

THEME: MPAs and Ocean Policies

Workshop: Policy coherence as a platform for better integration of marine conservation in MSP and sectoral policies: regional pilots and examples

in y #Arena2

2nd MISSION ARENA 25-26 April 2024 | Riga, Latvia





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Agenda

09:00 - 09:10	Setting the scene: Barriers and levers for policy coherence between nature conservation and MSP - results from projects MSP4BIO and eMSP
09:10 - 09:15	Interaction sli.do
09:15 - 09:23	Outcomes of the WWF reports for the region
09:23 - 09:30	Introduction of the MSP4BIO Think tanks and first solutions discussed
09:30 - 09:38	CrossGov Baltic Sea and Finnish pilots – from EU regulation to regional practice
09:38 - 09:45	MSP as "playground" of European Green Deal initiatives: Latvian findings within MSP-GREEN project
09:45 - 10:05	Panel session with Q&A
10:05 - 10:45	Interactive session - moderated discussions in break out groups





Riku Varjopuro, SYKE

All

Johanna Fox, WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme

Kemal Pinarbasi, HELCOM

Antti Belinskij and Suvi-Tuuli Puharinen, University of Eastern Finland and SYKE Kristine Kedo, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia

All





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Setting the scene: Barriers and levers for policy coherence between nature conservation and MSP - results from projects MSP4BIO and eMSP

Riku Varjopuro, SYKE

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Coherence through mainstreaming Biodiversity, and the services it provides, are appropriately and adequately factored into policies and practices that rely and have an impact on it. (CBD definition)









Emerging Ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning Topics in the North and Baltic Sea Regions



Co-funded by

eMSP findings on MSP and Spatial Protection

www.emspproject.eu/

www.eMSPproject.eu

the European Union



Integration between MSP and nature conservation

Separation or integration of authorities

Same or integrated organisations



The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 – preparation of national "pledges" MSP authorities involved MSP authorities consulted Not involved



Separate organisations

n of national "pledges" Sulted Not involved



- **Regular meetings** for a 1) continuous dialogue
- Awareness and trust between 2) sectors
- 3) Long-term responsibilities beyond current mandates
- 4) Funding and budgeting to drive the collaborative initiatives
- 5) Shared planning to reach a stronger impact

- levels

- collaboration

6) Legislation and gap analysis to identify barriers for collaboration 7) Communication and education at all

8) Synchronize timelines between interconnected processes

9) Inclusivity for different perspectives and informed solutions

10) Integration and networking to expand the reach and impact of

MSP4BIO findings

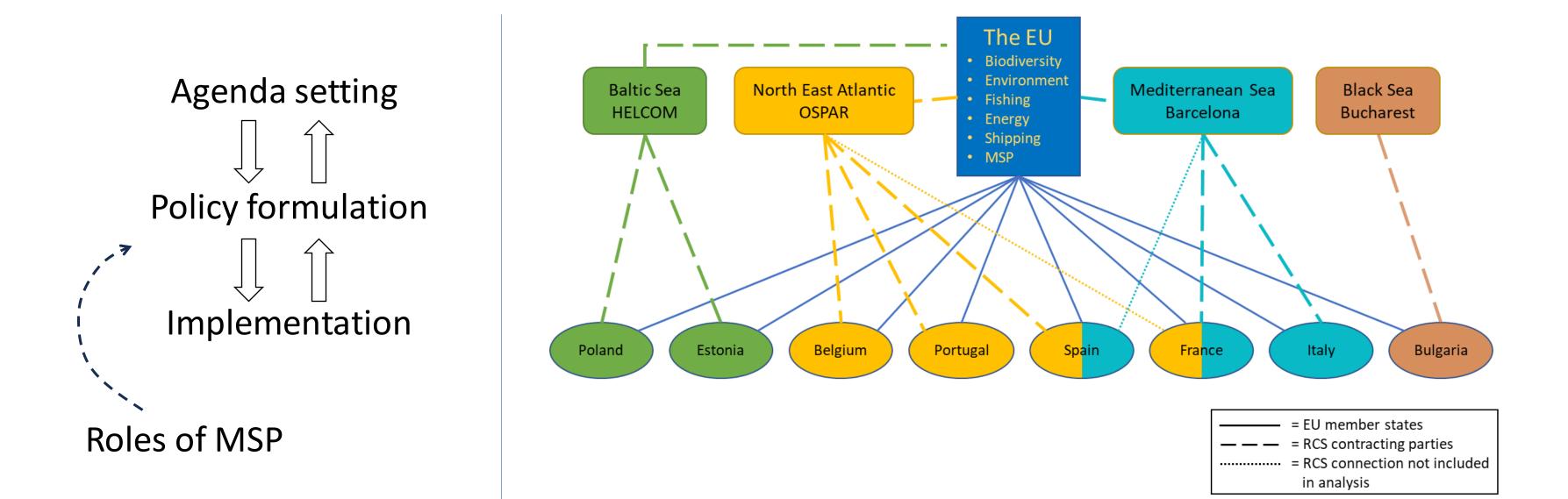
www.msp4bio.eu/



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101060707



MSP4BIO analysis: barriers and levers for biodiversity mainstreaming





This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101060707



	Agenda setting	Policy formulation	Implementation	
Institutional barriers and levers:	Barriers: 5	Barriers: 7	Barriers: 2	
policies	Levers: 9	Levers: 11	Levers: 2	
Institutional barriers and levers: responsibilities	Barriers: 708	Barriers: 4 Levers: 5	Barriers: 1 Levers: 1	
Operational/organizational barriers and levers	Barriers:	Derriers: 3	Barriers: 4	
	Levers:	Levers: 5	Levers: 9	
Technical barriers and levers	Barriers:	Barriers: 2	Barriers: 10	
	Levers:	Levers: 7	Levers: 18	
Resource barriers and levers	Barriers:	Barriers: 1	Barriers: 2	
	Levers:	Levers:	Levers:	

