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## Project newsletter #3

April 2026

**Dear NESB project friends,**

Greetings from the project management and communication team! We are pleased to share the third edition of the NESB project newsletter, continuing our effort to keep all informed and connected.

This newsletter highlights important project achievements and upcoming activities across our project's work packages:

- first NESB project deliverables,
- updates on upcoming events and workshops,
- review of recent project activities,
- preparations for the upcoming partner meeting in Brussels on 3 June 2026,
- participation in the EUSBSR Annual Forum, European Maritime Day and the 2nd EU MSP Week,
- recent progress across work packages and many more!

Enjoy reading!

# FIRST PROJECT DELIVERABLES PUBLISHED ON PROJECT WEBSITE!

All project deliverables are available on the project website [section "Project results"](#).

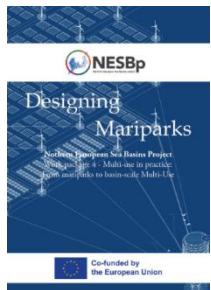
## WORK PACKAGE 4



### **Deliverable 4.3. Towards Mariparks: Environmental Baseline Study Data Framework for Ocean Multi-Use**

Report provides a methodological foundation for establishing environmental data frameworks supporting Maripark development within the Northern European Sea Basins project (NESBp).

[Read the report here.](#)



**Deliverable 4.4. Report "Designing Mariparks" (Deliverable 4.4)** is the account of a search for feasible Mariparks, based on potential business cases and master planning. The report concludes with policy advice and positions Mariparks as a lever in the greening of the blue economy towards a systemic approach.

[Read the report here.](#)



### **Deliverable 4.6. Environmental Monitoring Plans (EMP) Conceptual Framework for Mariparks**

This report presents a conceptual Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMP) framework supporting the development of Mariparks as multi-use offshore infrastructures.

[Read the report here.](#)

## WORK PACKAGE 5



**Deliverable 5.1. Fact Sheet on the Data-Information-Knowledge-(Wisdom) Approach in Maritime Spatial Planning.** Analytical foundation of work package 5 on knowledge transfer for Maritime Spatial Planning. Using the DIK(W) framework, it identifies gaps and fragmented data coverage, heterogeneous national plans and geoportals, and the lack of interoperable, future-oriented knowledge layers.

[Read the report here.](#)

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### PARTNER MEETING! NESB PROJECT PARTNER MEETING ON 3 JUNE 2026!

All partners are invited to meet in-person at the NESB project partner meeting on 3 June 2026 in Brussels, Belgium. The partner meeting will be part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU MSP Week. Morning session will host the NESB project review meeting with CINEA. Afternoon session will bring together participants from NESBp, MEDIGREEN and GNSBI to foster knowledge exchange both within NESBp and across sea basins, aiming also to enhance cooperation between the Mediterranean, North and Baltic Sea basins. Topics for interactive sessions:

- **Strengthening the Ecosystem-Based Approach in MSP: Baltic Sea Lessons, North Sea Reflections, Mediterranean Perspectives**
- **Scenarios for transboundary cooperation and MSP dialogue**

Venue: NH Hotel Bloom, Rue Royale 250, 1210, Brussels, Belgium

[More information here.](#)

### WORKSHOP AT THE EMD 2026 “MAKING THE SEA-BASIN APPROACH WORK: COOPERATION THROUGH MSP”



The NESB project, together with the MEDIGREEN project, is organising the workshop “Making the Sea-Basin Approach Work: Cooperation through MSP”, that will take place during European Maritime Day 2026 on 21 May 2026, from 15:15 to 16:30 (EEST).

Through an interactive panel discussion, together with participants and panel experts we will dive into the topics of ocean governance, ecosystem based approach, multi-use and cooperation with non-EU countries as a way to share best practices and lessons learned between the Baltic, North and Mediterranean sea basins and the role EU projects can play in support of a sea basin approach.

More about workshop find [here](#).

Registration and more information about European Maritime Day 2026 [here](#).

During the EMD 2026 NESB project will be present at the exhibition area to promote project achievements and upcoming events!

## EU MSP WEEK IN BRUSSELS, 1-5 JUNE 2026

### EUROPEAN MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WEEK

1 - 5 June 2026

Source: <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/events/european-maritime-spatial-planning-week>

The European Commission is organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Maritime Spatial Planning Week. A week-long series of events dedicated to Maritime Spatial Planning will take place in Brussels (Belgium) from 1 to 5 June 2026, at the Nhow Bloom Hotel.

