NESBp –Synthesis workshop: Nature conservation and maritime spatial planning – let's talk a common language, Gdansk – 30th–31st March 2025

MSP and the European Green Deal: a nomenclature and its application (MSP-GREEN and MEDIGREEN projects)

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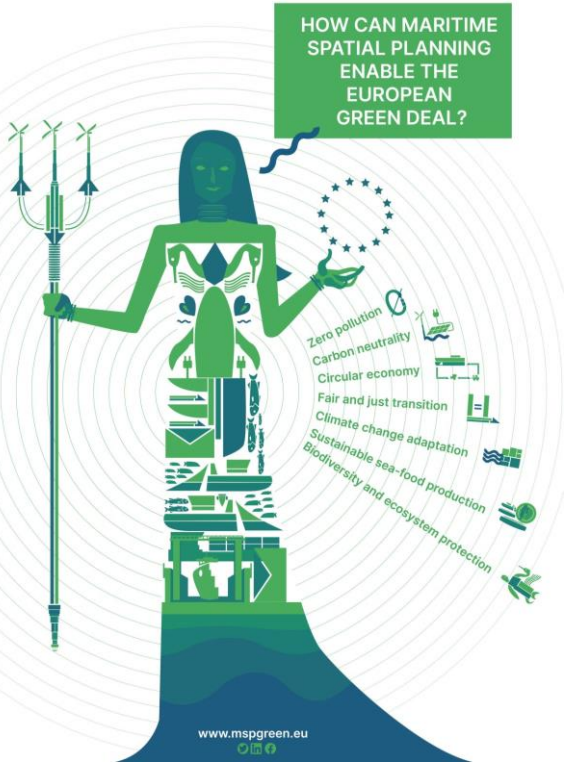
Why an EGD-MSP nomenclature?



a story started in 2021

To contribute to aligning maritime spatial plans to the ambition of the EGD by creating a framework for plans as marine enablers of the EGD.

To support linking EGD objectives to the implementation, monitoring/assessment and revision stages of the MSP cycle.

To provide MSP practitioners with a structured approach to manage the different EGD-related policy elements.

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How to build an MSP-EGD nomenclature?

EGD-related policy documents

- The European Green Deal (2019)
- A new approach for a sustainable blue economy (2021)
- An EU Strategy to harness offshore renewable (2020)
- Climate Law (2021)
- REPowerEU Plan (2022)
- Stepping up Europe's 2030 climate ambitions (2020)
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (2021)
- A Farm to Fork Strategy (2020)
- Zero Pollution (2021)
- Circular Economy Action Plan (2020)
- Sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture (2021)

TOPICS

A. Climate change mitigation
B. Climate change adaptation
C. Sustainable sea-food production
D. Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration
E. Blue circular economy
F. Zero pollution

"Disentangling the skein"

- Structures EGD in the marine domain into 7 main thematic topics
- Acts as an interface between EU policy and MSP practice
- Enables transition from policy vision to concrete planning measures

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The structure of the nomenclature

A hierarchical approach:

- Topics
- Sub-topics
- Detailed elements

A	**Climate change mitigation**
A.1	**Renewable energy production, storage and transportation**
A.1.1	Development of marine renewable energy installations
A.1.2	Development of sustainable ocean energy mix (in addition to bottom-fixed offshore wind, floating wind, thermal, wave and tidal energy, also in combination)
A.1.3	Integration of renewable energy solutions with energy efficiency and other sustainable solutions
A.1.4	Multi-use of the sea space: combination including energy installations
A.1.5	Development of grid infrastructures
A.1.6	Development of innovative technologies and infrastructures (smart grids, hydrogen networks, carbon capture, storage and utilization, energy storage, etc.)
A.1.7	Coordinated, transboundary initiatives
A.2	**Clean energy transition in maritime sectors**
A.2.1	Initiatives towards emission reduction from ships -sustainable maritime mobility (including spatial and non spatial measures)
A.2.2	Initiatives towards emission reduction in ports or marinas
A.2.3	Initiatives towards emission reduction in other sectors considered by the Plan(s) (e.g. fishing boats)
A.3	**Transformations in ports**
A.3.1	Ports as energy hubs: integrated electricity provision, hydrogen and other low-carbon fuel systems
A.3.2	Use of smart digital solutions and autonomous systems in ports (e.g. to optimize traffic flows and cargo handling in and around ports)
A.4	**Blue carbon sinks**
A.4.1	Preserving and restoring coastal vegetation systems as tidal marshes and seagrasses accumulating "blue carbon"

