



European  
MSP Platform

# The European MSP Platform

A service for Member States to share  
relevant knowledge and experiences on  
Maritime Spatial Planning

*Angela Schultz-Zehden / s.Pro / 23 November 2016*

Funded by:



Lead Partner:



Subcontractors:



## SERVICES

The European MSP Platform currently offers the following types of services:

### MSP-PLATFORM.EU – AN INTERACTIVE INFORMATION GATEWAY

This website provides a diverse array of knowledge and resources drawn from existing MSP processes and projects. We will continuously expand and update the website to reflect the dynamic process of MSP development throughout Europe.

We invite you to explore the following:

- **MSP Country Information** showing the status on MSP processes in each coastal EU Member State
- **Practical Information for MSP** stored and searchable through a multi-filter database
- An overview of previous and ongoing **MSP Projects** and their outputs
- **EU-wide and national funding opportunities**
- **MSP training programmes and workshops**
- **A Question & Answer service** on issues related to MSP
- **Future and past events** and workshops
- **News and updates on MSP**

To stay continuously informed of any updates and news regarding MSP in Europe, please sign-up for [our regular newsletter](#) and [funding news-flashes](#), and follow us on Twitter [@EU\\_MSP\\_Platform](#)

### A DEDICATED TEAM OF EXPERTS

The European MSP Platform is implemented through a dedicated team situated at a central office in Berlin, a European Commission liaison office in Brussels, and help desks in each of the European sea-basins. Contact information is found on [our Team page](#).

Our experts situated in each of the European sea-basins act as personal contacts and liaison offices in their given regions. They keep continuous track of any new MSP developments and are available to provide advice, answer questions as they arise and ensure that the right resources or services are delivered to meet practitioners' requests within their sea-basin.

The central office coordinates all activities and services of the European MSP platform, including the technical studies, updating resources, designing delivery formats and ensuring continuous information exchange among team members.

The Brussels office assists the European Commission with logistical and administrative aspects of the Member States Expert Group meetings and MSP conferences organized directly through DG MARE.

### TECHNICAL STUDIES – FILLING IDENTIFIED KNOWLEDGE GAPS

Drawing from the diversity of approaches to MSP across Europe, studies will be conducted on topics which enhance MSP implementation and contribute to the collective knowledge base.

The first study will cover data and information needs for MSP, recognizing that these may be different across European sea basins. The successful development and implementation of MSP relies on the availability of and access to sound spatial information on the marine environment, as well as current and possible future maritime human activities. The study will investigate actual MSP information needs, focusing on what planners need to know and how data can be translated and used to provide this information; technical aspects to address issues such as the provision of data through data infrastructures; converting raw data into useful formats for planning; and how data can be shared across borders.

Future study topics will be determined based upon Member State needs in cooperation with the European Commission.

## Services

- [msp-platform.eu](https://msp-platform.eu) – an interactive information gateway
- A dedicated team of experts
- Technical studies – filling identified knowledge gaps



## Mission Statement

The European MSP Platform is an information and communication gateway designed to offer support to all EU Member States in their efforts to implement Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the years to come. With the adoption of the [EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning \(2014/89/EU\)](#), all coastal EU Member States are required to prepare cross-sectoral maritime spatial plans by 2021.

Funded by the [EU Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries \(DG MARE\)](#), the European MSP Platform acts as the central exchange forum for the rich knowledge generated in past, current and upcoming MSP processes and projects. This will allow officials, planners and other stakeholders interested in MSP to build on what is already available, avoid duplication of efforts, assist in capacity building and foster development of new practices.

Our approach for the European MSP Platform is based on the following basic principles:

- “give and take”
- “knowing who knows – to connect the right people”
- “personal approach – to act as your trusted partner”
- “get specific through a broad info resource”
- “a service to all EU Member States”

The EU MSP Platform is operated via a dedicated team with offices in all European sea-basins. Our experts continuously draw together information on MSP experience, funding and training opportunities as well as relevant events from across Europe. The information is then made available in various interactive, easy-to-use formats readily accessible through this website. More information on our current offerings is available on our [Services page](#).

Moreover, our contact points are continuously available to offer personal advice and act as your trusted partner in MSP-related efforts. We are happy to gather and share experience with you in the formats which suit your specific needs. Our team is therefore available to support you with any workshop, seminar, meeting or other efforts related to MSP. Simply get in touch with us via the contact information found on our [Team page](#) to discuss on how we can best assist you.

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# Mission statement – our approach

- Give and take
- Knowing who knows – to connect the right people
- Personal approach – to act as a trusted partner
- Get specific through a broad info resource
- A service to all EU Member States

## MSP Database


We invite you to search for examples of MSP implementation experiences from throughout Europe in the extensive [Practices Database](#). Please also explore our [FAQ](#) page, or [Submit a question](#) of your own!

## Malta to host 'Our Ocean' 2017 Conference

Commissioner Karmenu Vella has announced that the EU will host the global 'Our Ocean' conference in Malta next year.

 All news

## MSP Platform

 [Submit a Question](#)


 [Mission](#)

 [Services](#)

 [Our team](#)

## MSP in Europe

The European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform provides a single interface to draw together experience and expertise from across Europe and make it available in a readily accessible, implementation-oriented format. It serves as the gateway and exchange forum for all involved in MSP throughout Europe.

 [Go to Country Overview](#)  
or  
[Choose country](#)



## Upcoming Events

### ICES Annual Science Conference

Scientists, policy- and decision-makers, students, and stakeholders are all invited to...

 All events

## Tweets by @EU\_MSP\_Platform



**EU MSP Platform** @EU\_MSP\_Platform  
Read up on the #ICES theme session Integration challenges in #MSP tonight and tomorrow! #ICESASC16 [ices.dk/news-and-event...](http://ices.dk/news-and-event...)



