

activity report

'25



lifewatch.eu



[LifeWatch ERIC](#)



[@lifewatcheric.bsky.social](#)



[LifeWatch ERIC](#)



[LifeWatch ERIC](#)

Hippocampus guttulatus, commonly known as the long-snouted seahorse.
Photo by Giorgos Chatzigeorgiou (LifeWatch Greece).

Table of contents

04

Foreword by the Chairperson of the General Assembly

06

Foreword by Chief Executive Officer

08

About LifeWatch ERIC

Vision	08
Mission	08
Core Business	08
Value Proposition	08
History	10
What we do for you	12

16

LifeWatch ERIC as an Organisation

Governance	16
Employment Structure	19
Strategic Working Plan Implementation Progress	20
Quality Assurance and Risk Management	20
Finances	22

24

LifeWatch ERIC as an Infrastructure

Scientific Excellence	24
e-Needs	25

28

LifeWatch ERIC as a Community

Pan-European Relevance	28
Institutional Relationships	29
Scientific Networking	30
Communication	32
Training	34

36

Industrialisation, Technology Transfer and Innovation

Stakeholder commitment and Financial Sustainability	36
European Projects	39

42

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

44

National Distributed Centres

LifeWatch Belgium	44
LifeWatch Bulgaria	46
LifeWatch Greece	48
LifeWatch Italy	50
LifeWatch Netherlands	52
LifeWatch Portugal	54
LifeWatch Slovenia	56
LifeWatch Spain	58

60

Acknowledgements

62

Annex: Financial Statements

64

Annex: Deliverables



Foreword

Georgios Kotoulas

Chairperson of the General Assembly

The organisation continued to strengthen its scientific, technological and institutional role, while preparing for the completion of the current Strategic Working Plan and the transition towards the next implementation period.

A year of both continuity and progress

An important phase in the consolidation of LifeWatch ERIC as a mature European Research Infrastructure.

The year 2025 marked an important phase in the consolidation of LifeWatch ERIC as a mature European Research Infrastructure. During this period, the organisation continued to strengthen its scientific, technological and institutional role, while preparing for the completion of the current Strategic Working Plan and the transition towards the next implementation period.

From the perspective of the General Assembly, 2025 was a year of both continuity and progress. LifeWatch ERIC further supported its Member States by delivering advanced digital services, reinforcing the role of its Distributed Centres, and strengthening collaboration among national communities. The development of Thematic Service Working Groups and the growing engagement of scientific communities show that LifeWatch ERIC is increasingly operating as a distributed, user-oriented infrastructure. Moreover, the approval of the Early Career Researcher Support Initiative paves the way towards a stronger embed of the next generations of scientists within the LifeWatch ERIC infrastructure.

The General Assembly also acknowledges the progress made in governance, organisational maturity, financial management, quality assurance and risk management. These efforts provide a solid basis for the next stage of LifeWatch ERIC's development.

On behalf of the General Assembly, I would like to thank the Member States, their representing entities, the Executive Board, the Common Facilities, the Distributed Centres, advisory bodies, staff and collaborators for their commitment throughout 2025. Their contribution ensures that LifeWatch ERIC continues to support excellent science and evidence-based policy for biodiversity and ecosystems in Europe and beyond.



Foreword

Christos Arvanitidis

LifeWatch ERIC CEO

A strong foundation for the next phase of LifeWatch ERIC's contribution to biodiversity science, digital innovation and evidence-based policy.

Advancing science through innovation and collaboration

A transformative year marked by technological progress, strategic partnerships, and a shared vision for tackling global biodiversity challenges.

In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC continued its transition from a distributed digital research infrastructure into an operational European biodiversity intelligence system. This evolution reflects the growing need for infrastructures that help researchers, public authorities and decision-makers transform biodiversity and ecosystem data into actionable knowledge.

During the year, LifeWatch ERIC strengthened its digital service portfolio and improved access to resources through the Metadata Catalogue, EcoPortal, LifeWatch Search, MyLifeWatch and Virtual Research Environments. These developments made it easier for users to discover, access, combine and reuse data, workflows and services across disciplinary and geographic boundaries.

LifeWatch ERIC also reinforced community engagement through the expansion of its Thematic Service Working Groups, the approval of the Early Career Researcher Support Initiative, and a broad range of training, networking and communication activities. At the same time, the organisation consolidated its role in the European Research Area (ERA) through participation in 31 European projects, including the co-ordination of FAIR2Adapt, the first Horizon Europe project led by LifeWatch ERIC.

Organisationally, 2025 was a year of consolidation and progress. LifeWatch ERIC reached 55 employees, strengthened

its People & Culture framework, advanced its Management System, and continued to enhance its financial planning and resource mobilisation efforts.

I would like to thank the General Assembly, Member States, Common Facilities, Distributed Centres, advisory bodies, staff and partners for their dedication. The achievements of 2025 provide a strong foundation for the next phase of LifeWatch ERIC's contribution to biodiversity science, digital innovation and evidence-based policy.

About LifeWatch ERIC



Vision

The vision behind LifeWatch ERIC is to become the Research Infrastructure providing access to the world's biodiversity content, services and communities in one click.



Mission

LifeWatch ERIC aims to accelerate the research efforts of the scientific community by delivering a European state-of-the-art e-Science Research Infrastructure on biodiversity and ecosystem research: a Digital Twin which:

- provides access to, and support for, key scientific services by applying cutting-edge ICT technology,
- enables reproducible analytics,
- is co-designed and co-created with the user communities, and
- is tuned with the needs for research that provides key insights for society, in particular science-based policy.



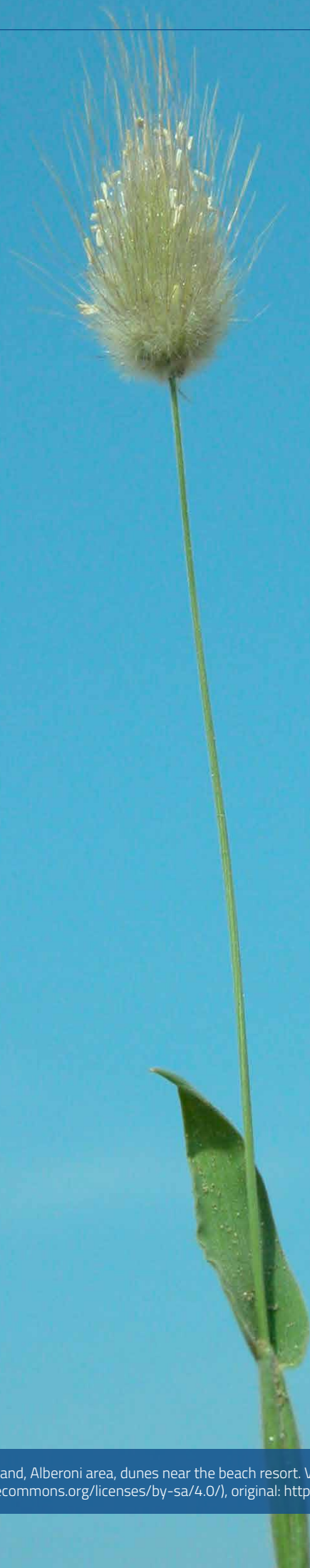
Core business

The core business of the LifeWatch ERIC infrastructure is the construction of virtual “workbenches” with e-services that allow its user communities to analyse patterns and trends in biodiversity in space and time, its (natural or man-made) drivers and the impacts on ecosystems.



Value proposition

Overall value proposition: LifeWatch ERIC provides scientists and other users with access to biodiversity and ecosystem data, services and other research products by using and contributing to its advanced infrastructure to derive evidence-based knowledge for scientific and policy purposes.



Our History



Figure 1. LifeWatch ERIC's timeline

Positioning

LifeWatch ERIC holds a central position in the global biodiversity and ecosystem research landscape, serving as the integrative hub that connects distributed Research Infrastructures, data aggregators, and scientific communities through advanced e-Science technologies. Its distinctive role lies in providing the technological and methodological framework (federation, integration, and composability) that enables seamless interoperability among heterogeneous research products: datasets, models, analytical tools, workflows, publications, and virtual research environments.

By linking the domain-specific data resources and other research products of infrastructures such as DiSSCo, eLTER, EMBRC, and AnaEE, and global aggregators like GBIF, OBIS, Zenodo, and iBOL, LifeWatch ERIC transforms fragmented information into coherent, reusable, and policy-relevant knowledge.

This positioning establishes LifeWatch ERIC not as a repository of data, but as a catalyst and connector: the analytical bridge that turns scientific outputs into actionable insights supporting the Green Deal, the Nature Restoration Law, and the One Health framework.

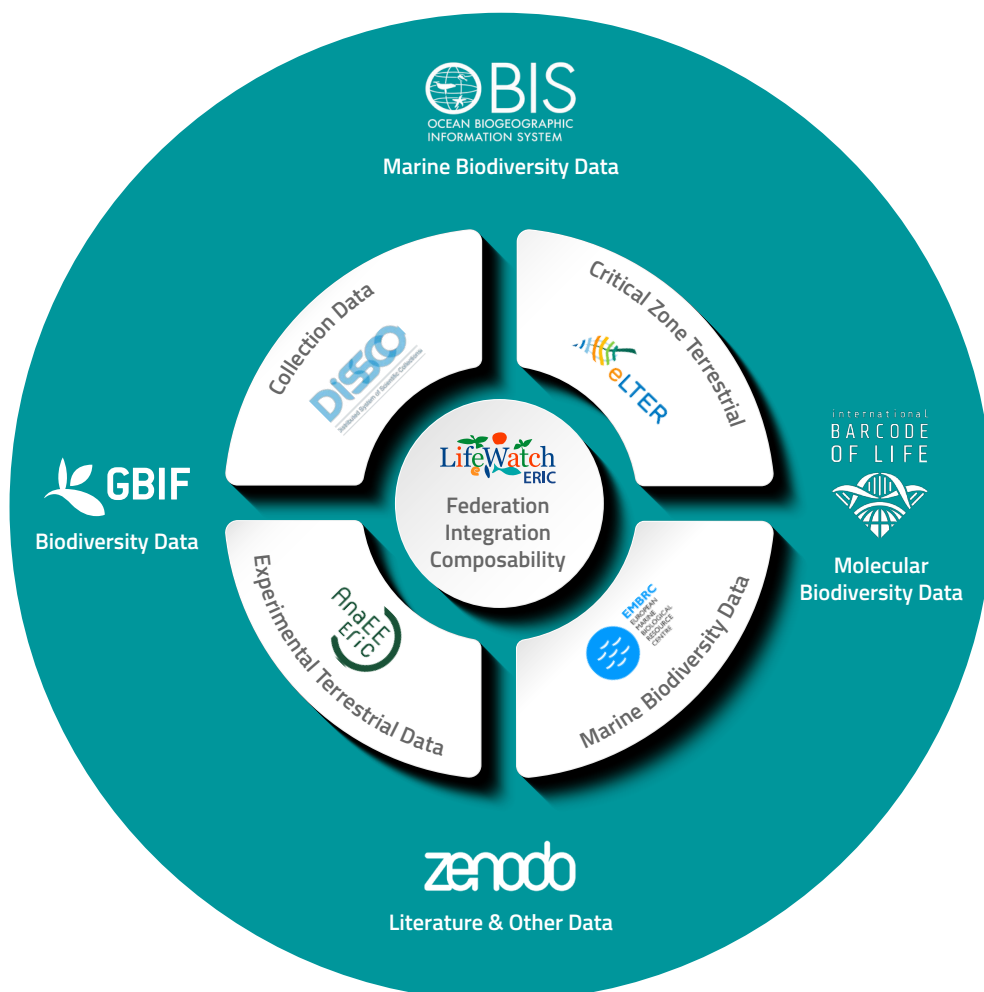


Figure 2. LifeWatch ERIC's positioning

What we do for you



90-95% reduction in data discovery time

Reduce dataset discovery and access time by up to 90-95% by enabling joint search and access to biodiversity data federated from 18+ distributed providers, avoiding fragmented manual data harvesting.



