



Marine Protection and Nature Inclusivity

New Knowledge, New Developments, New Recommendations

Theme: Nature Protection


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ECONOMY BALTIC FORUM

ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP



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MISSION ARENA 4

28-29 April 2025 | Sopot, Poland

Setting the scene

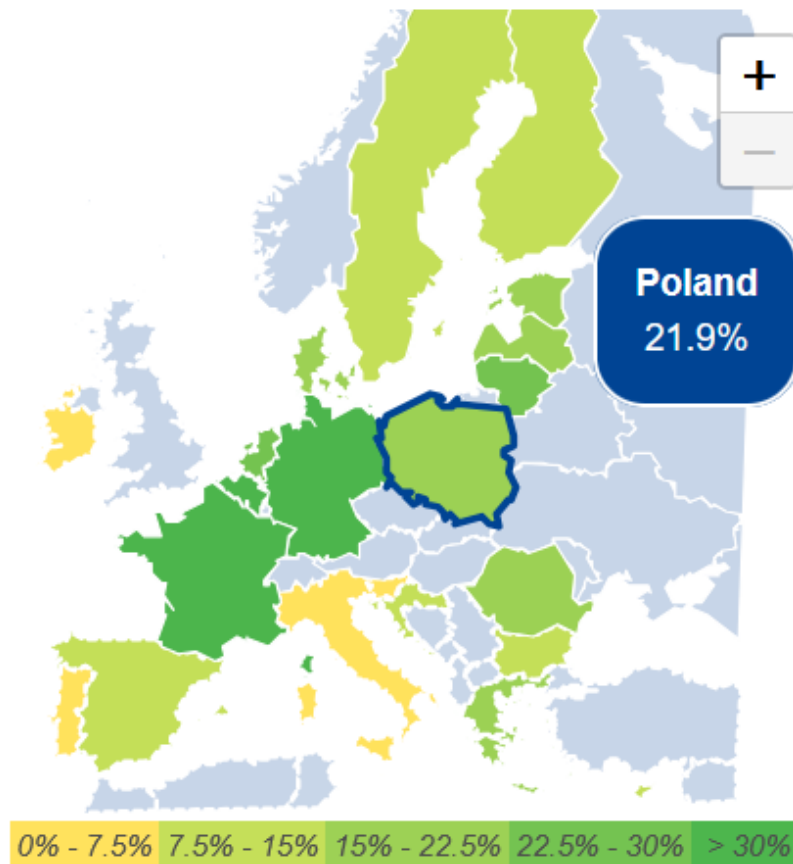
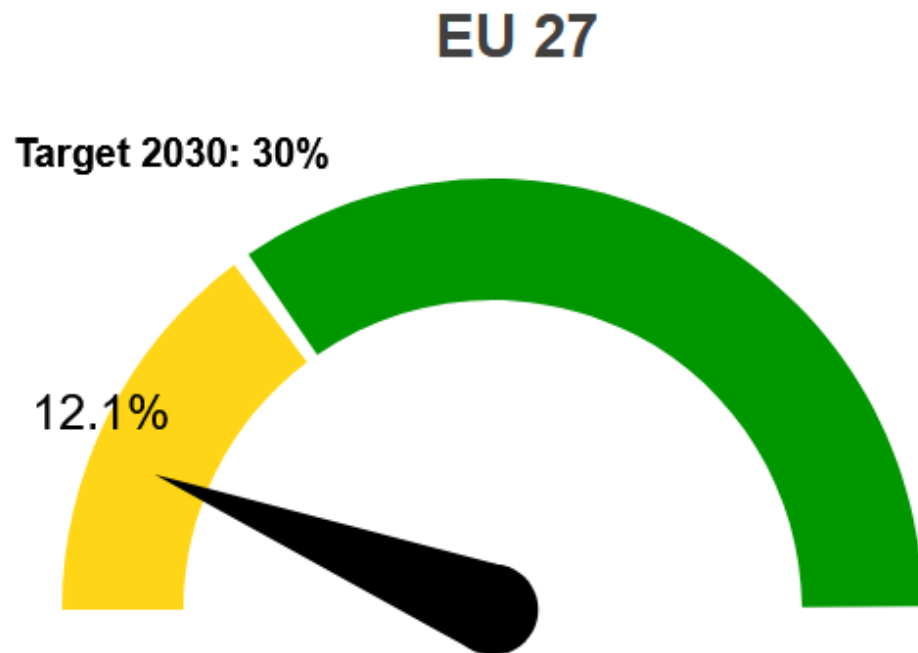
Magdalena Matczak - Gdynia Maritime University, Poland

Theme: Nature Protection



Source: [European Environment Agency](#)

Values at national scale



Subtarget 1.2: Legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's sea area

Indicator 1.2.1: Marine protected area coverage

This indicator measures the percentage of marine waters, by Member State and at EU 27 level, covered by protected areas. It considers both nationally protected areas and Natura 2000 sites. Values are calculated and provided every year by the European Environment Agency based on data reported by Member States.

Agenda for today

PROTECT BALTIC – preserve, revive and thrive the Baltic Sea

- Estefania Cortez - Coalition Clean Baltic, Sweden

MARBEFES – Valuing Natural Capital to Support Marine Decision-Making

- Tymon Zieliński, Climate and Ocean Research and Education Unit Institute of Oceanology
Polish Academy of Sciences

MSP4BIO – Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Marine Spatial Planning: Challenges & Recommendations

- Jacek Zaucha - Gdynia Maritime University, Poland & Ivana Stojanovic – sPro, Germany

REFEST – Lets retrofit fishing fleets for low-cost emission reduction

- Marcin Rakowski - National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Poland

Agenda for today

Discussion in the form of LIVE SLIDO

SeaSkech exercise





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Estefania Cortez - Coalition Clean Baltic, Sweden

Theme: Nature Protection



Management in the Baltic Sea MPAs: mapping the realities of a transboundary network

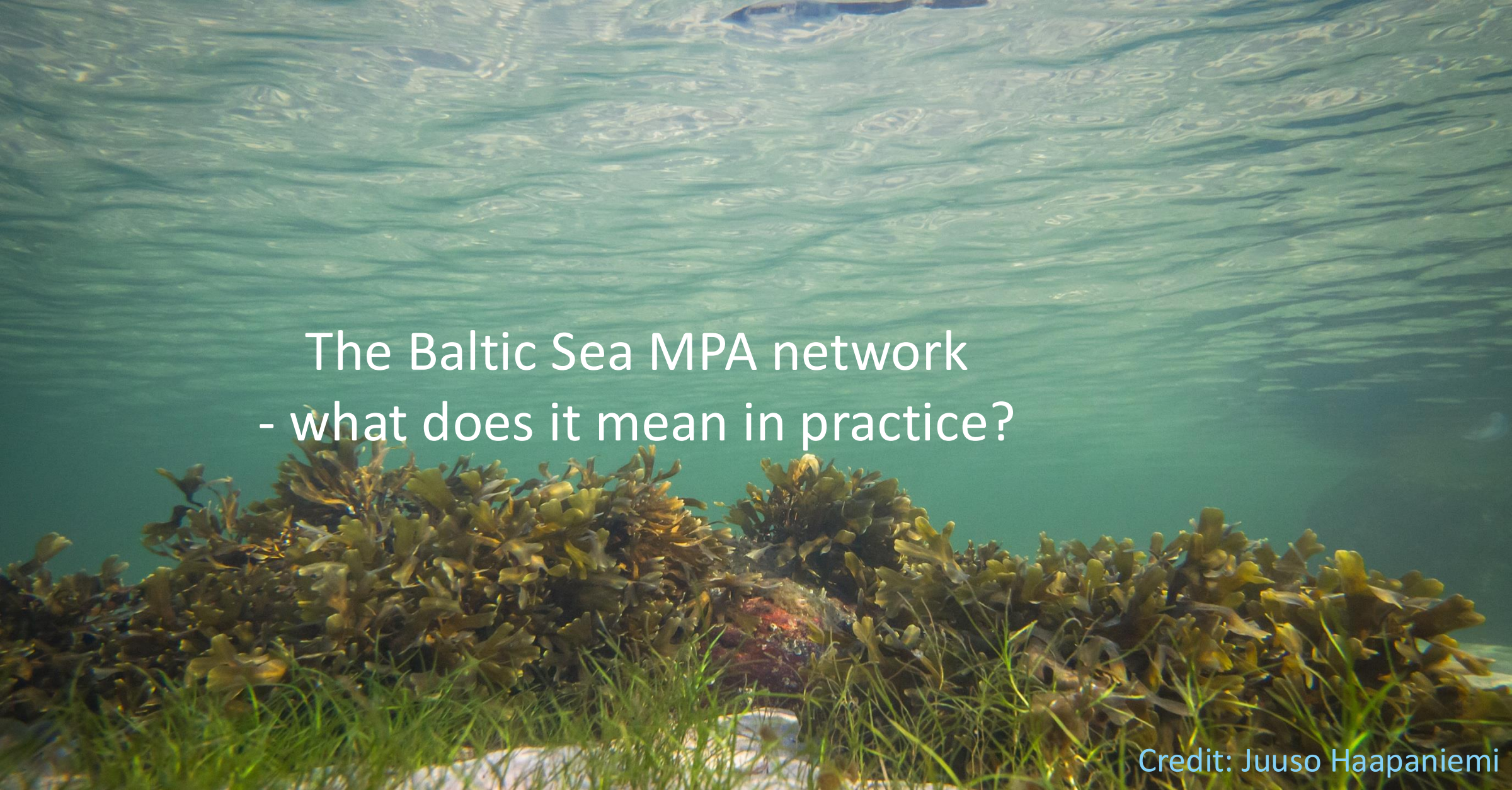
PROTECT BALTIC is dedicated to achieving biodiversity goals in the Baltic Sea Region, which duly aligns with key strategies outlined in HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity targets (CBD). It looks to develop a methodology to identify, map, quantify and value ecosystem services, through interdisciplinary collaboration, to support marine conservation and optimization of the MPA Baltic sea network.



