
Pan-European gradients in propagation and settlement events (RMP 4.3)

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In this project, we aim to identify the intensity, timing, and temporal extent of production and (primary) settlement of pelagic propagules of benthic plants and animals along large-scale Pan-European transects representing spatial gradients in environmental conditions such as seawater temperature, insolation and seasonality. Studied species comprise both floral and faunal key organisms (e.g. ranging from biofilm communities to bivalve post-larvae). Both representatives of the rocky shore and the soft-sediment communities will be studied. The proposed empirical research on latitudinal gradients in a selection of recruitment characteristics may contribute to the main question how variation in local conditions affects the richness in communities.