

MERLIN



Deliverable D5.2
MERLIN website and leaflet

www.project-merlin.eu

MERLIN



Publishing information

The MERLIN project (<https://project-merlin.eu>) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036337.

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MERLIN Key messages

- 1. The MERLIN webpage serves to inform the scientific community as well as the general public about the MERLIN project, its aims and its activities.**
- 2. The MERLIN webpage will continuously be updated and amended with MERLIN results and related information during the project's lifespan.**
- 3. The MERLIN leaflet is meant to inform the public about restoration and nature-based solutions in general and specifically about the MERLIN project.**
- 4. The MERLIN leaflet will be translated into all case study languages.**

MERLIN Executive Summary

This deliverable summarises the development of the first version of the MERLIN webpage as well as of the leaflet, both dissemination materials to inform the scientific community as well as the general public.

Both items target to inform about restoration and nature-based solutions as well as about the project in general. Also, the MERLIN specific case studies are introduced.

Content

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1 MERLIN website

With the beginning of the MERLIN project on October 1st 2021, also the MERLIN website went online. The software used for the development of the website is open source.

→ <https://project-merlin.eu>

On the entering page of the website one can find the following menu:

- Home
- Case studies
- Partners
- Events & News
- Blog
- Internal

Also, short links to Twitter and the Freshwater Blog (through icons) are provided.