50-90% lower computational costs

Reduce computational costs per project by 50-90% through the reuse of optimised workflows, shared Virtual Research Environments, and centrally operated analytical services, compared to local or ad-hoc implementations.



Up to 10x performance gains

Improve efficiency and significantly lower the energy footprint of resource-intensive workflows, achieving up to 10x performance gains over initial standalone implementations, with cost savings of €10k-€50k per medium-scale project.



Community of 400+ active users

Connect researchers to a growing community of 400+ active users, facilitating collaboration, reuse of workflows, and exchange of expertise across disciplines and countries.

Figure 3. LifeWatch ERIC's impact



Researchers

LifeWatch ERIC provides scientists and other users with seamless access to integrated biodiversity and ecosystem data, services, and other research products through its advanced research infrastructure. By transforming complex data into interoperable, evidence-based knowledge, LifeWatch ERIC empowers discovery, informs decision-making, and supports innovation and policy implementation across environmental, societal, and economic domains.



Policymakers

LifeWatch ERIC transforms complex biodiversity data into reliable, evidence-based answers that policymakers can act on. From the Green Deal to the Nature Restoration Law, LifeWatch ERIC delivers policy-ready outputs that support informed decision-making.

User stories



Justine Pagnier

PhD Candidate in Marine Biology
Gothenburg University, Sweden

I collaborated with LifeWatch ERIC to develop and refine the ARMS workflow for processing ARMS-MBON data using the PEMA pipeline. This work enabled standardized, automated analysis of complex metabarcoding datasets for detecting non-indigenous marine species across European monitoring sites. The infrastructure developed directly contributed to multiple ARMS-MBON datapapers, making critical biodiversity data openly accessible to the research community. Beyond the technical outcomes, this collaboration strengthened my expertise in bioinformatics workflows and connected me with international research networks, significantly advancing both my doctoral research and professional development in marine biodiversity monitoring.



Mark John Costello

Contact person of MBON Europe | Marine Biodiversity Monitoring for Europe
<https://mbon-europe.lifewatch.eu>

LifeWatch ERIC has supported MBON Europe by (a) providing training and support to researchers to publish their data into OBIS and GBIF, and (b) creating a marine biodiversity monitoring dashboard that enables people to discover, with a map and a tabular view, where marine biodiversity monitoring sites are located across Europe, and access the associated metadata like geographic coverage, habitat, and taxonomic classification.



Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*) at Cerknica Lake, Slovenia.
Photo by Tomi Trilar, Slovenian Museum of Natural History (LifeWatch Slovenia).

LifeWatch ERIC

as an organisation

Governance

LifeWatch is a legal entity of eight European Union Member States that form a distributed research infrastructure consortium, an ERIC: Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain. Its members operate from national entities known as Distributed Centres, while its Common Facilities are located in three Member States: Spain (Statutory Seat Office and ICT core), Italy (Service Centre), and the Netherlands (Virtual Laboratories and Innovation Centre).

Statutory bodies

The General Assembly is the highest governing body of LifeWatch ERIC. Composed of representatives from all member states, it is responsible for the overall direction and supervision of infrastructure activities. The General Assembly recommends the policies and internal rules necessary for the smooth functioning of LifeWatch ERIC.

The Executive Board is responsible for the day-to-day management of the infrastructure and ensures its consistency, coherence, and stability. The Board also coordinates the Common Facilities and Distributed Centres.

Subsidiary bodies

The **Scientific and Technical Advisory Board (STAB)** makes recommendations regarding the scientific, technical, and ethical quality of LifeWatch ERIC activities.

The **In-Kind Contribution Committee (IKCC)** addresses in-kind contribution-related matters and carries out in-kind contribution valuation.

The **Financial Committee (FINCOM)** makes recommendations to the General Assembly regarding LifeWatch ERIC's financial management and adherence to the Financial Rules.

The **Research Infrastructure Committee (RIC)** provides recommendations to the General Assembly in relation to the role, work plans and activities of the Common Facilities and Distributed Centres, contributing to LifeWatch ERIC.

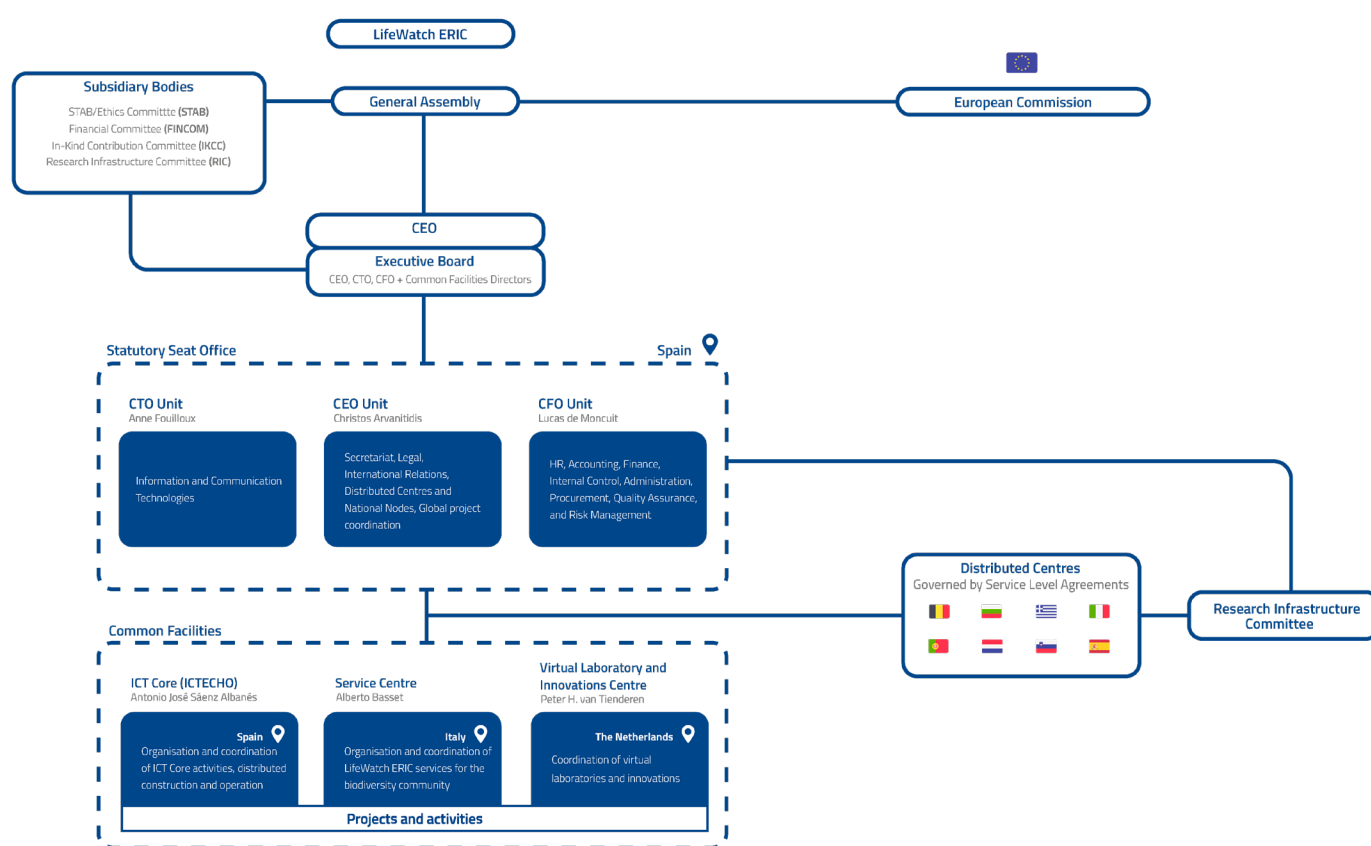


Figure 5. Governance scheme



CEO
Christos Arvanitidis



General Assembly & Advisory Board Support

Giovanna Caputi



Institutional Relations & Legal

Javier López-Torres

Scientific Coordination & Executive Board Support

Cristina Huertas



Scientific Coordination Support

Maite Irazabal



CTO
Anne Fouilloux



CFO
Lucas de Moncuit

Project Management



Global Project Management

María Pérez



Project Management

Ana Bajandas
Daniel Capitán

Central Services



Finance

Javier Sáenz



People & Culture Management

Elena Delgado



Quality Assurance & Risk Management

Hooi Sung
Rocio Mantero



Procurements

Javier López-Torres



ICT-Core Director
Antonio José Sáenz Albanés

ICT-Core Operations

Francisco Sánchez
Joaquín López



Architecture

Adrián Guerrero



Physical infrastructure

Emilio Jara



Networks, providers, sensors, IOT/Data

Francisco Sánchez



Single Sign On Workflows

Julio López



LifeBlock

Joaquín López



Data Engineering

Vacant



Development

José Luis Fernández
Pablo Santos
José Zaiño



Scientific Project Management

José Manuel Ávila
Salvador Fernández
Ana Mellado
Andrea Ros
Xavier Rotllán
Iría Soto



Fundraising & proposal writing

Mariela Pino
Javier Saura



Project Management

Mariela Pino
Javier Saura



Project Management



Virtual Laboratory & Innovation Centre Director
Peter van Tienderen

VREs

Zhiming Zhao

Development

Koen Greuel
Spiros Koulouzis
Quan Pan
Gabriel Pelouze

Project Management

Jacco Konijn



Service Centre Director
Alberto Basset

Project Management

Vacant

Finance & Admin

Eleonora Romano

Administrative Support

Irene Matteo

Training

Training

Cosimo Vallo

EU Project Training

Eleonora Parisi

Communication

Sara Montinaro

EU Project Communication

Madeira Scauri

Digital Communication

Cristina Mancarella

Science Communication

Laura Caciagli

Communication

Eleonora Schulze-Battmann

Scientific Community Networking

Scientific Community Networking

Ant Turkmen

EU Project Scientific Community Networking

Vanessa Marrocco

ICT

Lucia Vaira

Data Science

Eftychia Tzafesta

Web Development

Houda Ben Shala

Semantics

Majid Fiaz

Help Desk & Technical Support

Nikos Minadakis

Pierluigi Calasso

Figure 6. Organisational Chart

Employment Structure

The People & Culture (P&C) unit of LifeWatch ERIC continued to play a pivotal role in supporting the organisational growth and strengthening its human resource management framework. By the end of 2025, LifeWatch ERIC counted **55 employees** (employees distribution per working area is available in figure 7) across its three Common Facilities, reflecting the organisation’s growing operational scope and increased participation in European Projects.

Women represented **45%** of the **total workforce** across all levels and in all sectors, as reflected in the appointment of LifeWatch ERIC’s first female Executive Board member, **Anne Fouilloux**, as **Chief Technology Officer (CTO)**. Moreover, **female representation** in ICT positions increased from **12 to 17%**. In parallel, the revised version of the **Gender Equality Plan** was delivered in 2025, together with a training and awareness-raising session to ensure its adoption among the personnel.

These achievements mark another milestone in LifeWatch ERIC’s commitment to provide equal opportunities and a safe and respectful workplace.

Alongside the recruitment of the new CTO, LifeWatch ERIC leadership capacity was further reinforced by the appointment of **Antonio José Saénz Albanés** as **ICT-Core Director**. These selection processes were carefully designed to ensure objectivity, transparency, and broad organisational consensus.

Finally, the P&C unit continued pursuing the harmonisation of practices across all Common Facilities through the definition and implementation of common procedures, rules, and tools. In line with its Cultural principles and its commitment to creating an inspiring, supportive, and meaningful work environment, and with the support of the Training Department, LifeWatch ERIC implemented the **capacity building activities** planned over 2024 delivering a series of soft skills (leadership and communication) development courses for its managers and directors, thus offering its first ever internal continuous learning programme. In the same year, it also launched its **Employee Engagement and Organisational Climate Survey** whose results will be shared with the whole organisation in 2026 and will serve as feedback and planning tool.