[Registration and more information about the events here.](#)

## NESB PROJECT RELATED EVENTS DURING THE 2<sup>ND</sup> EU MSP WEEK

### REGISTER for the Maritime Spatial Planning workshop on EMODnet & Maritime Safety 2 June 2026

#### Morning session: Fitness-for-use of EMODnet for MSP led by Seascope Belgium

Discover what EMODnet currently offers how it can be used by the MSP community. Explore preliminary survey results, and discuss how its data services can better support MSP. Real use cases will highlight data and metadata needs as well as usability aspects.

#### Afternoon session: Maritime safety integration into MSP (with a focus on data) led by SHOM

Explore initial findings from the maritime safety survey and join the discussion on improving the integration of maritime safety into MSP processes. Topics include data availability, traffic data analysis, tools, and coordination across sea basins.

Join the  
**Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) workshop  
on EMODnet and maritime safety**  
Tuesday 2 June 2026  
Brussels, Belgium

**REGISTER NOW\***

An event organised as part of the  
**EUROPEAN MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WEEK**

\* Please note that places are limited. Express interest in participating via the registration form. Your request is subject to confirmation by the organisers.

[Registration and more information about the event on EU MSP Platform website.](#)

### NESB project partner meeting on 3 June 2026

Partner meeting will be organised within the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU MSP Week. More information about partner meeting in the previous pages!

## Promotion of ecosystem-based approach in MSP at the 2<sup>nd</sup> EU MSP Week in Brussels. (Baltic Sea EBA Guideline)

Material promoting application of ecosystem-based approach in maritime spatial planning, will be presented at NESB project partner meeting on 3 June 2026, during the EU MSP week in Brussels, Belgium. The material is intended to present guidance formulated in the respective [Guideline](#), recently adopted by HELCOM and VASAB for the use in the Baltic Sea region. The material delivers key messages of the Guideline in a concise, accessible, and visually engaging manner, laying a background for the discussion on their scalability for the other European sea regions and, specifically, the North Sea.

The discussion will be arranged in the format of interactive workshop scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> of June. Presentations, group work and interactive panel discussions will be naturally orchestrated in a two-hour event to conclude on the most delicate issue of strategic planning - how to ensure balance between economic growth and nature conservation.

**All partners are invited to register for the partner meeting and join this discussion!**

## GNSBI Stakeholder Conference 2026

The Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) is delighted to invite you to its very first Stakeholder event on 4 June 2026 in Brussels, Belgium! The 2026 GNSBI Stakeholder Event during the EU MSP Week aims to increase the visibility and transparency of the GNSBI and its role in supporting Maritime Spatial Planning in the North Sea basin. The event will provide an opportunity for GNSBI members and stakeholders to become better acquainted and exchange perspectives on key topics relevant to the region.

[Registration for the conference here.](#)

## EXPERT WORKSHOP ON CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS (CIA)



**Lunch to lunch on 1-3 July 2026 at The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH), Hamburg, Germany. Arranged by The Greater North Sea Basin Initiative WT CIA and the NESB project WP3.**

The workshop aims to strengthen collaboration within the CIA community across the Northern European Sea Basins and to improve strategic alignment on methods, tools, principles, data, etc. The workshop will also offer opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange.

[More information and registration here.](#)

## LATEST PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

### NESB PROJECT EXPERT WORKSHOP ON MARIPARK GOVERNANCE



**While the European Ocean Days 2026 were in full swing a parallel expert workshop took place on 4 March 2026 in Brussels to discuss governance challenges for Mariparks and their alignment with the ecosystem-based approach (EBA).** The event was organised by Mantis Consulting and IMDC, with support from Blue Cluster, bringing together industry representatives, policy makers, and planning/environmental impact assessment (EIA) experts to exchange views on the feasibility and governance needs of Mariparks in the North Sea and Baltic Sea context.

[Read full article and key takeaways here.](#)

### NESB PROJECT PRESENTS THE WORK ON SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT AT THE 8<sup>TH</sup> BALTIC MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNERS' FORUM

**On 26 March 2026 the 8th Baltic Maritime Spatial Planners' Forum meeting took place online focusing on the scenario development in MSP.** NESB Project introduced MSP experts with work on the co-creation of governance scenarios for transboundary collaboration in the Greater North Sea Basin, a task performed by work package 2. Presentation by Juul Kusters from the University of Groningen highlighted the NESB project's work on developing exploratory governance scenarios through stakeholder co-creation, examining key drivers such as political willingness, institutional capacity, and perceived urgency for collaboration, as well as evaluating existing governance bodies by identifying their strengths and limitations.

