Deep-sea Sponge Grounds Ecosystems of the North Atlantic: an integrated approach towards their preservation and sustainable exploitation

Fact Sheet

Project Information

SponGES
Grant agreement ID: 679849
Project website
Status
Ongoing project
Start date 1 March 2016
End date 31 December 2020

Funded under
H2020-EU.3.5.
H2020-EU.3.2.

Overall budget € 10 275 365,25
EU contribution € 9 994 302,75

Coordinated by
UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN
Norway

Objective

The objective of SponGES is to develop an integrated ecosystem-based approach to preserve and sustainably use vulnerable sponge ecosystems of the North Atlantic. The SponGES consortium, an international and interdisciplinary collaboration of research institutions, environmental non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, will focus on one of the most diverse, ecologically and biologically important and vulnerable marine ecosystems of the deep-sea - sponge grounds – that to date have received very little research and conservation attention. Our approach will address the scope and challenges of EC’s Blue Growth Call by strengthening the knowledge base, improving innovation, predicting changes, and providing decision support tools for management and sustainable use of marine resources. SponGES will fill knowledge gaps on vulnerable sponge ecosystems and
provide guidelines for their preservation and sustainable exploitation. North Atlantic deep-sea sponge grounds will be mapped and characterized, and a geographical information system on sponge grounds will be developed to determine drivers of past and present distribution. Diversity, biogeographic and connectivity patterns will be investigated through a genomic approach. Function of sponge ecosystems and the goods and services they provide, e.g. in habitat provision, benthopelagic coupling and biogeochemical cycling will be identified and quantified. This project will further unlock the potential of sponge grounds for innovative blue biotechnology namely towards drug discovery and tissue engineering. It will improve predictive capacities by quantifying threats related to fishing, climate change, and local disturbances. SponGES outputs will form the basis for modeling and predicting future ecosystem dynamics under environmental changes. SponGES will develop an adaptive ecosystem-based management plan that enables conservation and good governance of these marine resources on regional and international levels.

Field of science

/social sciences/economics and business/economics/sustainable economy
/medical and health sciences/medical biotechnology/tissue engineering
/natural sciences/biological sciences/ecology/ecosystems

Programme(s)

Topic(s)

Call for proposal

H2020-BG-2015-2

Funding Scheme

RIA - Research and Innovation action

Coordinator

UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

Address
Museplassen 1
5020 Bergen
Norway

Activity type
Higher or Secondary
Education Establishments

EU contribution
€ 2 004 391,99
## Participants (23)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<td>FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES</td>
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<td>Glades Road 777, 33431 0991 Boca Raton</td>
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<tr>
<td>INSTITUTO ESPANOL DE OCEANOGRAFIA</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<td>UPPSALA UNIVERSITET</td>
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### AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS
- **Spain**
- **EU contribution**: € 491 922,50
- **Address**: Calle Serrano 117, 28006 Madrid

### UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM
- **Netherlands**
- **EU contribution**: € 434 125
- **Address**: Spui 21, 1012WX Amsterdam

### WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY
- **Netherlands**
- **EU contribution**: € 1 274 693,75
- **Address**: Droevendaalsesteeg 4, 6708 PB Wageningen

### BANGOR UNIVERSITY
- **United Kingdom**
- **EU contribution**: € 318 711,25
- **Address**: College Road, LL57 2DG Bangor
UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
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EU contribution
€ 136 477,50
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Beacon House Queens Road
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Website
Activity type
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Contact the organisation

UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO
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EU contribution
€ 374 680
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4704 553 Braga
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Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments
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Portugal
EU contribution
€ 524 330
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Rua Prof Dr Frederico Machado 4 Departamento De Oceanografia E Pescas Univ
Dos Acores 9901-862 Horta
Website
Activity type
Research Organisations
Contact the organisation

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE
Canada
EU contribution
€ 0
Address
2705 Fern Lane
B3K 4L3 Halifax
Website
Activity type
Other
Contact the organisation
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<th>STUDIO ASSOCIATO GAIA SNC DEI DOTTORI ANTONIO SARA E MARTINA MILANESE</th>
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Contact the organisation [🔗]
THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Italy
EU contribution
€ 366 250
Address
Viale Delle Terme Di Caracalla
00153 Roma
Activity type
Public bodies (excluding Research Organisations and Secondary or Higher Education Establishments)
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Activity type
Research Organisations
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Contact the organisation

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
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Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments
Website
Contact the organisation

HELMHOLTZ-ZENTRUM GEESTHACHT ZENTRUM FUR MATERIAL- UND KUSTENFORSCHUNG GMBH
Germany
EU contribution
€ 170 000
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Activity type
Max Planck Strasse 1
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Activity type
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THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
United States
EU contribution
€ 0

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02881 Kingston

Activity type
Higher or Secondary Education Establishments

Stiftelsen Nansen Senter for Miljoog Fjernmaling
Norway
EU contribution
€ 140 512,50

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Research Organisations

Centro Interdisciplinar de Investigacao Marinha e Ambiental
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EU contribution
€ 254 000

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S/n
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Activity type
Research Organisations

Last update: 22 July 2020
Record number: 200161

Permalink: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/679849/