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# NESBp WP3 Workshop

## Session 3: Joint effort to reduce joint pressure

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# Task 3.4 Cumulative Impact Assessment at North Sea basin level

Progress made in 2025

Jitske Nugter, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management of The  
Netherlands

# Approach in 2025



Autumn 2025 with Baltic Sea and North Sea:

How is CIA developed and applied for decision-making regarding marine spatial planning (MSP) and how do we see future collaboration?

GNSBI CIA Track 1:  
intergovernmental organisations

- ICES, HELCOM, OSPAR and NSEC;
- Survey and work sessions with individual organisations;
- Workshop on 4th of November.

GNSBI CIA Track 2: countries

- 14 countries responded to a questionnaire;
- Workshop on the 20th of November.

# Findings regional organisations



- Ambitions on collaboration converge on:
    - Harmonizing spatial datasets,
    - Agreeing on common activity–pressure–ecosystem linkages,
    - Clarifying approaches to uncertainty,
    - And developing a focused set of tools rather than proliferating new ones.
  
  - Constraints are:
    - Patchiness and incompatibility of spatial data across borders;
    - Lack of agreed standards for pressure computation and uncertainty treatment;
    - Limited expert capacity stretched across many overlapping initiatives.
- SEABAS platform overview, BSH pressure–impact matrix
- Practical recommendations on building sea use–pressure–impact matrix

# Findings countries



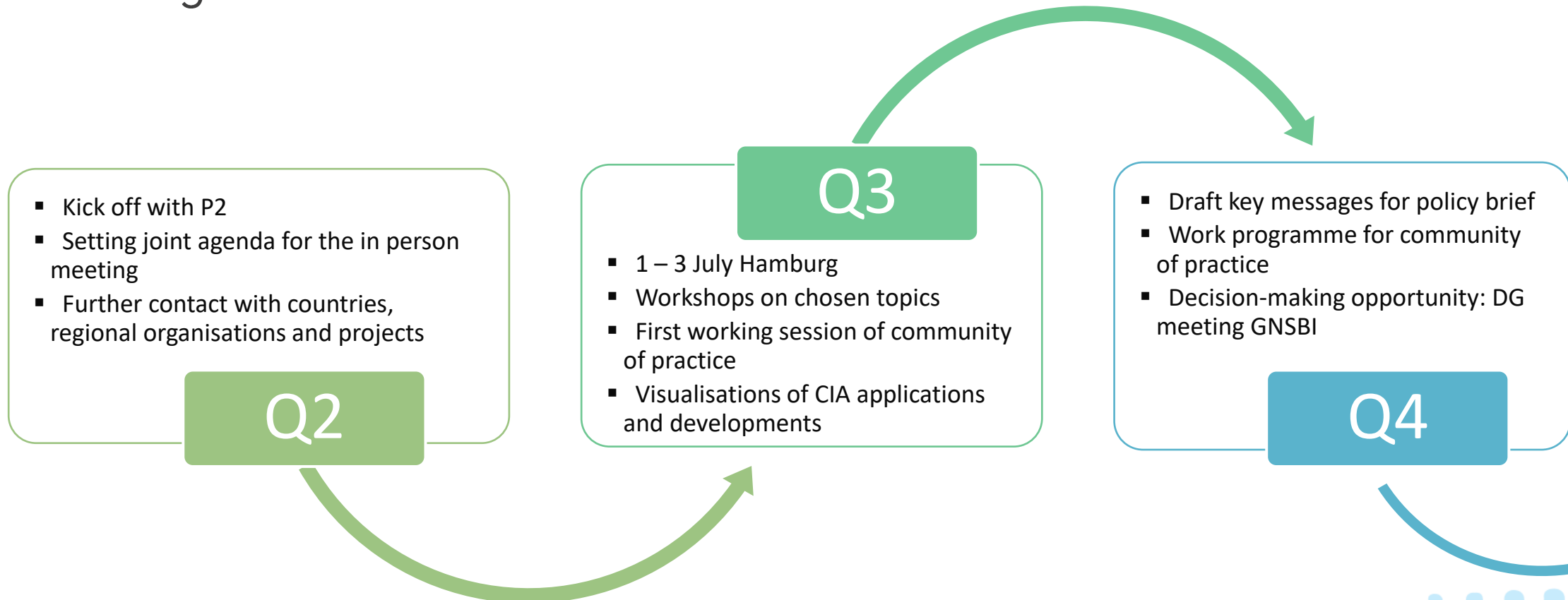
Partners suggested to align workplans under a light coordination mechanism by the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) and existing regional conventions.

## Key priorities should include:

- Strengthening the science-policy interface.
  - Ensuring national CIAs are comparable for agreed human uses, pressures, spatial grids, and baseline ecosystem components.
  - Aligning data, use regional datasets, and documenting data sources transparently.
  - Making linkages and uncertainties more explicit.
- GNSBI gaps and challenges in CIA applications
- What is the potential of scenario-based approaches for CIA in MSP?

# Process in 2026: community of practice

Focus: Preparation of the policy brief (Task 3.4) – defining the key messages in a cross-sea basin context.



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PROJECT PLATFORMS

**SEABAS**



# SEABAS Project Platform

Janica Borg, HELCOM, Project Lead

31 March 2026

NESBp Synthesis workshop

[interreg-baltic.eu/project/seabas](https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/seabas)





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# THANK YOU!



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