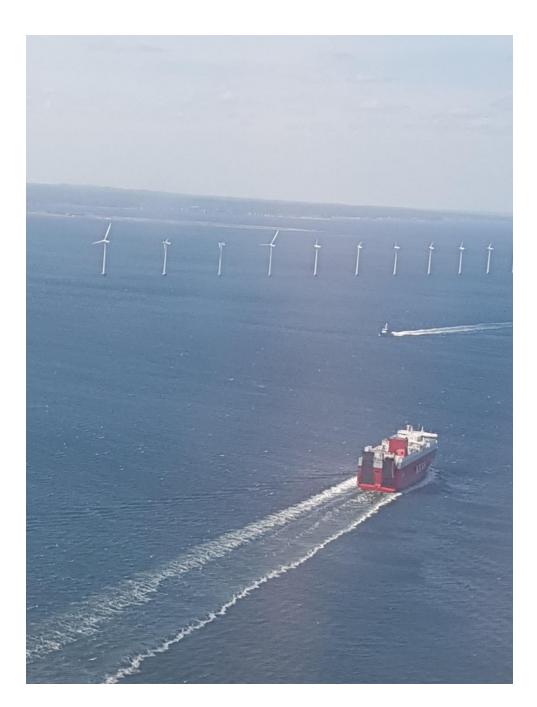




Barriers and levers for biodiversity mainstreaming Summary for MSP

- The potential of MSP to support biodiversity mainstreaming is well acknowledged.
- Biodiversity is highly prioritized in the national MSP legislation and plans, but the level of ambition in operationalizing the biodiversity related aims remains lower.
- Issues that hamper biodiversity mainstreaming:
 - Conflicting objectives
 - Lack of coordination between sectors
 - Ambiguity of Ecosystem-based approach
 - Missing or unclear guidance on Good Environmental Status
- Mechanisms to connect MSP with actions focusing on biodiversity are needed.
- The Regional Sea Conventions value biodiversity highly and provide frameworks for supporting their contracting parties in biodiversity conservation and in MSP.







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Is a mess of languages hampering coherence?





Blog: Mainstreaming biodiversity into national sectoral policies – why is it difficult? Päivi Haapasaari, Volcy Boilevin and Riku Varjopuro





Tower of Babel Pieter Bruegel the Elder



THANK YOU!

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Outcomes of the WWF report for the Baltic region

Johanna Fox, Director of the WWF Baltic Sea Programme

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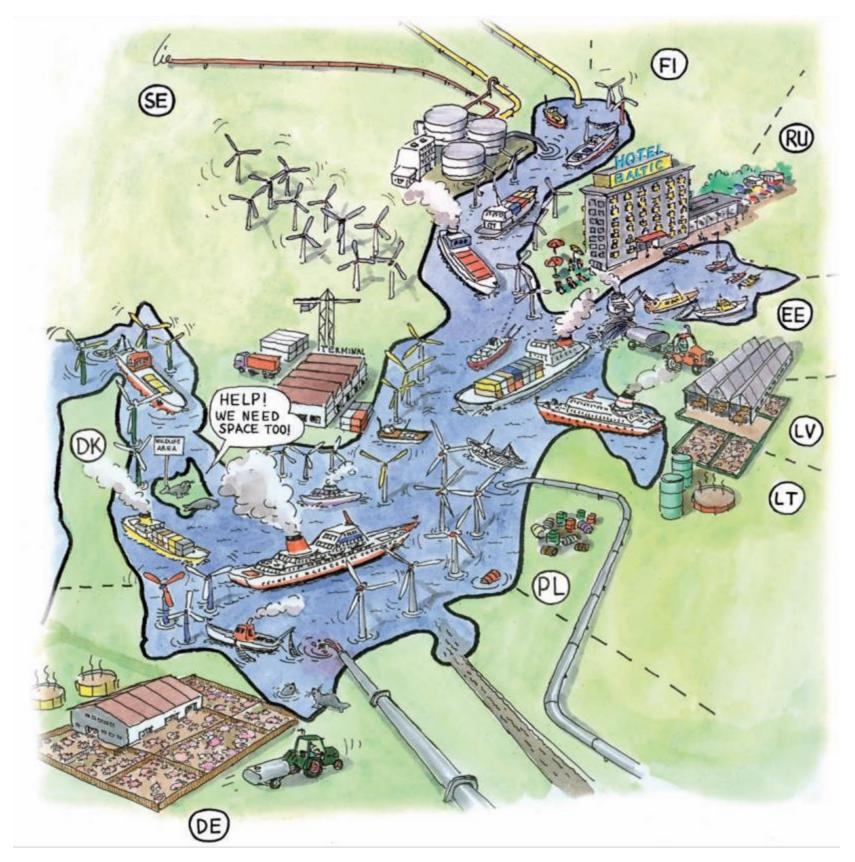




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The need for Maritime Spatial Planning









Managing the Baltic Sea as a whole

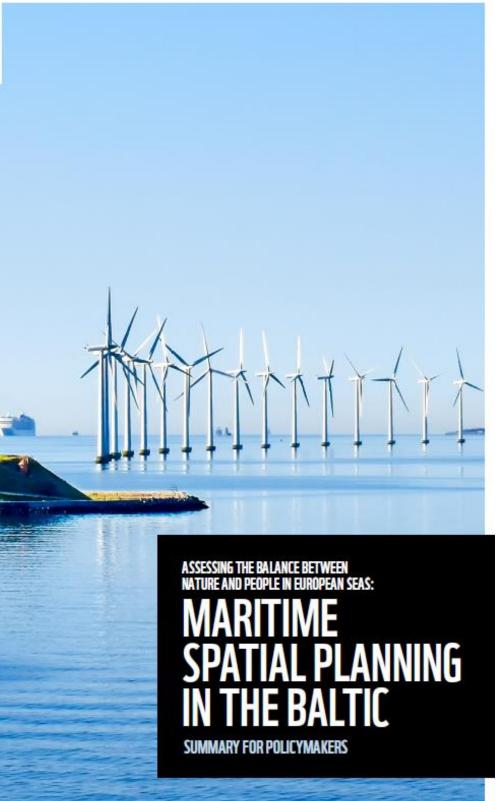
An ecosystem-based approach (EBA) to Maritime Spatial Planning, views maritime spaces as integrated systems that provide various resources and services to both people and the planet, and acknowledges that ecosystems have a limited carrying capacity to remain healthy against human pressures

An EBA to MSP can transform how sea spaces are accessed and managed.