Management in Baltic Sea MPAs

*- mapping the realities
of a transboundary
network*

Estefania Cortez, Project Manager/ Legal Expert, CCB

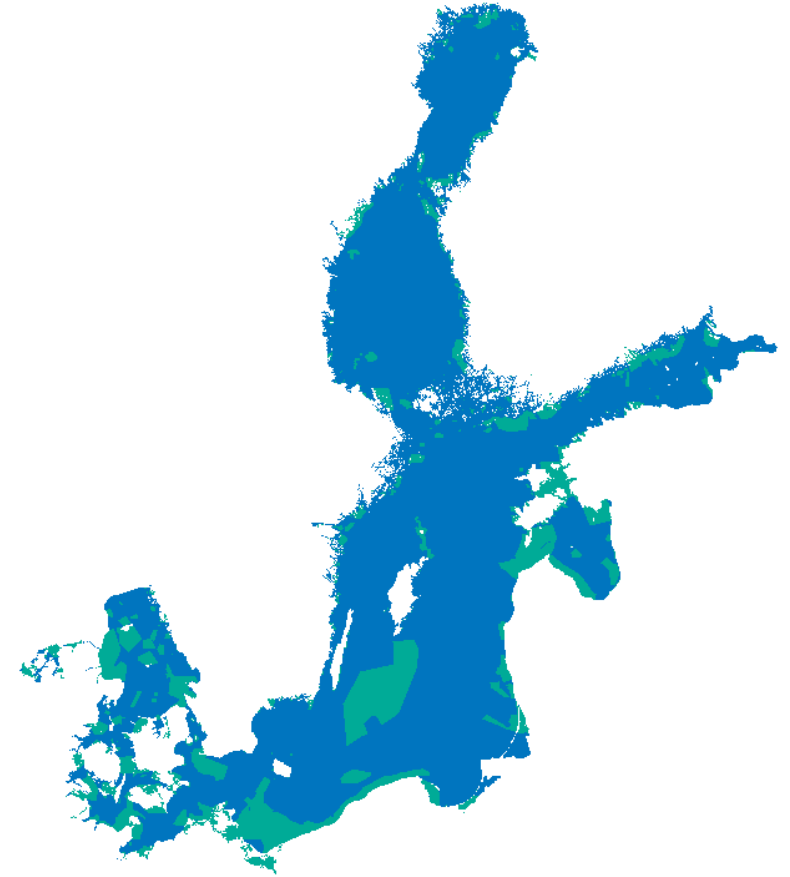
An underwater photograph showing a dense thicket of brown seaweed and green seagrass in the foreground. The water is clear and greenish-blue, with ripples on the surface visible. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

The Baltic Sea MPA network
- what does it mean in practice?

