



---

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Document title</b>  | HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Work Plan 2014-2016 |
| <b>Code</b>            | 5-1                                     |
| <b>Category</b>        | INF                                     |
| <b>Agenda Item</b>     | 5 – Future work and meetings            |
| <b>Submission date</b> | 15.12.2014                              |
| <b>Submitted by</b>    | HELCOM Secretariat                      |
| <b>Reference</b>       |   |

---

## Background

The HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Work Plan 2014-2016 was adopted by the Helsinki Commission meeting (HELCOM 35-2014) on 5-6 March 2014.

The Work Plan was also discussed by the 66th VASAB CSPD/BSR Meeting on 25-26 June 2014. The Meeting noted that the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG needs to pay attention to the Work Plan timeframe and that the Work Plan should be realistic and the deadlines adjusted. The Meeting adopted the Work plan with the following adjustments:

- to delete the action “providing input, in terms of project ideas, to EU – Russia cooperation in the context of the EUSBSR regarding MSP” in point 1.4;
- to delete the text “to submit to the VASAB Ministerial Conference “ in point 3.1 in the timeframe column.

The final version of the Work Plan is attached to this document and has been published on the [HELCOM web page](#).

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to

- take note of the adopted Work Plan,
- consider and decide on the focus of the next meeting of the Working Group based on the Work Plan.



Adopted by HELCOM 35-2014 and the 66<sup>th</sup> VASAB CSPD/BSR Meeting

### HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Work Plan 2014-2016

| Roadmap   | Action   | Lead/support   | Timeframe  |
|---|--|--|------------|
| <b>0. Joint Baltic MSP principles</b>   | Continuously update national information on MSP developments including implementation of the joint MSP principles, especially those principles not covered by guidelines development or other targeted activity. | All H-V MSP WG<br><br>Update the “Follow up table”             | Continuous |
|   | Follow up the overall situation in the BSR countries with regard to implementation of the regional target of setting MSP plans applying ecosystem approach.  | All H-V MSP WG,  |            |
| <b>1. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP</b>  |  |  |            |
| 1.1 Cooperate in the field of MSP using <i>inter alia</i> the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG framework and thus facilitate reaching the target of drawing up and implementing transnationally coherent Maritime Spatial Plans applying the ecosystem approach throughout the region by 2020. | Exchange experiences and best practices in the WG.   | All H-V MSP WG,<br><br>Series of workshops among practitioners | Continuous |

|  |   |   |               |
|--|---|---|---------------|
|  | Series of workshops among MSP practitioners   | Secretariats<br><br>Countries and the European Commission invited to provide support. | Continuous    |
| 1.2 Take into consideration and cooperate upon global and European policy and regulatory developments related to MSP.  | Participate/contribute to development of EU, global and other international guidelines on MSP implementation, putting forward Baltic Sea perspectives on MSP. | All H-V MSP WG<br><br>[European Commission]   | Continuous    |
|  | Exchange experience of how to link implementation of EU MSFD with MSP   | All H-V MSP WG  | Continuous    |
|  | Actively promote cooperation among all the Baltic Sea countries and facilitate cooperation in transnational projects.   | All H-V MSP WG  | Continuous    |
| 1.3 Draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional “ <i>Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP</i> ”. These guidelines could address the initiation of the process, consultations, cooperation, institutional arrangements and time schedules as well as possibilities for preparing joint transboundary MSPs. | Provide input to Draft PartiSEApate project Recommendations on transboundary consultations and cooperation.   | All H-V MSP WG/PL   | Feb-June 2014 |
|  | Consider PartiSEApate outputs/recommendations as a basis for the Guidelines   | PL/ All   | 2014-2015     |
|  | Draft and agree on joint regional Guidelines on transboundary   | PL/ All   | 2015          |