2h



**EU MSP Platform** @EU\_MSP\_Platform

## Open calls

"Blue Technology: transfer of innovative solutions to sea basin economies" is currently open - deadline is 30th of September. [more...](#)



[All funding programmes](#)

# Homepage

- Interactive EU map
- Country information
- Sea Basin overview
- Practical experiences
- News feed
- Upcoming events
- Twitter feed
- Open funding calls





## About Us

[Mission Statement](#)

[Service](#)

[Team](#)

[Submit a Question](#)

## MSP in Practice

[Countries](#)

[European Sea basins](#)

[Practices Database](#)

[MSP Projects](#)

[FAQ](#)

## Opportunities

[Funding](#)

[Training](#)

[Events](#)

 <b>Baltic Sea</b> Finland Poland Latvia Lithuania Estonia Germany Sweden Denmark	· Susanne Altvater · Jacek Zaucha  <b>s.Pro - sustainable projects</b> balticsea@msp-platform.eu +49 30 832 1417 48	 <b>West Med</b> France Spain Malta	· Diletta Zonta · Javier Fernández López  <b>Ecorys</b> westmed@msp-platform.eu +32 2 743 89 42
 <b>North Sea</b> Belgium Netherlands United Kingdom	· David Johnson · Lucy Greenhill  <b>Seascope Consultants</b> northsea@msp-platform.eu +44 1794 367797	 <b>East Med</b> Italy Slovenia Croatia Greece Cyprus	· Emiliano Ramieri · Martina Bocci  <b>THETIS</b> eastmed@msp-platform.eu +39 041 2406307
 <b>Atlantic Ocean</b> Ireland Portugal United Kingdom	· Stephen Jay · Lynne McGowan  <b>University of Liverpool</b> atlantic@msp-platform.eu +44 151 794 3119	 <b>Black Sea</b> Bulgaria Romania	· Laura Alexandrov · Aneta Kovacheva / Ivan Bakalov  <b>NIMRD / Ecorys</b> blacksea@msp-platform.eu +359 2 815 56 83

The sea-basin help desks, as well as the central office and Brussels office, are available via phone and e-mail. Teams are composed to cover the language needs of their specific region.

Please get in touch and share your information and needs.

#### Central Office

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 · Géraldine Ferdinand  
  
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# Team

- Central Office - Berlin
- Brussels Office
- Sea basin help-desks:
  - Baltic Sea
  - North Sea
  - Atlantic Ocean
  - East Med
  - West Med
  - Black Sea

# MSP in Practice: searchable databases

- MSP Practice descriptions: 279
- MSP Project descriptions: 83
- Funding opportunities: 26

*and  
counting..*



# Practices

The Practices database is continuously optimised in order to ensure that search queries produce the most accurate results and new practice descriptions are added on a regular basis. Select relevant filters in the search boxes or enter the title of a practice or a keyword in the freetext searchbox. For more information about the functionalities of the Practice database, please see our [User guidance document](#).

Can't find the practice you're looking for, or is some of the information not correct or incomplete? Please notify us via [Submit a Question](#). Take a look at the [FAQ page](#) as well to find several examples of questions that have been received and their corresponding answers.

Type of practice	Application in MSP	<input type="checkbox"/> BELGIUM <input type="checkbox"/> BULGARIA <input type="checkbox"/> CROATIA <input type="checkbox"/> CYPRUS <input type="checkbox"/> DENMARK <input type="checkbox"/> ESTONIA <input type="checkbox"/> FINLAND <input type="checkbox"/> FRANCE
Sea Basin	Type of issue	
Sectors	Stage of MSP cycle	
Keywords/Project/Title of Practice/Description	Sort by	

Apply

Reset

278 MSP Practices

## A FLOOD OF SPACE: TOWARDS A SPATIAL STRUCTURE PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE...

GAUFRE

This book is a reflection of the spatial-analytical and design aspects of the GAUFRE report "Towards a Spatial Structure Plan for Sustainable Management of the Sea".

## A MARINE SPATIAL PLAN FOR THE BELGIAN PART OF THE NORTH SEA

Belgium - MSP

These brochures summarizes the marine spatial plan for the Belgian Part of the North Sea.

## ACHIEVING COMMITMENT TO ICZM THROUGH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

C-Scope - combining sea and coastal planning in Europe

A range of reports on stakeholder engagement activities, including reports on the annual coastal forum for Belgium; For Dorset a web-based interactive tool was developed, called "iCoast".

## Search Practical Information Database by:



Type of Practice



Application in MSP



Stage of MSP cycle



Type of Issue



Sectors

- Sea basins
- Countries
- Sectors
- Coherence with other processes
- Keyword, title, etc.



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# Geoportal for the Alboran Sea

POCTEFEX-ALBORÁN - CROSS-BORDER SPACE OF NATURE SHARED MANAGEMENT

## ABSTRACT

A geoportal on natural resources and biodiversity of the Alboran Sea which includes the following 3 preconfigured maps: natural features and human activities, pressures and impacts and protection and conservation.

## SEA BASINS



## COUNTRY

Spain

## YEAR

September 2012

## TYPE OF USE



## SECTORS



## MSP TOPICS



## QUESTIONS THIS PRACTICE MAY HELP ANSWER

- How to interact with non-member States on maritime spatial planning issues
- Use of digital cartography for governance
- How to involve different stakeholders (NGOs, public institutions and universities) from 2 basins of the Mediterranean.