Measuring success of MSP in the Baltic Sea

A core element of this work has been the translation of the MSPD's requirements for MSP into 33 indicators that, when all achieved, would successfully deliver an EBA to MSP.

These indicators fall under **four categories**, each assessing a key domain of sound MSP in national maritime spatial plans.



INCLUSION OF NATURE The plan accounts for integrating marine protection, limiting the expansion of at-sea activities, and considers the cumulative effects of human activities on the carrying capacity of marine ecosystems as essential components of securing a sustainable blue economy







The MSP process is based on the robust management of all maritime activities, including transboundary cooperation between national authorities for long-term sustainability, as well as an adaptive approach to monitoring and future planning



SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The plan takes diverse at-sea human activities and socio-economic factors into consideration, including the Principles for a Sustainable Blue Economy7

GOOD OCEAN GOVERNANCE

The plan aligns with other EU policies and designates competent authorities to manage and enforce a high-standard EBA to MSP

COMPREHENSIVENESS OF THE COMPLETE MSP PROCESS

Overall trends

MSP in the Baltic region can be considered **partly** successful with the total scores of all four categories achieving an average of 49%.

Application of an EBA was uneven, resulting in a lack of effective transboundary harmony between national maritime spatial plans, and inadequate implementation of measures to restore and protect ecosystems.

performance.

SCORE IN % O-10



TABLE 1: Average Member State score for each Maritime Spatial Planning assessment category

For each Member state the worst and best scores for each category is highlighted in red and green respectively. A high percentage score denotes a positive performance, a score below 50% denotes a negative

• 11-20 • 21-30	● 31-40 ● 41-50 ● 51-	60 •61-70 •71-80 •	81-90 91-100
INCLUSION OF NATURE	SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS	GOOD OCEAN GOVERNANCE	COMPREHENSIVENESS OF THE COMPLETE MSP PROCESS
43.4%	54.0%	46.9%	50.7%
16.70%	28.6%	38.9%	37.5%
57.4%	78.6%	66.7%	56.3%
29.6%	28.6%	27.8%	37.5%
40.7%	50.0%	27.8%	28.0%
31.5%	42.9%	55.6%	68.8%
68.5%	92.9%	88.9%	87.5%
27.8%	50.0%	22.2%	31.3%
48.1%	28.6%	38.9%	43.8%
70.4%	85.7%	55.6%	68.8%

Implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic region

100% @

Key: ____ Baltic regional average ____ Estonia ____ Denmark ____ Finland

Entire sea area covered

Tools for monitoring progress and aligning with key policies included

Sustainable multipurpose use through time and space included

> Interdisciplinary science supported decisions

Adaptive management framework applied

Cross-border cooperation for good planning, monitoring and enforcement

Industrial, ecological, cultural and societal functions included

> Planning based on best-available scientific evidence

Various scenarios of sustainable sea uses considered

Competent authority for delivering EBA-MSP in place

> Cross-sectoral policies and timelines harmonised

> > Legally-binding plan

Vision for sustainable development in next 20 years included

Aligns with EU Habitats Directive and **Birds Directive**

Aligns with EU policies for reduction of noise pollution

Aligns with EU policies for seafloor and habitat protection

NB: The Baltic regional score corresponds to the average of all Member States' scores plus Åland, which is an autonomous territory of Finland. For the scores, "100%" corresponds to the complete achievement of indicator goals in that category, "50%" represents a partial achievement, and "0%" corresponds to zero achievements. Individual graphs of each Member State's performance across the four categories of this assessment can be found in the full report, Assessing the balance between nature and people in European seas: Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic.

Comprehensiveness of the complete MSP process

Good Ocean Governance

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Åland 🚃 Germany 🚃 Lithuania 🚃 Sweden 📩 Latvia 🚃 Poland

Strategic environmental assessments -(SEA) conducted

Consideration for ecologically-sensitive areas

When data is missing/ insuficient, Precautionary Principle applied

Planned activities fall within environmentally-sustainable limits

Land-sea interactions identified and analysed

Network of well-managed Marine Protected Areas included

Essential marine habitats connected via blue corridors/ green infrastucture

Areas for nature restoration included

Blue Carbon ecosystems protected

Marine ecosystem services assessed and included

Risk in conflicts among users addressed

Sustainable blue economy objectives and finance priciples defined

Industry employment and income generation forecasted

Sea use by fisheries assessed and included

Offshore renewable energy targets included -CO₂ neutrality respects biodiversity objectives

Results from cross-sectoral public consultation incorporated

Temporal and spatial uncertainties in the _ era of climate change addressed

Socio-economic considerations

Inclusion of nature

WWF Recommendations

- Implement an ecosystem-based approach to MSP, ensuring policy coherence
- MSP a toolbox for decisions based on the carrying capacity of the Baltic Sea
- Identify and designate suitable areas for protection and restoration
- Ensure ORE areas occur outside MPAs and improve regional, transboundary cooperation for a nature-friendly ORE expansion
- Define blue economy scenarios for all maritime sectors based on EIAs and SEAs
- MSP should be legally binding
- Apply adaptive management to continuously evolve the MSP









