in co-funding from the EU Interreg NWE Programme to unlock seagrass restoration at scale across the region from 2026 to 2029. The project brings together 11 partners in restoration practice and science, data collection, natural capital assessment, stakeholder engagement, governance and policy. Project goals include:

- Build a multi-actor community in the region of more than 30 organisations driving long-term seagrass restoration governance and policy change under common standards and methods
- Test a novel restoration model on 15 hectares in collaboration with 250 community members and scale its application on up to 50,000 hectares
- Increase the capacity of 40 organisations as seagrass restoration ambassadors through tailored capacity building and certified restoration practitioner training



Diver observing a bed of eelgrass (Zostera marina) in Brest, France. Credit: Olivier Dugornay

SER-Europe's Strategic Role

SER-Europe is a key partner in REBORN, strategically positioned to amplify the project's reach and effectiveness. Our role ensures that every pilot site, training course, and community activity contributes to a consistent, replicable, and high-quality restoration that is measurable and scalable across the region. Learn more: ser-europe.org/reborn.

Investment Summary

SER-Europe is seeking a philanthropic investment of **€150,000** to capitalise on our unique position in REBORN, a **€4.9 million** project co-funded by the EU Interreg North-West Europe programme.

Deliverables:

- Certified seagrass restoration training module
- Multi-actor governance network of 30+ organisations
- Community events across the region
- Policy analysis and investment pathway development
- Standards-based monitoring and assessment

Impact:

- Novel restoration applied on up to 50,000 hectares
- 40 organisations trained as seagrass restoration ambassadors
- Durable governance structures for long-term restoration
- Community-driven restoration culture across the region
- Evidence base for policy influence and investment

Why Invest in SER-Europe's Role in REBORN?

Investment in SER-Europe is high-leverage and strategic. It amplifies the impact of all partners, ensures adherence to best practice and standards, builds long-term restoration capacity, and fosters strong community engagement. Investment in SER-Europe supports:

- Scalable, high-quality restoration guided by internationally recognised standards across multiple sites and professional teams
- A collaborative transnational network of practitioners, scientists, and policymakers
- Community-driven restoration that engages local citizens and volunteers
- Policy-aligned outcomes that unlock future investment in nature-based solutions

Supporting SER-Europe transforms REBORN from a collection of pilot sites into a cohesive, impactful, and enduring movement for seagrass restoration across the region.



Zostera noltii a seagrass species native to the North West Europe region. Credit: Tim Worsfold

What will SER-Europe do?

Build Long-Term Restoration Capacity: SER-Europe will develop a dedicated seagrass restoration module within the internationally recognised Certified Ecological Restoration Practitioner (CERP) program in collaboration with the Sea Ranger Service. This module will provide rigorous, standard-aligned training that helps build a skilled workforce capable of sustaining restoration efforts beyond the project. Practitioner certification through the CERP program ensures high quality restoration through consistent application of best-practice methods, strengthens policy influence, and unlocks future investment by reducing risk and demonstrating credibility to policymakers and investors.

Strengthen Collaboration and Governance: SER-Europe will convene public authorities, research organisations, NGOs, businesses, and global seagrass networks, including the [European Seagrass Restoration Alliance](#), [World Seagrass Association](#), and [Global Seagrass Nursery Network](#), to create a shared roadmap for action. A shared roadmap helps embed restoration in governance structures and policy frameworks, improves decision-making, aligns actions with EU priorities, and facilitates investment in marine restoration.

Deliver Measurable and Visible Impact: Through comprehensive training for implementation teams, SER-Europe will enable continuous monitoring and consistent reporting of outcomes across pilot sites. We will implement methodologies at restoration pilot sites, including the Ecological Recovery Wheel and the Social Benefits Wheel, to provide robust evidence of ecological, social, and economic gains, from increased biodiversity and improved coastal resilience to enhanced ecosystem services. Results and lessons learned will be widely shared through local events and stakeholder meetings, as well as storytelling on websites and social media, webinars and podcasts, and presentations at conferences and European-level events.

Empower Coastal Communities: Community engagement is central to lasting restoration. SER-Europe will engage local residents, youth groups, volunteers, and businesses through Make A Difference Week and Restoration Community Days. These events help foster community pride and stewardship and build local ambassadors for seagrass restoration. They also strengthens social cohesion, and provide opportunities for hands-on participation in restoration activities. By leveraging the project pilot sites alongside SER-Europe's extensive networks, this approach transforms seagrass restoration into a shared mission, creating a culture of care and advocacy extending beyond project timelines.

Influence Policy and Unlock Investment: SER-Europe will map and analyse seagrass-relevant policy instruments, from the Nature Restoration Regulation to Nature Credits, ensuring that pilot actions are fully aligned with EU and international priorities. By embedding restoration within policy and finance frameworks, SER-Europe maximises the strategic impact of the project and facilitates future funding streams. This ensures that seagrass restoration is not only ecologically effective but also investable and sustainable.

For more information about supporting SER-Europe's role in REBORN contact:

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