## IMPLEMENTATION CONTEXT



The Alboran Sea is a very particular marine space: it is the entrance and exit of the Mediterranean Sea and the contact point between Africa and Europe. It is also a path for many migratory animals and a marine shipping route between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. It can be considered undoubtedly as an area of great geopolitical, strategic and scientific value. In addition, given the importance of their ecosystems, it is considered as a dynamic engine for biodiversity in the Western Mediterranean.

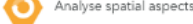
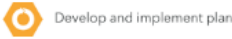
The development of this geoportal on natural resources and biodiversity of the Alboran Sea is part of the activities under the project POCTEFEX-ALBORÁN, "Cross-border Space of Nature Shared Management", which aims to facilitate the exchange of experiences among stakeholders as to identify and unify the priorities that will improve the governance of natural resources in the Alboran Sea and promote sustainable and integrated management of the marine environment.

Within the ALBORAN project, the Alboran Sea is considered for the first time as a complete and integrated environmental management unit.

## TYPE OF PRACTICE



## STAGE OF MSP CYCLE



## CROSSBORDER / TRANSNATIONAL ASPECTS

Yes

## COHERENCE WITH OTHER PROCESSES

MSFD

## KEYWORDS

Biodiversity, geoportal



## RESPONSIBLE ENTITY

The project has been developed by the Regional Government of Andalusia, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the University of Almería and the Department of Maritime Fishing of Morocco.

## COSTS / FUNDING SOURCE

**Costs:** 1.425.240,68 Euros (costs of entire Alboran Project)  
**Funding Source:** INTERREG-POCTEFEX IV C 2007-2013

Partners	Region	Country	ERDF	Cofinancing
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Andalucía	Spain	273.556	91.185
Consejería de Medio Ambiente y Ordenación del Territorio	Andalucía	Spain	619.500	206.500
Consejería de Agricultura, Pesca y Desarrollo Rural	Andalucía	Spain	137.250	45.750
Universidad de Almería	Andalucía	Spain	38.625	12.875
Departamento de Pesca Marítima	Nacional	Morocco		

Table of Project financing sources

## ASPECTS / OBJECTIVES

- Facilitate the exchange of experiences among stakeholders
- Improve the governance of natural resources in the Alboran Sea
- Promote sustainable and integrated management of the marine environment
- Increase the quality of information and data for decision-making and policy development of border management
- Support the implementation of international policies and strategies in the Mediterranean
- Support research projects and scientific initiatives
- Support policy makers in implementing environmental policy and land use planning and promote cross-border cooperation

## METHOD



Diagram illustrating components of the geoportal

The first step on the development of the geoportal was to identify which geo-referenced information already existed on natural resources and economic activities in the Alboran Sea. The geoportal was created from database analysis, normalization and standardization of information.

Thus, the first step was to collect geo-reference information from public institutions, NGOs and Universities, both from Spain and Morocco. The first finding was that in Spain there were several entities that already had geo-referenced information (Ministry of Environment, the Oceanographic Spanish Institute and the Network of Environment in Andalusia). Nevertheless, in the south basin of the Mediterranean (Morocco and Algeria) public information was not available.

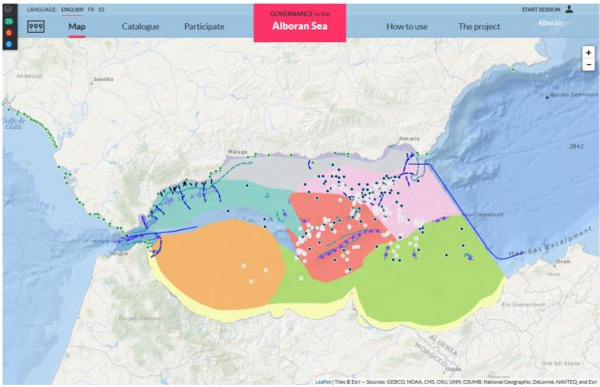
The next step was to overlay all the available information so different aspects could be studied in parallel. As a result, it would be possible to compare, for example, which areas of the Alboran Sea are affected by a certain economic activity and, at the same time, are habitat for protected species.

The objective was to construct an easy-to-use tool, accessible to all, without having to know the GIS maps. This way, it could be easily used by policy-makers without technical barriers.

The information contained in the geoportal (130 layers) is open and shared. It is hosted on the information providers' servers, so it is updated by the institutions that first provide the information. Also, there are some layers that have been developed by IUCN. In this case, information can be also downloaded.

Last, users can also provide information to the platform by sharing their experiences and adding information to the layers.

## MAIN OUTPUTS / RESULTS



Example of geoportal map showing natural features and human activities

130 layers with geo-referenced information are available in the geoportal, divided into three main categories: natural features and human activity; pressures and impacts; and protection and conservation.

## NATURAL FEATURES AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES:

- There are 34 layers on physical marine environment (for example, oceanographic regions, geomorphological features, deep marine floors description, littoral physiography, hydrogeological resources, coastal morphology and major marine currents);
- 55 layers on biodiversity: cetaceans, turtles, marine birds, marine invertebrates, and others;
- 8 layers on human activity: Spain, Morocco and Algeria seaports; beaches; maritime traffic, and others.

## PRESSURES AND IMPACTS:

- There are 13 layers of varied subjects such as oil and gas pipelines, coastal erosion (for Spain and Morocco), aggregates extraction, waste, location of marine trash, anchorages, and others. Protection and conservation:
- 11 layers on protected natural areas: Natura 2000 Network, Morocco protected natural areas, important areas for bird conservation, area of the Conservation Plan for dunes, sandy areas and coastal cliffs in Andalusia and others.
- 9 layers on areas of special conservation interest with proposed conservation zones.
- 27 layers with jurisdictional limits.

All this information is expected to provide inputs to policy-makers, NGOs, Universities, researchers and other stakeholders from Spain and Morocco. The aim is to improve the maritime spatial planning.