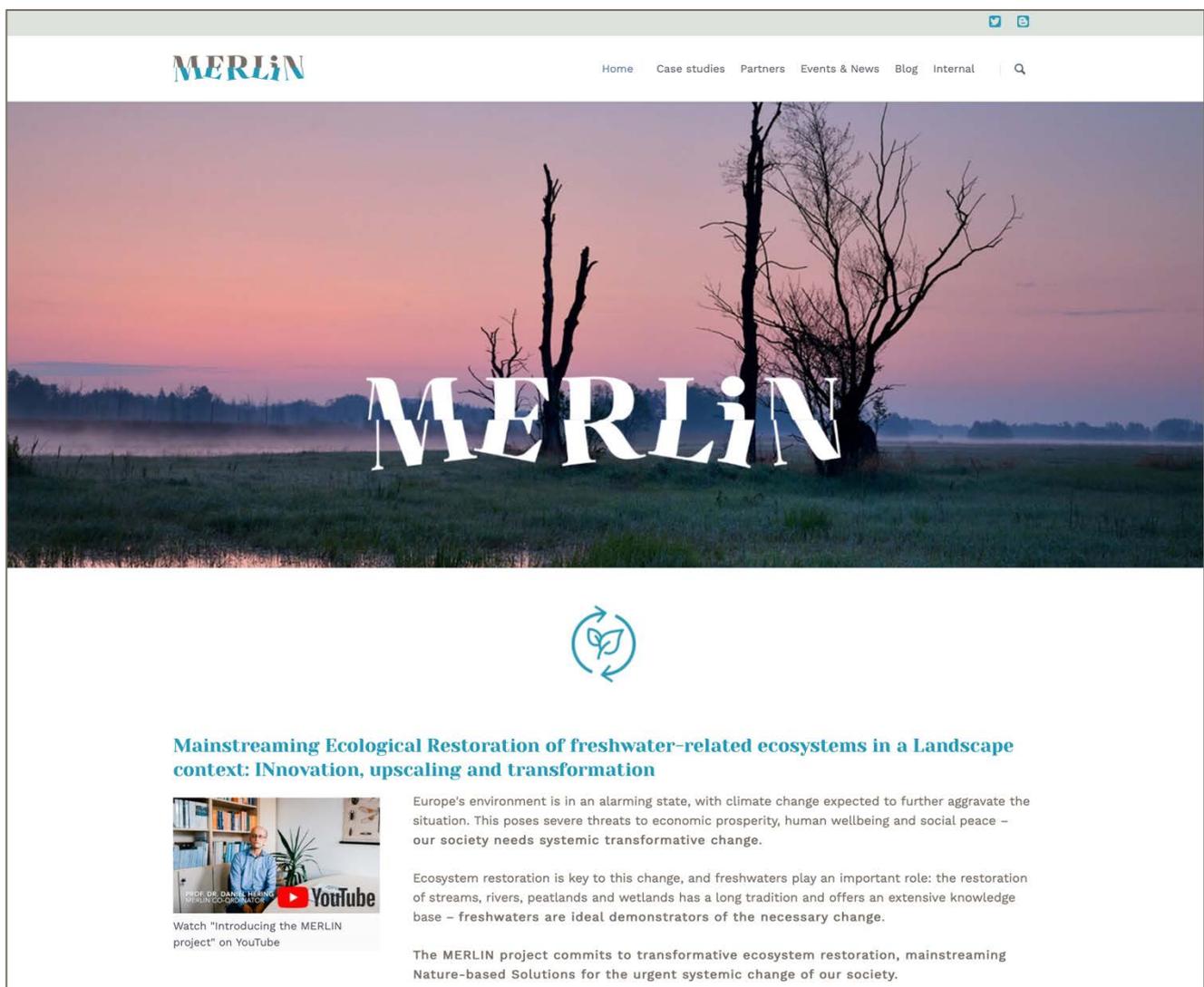


Figure 1 – Entering page of the MERLIN website.

The entering page of the MERLIN website offers a short video, in which the project coordinators introduce the project. The video is also available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxJ3jox8RCM&feature=youtu.be>

Scrolling down, users find a variety of message boxes that offer short introductions to the main focus areas and challenges of MERLIN that also lead to the different sub-sections of the website.

The screenshot shows the lower end of the MERLIN website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the MERLIN logo on the left and links for Home, Case studies, Partners, Events & News, Blog, and Internal on the right, along with a search icon. Below the navigation bar, there are six content boxes arranged in a 2x3 grid. Each box contains an image, a title, and a short paragraph of text. The first box is titled 'Demonstrating best-practice restoration' and features an image of a river restoration project. The second box is titled 'Upscaling into broader landscapes' and features an aerial view of a wetland area. The third box is titled 'Engaging with investors and economic sectors' and features an image of a hand pointing at a smartphone displaying data. The fourth box is titled 'Win-win solutions to mainstream restoration' and features an image of a group of people standing by a river. The fifth box is titled 'MERLIN Marketplace and Academy' and features an image of people working at laptops in a meeting. The sixth box is titled 'Partners in MERLIN' and features an image of a large audience at a conference. Each content box also includes a blue button with white text: 'CASE STUDIES', 'NEXT ACADEMY EVENT', and 'MERLIN PARTNERS' respectively.

Figure 2 – Lower end of the MERLIN website entering page.

2 Sub-pages of the MERLIN website

2.1 Case Studies

This section offers a short overview of the MERLIN case studies and their location in Europe. For each case study a few details and a picture are presented. It is planned to collate more detailed information on the case studies in a harmonised way and to present it here within the next months of the project.

MERLIN restoration case studies

MERLIN learns from 17 case studies as best-practice demonstrators in terms of innovative restoration measures types, governance and financing frameworks. With investing more than 10 million € in further hands-on upscaling measures, MERLIN makes these 17 projects radiant beacons of innovation for the systemic change.

Geographical location and scale

- PEATLANDS AND WETLANDS
- SMALL STREAMS AND BASINS
- LARGE TRANSBOUNDARY RIVERS

(1) Svoldrup Kær; (2) Basque streams; (3) Beaver re-introduction; (4) Room for the Rhine branches; (5) Kampinos wetlands; (6) Peatland Bosnia; (7) Danube floodplain Austria/Hungary; (8) Danube floodplain Romania; (9) Tisza floodplain; (10) Germany's Blue Belt; (11) Emscher catchment; (12) Lima catchment; (13) Sorraia catchment; (14) Oulujoki-ijjoki catchments; (15) Tzipori catchment; (16) Scheldt catchment; (17) Forth catchment

Figure 3 – Case studies overview page.



(01) Svoldrup-Kær

Peatlands / wetlands
Denmark

Main restoration measures:
transition in land use, re-wetting,
Involved sectors:
agriculture



(02) Basque streams

Small streams and basins
Spain

Main restoration measures:
dam removal
Involved sectors:
forestry, tourism, bio-based sectors, hydropower



(03) Beaver re-introduction

Peatlands / wetlands
Sweden

Main restoration measures:
transition in land use, riparian restoration,
channel restoration
Involved sectors:
agriculture, forestry, tourism, bio-based sectors



(04) Room for the Rhine branches

Large transboundary rivers
The Netherlands

Main restoration measures:
transition in land use, re-wetting, floodplain re-connection
Involved sectors:
agriculture, navigation, tourism