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together possible. panda.org









MSP4BIO Science – Policy Think Tanks

Kemal Pinarbasi, HELCOM Secretariat

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Science - Policy Dialogues

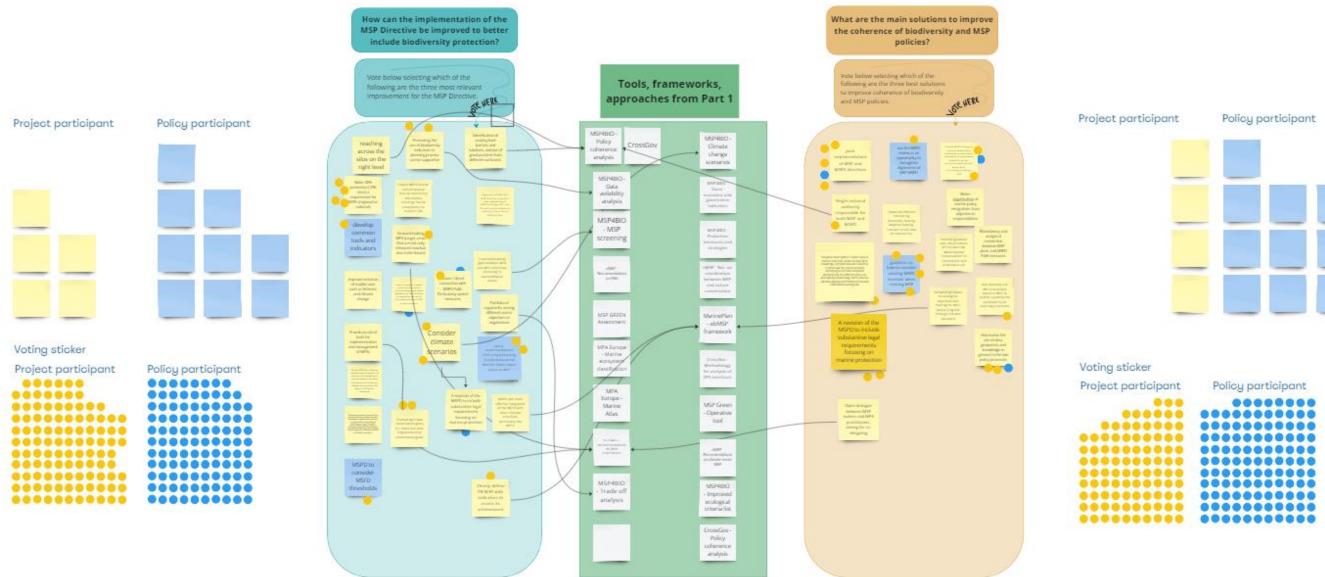






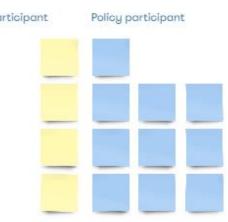


Science - Policy Dialogues











Science - Policy Dialogues

	KEY WORDS	nation on the sister p POLICY FOCUS	SCALE	CASE STUDIES/ PILOT SITES	IN HOUSE EVENTS	BLUE4ALL (www.blue4all.eu)	Resilient and Efficient MPAs	Restore EU oceans and waters	EU	25 sites across Mediterranean Sea, the Baltic Sea and the North-East Atlantic regions	-questionaires -tests
N	MSP Achieving the Green Deal Integrating MPAs in MSP	EU sea basins National,	One case study per sea basin	-Community of Practice	(www.blue4an.eu)	Blueprint platform					
ISP4BIO	Stakeholder Engagement	processes support implementation of EU Biodiversity Strategy and CBD post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Focus on biodiveristy policy coherence	transboundary and regional level		Meetings -Project meetings -Trainings REMAP	REMAP	& Review Data Tools Models Data sharing	provide EU Member States with innovative technical framework for the support of the European MSP process Policy Briefs + co- development of tools with stakeholders	EU	Local - Galicia (Spain) Cross Border - Western Mediterranean Sea basin - Baltic	Beta-test of tools Galicia (Spain), Venice (Italy) and Helsinki Final Conference October 2025 Helsinki
	MPA Network Europe Blue carbon Biodiversity Smart (adaptive) MSP	MSPs to consider MPAs within a changing climate context European Green Deal Biodiversity Strategy and post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	EU Stakeholder engagement per sea basin (national and regional authorities - decision makers))	One case study per sea Basin • 3 case studies to be agreed with stakeholders • no pilots	brief on project outcomes and	PLASMAR+	CIA development	Macaronesia regional collaboration developing tools, products and methodologies for operative MSP	Sea-basin scale, the European Macaronesia	Azores Madeira Canary Islands	 End of project Conference Capacity Buildings Stakeholder's engagement initiatives
	MSP Sustainability Energy Biodiversity	Support coherence among MSP plans Cross Learning Green deal and impact of	North Sea and Baltic Sea	Each learning strand has either 1 or 2 study cases. (Learning strands Ocean Governance.	-Project meetings -Final conference -High level conference (TBD)	Shetland marine plan	Marine Development Framework	sustainable development	Local scale - Shetland		Workshops
ISP NBSR	Distriction	climate change		MSP data, Monitoring & Evaluation, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Blue Economy)		MSPGREEN	EGD	Role of MSP plans as enablers of EGD Role of other policies (e.g. fisheries, nature	National level (analysis, actions) EU level (recommendations) EU sea basins (link		Workshops
	Stakeholder engagement		Galicia	-Training of MSP Authorities Ocean Literacy Workshop			conservation)	with Sustainable Blue Economy)			
			-Communities of practice meetings -Case studies workshops with regional/local stakeholders	MarinePlan (marineplan.eu)	EB-MSP conservation EBSA Stakeholder engagement	integrate marine conservation into MSP processes in European Seas	EU	Azores Celtic Sea Western Baltic Sea Western Mediterranean Campania (Italy) Greek Aegean Bay of Biscay	 high level steakholder workshops (EU level) planning site Stakeholde workshops project meetings (Barcelona, Azores, etc.) end of project conference 		

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What are the barriers?