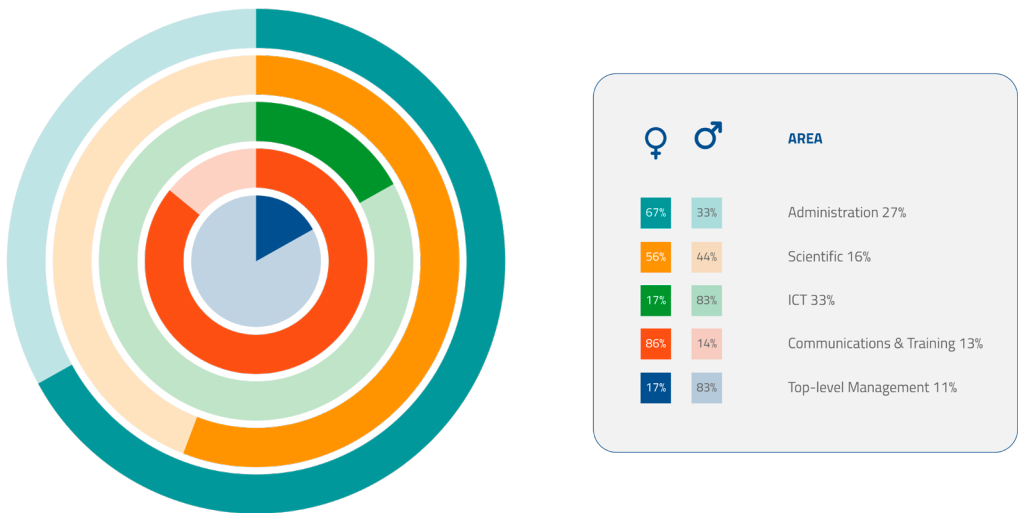


Figure 7. Female and male distribution per working area

Strategic Working Plan Implementation Progress

The LifeWatch ERIC Strategic Working Plan (SWP) defines the activities the infrastructure will undertake until 2026 to achieve its strategic objectives. The Actionable Roadmap (ARM), developed as a key implementation and monitoring tool, continues to align specific elements of the SWP with strategic and operational objectives, priorities, tasks, and related activities. The Actionable Roadmap facilitates progress tracking through deliverables and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) while identifying and mitigating potential risks, providing a real-time overview of all ongoing and future activities.

By the end of 2025, significant progress has been consolidated across the roadmap. Of the 39 deliverables due to date, 18 have been fully delivered and officially released, representing 46% of the total. The remaining deliverables are at various active stages of completion, with **85% of the roadmap** either **delivered** or **in progress**, reflecting the increasing operational intensity of the final implementation phase as LifeWatch ERIC advances towards the completion of its Strategic Working Plan in 2026.

Quality Assurance and Risk Management

In 2025, the LifeWatch ERIC Executive Board (EB) held the fifth and sixth Management Review Meetings (MRMs) following an established internal MRM procedure. These meetings contributed to strengthening LifeWatch ERIC's Management System (MS) by driving key improvements, ensuring the organisation continuous effort to meet stakeholders needs and expectations, and supporting alignment among process owners. Key outcomes from the MRMs were communicated by the Executive Board to staff through the "all staff" meetings.

Maintaining a well-functioning Management System requires a structured set of internal documents, including policies, rules, strategies, procedures, and guidelines. In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC released **13 MS documents** and **29 supporting documents**, counting both new releases and revisions, and covering different areas, such as Management System, People and Culture, Communications and Marketing, Training, Stakeholders and Relationships, Finance and Operations Excellence, Technological Excellence and Project Management.

During the year, the Strategy for Risk Management was revised following the Executive Board's decision to adjust the review frequency of the risk register to twice per year, reflecting evolving organisational needs. This change supports timely identification of new risks and the definition and review of mitigation measures by the relevant risk owners.

In addition, the implementation of established procedures for the Management System, Finances, People & Culture Management and Project Management was measured for the first time through operational KPI monitoring. This provides improved oversight of process performance and enables process owners and managers to take more targeted actions to enhance the effectiveness of these procedures, in line with continuous improvement. The objective is to ensure that results and outputs are consistently delivered to meet stakeholders' needs and expectations.





Flamingos huddle against the wind in Parc Ornithologique du Pont de Gau, Camargue, France.
Photo by Fabrizio Lecce, (LifeWatch Italy).

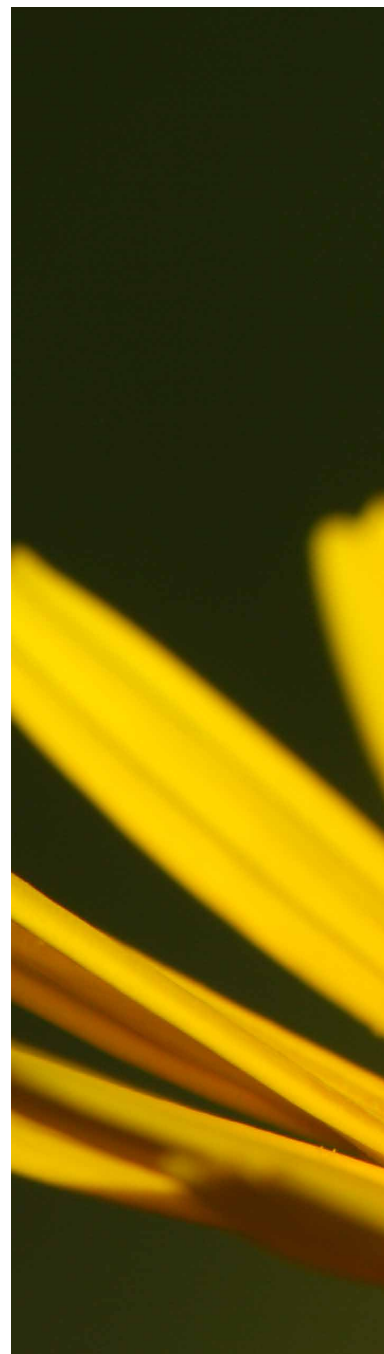
Finances

Confirming the financial recovery achieved in 2024, the financial year 2025 saw LifeWatch ERIC continuing to **optimise the allocation of funds** to close the year with a **net surplus**, confirming its ability to operate within its means, while pursuing an ambitious scientific and technological agenda.

In 2025, the total operating revenues combined member state cash contributions, EU project direct funding, overhead recoveries, and the financial income amounted to € 4,857,279.00 against total costs of € 4,806,264.00. The 2025 net result of € 51,014.00 represents **continued sound financial management** in a context of **increasing operational complexity**, growing project portfolio and the inflationary economic environment.

At the level of the Strategic Working Plan, the organisation **executed 90%** of its **operating budget**, reflecting a deliberate and disciplined approach to expenditure. The progress made in developing data-driven financial and project management frameworks continued to support the Executive Board in steering the organisation with greater precision and responsiveness.

As in previous years, LifeWatch ERIC's consolidated Financial Statements are subject to independent external audit before submission to the General Assembly for approval. The audited Financial Statements of 2025, including full quantitative details, are included at the end of this Annual Report.





The Carniolan Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera carnica*) in the Vipava Valley on Yellow Ox-eye (*Buphthalmum salicifolium*).
Photo by Tomi Trilar, Slovenian Museum of Natural History (LifeWatch Slovenia).

LifeWatch ERIC

as an infrastructure

Scientific Excellence

In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC further strengthened its role as Europe's only e-Science Research Infrastructure dedicated to biodiversity and ecosystem research. Its contribution to scientific excellence lies in its capacity to connect data, services, workflows, computing resources and communities across the full complexity of biodiversity science, from genes to ecosystems and from local observations to continental and global analyses.

During the year, LifeWatch ERIC continued to turn advanced digital capacity into practical scientific value for its users. Researchers benefited from a more connected user journey through the **Metadata Catalogue**, **EcoPortal**, **LifeWatch Search**, **MyLifeWatch** and its **Virtual Research Environments**. Together, these services support faster discovery of relevant resources, easier reuse of data and workflows, and more reproducible analytical processes. The infrastructure therefore contributed not only to the production of scientific outputs, but also to the quality, transparency and reusability of the research process itself.

LifeWatch ERIC's scientific relevance is increasingly linked to its ability to support synthetic knowledge. Biodiversity and ecosystem research often requires the integration of heterogeneous data sources, methods and communities that do not naturally operate together. In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC reinforced its role as an integrator by supporting workflows and services in areas such as macroecology, agroecology, aquatic and marine ecology, invasive species, habitat analysis, genomics, remote sensing and environmental monitoring. These capabilities are enabled by core technologies such as semantic interoperability, text mining, trusted data traceability, workflow orchestration and artificial intelligence-assisted discovery.

A major development in 2025 was the stronger involvement of scientific communities in the co-design and co-construction of services. The enlargement and reinforcement of Thematic Service Working Groups provided a practical mechanism to translate community needs into service priorities, workflows and Virtual Research Environments. In parallel, the approval of the Early Career Researcher Support Initiative created a new pathway for young scientists to contribute to the development, testing, documentation and dissemination of LifeWatch ERIC services. This strengthens both the scientific relevance and the long-term uptake of the infrastructure.

The infrastructure's scientific output remained robust in 2025. While the overall production of scientific publications remained quantitatively steady, the quality of outputs increased significantly, with a strong rise in publications appearing in first-quartile journals in relevant scientific fields. This Annual Report accounts for **202 publications** in 2025, including **109 peer-reviewed** ones, of which **71** appeared in **first-quartile journals**.

LifeWatch ERIC also continued to widen access to biodiversity and ecosystem-related digital resources. LifeWatch Search enabled rapid dataset discovery across **16 trusted global repositories**, while the Metadata Catalogue hosted metadata for more than **2,000 resources**. These developments strengthened the discoverability and reuse of biodiversity data and services, and reinforced LifeWatch ERIC's contribution to Open Science, FAIR data and internationally competitive research.

Overall, 2025 confirmed LifeWatch ERIC's position as a key European infrastructure for biodiversity and ecosystem science. Its distinctive contribution lies in combining digital services, semantic technologies, analytical workflows, community co-design and policy-oriented knowledge production into a single distributed infrastructure serving researchers, institutions and decision-makers.

e-NEEDS

In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC continued to strengthen the digital foundations required to support biodiversity and ecosystem research at scale. The infrastructure improved the way data, workflows, services and other research products are organised, discovered, accessed, monitored and reused, with FAIR principles guiding developments across the full digital lifecycle.

A central achievement was the continued consolidation of the **Metadata Catalogue** as the main entry point to LifeWatch ERIC's digital assets. Improved harvesting mechanisms, application programming interface connections with Distributed Centres and external providers, and alignment with the latest OpenAIRE Guidelines supported greater interoperability and visibility. These developments also enabled automatic onboarding to the **EOSC Discovery Hub**, further strengthening LifeWatch ERIC's integration within the European Open Science Cloud.

The infrastructure also progressed in its federation with EOSC services through the EOSC Beyond project. This included work on Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructure, the Resource Catalogue and Help Desk integration, as well as improved interoperability with repositories such as Zenodo. For users, these developments translate into simpler access, improved discoverability, clearer support pathways and better integration of LifeWatch ERIC resources within the broader European Open Science ecosystem.

LifeWatch ERIC also reinforced the technical links between data acquisition, processing, publication and reuse. In 2025, the infrastructure continued to support long-term environmental data flows from the abiotic sensor network in Sierra Nevada National Park, composed of 50 environmental monitoring stations. These stations provide *in-situ* climatological and environmental data to support ecosystem research, climate analysis and long-term ecological monitoring. The associated services enable ingestion, curation, exposure and monitoring of these data over time.

Several key digital services were upgraded during the year. These included the Metadata Catalogue, EcoPortal, MyLifeWatch, federated and artificial intelligence-assisted search, the Green Devices Platform, the Sensor Observation Service, LifePortal, the ArcGIS Geoportal, the GIS Viewer, and the NaaVRE platform-as-a-service. The NaaVRE service introduced improved file management and collaboration features and supported six new Virtual Labs, including applications in airborne laser scanning, biodiversity time-series analysis, seagrass carbon stock modelling, forest modelling and wildfire resilience satellite imaging.

