



---

<b>Document title</b>	BONUS BaltSpace project
<b>Code</b>	6-3-rev.1
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	6 - MSP related projects and events
<b>Submission date</b>	15.11.2016
<b>Submitted by</b>	BONUS BaltSpace project

---

## Background

The BONUS BALTSPEACE project was presented to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group in its 10th meeting. An update on its progress was given in the 11th meeting.

Inter alia, the project examines which challenges and opportunities exist for MSP integration in different contexts through case studies. One case relates to integration on the pan-Baltic level, including the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working group.

## Action required

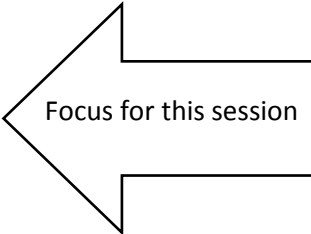
Take note of the information below and provide feedback / discuss the raised questions at the 13<sup>th</sup> HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group meeting

**BONUS BALTSAPCE pan-Baltic case study**

Reminder on what the BONUS BALTSAPCE project is about

The BONUS project BALTSAPCE – Towards Sustainable Governance of Baltic Marine Space (April 2015 – March 2018) is providing science-based approaches and tools to clarify and improve the capacity of marine spatial planning (MSP) as a policy integrator in the Baltic Sea Region.

The core activity fields of the project are:

Development of a <b>framework for analysing integration challenges</b> and diagnosing shortcomings and inefficiencies of MSP in the Baltic Sea Region.	
Identifying and showing barriers and enablers for improved effectiveness and efficiency of Baltic Sea governance on the basis of strategically selected <b>case studies</b> .	
Evaluation, improvement and development of innovative <b>approaches and tools</b> designed to enhance integration of MSP processes.	
Development and testing of new <b>communication</b> formats with MSP stakeholders to improve their understanding of MSP and to better integrate their views and needs.	

Under the Analytical Framework (AF) of the BONUS BALTSAPCE project (Saunders et al. 2015), the need for “a more systematic and integrated approach to the management of [...] marine areas” is proposed and analyzed. Ultimately, four integration challenges were identified as being worthy of more in-depth examination (Saunders et al. 2016):

<b>Integration Dimension</b>	<b>MSP Ambition</b>
transboundary/cross-border	to garner cooperation among jurisdictions (e.g., across national and sub-national borders) for further coherent planning and use between maritime activities and good environment status across borders and in the open sea – particularly in transnational marine space
policy/sectoral	to pre-emptively address sectoral use incompatibilities, but also to achieve synergistic interaction between sectoral interests – where mutual benefit/interest is emphasized (and sought after) - rather than only where sectoral interests are pursued
stakeholder	to develop processes in order to support engagement among a range of stakeholders and put measures in place to manage conflicting interests in a timely and deliberative manner within legitimate and high quality policy/planning processes and outcomes
knowledge	to interlink different forms of stakeholder knowledge and to fill gaps, to support multi-disciplinarily and robust science-based approaches to underpin MSP decision-making in pursuit of sustainable marine governance

It must also be borne in mind that, in the course of the research, challenges might be identified in addition to the four described above, such as temporal dimensions of integration.

### The pan-Baltic case study

Next to several case studies in the South-western and Eastern Baltic sea, which zoom in to MSP in different national contexts, the pan-Baltic case serves for analyzing integration problems that are of a wider Baltic character. The most prominent factors conditioning integration at the pan-Baltic level are related to the existence of various MSP forums, co-operation networks, and knowledge-sharing platforms, and diverse relevant institutional actors and frameworks (Zaucha & Gilek 2016).

A key aim of the BONUS BALTSPEACE 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. During a process of 'extended peer review' input, advice and critique are collected from representatives of different disciplines, countries and professions. That is why, in the next meeting of the HELCOM VASAB MSP Working Group, **we will kindly ask the participants for feedback on the questions below and invite them for a discussion** on aspects of the project. The focus will thereby be on the pan-Baltic case study.

The case study analyses political integration processes, roles and functions at the regional MSP level, zooming in on the role of regional institutions and structures in between national decision-making and EU directives/strategies/programmes etc. and relevant international treaties, as well as issues of transboundary consultations. Essential contributions to political integration processes in MSP are delivered by the work of the HELCOM VASAB MSP Working Group (WG). Within this group the establishment of the ***Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea area*** has been an important foundation for reaching the target of drawing up and implementing transnationally coherent Maritime Spatial Plans applying the ecosystem approach throughout the region by 2020, as set up in the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020.

**The following three questions, related to the work of the HELCOM VASB MSP WG and focusing on the establishment of the *Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea area*, will be open for discussion (1 to 3 questions, depending on time budget):**

1. *What were critical points of discussion during the process of establishing the guideline?*

2. *What were obstacles and drivers to resolve these critical points?*

3. *The guideline between environmental protection and promotion of human activities at sea. Which side dominated the discussion? Has there been a change over time?*

## References

- Saunders, F., Gilek, M., Gee, K., Göke, C., Hassler, B., Lenninger, P., Luttmann, A., Morf, A., Piwowarczyk, J., Schiele, K., Stalmokaite, I., Strand, H., Tafon, R. and Zaucha, J. (2016): BONUS BALTSAPACE Deliverable D1.2: Possibilities and Challenges for MSP Integration.
- Saunders, F., Gilek, M., Hassler, B. and Tafon, R. (2015): An Analytical Framework – Examining Integration in MSP in the Baltic Sea. BONUS BALTSAPACE Deliverable D1.1: Internal guidance document: Analytical and methodological framework for analysing MSP.
- Zaucha, J., Gilek, M. (2016): BONUS BALTSAPACE Deliverable 2.1: Baseline-Mapping and Refined Case Study Design.