MSP involves **balancing various interests**, including conservation efforts

The flexibility of the MSP framework leads to variations in its implementation

A lack of a clear definition for the EBA leads to varied interpretations

The absence of **environmental binding targets** in the MSPD framework

No explicit requirement for Member States to **include all maritime activities** in their MSP plans





How can the implementation of MSP directive be improved to better include biodiversity protection?

Responses from Project Participants

- MSP Protection Requirements (30%, and 10% strict protection)
- Data Sharing and Harmonization e.g., EMODNet
- **Biodiversity Indicators for MSP**
- **Climate Scenarios and Conservation Goals**
- **EB-MSP** Definition and Science-Based Solutions





How can the implementation of MSP directive be improved to better include biodiversity protection?

Responses from Policy Makers

- **Ecosystem-Based Approach and MSFD Integration**
- Establishment of a closer connection with MSFD
- **Policy Recommendations and Research Investment**
- MSPD Revision to include more robust legal requirements for marine protection







How to improve the coherence of biodiversity and MSP policies

Responses from Project Participants

- Guidance on MSFD Thresholds in MSP
- Alignment of Directive Cycles
- MSPD Revision for Marine Protection
- Single National Authority for MSP and MSFD
- Use of MSFD Review to Strengthen Alignment





How to improve the coherence of biodiversity and MSP policies

Responses from Policy Makers

- Joint Implementation of MSP and MSFD Directives
- Data Harmonization and Shared Definitions
- Vulnerable Areas Identification







Thanks for listening

Kemal Pinarbasi, HELCOM Secretariat kemal.pinarbasi@helcom.fi











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CrossGov Baltic Sea and Finnish pilots – from EU regulation to regional practice

Antti Belinskij & Suvi-Tuuli Puharinen, University of Eastern Finland

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CrossGov project

Coherent & Cross-compliant Ocean Governance for Delivering the EU Green Deal for European Seas

- FUNDING: Horizon Europe, H-CL6-2021-GOV-01-06, Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal
- DURATION: 3 years | September 2022 September 2025
- MISSION: Knowledge on how coherence and cross-compliance of marine related policies and legislation affect the ability to realise the EU Green Deal's goals
 - Protection of marine ecosystems and biodiversity, zero pollution and nature-based climate change adaptation and mitigation
- 8 CASE STUDIES: e.g. Baltic Sea and Finnish Archipelago





EU policy coherence

- Assessing coherence of EU policies in five clusters
- Cluster 1: Marine Biodiversity Protection (Habitats, Birds, Marine Strategy Framework Water Framework, Marine Spatial Planning directives and the Nature Restoration Law
- Cluster 2: Zero Pollution (Nitrates, Water Framework and Marine Strategy Framework) directives)
- Cluster 3: Fisheries (Common Fisheries Policy against the Biodiversity cluster)
- Cluster 4: Agriculture (Common Agricultural Policy against the Zero Pollution cluster)
- Cluster 5: Offshore wind (Renewable Energy Directive III against the Biodiversity cluster)





Biodiversity – policy cluster and the MSP

- EU Green Deal objectives: 30 % marine protection areas by 2030, 10 % strict protection, restoration of degraded ecosystems (100 % by 2050)
- Current EU policy landscape on the protection marine biodiversity is fragmented and is not enough to deliver the GD objectives
 - Nature directives cover only part of marine nature (especially habitats)
 - The MSFD covers broader range of marine nature and requires establishment of MPAs \rightarrow legal impact of the Directive vague
 - Neither the Natura 2000 requirements in the HD nor the MSFD's vague regulation of the MPAs constitute strict protection
- Marine spatial planning potentially crucial complementary instrument Potential partly lost in the MSPD: MSP rather a tool for bringing together different
- interests, and does not promote any interests more than what is provided in the relevant sectoral legislation





