

RESTORATION IN EUROPE: SHARED COMMITMENT, SHARED PURPOSE



Society for Ecological Restoration
Europe (SER-Europe)

**Annual Report
2025**

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

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INTRODUCTION

In 2025, SER-Europe continued to strengthen its role as a network connecting science, practice and policy in ecological restoration across Europe. The year was shaped by the ongoing implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, increased engagement in EU and national policy processes, and continued growth in project delivery and working group activity.

Key priorities included supporting the development of National Restoration Plans, advancing marine restoration through dedicated working groups, and strengthening collaboration across the SER-Europe network.

Across all areas, SER-Europe focused on facilitating knowledge exchange, supporting practitioners, and contributing to practical and policy-relevant restoration outcomes.



MESSAGE FROM AVELIINA HELM

In 2025, the urgency of ecological restoration has become even clearer, even as political attention to nature and sustainability continues to fluctuate. The need to align human activity with planetary boundaries has not diminished. In this context, I am proud of what SER-Europe has achieved over the past year, and deeply grateful to our members, partners, and supporters whose commitment turns shared goals into meaningful progress.

Ecological restoration is not optional. It underpins the stability of our environments, economies, and societies. Across Europe, the consequences of ecosystem degradation are increasingly visible, alongside a growing recognition that nature must be treated as essential infrastructure. Restoration plays a central role in strengthening resilience, supporting biodiversity, and securing long-term wellbeing.

SER-Europe's role is to connect science, practice, and policy, and to support the effective implementation of restoration across Europe. In 2025, this has taken shape through active engagement in the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, including contributions to the National Restoration Plans, and participation in EU and Member State policy processes. Our project portfolio has continued to expand, supporting restoration across marine, freshwater, wetland, forest, and urban ecosystems.



Our working groups remain central to this effort. The Marine Restoration Working Group has advanced practical tools and guidance, including the development of a long-term networking strategy “An Ocean of Collaboration”.

The Legal Working Group has contributed to implementation through policy briefs on the Nature Restoration Regulation, covering areas such as agriculture, forestry, marine and urban ecosystems, and governance. The Education and Training Working Group has supported capacity building through initiatives such as TEAM#UP and the development of the Digital Ecological Restoration Toolbox Online (DERTO).

Across our network, members and affiliated organisations continue to contribute through policy engagement, research, project delivery, and knowledge exchange, supporting restoration efforts in diverse national and regional contexts.

Looking ahead, SER-Europe will continue to support the implementation of restoration across Europe, strengthen connections between science and practice, and invest in capacity building and collaboration across the network.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this work in 2025. Your expertise, collaboration, and commitment continue to shape restoration in Europe.

Aveliina Helm - Chair of the Board, SER-Europe

POLICY ENGAGEMENT AND INFLUENCE

In 2025, SER-Europe contributed to a wide range of EU policy processes related to nature restoration and biodiversity. Members were active across several key platforms, including the DG Environment Expert Sub-Groups on the Nature Restoration Regulation and Marine Ecosystem Restoration, the Biodiversa+ Knowledge Hub, and activities coordinated by the European Environment Agency.

A central focus was supporting the development of National Restoration Plans under the Nature Restoration Regulation. Through participation in EU-wide implementation support events, SER-Europe members contributed expertise across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. This included input on key methodological components such as Favourable Reference Values (FRVs), Favourable Reference Area (FRA), site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) for Marine Natura 2000 sites, and linkages with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

SER-Europe also followed and contributed to the development of technical tools supporting implementation. These included the European Environment Agency's marine habitat classification manual and the technical guidelines for assessing and monitoring the condition of Annex I habitats.

Across specific ecosystem areas, SER-Europe engaged in a range of policy and technical discussions. On rivers and floodplains, this included following developments within the ECOSTAT working group on methodologies for identifying free-flowing river stretches, where discussions among Member States continued on the balance between methodological consistency and flexibility.

In the agriculture and pollinator space, SER-Europe engaged with the development of the Soil Monitoring Law, the draft delegated regulation on pollinator monitoring methodology, and initiatives supporting national Grassland Butterfly Indicators.