|   |   |   |                  |
|---|---|---|------------------|
|   | consultations<br><br><i>See 6.2 for national implementation follow-up</i>   |   |                  |
| 1.4 Coordinate the MSP related actions and projects, including those implemented within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its Action Plan, noting the role of HELCOM and VASAB as the Horizontal Action Leaders for MSP. | Identify MSP cases that would benefit from cross border projects on the basis of common experiences.  | All H-V MSP WG  | Continuous       |
|   | Evaluate possible project ideas and match them with available funding sources to complete specific actions in this workplan through projects/consultancy work | Secretariats Sweden Germany<br><br>Possibly carried out through a consultancy, pending availability of funding. |                  |
|   | Grant and follow up EUSBSR Flagship status to Baltic Sea MSP projects   | WG  | Continuously     |
| <b>Roadmap</b>  | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Lead/support</b>   | <b>Timeframe</b> |
| <b>2. Public participation</b>  |   |   |                  |
| 2.1 Draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional “ <i>Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions</i> ”. These guidelines should address means of public consultation and transparency of information.                    | Provide input to PartiSEApate project “ <i>Recommendations on stakeholder involvement for MSP with transboundary dimensions.</i> ”                            | All H-V MSP WG/   | Feb-June 2014    |
|   | Consider draft PartiSEApate recommendations as a basis for the Guidelines   | All H-V MSP WG  | 2014-2015        |

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | Draft and agree on joint regional Guidelines <i>on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions</i> .<br><br><i>See 6.3 for national implementation follow-up</i> | All H-V MSP WG  | 2015   |
| <b>Roadmap</b>  | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Lead/support</b>   | <b>Timeframe</b>                                   |
| <b>3. Ecosystem approach in MSP</b>   |   |   |  |
| 3.1 Draft and adopt by 2015 procedurally oriented Baltic Sea regional “ <i>Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP</i> ”. | Finalize the ecosystem, approach paper to achieve a common understanding within/of HELCOM and VASAB   | FI (lead country) in cooperation with SWE, EU, D, PL, WWF and other interested                | By June 2014                                       |
|   | Elaborate on what is needed for the Guidelines based on the common understanding  | (Lead country and working practices to be agreed after completion of the initial paper on EA) | Inter-sessional cooperation by end of 2014         |
|   | Workshop/Seminar on MSP and Ecosystem Approach  | Russia/All  | June 2015<br><br>in St.Petersburg                  |
|   | Draft and adopt the Guidelines<br><br><i>See 6.4 for national implementation follow-up</i>  | (Lead country and working practices to be agreed after completion of the initial paper on EA) | Drafting early 2015<br><br>Adoption by end of 2015 |
| <b>Roadmap</b>  | <b>Action</b>   | <b>Lead/support</b>   | <b>Timeframe</b>                                   |
| <b>4. Information and data for MSP</b>  |   |   |  |
| 4.1 Identify by 2013 2014 competent contact points for MSP for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning.  | Create and keep updated a list of competent national MSP contact points.  | Secretariats supported by countries   | By the end of April 2014                           |
| 4.2 Share basic, relevant and available MSP related information as soon as possible.  | Information exchange within MSP WG concerning national MSP data developments  |   | Ongoing  |

|  |  |   |                   |
|--|--|---|-------------------|
|  |  |   | From 2015 onwards |
| 4.3 Promote the creation and sharing of MSP relevant Baltic Sea regional datasets.<br><br><i>(to be carried out in accordance with the data relevant joint MSP principles)</i>                     | Explore already existing data networks and products and identify specific MSP evidence / information / data needs  | All items under 4.3. could be carried under the lead of the proposed sub-group on MSP DATA to be discussed at MSP WG 9/2014 which should ensure synergies with other ongoing regional work on data. | 2014              |
|  | To identify relevant data (on human activities, socio-economic and environmental issues) available for MSP   | [see above]   |                   |
|  | To identify gaps in evidence, information and data available   | [see above]   |                   |
|  | To identify detailed (minimum) requirements / necessities and develop most suitable and useful solutions for - inter alia - data scope, content, attributes, formats | [see above]   |                   |
|  | To agree on measures to be taken to ensure transparency  | [see above]   |                   |
|  | To define research priorities  | [see above]   |                   |
|  | To develop terms of reference for setting up a regional spatial data infrastructure for MSP,   | [see above]   |                   |
| 4.4 While creating and sharing MSP related information and datasets utilize existing processes for sharing of spatial information including, for those Baltic Sea States who are EU member states, |  | [see above]   |                   |