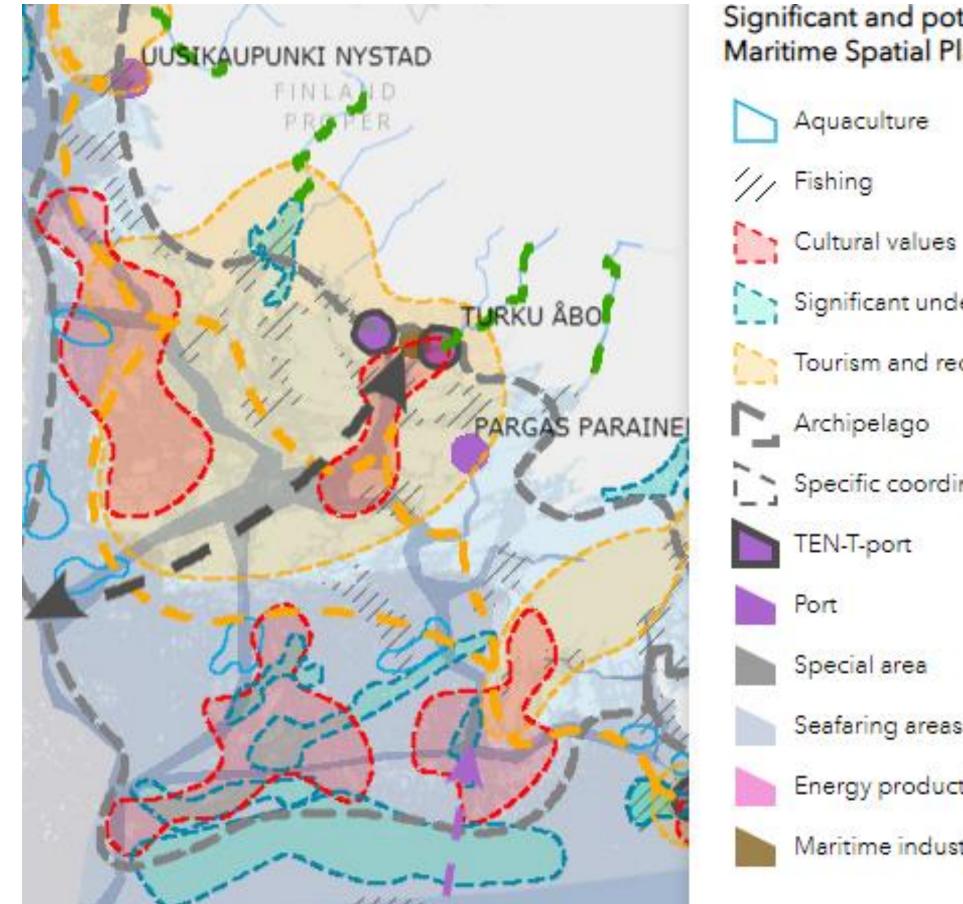
Regional implementation: Finland

- LEGISLATION
 - MSP process: Objectives, content, drafting, approval, participation, comments, publication
 - Integration of uses, good environmental status, marine conservation
 - No direct legal implications on e.g. permitting
 - Marine strategies, marine conservation: Act on the Marine Strategy; Nature Conservation Act, no strict protection of marine Natura 2000 sites
- MARTITIME SPATIAL PLAN 2030: Archipelago Sea
 - Archipelago Sea National Park, solutions to improve the state of the marine environment





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Significant and potential areas identified in the Maritime Spatial Planning Process

- Aquaculture
- Significant underwater natural values
 - Tourism and recreation
 - Archipelago
- Specific coordination area
 - TEN-T-port
 - Special area
 - Seafaring areas
 - Energy production
 - Maritime industry

Conclusions

- MSP as a solution
 - Process: Includes different uses, broad participation, targets e.g. marine conservation
 - No substantive regulation to safeguard any use or non-use
 - No direct legal implications in Finland
- Integration of marine conservation
 - Must be considered in MSP process, area designation
 - Sectoral policies: Location of point sources, no strict conservation, no integration into diffuse nutrient loading and eutrophication
- Way forward
 - Strengthen the legal implications of MSP at Member State level
 - Strengthen integration of marine conservation into sectoral policies





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MSP as "playground" of European Green Deal initiatives: Latvian findings within MSP-GREEN project

Kristine Kedo, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia

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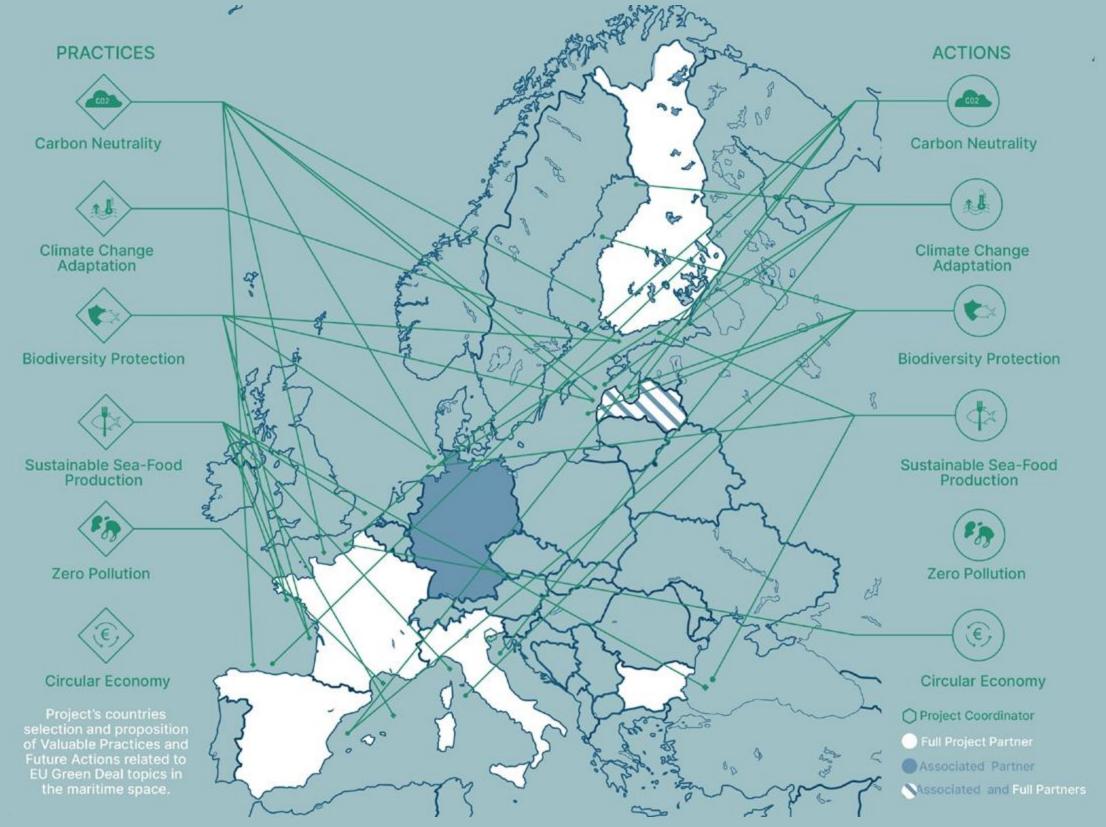
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MSP-GREEN context: From challenges identified to new actions proposed!