These developments demonstrate the increasing maturity of LifeWatch ERIC's e-infrastructure. Its data, computing, networking and application layers are becoming more integrated through interoperable interfaces, workflow orchestration and user-facing access points. This supports reproducible science, more efficient service

operation, and the transition from isolated digital tools towards a coherent biodiversity intelligence infrastructure.

Looking ahead, LifeWatch ERIC's e-needs will continue to be shaped by growing demand for scalable computing, artificial intelligence-ready data, trusted provenance, semantic interoperability, Digital Twin capabilities, real-time environmental monitoring and responsible access management. The progress achieved in 2025 provided a strong foundation for meeting these needs while remaining aligned with EOSC, Open Science and FAIR-by-design principles.

Research product	Short description
Metadata Catalogue	Version upgrade with many new customised functionalities; Improvement of existing and implementation of new harvesting mechanisms; bug fixes; user interface upgrades; monitoring procedures; federation mechanisms development.
EcoPortal	User interface update; bug fixes; design of new features.
MyLifeWatch	An aggregation portal for the variety of final user service components.
Federated and AI-assisted search	Simultaneously search across multiple data providers in a federated manner with aggregated and cross-referenced results (Debugging edge cases).
LifeWatch Green Devices Platform	Upgraded platform featuring enhanced real-time communication protocols and advanced data visualisation tools for more efficient environmental IoT device management.
LifeWatch Sensor Observation Service (SOS)	Upgraded service featuring broader integration capabilities with external providers and LifeWatch ERIC dataloggers, ensuring more seamless, standardised access to time-series environmental data.
LifeWatch LifePortal	Federation with the Metadata Catalogue accomplished.
LifeWatch ArcGIS Geoportal	Upgraded web platform featuring enhanced interactive mapping tools and new public layer views, significantly optimising the exploration and download of environmental data.
LifeWatch GIS Viewer	Upgraded web-based viewer featuring extended OGC service capabilities and newly integrated environmental datasets in collaboration with the Estación Biológica de Doñana for advanced spatial analysis.
Abiotic Sensor Network in Sierra Nevada National Park	Physical network of 50 environmental monitoring stations equipped with abiotic sensors focused on climatological variables. Deployed across diverse ecosystems in the Sierra Nevada National Park, the network provides <i>in-situ</i> data to support ecosystem research, climate analysis, and long-term ecological monitoring.
NaaVRE platform as a service	Simplified file management and new collaboration features. Six new virtual labs created: Airborne Laser Scanning Tree Individualization VL, Biodiversity Time Series Analyses from European Marine Ecosystems VL, Quality Data for Aloft VL, Seagrass Carbon Stock Model VL, Veluwe Forest Model VL, and Wildfire Resilience Satellite Imaging Time Series VL.

URL	Reference to documentation (training, technical, etc)	New product/ upgrade
Access	Training	Upgrade
Access	User documentation	Upgrade
Access	N/A	Upgrade
Access	N/A	Upgrade
Access	N/A	Upgrade
Access	N/A	Upgrade
Access	N/A	Upgrade
Access	On demand	Upgrade
Access	On demand	Upgrade
N/A physical infrastructure	Stations Description	Upgrade
Access	Tutorials	Upgrade

LifeWatch ERIC

as a community

Pan-European relevance

LifeWatch ERIC continued in 2025 to strengthen its pan-European relevance as a distributed Research Infrastructure (RI) serving biodiversity and ecosystem research across Europe. Its relevance is rooted in a distinctive position within the European RI landscape: LifeWatch ERIC is the only e-Science Research Infrastructure dedicated specifically to biodiversity and ecosystem research, and it provides digital services that connect data, methods, tools, communities and policy needs across Member States.

The infrastructure operates through a distributed model combining Common Facilities in Spain, Italy and the Netherlands with national Distributed Centres. This model enables LifeWatch ERIC to mobilise national expertise while providing common European services, standards and access mechanisms. In 2025, this distributed structure continued to support the integration of national and European biodiversity resources into a shared digital environment, reinforcing LifeWatch ERIC's role as a federating infrastructure rather than a standalone data provider.

LifeWatch ERIC coordinated a network of organisations representing Europe's major Research Infrastructures and e-Infrastructures, together with collaborative initiatives dedicated to understanding the living component of the biosphere. Meeting in Crete immediately before the BEeS Conference, these organisations committed to joining forces in support of the UN One Health approach. The main outcome of this meeting was the Crete Declaration, which sets out a shared commitment to strengthen cooperation across infrastructures, disciplines and communities (doi: 10.3897/rio.11.e176120).

LifeWatch ERIC's pan-European relevance is also demonstrated by the expansion of its user base and service uptake. The 2025 Annual Report records **95,083 total users** on LifeWatch ERIC platforms, including **69,696 users in 2025**, and **4,342 registered users** in total, with **2,158 registered in 2025**. These figures show a sharp increase in the uptaking of the infrastructure across the European research community and beyond.

In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC participated in **31 European projects**, consolidating its role as a key partner in the European Research Area. These projects supported the development and integration of Research Infrastructures, strengthened technical alliances across Europe, and advanced biodiversity and ecosystem research in connection with climate change, restoration, Open Science, FAIR data, Digital Twins and policy support. Three new projects were awarded to LifeWatch ERIC in 2025 - **Biodiversity Meets Data**, **GREENCO-OP** and **FAIR2Adapt** - further expanding its European role.

LifeWatch ERIC's pan-European relevance is also visible through its contribution to European policy priorities. Its services support biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, marine biodiversity assessment, agroecology, environmental observation and science-policy interfaces. These activities align with major European frameworks, including the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Nature Restoration Regulation, EOSC and the broader Open Science agenda.

Overall, 2025 confirmed LifeWatch ERIC's role as a strategic European platform for biodiversity and ecosystem knowledge. By connecting national capacities, European projects, user communities and policy-relevant digital services, LifeWatch ERIC contributes to the consolidation of the European Research Infrastructure landscape and to Europe's capacity to respond to biodiversity and ecosystem challenges.



Institutional relationships

In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC intensified its institutional relationships at regional, national, European and international levels. These relationships are central to the infrastructure's mission, as LifeWatch ERIC operates at the interface between scientific research, digital infrastructure, environmental policy and societal needs.

At the European level, LifeWatch ERIC strengthened its role as a **trusted technological and scientific partner in major collaborative initiatives**, as demonstrated by its participation in 31 European projects. LifeWatch ERIC also reinforced its position in the **European Research Infrastructure landscape** through collaborations with other Research Infrastructures, e-Infrastructures, global data aggregators and scientific networks. Its work contributes to interoperability and service integration across initiatives linked to **EOSC, ENVRI, biodiversity monitoring, marine biodiversity, Digital Twins and FAIR data**. In this way, LifeWatch ERIC helps reduce fragmentation and promotes a more connected European infrastructure landscape.

The infrastructure's institutional relationships also supported **stronger science-policy links**. During 2025, LifeWatch ERIC engaged with stakeholders and decision makers working on the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the European Green Deal, biodiversity conservation, restoration and the One Health approach**. These interactions contributed to positioning LifeWatch ERIC as a resource for institutions and policymakers seeking evidence-based tools to address societal challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

At the **national and regional levels**, LifeWatch ERIC continued to develop relationships with governments, public authorities, universities and research organisations. These collaborations are particularly important because the infrastructure's distributed model depends on strong national anchoring and active Distributed Centres. In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC signed **Memoranda of Understanding** with the **University of Granada, the Spanish National Museum of Natural Sciences and the Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal**, strengthening its institutional network and opening opportunities for future collaboration.

Institutional relationships were also reinforced through the relaunch and consolidation of **national activities**, including the **LifeWatch Spain Distributed Centre** under the scientific coordination of the Spanish National Research Council. This strengthened Spain's role as a national hub for biodiversity and ecosystem research and created new opportunities for collaboration with researchers, public authorities and society.

LifeWatch ERIC's institutional engagement is increasingly oriented towards impact. By connecting scientific communities, public authorities, Research Infrastructures, European projects and policy frameworks, **LifeWatch ERIC helps transform biodiversity and ecosystem data into practical knowledge for decision-making**. The progress made in 2025 confirms the infrastructure's role as a trusted European partner for institutions seeking digital, FAIR and science-based solutions to biodiversity and ecosystem challenges.

Scientific networking

During 2025, LifeWatch ERIC fostered its efforts to achieve user-centred implementation of its services by strengthening thematic coordination across Distributed Centres and reinforcing practical links between community needs and service development. This work was pursued through structured engagement activities, including targeted surveys and follow-up coordination steps, ensuring that emerging demands were translated into actionable priorities for services, workflows and virtual research environments.

Within this framework, a new cycle for expanding the **Thematic Service Working Groups** was started, building on the earlier establishment round. Distributed Centre Coordinators and RIC members were involved through a mix of engagement activities to capture their interest in participation and the potential hosting of thematic groups. This resulted in the proposal of eight new thematic groups, **Metagenomics in Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Semantics and Data Management, Environmental Monitoring, Biological Traits and Analysis, Agroecology, High Mountain Ecosystems, One Health, and Modelling**.

In parallel, an **Early Career Researcher Support Initiative** was formally adopted by the General Assembly. Thanks to a voucher-based mechanism LifeWatch ERIC will pursue early career scientists' engagement into co-designing, co-developing and improving its services through cross-Distributed Centre collaboration.

Evidence generation for service evolution was further strengthened through a harmonised needs analysis, building on the results of previous multiple surveys run within a plurality of scientific communities. The **synthesis** provided a consolidated view of community priorities, barriers to uptake, and expectations toward LifeWatch ERIC, informing actions related to data access, tooling, training and documentation, and demand for integrated virtual research environments. In parallel, continuous feedback and improvement was sought on current activities, use of LifeWatch ERIC services, new development needs, engagement intentions, collaboration across Distributed Centres, and user experiences, including barriers and desired improvements, reinforcing the bi-directional link connecting the infrastructure to its user basis.





Bougainvillea glabra Choisy 'Narrissi'.

Picture taken in Padua, at the Botanical Garden, Italy.

Photo by Andrea Moro (License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>), original: <https://dryades.units.it/dryades/plants/foto/IMG8883JPG1657712296.jpg>

Top 5 Publications

- Li, N., Farshidi, S., & Zhao, Z. (2025). Search Multiple Types of Research Assets From Jupyter Notebook. *Software-Practice and Experience*, 55(5), 946-965 <https://doi.org/10.1002/spe.3406>
- Fiordaliso, W., Reverte, S., Ghisbain, G., Wood, T., Ruelle, E., Lefèbvre, A. & Tougeron, K. (2025). Reconciling community-level responses of wild bees to highly anthropized landscapes. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 259, 105347. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2025.105347>
- Chiappi, M., Di Muri, C., Azzurro, E., Luzi, F., Rosati, I., Despalatović, M., ... & Scarcella, G. (2025). A spatiotemporal dataset of invasive *Anadara kagoshimensis* and *Anadara transversa* in the Adriatic Sea. *Scientific Data*, 12(1), 1588. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-025-05860-6>
- Duarte, C. M., Delgado-Huertas, A., Marti, E., Gasser, B., Martin, I. S., Cousteau, A., ... & Masque, P. (2025). Carbon burial in sediments below seaweed farms matches that of Blue Carbon habitats. *Nature Climate Change*, 15(2), 180-187. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-024-02238-1>
- Arvanitidis, C., Ameixa, O., Basset, A., Chatzinikolaou, E., Coman, C., Companys, B., ... & Zuquim, G. (2025). The Crete Declaration: Uniting science for one health. *Research Ideas and Outcomes*, 11. <https://doi.org/10.3897/rio.11.e176120>

Communication

2025 marks another positive year for the communication and dissemination activities of LifeWatch ERIC.