The Environment Observatory of the North of Morocco and the Seaport Tanger-Med have shown their interest on the Alboran geoportal since it is very useful for the environment protection and for the management of the seaport, respectively.

Also, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Ministry of Environment in Morocco to provide geo-referenced information on environmental issues in Morocco to the Alboran geoportal.

## TRANSFERABILITY

The practice is transferable to other areas of the Mediterranean. Currently, Alboran geoportal developers (IUCN) are studying the possibilities to develop new geoportals on Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA). More precisely, focus is put on the Sicilian Channel and the Adriatic.

Technically, the geoportal uses the INSPIRE system to standardize information, which makes it easier to be transferable, since it is open source. In addition, the Alboran project sets a precedent on working when third countries are involved.

## CONTACT PERSON

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http://iucn.org  
http://www.iucn.org/mediterranean

# Practice Descriptions

- Questions the practice may help answer
- Implementation Context
- Aspects / objectives
- Method
- Main outputs / results
- Transferability
- Contact person
- Responsible entity
- Costs / Funding source
- Illustrative graphics



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# Projects

The Projects database is continuously optimized in order to ensure that search queries produce the most accurate results and new project descriptions are added on a regular basis. Select relevant filters in the search boxes or enter the title of a project or a keyword in the freetext searchbox. For more information about the functionalities of the Projects database, please see our [User guidance document](#).

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Interreg x	Western Med x	Country
Status	-Year	
Keywords/Project/Title of Practice/Description	Alphabetical Order	
Apply	Reset	

7 Projects

<b>ACCESSIBILITÀ INTERMODALITÀ – A.C.E</b> The Accessibilità Intermodalità is a joint management project in the Western Mediterranean basin of regional, national and cross-border transport systems to ensure a higher level intermodal services and accessibility to the poles of attraction, with regard to the flow of people and goods.	<b>AMPAMED</b> The Project relies in the role of MPA for the sustainable development of local economic activities like artisanal, fishing and tourism. The main aim has been to use three Mediterranean MPAs, placed in three different regions (Córcega, Cerdeña and Murcia) to show the differences and the similarities in management resources and sustainable development.	<b>COASTANCE</b> The COASTANCE project is implemented within the European MED programme. Its main aim is to develop practical tools to manage the coastal zone adaptation to Climate Change according to the sectoral foremost European policies such as ICZM, the IMP, the MSP Directive, the Adaptation to C.C., etc.
<b>COASTGAP</b> COASTGAP capitalized 12 best practices from 9 projects (funded by the MED and other programmes) included in the Facecoast cluster, to underpin governance and adaptation policies aiming to reduce risk along coastal zones and	<b>DEDUCE</b> One of the main outcomes of the DEDUCE project was the establishment of a network of excellence in coastal management and the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).	<b>MAREMED</b> MAREMED aimed to strengthen the horizontal coordination of regional (sub-national) coastal and maritime policies, as well as their vertical coordination with policies implemented at the national, Mediterranean and European levels.

## Search on-going and completed **MSP** projects by:

- Funding programme
- Sea basins
- Countries
- Status
- Completion year
- Keyword, title, etc.

#### FUNDING PROGRAMME

EU DG MARE Calls for Proposal

#### SEA BASIN

East Med

#### COUNTRIES

Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece

#### STATUS

Completed

#### COMPLETION YEAR

2015

#### PRACTICES

Adriplan Data Portal  
Conflict score tool (coexistence among uses)  
Cumulative impact tool  
Adriplan methodology  
MSP exercise in Focus Area 1 - Northern Adriatic  
MSP exercise in Focus Area 2 - Southern Adriatic/Northern Ionian

#### WEBSITE/SOURCES

[adriplan.eu](http://adriplan.eu)

#### CONTACT PERSON(S)

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**Dr. Pierpaolo Campostrini**  
(ADRIPLAN coordinator from 01.11.2014 to 31.07.2015)  
Managing Director of CORILA (Consortium for Managing Scientific Research on Venice Lagoon System) and CNR-ISMAR associate  
Tel: +39 041 2402511  
[campostrini@corila.it](mailto:campostrini@corila.it)

## ADRIPLAN - ADRIatic Ionian maritime spatial PLANNing

#### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

December 2013 - July 2015

#### SPECIFIC FUNDING PROGRAMME

ADRIPLAN was funded by the European Commission - DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) under the theme "Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Mediterranean sea and/or the Black sea".

#### BUDGET

Total project budget was 1.250.000€

#### ABOUT THE PROJECT

ADRIPLAN aimed to deliver a commonly-agreed approach to cross-border MSP in the Adriatic-Ionian region, considered as a whole and more specifically through two Focus Areas: (1) Northern Adriatic Sea; (2) Southern Adriatic/Northern Ionian Sea.



ADRIPLAN study area: Adriatic-Ionian Region, Focus Area 1 and Focus Area 2

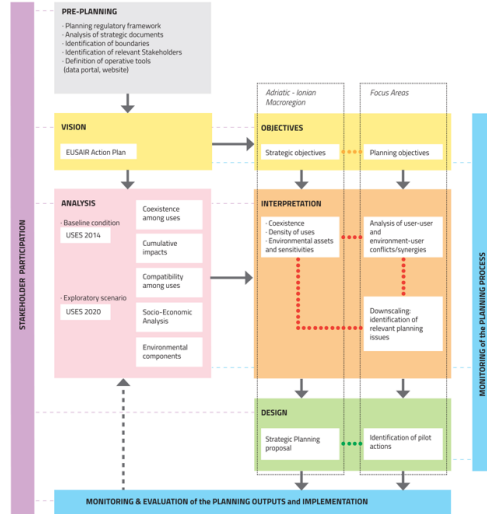
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The proposed approach was developed with the support of institutional partners and observers and the involvement of stakeholders of the area and provided recommendations for the evaluation of cross-border MSP, based on an integrated assessment (environmental, legal, administrative, economic and social) and taking into account multiple demands and potentials. It promotes the harmonized implementation under an ecosystem-based approach of the EU legislative framework on marine and maritime issues.