On forests, SER-Europe contributed to discussions on forest biodiversity through participation in sector events and expert groups, including the Beyond SUPERB conference, the EU Biodiversity Platform sub-group on Forest Biodiversity, and the Standing Forestry Committee.

Beyond EU-level engagement, SER-Europe also supported Member State processes. A dedicated workshop brought together experts involved in drafting National Restoration Plans in Spain, Italy, Hungary and Portugal, facilitating knowledge exchange and alignment of approaches.

Towards the end of 2025, guidelines supporting the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law were published. SER-Europe members contributed to the development of these Technical Guidelines for assessing and monitoring the condition of Annex I habitat types under the Habitats Directive. These guidelines provide standardised, science-based approaches to assessing habitat conditions across the EU. Members provided expertise on forest and marine habitats, as well as habitat fragmentation, and contributed to the refinement of methodologies for several marine and coastal habitat types.

Together, these activities reflect SER-Europe's role as a network that connects science, practice and policy, supporting the implementation of Europe's nature restoration agenda through practical and policy-relevant expertise.



PROJECTS AND PROGRAMME DELIVERY

SER-Europe delivers its mission through a diverse portfolio of European-funded projects and collaborative programmes. These initiatives advance ecological restoration across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems by combining scientific knowledge, practical implementation, policy engagement, and capacity building.

In 2025, SER-Europe contributed to projects spanning climate resilience, deep-sea and coastal restoration, wetland and forest ecosystems, and education and training, supporting the translation of restoration science into practice at scale across Europe.

See active projects:
<https://ser-europe.org/active-projects>



CLIMAREST (2022-2025) – Completed



The CLIMAREST project (Coastal Climate Resilience and Marine Restoration Tools for the Arctic Atlantic Basin) focused on strengthening climate resilience in coastal ecosystems across Europe.

In 2025, the project culminated with the delivery of an online Marine Restoration Toolbox, providing guidance, cost-benefit analyses and restoration protocols. Demonstration activities were implemented across multiple sites, from Svalbard to Madeira, and replicated at 5 sites across Europe, from Germany to Cyprus. SER-Europe contributed to training, knowledge exchange and communication activities, including webinars, a podcast series, and an in-person training event in Dublin.

The project is now complete and has supported the scaling of marine restoration approaches across Europe.

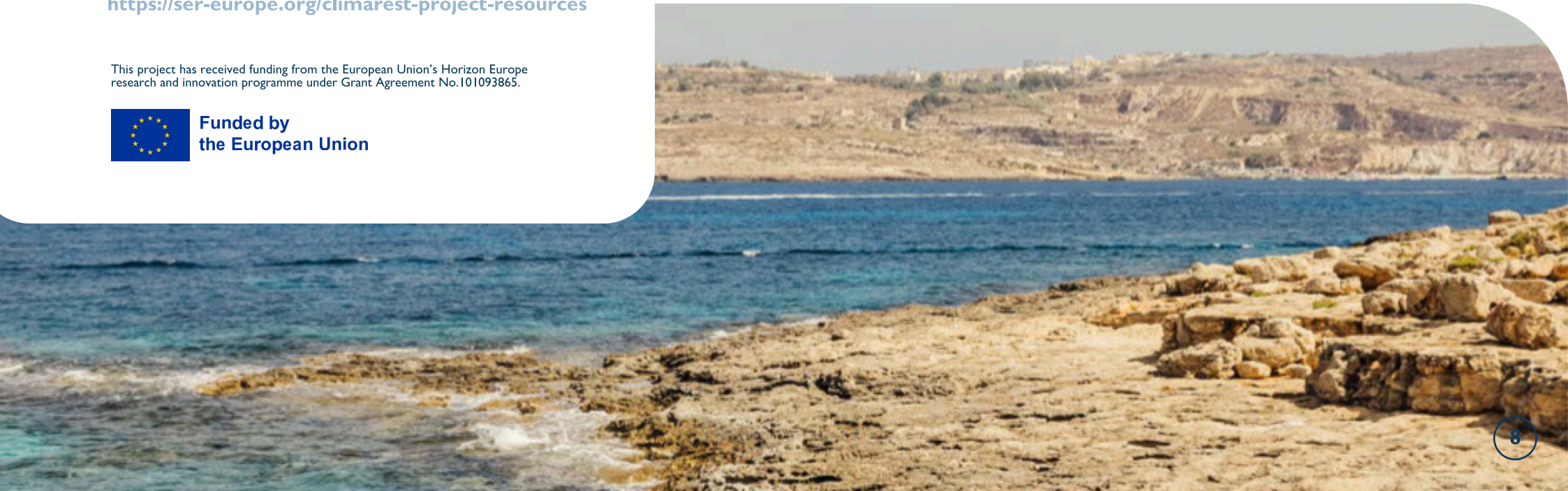
Learn more:

<https://ser-europe.org/climarest-project-resources>

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No.101093865.



Funded by
the European Union



ALFAWETLANDS (2022-2026)



ALFAWETLANDS advances wetland restoration across Europe through interdisciplinary research and Living Labs. In 2025, SER-Europe supported science-policy exchange and outreach, contributing to EU-level platforms and discussions related to the Nature Restoration Regulation and the Nature Directives.

SER-Europe also contributed to the development of policy-relevant outputs, including recommendations on climate mitigation and greenhouse gas emissions, helping to strengthen the link between scientific evidence and restoration practice.

Funded by European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101056844



WoodMeadow LIFE (2022-2026)



SER-Europe supports the WoodMeadow LIFE project by facilitating collaboration, knowledge exchange, and dissemination to advance the restoration and long-term management of wooded meadows in Estonia and Latvia.

In 2025, SER-Europe developed the project's Replication Strategy, targeting stakeholders at local, national, and European levels. At national level, dissemination focuses on engagement with conservation authorities, land managers, and relevant ministries to support uptake and policy alignment. At European level, SER-Europe is supporting wider dissemination through its network, including communications channels and working groups, reaching practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers across the region.

Grant ID: LIFE20 NAT/EE/000074



Co-funded by
the European Union



LIFE BCR – BiodiverCité & Resilience (2022-2027)



SER-Europe supports the LIFE Biodiver' Cité & Résilience project by promoting knowledge exchange and European collaboration to replicate urban ecological restoration solutions that enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services.

In 2025, SER-Europe finalised the project's Replication Strategy and initiated engagement with European networks representing cities. Materials are being developed to support knowledge transfer and replication, showcasing the project's outcomes in Bordeaux and supporting their adaptation in other urban contexts across Europe.

Grant ID 101074168



**Co-funded by
the European Union**



TEAM#UP (2023-2027)



The TEAM#UP project is an Erasmus+ funded project that supports the integration of ecological restoration into vocational education and training.

In 2025, SER-Europe facilitated the launch of an open educational platform and digital tools for training, the [Digital Educational Resource Tool Online \(DERTO\)](#). Furthermore, SER-Europe coordinated communication and dissemination activities and created a Long Term Quality Assurance and Management Plan to facilitate post-project impact.

Learn more:

www.teamup2restore.eu

TEAM#UP is an Erasmus+ project co-funded by the European Union (EU) under Grant Agreement N°101103653. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the EU or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the EU nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



DERTO About Resource Library MOOCs Virtual Demonstration Sites How-to Contact Take the Survey English

Digital Ecological Restoration Toolbox

Search for educational resources

Topic Level Type of resource Language

What is the Digital Ecological Restoration Toolbox (DERTO)?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

- Ecological Restoration Knowledge Hub
- Open Educational Resources Platform
- Virtual Demonstration Site Repository

TEAM#UP
Knowledge on Ecological Restoration to Maximize Benefits for Nature and People

The TEAM#UP project is an Erasmus+ EU grant-funded initiative aimed at integrating ecological restoration knowledge into Vocational Education and Training (VET) schools and lifelong learning programs. Running from June 15, 2023, to June 14, 2027, the project involves 15 partners across five European countries. For more information, please [click here](#).