(05) Kampinos wetlands

Peatlands / wetlands
Poland

Main restoration measures:
Transition in land use, Re-wetting
Involved sectors:
Agriculture, Tourism



(06) Adriatic karstic peatlands

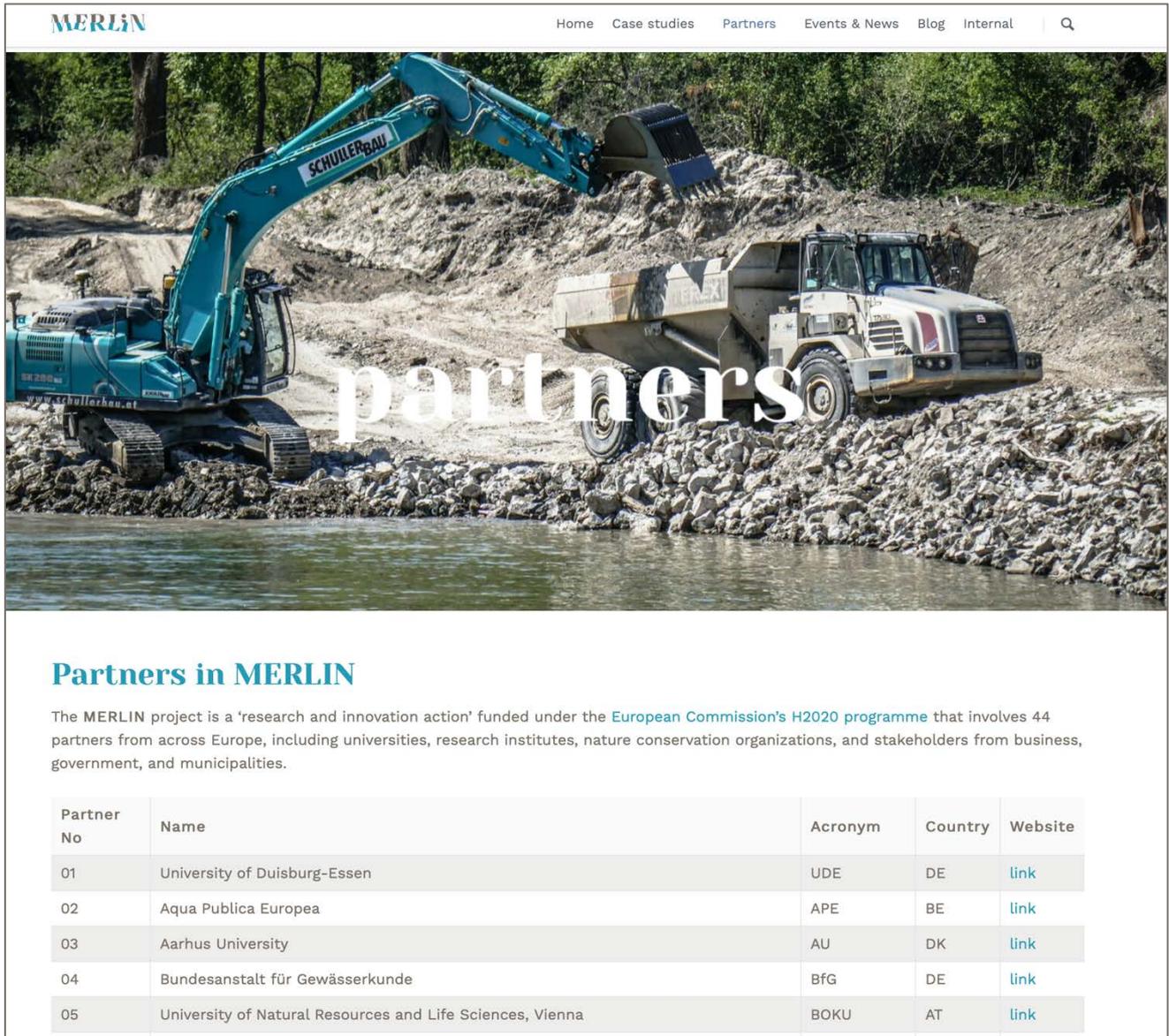
Peatlands / wetlands
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Main restoration measures:
transition in land use, re-wetting, channel restoration
Involved sectors:
agriculture, tourism, hydropower

Figure 4 – Case studies details page.