Flowchart of the activities developed under ADRIPLAN methodology

Besides the above mentioned approach and methodology, main ADRIPLAN deliverables include: downscaling and application of the developed methodology in the two project Focus Areas, ADRIPLAN Data Portal, and MSP tools (conflict score and cumulative impacts tools).

#### PROJECT PARTNERS

ADRIPLAN included a group of core scientific partners:

- CNR-ISMAR - National Research Council, Institute of Marine Science (IT) - Lead Partner
- OGS - National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (IT)
- University IUAV of Venice, Department of Design and Planning in Complex Environment (IT)
- City of Rijeka (HR)
- Regional Development Centre Koper (SL)
- CONISMA - National Interuniversity Consortium for Marine Sciences (IT)
- University of Thessaly (EL)
- Hellenic Centre on Marine Research (EL)

Institutional partners forming the so-called ADRIPLAN inner circle actively and constantly contributed to ADRIPLAN activities:

- Emilia-Romagna Region (IT)
- Veneto Region (IT)
- Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia (IT)
- Marche Region (IT)
- Molise Region (IT)
- Puglia Region (IT)
- Istria Region (HR)
- Ionian Islands Region (EL)
- Venice Port Authority (IT)

The partnership finally included observer partners (17 in total) forming the so-called ADRIPLAN outer circle.

#### SUB-CONTRACTORS

CORILA - Consortium for coordination of research activities concerning the Venice lagoon system (IT)

# MSP Project Description

- Implementation period
- Specific funding programme & budget
- About the project & illustrative figures
- Project partners & subcontractors
- Contact person(s)
- Links to relevant practice descriptions & project website



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# Country Information Profiles

- Basic facts on marine waters
- Overview of maritime uses
- MSP authorities & contacts
- MSP legislation
- MSP plans & considered sectors
- Links to relevant practices & plans



## Basic facts on Marine Waters:

- Total area of the Belgian Part of the North Sea (BPNS): 3,454km<sup>2</sup> (i.e. about 0.5% of the entire North Sea area)
- Territorial sea (12 nm zone): 1,437km<sup>2</sup>
- Exclusive Economic Zone: 2,017 km<sup>2</sup>

Download full Country Information Profile

View the Belgian MSP

View practical information for Belgium

Go to North Sea basin page

## Relevant practices for Belgium

A marine spatial plan for the Belgian Part of the North Sea

A flood of space: Towards a spatial structure plan for sustainable management of the North Sea

Marine management atlas

## Relevant projects for Belgium

Combining Sea and Coastal Planning in Europe

## Belgium

### OVERVIEW OF MSP RELATED MARITIME USES

- The Belgian Part of the North Sea is a relatively small area with many different uses
- Current main uses:



Offshore renewable energy production



Nature conservation



Shipping



Fisheries



Ports



Military



Mineral extraction



Scientific research

- Other current uses: aquaculture zones, coastal defence, ammunition storage site, measuring poles and radars
- Future uses:



Submarine cables and pipelines



Aquaculture

- Other future uses: offshore energy storage
- Issues: uses within nature protection zones and MPAs, offshore wind development

### WHICH MARITIME SPATIAL PLANS EXIST?

Maritime Spatial Plan for the Belgian Part of the North Sea, March 2014

- The plan contains the following sectors:



Shipping



Tourism (incl. recreation and sports)



Ports



Under water cultural heritage



Mineral extraction



Nature protection

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## MSP LEGISLATION

The planning process at the national level has a legal basis in the Marine Environment Act of January 20, 1999, amended in 2012 to include the development of an MSP for Belgian waters. Its name was also amended to "Act for the protection of marine environment and for the organisation of maritime spatial planning in the maritime regions under the Belgian jurisdiction."

A Royal Decree of November 20, 2012 dictates the establishment of an advisory committee and the procedure for the adoption of a MSP in the Belgian maritime regions. The Royal Decree of March 20, 2014 adopts the present MSP (incl. annexes, see above).

## NATIONAL MSP AUTHORITY

### Belgian Minister of the North Sea

## CONTACT

**Marine Environment Division of the Directorate General of Environment of the Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment**

Steven Vandenborre

Jesse Verhalle

### Federal Government Service for Mobility Director General Shipping

Jeroen Van Overloop

**Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models and the Scheldt estuary (MUMM), a department of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)**