Online and web communication proved to be the heart of LifeWatch ERIC **outreach activities**, delivering a steady growth rate on all its **online channels** with **65% more users** who **visited lifewatch.eu**. The trend is even more impacting on **social media** where Facebook and LinkedIn reported an average of **175% increase** in **reach** and **impressions** and **engagement rate**, consolidating almost **3,400 new followers** across the platforms, for a total base of 9000+. These data are particularly significant as they do not consider metrics from BlueSky, the channel that replaces LifeWatch ERIC's previous account on Twitter/X. A positive trend has also been observed on the **newsletter**, where **LifeWatch ERIC subscribers' base increased** by **50%**, while keeping a high (and increasing) open rate, proving the effectiveness of the strategy enacted by the infrastructure. The **podcast** listeners also continue to grow, with a total of **4,022 downloads** since the first episode (2022), and **517** new downloads in 2025.

2025 also marks another milestone for LifeWatch ERIC, which resumed its flagship event, the **Biodiversity and Ecosystem eScience Conference (BEeS)**, held in Heraklion (Greece), from 30 June to 3 July. The conference addressed the six scientific topics underlining LifeWatch ERIC Thematic Service Working Groups, and gathered about **200 participants** and **95 contributions** accepted within its scientific programme. Moreover, the conference proved to be an excellent opportunity to further connect LifeWatch ERIC with the **Research Infrastructures** and **European Project communities**, hosting overall **30 representatives**.

Over the year, LifeWatch ERIC role within the communication and dissemination of European projects further progressed with the completion and release of its **first documentary webseries "Where Waters Breathe"**, produced within the context of RESTORE4Cs and presented in preview at the European Commission's event "Water Resilience Forum". In parallel, LifeWatch ERIC communication team was invited to lead and co-lead these activities on behalf of 7 consortia presenting their proposals to different Horizon Europe Calls, strengthening its positioning also in this area.



The Chalk-hill Blue (*Lysandra coridon*) near Koritnice in the karst region of Slovenia.
Photo by Tomi Trilar, Slovenian Museum of Natural History (LifeWatch Slovenia).

Training

In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC has been **strongly engaged in fulfilling its role of training provider**, following the strategic approach adopted in 2024. This entails that LifeWatch ERIC designed, developed and delivered learning and training contents and initiatives that address specific needs of biodiversity and ecosystems research communities. In this context, the implementation of the strategy was supported by the coordination with LifeWatch ERIC Distributed Centres, with 10 monthly meetings of the **Training Working Group** held over the year.

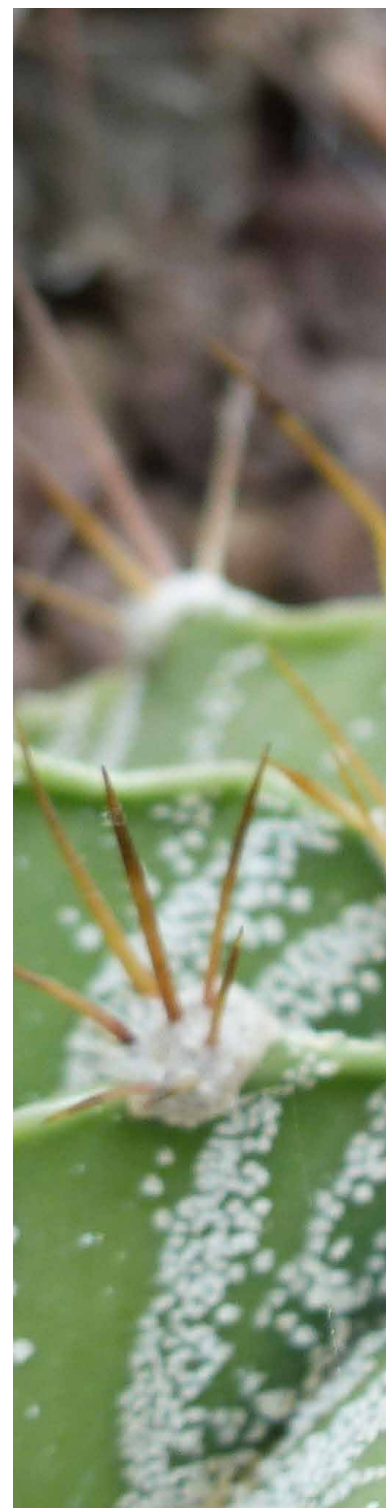
4 in-person short programmes (e.g. Schools and Training Workshops) were delivered within 3 projects (BioDT, MARBEFES and Restore4Cs), **12 face-to-face training sessions** during its annual BEeS conference, and **16 online training courses, webinars and tutorials** via its online training platform.

Most of the face-to-face initiatives targeted researchers and a variety of scientific communities, hosting a total of **202 researchers and scientists** (57 the short programmes and 145 the BEeS training sessions). One of the in-person short programmes however - the RESTORE4Cs Training for policymakers - targeted, for the first time in LifeWatch ERIC's activity, policymakers, decision makers and management authorities and saw the in-person participation of **15 policymakers**.

In addition, continuous efforts were also made in **organising and supporting capacity building opportunities for LifeWatch ERIC and the ENVRI community** at large, with a focus on research software quality and training recognition. Relevant contribution was offered to the training activities of the MICROBES-4-CLIMATE (M4C) project.

Year 2025 also marked the launch of a new and promising type of training format, the **Scientific Talks**. Developed, in the context of the BioDT project, these scientific masterclasses raised awareness and curiosity, while disseminating knowledge on a number of issues related to biodiversity digital twins.

As concerns non scientific targets, **2 serious games for international school competitions** were developed in the context of European Projects, engaging overall **33 classes of 19 primary and secondary schools based in four European countries**.





The monk's hood cactus. *Astrophytum ornatum* (DC.) Britton & Rose.

Picture taken in Rome, at the Botanical Garden, Department of Environmental Biology, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.

Photo by Andrea Moro (License: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>), original: <https://dryades.units.it/dryades/plants/foto/TS179036.jpg>

LifeWatch ERIC

Industrialisation, Technology Transfer and Innovation Strategy

Stakeholder Commitment and Financial Sustainability

In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC began a strategic rethink of how it engages with its communities: from the way it collects user requirements, to how it delivers and sustains services and governs access to its infrastructure. This transition, which will fully materialise in 2026, was anchored by three interconnected steps.

On the **financial side**, LifeWatch ERIC took the decision to develop a **cost-recovery model** and initiated the development of a methodology based on a service catalogue, service-level definitions and auditable unit-cost models, to ensure that operational services can be budgeted transparently and sustained beyond individual project cycles.

On the **governance side**, LifeWatch ERIC initiated an **Access and Fair-Use Framework** defining how users consume shared infrastructure resources equitably as usage grows across Europe. This framework defines three user tiers (Member, Partner and Open/External), keeps public discovery and browsing open, and applies fair-use rules only to significant shared resources such as APIs, computing, storage and bulk downloads. Pending General Assembly approval, it will be deployed in 2026.

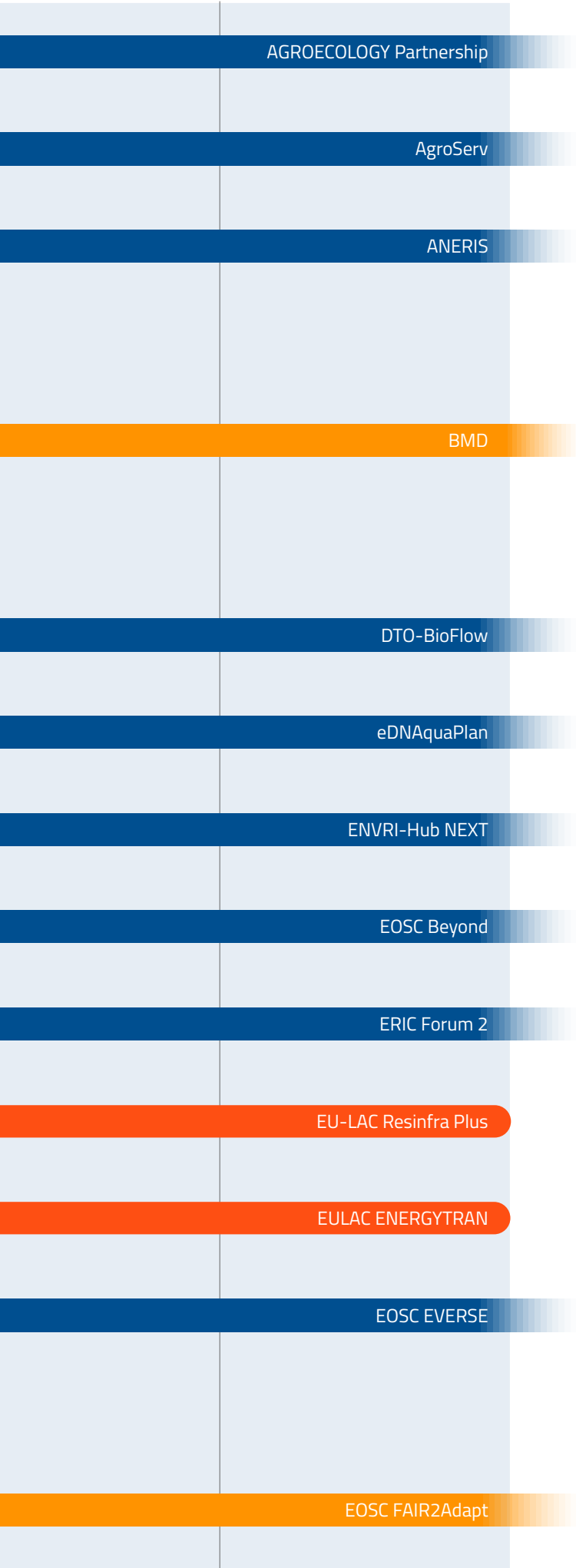
Community engagement was already visible in practice. The Metadata Catalogue received a significant update in 2025, introducing a more user-friendly editor and a new training resource profile aligned with the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), improving the discoverability of learning materials. BioDT, which concluded in April 2025, demonstrated how research infrastructures such as LifeWatch ERIC can power the development of 10 valuable computational tools for biodiversity research in support of Europe's digital and green transitions. The BEeS 2025 conference brought together more than 65 abstracts across seven sessions, with hands-on training on Virtual Research Environments and virtual labs. Beyond academia, the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), a LifeWatch Belgium resource, was integrated into a digital dive-log platform used for tens of thousands of dives per year, making available scientific taxonomy to citizen scientists.



Cormorants Poised on Bare Danube Branches Against an October Blue Sky, Romania.
Photo by Fabrizio Lecce (LifeWatch Italy).



Figure 8. Overview of European Projects - First part

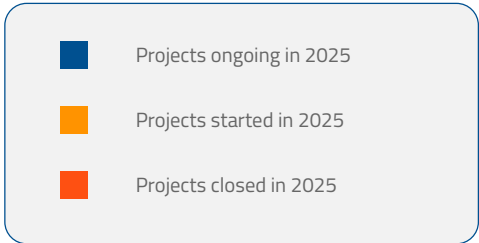


Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe Projects

In 2025, LifeWatch ERIC has been involved in **31 European Projects**, consolidating its role as a key European Research Infrastructure. **Three new projects** have been **awarded** to LifeWatch ERIC: **Biodiversity Meets Data**, **GREENCOOP** and **FAIR2Adapt**. These new initiatives reinforced LifeWatch ERIC’s strategic positioning within the European Research Area (ERA) by expanding its contribution to the development and integration of Research Infrastructures, boosting technical alliances across Europe, and advancing scientific knowledge in biodiversity and ecosystem research.

Compared to the previous year, the 2025 portfolio reflects continued growth and diversification, demonstrating LifeWatch ERIC’s capacity to attract competitive funding and to act as a reliable partner in multidisciplinary consortia. Through these projects, LifeWatch ERIC enhanced access to services, data, and e-Science tools that support researchers, policymakers, and environmental stakeholders in addressing biodiversity loss and climate related challenges.

In November 2025, the coordination of **FAIR2Adapt** was transferred to LifeWatch ERIC, making this the first Horizon Europe project led by the infrastructure. FAIR2Adapt brings together 18 partners from 13 countries for 3 years, develops a full FAIRification framework for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) communities, from collecting user requirements to publishing and ensuring the long-term sustainability of FAIR data, tools and workflows, with FAIR Digital Objects (FDOs) at its core. Building on this experience, LifeWatch ERIC will formalise its community engagement model in 2026.