Read the notes from the meeting [here](#).

## SYNTHESIS WORKSHOP “LET’S TALK A COMMON LANGUAGE!”: WORK PACKAGE 3 REACHED AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE



**With a two-day NESB project Synthesis workshop on Nature Conservation and Maritime Spatial Planning titled “Let’s talk a common language” in Gdansk 30-31 March 2026, WP3’s work reached an important milestone. All tasks were presented, discussed and brought forward to a new level.**

The workshop was also intended to bring together various projects and initiatives to coordinate common effort towards nature conservation and restoration and ensure sustainable energy transition. An open dialogue on the MSP’s role in nature conservation and restoration as well as keeping cumulative impact at the level which does not jeopardize healthy functioning of the marine ecosystem enriched the content of NESBp deliverables. Experts representing different sectors and target groups forged a common language which strengthens cooperation and knowledge exchange not only at project level but between European sea basins.

Thanks to all experts for sharing the views and experience!

Workshop summary, report and presentations [here](#).

## KEY OUTCOMES FROM THE NESB PROJECT MARIPARK WORKSHOP ON 2 APRIL 2026



**On April 2, 2026, experts from the Netherlands, Belgium, and Germany gathered in The Hague for a dynamic Maripark workshop, which focused specifically on governance as a critical enabler for Maripark development.** The event was organized in collaboration with the Community of Practice North Sea (CoP) as part of the NESB project's multi-use work under Work Package 4, led by Blue Cluster. The workshop contributed to the ongoing development of a Maripark blueprint— a concept that is rapidly emerging as a practical tool to bring multi-use at sea into implementation.

[Read full article here.](#)

### NESBP PARTNERS COLLABORATE ON SHAPING PROJECT POLICY BRIEFS

**On 10 April 2026, NESB project partners came together for a dedicated online meeting focused on one of our key deliverables—the development of project policy briefs. During this session, we worked to define a common structure and approach to develop clear, concise, and impactful policy briefs across all work packages. Partners also presented the key messages, objectives, and target groups of each policy brief, followed by an exchange of feedback and discussion.**

As the first policy briefs are already scheduled for this year, this meeting served as a valuable exercise to strengthen collaboration across the project and support the further development of our policy briefs. In the wrap-up, partners shared their key takeaways, with many highlighting that new connections and linkages had been identified as well as practical suggestions and feedback were received to shape our messages and project recommendations. Another meeting dedicated to project deliverables planned in Autumn 2026.

## NESB PROJECT JOINS THE GNSBI TECHNICAL MEETING



Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7455198931136909313/>

**NESB project partners joined the Annual GNSBI Technical Meeting 2026 that took place on 21-23 April 2026 in Berlin, Germany.** The meeting brought together the GNSBI working tracks to exchange on progress, align next steps, and discuss cross-cutting topics of shared interest.

## NESB PROJECT PRESENTED AT THE HELCOM-VASAB MSP WORKING GROUP SESSION

**The 8th Informal Consultation Session of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group took place on 21-23 April 2026 in Tallinn, Estonia.** NESB project progress was presented at the meeting highlighting latest project achievements.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*11-13 May 2026, Tallinn, Estonia*

### **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Annual Forum 2026**

NESB project participation in the Networking Village at the Policy Area Spatial Planning stand.

<https://eusbsr.eu/annual-forum/>

*21-22 May 2026, Limassol, Cyprus*

### **European Maritime Day 2026**

NESBp and MEDIGREEN workshop "Making the Sea-Basin Approach Work: Cooperation through MSP"

Meet NESB project at the EMD exhibition!

[https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/theme/governance/european-maritime-day\\_en](https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/theme/governance/european-maritime-day_en)

*1-5 June 2026, Brussels, Belgium*

### **European Maritime Spatial Planning Week 2026**

Registration is open. More information [here](#).

*1-3 July 2026, Hamburg, Germany*

### **Expert workshop on Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA)**

More information [here](#).

*Autumn 2026*

### **Project partner meeting focusing on project deliverables**

More information will follow

*November 2026*

### **Project partner meeting, (in-person)**

More information will follow

*April/May 2027*

**NESB project final conference.** More information will follow

**Follow, share and like project activities on social media networks –  
LinkedIn and Bluesky.**



The NESB project



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