Steven Degraer

Last Update 19.09.2016



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## COUNTRIES

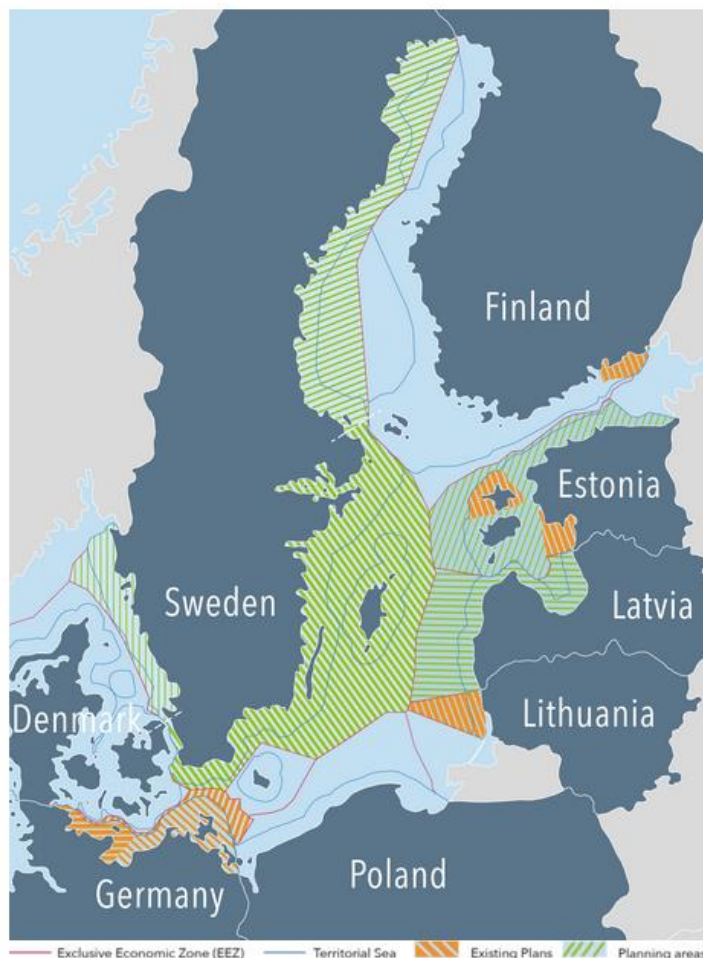
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
Germany  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Poland  
Sweden

## PAN-BALTIC MSP PROJECTS

BalticLines  
BalticScope  
Seanergy 2020  
BALTSACE  
MSP Challenge simulation game  
Sea meets land  
BALANCE  
PartiSEApate  
Plan Bothnia  
BaltSeaPlan  
PlanCoast  
BaltCoast

## CROSS-BORDER PAN-BALTIC PRACTICES (SELECTION)

BaltSeaPlan Findings  
BaltSeaPlan Vision 2030  
Become a Maritime Spatialist in 10 minutes  
Towards a Pilot MSP for the Lithuanian Sea  
A transboundary MSP pilot in the Bothnian Sea  
Handbook on multi-level-consultations  
Best practice in consultation for MSP  
Availability and harmonisation of marine environmental data  
Blue Corridors  
Governance baselines



## Baltic Sea

### General Introduction to the Baltic Sea basin (i)

The Baltic Sea is a semi-enclosed sea basin with a total area of 397,978 km<sup>2</sup>. It is bordered by nine EU member states (Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, Sweden) and Russia. The Baltic Sea can be divided in the following sub-regions: the Gulf of Finland, the Gulf of Bothnia, the Gulf of Riga, Baltic Proper (which includes the Gulf of Gdansk), the Danish Straits and the Kattegat.

The Baltic Sea is a relatively shallow water body with an average depth of only 54m. It is a brackish water ecosystem characterized by high biological production. The coastal ecosystem functions as a breeding and nursery ground for many fish and invertebrates, and deeper waters provide habitat for pelagic fish, such as herring and sprat.

The different sea uses such as shipping, fisheries, wind farms or mineral extraction are increasingly competing for the limited sea space. On top of this, the fragile Baltic ecosystem and the threats of climate change call for a balanced multi-sectorial approach.

### Relevant pan-Baltic MSP institutions and structures (ii)

#### HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group

The joint Baltic Sea MSP Working Group, established by HELCOM and VASAB, is a forum for intergovernmental discussions on MSP. The Working Group hosts dialogues on recent and future developments in the field of MSP in the Baltic Sea Region.

#### Visions and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea (VASAB)

VASAB is an intergovernmental multilateral co-operation of 11 countries of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) on spatial planning and development. Its current work is guided by the 2009 "VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region" strategic document, which considers MSP as a key instrument for the alleviation of potential sea use conflicts.

#### Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

HELCOM is the governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention). In 2007, HELCOM developed the new Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP), which introduced MSP as a process aiming at more coherent management of human activities in the Baltic Sea.

# Sea basin descriptions

- MSP Institutions & structures
- Sea-basin cooperation on MSP
- Geography, ecosystems & uses
- Relevant sectoral & non-sectoral organizations
- Sea basin MSP projects
- Selected cross-border MSP practices

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# FAQ page

- 14 topics
- Q&As
- Main issues
- Documented knowledge
- Relevant practices
- Links other topics

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| OPPORTUNITIES

## FAQ

There are many resources available on the European MSP Platform to address questions that may arise about MSP. On this page you will find several FAQs according to specific MSP related topics. When questions are submitted to the MSP Platform, they are answered individually. If the questions are recurring, they will be generalised and the corresponding answers provided will be added to this page.

The answers on the FAQ page are continuously kept up to date and linked to more practices and projects as they are added to the website. This ensures that the answers will always refer to the most relevant and advanced information, knowledge and experiences with MSP today.

[Submit your own Question!](#)

Different MSP systems	▼
MSP strategies	▼
Cross-sector integration in MSP	▼

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Sector specific aspects	▼
MSP for Blue Growth	▼
MSP visions	▼
Indicators & measurements in MSP	▼
Applying the ecosystem-based approach	▼
Strategic environmental assessment	▼
Cross-border cooperation & consultation	▼
Data for MSP	▼
Stakeholder involvement	▼
Integrating climat change aspects into MSP	▼

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## Cross-sector integration in MSP

### MAIN ISSUES

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PLANS AND PILOT PLANS	STUDIES	RECOMMENDATIONS	GUIDANCE AND TOOLS	PROJECTS
BALANCE - Baltic Sea Management: Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Ecosystem through Spatai Planning  BALANCE aimed towards development of informed marine management tools for the Baltic Sea based on spatial planning and cross-sectoral and...			BALANCE - Baltic Sea Management: Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Ecosystem through Spatai Planning  BALANCE aimed towards development of informed marine management tools for the Baltic Sea based on spatial planning and cross-sectoral and...	
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[Load more](#)

