

Tools for Multi-Level Governance

Date: Tuesday, 29 April 2025

Theme: Governance

Intro

Governance in the Baltic Region is evolving to meet the growing demands of sustainable maritime development, yet it remains fragmented across national borders and policy levels. While there is increasing alignment with EU-level initiatives, such as the Mission Ocean and the recently launched Ocean Pact, implementation in practice varies. Multilevel governance structures are being strengthened through EU-funded cooperation projects, but gaps persist in aligning national priorities with regional and local realities. Momentum is building toward a more inclusive and participatory governance models, with greater stakeholder engagement and cross-sector dialogue. This will be essential for achieving sustainable and secure maritime futures in the Baltic.

Presentations

Anneliis Koivopuu and colleagues from the University of Tartu presented the Interreg Baltic Sea Region “BalticSea2Land” project.

Strategic Priorities and Recommendations

- Promote collaboration among specialists from diverse backgrounds to plan the future of the Baltic Sea region. Improve communication and engagement by establishing a hub for experts to exchange experiences and best practices.
- Enhance the effectiveness and usability of marine and coastal planning by integrating key concepts such as blue justice, security, and multi-level governance.
- Strengthen and expand Mission Hubs as multi-level governance platform by actively integrating local authorities, regional networks, and national ministries to ensure alignment across governance levels and policy domains.
- Support the implementation of the European Ocean Pact through reinforced mandates, coordination, and long-term funding for regional governance bodies in the BANOS area.
- Develop and implement marine ecosystem action plans in the BANOS region rooted in science-policy interfaces, community-based monitoring, and cross-sectoral governance.
- Assess the need for and improve access to Piloting and Demonstration Infrastructures in the BANOS Region for medium TRL solutions.

- Harmonise indicators, classifications, and terminology to better integrate blue bioeconomy contributions and ensure policy coherence across sectors.
- Promote synergies with strategic policy tools such as green public procurement to create demand for sustainable blue bio-based products and bolster cross-sector market development.
- Strengthen early-stage innovation by fostering applied R&D partnerships between academia and industry to advance low-TRL blue bioeconomy solutions and accelerate their uptake across green bioeconomy value chains.

Workshop

Introduction of Baltic Sea2Land Navigator Tool

- Tool for coastal and maritime spatial planning practitioners seeking to address multi-level governance (MLG) complexities: created for an inclusive assessment of sea and land connectivity challenges.
- Part of "Baltic Sea2Land" project mission: support long-term development in the Baltic Sea region by promoting cooperation between different levels of governance (local to international), blue economy sectors, local communities and other stakeholders.
- Features:
 - MLG tool: guides through process of planning governance action, identifying key stakeholders, and developing collaborative strategies to address complex challenges.
 - Data Hub: discover, explore and analyse collection of geodata, including interactive and intuitive tools for explorations through maps and dashboards.
 - Knowledge Hub: facts and information to support planning efforts. Includes: valuable practices, methods, MSP documents, source material.+

Group Exercise

Participants took part in a group exercise to explore use of the Navigator Tool. First each group used the situation scoping method to identify a situation related to stakeholder identification and engagement. Second, teams carried out a SWOT analysis. Finally, teams identified stakeholder and regulations making use of sectoral mapping for each of the SWOT quadrants. This was followed by result presentations and discussions from each group to hear how people experienced using the tool.

Conclusion

The Baltic Sea2Land Navigator Tool developed by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region "BalticSea2Land" project is a powerful tool to aid strengthen stakeholder engagement and cross-sector collaboration.