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Background

The project “BaltSpace – Towards Sustainable Governance of Baltic Marine Space”, submitted and approved under the BONUS call “Sustainable ecosystem services” will be launched in spring 2015.

The information in the document has been submitted by „Södertörn University“ as the Lead Partner and s.Pro sustainable-projects GmbH as the WP4 Coordinator for „Stakeholder Involvement“.

Please also find enclosed the project flyer.

Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of this project initiative.

Project outline

1. Basic project information

Title:	BaltSpace – Towards Sustainable Governance of Baltic Marine Space
Funding programme:	BONUS
Budget:	2 M €
Duration:	April 2015 - March 2018 (36 months)

2. Background

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) has gained increased prominence recently in response to problems of fragmentation in maritime regulation, increasing pressures upon the seas and tensions between interests and environmental damage. MSP has also been identified as the central approach to give effect to the EU Blue Growth Strategy that promotes more intensive utilisation of marine resources to facilitate the growth of maritime economies, while improving ecological conditions in line with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

However, while policy documents on a conceptual level explain Blue Growth as building on the related foundations of sustainable development and the ecosystem approach, it remains to be seen how this can be implemented in practice. A fundamental question linked to this is whether policy approaches and mechanisms can be developed to support win/win outcomes which deliver Blue Growth while at the same time achieve the environmental policy targets.

BaltSpace postulates that achieving the ambitions of MSP in the BSR depends on obtaining different forms of integration (see table below). While analysis is needed to identify enablers and constraints related to several MSP integration challenges, science-based approaches and tools prioritising and addressing how this could be achieved need further development.

MSP integration challenge	Specific examples
Policy and sector integration	•Environmental policies and Blue Growth •Sectors in public policy (e.g. maritime transports, fisheries, tourism) •Public, private and voluntary sector activities
Multi-scale and transboundary integration	•Different (geo)political scales •Integration of MSP across national borders •MSP and terrestrial planning
Stakeholder integration	•Stakeholder knowledge, values, interests, critique in MSP with regard to important procedural aspects (e.g. legitimacy, power, timing, roles)
Integration of knowledge base	•Risk and uncertainty analysis, sustainability assessments •Sectorial knowledge •Integration of decision support tools in practical MSP processes handling ecological, economic and social issues on a spatial level

Thus the overarching aim of the BaltSpace project is to provide science-based approaches and tools to clarify and improve the capacity of MSP as a policy integrator and thereby enhance the capabilities of society to respond to current and future challenges of Baltic Sea governance.

By improving integration abilities of MSP (through concrete scientific tools and better communication) the project will enhance coherent planning of marine space from national to the Baltic scale. Such planning will also integrate economic, social as well as environmental perspectives.

3. Partners / Main contact persons

- Södertörn University (SE) – Lead Partner – Michael Gilek
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- Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht (DE) – Andreas Kannen
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- s.Pro sustainable-projects GmbH (DE) – Angela Schultz-Zehden
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- Maritime Institute in Gdansk (PL) – Jacek Zaucha
- Coastal Research and Planning Institute (LT) – Nerijus Blazauskas