Dryland Restoration

Go to Resources

1.1A 1 hour Spanish Presentation	1.1A 1 hour English Presentation	1.1B 20 mins Spanish Worksheet	1.1B 20 mins English Worksheet
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REDRESS (2024-2028)



The REDRESS project (Restoration of Deep-sea Habitats to Rebuild European Seas) focuses on the restoration of deep-sea habitats across European seas.

The REDRESS project represents a significant step towards addressing the ecological damage to Europe's deep-sea environments and providing scalable solutions for their recovery. Focusing on habitats vital for carbon sequestration and climate mitigation, such as coral gardens, cold-water coral reefs, sponge fields, and cold seeps, the project addresses damage primarily caused by deep-sea fishing and trawling. REDRESS plans to map these degraded areas, identify refugia, and implement restoration strategies adaptable to climate change.

In 2025, activities included a cross-project survey and report to identify current f deep-sea restoration best practices and the initiation of communication outputs, including preparation for a 5-part podcast series, Resilient Depths.



SER-Europe is also contributing to the development of a financial blueprint for deep-sea restoration, accumulating knowledge and expertise from its extensive network to identify potential mechanisms for future restoration projects and supporting future investment and implementation.

More information:

<https://redress-project.eu>

This project is Co-funded by the European Union under grant id: 101135492



Co-funded by
the European Union



REBORN (Interreg NW Europe) (2026-2029)



In 2025 SER-Europe together with 10 partner organisations secured funding for the REBORN project, which will begin in 2026. The project focuses on scaling seagrass restoration across North-West Europe.

The project aims to strengthen governance, improve restoration practice, and build capacity across organisations and communities. SER-Europe leads work on interregional governance and collaboration and contributes to the development of an accredited seagrass restoration curriculum with the Sea Ranger

Service REBORN supports the long-term scaling of seagrass restoration and its integration into policy and practice.

Learn more:

<https://ser-europe.org/reborn/>

REBORN is a EU-funded Interreg North-West Europe project under grant number WE0500810. 11 Partners and 7 Associated Partners including SER-Europe are collaborating to scale up sea-grass restoration in NW Europe, boosting biodiversity and natural capital.



WORKING GROUPS AND KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

Working groups remain central to SER-Europe’s role in connecting expertise and supporting knowledge development. In 2025, key contributions were made through the Marine Restoration Working Group, Legal Working Group, and Education and Training Working Group.

Education and Training Working Group (ETWG)

The Education and Training Working Group (ETWG) supports SER-Europe’s work by strengthening education, training, and capacity building in ecological restoration across Europe.

Role and positioning

The ETWG works to advance education and training in ecological restoration by strengthening opportunities for learning, collaboration, and knowledge exchange. Its focus is on bridging science and practice and supporting the development of skilled professionals capable of addressing ecosystem degradation. In 2025, the group contributed to strengthening education pathways and fostering collaboration across restoration education initiatives in Europe.

Membership and governance

The ETWG brings together educators, researchers, practitioners, and communication specialists from across Europe. The group operates through regular virtual meetings, held approximately every two months, with frequency adapted to ongoing priorities and activities. Coordination is carried out in a flexible, task-oriented format, supporting collaboration across initiatives.

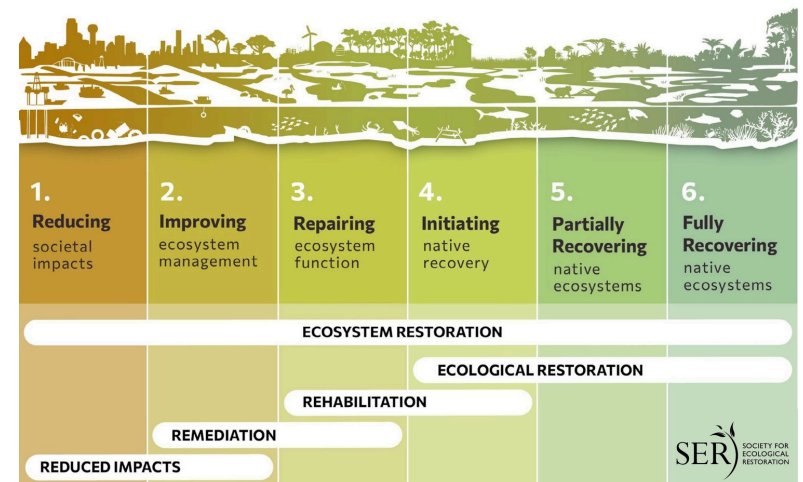
What is ecosystem restoration?

