

NOTES overall

Workshop: Towards an Effective Ocean Mission Governance

Date: Wednesday, November 15th, 2023

The aim was trying to find answers to the main question of the workshop. It intended to help to understand stakeholders' ambiguities and doubts regarding implementing the Mission Ocean. We were discussing successes as well as gaps in regulation, financial mechanisms, environmental aspects and in research in the Baltic and North Seas for achieving a carbon-neutral blue economy and achieving the Mission objectives.

We used the mental modelling method as an interactive workshop setting. It is a low threshold method by incorporating anyone. The outcome of the Workshop was not fixed from the beginning, and this facilitates an open discussion.

Main outcomes:

- **The Mission is an experiment.** It catalyses action towards the Mission objectives. It is not the term "Mission" that is important but how to reach the Mission goals is key. We have to make sure that anybody is working in the same direction.
- **We need to build on existing structures.** We said that we should learn from success stories like HELCOM and OSPAR. So we could use the structures we have and then thinking about how to develop them further.
- **There is a need for better knowledge transfer and communication.** We agreed that most of the scientific knowledge we need to fulfil the Mission objectives is there, but we should try to make more use out of it. By incorporating all actors – from politics, science, industry and society – we need to find regional specific solutions and start to test new approaches (e.g. living labs). Flexible, adaptive governance structures would serve as a good framework to foster innovation in the BANOS region.
- **No single organisation is able to handle the challenges we are facing with the Mission.** That's the reason why collaboration on horizontal and vertical level is needed. That means as well intergovernmental (horizontal and vertical) collaboration as well as transdisciplinary and trans sectoral. The missions have to be from national level to authorities all the way down to municipality level. One successful example of the Mission Ocean could be implemented on national was mentioned by the Danish representative (establishment of Mission hub and Mission Ocean Manager).

We would like to continue the discussion of the results from this workshop in the next workshop in over to come more into the depths – Now we know the WHAT but we still need to know the HOW.

We will share the workshop results with the participants and examine follow-up activities like conducting a Policy Brief and organise a meeting of the Governance Reference Group. Furthermore, the results will be incorporated into Del. 2.4 on governance gap analyses