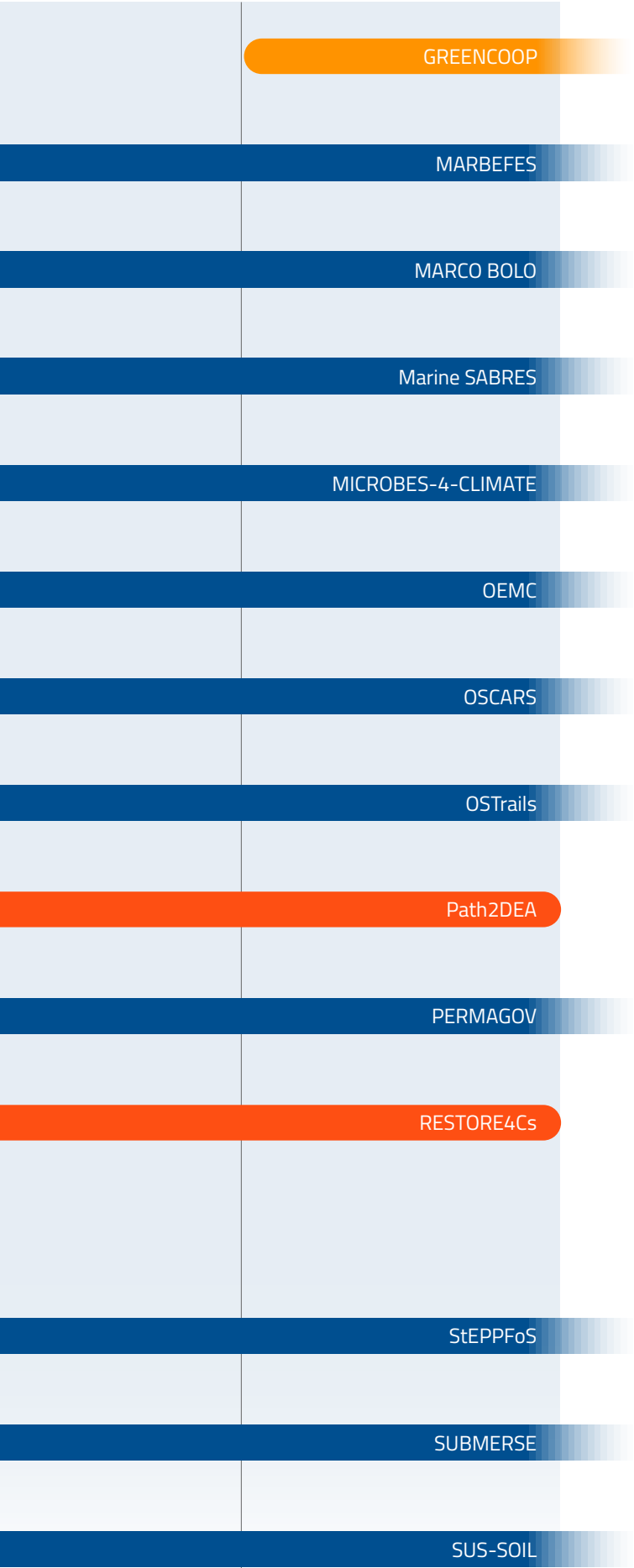


RITrainPlus

Q1

Q2

Figure 9. Overview of European Projects – Second part



Q3

Q4

Projects ongoing in 2025

Projects started in 2025

Projects closed in 2025

Key Performance Indicators

Strategic Objective 1

To industrialise and support the knowledge & technology transfer mechanisms of the existing prototype LifeWatch ERIC Research Infrastructure at all levels: scientific, technical, communication, innovation, administrative and financial (from current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6 to TRL 9).

KPI 1.a: Number of users served

Number of workflows executed*.

Expected performance: On average, 30-50 users per year per VRE.



Workflows executed: **16,431**



Users per VRE: N/A

KPI 1.b: Number of user requests for access

Requests for access as a function of new resources published and operated by LifeWatch ERIC per year.

Expected performance: Hundreds of users requesting access to 30-50 new resources per year.



Registered users: **4,342** (2,158 in 2025)



Users: **95,083** (69,696 in 2025)

KPI 1.c: Number of new projects and private sector partners involved in co-construction processes and percentage of revenues from contracts, economic activities in the annual accounts

Any kind of economic activities: Projects, Private Sector and Industry related services provision, common capital ventures, etc. *Expected performance: As much as 20% of the total in-cash investment on a yearly basis, with an average of 2 new activities and 5 new partners per year.*



In 2025, **22** new partners, collaborating with LifeWatch ERIC in the framework of projects and **45%** of the total budget of the ERIC came from projects.



Revenues (private sector): 0, TTIS in development

Strategic Objective 2

To consolidate and broaden LifeWatch ERIC e-Infrastructure towards the integration of all content, services and other assets (e.g. installations, hardware, software, observatories), currently existing in the member states and the new ones, into a single RI which offers an open, creative and democratic space to the users.

KPI 2.a: Number of resources managed and operated by LifeWatch ERIC (installations, hardware, software, observatories)

Web services available on LifeWatch ERIC web portal, which are fully operational. *Expected performance: On average, 30-50 new services per year, accessed by hundreds of users.*



Total: **238** web services (in 2025, **41** new web services)

KPI 2.b: Number of publicly available datasets (% of FAIR-compliant data)

Number of FAIR datasets produced as a percentage of the total number of datasets produced. *Expected performance: On a yearly basis, 30-50 new datasets accessed by hundreds of users.*



Total: **1,826** datasets, **90.36%** of them are FAIR compliant (in 2025, **201** new datasets)

*Since the completion of the telemetry system at the end of 2023, LifeWatch ERIC has significantly improved its capacity to monitor the actual use of its services across VREs and other resources. As a result, workflow executions are now used as a reliable proxy for service uptake and user activity.

Strategic Objective 3

To advance scientific and technological innovation, based on the continuous improvement in the performance of the Virtual Research Environment by investing in emerging technologies with profound application in Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (BER) (e.g. Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Machine Learning, smart HPC-Cloud-Edge Computing and Blockchain technologies), towards the next generation Infrastructure on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (next-gen IBER).

KPI 3: Publications

Number of publications based on the research performed using concepts/facilities/resources, etc. of LifeWatch ERIC.
Expected performance: 30-50 new publications per year.



Total number of publications: **899**
Publications in 2025: **202**, out of which **109** peer-reviewed; **71** of which in the first quartile of the most impactful journals on the scientific field

Strategic Objective 4

To deepen the engagement of the scientific communities (with attention to inclusivity and equity), biodiversity and ecological observatories, stakeholders and citizens, at global scale.

KPI 4.a: Engagement achieved by direct contact (e.g. events, booths, etc.)

Outreach by public relations/direct contact with specific target groups: organisation of (e.g. summer schools, etc.) or participation to events organised by third parties.
Expected performance: On average, 100-200 persons per year engaged through the above events.



In 2025 totally, **1,945** persons engaged:

- **875** persons engaged in LifeWatch ERIC own events
- **1,070** persons engaged in events organised by others

KPI 4.c: Participation to policy related events

Number of participation cases in policy related events, working groups, committees & advisory boards.
Expected performance: On average, participation of LifeWatch ERIC in at least 10 such events per year.



In 2025: **58** events

KPI 4.b: Outreach through media and LifeWatch ERIC own web and social media activities

Impact of press and communication actions in raising awareness of LifeWatch ERIC mission, activities and societal relevance of results:

1. Mentions on media
2. Website analytics
3. Social media analytics
4. Newsletter analytics.

Expected performance: Thousands of people reached through the above activities, yearly.

In 2025:

1. Media mentions: **60**
2. **www.lifewatch.eu** (Users: **38,185**, Page views: **120,000**)
3. Social Media (New Followers: **2,614**, Reach: **307,752**)
4. Newsletter (Total number of subscribers: **1,213**, New subscribers in 2025: **399**, Open rate: **40%**)



Strategic Objective 5

To forge collaboration with the public, private sector and industry to guarantee sustainability of the innovation produced and to address aspects of the EU Green Deal, EU Biodiversity 2030 and EU Digitisation and Innovation plans.

KPI 5: Projects (EU, national and regional) with which LifeWatch ERIC collaborates

Number of projects funded by means external to LifeWatch ERIC and total budget as project income for LifeWatch ERIC.
Expected performance: On average, participation in 2 new projects per year with a total sum for LifeWatch ERIC of 150,000 €



In 2025:
3 new European projects

National Distributed Centres

LifeWatch Belgium

Belgium joined LifeWatch ERIC in 2017 and it contributes through its National Distributed Centre. Notwithstanding its relatively small territory, Belgium has a remarkable diversity of habitats and species, and has a rich tradition of biodiversity and ecosystem research, both within and outside of its borders. Since the start of LifeWatch ERIC, Belgium has actively contributed through a number of long-term projects managed by different research centres and universities across the country and supported by the respective political authorities.

In 2025, the Belgian Distributed Centre has continued the development and operation of:

- **Species information Backbone for LifeWatch ERIC (VLIZ):** a central LifeWatch ERIC service that facilitates the standardisation and integration of species data and provides access to information on species taxonomy, biogeography, genetics, traits (habitat, morphology, vulnerability, etc.) and literature;
- **Regional node - Marine, terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity observatories (VLIZ & INBO):** Integrated observation systems that generate long-term and openly accessible biodiversity data applying innovative approaches (imaging, acoustics, genomics, tagging and tracking, artificial intelligence, citizen science);
- **LifeWatch Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles halted its contributions in 2024.**

Throughout 2025, LifeWatch Belgium contributed to LifeWatch ERIC through:

- **Continuous growth in volume and usage** of its major biodiversity **data systems** and **data series**;
- Active participation in the **LifeWatch ERIC BEEs conference** (Crete, July 2025);
- Active participation in LifeWatch ERIC working groups, such as the **RIC** and **Communicator Working Group**;
- Coordination of and support for two **LifeWatch ERIC Thematic Service Working Groups**;

- Key components recognised in international frameworks, e.g., the **endorsement of WoRMS, Marine Regions**, and ETN in the **UN Ocean Decade**; the role of WoRMS and Marine Regions in the joint OBIS-GBIF Action Plan for Marine Biodiversity Data; the usage of the data series in the reporting for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR);
- Exploitation of the services in scientific studies and publications. Components of the Belgian infrastructure were **cited** in over **1,680 publications** in 2025 and supported several local doctoral studies;
- Valorisation of the services and expertise through involvement in many EU projects. For example, within the Horizon Europe **DTO-Bioflow project**, coordinated by VLIZ, the **sensor data pipelines** of the LifeWatch Belgium biodiversity observatory are being **upscaled** in a broader **European context** to deliver data to the **EU Digital Twin of the Ocean**. Other examples are: MARBEFES, MARCO-BOLO, Marine SABRES, ANERIS, BiOcean5D, etc.



National Distributed Centres

LifeWatch Bulgaria

Bulgaria joined LifeWatch ERIC in 2022, contributing through a consortium of 14 national scientific and educational institutions specialising in biodiversity and agroecology. The Agricultural University-Plovdiv is the scientific coordinator of the Distributed Centre and represents Bulgaria in LifeWatch ERIC.

In 2025, LifeWatch Bulgaria continued to strengthen its role as the Bulgarian gateway to the European LifeWatch ERIC research infrastructure, supporting biodiversity research through collaboration, open science and access to advanced digital services.

Coordinated by the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, the Bulgarian Distributed Centre connected researchers, public institutions and research organisations, providing opportunities to participate in European biodiversity research and to benefit from interoperable e-Science services.

A key achievement during the year was the consolidation of the national network. Fourteen Bulgarian organisations actively participated in LifeWatch Bulgaria, while approximately 29 researchers contributed to the operation and scientific activities of the National Distributed Centre. This network supports research in biodiversity, plant health, agroecosystems and environmental monitoring, facilitating the integration of Bulgarian scientists into European research collaborations.

