

Summary of partners' meeting 1st-3rd April 2014, Roscoff

Presentations and documents are available on the VALMER website here:

<http://www.valmer.eu/project-partners-meeting-1st-3rd-april-2014-roscoff-france/>

Tuesday 1st – Technical Day

Welcome – Ness Smith gave an overview of project to date. She said good progress had been made, with outputs of a high quality. However, with many of the key deliverables due towards the end of the project, it is essential that all the case studies are either complete or have results ready in time for October 2014. This will give all WPs time analyse results to feed into the WP1 guidelines, WP4 advice note and report, WP3 scenario synthesis report and the final conference.



WP plenary – reports from WP1, WP3, WP4 and WP5 available on the VALMER website.

In addition;

- WP3 will be holding the transnational scenario event in November 2014, in association with the PEGASEAS forum. This will involve the six case studies presenting their different approaches and results. Stakeholders, PEGASEAS partners and potentially other Interreg 'clusters' will be invited.
- WP4 e-learning package will use WP1 guidelines as a starting point; the triage approach will be a unique selling point. It could act as a repository for all outputs from the project, ensuring they are available long into the future.
- WPs 1, 3 & 4 will need to coordinate with each other to ensure their respective final documents maintain consistency and do not unnecessarily replicate information.
- Ness reminded everyone that each case study will be expected to produce a poster for the final conference, which will also contribute to the multi-media display. A template will be provided for this in due course. It was agreed that each case

study would produce its own report, format and content depending on an individual site's requirements.

Wednesday 2nd - Case Study Day

Case study updates

Each case study gave a progress update; presentations are available on the VALMER website.

A fascinating tour of the Roscoff Marine Station was followed by a delicious partners' dinner.



Thursday 3rd – communications, feedback and PMC

Communications

- Steve Guilbert gave a quick overview of outputs achieved so far, and gave details about the video which will be filmed shortly.
- Diane Vaschalde introduced ideas about the multi-media exhibition, and asked for partner input on its format.
- It was agreed that to ensure longevity the exhibition should not focus too much on the case study sites, but act as a more general educational piece on ES using the case studies to illustrate key points.
- It was also agreed that it would work well as an 'on-line' toolkit, allowing people to download and print different elements according to need.
- The possibility of the display going on the Roscoff-Plymouth ferry was discussed; Eric Thiebaut has contacts through the Marinexus project and will pursue this.
- Diane asked everyone to send good examples of displays to her.

Feedback from Professor Ed Maltby, UK Chair, PAG

Ed said he was impressed by the strength and quality of partnership working taking place, and the quality of work coming out of the project. He noted that there has been very good progress which has accelerated since the last partners' meeting in October 2013. Ed advised that we incorporate our learning into papers and reports, to show how it was done, and what the key challenges were. More specifically he noted:

1. The WP1 Guidelines are potentially extremely powerful, but it is vital to identify the target audience(s), and use appropriate language. We should;
 - Recognise the issues and/or problems associated with the methods used
 - Link guidelines to the case studies and scenarios.
 - Reflect the interdisciplinary/holistic approach taken in the project
 - Recognise the significance of scale – e.g. to the variation in ES, to policy, drivers etc.
 - Take advantage of opportunities to link to new policy initiatives – e.g. Payment for ES or new financial instruments.
2. Case studies – these will form an invaluable evidence base – both the positive and negative outcomes. We should try to;
 - Highlight the outcomes – the ‘so whats’ – what has been the impact, has it changed anything?
 - The effect on decision makers, agencies etc. If there has been no effect, why not?
 - Highlight what needs to be changed in the future.
 - Again, be aware of uncertainty associated by the findings and valuations.
3. Knowledge platform – the data hub/knowledge platform could help to identify how much resource or habitat is needed to provide a service, and where spatially that exists. It could also help to predict which functions, or bundles of functions, different habitats deliver and how changes to environmental conditions affect them.
4. Advice note – this will be an extremely valuable output. Again, it is important to be clear of our target audiences. We should also;
 - Be clear whether it is to be a briefing note, or operational note – it can't be both.
 - Link the report to the WP1 guidance document.
 - Decide on the content now to ensure the right information is captured.
 - Give real, practical advice on how a policy maker, decision maker or stakeholder can use the ES approach and/or an ESA.
5. Final conference - this will be a great opportunity to engage key decision makers, institutions etc. We should fine tune the outcomes to these people as they are the ones able to use our outcomes to change policy.

PMC

Minutes are available on the VALMER website.