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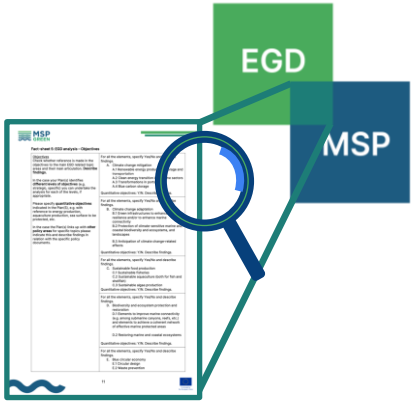
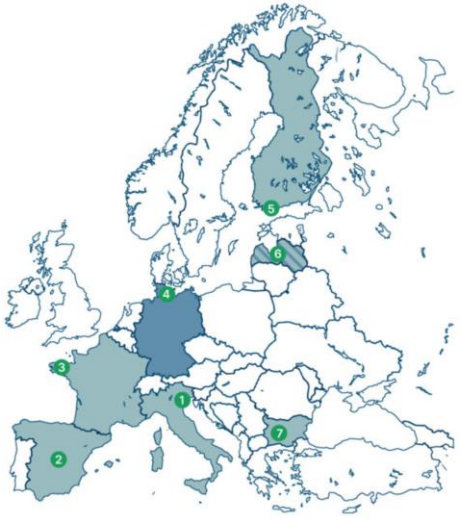
Application of the nomenclature

Assess whether and how MSP plans consider the EGD elements

- Creation of an analytical framework for analysis of MSP plans, based on the EGD-MSP nomenclature
- Desk analysis of 7 MS plans and related documents: Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Latvia and Spain
- Focus on vision, objectives and measures
- Semi-structured interviews to capture process-related aspects and challenges





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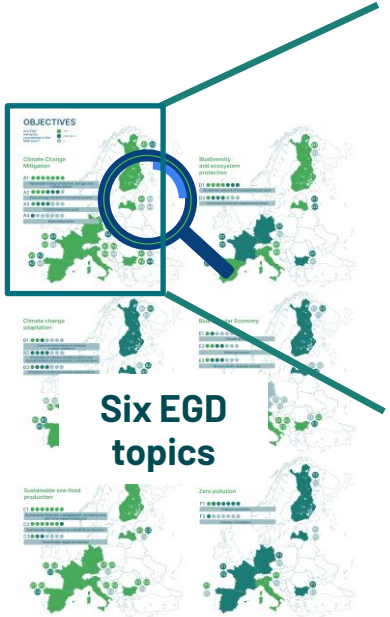
Results