|   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| the implementation of the EU INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC).   |  |   |   |
| 4.5. Prepare a future oriented report by 2015 on marine and maritime activities and developments of Baltic Sea regional importance.               | Prepare a future oriented report by 2015 on marine and maritime activities and developments of Baltic Sea regional importance.                 | All H-V MSP WG [Lead and content to be determined]<br><br><i>(PartiSEApate project will prepare a report by 201x with sector involvement which could provide input)</i> | by end of 2015  |
| <b>Roadmap</b>  | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Lead/support</b>   | <b>Timeframe</b>  |
| <b>5. Education for MSP</b>   |  |   |   |
| 5.1 Promote the education and professional development of MSP planners.   | To follow and support developments regarding education and professional development of MSP planners.   | All H-V MSP WG  |   |
|   | To follow and support updating of database on initiatives/ projects  | All H-V MSP WG<br><br>UN IOC? (tbc)<br><br><a href="http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/msp_around_the_world">http://www.unesco-ioc-marinesp.be/msp_around_the_world</a>  | [latest 2016]   |
| 5.2 Initiate and draw lessons from practical sub-regional experiences of coherent MSP to try out guidelines and joint regional working practices. | To follow and support identification of appropriate tools for professional development (e.g. training programme, workshops)                    | WG  | [latest 2016]   |
| <b>Roadmap</b>  | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Lead/support</b>   | <b>Timeframe</b>  |
| <b>6. National and Baltic Sea regional frameworks for MSP in place</b>  |  |   | <b>NB cross check with Guidelines drafting timelines</b>      |
| 6.1 National frameworks for coherent MSP are in place in all Baltic Sea countries by 2017.  | Review and use template for concise progress report of regional MSP implementation, regarding application of each of the joint MSP principles. | WG [consultant/project?]<br><br>Update the WG "Regional MSP follow up   | revised template by end of 2014<br><br>reports by spring 2015 |

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  |  | table” and revise template if needed   | onwards<br>amend template when needed   |
| 6.2 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP”.       | Review and use template for concise progress report of regional MSP implementation, regarding application of each of the joint MSP principles. | WG [consultant/project?]<br><br>Update the WG “Regional MSP follow up table” and revise template if needed | revised template by end of 2014<br><br>reports by spring 2015 onwards<br><br>amend template when needed |
|  | Actively promote implementation of the Guidelines.   | All H-V MSP WG   | 2016  |
| 6.3 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions”.            | Review and use template for concise progress report of regional MSP implementation, regarding application of each of the joint MSP principles. | WG [consultant/project?]<br><br>Update the WG “Regional MSP follow up table” and revise template if needed | revised template by end of 2014<br><br>reports by spring 2015 onwards<br><br>amend template when needed |
|  | Actively promote implementation of the Guidelines.   | All H-V MSP WG   | 2016  |
| 6.4 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP”. | Review and use template for concise progress report of regional MSP implementation, regarding application of each of the joint MSP principles. | WG [consultant/project?]<br><br>Update the WG “Regional MSP follow up table” and revise template if needed | revised template by end of 2014<br><br>reports by spring 2015 onwards<br><br>amend template when needed |



|  |  |                          |                  |
|--|--|--------------------------|------------------|
|  | Actively promote implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Guidelines.  | All H-V MSP WG           | 2016             |
| <b>Roadmap</b>   | <b>Action</b>  | <b>Lead/support</b>      | <b>Timeframe</b> |
| <b>7. Evaluation and follow-up</b>   |  |                          |                  |
| 7.1 Take further steps related to regular monitoring and evaluation needs of [the] MSP [Roadmap].  | Assessment report the implementation of the Roadmap  | WG [consultant/project?] | By 2016          |
| 7.2 Update the Roadmap, if necessary, in 2014 after HELCOM and VASAB ministerial meetings and assess the implementation of this Roadmap 2016, 2018 and 2020. | Update the Roadmap, if necessary, in 2014 after HELCOM and VASAB ministerial meetings and assess the implementation of this Roadmap 2016, 2018 and 2020. | WG [consultant/project?] | By 2016          |