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Project newsletter #2

January 2026

Dear reader,

Greetings from the NESB project team! We are pleased to share the second edition of the NESB project newsletter. This newsletter highlights key project activities prepared for you by all work package leaders, including project achievements during the second half of 2025, upcoming events, videos to review and some photos capturing NESBp community in action.

Wishing you all a successful and productive 2026 ahead!



NESBp at the ReMAP project's final conference in Helsinki.
October 2025

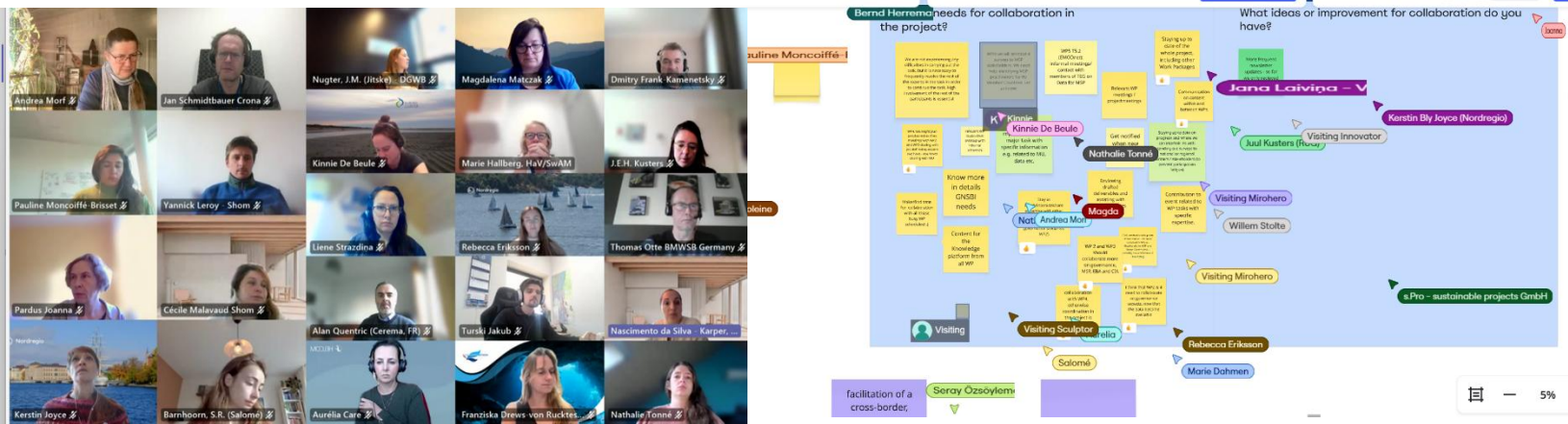


NESBp at the 5th Baltic MSP Forum in Riga.
November 2025

LATEST NEWS

NESBp second online project partner meeting

With the project already being on its way for over more than a year, on 21 November, 2025 the second (online) project meeting took place. Though being online, the interactive set-up and most of all the enthusiastic participation of project partners, made it a very successful and insightful event.



The project meetings are vital events to exchange knowledge and experience between work packages, tasks and partners. With about 18 partners, ranging from scientific institutes, MSP authorities, businesses and international institutions, we have a wide range of expertise within NESB project, that we should aim to take advantage of. In addition, it is through these meetings, that we develop a stronger connection to the project as a whole and add to the quality of the work that is being carried out.

During the project meeting the discussions occurred on different levels related to the project. Starting from a general project management and cooperation level, we took a dive into the specific work packages and the feedback and input they requested from other partners, this led to the 'knowledge exchange market'. Where, instead of food market, we exchange ideas and expertise that resulted in specific actions for each work package to carry out following the meeting. From there, we sailed to the higher level for the start of creating our project's narrative. A narrative that hopefully can support us in promoting the relevant work we all carry out as part of this project, and where we can link the specific topics of each WP into a greater 'story'. As a wrap-up of meeting was the brainstorming of first ideas for our final conference.

Such an energetic and successful project meeting can only occur when we are all involved and participate!

Meet-up with the new Assistance Mechanism for GNSBI

On 17 November 2025 the work packages leaders together with the policy officers from DG Mare and CINEA met online with newly installed Assistance Mechanism (AM) for GNSBI. During this call, the Assistance Mechanism introduced themselves and from the NESBp side we introduced the project and the current collaboration that is in place with the GNSBI Working Tracks.

The AM will support the GNSBI in both communication efforts as in administrative tasks. NESBp team informed the AM of the proposed (hopefully) jointly meeting between the GNSBI and NESBp in the beginning of June next year and the hope for a stronger communication interaction between the two.

From WP 1 this will be followed up by a meeting in the beginning of January.

NESBp and MEDIGREEN join forces for EMD 2026 workshop proposal

Together with both our sister project, MEDIGREEN and the CoP MED, we have submitted a proposal for a joint workshop at the European Maritime Days 2026 (EMD).