1. Structured EGD-oriented narrative
outcomes per EGD topic

2. Semi-quantitative assessment
outcomes per EGD topic



MSP plan component → **OBJECTIVES**

Occurrence → Are EGD elements considered in the MSP plan? YES / PARTIALLY / NO

Topic level → **Climate Change Mitigation**

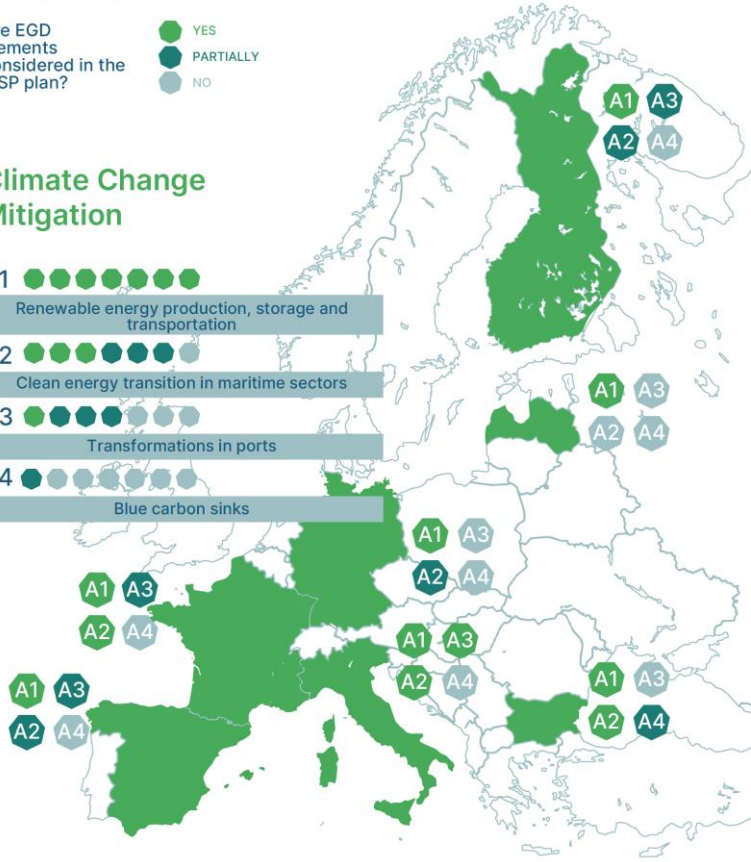
Sub-topic level →

A1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation

A2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors

A3 Transformations in ports

A4 Blue carbon sinks



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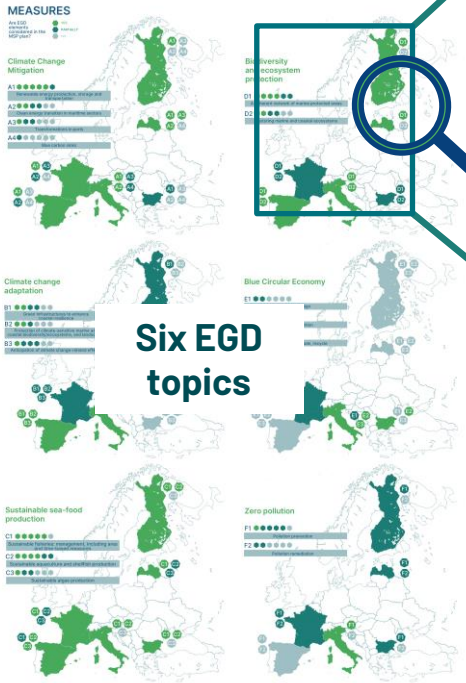
Results