Credit: Juuso Haapaniemi

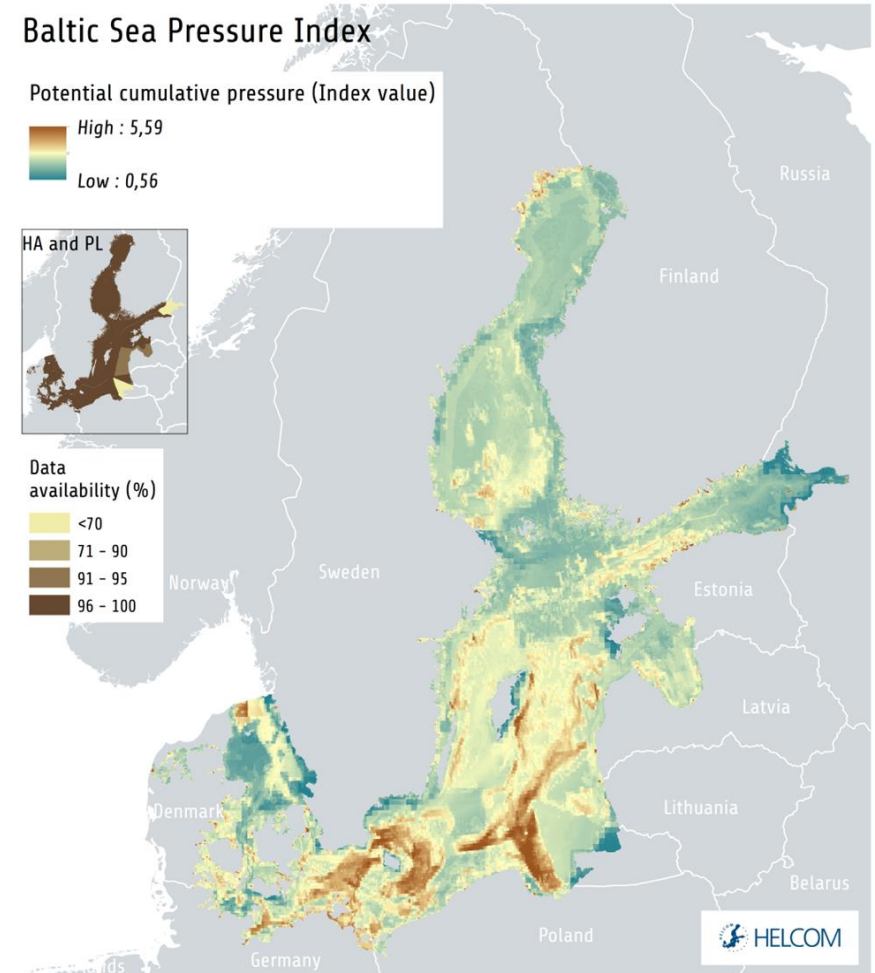
Current situation – the good

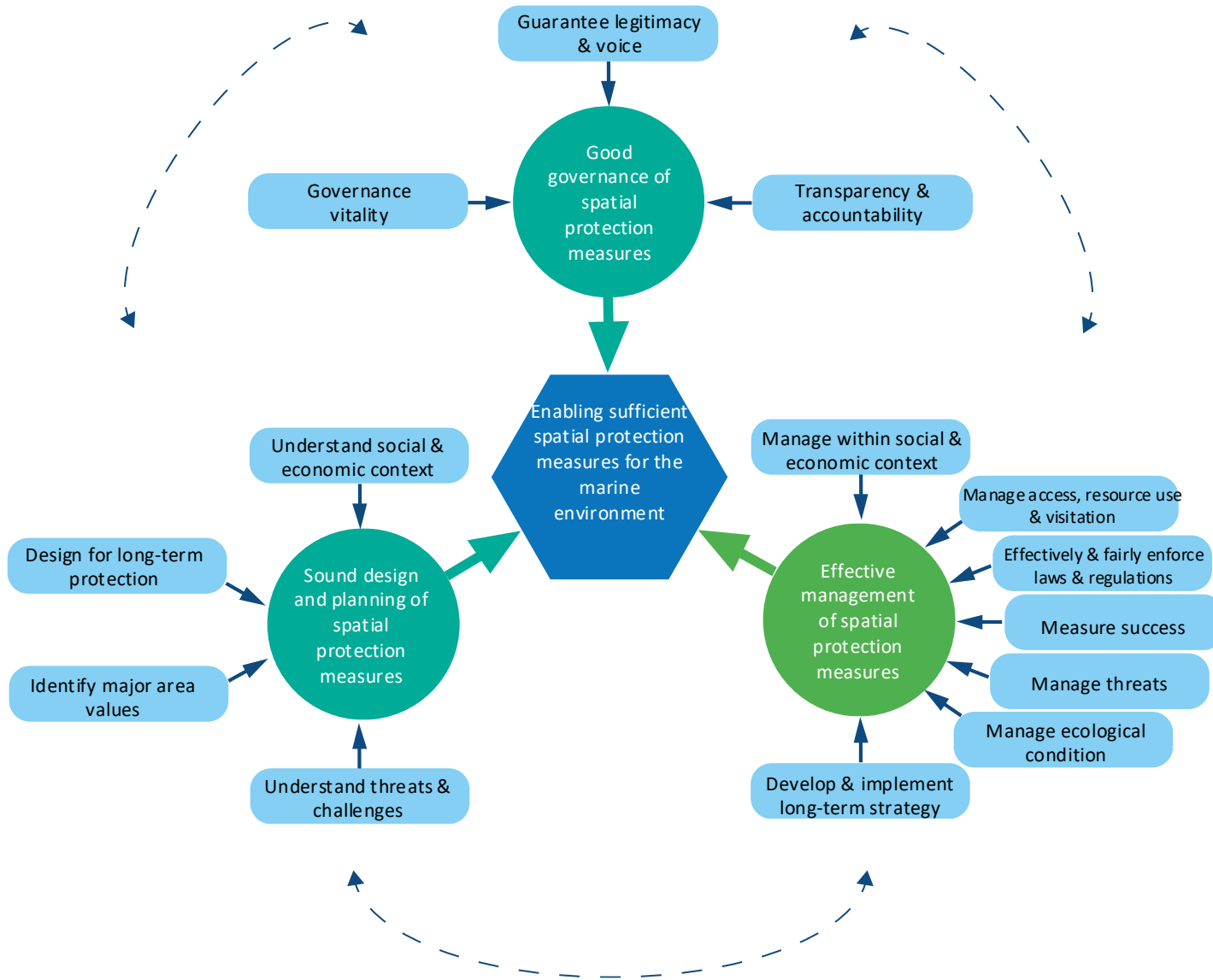
- At least **1876 MPAs**, with designations across 9 countries.
- First region in the world to reach the global 10% target.
- As of December 2024, the Baltic MPA network covers approximately 16.6% of the Baltic Sea (based on reported data).
- Included in this are 178 HELCOM MPAs (i.e. part of a recognised transboundary MPA network), amounting to about 13.2% of the Baltic Sea.



Current situation – the not so good

- Incomplete knowledge base for decision making and designation.
- Gaps in governance
- Insufficient use of adaptive management.
- **It took 30 years to get where we are (16.6% protected), now we need to double it in 5 years. How?**
- ✓ **Promoting the recognition of MPAs as strictly protected in the Baltic Sea.**
- ✓ **Look beyond the 30% as a quantitative target by ensuring a rich qualitative marine protection.**



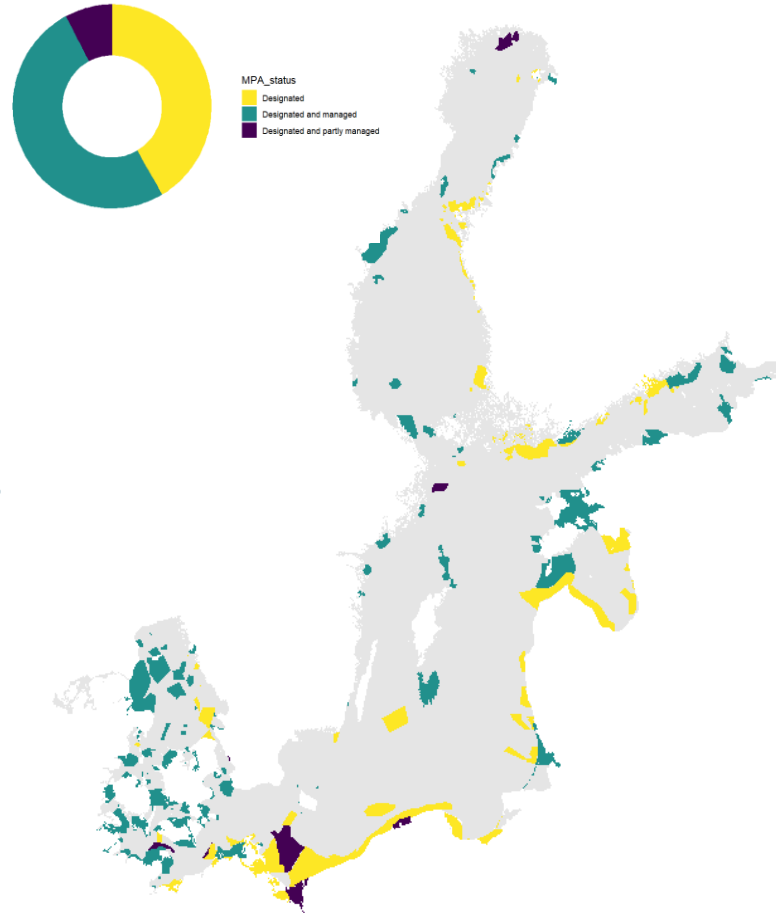


**Ultimate goal:
Management
and effective
protection**

Management across Baltic Sea

MPAs

- **Single site management:** One site, one plan.
- Three categories of **multi-management plans:**
 - One site, multiple plans.
 - One plan, multiple different domains that are covered.
 - One plan, multiple sites.

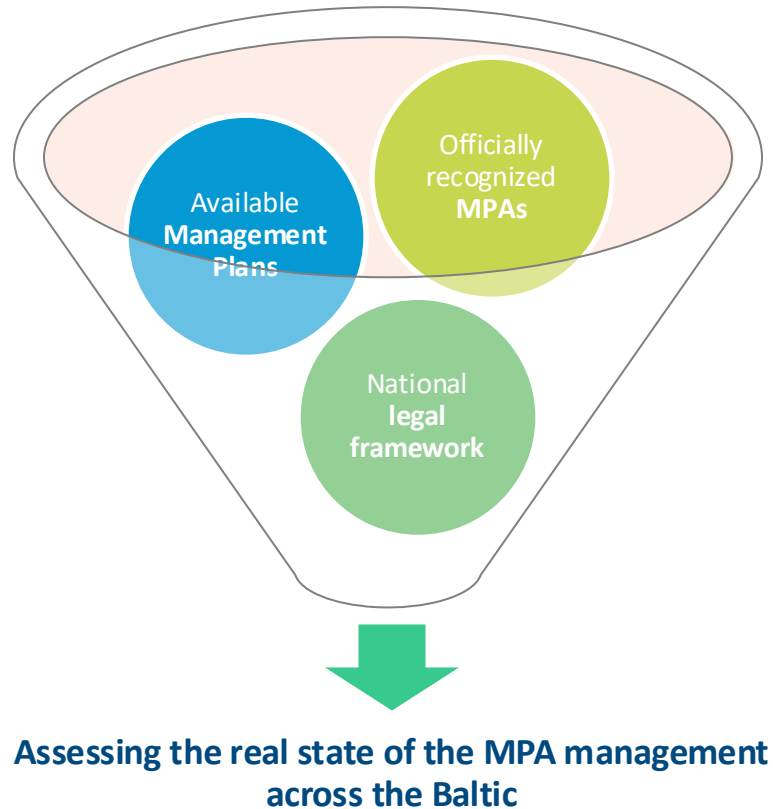


- Main findings:
- Areas do not recognise, or recognise limited, marine protected features.
- Areas have little or no measures for the marine environment.