The term “ecosystem restoration” is an umbrella term that encompasses a number of actions and outcomes. If you are unsure about how to define restoration and about the restoration continuum, you have come to the right place!

Gann GD, McDonald T, Walder B, Aronson J, Nelson CR, Jonson J, Hallett JG, Eisenberg C, Guariguata MR, Liu J, Hua F, Echeverría C, Gonzales, EK, Shaw N, Decler K, Dixon KW. 2019.

International principles and standards for the practice of ecological restoration. Second edition. Restoration Ecology S1-S46.

www.ser.org/SERStandards



Key activities and outputs in 2025

ETWG activities in 2025 focused on strategic development, networking, and engagement with education initiatives:

Roadmap development:

The group further developed its strategic roadmap, including prioritisation of key work areas and exploration of funding opportunities to support future education and training activities.

Networking and collaboration:

Engagement continued with related initiatives, including TEAM#UP, with discussions focused on potential synergies in restoration education and vocational training.

SER2025 engagement:

ETWG members contributed to SER2025 in Denver through mentoring activities for students and early-career professionals. This included structured mentor–mentee sessions across restoration topics such as grasslands, forests, project management, and fundraising, as well as workshops on student organisation development and informal networking activities to strengthen peer exchange.

Young#ER activities:

The Young#ER group continued its development through regular coordination meetings, supporting early-career engagement in ecological restoration.

Student association development:

A new SER student association was established at the University of Pavia (Italy), with over 50 members and a defined governance structure. The group secured institutional recognition, initiated partnerships with local conservation actors, and began developing outreach and training activities, with plans to engage in future SER and SER-Europe events.

Conference development:

The group contributed to preparations for future SER conferences, including a proposed special session with TEAM#UP and a workshop submission for SERE2026 on education and training as a bridge between science, practice, and policy.



Collaboration and engagement

The ETWG actively collaborates with education and training initiatives across Europe, including Erasmus+ projects and university-based networks. In 2025, this included engagement with TEAM#UP to identify opportunities for alignment between educational tools, training frameworks, and professional development pathways.

Looking forward

In 2026, the group will continue to focus on strengthening collaboration, advancing strategic education initiatives, and supporting platforms that engage early-career professionals across the SER-Europe network.

Learn more: <https://ser-europe.org/working-groups/educationandtraining/>

Legal Working Group (LWG)

The Legal Working Group (LWG) supports SER-Europe's work by strengthening legal understanding and analysis of ecological restoration frameworks in Europe.

Role and positioning

The LWG brings together legal experts working on environmental and restoration law, with a focus on the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and related policy frameworks. In 2025, the group supported interpretation and implementation processes, helping to bridge legal frameworks with practical restoration needs.

Membership and governance

In 2025, the LWG comprised a network of 29 highly qualified environmental lawyers from across Europe. The group operates through regular meetings and collaborative working formats.

Five meetings were held during the year, supporting coordination and development of shared outputs.

Key activities and outputs in 2025

WG activities focused on legal analysis, knowledge exchange, and research contributions:

Policy briefs:

Six policy briefs on key aspects of the Nature Restoration Regulation were developed in draft form in 2025 and finalised and published in 2026.

Workshops and collaboration:

A dedicated workshop on the EU Nature Restoration Regulation was held in Berlin, bringing together LWG members and external experts. The outcomes will inform a joint publication.

Research and publications:

Members contributed to academic outputs, including articles submitted to a special issue of *Restoration Ecology*, as well as other peer-reviewed publications and research proposals under Horizon Europe and Biodiversa+.

Model law development:

Members contributed to ongoing work on a model law for ecological restoration.