Both projects serve a sea basin, and the aim of the workshop therefore is to bring these sea basins together in one workshop. Each sea basin has a MSP-related governance structure or initiative, but it differs per sea basin as to the kind of formality, structure and set-up and in what stage of development the specific structure is. What is it that we can learn from each other? What are lessons learned and best practices? How can EU projects support the sea-basin approach? And how does this relate to the Ocean (P)Act?

These are the questions we aim to discuss at the EMD workshop. Selection of workshops is expected in February 2026. Stay tuned!

The following overview summarises achievements from project's work packages between June and December 2025, and looks ahead to the next steps for 2026. Articles with more information about each WP achievements find below (links to the website).



Work Package 2 Ocean Governance

Activities under the NESBp Ocean Governance Work Package continued to advance its core objectives of strengthening multi-level governance in the Greater North Sea and Baltic Sea regions and supporting the development of an integrated and ecosystem-based governance approaches. The work included a systematic review of existing governance structures across the Baltic and North Sea regions, alongside targeted exchanges with experts and stakeholders took place at region-scale events to enhance the cross-sea basin dialogue. Highlights from the work:

- Advancing governance analysis and cross-sea basin dialogue;
- First steps in cross-sea basin dialogue: MSP data experts' meeting;
- Continuing the dialogue at the 5th Baltic MSP Forum;
- Strengthening cooperation through the GNSBI Directors General Meeting.



Read the article about Work Package 2 achievements [here](#).



Work Package 3 Energy Transition and Biodiversity in Maritime Spatial Planning

Work Package on Energy Transition and Biodiversity in Maritime Spatial Planning made significant progress during the second half of year 2025. Key advancements included:

- Further development of a common terminological glossary;
- The initiation of a comprehensive catalogue of mitigation measures;
- Substantial steps forward in advancing cumulative impact assessment at sea-basin level.

For the year 2026 the Work Package plans to host several workshops.

- WP meeting in March where further experts on the topics will be invited;
- A synthesis workshop on 30-31 March 2026 in Gdansk, Poland;
- Early summer 2026 a workshop on the collaboration on Cumulative Impact Assessment together with the respective Working Track of the GNSBI;
- For later in 2026 it will be assessed to host a workshop dedicated to the topic of mitigation measures.



Read the article about Work Package 3 achievements [here](#).



Work Package 4

Multi-use in practice: From Mariparks to basin-scale Multi-Use

Work Package 4 has been working on sharpening the vision for Mariparks that move beyond simple co-location of activities toward truly systemic sustainability. Through dedicated workbenches, targeted research, and stakeholder engagement, the project is developing a shared vision and practical roadmap for Mariparks as integrated, net-positive marine systems. Highlights from the work:

- From multi-use to systemic Mariparks;
- Regulatory approach;
- First expert workshop on governance, permits, and tenders for Mariparks on 4 March 2026;
- Scenario assessment and roadmap to installation;
- Multi-use session at the 5th Baltic MSP Forum;
- First deliverables under revision.



Read the article about Work Package 4 achievements [here](#).



Work Package 5

Knowledge Sharing & Transfer in MSP

Over the past months, Work Package 5 has continued to strengthen the informational foundations of MSP by advancing the DIK(W) (Data-Information-Knowledge-Wisdom) approach, transforming data into information, and information into usable knowledge. Strong collaboration has characterised this period, with meetings and active exchanges with GNSBI, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, EMODnet, NSEC Shipping Group and several other EU initiatives. Together, these efforts aim to make MSP more transparent, better informed and more consistent across borders.

Key highlights include:

- Navigation Safety in MSP: SURVEY [here](#).
- Strengthening EMODnet Services: SURVEY [here](#).
- Assessing quality of information on MSP geoportals
- Building the first-of-its-kind cross-basin knowledge platform
- First deliverables under revision.



Read the article about Work Package 5 achievements [here](#).

CALL FOR INPUT!

Surveys Launched by Work Package 5

The Work Package 5 is running two important surveys. All project partners are invited to take part in the surveys as well as share the surveys within your relevant networks.

