

PAGES project

Process-based Approach for Good Environmental Status

Science for Good Environmental Status (S4GES) Joint Action

Understanding how marine ecosystems change requires looking at the ocean as a dynamic system shaped by interacting physical, chemical and biological processes. Yet assessing marine environmental health remains challenging, as current monitoring approaches often rely on indicators and fixed thresholds that struggle to capture this dynamic complexity. To protect the marine ecosystem and its biodiversity, the European Union introduced the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**, which provides a common framework for achieving **Good Environmental Status (GES)** across European seas.

PAGES builds on recent scientific advances and joint JPI Oceans research cruises S4GES and BIOTREC-Tara. By integrating data collected there and through new targeted surveys, **the project adopts a process-based approach that links biodiversity observations to ocean dynamics such as currents, plumes and cross-shore processes.**



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By improving the interpretation of marine biodiversity within its environmental context, **PAGES is expected to deliver more robust and meaningful assessments of Good Environmental Status, reduce complexity in ecosystem evaluations, and support more effective and sustainable management of European seas.**



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The project consortium includes the following partners:

- National Research Council of Italy, Institute of Marine Science (CNR-ISMAR)
- Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)
- Atlantic Technological University (ATU)
- Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology (MCAST)

The associated partners include:

- Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (SZN)
- Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon GmbH (HEREON)
- National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics (OGS)
- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)



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