2.2 Partners

This page offers a list of the institutions that are involved into the MERLIN project including a link to their respective websites.



Partners in MERLIN

The MERLIN project is a 'research and innovation action' funded under the [European Commission's H2020 programme](#) that involves 44 partners from across Europe, including universities, research institutes, nature conservation organizations, and stakeholders from business, government, and municipalities.

Partner No	Name	Acronym	Country	Website
01	University of Duisburg-Essen	UDE	DE	link
02	Aqua Publica Europea	APE	BE	link
03	Aarhus University	AU	DK	link
04	Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde	BfG	DE	link
05	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna	BOKU	AT	link

Figure 5 – MERLIN partners page.

2.3 Events & news

This page is dedicated to feature the latest MERLIN news and also to announce upcoming MERLIN events. Right now at the project start, the MERLIN webinars – showing the topics and the speakers – can be found here. Also, a registration to these events is possible on this sub-site.

MERLIN Home Case studies Partners Events & News Blog Internal | Q

events & news

MERLIN webinars

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Insights from IPBES and IPCC Intergovernmental Processes

Monday, 7 February 2022, 15:00 CET

This webinar will highlight some major outcomes of the IPBES Global Assessment and the IPBES-IPCC workshop report on Biodiversity and Climate Change. It will also shed light on the processes of intergovernmental negotiations and the uptake of the outcomes of such processes.

The access to the webinar is free for all.

REGISTRATION

Further reading

<https://ipbes.net/events/ipbes-ipcc-co-sponsored-workshop-report-biodiversity-and-climate-change>
<https://ipbes.net/global-assessment>

Josef Settele

Head of Department, Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research - UFZ Co-author of the IPBES-IPCC workshop report

Josef Settele works at the UFZ – Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research in Halle/Germany, where he heads the Department of Conservation Biology and Social-Ecological Systems. He holds a PhD in agriculture, based on agro-ecological research on biocontrol in tropical irrigated rice systems and is professor of ecology at the Martin-Luther-University of Halle-Wittenberg. He was co-chair of the Global Assessment of IPBES from 2016 to 2019, and also part of the Asia-Pacific and the Pollination Assessment. He was Coordinating Lead Author of the 5th Assessment Report of IPCC, and co-author of the IPBES-IPCC workshop report on biodiversity and climate change,

Figure 6 – MERLIN events & news page.

MERLIN webinars so far:

- Sien Kok & Sanja Pokrajac: “Why freshwater ecosystem restoration makes (economic) sense”, December 15th, 2021
- Josef Settele: “Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Insights from IPBES and IPCC Intergovernmental Processes”, February 7th, 2022

2.4 Blog

This menu item leads to the website of the Freshwater Blog. The renowned Freshwater Blog was founded twelve years ago within the EU-funded BioFresh project and is ever since used to disseminate freshwater related research. Also in MERLIN, the blog is used to spread the word about nature-based solutions and restoration projects, thus extending, supporting and informing the community of practice and the general public about restoration approaches and benefits.

Features are written by a dedicated blog writer who translates scientific topics into easily understandable language.

MERLIN blog features so far:

- October 1, 2021: Mainstreaming freshwater restoration in Europe through MERLIN
- December 8, 2021: Why freshwater ecosystem restoration makes economic sense
- November 23, 2021: Optimising nature-based solutions in pressurised river catchments
- January 20, 2022: What are nature-based solutions and why do they matter?

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Freshwater Blog' with the tagline 'the voice of aquatic life'. The main article is titled 'Mainstreaming freshwater restoration in Europe through MERLIN' and is dated October 1, 2021. The article features an aerial photograph of a forested area with a stream, where red lines indicate restoration work. The article text discusses the alarming state of Europe's environments and the need for ecological restoration. The right sidebar contains sections for 'WHAT IS THE FRESHWATER BLOG?', 'SUPPORTED BY' (listing MERLIN and 'aquatische ökologie'), 'PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED BY' (listing MARS PROJECT), and 'FOUNDED BY' (listing BioFresh).

Figure 7 – First MERLIN blog feature on the Freshwater Blog.