Mapping the real management of Baltic Sea

MPAs

Why do we need to do it?



- **Comprehensive overview of what we are protecting** (all types of MPAs), from what (pressures) and in what way (measures).
- **Better understanding** of what management means for different national frameworks and what their specific challenges are to recommend possible solutions.
- **Provide input on good practices** to be share with different managers accross the Baltic.
- **Provide a regional/network perspective** on management from an ecologically relevant point.

Data quantity and methodology



- **Regional data call**
- Information on MPAs in the Baltic Sea as well as confirmation of where to find their official

- **Data collated**
- Information on **1,876** MPAs, and **856** available management plans.

- **Standardized data harvesting**
- Established a template for information harvesting, with predefined terminology wherever possible

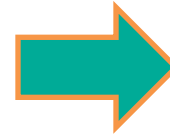
What type of information has been harvested?

1 Protected features
Species, habitats, functions, ecosystem services, etc.

2 Pressures and threats
Human activities, pressures, level/degree of impact, etc.

3 Protection measures
Type of measures accounted in the MP, and their specific scope and details.

4 Monitoring and enforcement
Identification of ecological or activities monitoring within the MPAs identified.



Despite the substantial effort in collating all these information, there are still gaps.

Therefore, after the harvested data is incorporated into the Baltic Sea MPA Portal, all countries will be invited to review, revise and validate the collated details of each national MPA landscape.

What have we learned so far?

DATA

- The availability of data required has not been equal across the Baltic region.

DIFFERENT NATIONAL APPROACHES TOWARDS MANAGEMENT

- The data received from Contracting Parties has varied significantly in content and structure, largely due to differences in regulatory frameworks, institutional approaches, and the types of MPAs recognised.

ROLE AND VALUE OF MANAGEMENT PLANS

- Management Plans are only one part of the puzzle, but a very significant one since it reflects on the short, medium and long term of any implementation of an MPA.

INTERACTION WITH MANAGERS

- Crucial interaction to (1) understand management scales, (2) highlight local knowledge of managers, and (3) establish contact and potential cooperation with other areas/managers.

How will it be used?

- For example:
- ✓ **Input to end-products of PROTECT BALTIC project:**
 - ✓ Quantitative, largely automated, Management Effectiveness Analysis (MEA);
 - ✓ Testing Sufficiency of Measures Analysis (SOM) for MPAs;
 - ✓ Populating the Baltic Sea MPA Portal to make information fully available.
- ✓ Identify areas classifying as **strictly protected** and recommend new ones;
- ✓ Guide development of **new Baltic Sea MPA Management Guidelines**;
- ✓ Help to track progress towards the implementation of the **Baltic Sea Spatial Protection Framework**.

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MARBEFES

MARine Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning leading to Ecosystem Services



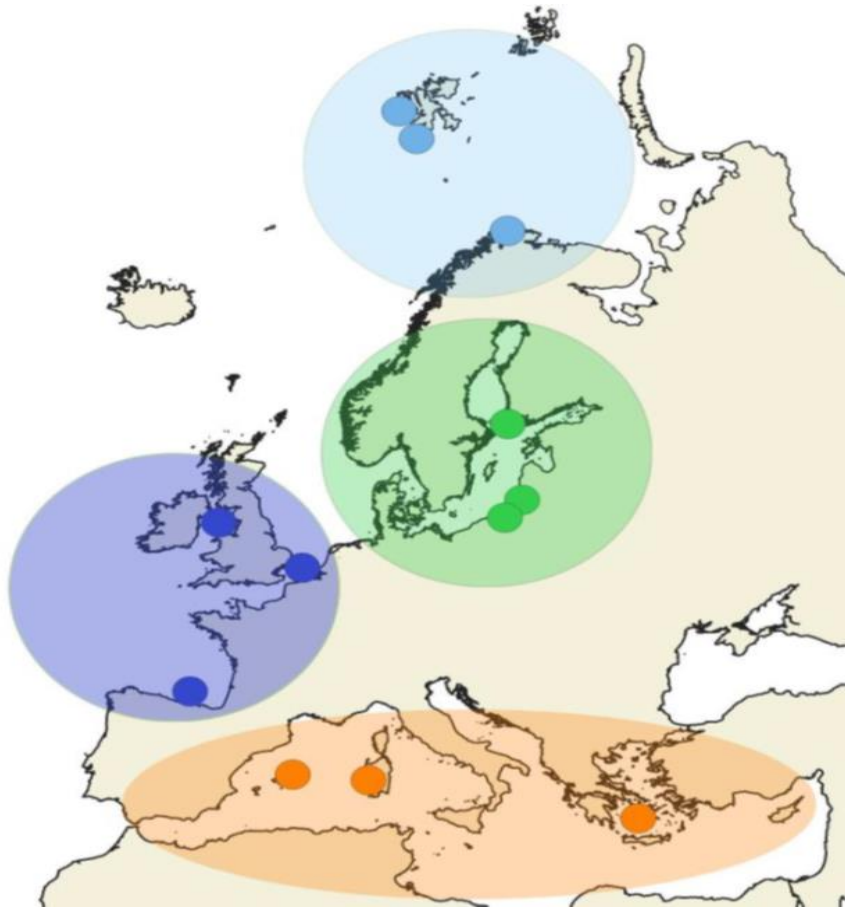
MARBEFES project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement no 101060937

Jan Marcin Węśławski (general project coordinator IOPAN), Joanna Potrykus (project manager IOPAN), Julie Bremner (scientific project manager CEFAS UK), and 23 partners from 14 countries

Presented by Tymon Zieliński, IOPAN



Geographical coverage:
12 Broad Belt Transects
in 4 regions



Wide consultations with stakeholders in all analysed areas

WP 3

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Tools

Tools for biodiversity, function and services
Innovative biodiversity monitoring

WP 4

Ecological, Social and Economic Valuation

Tools for biodiversity valuation



Perception of biodiversity

Large plants/algae



Potential resource



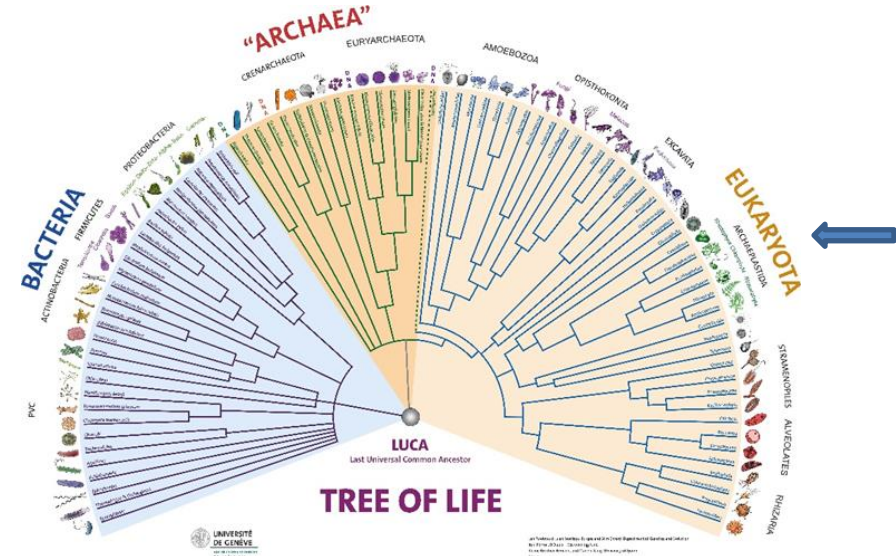
Entertainment



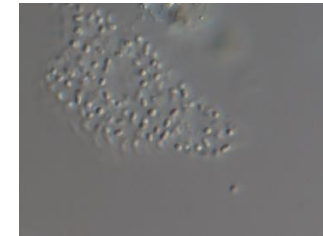
Friendly background



and the real biodiversity resource



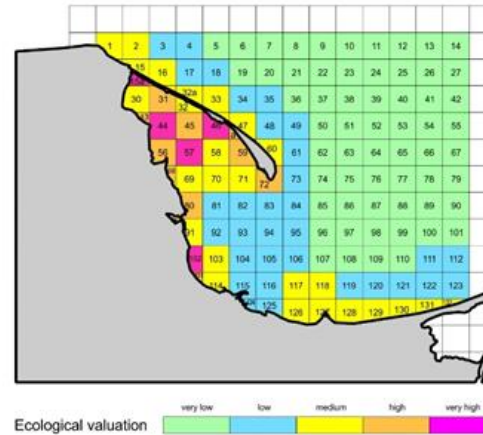
Hidden, invisible, slimy, potentially dangerous