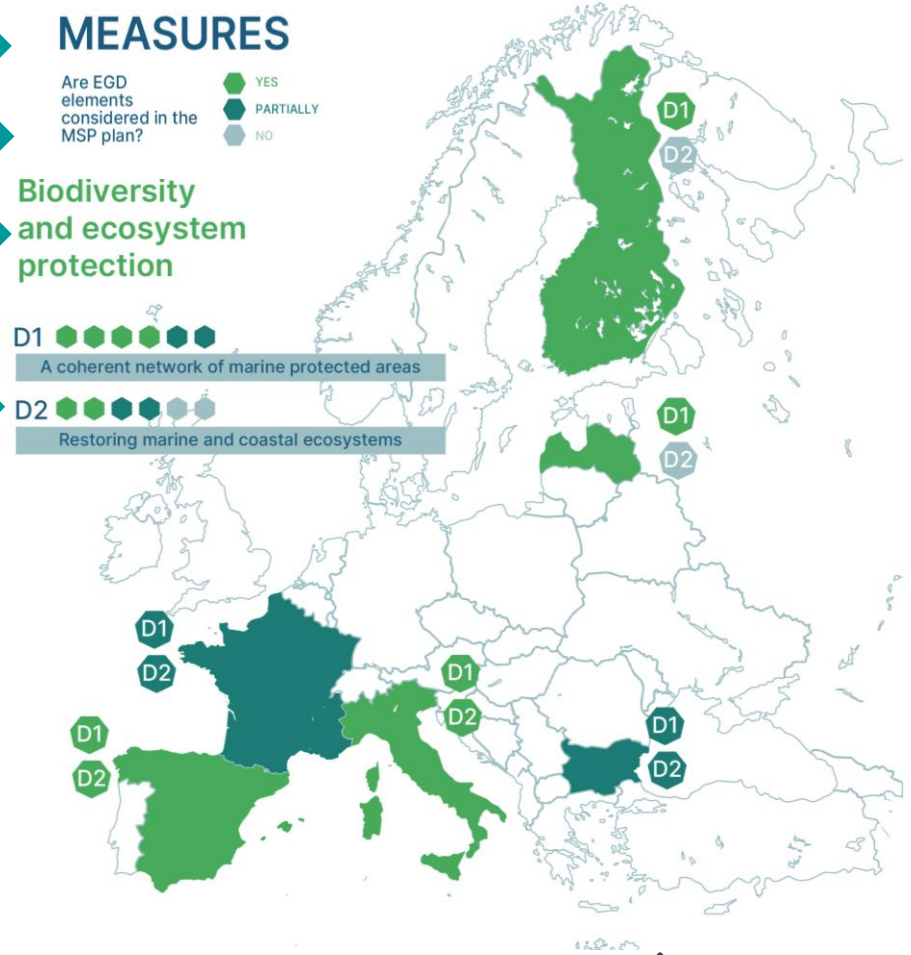


MSP plan component

Occurrence

Topic level

Sub-topic level



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Some Pros...

Novelty and Added Value

- The nomenclature moves beyond simple references to the EGD by enabling multi-level analysis (vision-objectives-measure)
- Establishes a concrete bridge between MSP and EGD objectives

Standardisation vs Flexibility

- Balances analytical consistency with adaptability to national contexts
- Ensures comparability while avoiding artificial uniformity across heterogeneous MSP systems (legal mandates, planning typologies, and levels of operational detail)

Operational Relevance

- Functions as a practical tool for plan preparation/revision, implementation, and monitoring
- Enables tracking of MSP evolution over time

… and some Cons / limitations

Methodological Challenges

- Semi-quantitative approach limits assessment of frequency and depth of EGD elements
- Results rely on expert-based judgement (NO / PARTIALLY / YES)
- Variability across topics and interpretations requires careful comparative reading.

Key Limitations

- Cannot assess real impact alone: presence of EGD elements reflects policy alignment, not actual impact
- Effectiveness depends on governance capacity, real implementation, enforcement,

Conclusions from the first application

Opportunity to transform the nomenclature into an indicator-based monitoring framework, linking its elements to measurable EU targets (e.g. renewable energy capacity, marine protection goals, MSFD indicators) and enabling systematic tracking of MSP contributions to the Green Deal.

In this perspective, the nomenclature should be conceived as a living and adaptive framework, capable of evolving with policy, science, and practice while maintaining a balance between consistency and flexibility.

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Disentangle the skein: a nomenclature framework to assess the contribution of Maritime Spatial Plans to the European Green Deal

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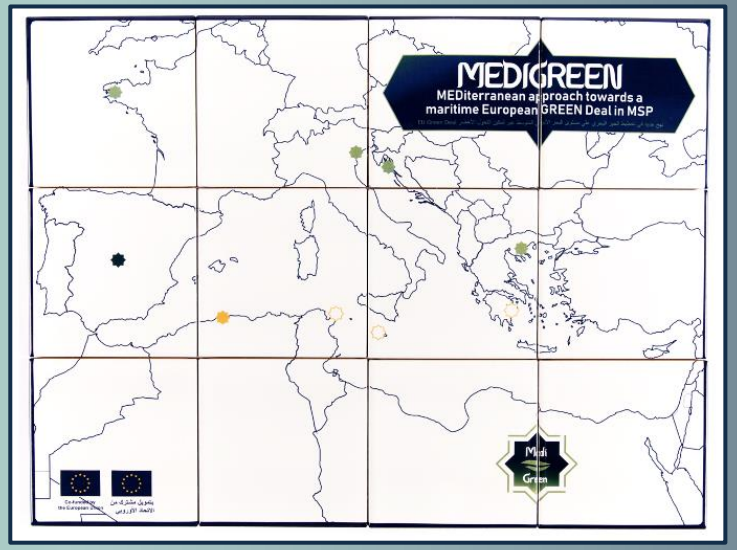
From MSP-GREEN to MEDIGREEN

November 2022 – October 2024

November 2024 - April 2027



AQUACULTURE FISHERIES NATURE ORE

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Same nomenclature but different analytical framework