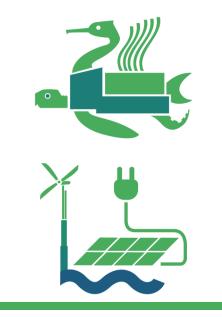
EGD topics identified within MSP-GREEN project

Sustainable seafood production

Zero pollution at sea and coast

Circular economy in the diverse maritime sectors

Climate change adaptation of ecosystems and maritime and coastal activities



Biodiversity and ecosystem protection, including marine habitat restoration

Carbon neutrality, including production of marine renewable energy, contribution to climate change mitigation and protection and restoration of blue habitats







LV MSP playground

Uptake of project findings in Latvian MSP process:

- General principles on biodiversity protection and offshore wind park development in MSP since adoption in 2019
- MSP GREEN project findings elaborated in LV MSP interim assessment in 2023
- Findings include 2 identified «new actions», where detailed concept for implementation should be elaborated by the end of 2024
- Related amendments to legislation by the end of 2025
- Review of LV MSP starting from autumn 2025
- > New planning solutions in LV MSP by ...?





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New action 1:

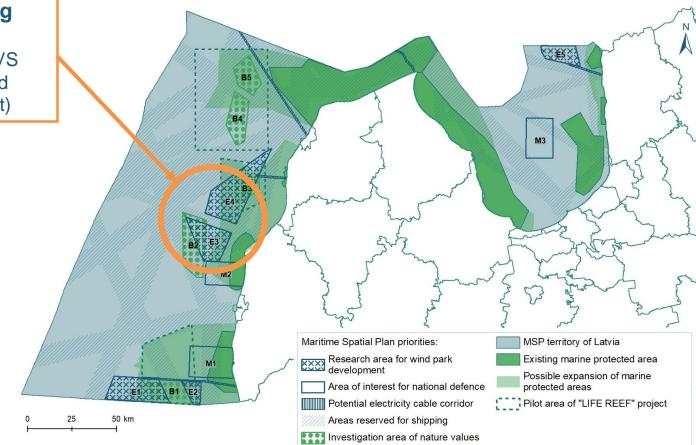
Setting the course towards reaching the 30% Biodiversity Strategy's target at sea: Coordination between overall management actions and Latvian MSP planning solutions

The new action will move towards reaching the 30% biodiversity protection target at sea based on the ongoing LIFE REEF project findings, which considers most of MSP nature investigation zones.

RUAA **B**3 **B2** MSP territory of Latvia Investigation area of nature values Existing marine protected area 🚺 Pilot area of "LIFE REEF" project

This action has a high risk to conflict with the already existing plans and developments on land to achieve other EU initiatives/goals - need for new planning solutions

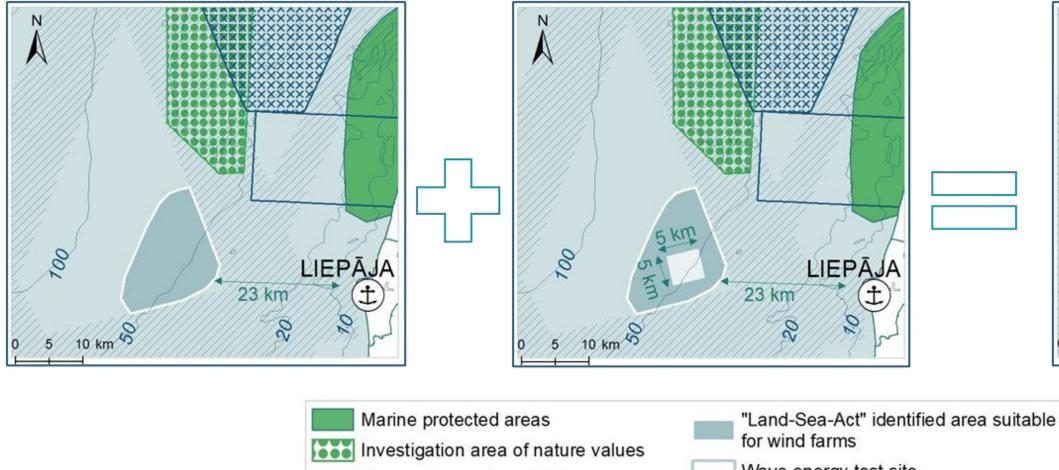
Challenging territory (biodiversity VS offshore wind development)

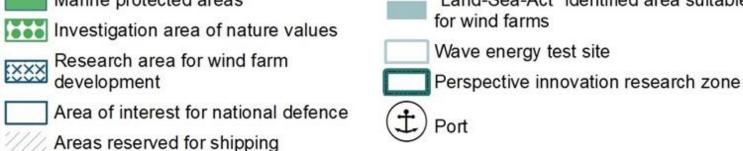


Further discussions are needed how different activities, such as active shipping, fisheries and OWF, can influence the protection targets of the MPA and what kind of restrictions should be applied within the management plan of MPAs



New action 2: Designation of the innovation zone for the development of blue economy by introducing a multifunctional use concept in Latvian marine waters

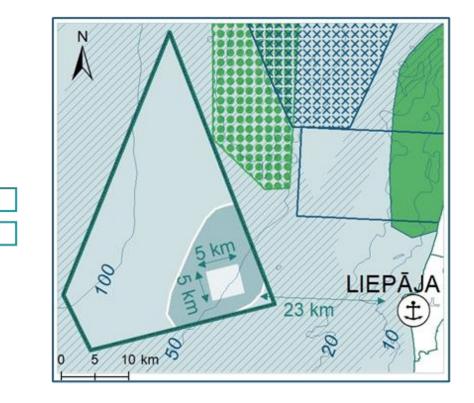


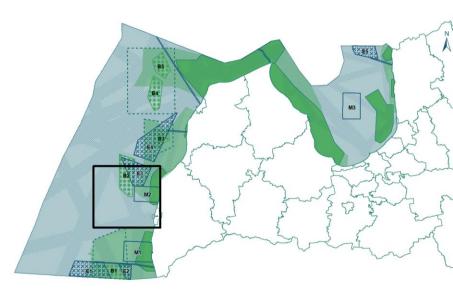


Crucial to comprehensively include interested stakeholders and experts already during the first steps of amending regulations, but keeping in mind the overall concept (choosing a possible area, receive opinionable feedback, as well as professional consultations >>> the base for the initial framework for designation of this specific sea use)





