

## **Marine genomics at the European and international levels: achievements and future directions**

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The science of genomics is significantly changing our perspective of the living ocean and is providing us with the opportunities to understand the fundamentals of life by studying diverse and numerous marine ecosystems, organisms and populations, and the evolution of development, biochemical and physiological functions.

The Network of Excellence Marine Genomics Europe (MGE) is a major four years initiative funded by the European Community, involving 44 bodies and being set at linking life sciences, environment, ecology, bioinformatics, and high technologies within a multicultural European Environment. MGE is devoted to the development, utilization and spreading of high through-put approaches for the investigation of the biology of marine organisms. This ambitious enterprise has made possible the integration of a previously fragmented scientific community by means of skills and platforms sharing as well as through teaching and training activities. Benefits include large scale sequencing projects, phylogenomic studies and the application of genomics technologies to functional, comparative and environmental issues in marine biology. The main scientific achievements and future directions of the project will be presented.

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