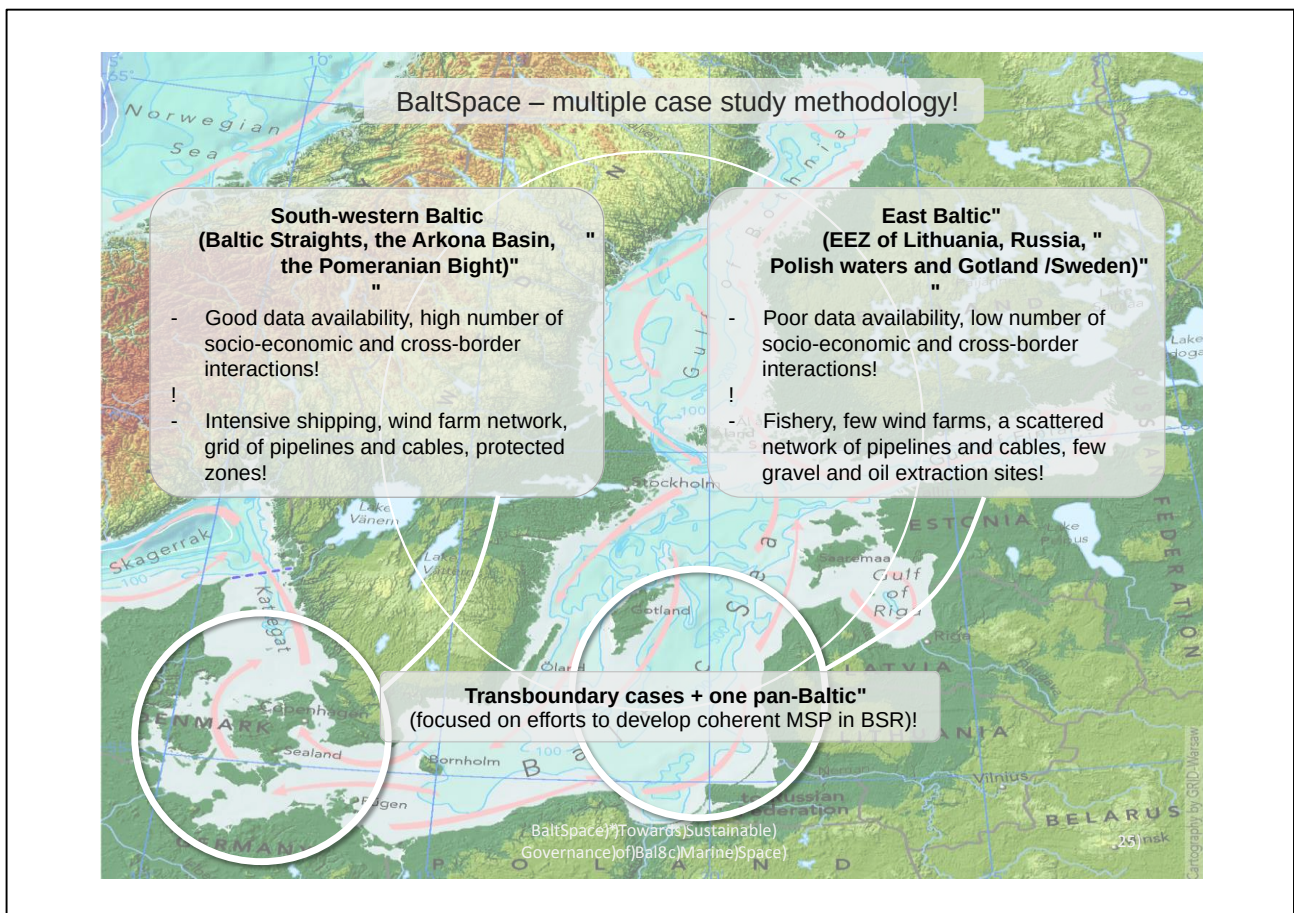
4. Project activities

4.1 Development of an analytical and methodological framework for analysis of MSP in the BSR (binding the theoretical and practical aspects of MSP and integration)

Based on existing theoretical and empirical findings on integration and integration challenges in MSP and related fields will be used to generate an analytical and methodological framework for the identification of integration shortcomings and ways of improving them. This framework will be further refined with the help of the input gained from activities 4.2 (case studies) and 4.3 (extended peer-review). Apart from that an analytical framework will be generated, which can provide guidance on how ongoing and future development of MSP procedures, plans and relevant tools in the BSR and beyond.

4.2 Mapping the present situation with regard to MSP integration in the BSR, identifying both limits and enablers

This mapping will be carried out in three case study areas (see figure below). Where necessary, the two transboundary place-based areas will be complemented by in-depth sub-cases on national or regional level to ensure that critical integration challenges are sufficiently addressed.



As a start, a baseline screening with regard to institutional embedding of MSP, the latest progress in the implementation of MSP and related socio-economic and ecological aspects, will be carried through in the case study areas. Subsequently, enablers and constraints for all four integration types (policy and sector, stakeholder, multi-level and knowledge base integration) will be analysed. Input for this analysis will be gained from documents analysis and semi-structured interviews. Findings will be synthesised and translated into policy recommendations, addressed to policymakers as well as end users.

4.3 Creating an 'approaches and tools portfolio', tested for applicability for MSP integration during the project case studies

The task will look at integration approaches and tools already applied in different MSP processes (including, but not restricted to the case study areas in WP2), and then extend this to approaches applied in fields such as risk management, institutional and policy analysis and regional development. Particular attention will be given to combining approaches from governance, social and natural sciences. The following approaches will be developed and/or tested:

- Marxan site selection tool
- Spatial cost-benefit analysis
- Bow-tie approach
- Governance baselines for selected sectors and institutions
- Open standards for conservation approach

4.4 Creating the dialog with relevant actors in different arenas ensuring effective internal and external communication and dissemination framework

A key aim is to create dialogue with relevant actors in different arenas, ensuring that the project is anchored within different scientific disciplines and yields results that are relevant to sectors and user

groups within the Baltic Sea Region and beyond. For this purpose, small, dedicated 'extended peer' review groups will be established in each case study area, composed of representatives of different disciplines, countries and professions. The consortium will regularly present its work to the review groups and discuss the next steps with them. These meetings – and all other forms of external communication such as popular publications, policy and stakeholder oriented publications and presentations – also represent a test case for developing new effective forms of stakeholder communication.