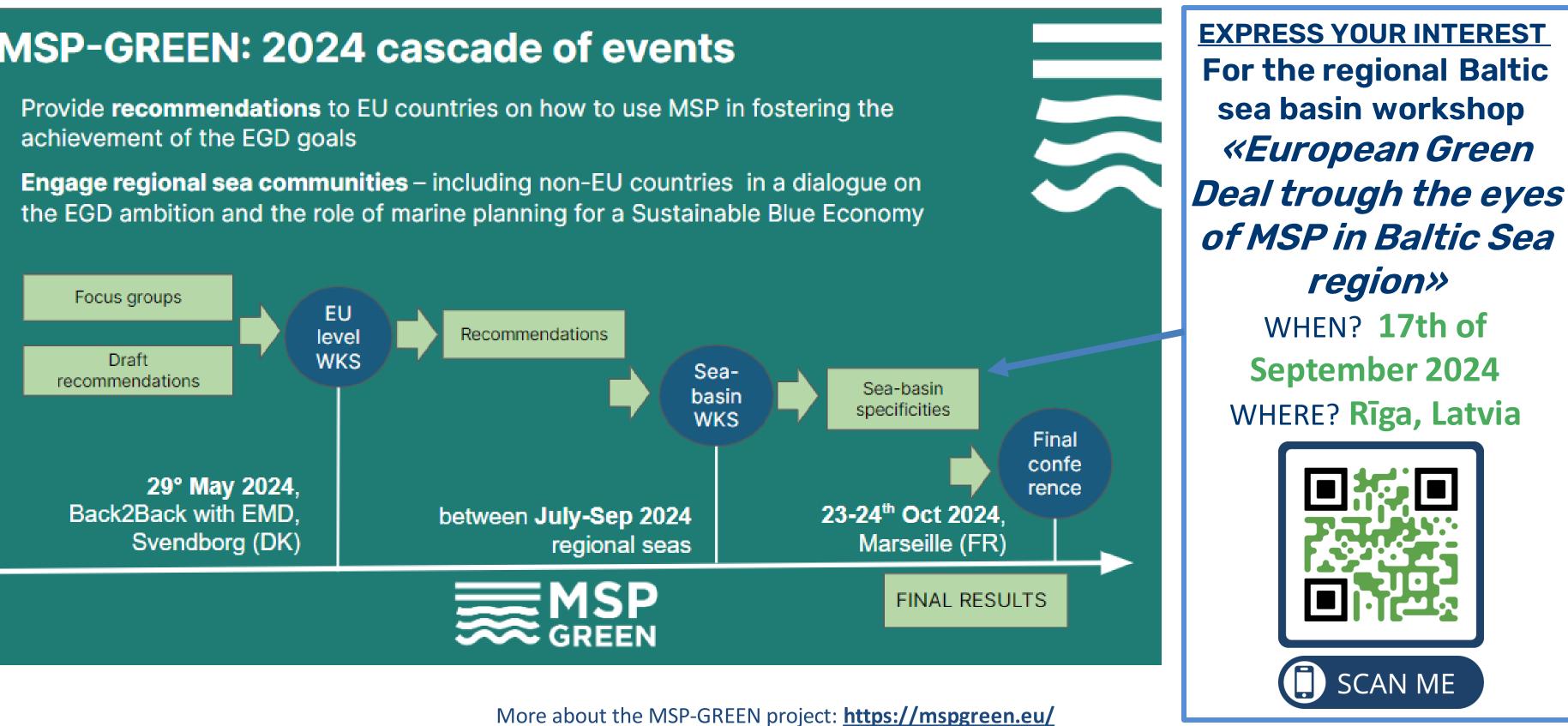




What's next?

MSP-GREEN: 2024 cascade of events

- Provide recommendations to EU countries on how to use MSP in fostering the • achievement of the EGD goals
- Engage regional sea communities including non-EU countries in a dialogue on $^{\circ}$ the EGD ambition and the role of marine planning for a Sustainable Blue Economy





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Thank you!

Contact details:

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MSP as the process itself is a playground to turn challenges into opportunities and ensure the best possible deal for sustainable development of our sea!



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Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development Republic of Latvia





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O BLUE MISSION BANOS Panel session with Q&A

20 min

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Interactive session - moderated discussions in break out groups

25 min

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Barriers I

How do you recognise coherence or lack of it? 1)

2) What are the practical means to balance EGD and MSP? Which are particularly relevant to balance between nature conservation and other objectives in MSP?







Barriers II

3) Which platforms are the ones to foster coordination between MSP, nature conservation and maritime sectors in the Baltic Sea region? Room for improvement? (related also to Data knowledge gaps and its appropriate application (e.g. lack of data compatibility in decision-making)

4) The absence of environmental binding targets in the MSP Directive. The flexibility of the MSP framework in marine conservation leads to variations in its implementation





Barriers III

5) Limitations in MSP process (A lack of a clear definition for the EBA leads to varied interpretations and applications; lack of experts, finances, time constrains and yet unclear possible MSP operational impact)

6) Uncertainties in policy development and implementation (e.g. priority) setting), changing political agenda







Action points

- **1. Ensure sustainable funding for better integration of MSP/EU Green Deal/MPAs/sectoral policies and better cross-sectoral cooperation** (i.e. MSP authorities to be involved in MPA designation process; better integration of CFP requirements in MSP and marine conservation).
- 2. Ensure translation of broad conservation goals (global/EU) into local (region/country) conservation goals.

3. Ensure harmonisation of data portals and knowledge in the various policy processes.









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THANK YOU!

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