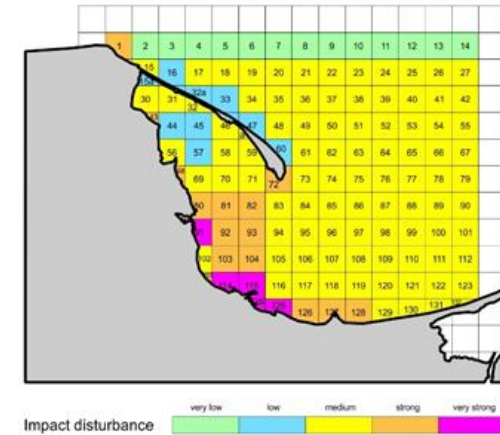
Three different ways of ecosystem valuation:
Ecological value (no reference to human use)
Socio cultural valuation
Socio-economic valuation

All three above (biodiversity) and human disturbance
are not directly correlated

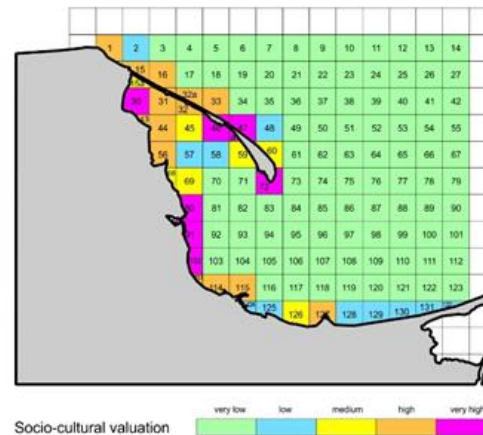
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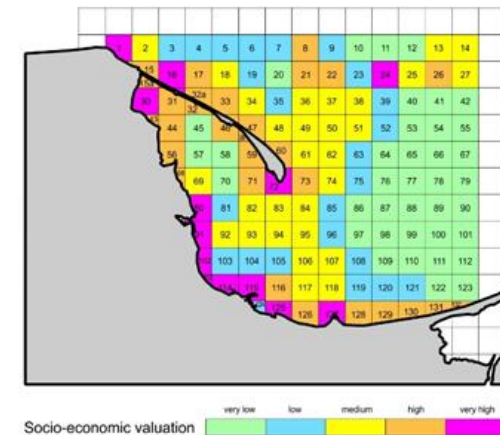
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Publications, public events, popular science picnics etc...

Videos

Last update: 04/08/2024

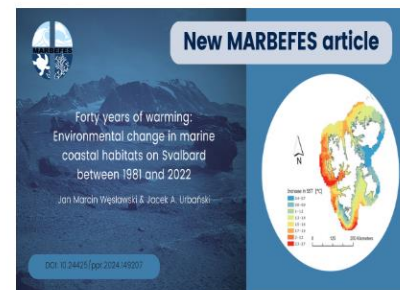
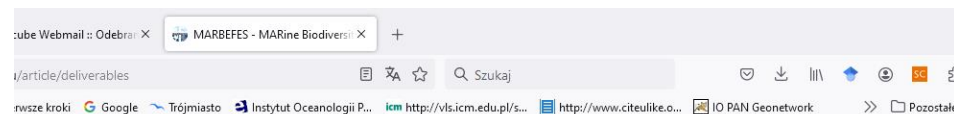
by IO PAN

Share

Here you will find our movies!



BioBlitz - is a special event, where biologists are gathered in one place accessible to the public to identify as many as possible species within 24 hours. This is both important scientific data collected by professionals and a public event that shows how rich is the biodiversity even in the most trivial sites. Important observation is how many specialists one needs to identify all organisms - from unicellular algae to bats and fish. No one knows all the species. Within MARBEFES project we want to organise such events in all of the four regions - Sopot (June 2023, Tromsø June 2024, Dublin 2025 and Sardinia 2025). The first from the four planned MARBEFES BioBlitz actions was organized at the Baltic sea shore in Sopot, Poland. The key idea is to find coastal site that is accessible and known for the wide public - ideally a public park at the cascade. This was the case in Sopot with "Park Różnów" that covers coastal boreal deciduous



TITLE: Forty years of warming: Environmental change in marine coastal habitats on Svalbard between 1981 and 2022

LEAD AUTHOR: Jan Marcin Węślawski

PUBLISHED IN: Polish Polar Research

DOI: [10.24425/ppr.2024.149207](https://doi.org/10.24425/ppr.2024.149207)



TITLE: Taxonomic and functional diversity of nematode fauna: two sides of the same coin in the ecological quality assessment of transitional environments

LEAD AUTHOR: Eleonora Grassi

PUBLISHED IN: Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2023.108550>



MARBEFES Project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement no 101060937 and UKRI under Grant Agreements 10040216, 10048815 and 10041354'





MSP4BIO – Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Marine Spatial Planning: Challenges & Recommendations

Jacek Zaucha – Gdynia Maritime University, Poland

Ivana Stojanovic – sPro, Germany

Theme: Nature Protection


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MSP4BIO: OBJECTIVES



- **SO1. Improve the science base** for the description of MPAs and EBSAs and, identification of new, restoration, enlargement and management of existing MPAs.
- **SO2. Develop and demonstrate a novel flexible management framework** that integrates ecological and socio- economic dimensions for the prioritization of strategic and spatial conservation-management measures.
- **SO3. Strengthen the role of MSP as an integrative framework** to support the coherent implementation of relevant policies (MSFD, WFD, MSPD, BHD, Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), etc.) as well as the EUBS2030 and the CBD post-2020.
- **SO4. Improved biodiversity and natural capital integration** into public and business decision-making at all levels for the protection and restoration of ecosystems and their services.

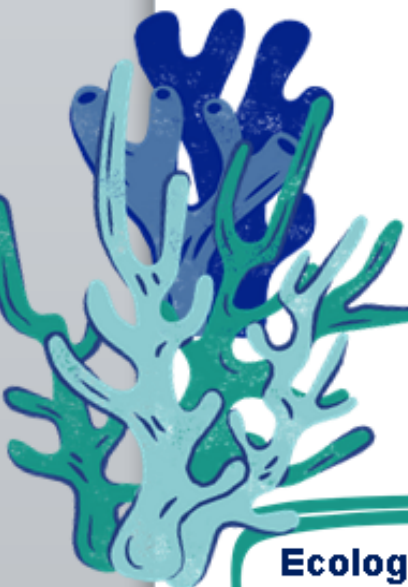
Integrating biodiversity, social justice and economy in order to secure less turbulent future for our seas and oceans. Focus on MSP (but also other policies considered)



This project is funded by the European Union. The content of this presentation are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union



MSP4BIO: KEY RESULTS



MPA/MSP strategic integration framework

Policy coherence solutions to strengthen MSPs compatibility with the new biodiversity policy requirements

EU-wide overview of biodiversity data availability

Integrated modular management framework allowing for better integration of biodiversity considerations in MSP, wider participation and adaptations

Ecological Toolkit ensuring better integration of data in decision making (improved DSTs)

6 demonstrators at different governance levels producing **site specific solutions**

Participatory development of integrated **trade-off scenarios**. **Good management practices** for blue economy sectors.