Collaboration and engagement

The LWG actively contributed to SER-Europe webinars and participated in key conferences, including the European Environmental Law Forum and events focused on restoration law and policy.

These activities supported knowledge exchange between legal scholars, policymakers and practitioners working on ecological restoration.

Looking forward

In 2026, the group will continue developing policy briefs, contributing to publications, supporting webinars, and exploring new funding opportunities. It will also contribute to SERE2026 and further cross-network collaboration.

Learn more: <https://ser-europe.org/working-groups/lwg/>



Marine Restoration Working Group (MRWG)

Established in 2024, the Marine Restoration Working Group (MRWG) has rapidly developed into a key platform for advancing marine ecosystem restoration across Europe.

Role and positioning

The MRWG brings together practitioners, researchers and policy implementers working across marine and coastal systems, with a particular focus on coastal and deep-sea habitats. In 2025, the group supported the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation by linking scientific expertise with policy development and practical restoration needs.

The group is recognised by the European Commission, participates in multiple structures including DG Environment's Marine Expert Group, and contributes to EU-level marine policy processes.

Membership and governance

In 2025, the MRWG comprised 76 members from 16 Member States and over 55 institutions. The group continues to attract strong interest from additional experts, reflecting its role as a growing European reference network for marine restoration. The group is also a signatory to the EU Mission Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030 Charter.

The MRWG is chaired by Professor Roberto Danovaro, with Joel Lindholm as Vice-Chair. It operates through quarterly meetings and focused Task Forces, enabling structured collaboration and delivery of technical outputs.

Key activities and outputs in 2025

MRWG work in 2025 focused on developing tools and guidance to support marine restoration implementation:

- **Marine restoration guidelines (MERGES):**

Task Force 1 advanced the development of the Marine Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines for European Seas (MERGES), which consolidate scientific evidence and best practice into a practical framework for restoration planning and implementation. Publication is planned for 2026.

- **Restoration assessment tools:**

Task Force 2 progressed the adaptation of the SER Ecological Recovery Wheel and 5-star system for marine environments, supporting consistent approaches to defining and assessing ecological recovery.

- **Knowledge synthesis:**

Task Force 4 compiled existing marine restoration guidance across Europe, improving access to knowledge and identifying gaps in current frameworks.



An Ocean of Collaboration: The European Marine Restoration Working Group

eMRWG Long Term Networking and Replication Strategy
as part of Deliverable 5.4, HEU CLIMAREST



Collaboration and strategic development

In 2025, the MRWG strengthened collaboration with marine habitat restoration alliances, including the European Seagrass Restoration Alliance and the Native Oyster Restoration Alliance, supporting coordination across marine restoration actors. These partnerships enhance coordination, reduce duplication of effort and support the scaling up of effective restoration actions across national and sectoral boundaries.

The group also published a key resource “[An Ocean of Collaboration: The European Marine Restoration Working Group](#)” a strategic framework outlining a five-year approach to strengthening knowledge exchange, networks and capacity building in marine restoration.

Looking forward

The MRWG is contributing to more coordinated and evidence-based marine restoration across Europe by developing practical guidance, supporting policy implementation, and strengthening cross-border collaboration.

Learn more: <https://ser-europe.org/mrwg>

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications activities were strengthened in 2025 through improved coordination and increased output. Key developments included:

Regular LinkedIn activity significantly strengthened SER-Europe's online presence, resulting in a doubling of followers from 2,000 to over 4,000.

Quarterly member newsletters continued, improving the consistency of communications and contributing to strong member engagement across the network. We also supported member engagement through webinars and increased access to recorded conference content.

Coordination of communications for SERE2026, including the structured rollout of key announcements, alignment with the organising committees, and support for consistent messaging across partner communication channels.

The establishment of an SER-Europe community on Zenodo will support open and accessible sharing of resources and knowledge. It will also improve the visibility, discoverability, and citation of SER-Europe publications, helping to track our contribution and impact within the field of ecological restoration.

Development of news articles linked to ongoing projects and policy work, helping to translate technical outputs and policy engagement into accessible updates for members and wider stakeholders.

These activities support knowledge sharing, visibility and engagement across the network.



MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

SER-Europe had 452 members in 2025, representing a diverse network of practitioners, researchers, and citizens engaged in ecological restoration across Europe. In 2025, SER-Europe began working in closer coordination with SER Global to strengthen membership recruitment and retention, with a focus on expanding engagement across its European network.

Seven affiliated organisations contributed to this network. These organisations extend SER-Europe's reach at national and regional levels, bringing additional expertise and strengthening connections between science, practice and policy. Building stronger links with affiliated organisations remains a key priority for future growth.

A new national restoration network was established in Italy, with the view of becoming an affiliate organisation, Rete Italiana Ripristino Ecologico (RIRE) was convened in Rome on 30th January 2026.

Members were actively engaged in the global restoration community, including strong participation at SER2025 in Denver, contributing to knowledge exchange and international collaboration.



Affiliate Funding Opportunity

In 2025 SER-Europe, with support from the SER Partnership Fund, launched a new initiative to support the creation of national sub-chapters or affiliates in European countries that currently have no formal SER presence. Motivated restoration professionals, practitioners, academics, and organizations are invited to lead the establishment of a national SER-affiliated association or sub-chapter in their country.

Learn more: <https://ser-europe.org/membership/call-for-proposals-new-national-ser-europe-chapters/>

Affiliate and Network Updates

SER-Europe's affiliated organisations continue to play a key role in strengthening restoration activity across Europe.



Rire Italiana Ripristino Ecologico (Italy)

Established as a national restoration network, RIRE continued to develop its organisational structure in 2025, supporting coordination among practitioners, researchers and policymakers. The network was actively engaged in discussions on Italy's National Restoration Plan, contributing technical input and consultation responses. It also advanced thematic working groups and training initiatives aimed at strengthening capacity for ecological restoration practice and implementation at national level.



CIEEM (UK and Ireland)

Over the past three years, CIEEM has developed Rebuilding Nature: Good Practice Guidance for Ecological Restoration, providing a practical framework for restoration across terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments. Grounded in ten core principles, the guidance promotes evidence-based, landscape-scale, and interdisciplinary approaches. Ongoing events and partnerships continue to support knowledge exchange, professional development, and the application of best practice across the UK and Ireland.



REVER (France)

REVER strengthened its role as a national platform for ecological restoration by expanding communication activities and increasing engagement with practitioners and institutions across France. In 2025, the network contributed to national and European-level discussions on restoration policy and practice, while also supporting knowledge exchange through its mailing list, digital platforms and participation in events focused on ecological restoration implementation.



German Restoration Network (Germany)

The German Restoration Network continued to support practitioner-led knowledge exchange through a series of workshops and meetings focused on practical restoration challenges. In 2025, activities brought together scientists, practitioners and public authorities to discuss implementation approaches across different habitat types, with a particular emphasis on translating restoration policy into on-the-ground practice.



OBN Natuurkennis / UPN (Netherlands)

OBN Natuurkennis and the Implementation Programme Nature (UPN) advanced system-level ecological restoration through applied research and knowledge dissemination. In 2025, the network delivered and coordinated multiple studies addressing ecosystem processes and restoration effectiveness, alongside extensive outreach activities supporting practitioners and land managers. This work continues to inform nature recovery approaches at landscape and ecosystem scale in the Netherlands.



SIRF (Italy)

SIRF continued to promote ecological and forest restoration through a combination of scientific exchange, training activities and public engagement. In 2025, the organisation contributed to national conferences, seminars and outreach initiatives linking restoration science with policy and practice. Its activities also included thematic dissemination through publications, multimedia content and events aimed at strengthening awareness and capacity for forest landscape restoration.



ResECO (Portugal)

ResECO played a key role in supporting Portugal's National Nature Restoration Plan process, contributing scientific and technical input through national working groups and consultation processes. In 2025, the network also strengthened international collaboration through participation in European platforms and cross-border initiatives, while supporting knowledge exchange through workshops, thematic sessions and coordination of restoration-related data collection efforts.



