ENV europe
Environmental quality and pressures assessment across Europe

LTER europe
European Long-Term Ecosystem Research Network

ENVEUROPE

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND PRESSURES ASSESSMENT ACROSS EUROPE: THE LTER NETWORK AS AN INTEGRATED AND SHARED SYSTEM FOR ECOSYSTEM MONITORING

EnvEurope, proposed within the Component "Environmental Policy and Governance" (EPG - Strategic Approach) of the European Commission Programme LIFE, contributes to the European process SEIS (Shared Environmental Information System) and the initiative GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security), in a context of ecological knowledge transfer from science to environmental policies.

The project, co-funded by EC for 3 M€, will last 4 years (2010-2013) under the Coordination of Italy, Institute of Marine Sciences, National Research Council (CNR-ISMAR).

EnvEurope started and is being developed within the European Long-Term Ecosystem Research Network (LTER-Europe) which represents more than 400 sites across Europe. The long-term (multi-decadal) ecological study and monitoring of ecosystems need shared scientific knowledge, a common information management system and the harmonization of parameters and methods at European scale. This will bring to a deeper understanding of ecosystem functioning, to an improved environmental management and to supporting the development of EU environmental policy and conservation planning through the integration of objectives, resources and disciplines.
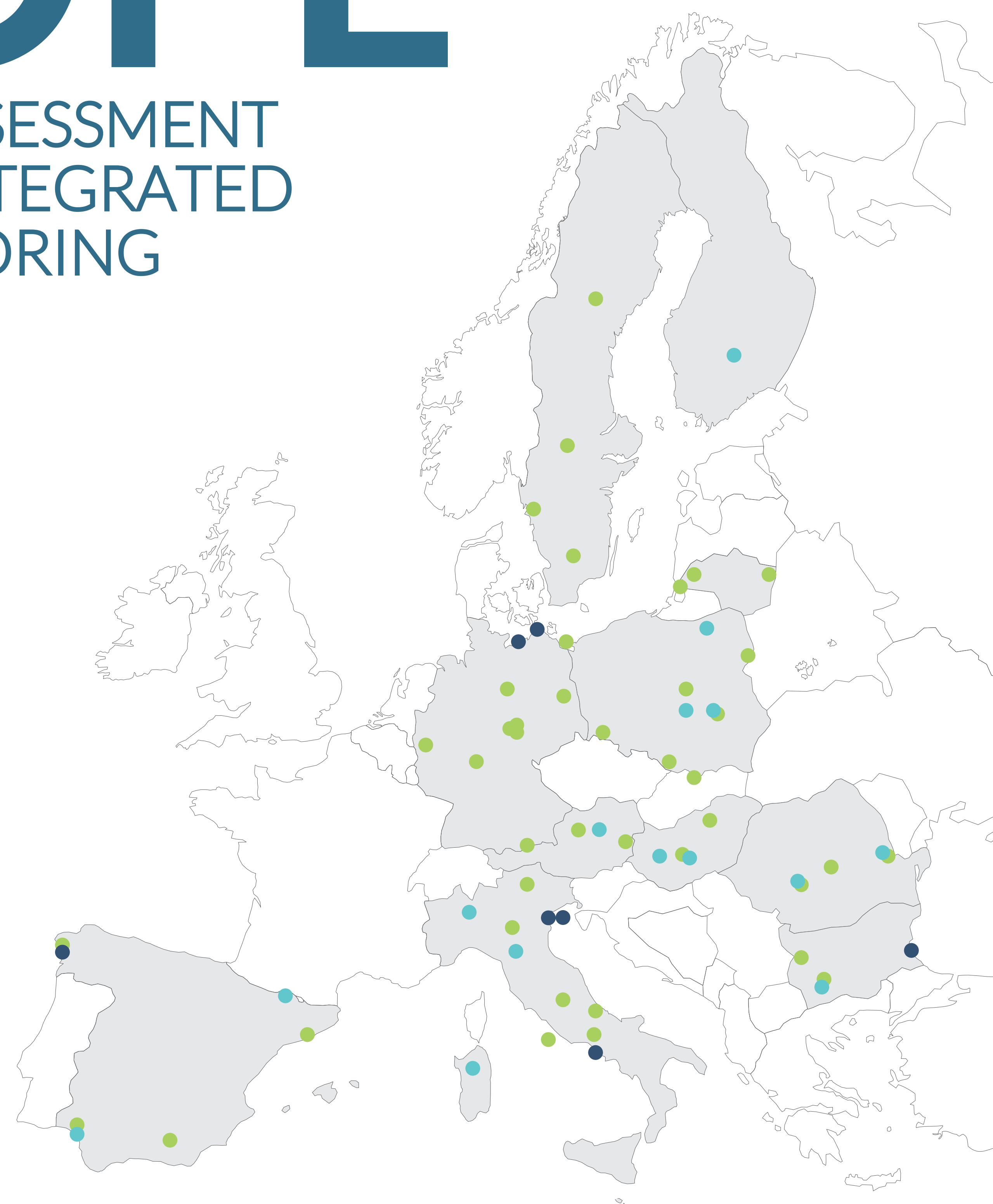
The project develops six main Actions:
• Data collection and management
• Parameter and method elaboration
• Cause-effect analysis and scientific evaluation
• Network Design
• Testing in the field
• Strategic actions and dissemination.

Through these Actions EnvEurope contributes to the integration and coordination of long-term ecological research and monitoring initiatives at European level. It focuses on understanding the status, changes and trends of ecosystems, with an integrated broad-scale and cross-domain (terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems) strategy, combining the efforts of 11 countries and of at least 67 sites belonging to the LTER-Europe network.

EnvEurope will select, on the basis of multi-annual data series and of newly collected field data, a set of key environmental quality indicators able to characterise ecosystems and sensitive to major natural and anthropogenic stressors.

EnvEurope develops and provides an integrated environmental information management system, thus contributing to bridge the gap between science and policy and to improve the scientific support to the EU environmental policy and conservation plans.

● Freshwater site ● Marine site ● Terrestrial site

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