LIFE24-PRE-IT-LIFE-MAPPER

Guidelines for **MAP**ping, **P**rot**E**cting, and **R**estoring Marine Ecosystems

Milestone	Knowledge Platform first release
Prepared by	Space42
Contributing partners	UNIVPM, ISPRA, CNR, UAEGEAN, SPACE42
Issue date	28/10/2026

Entity	Name of person responsible	Short name of institution
Coordinator	Federica Foglini	CNR
Work Package Leader	Fulvio Marelli	Space42

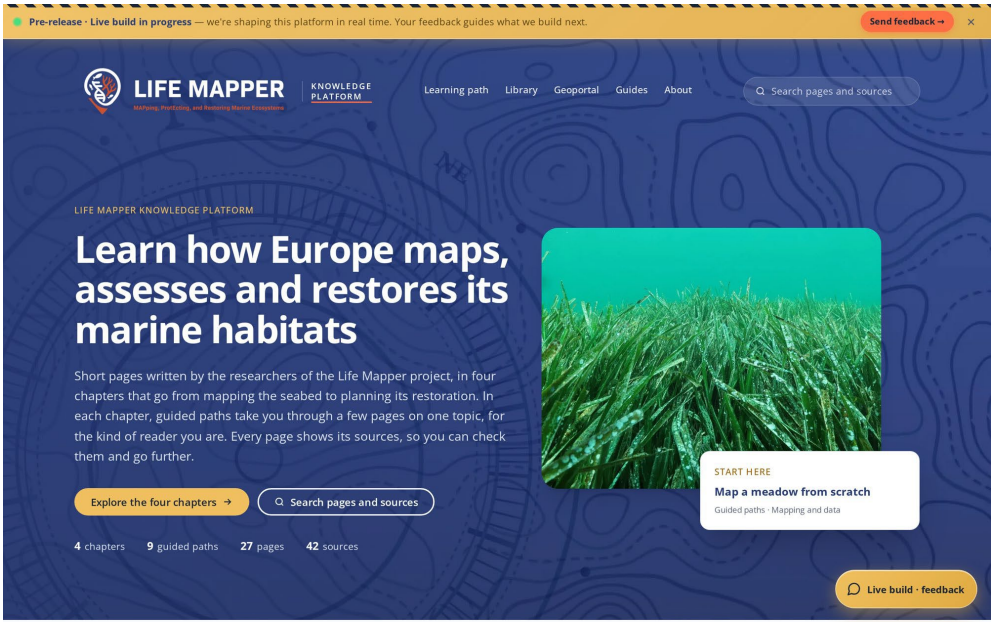
Responsible author	Fulvio Marelli	E-mail	fulvio@space42.eu
Short name of institution		Phone	
Co-authors (alphabetical order)			
Contributors			

MS14	Security: public
WP7	Version: 1.0

Executive Summary

The Life Mapper Knowledge Platform is online at https://life-mapper.eu/knowledge/. It explains how Europe maps, assesses and restores its marine habitats through short pages written by the project's researchers, organised in the four chapters of the learning path: Mapping and data, Scientific insights, Economics, Policy and planning.

The main content is the Knowledge pages, laid out in blocks. Resources (papers, case studies, databases, platforms) become the sources those pages cite. Readers can follow guided paths written for their profile, and the platform keeps track of what they have already read.



The Knowledge Platform home page (life-mapper.eu/knowledge)

Structure of the Platform

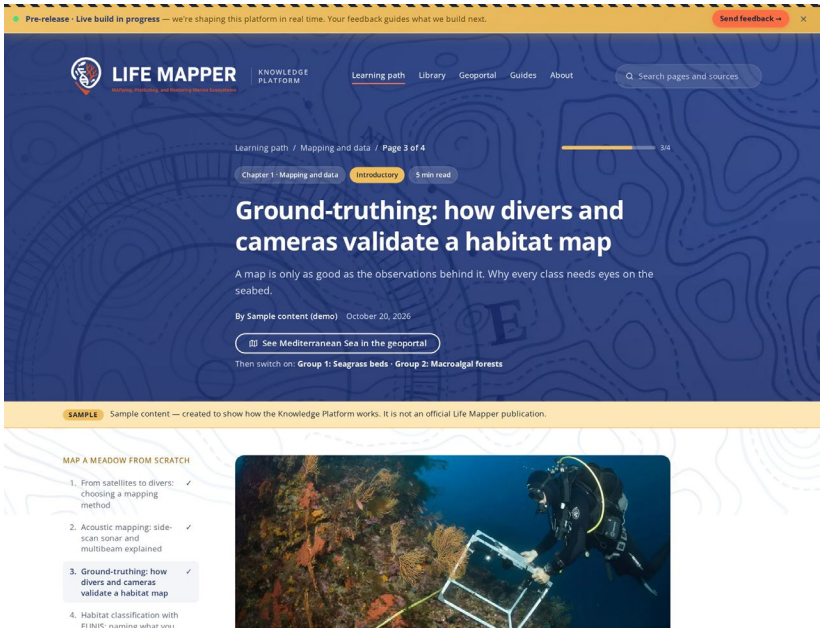
The platform has four layers, and a reader can enter at any of them:

- **Chapters.** The four big questions of the learning path, from the map to the plan. Each chapter explains what it covers, lists the questions it answers and shows what it holds: paths, pages by level, reader profiles and sources.
- **Guided paths.** Short routes through a few pages on one topic, written for one kind of reader.
- **Knowledge pages.** Short articles, a few minutes each, that answer one question in plain language. The same page can belong to several paths.
- **Sources.** The resources cited by the pages, collected in the searchable library.

Pages are also tagged by habitat, region, method and theme, so search can follow a thread across chapters.

Each page shows its chapter, its level (introductory, intermediate, advanced) and an estimated reading time. The body is built from blocks: text, image, gallery, video, highlight box, quote, sources cited at that point, map (a geoportal layer) and downloadable file.

At the end of the page, the Go deeper box lists the sources the page builds on, each with a short note on why it is worth reading. Below it, the catalogue card shows the chapter, level and tags, and links to the Life Mapper Geoportal on the area the page covers.



A page read inside a path: position in the path (3 of 4), level, reading time, geoportal link

Guided paths

A path is a short route through the pages of a chapter, on one topic and for one kind of reader. Each path shows its number of steps and its total length (for example “4 steps · 27 min”), worked out from the pages it contains. For each step, the researcher can add a note on what to take from that page or what can be skipped.

The reader opens the path with **Start the path** and moves from page to page with **Next in the path**. A side panel lists every step. On the chapter page, paths are grouped by topic.

Filtering by audience

Every path says who it is written for. There are four profiles:

- Planners and public officers
- Researchers
- Students
- Curious citizens

On each chapter page, **the For:** filter shows only the paths meant for the chosen profile. The home page also offers one entry point per profile, with its paths chapter by chapter. A path can serve more than one profile, and then it appears under each of them.

Reading progress

The platform remembers the pages a reader has read, with no account needed: the information stays on the reader's device and is never sent to a server. Building on that:

- each page already read is ticked in the list of path steps;
- the bar at the top shows how far the reader is in the path (for example 3/4)
- the path page offers “Continue where you left off” to resume from the last step;
- the chapter page shows how many pages have been read (“X of Y pages read”) and marks the chapter as complete when every page has been read.

In Directus: how researchers work

All content is managed from the administration panel (Directus), reachable from the “Add content” link in the site footer. Each researcher works for their own institution. Researchers save drafts, and a reviewer from their institution checks and publishes them. A draft is visible only to its institution, which can check it with the preview. Once published, content appears on the site within a few minutes.

Adding a resource

- In the Resources list, click + and choose the type (paper, case study, database, platform…).
- Papers with a DOI: paste the DOI and save. Title, authors with ORCID, journal, licence, abstract and PDF link are filled in automatically from Crossref and OpenAlex. If the DOI is already in the catalogue, the system says so and prevents a duplicate.
- Then add the chapter, tags (habitat, method, thematic and geographic area), images, files, external links and contacts.
- The resource stays a draft until the reviewer publishes it.

Writing a Knowledge page

- A title and a one- or two-sentence summary, the chapter, the level and the tags.
- The body is built from blocks: the + button picks the type (text, image, gallery, video, highlight, quote, sources, map, download), and rows are dragged to reorder them.

• Sources: picked from the published resources in the catalogue, including other partners' resources, each with an optional note. They appear in the Go deeper box.

• Downloadable files, external links, a cover image and related pages. If the reading time is left empty, it is estimated from the text.

Creating a guided path

• Choose the chapter and write a title and a summary. The title should be a promise to the reader (“Read the sea floor in 30 minutes”), not a category.

• Choose the audience profiles (more than one if needed), the topic and the level.

• Steps: “Add existing” picks published pages, filtered by topic, habitat, method or level. Then drag them into order and add a note to each step.

• The length is not entered by hand: the platform adds it up from the pages. The path goes live when an administrator publishes it.

Link: https://life-mapper.eu/knowledge/