Fact-sheet 6: EGD analysis by sectors – Measures		FISHERIES		AQUACULTURE		ORE		NATURE PROTECTION	
	Is the sector considered in the measures?		The plans includ… of national measures related		The plans includ… of national measures related				
	Are the measures for the sector linked to any of the following elements?								
EGD Topic	A. Climate change mitigation	YES	See below	YES	See below	YES	See below	NO	None
EGD Sub-Topic	A.1 Renewable energy production, storage and transportation	YES	*A.1.1 Development of marine renewable energy installation*	YES	*A.1.4 Multi-use of the sea space: combination including energy installations*	YES	*A.1.1 Development of marine renewable energy installations*	NO	None
EGD Element			Encourage projects, studies, and research aimed at quantifying the positive and negative effects of offshore wind farm development on fishing activities and fish stocks, considering both territorial waters and offshore areas. Special attention should be given to different types of fishing and the connection systems for transferring energy to land (NAZ_MIS|32)		NAZ_MIS|63 encourages research and pilot projects on offshore renewable energy and its potential integration with aquaculture through multi-use configurations.		Develop national guidelines for the identification of suitable sites for offshore renewable energy (wind, solar, wave, and current energy) NAZ_MIS|60		
							Establish an observatory for monitoring the impacts of offshore wind farms on the environment and other uses of marine and coastal space. NAZ_MIS|62		
							A.1.2 Development of sustainable ocean energy mix		
							Develop national guidelines for the identification of suitable sites for offshore renewable energy (wind, solar, wave, and current energy) NAZ_MIS|60		
							Initiate and support research and innovation activities, including through pilot projects, on offshore renewable energy production from sources other than wind (wave motion, tides and currents, solar, and the combination of different sources). NAZ_MIS|63		
	A.2 Clean energy transition in maritime sectors	YES	*A.2.3 Initiatives towards emission reduction in other sectors considered by the Plan(s) (e.g. fishing boats)*	YES	*A.2.3 Initiatives towards emission reduction in other sectors considered by the Plan(s) (e.g. fishing boats)*	NO	None	NO	None
			Encourage the adoption of solutions aimed at increasing energy efficiency (particularly regarding vessel energy optimization) and the use of renewable energy in the fisheries sector (NAZ_MIS|31)		The Plans link the aquaculture sector to renewable energy production through national measures such as NAZ_MIS|42, which promotes the use of renewable energy along the aquaculture value chain.				
			Ensure adequate spatial coverage of fleet modernization actions (including energy efficiency improvements for vessels) across all fishing segments, with particular attention to small-scale artisanal fisheries. Promote appropriate conditions for the fishing sector in ports to guarantee safe and decent working conditions for operators and enhance the sector's competitiveness. (NAZ_MIS|30)						
	A.3 Transformations in ports (in general)	YES	*A.3 general*	NO	None	NO	None	NO	None
			Support the development of the infrastructure needed for the growth of the sustainable fuels market: refueling infrastructure for alternative fuels and zero-emission fuel recharging facilities at the port hubs of the TEN-T network. NAZ_MIS|53						
			Implement measures to reduce energy demand in ports, particularly through the electrification of quays to enable the cold ironing process, which allows ships to switch off their engines while docked						

Check whether the sector is considered in the measures of the Plan(s) and eventually linked to the main -related topics and the related categories of measures.
Please refer to Table 1 for a list of categories of measures.
Describe findings (list relevant measures by category).
Additional elements can be added to the description when those indicated in Table 1 do not include the type of measures you need to indicate.

SECTORS

MSP plan component

A snapshot of results

Biodiversity conservation: Strongly embedded in MSP through established EU frameworks and spatial tools (e.g. MPAs, ecological corridors), although ecosystem restoration remains only partially operationalised.

Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE): Well integrated as the main entry point for climate mitigation in MSP, but implementation is constrained by cumulative impact uncertainties and coordination challenges with environmental objectives.

Fisheries: Integration is visible through measures on selectivity, bycatch reduction and habitat protection, yet integration with MSP remains partial due to the EU-level nature of fisheries governance and limited planning mandates.

Aquaculture: Increasingly considered within MSP, particularly in relation to spatial allocation and sustainability, but still lacks strong integration with broader policy frameworks and ecosystem-based planning approaches.

D2.1 - State of play of sector-related EGD components in MSP plans of EU Med countries

Four key sectors
Offshore Renewable Energy, fisheries, aquaculture, and nature protection.

Seven EU Mediterranean countries
Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Slovenia and Spain.

MSP plans and processes
Vision, objectives, measures, zoning provisions, stakeholder participation, and cross-cutting elements.

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Thank you!
¡Gracias!
Grazie!
Merci !
Ευχαριστώ!
شكراً!
Hvala!
Grazzi!

بتمويل مشترك من
الاتحاد الأوروبي

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