MSP in the Mediterranean

Emiliano Ramieri & Javier Fernandez
Thetis & Ecorys Madrid
• Spain, France, Malta, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, Cyprus (and no-EU countries)

• Regional strategies: EUSAIR and forthcoming West-Med (and Barcelona Convention)

• Limited application of UNCLOS and high number of disputed areas

• MSP at an initial stage: competent authorities identified and transposition almost finalised

• Wide project-based experience, e.g. Shape, Adriplan, THAL-CHOR, forthcoming projects for West and East Med

• Coastal tourism, shipping, fishery, aquaculture, oil and gas extraction + high potential for Blue Growth

• High pressure on marine ecosystems
Italy

- MSP Directive transposed with the Legislative Decree 17 October 2016, n. 201

- Functions of MSP competent authority are in charge of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, but competences are shared

- Inter-Ministerial Coordination Table having main tasks of defining guidelines for MSP and identifying marine areas for MSP plans

- Technical Committee: elaborates MSP plans, according to the guidelines, including SEA and evaluation procedures related to Natura 2000

- ADRIPLAN MSP exercises
Slovenia

- Competent authority: Slovenian Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
- Obligations deriving from MSP Directive in Slovenia will be implemented in the framework of the existing Spatial Planning Act: no new legislation is needed
- Preliminary activities started: methodological basis for MSP and identification of relevant MSP spatial information
- National Spatial Plan of the Port of Koper includes MSP implications considering interactions with other sectors
• Competent authority: Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning

• MSP EU Directive has been recently transposed into national legislation: related amendments to the Physical Planning Act are in the process of adoption

• Joint management strategy and action programme for the marine environment (MSFD) and coastal zones (ICZM) are in preparation

• “Zadar county integrated sea use and management plan” focusing on mariculture, considering potential conflicts with other uses
Greece

- Competent authority: Ministry of the Environment and Energy
- The national Spatial Planning Law has been modified to take into account MSP. Law transposing the MSP Directive has been drafted and will be soon available for consultation
- Sectoral spatial plans for various maritime activities: aquaculture, tourism, industry and renewable energy
- Project-based pilot plan for Rhodes and Lesvos (THAL-CHOR)
Cyprus

- Competent authority: Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works - Department of Merchant Shipping

- Public consultation on the draft MSP Act was recently completed; comments are being reviewed

- Working Group on MSP chaired by the Department of Merchant Shipping

- THAL-CHOR project aimed at developing MSP methodology and its pilot implementation in selected areas of Cyprus (Limassol)
Spain

- There are currently no MSP plans in existence in Spain
- The Inter-Ministerial Commission on Marine Strategies (CIEM) was created in 2012 as a body for coordination between Ministerial Departments of Central State Administration
- Law 41/2010 lays out the general principles for planning the marine environment through the preparation, adoption and implementation of the Marine Strategies
France

- France applies MSP principles in small zones along the coast mainly through the Schéma de Mise en Valeur de la Mer (which could be translated as ‘Sea Enhancement Schemes’ - SMVMs) mostly in heavily-used areas experiencing competition between various sectors.

- Four SMVMs have been implemented (three on the Atlantic coast and one in the Mediterranean): the Thau Lagoon (1995), the Arcachon Basin (2004), the Gulf of Morbihan (2006), and Tregor-Goelo coast (2007).

- To be approved, SMVMs must identify a coherent geographical and maritime entity and define its perimeter (seawards and landwards) and needs depending on local specificities and contexts. The scheme may extend seawards up to the limits of the territorial sea.

- On 8th August 2016, the MSP Directive has been transposed into French legislation through the entry into force of art.123 of law n° 2016-1087.
Malta

- The Strategic Plan for the Environment and Development (SPED), which was approved by Parliament in July 2015, is the official recognised document which addresses the spatial issues for the Maltese Islands in the coming years.
- Subsidiary legislation under this Act is being prepared for the transposition of Directive 2014/89/EU.
- The Strategic Plan for Environment and Development (SPED, 2015) is the overarching document for planning issues on land and at sea in an integrated manner. It also constitutes the national Maritime Spatial Plan.
EU Maritime Strategy and Action Plan for the Western Mediterranean

- The European Commission (DG MARE) is assessing the possibility and working towards building an integrated maritime initiative and action plan for the Western Mediterranean sea basin.

- In close cooperation with relevant stakeholders, the most promising transnational and cross-sectoral opportunities that foster the economy, environment and security will be identified and elaborated.

- Save the date for the Stakeholder conference to be held on 2nd February 2017 in partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean (Barcelona).
Geoportal for the Alboran Sea

- Within the ALBORAN project, the Alboran Sea is considered for the first time as a complete and integrated environmental management unit.
- Geoportal on natural resources and biodiversity of the Alboran Sea.
- The development of the geoportal is part of the activities under the project POCTEFEX-ALBORÁN, "Cross-border Space of Nature Shared Management", which aims to identify and unify the priorities that will improve the governance of natural resources in the Alboran Sea and promote sustainable and integrated management of the marine environment.
Adriatic Atlas to support ICZM and MSP

- Wide range of spatial data (and metadata) organised in topic categories according to INSPIRE Directive
- Multi-scale: from macro-regional (Adriatic) to sub-national
- Maintained and kept alive by Emilia Romagna Region (Italy)
ADRIPLAN cumulative impact tool

- The tool is available within the ADRIPLAN Data Portal for authorised users to run simulations and analyses
- Highest potentially impacted areas in Adriatic-Ionian: Northern Adriatic and Croatian coastline; Italian coastline of Abruzzo, Molise and Apulia Regions; and territorial waters of Greece (Ionian side)
- Other tools output: indicator of coexistence of uses, analysis of data gaps