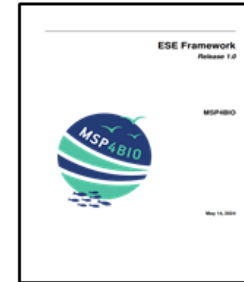


MSP4BIO ESE Framework – biodiversity mainstreaming in MSP



MSP4BIO – ESE Framework online tool/document

WEBSITE



 PDF file



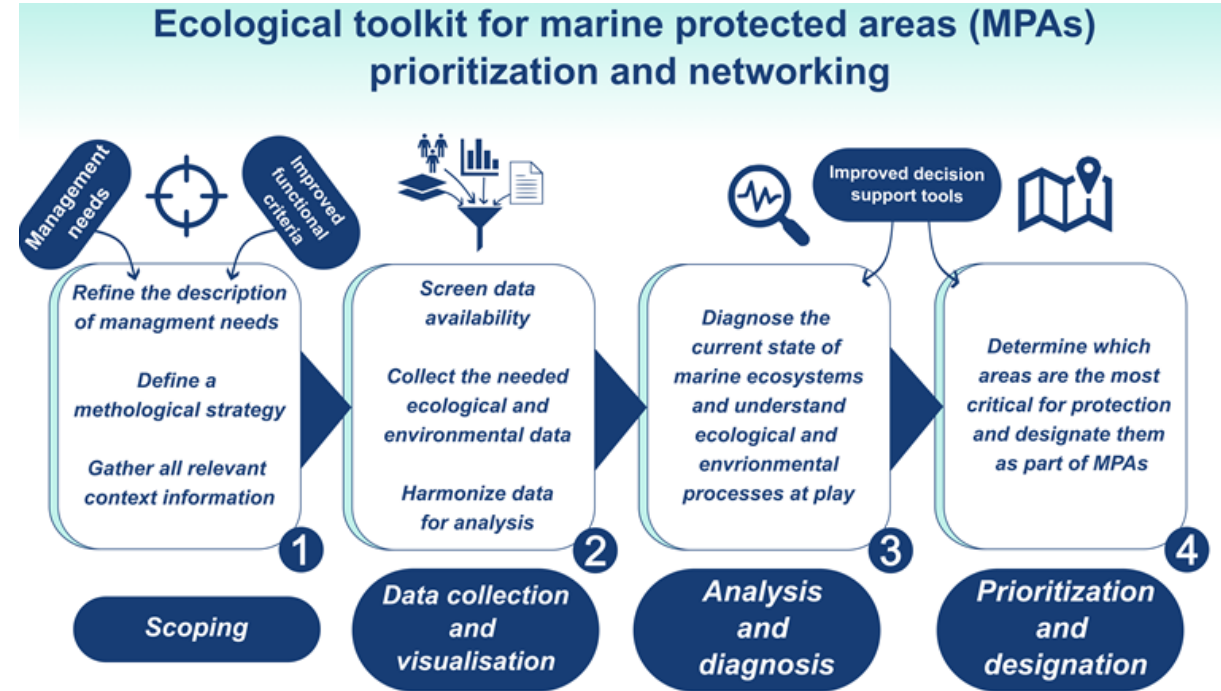
<https://ese.tools4msp.eu>



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MSP MPA integration guide



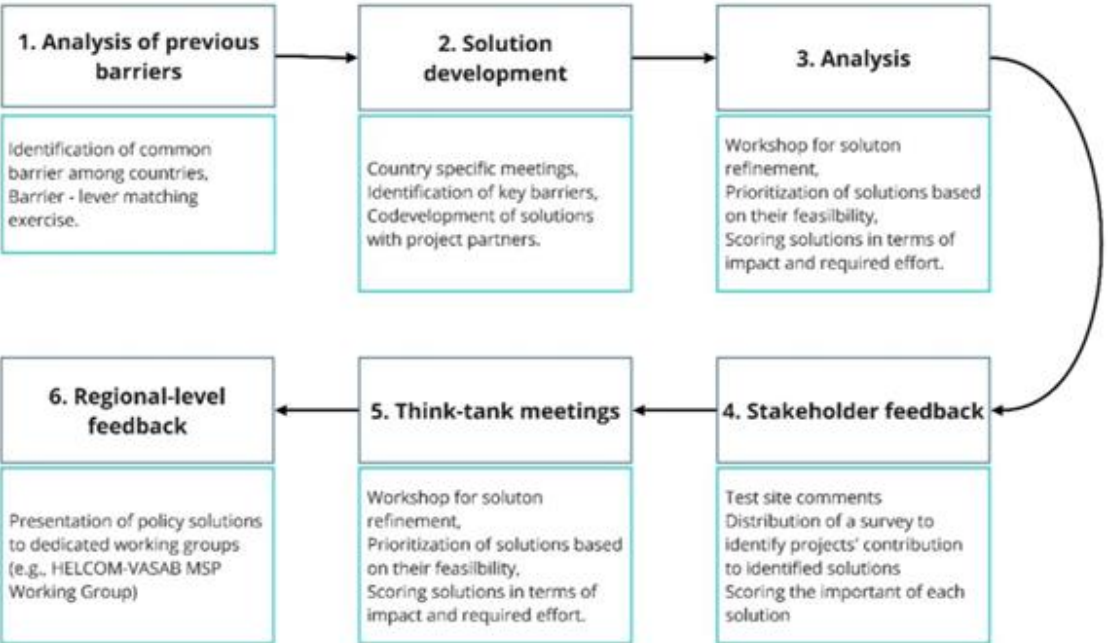
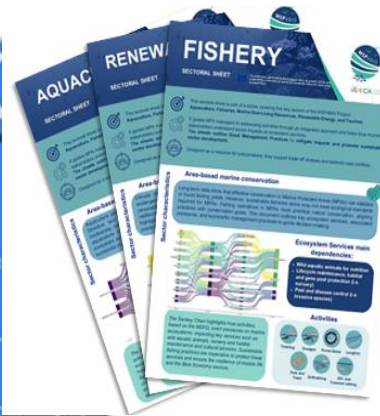
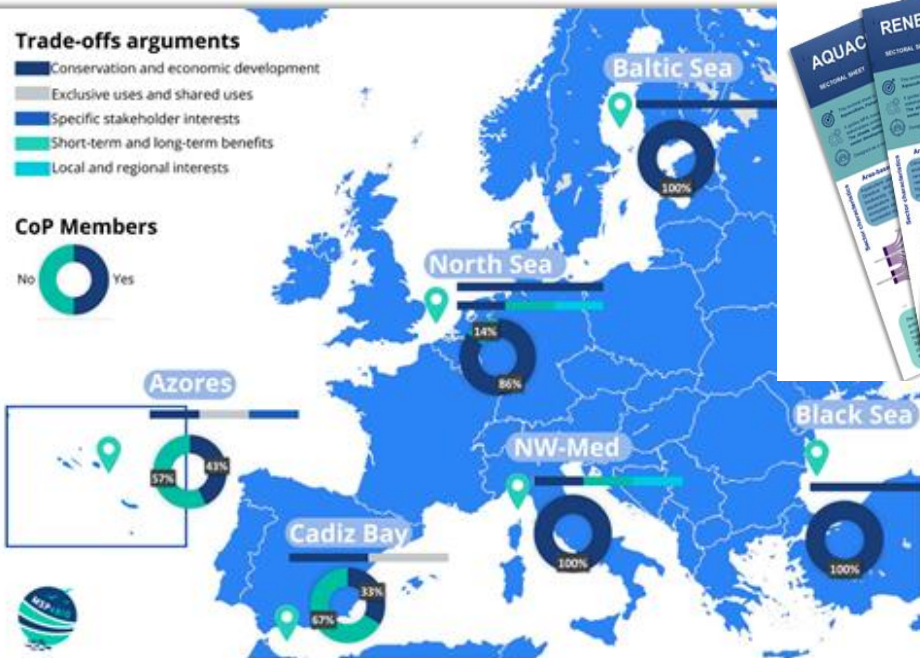
MSP4BIO – trade-off scenarios and good management practices

Policies

Trade-offs arguments

- Conservation and economic development
- Exclusive uses and shared uses
- Specific stakeholder interests
- Short-term and long-term benefits
- Local and regional interests

CoP Members



1. Analysis of previous barriers

Identification of common barrier among countries, Barrier - lever matching exercise.

2. Solution development

Country specific meetings, Identification of key barriers, Codevelopment of solutions with project partners.