• [Link to other topics](#)

• [Concrete examples](#)

← [Back to all topics](#)

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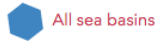
European  
MSP Platform

# Opportunities

- 26 Funding programmes
- 15 Training opportunities
- Up-to-date Events page



#### Sea Basins:



All sea basins

#### Countries:

Horizon 2020 eligible countries

#### Call:

Calls for Proposals

#### Deadline:

Tuesday, 14. February 2017

## Promoting and supporting the eco-intensification of aquaculture production systems: inland (including fresh water), coastal zone, and offshore

#### Available Funding:

€ 6,000,000

#### Description:

This action aims at contributing to the eco-intensification of European aquaculture, which has been identified as a challenge to meet global fish and seafood security needs. Proposals for this call should:

- Support aquaculture production and communities with cost-effective innovative solutions and technologies, which ensures sustainable coastal and offshore development and growth
- Bring to the market new and cost effective commercial applications to support aquaculture producers
- Enhance integrated aquaculture activities in a sustainable manner
- Increase the offer of nutritious and high quality fish and seafood in order to secure EU markets
- Enhance sustainability of the European aquaculture industry

#### Eligible Applicants:

Applicants must consist of at least three legal entities, each of which must be established in a different EU Member State or Horizon 2020 associated country. All three legal entities must be independent of each other.

This call for proposal is open to actions primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

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This call for proposal is open to actions primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

Projects may contain closely connected but limited demonstration or pilot activities aiming to show technical feasibility in a near to operational environment.

#### Project Length:

The call opens 04/10/2016 and the deadline for submitting applications in the first stage is 14/02/2017.

The second stage deadline is 13/09/2017 and information on the second evaluation will follow maximum five months from the deadline for submission. The grant agreement will be signed eight months from the deadline for submission.

#### Further Financing Information:

According to the call for proposal, it is estimated that proposals requesting a contribution of € 6,000,000 would allow the objectives of this call for proposals to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

The funding rate for this call for proposal is 100%.

Projects funded under this topic will by default participate in the Pilot on Open Research Data in Horizon 2020, with the option to opt-out.

#### For more Information:

More information regarding the call for proposal can be found in the [Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2016-2017](#). For more specific information on the eligibility and admissibility conditions see [part B](#) and [C](#) of the General Annexes of the General Work Programme.

## Open & future Funding opportunities

- |                                |                       |                                 |   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| • Funding programme            | • Deadline            | • Description                   | • Contact information and links to full call text / website |
| • Sea-basins / Countries       | • Available funding   | • Project length                |   |
| • Call for proposals / tenders | • Eligible applicants | • Further financing information |   |

# Training

[View](#)[Edit](#)

On this page we present a list of practical training opportunities for MSP planners to increase awareness of capacity development offerings. The list includes courses available both in-person in Europe as well as online. It is targeted for planners and professionals, and therefore does not include information on formal education programmes (e.g. Masters degree programmes).

## BLUE GROWTH SUMMER SCHOOL - UGENT

12 - 23 September 2016

Ostend, Belgium

The UGent Blue Growth Summer School provides holistic training in several blue growth domains: the maritime module covers blue energy and coastal engineering, while the marine module covers aquaculture, marine ecosystems and societal benefits, multi-use platforms and marine spatial planning.

Organized by Ghent University

[More about this training opportunity](#)

## MEDCOAST INSTITUTE 2016 INTERNATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED MARITIME POLICY (IMP) AND MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE BLACK SEA

15 - 22 September 2016

Dalyan, Turkey

The dedicated workshop will be held under the working title "Workshop on integrated maritime policy and marine spatial planning in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea". The European Commission's contribution will encompass the co-organisation of the Launching event of the 7-day workshop, meant to take place on 20 September 2016 in Dalyan (Turkey). While the European Commission will co-organise the Launching event, MEDCOAST Foundation will be in charge of the 7-day workshop that follows. The event aims to also respond to the increased interest of the Black Sea countries in integrated maritime policy and its tools (MSP is one of them) as showcased at the recent high-level Stakeholder conference on the blue economy, held in Odessa on 14-15 June 2016. This action follows up on the conference conclusions.

[More about this training opportunity](#)

## METOCEAN AWARENESS COURSE

20 september 2016

London, UK

## Training opportunities

- European-wide
- In-person & online
- Up-to-date
- Links to Training website for more information



## Events

[Past Events](#)

| 2016 | 2017

2016  
SEPTEMBER

19.09.2016 - 23.09.2016

ICES ANNUAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE  
RIGA, LATVIA

Scientists, policy- and decision-makers, students, and stakeholders are all invited to join the discussions on science for sustainable seas.

[More about this event](#)

20.09.2016 - 27.09.2016

MEDCOAST INTERNATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON IMP & MSP  
DALYAN, TURKEY

MEDCOAST Institute is one of the earliest efforts and the longest running for international training on Integrated Coastal Management (ICM). Started in 1994 through a project support won from the Mediterranean Programs of EU (1993-95) MEDCOAST Institute has been run ten times so far, in the years of (1994, 95, 96, 98, 99, 2002, 04, 10, 12 and 14). A total of 165 alumni from 27 countries, some of them are now national and international ICM leaders, participated at these ten events. The new generation of MEDCOAST Institutes having modified formats, new goals and targets starts with the 11th event. The new generation MEDCOAST Institutes will be organised annually, be shorter in duration and will focus in depth every year at a different popular subject important for ICM.