For researchers, the value of LifeWatch Bulgaria lies in providing access to the services, data resources and Virtual Research Environments of LifeWatch ERIC. These tools enable scientists to discover, integrate and analyse biodiversity data more efficiently, support reproducible research, and promote collaboration across disciplines and countries. By reducing technical barriers, LifeWatch Bulgaria allows researchers to focus on scientific questions and evidence-based solutions for biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management.

In 2025, the Bulgarian LifeWatch community was also visible within the broader LifeWatch ERIC ecosystem through the active participation of Pensoft Publishers, one of the organisations participating in LifeWatch Bulgaria. Pensoft contributed to the LifeWatch ERIC Biodiversity and Ecosystem eScience Conference (BEeS 2025) by supporting scientific communication, biodiversity publishing and the dissemination of research outputs. Its participation demonstrated the importance of integrating high-quality scientific publishing with European research infrastructures, helping ensure that biodiversity knowledge generated through LifeWatch ERIC reaches both the scientific community and wider society.

The achievements of 2025 demonstrated the continued development of LifeWatch Bulgaria as a national research infrastructure that connects people, data and digital services, strengthening national collaboration while actively contributing to the European LifeWatch ERIC community. LifeWatch Bulgaria supports more open, collaborative and data-driven biodiversity research and contributes to evidence-based environmental policies and sustainable natural resource management.



National Distributed Centres

LifeWatch Greece

Greece joined LifeWatch ERIC in 2017, contributing to the vision of establishing a Biodiversity Centre of Excellence for Southeastern Europe. Its activities focus on mobilising Greek scientific expertise in biodiversity data and observatories, developing virtual laboratories and supporting e-services, building national capacity, and disseminating scientific knowledge to the public. The Distributed Centre is funded by the Greek General Secretariat for Research and Innovation and coordinated by the Institute of Marine Biology, Biotechnology and Aquaculture (IMBBC) of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR).

In 2025, LifeWatch Greece supported LifeWatch ERIC through several key developments. The microCT-vLab advanced through the development and upload of **MAPWORMS**, a new voucher specimen collection with enriched metadata, including 76 microCT scans representing 19 marine annelid species. These data will support the development of bio-inspired shape-morphing robots. Additional microCT datasets were uploaded through the **MACCIMO** project, covering the gastropod *Hexaplex trunculus* and the sponge *Chondrilla nucula* under control and simulated climate-change conditions. A mobile application was also developed to disseminate the MAPWORMS annelid scans to wider audiences.

The MedOBIS vLab was enriched and now hosts 99 FAIR datasets, 21 of which were added in 2025. New datasets include 3D **morphological** and **oxygen-consumption** data for *Chondrilla nucula* and *Hexaplex trunculus*, as well as morphological **data** for the annelid *Glycera tridactyla* and the sipunculan *Phascolosoma stephensoni*. LifeWatch Greece also supported data mobilisation from data-poor Mediterranean regions through the EMODnet Biology Data Management Training Course for Mediterranean organisations, held in Tunisia in May 2025.

Progress was made in strengthening links between Common Facilities and Distributed Centres, notably through the integration of the LifeWatch Greece portal into the central LifeWatch ERIC Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructure. LifeWatch Greece contributed to the Internal Joint Initiative workflow for ARMS data, updating the PEMA pipeline with a Darwin Core converter to support publication in GBIF/OBIS and access through the **EDITO** platform. In collaboration with HCMR and LifeWatch ERIC, it also explored the use of HPC and Large Language Models for processing metagenomic records and related literature.

Communication activities included increased website use, stable social media engagement, co-organisation of BEeS 2025 and the 20th General Assembly in Heraklion, contributions to the OBIS newsletter, and several oral and poster presentations at conferences and events. These activities strengthened the visibility of LifeWatch Greece within the wider LifeWatch ERIC ecosystem and highlighted its contribution to FAIR data mobilisation, marine biodiversity research, technological innovation, capacity building, and long-term Mediterranean regional scientific cooperation.



National Distributed Centres

LifeWatch Italy

Italy joined LifeWatch ERIC in 2017 and hosts its Service Centre. LifeWatch ERIC has always been strongly supported by the national scientific community, as well as regional and national institutions, as Italy is a biodiversity hotspot in Europe, with over **57,400** animal and **6,500** plant species. Italian landscapes and protected areas are natural laboratories for biodiversity and ecosystem research. The LifeWatch Italy web portal provides a networking interface for the biodiversity and ecosystem community, offering learning and training opportunities, as well as a range of resources and services to support research activities, public engagement in scientific activities, and the development of science-based policies.

In 2025, the Italian Distributed Centre has continued the consolidation and enrichment of the existing platforms and the development of new ones:

- **DataLabs**, the platform for creating collaborative code to analyse biodiversity and ecosystem data, presents 176 active projects;
- The **Metadata Catalogue** counts 803 resources including datasets, audio, training, services, workflows and VREs;
- The **Data Portal**, the Italian HUB of biodiversity and ecosystem data, hosts four subportals dedicated to LifeWatch Italy's scientific community projects and 126 datasets;
- The **Virtual Museum**, the collaborative education platform, has been enriched with a new section "Urban ecosystems" including images, videos and storymaps;
- The **Italian Taxonomic Backbone** gathers nomenclatural and distributional data on Italian biodiversity from three checklists provided by Italian taxonomists: fauna, flora and lichens checklists. During 2025, the fauna checklist has been enriched with about 40,000 new records of species/subspecies validated by Italian taxonomists. These new records will be soon uploaded on the taxonomic backbone;
- The **sRedLists** platform aims to facilitate and streamline the work of Red List assessors, providing an easy and interactive access to multiple analyses. The platform counts 632 users. It was used for the **assessment of 3,624 species** and **120 published assessments** cite the **sRedList platform** (which is likely an undercount);

- The **ITINERIS training platform** was realised for managing courses, events and learning resources for the Italian Research Infrastructures in the environmental scientific domain. At present, the platform counts 73 courses, more than 600 learning resources, and 803 users;
- LifeWatch Italy's Data Centre, which hosts all its platforms and provides storage and cloud computing services, has been upgraded with a high-performance backup system and a remote monitoring system.

Moreover, LifeWatch Italy participated to LifeWatch ERIC working groups on Communication and Training, LifeWatch ERIC Implementation Plan 2027-2031, LifeWatch ERIC BEeS conference, and undertook own initiatives engaging over 1,500 persons in events. The Multimedia Production Centre continued its work in powering **LifeWatching.TV**, in particular for the production, post-production and release of the web-documentary series "**Where Waters Breathe**" made together with LifeWatch ERIC in the framework of the RESTORE4Cs project.



National Distributed Centres

LifeWatch Netherlands

The Netherlands joined LifeWatch ERIC in 2017 and hosts its Virtual Laboratories and Innovations Centre (VLIC) Common Facility at the Faculty of Science of the University of Amsterdam (UvA), leading institution of the Dutch Distributed Centre.

The most relevant activities for LifeWatch Netherlands 2025 include:

Call for Action on Dutch RIs:

- Publication of a “[Call for Action](#)” emphasising Dutch strength in European Life and Medical Science (LMS) research infrastructure. The paper demonstrates the value of LMS infrastructures in the Netherlands, calling for sustainable funding, and strategic coordination, to build and operate them;
- In order to implement the Call for Action, the Dutch LMS infrastructures (including LifeWatch ERIC through VLIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding, agreeing on joint commitment, and having the OneHealth approach as one of the focal points in this process.

The main RI development programmes that involve LifeWatch Netherlands are the [ARISE project](#) and [LTER-LIFE](#), both with 10-year funding. These initiatives have the objectives of constructing RI for biodiversity monitoring, and building digital twins of natural areas for analysis, scientific research, and nature conservation.

LTER-LIFE in 2025:

- **Highlights:** i) LLM-supported metadata harvesting: POC published in https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-06136-2_32. ii) Setup of metadata catalogue with minimal metadata schema; iii) Setup of LTER-NL data registry;
- **Developments:** i) protoDT (Digital Twin) of the Waddensea. Moving from static workflows, deriving Primary Productivity from satellite imagery to dynamic ocean modelling. ii) protoDT of the Veluwe. Setting up Landis-II as a backbone simulation model for a digital twin of the forest landscape. iii) Automated (LLM) assessment of FAIR status of published datasets. iv) Automated (LLM) harvesting of metadata, including creating metadata from datasets. v) setting up educational tracks for ecological digital literacy with Taxila, starting with RDM for ecological researchers;
- **Experimental developments:** i) Using NaaVRE in classroom setting, and translating existing classroom material to NaaVRE; ii) Setting up NatureDatacube for Dutch ecologically-relevant rasterdata;

- **More details:** [LTER-LIFE experience pages](#).

ARISE in 2025:

After four years of construction, in November 2025 ARISE has officially launched its portal for uploading, reviewing and processing DNA and sensor data. This is a result of the following activities in 2025:

- Further development of the reference database for species recognition;
- Definition and building of DNA sampling-to-sequence pipeline;
- Definition and building of sensor-to-AI workflow, for automated species-identification from field sensors;
- Creation of datalake with both DNA and sensor harmonised data products;
- Creation of mechanisms to share and deploy AI-tools on HPC systems.

Other LifeWatch Netherlands activities:

NaaVRE (Notebook-as-a-Virtual Research Environment): developed by LifeWatch ERIC VLIC together with UvA, it has been deployed and is operational on the LifeWatch ERIC infrastructure.

Main co-creation activities in 2025 were:

- Co-development of recurring workflows as a new feature in NaaVRE to enable the continuous processing of weather radar data;
- Usage of a virtual lab in NaaVRE to build, run and maintain recurring workflows;
- 28,000 (avg.) high-quality vertical profiles produced each day since November, covering multiple European countries;
- Dissemination of the Radar Aeroecology Virtual Lab:
 - creation of a tutorial for the Radar Aeroecology Virtual Lab;
 - presentations at the International Radar Agroecology Conference in Amsterdam, and at BEeS 2025 in Heraklion.



National Distributed Centres

LifeWatch Portugal

LifeWatch Portugal joined LifeWatch ERIC in 2019 and contributes to LifeWatch ERIC through its National Distributed Centre. LifeWatch Portugal (PT) is managed at a national level by e-I PORBIOTA – the Portuguese e-Infrastructure for Information and Research on Biodiversity, led by BIOPOLIS Association/CI-BIO-InBIO – the Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, Associated Laboratory. The e-I PORBIOTA was included in the first Portuguese Roadmap for Research Infrastructures of strategic relevance (RNIE) in 2014. This entity stores, organises and disseminates biodiversity and ecosystem data, making it available to the scientific community and society and contributes to promoting integrative taxonomy and building up knowledge of national biodiversity. It encourages progress in highly competitive cutting-edge areas, such as metabarcoding and environmental metagenomics. The e-I PORBIOTA also contributes significantly to the advancement of scientific knowledge in biodiversity, ecosystem functions, and ecosystem services by supporting the digitisation, aggregation, and dissemination of data on biodiversity and Portuguese ecosystems, as well as increasing the international impact of Portuguese research in these fields. LifeWatch PT, through e-I PORBIOTA, provides access to a wide range of biodiversity-related services, including biodiversity and environmental data resources, as well as computational and analytical tools for study, policy implementation, and assessment. During 2025, LifeWatch Portugal activities were:

- **Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning leading to Ecosystem Services**

(MARBEFES) - In the framework of the Task 7.4 of the MARBEFES project, LifeWatch Portugal focused on supporting the organisation of Intensive Schools (Activity 7.4.c). LifeWatch Portugal involvement in the project consisted in providing support to the LifeWatch ERIC training team in the organisation of the Autumn School 2025 “Protecting marine biodiversity for nature and humans” held on 8-10 October 2025, Seville (Spain).