2.5 Internal

This menu item leads to the internal MERLIN data storage system. The system is based on Nextcloud (https://nextcloud.com), an open source software package. It offers MERLIN partners a variety of options to store, manage and edit MERLIN related documents. It additionally contains a user management system, a project calendar, chatting opportunities and many other features. The server of the MERLIN Nextcloud is located in Germany and fulfils all general data protection rules (GDPR).

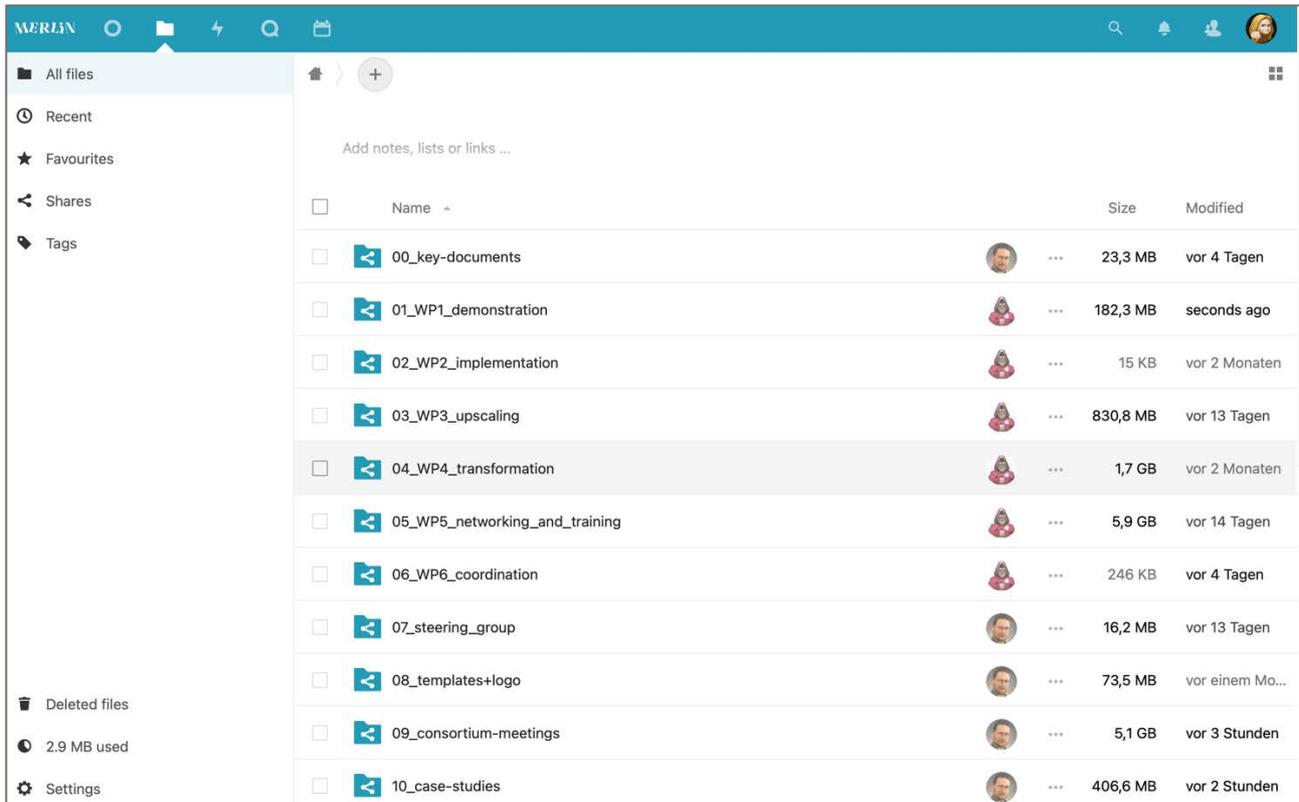


Figure 8 – MERLIN internal data management and storing system.

3 MERLIN leaflet

The MERLIN leaflet is intended to inform the general public about restoration in general and the aims of the MERLIN project.

The MERLIN leaflet will be translated into all case study languages. It also will be printed to be available for picking-up by an interested audience at physical meetings.



Figure 9 – Draft version of the MERLIN leaflet.

4 Outlook

The MERLIN website will be continuously updated whenever new content and MERLIN results become available. It will present more information about the MERLIN case studies in the near future and will also host the MERLIN Academy.

The MERLIN leaflet is currently being fine-tuned content-wise and will be available as printed copy as well as pdf file on the website in all languages of the MERLIN partners.