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Partners

Sweden

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BaltSpace

2015
2018

Towards sustainable governance
of Baltic Sea marine space

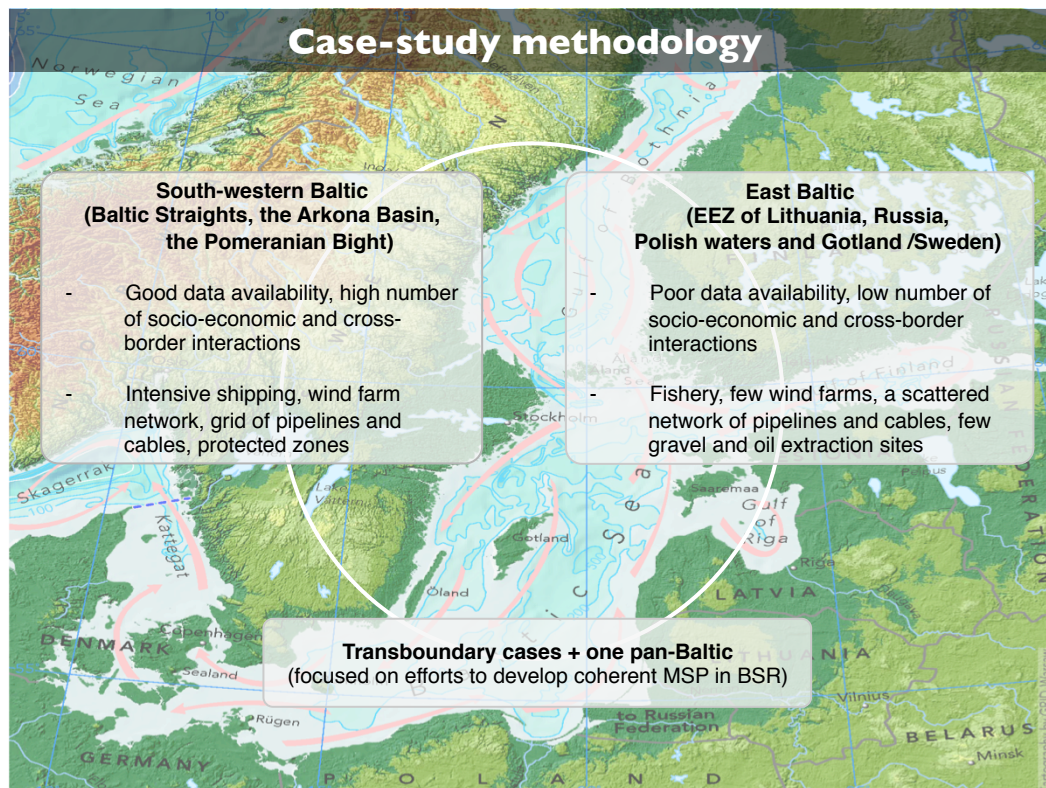
The MSP Directive foresees each Member State to establish and implement maritime spatial planning (MSP) till 2021. MSP has been identified as the central approach to give effect to the EU Blue Growth Strategy that promotes more intensive utilisation of marine resources, while improving ecological conditions in line with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (HELCOM 2007).

MSP: **the** tool to reach expected goals?



Good Environmental Status (GES) & Blue Growth

The overarching aim of BaltSpace project (2015-2018) is to clarify and improve the capacity of Maritime Spatial Planning as a policy integrator by means of science-based approaches and tools. As follows to support the enhancement the capabilities of society to respond to current and future challenges of the Baltic Sea governance.



Tools to be developed/evaluated

- Marxan site selection tool
- Spatial Cost-Benefit-Analysis approach
- Integrated indicator system assessing cumulative impact of marine space use
- Bow-tie approach for risk assessment and management in MSP
- Governance Baselines for selected and institutions in the Baltic
- Open Standards for Conservation approach

Activities

- Development of an analytical and methodological framework for analysis of MSP in the BSR. (binding the theoretical and practical aspects of MSP and integration)
- Mapping the present situation with regard to MSP integration in the BSR, identifying both limits and enablers.
- Creating an 'approaches and tools portfolio', tested for applicability for MSP integration during the project case studies.
- Creating the dialog with relevant actors in different arenas ensuring effective internal and external communication and dissemination framework.

MSP integration challenge

Policy and sector integration

Between

Multi-scale and transboundary integration

Stakeholder integration

Integration of knowledge base

Specific examples

- Environmental policies and Blue Growth
- Sectors in public policy (e.g. maritime transports, fisheries, tourism)
- Public, private and voluntary sector activities

- Different (geo)political scales
- Integration of MSP across national borders
- MSP and terrestrial planning

- Stakeholder knowledge, values, interests, critique in MSP with regard to important procedural aspects (e.g. legitimacy, power, timing, roles)

- Risk and uncertainty analysis, sustainability assessments
- Sectorial knowledge
- Integration of decision support tools in practical MSP processes handling ecological, economic and social issues on a spatial level