AEET (Spain)

AEET supported ecological restoration knowledge exchange through its dedicated working group and national distribution network. In 2025, the association contributed to discussions on the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation in Spain and supported collaborative initiatives with Portuguese partners. AEET also participated in national consultation processes and thematic sessions focused on restoration indicators, methodologies and policy alignment.



FBER (Finland)

The Finnish Board on Ecological Restoration (FBER) is a national collaborative group consisting of managers, scientists, and experts working with habitat restoration and the management of cultural habitats. The group supports restoration and nature management actions both on state-owned and private land. Four expert groups work under the Steering Group: Peatland restoration expert group, Forest restoration expert group, Freshwater habitats restoration expert group and Semi-natural grassland expert group. The Restoration Board together with the expert groups e.g. prepares restoration handbooks and organizes seminars. The Restoration Board is coordinated by Metsähallitus and Finnish Environment Institute.

These contributions demonstrate the strength of the SER-Europe network in connecting national and regional restoration efforts.



GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Governance

SER-Europe held five board meetings held in 2025, supporting strategic direction and organisational development. Key governance milestones included:

- Progress on revised statutes, submitted for legal revision and registration
- Preparation of updates to the UBO Registry update was prepared, pending formal statute registration
- Development of an internal procurement policy to strengthen financial management and audit readiness

Fundraising and Capacity Development

In 2025, SER-Europe submitted 13 project proposals, with a total value exceeding €2.5 million. Several proposals were successful, supporting future programme development including REBORN and ISLA BONITA (Horizon Europe, Oceans).

Fundraising activities focused on strengthening SER-Europe's role in marine restoration, education and training, and policy support.

SER-Europe Executive Committee

SER-Europe 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 Professional team

Fundraising activities focused on strengthening SER-Europe's role in marine restoration, education and training, and policy support.



Boris Barov

COO



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Admin & Finance Manager



Sahar Stevenson-Jones

Marine Restoration Project Officer



Fátima D. Gigante

Education And Training Project Officer



Elise Mackie

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Italy

SER-Europe Board Members are elected by the General Membership. The current Board was elected during the SERE2024 Conference in August 2024.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Category	2025 (€)	2024 (€)
Income		
Turnover	0.00	2,500.00
Contributions, Grants & Gifts	224,930.46	104,637.38
Financial income	1,703.42	1,893.67
Total Income	226,633.88	109,031.05
Expenditure		
Operating charges	251,244.09	132,604.01
Financial charges	144.00	311.41
Total Expenditure	251,388.09	132,915.42
Result of the Year	-24,754.21	-23,884.37
Accumulated Result Carried Forward	46,274.84	71,029.05
Equity	51,774.84	76,529.05

In 2025, SER-Europe's contributions and grants increased significantly, more than doubling from €104,637 in 2024 to €224,930 in 2025. This increase reflects expanded project activity supported primarily through European Union-funded initiatives.

Turnover from conferences decreased from €2,500 in 2024 to €0 in 2025, as no SER-Europe conference took place during the reporting year.

In line with increased project activity, operating expenditures rose to €251,244 in 2025 compared to €132,604 in 2024. This resulted in a net deficit of €24,754, broadly consistent with the €23,884 deficit recorded in 2024.

The deficit is primarily driven by limited overhead coverage within project funding and co-funding requirements for externally funded projects, as well as a small number of project-specific shortfalls.

Despite the annual deficit, SER-Europe maintained a strong liquidity position, with cash reserves exceeding €157,000 at year-end. Equity decreased from €76,529 in 2024 to €51,775 in 2025, reflecting the annual result.

Overall, SER-Europe remains financially stable, supported by healthy reserves. However, the trend of increasing expenditure and recurring annual deficits highlights the importance of continued strategic financial planning to ensure long-term sustainability.


In response, SER-Europe is exploring opportunities to diversify its funding base, including engagement with corporate sponsorship and the development of a structured donations framework. These efforts aim to strengthen core funding, improve overhead coverage, and support the continued growth of the organisation and its activities.




SER-Europe thanks all the members and other donors who contributed to the Society in 2025

Join SER-Europe and SER to support our efforts to advance ecological restoration.

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