The most important type of information have been the bathymetry and substrate data (Figure 4), although the distribution of seabed habitats is also the result of changes in other factors as light penetration, geomorphology, wave energy, thermal stability, temperature and salinity. The analysis of the crossing of these base layers allows obtain a homogeneous base layer for the seafloor characteristics that have influence on the marine habitat or community types.

The result of the bathymetric data compilation covers the Atlantic Area in a homogeneous way with existing maps and associated geophysical data. (Figure 2).

The compilation and harmonization of the MeshAtlantic substrate and bathymetry data (Figure 4) wants to promote harmonised production and use of marine habitat maps covering homogeneously the Atlantic Area across countries. To fill the gaps with missing information was used the GEBCO_08 Grid, thereby allowing harmonization bathymetry requirements.

The classification adopted on the basis of modified Folk triangle presents six substrate classes (mud, sandy mud, muddy sand, sand, coarse sediment, and mixed sediment) and takes into account one additional class: rock (Figure 5).

The confidence assessment data have been collated and evaluated by each country, afterwards the result have been a continuous confidence map for the MeshAtlantic bathymetric areas (Figure 3).