3. Analysis

Workshop for solution refinement, Prioritization of solutions based on their feasibility, Scoring solutions in terms of impact and required effort.

6. Regional-level feedback

Presentation of policy solutions to dedicated working groups (e.g., HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group)

5. Think-tank meetings

Workshop for solution refinement, Prioritization of solutions based on their feasibility, Scoring solutions in terms of impact and required effort.

4. Stakeholder feedback

Test site comments, Distribution of a survey to identify projects' contribution to identified solutions, Scoring the important of each solution



CATEGORY	POLICY SOLUTION NUMBER	POLICY SOLUTION
INSTITUTIONAL POLICY SOLUTIONS	PS 1	Establish a dedicated coordination framework or bolster existing structures to focus specifically on marine biodiversity, including regular inter-jurisdictional meetings and policy sessions.
	PS 2	Utilize existing groups like the maritime economy group to establish compulsory assessments and reporting mechanisms that include biodiversity considerations.
	PS3	Revise MPA objectives to be specific and measurable, aligned with each area's ecological needs, and involve MSP authorities in a consultative capacity.
ORGANIZATIONAL POLICY SOLUTIONS	PS4	Create continuous input channels for stakeholders, ensuring research institutes and others contribute regularly and influentially to policymaking.
	PS5	Create mandatory, clear measures connecting human activities with biodiversity goals, including specific targets for success.
TECHNICAL POLICY SOLUTIONS	PS6	Strengthen MSP's role in achieving GES through capacity building, technical training, and dialogue across governance levels.
	PS7	Develop comprehensive guidelines and enforcement mechanisms, including adequate training, resources, and designated MPA managers for effective reserve management.
	PS8	Climate-smart MSP in EU countries (an additional overall policy solution as part of EUBS2030)
RESOURCE-RELATED POLICY SOLUTIONS	PS9	Allocate a portion of maritime-related tax revenue to directly fund National Biodiversity Strategy projects and bolster its operational effectiveness.
	PS10	Increase investment in biodiversity research and monitoring to build a comprehensive knowledge base for improved policy evaluation.
	PS11	Invest in data collection, develop more accessible decision support tools, and provide guidelines for their use in planning, monitoring, and adaptation processes.

PS8 Climate-smart MSP in EU countries (an additional overall policy solution as part of EUBS2030)

PS9 Allocate a portion of maritime-related tax revenue to directly fund National Biodiversity Strategy projects and bolster its operational effectiveness.



THANK YOU

MSP4BIO FINAL

EVENT

Date: 2th - 4th of July

2025

Location: CNR-ISMAR

Headquarter, Venice,

Italy

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REFEST – Lets retrofit fishing fleets for low-cost emission reduction



NATIONAL
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Marcin Rakowski - National Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Poland

Theme: Nature Protection

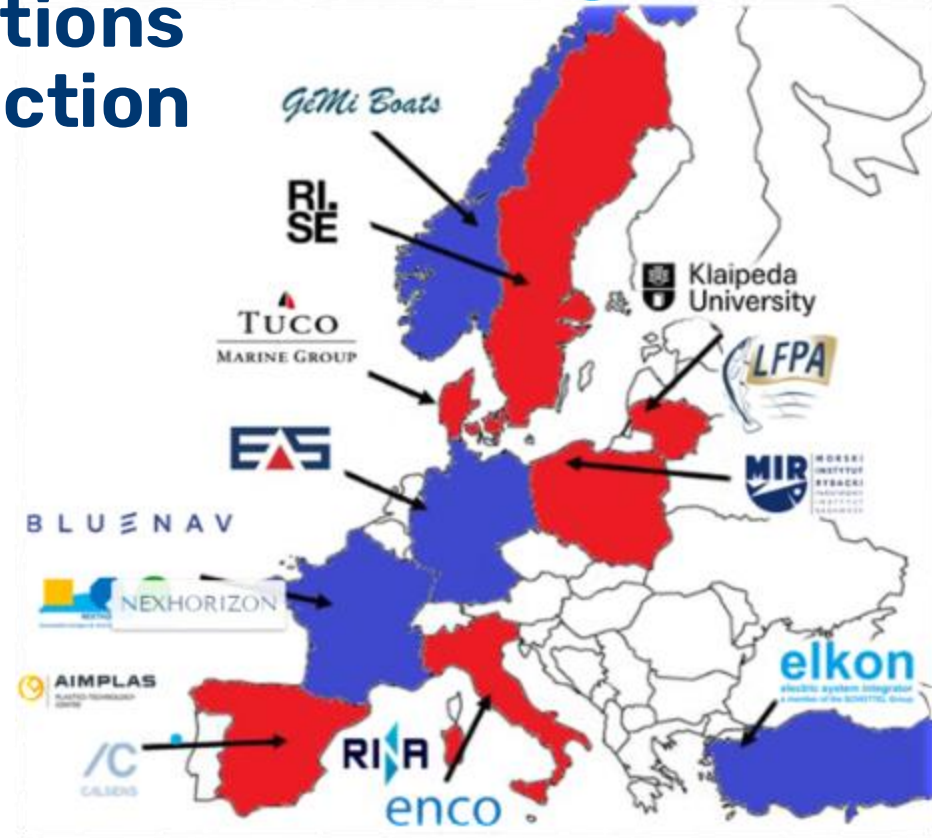
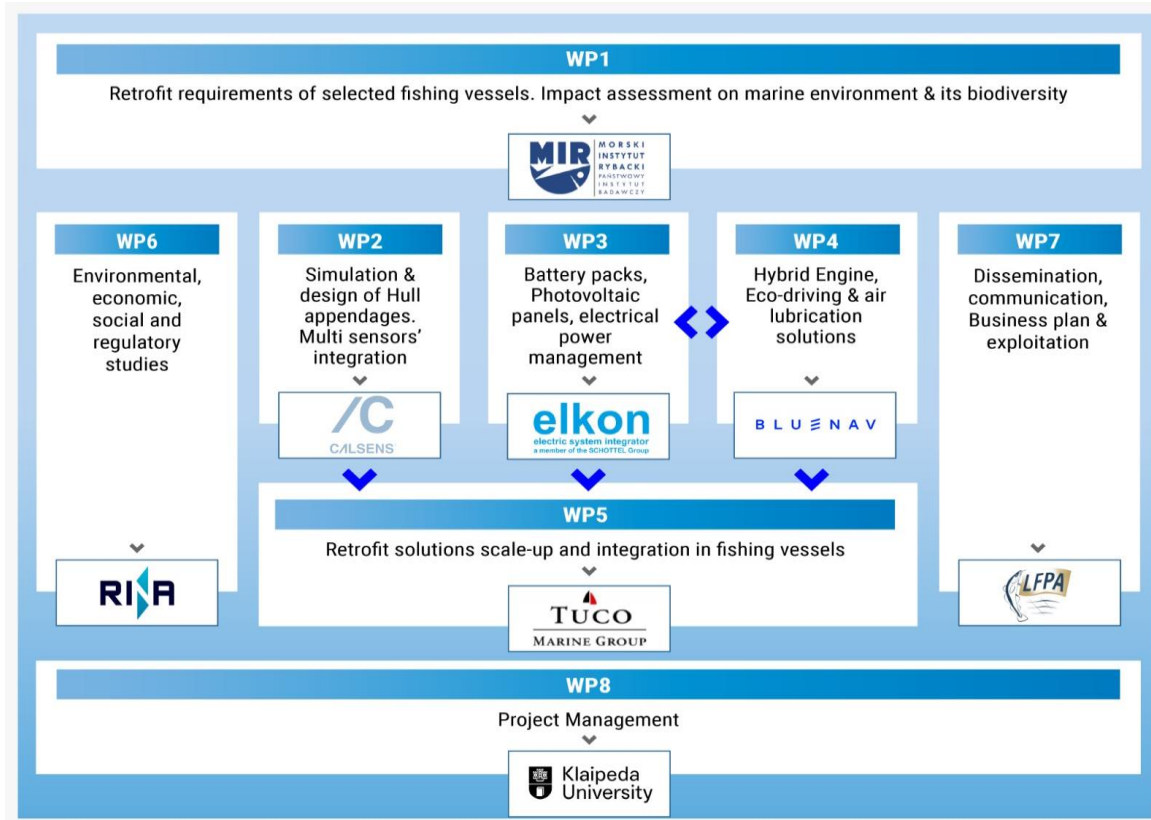