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# Upcoming and past MSP Events

- Short abstract
- Date & location
- Link to event website for more information



# Topics of interest

## MSEG June Brussels

Interviews with MSP authorities in 20 Member States →

### ‘Topic Paper’:

- Check what practice available
- Interest by MSP Authorities / priorities (interviews)
- Development of FAQs [www.msp-platform.eu/faqs](http://www.msp-platform.eu/faqs)
- Guidance on how to best proceed in 2017:  
Study? Workshop? Conference? Fact Sheet?

1. Comparative Analysis of MSP systems
2. Developing the MSP General Strategy at National Level
3. Cross-sector integration in MSP
4. Sector Specific aspects
5. MSP for Blue Growth / Assessment of Future Uses
6. Developing country level & sea-basin wide visions
7. Indicators & measurements for MSP
8. Taking into account the land-sea interface in MSP
9. Applying the ecosystem based approach
10. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in MSP
11. Cross-Border Cooperation
12. Stakeholder Involvement
13. Integrating Climate Change aspects into MSP

# 'Topics of Interest'

		Baltic Sea										Atlantic Ocean															
		FI	LV	PL	EE	MV - DE	FED - DE	DK	SWAM - SE	MINI - SE	NL	BE	N-IE	Wales	Scotland	PT	ES	MT	HR	CY	EL	IT	SI	BG	No. HIGH SCORES	No. LOW SCORES	No. Of TOTAL SCORES
1	Comparative analysis of MSP systems	5	1	1	2	1	5	2	2	4	1	5	NR	NR	3	NR	3	5	5	1	5	NR	3	NR	8	10	18
2	Developing country level & sea basin wide visions	3	4	4	4	5	5	3	5	4	4	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	3	NR	3	3	4	NR	2	4	10	6	16
3	Developing the MSP General Strategy at National Level	1	1	2	3	1	NR	5	2	2	4	NR	NR	NR	2	NR	4	NR	4	3	5	5	3	5	7	10	17
4	Cross-sector integration in MSP	1	3	4	5	3	2	5	4	4	4	NR	5	NR	NR	NR	5	4	5	2	3	NR	5	4	13	6	19
5	Sector-specific aspects	1	4	2	NR	5	2	3	NR	4	NR	NR	NR	NR	4	NR	3	NR	4	2	1	NR	2	NR	5	8	13
6	MSP for Blue Growth / Assessment of Future Uses	5	4	4	5	4	2	5	4	5	4	NR	NR	5	1	5	2	5	4	3	3	NR	2	5	14	6	20
7	Indicators and measurements for MSP	4	4	2	5	5	4	4	4	4	2	NR	NR	5	5	5	2	NR	3	5	3	NR	5	NR	13	5	18
8	Taking into account the land-sea interface in MSP	3	1	3	5	2	4	4	3	2	5	5	5	3	3	NR	4	NR	3	4	5	5	5	3	12	10	22
9	Applying the ecosystem-based approach	5	3	5	4	2	3	4	4	5	3	4	3	4	3	NR	5	4	4	5	4	4	2	NR	15	7	22
10	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);	2	2	5	2	3	5	3	3	4	5	3	NR	NR	2	NR	3	NR	4	3	1	4	5	NR	7	11	18
11. A	Cross-border cooperation & consultation within one country	1	1	1	5	1	5	3	2	2	2	NR	4	NR	4	4	4	3	5	2	2	NR	2	NR	7	12	19
11. B	Cross-border cooperation & consultation across different countries	1	4	3	4	5	NR	4	5	5	4	3	4	NR	3	4	4	NR	5	4	4	NR	5	NR	14	5	19
12	Stakeholder involvement	1	2	4	5	4	3	4	2	2	3	NR	NR	4	4	NR	5	NR	4	3	2	3	4	NR	10	9	19
13	Integrating Climate Change aspects into MSP	4	5	2	4	3	4	3	3	2	5	4	NR	NR	3	4	3	NR	4	4	3	NR	4	NR	10	8	18
14	Data for MSP	3	3	5	4	5	4	2	1	2	2	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	2	NR	5	5	5	3	4	NR	9	7	16
		North Sea										Mediterranean Sea										Black Sea					

Interview with MS  
MSP authorities

Where do their  
interests lie?

What type of  
knowledge is  
available?

What are the  
knowledge gaps?

# Results

## Topics with overall 'high' ranking

- Applying the 'ecosystem-based' approach
- MSP for Blue Growth / Assessment of Future Uses
- Cross-border consultation and cooperation across different countries
- Indicators & measurements for MSP

## Topics with mixed ranking (more 'high's', also 'low' ranking)

- Developing country level & sea-basin wide visions
- Taking into account the land-sea interface in MSP
- Cross-sector integration in MSP

## Topics with overall lower scores (in some cases high interest for specific aspects)

- Sector specific aspects
- SEAs and EIAs
- Stakeholder involvement
- Cross-border cooperation within one country
- Integrating Climate Change aspects into MSP

## Special Cases / Topics

- Comparative analysis of MSP systems
- Developing the MSP General Strategy at national level
- Data for MSP



# Way forward

Active use of practice / project / country experience

- FAQs
- One new technical study
- Exchange & presentations at MSEGs
- ‘Intervision’ workshops to support a specific MSP process
- EU wide workshops / conferences around specific topics
- Reports & documentations
- Continuously insert new MSP practices or projects

# Contribute to the EU MSP Platform

- Promote your MSP practice or project
- Add your event or news item
- Ask a question about MSP via the Q&A service
- Contribute to the FAQ page
- Ask support for your MSP workshop or event
- Contact us via [info@msp-platform.eu](mailto:info@msp-platform.eu) or follow us on Twitter [@EU\\_MSP\\_Platform](https://twitter.com/EU_MSP_Platform)