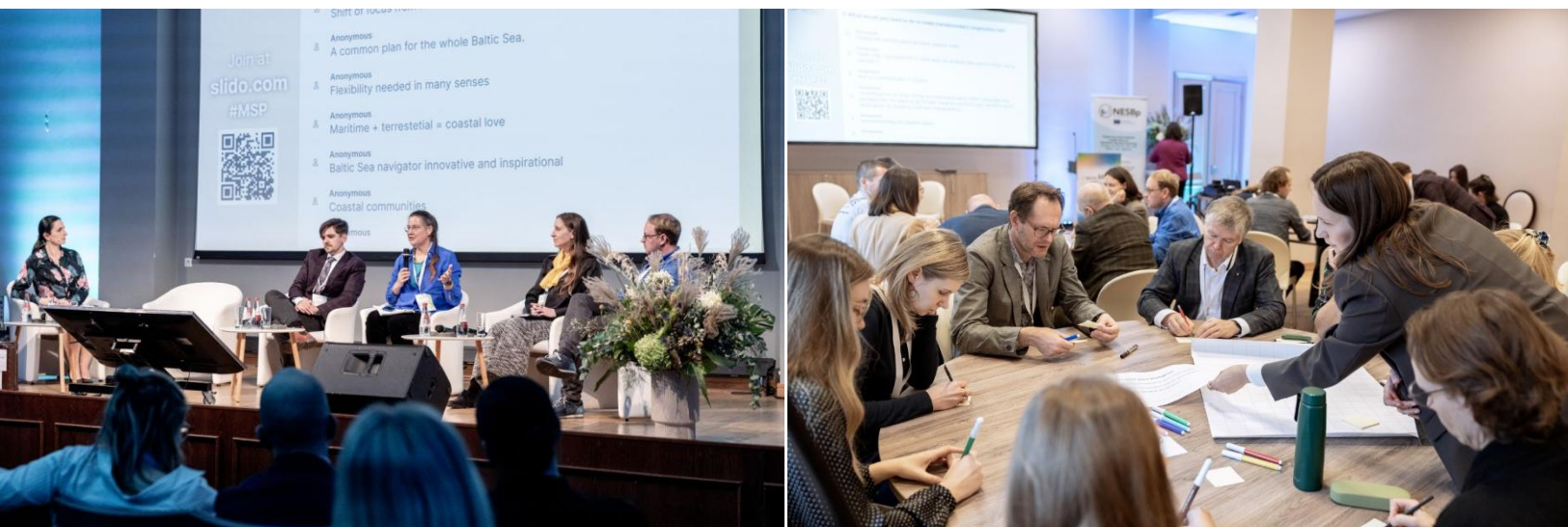
✦ Survey 1: Navigation Safety in MSP
SURVEY [here](#).

The survey aims to better understand how navigation safety is addressed in MSP processes across European sea basins. It seeks to identify existing practices, data sources, cooperation mechanisms and potential needs for improving coordination between MSP authorities and maritime/navigation safety experts. This survey is open to maritime spatial planning and navigation safety stakeholders.

✦ Survey 2: Use of EMODnet Services & MSP Geoplatforms
SURVEY [here](#).

Share your experience on the fit-for-use of EMODnet data/services and the quality of information available on MSP geoplatforms. The survey is open to all stakeholders from the MSP community across all sectors, from among others: MSP planners, policy makers and the blue economy, to scientists, interest groups and citizens.

NESB PROJECT PARTICIPATION AT THE 5TH BALTIC MSP FORUM



On 11-12 November 2025 Riga hosted the 5th Baltic MSP Forum “Navigate Planning Through Changes”. This event is an important platform for planners, policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to meet, exchange knowledge and experience, share good practices, and strengthen transnational cooperation.

NESB project’s strong participation at the Forum included organisation of two parallel sessions related to NESBp work - “Advancing Transboundary Governance: Baltic and North Sea Challenges and Prospects” and “Effective Use of Space for a Sustainable Blue Economy: Baltic Approaches to Multi-Use in Marine and Coastal Areas”.

A central theme at the Forum, and highly relevant for NESB project, was the ecosystem-based approach (EBA). A keynote presentation introduced the rationale and practicalities of ecosystem-based MSP, highlighting how EBA can guide more integrated and strategic marine planning in general and at the Baltic Sea in particular. Keynote speech was followed by a panel discussion where speakers tried to find concrete answers to the question “What Do We Mean as EBA Planning & Management?”

Watch the Videos from the 5th Baltic MSP Forum:

Keynote speech and panel discussion about EBA Planning and Management [here](#).

Parallel session “Advancing Transboundary Governance: Baltic and North Sea Challenges and Prospects” [here](#).

Parallel session “Effective Use of Space for a Sustainable Blue Economy: Baltic Approaches to Multi-Use in Marine and Coastal Areas” [here](#).



Related articles:

- **Summary of the Advancing Transboundary Governance Session at the 5th Baltic MSP Forum.** [Read here.](#)
- **Overview of the Multi-Use Session at the 5th Baltic MSP Forum.** [Read here.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

February/March 2026 tbc, online

Preparatory meeting for project mid-term reporting

A meeting together with CINEA to inform on the requirements for the Technical and Financial Reporting (mid-term reporting). Doodle soon to be sent.

2-6 March 2026, Brussels, Belgium

European Ocean Days

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

4 March 2026, Brussels, Belgium

Expert workshop on governance of MARIPARKS

Organised by Work Package 4, back-to-back with the European Ocean Days.

30-31 March 2026, Gdansk, Poland

NESBp Synthesis Workshop

WP 3 workshop to discuss the current state of mitigation and restoration measures, gaps and opportunities as well as recommendations for implementing effective measures in marine planning instruments.

March/April 2026 tbc, online

3rd Steering Committee meeting

reminder for all SC members to fill in the doodle sent earlier in December.

21-22 May 2026, Limassol, Cyprus

European Maritime Day 2026

More information [here](#).

2-4 June 2026, Belgium (TBC)

NESB project partner meeting

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



The NESB project



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