- **Running relevant projects PORBIOTA/LifeWatch PT**

Several projects are under development in the scope of the e-I PORBIOTA/LifeWatch PT: Life22-nat-pt – seagrass-riawild; A-aagora – blueprint for atlantic-arctic agora on cross-sectoral cooperation for restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems and increased climate resilience through transformative innovation; Blueactionaa-empowering community-led action in the atlantic & arctic; Rewrite – rewilding and restoration of intertidal sediment ecosystems for carbon sequestration, climate adaptation and biodiversity support; Redress – restoration of deep-sea habitats to rebuild european seas; Risky – Wildlife Mortality from Energy and Transport Infrastructure.

- **Consolidation/mobilisation of data**

Datasets from biodiversity and ecosystem subdomains from Portuguese data providers. Species occurrence/abundance and DNA barcode, abiotic variables and species trophic interactions and dietary metabarcoding datasets. The datasets are available on the LifeWatch ERIC Metadata Catalogue project outputs/participation.

National Distributed Centres

LifeWatch Slovenia

Slovenia joined LifeWatch ERIC in 2017 and is one of the Distributed Centres composing LifeWatch ERIC. It is also included in the Slovenian National Roadmap and in the Strategy for Smart Specialisation (S5) and Horizon 2020. Key 2025 highlights for the Slovenian Consortium LifeWatch-SI and Distributed Centre include:

- **Organisation of the 32nd International Karstological school Classical Karst on “Extreme conditions and events in karst”** (Postojna, Slovenia, 16-21/06/2025), focused on monitoring extreme events, understanding their mechanisms, and exploring early warning, prevention, and mitigation strategies;
- Participation at the **LifeWatch ERIC BEeS Conference** with active involvement of Slovenian consortium representatives;
- Participation at the **LifeWatch ERIC & RESTORE4Cs Autumn School**, Wetland restoration for climate change mitigation, biodiversity, and other services” in Malaga, Spain;
- Collaboration in the project proposal “Innovating for Sustainable Evolution in LifeWatch ERIC (ISEE)” within HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-DEV-03 RIA call;
- Submission, with LifeWatch Belgium, of the project proposal “**Karst Groundwater: In-Situ Virtual Labs to Assess Proteus Ecology and Conservation Status; CavElab**” for the OSCARS 2nd call;
- Engagement in the LifeWatch ERIC-related EU project within the framework of LifeWatch ERIC: **Open Earth Monitor Cyber Infrastructure (OEMC)** including preparation of terrestrial and marine biodiversity datasets;
- Participation in several international **LifeWatch ERIC committees** and **working groups**;
- Development and maintenance of **continuously updated databases** and **services**:
 - **BRDbase**: Slovenian Bird Ringing Centre database (WebGalis, licensed platform);
 - **ARMS**: genomic and metagenomic data from the Gulf of Trieste, Vector Graphs, and additional environmental data (**SeaDataNet**);
 - **FloVegSI**: over 1.5 million records of floristic, faunistic, and phytosociological data (Slovenia, Central and SE Europe);
 - **vegetation of Slovenia**: all vegetation plots from Slovenia since 1932, mostly Braun-Blanquet method;
 - data from meteorological stations: **Maribor Station**, **Jelševnik Station**, and **VIDA Buoy**;
 - **KARST Database**: upgraded to a new version with tools for easier integration/editing of multidisciplinary karst data;
 - national **Metadata Portal**: GeoNetwork-based repository aligned with FAIR principles;
 - a **Nextcloud**-based internal data storage for the LifeWatch Slovenia consortium;
 - development of two virtual laboratories (vLabs): Karst Groundwater **Habitats vLab** and **ProteusWatch vLab**;
 - the **FloodWatch** app: citizen-science platform to monitor flood dynamics, developed by Karst Research Institute and ZRC SAZU with additional support from the LifeWatch ERIC.

Publications are available on <https://www.zrc-sazu.si/en/strani/objave-ri-si-lifewatch> and www.lifewatch.si.



National Distributed Centres

LifeWatch Spain

Spain joined LifeWatch ERIC in 2017 and hosts its Statutory Seat and the ICT Core Common Facility, assisting the day-to-day coordination and management of LifeWatch ERIC and the development and operation of core and horizontal services, correspondingly. LifeWatch Spain Distributed Centre is currently supported by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, the Regional Government of Andalusia and the Guadalquivir River Basin Authority (Ministry for Ecological Transition-MITECO).

Spain has an enormous diversity of habitats species and genes, including some of the most important natural reserves and parks in Europe (Doñana, Monfrague, Timanfaya).

Key highlights of the activities in 2025 include:

- Re-launch of the **LifeWatch Spain Distributed Centre** under the scientific coordination of the Spanish National Research Council (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, CSIC), since June. This helped consolidate national research activities around the Distributed Centre and reinforced LifeWatch Spain role as national hub for biodiversity and ecosystem research;
- Expanding reach through **new projects**, the addition of new partners and the capacity to secure another project for 2026;
- Maintenance of and accessibility to previous ERDF projects (SmartFood, SUMHAL, Indalo, SmartEcoMountains, EnBi-c2Lab and Alboran) outputs;
- Strengthened capacity in **sustainable agriculture, soil health, energy transition and coastal restoration**, providing users with broader access to expertise, data and collaboration;
- Launch of **3 new workflows**, accessible through my.life-watch.eu, two of which co-designed and developed in EULAC EnergyTRAN, facilitating the calculation and plotting of essential indexes for the energy transition (ESI and REPI). The third workflow was co-designed and developed in AGROSERV to harmonise and analyse soil-related datasets to support research on agroecology and soil carbon dynamics. Moreover, EULAC EnergyTRAN has developed a collaboration space and EULAC ResInfra PLUS the RESINFRA [platform](#) and its [dashboard](#);
- Co-development of a **prototype** ([Digital Twin for Doñana National Park](#)), an interactive tool to explore vegetation dy-

namics for better ecosystem monitoring and management;

- Contribution to several training and capacity-building activities, including the EULAC EnergyTRAN course “Environmental challenges and open science – an approach from innovation and technology”; the **EULAC ResInfra PLUS Mobility Event in Seville**, focused on strengthening Europe-Latin America cooperation around Research Infrastructures, open science and shared environmental challenges; the AGORA course linked to SmartEcoMountains; the MARBEFES Autumn School 2025; and the RESTORE4Cs Autumn School and policymaker training;
- **Support to eight policy events** in fields of agroecology and of Europe-Latin America dialogues on the social impact of the energy transition;
- **Public visibility growth** through outreach on agroecology, biodiversity interactions, coastal resilience and microplastic pollution;
- **18 papers** published in biodiversity-related journals, **7** of which in first-decile (**D1**) and first-quartile (**Q1**) journals.

Altogether, 2025 was a year in which LifeWatch Spain made its services, partnerships and knowledge more visible, practical and accessible for researchers, public authorities and society.



Acknowledgements

LifeWatch ERIC is grateful to its members and representing entities for their support of its operations and achievements:





Annex

Financial Statements

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	2025	2024
Non-current assets	154,238.36	153,726.86
Intangible assets	-	-
Tangible assets	60,789.71	65,647.27
Non-current investments	93,448.65	88,079.59
Current assets	4,949,040.27	5,049,239.75
Inventories	111,979.59	335,860.41
Advances to suppliers	111,979.59	335,860.41
Accounts receivable	593,180.56	73,895.61
Current investments	3,258,309.23	3,145,482.83
Pre-payments for current assets	52,097.12	25,893.04
Cash and cash equivalents	933,473.77	1,468,107.86
TOTAL ASSETS	5,103,278.63	5,202,966.61

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	2025	2024
Equity	1,279,710.92	1,219,652.52
Profit/(loss) from previous years and others	1,228,696.06	663,805.55
Profit/(loss) for the period	51,014.86	555,846.97
TOTAL EQUITY	1,279,710.92	1,219,652.52
Non-current liabilities	3,041,544.25	3,645,181.33
Provisions	250,213.86	93,718.68
Other long-term debts	2,791,330.39	3,551,462.65
Current liabilities	782,023.46	338,132.76
Current payables	352,251.00	-
Trade and other payables	341,117.61	338,132.76
Other trade payables	7,533.22	108,622.23
Personnel (salaries payable)	10,896.19	7,896.54
Accounts payable to Public Administrations	322,688.20	221,613.99
Current accruals and deferred income	88,654.85	-
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	5,103,278.63	5,202,966.61

PROFIT AND LOSS	2025	2024
Association's own activity income	4,774,157.99	4,521,150.10
Operating grants taken to income	4,774,157.99	4,521,150.10
Operating expenses	(4,795,800.99)	(4,014,749.34)
Personnel expenses	(3,584,455.04)	(2,860,261.13)
Other operating expenses	(1,179,123.57)	(1,122,660.52)
Depreciation and amortisation	(32,222.38)	(31,827.69)
Other Results	(10,463.25)	(23,884.58)
OPERATING PROFIT/(LOSS)	(32,106.25)	482,516.18
Finance income	5,994.00	2,549.56
Change in fair value of financial instruments	77,127.11	70,781.23
NET FINANCE COST	83,121.11	73,330.79
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT/(LOSS) BEFORE TAX	51,014.86	555,846.97
Income tax	-	-
PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	51,014.86	555,846.97

Annex

Deliverables

Priority	Task
LifeWatch ERIC as an Organisation	Task 1.1 Upgrade of the Management System
	Task 1.2 Common Facilities (CFs)
	Task 1.3. Distributed Centres (DCs)
	Task 1.4 Development of organic links and dependencies between CFs and DCs

Deliverable	Type	Due Date	Actual Delivery Date
D1.1 Actionable Roadmap of LW ERIC	DEM	M08	M08
D1.2 Strategic Working Plan (SWP) Repository	DEM	M08	M08
D1.3: Risk Registry of LW ERIC SWP implementation in operation	DEM	M08	M08
D1.6: Revised and structured regulatory and quality documentation of LW ERIC following Quality Management System rules	R	M18	M18
D1.9 Updated and Automated Management System of LifeWatch ERIC in Operation	DEM	M28	M28
D1.4 Data and other Resources and Products Management Plan (DRPMP)	R	M12	M12
D1.5 Updated Strategies and Policies for Training Strategy	R	M06	M06
D1.5 Updated Strategies and Policies for Communication Strategy	R	M06	M06
D1.7 Governance schemes of both CFs and DCs published on the web site	R	M24	M24
D1.8 Updated mechanisms for coordination of the activities between CFs and DCs, including RIC, published on the web site	R	M24	M24
D1.10 Annual Report 2022	R	M12	M12
D1.10 Annual Report 2023	R	M24	M24
D1.10 Annual Report 2024	R	M36	M36

Priority	Task
LifeWatch ERIC as an Infrastructure	Task 2.3 LifeWatch ERIC investment in cutting edge technology
	Task 2.4 Thematic Services
LifeWatch ERIC as a Community	Task 3.3 Communication and Networking
	Task 3.4 Outreach
	Task 3.5 Education and Training
Industrialisation, Technology Transfer and Innovation	Task 4.1 Industrialisation planning of the LifeWatch ERIC prototype
	Task 4.2 Technology Transfer and Innovation Strategy (TTIS)

Deliverable	Type	Due Date	Actual Delivery Date
D2.8 New component on LifeWatch ERIC Infrastructure with cutting-edge technology web services applied on different levels of the biological organisation	DEM	M30	M30
D2.5 Set of upgraded and new Thematic Services available on LifeWatch ERIC Infrastructure	DEM	M24	M36
D3.3 New components on LifeWatch ERIC e-Science Infrastructure developed in collaboration with the communities through LifeWatch ERIC grants, allocated to transnational access, clarified	DEM	M30	M30
D4.1 Industrialisation Plan describing the actions to be implemented to support the industrialisation of prototype	R	M08	M08
D4.2 Technology Transfer and Innovation Strategy (TTIS)	R	M20	M20
D4.3 Report on the assessment of transfer methods available for LifeWatch ERIC products and services	R	M24	M24



The protected Mediterranean pillow coral *Cladocora caespitosa* (*Hexacorallia*).
Photo by Giorgos Chatzigeorgiou (LifeWatch Greece).