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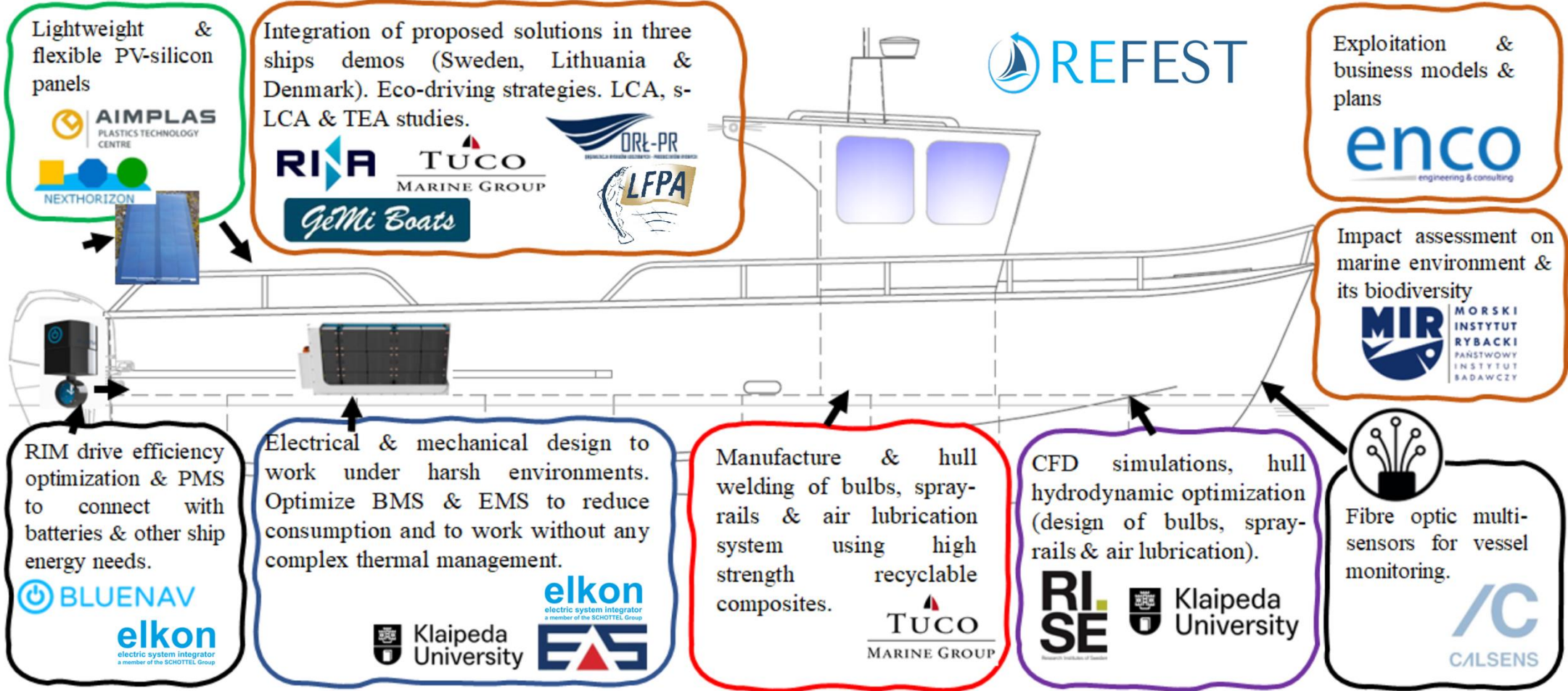
in  #MissionArena4



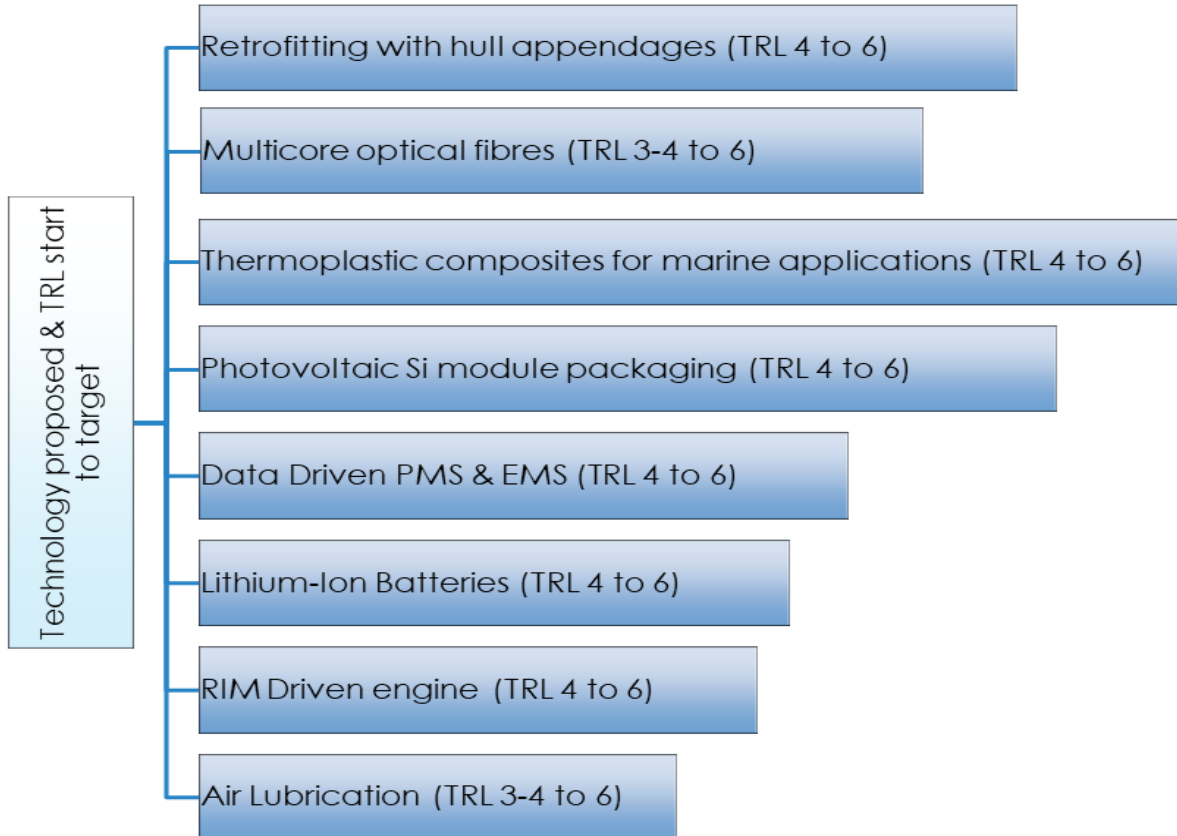
Funded by
the European Union

Retrofitting of fishing fleets with low payback time and easy to deploy solutions for footprint and GHG emissions reduction





Project plan



Main REFEST's KPIs.

GHG emissions reduction: 40%

Fuel reduction: 50 ltr./day

Money saving: 150 €/day
(less fuel & less maintenance).

CAPEX <100 k€/ship

Expected payback <6 years.



Project objectives



Industrial integration of all the solutions proposed in three vessels to achieve TRL6 to **reduce the GHG emissions** at least 35% with a target of 40%

To **demonstrate the level safety** compared to applicable safety code, as well as **environmental & economic sustainability** and **feasibility of the developed processes** and products.

To improve **monitoring and understanding of the impact** of greener and more efficient small scale fishing fleets on the **marine environment** and marine biodiversity

Design-for-retrofitting methodology based on standardization and modularization principles.

To maximize the **innovation impacts** of the project for contributing to the uptake of the project results for companies' business and employment **growth and Ocean Mission Goals**

NMFRI responsibility - **Impact assessment on marine environment & its biodiversity**

Evaluation of the effectiveness of proposed solutions of reducing GHG emissions and underwater noise on:

- **Impact on marine environment**
- **Impact on biodiversity**

Current stage of work – Beginning of stakeholders consultation

