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Background

The researchers of the BONUS BALTSAPACE project have studied MSP processes in the Baltic Sea Region. In particular, they have analysed them for different types of integration mechanisms, i.e. policy and sector integration, integration across scales and boundaries, stakeholder integration as well as integration of the knowledge base. Challenges and enabling conditions in MSP processes were identified and approaches developed that support the work of maritime spatial planners. The project has tested and evaluated individual tools and combinations of tools, resulting in practical guidance for their application in MSP in the future. The project ended in March 2018.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the BONUS BALTSAPACE project outputs and make use of them when developing maritime spatial plans.

BONUS BALTSAPCE project outputs for MSP



BONUS POLICY BRIEF: CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES FOR MSP INTEGRATION IN THE BALTSAPCE

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Marine/maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) aims to promote sustainable governance of marine and coastal areas and resources. This is a challenging task that involves problems of integration over various types of jurisdictional and geographical boundaries and between different sectors, policies, stakeholders and forms of knowledge.

This policy brief presents key policy-relevant research findings from BONUS BALTSAPCE on challenges and possibilities to address integration in MSP. The brief is intended for authorities responsible for MSP processes and all interested and affected stakeholders and policy makers. The recommendations provided here are based on key findings from in-depth case studies at different scales spanning from VASAB-HELCOM's Baltic-wide efforts, to national and subnational marine areas under the jurisdiction of Sweden and Denmark, Germany, Lithuania and Poland. Although the focus of BONUS BALTSAPCE research has been on the Baltic Sea region, it is argued that lessons learned also can be valuable for coping with MSP integration challenges in other marine areas.

Identifying and understanding MSP integration challenges

Research on Baltic Sea MSP performed in BONUS BALTSAPCE identifies the following integration dimensions as key MSP challenges: (i) across various types of administrative and geographical borders, (ii) across sector and policy boundaries, (iii) stakeholder integration and (iv) knowledge integration. The main findings on the identified integration challenges are summarised below:

Integration across administrative and geographical borders is pivotal to enhance functional coherence in the planning of marine areas, particularly at the macro-regional, Baltic Sea wide level. A key challenge is to promote effectiveness and synergies between parallel planning efforts in MSP at different administrative levels and in different countries and regions. This is important, since MSP is grounded in many regulations, norms, and practices at each of the planning levels: European, macro-regional (Baltic Sea region) and national (at times including regional and local levels). Moreover, various interrelated MSP objectives, roles and functions are pursued at different jurisdictional levels in MSP processes.

One major challenge of **policy integration** is to increase coherence between relevant global policies, EU Directives, macro-regional commitments, national regulations and strategies, and national implementation. This is especially complex in MSP, as planning is typically embedded in different regulatory and ideological contexts. Also, bringing together **different sectors** and matching their goals, targets and ambitions and expectations towards the marine environment and its resources is important to foster sustainable development of marine areas and to avoid a domination of well organised lobbies.

The ambition with regard to **stakeholder integration** is an early and broad participation of stakeholders. This remains a challenge, since – despite a growing agreement on the need for such social inclusiveness – most stakeholder involvement in Baltic Sea MSP processes have so far been temporary/project-driven and/or restricted to authorities and key sector representatives. The



reasons for broader stakeholder involvement can be both practical (e.g. improved MSP processes and outcomes) and value and rights based (e.g. linked to democratic rights to participate).

One of the key challenges related to **knowledge integration** in MSP centres on how to mix expert and scientific knowledge with other types of stakeholder knowledge to improve the MSP knowledge base. Fair and open communication between scientists/experts and other stakeholders can foster mutual learning across groups over time. However, different deficits and limitations of knowledge, scientific uncertainty and scientific disagreement among different disciplinary perspectives are also important challenges to address.

Importantly, BONUS BALTSAPCE results show that, although integration challenges as outlined here show considerable similarities in different situations, they can also vary significantly in various national and subnational MSP settings. This means that a systematic approach to assess and cope with integration challenges is needed and that this approach needs to be sensitive to problems and opportunities in specific national and subnational MSP situations. Below we present overarching and specific recommendations:

Key overarching recommendation on integration in MSP in the Baltic Sea region

The overarching message is that MSP can be a valuable vehicle for addressing crucial integration challenges in marine management, but additional action is needed to optimise these possibilities for the Baltic Sea region (BSR). **MSP authorities should translate and contextualise the integration dimensions into their planning processes and evaluation approaches.**

- Transboundary/multiscale – work across various types of administrative and geographical borders to contribute to cooperation, collaboration and coherent planning and spatial use between governance levels and across jurisdictions (e.g. at the cross-national and regional levels, between various levels of governance);
- Policy/sector – identify and address sector use incompatibilities and simultaneously work for desired interaction and synergies between sector interests;
- Stakeholders – develop processes supporting meaningful engagement of a broad range of stakeholders, redressing uneven power relations, while constructively integrating conflicting views;
- Knowledge – further enhance the evidence-base of MSP by developing ways to combine different forms of (scientific) disciplinary and other types of knowledge to help address uncertainty and to aid stakeholder engagement.

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Specific recommendations on how to enhance the capacity of MSP to address MSP integration challenges in the Baltic Sea region

Integration across various types of administrative and geographical borders and boundaries

1. MSP in BSR countries is set up differently in accordance with national planning contexts and administrative cultures. Here, **the HELCOM-VASAB WG on MSP needs to find an agreement on which incompatibilities (e.g. differences in values, goals, priorities, ambitions, administrative routines etc.) between countries are most urgent to address to ensure coherence of the planning efforts at a Baltic-Sea level.**
2. **The HELCOM-VASAB WG on MSP should try to enhance interaction among national sectoral and regional/local level administrations** to promote the diffusion of shared knowledge and experiences at all levels. This can contribute to improved coherence, especially if visions and MSP principles agreed at the Baltic-wide level are acknowledged and operationalised.
3. To improve cross-border integration, e.g. in areas with potential for transboundary conflict, **national MSP authorities could promote the establishment of bilateral or regional groups to discuss planning issues and share experiences in specific interest areas.** This is particularly relevant for areas, where MSP responsibility is shared across several levels of governance with important cross-border implications.

Policy/sector integration

4. An exclusive focus on binding EU Directives and treaties can result in missed opportunities to **exploit policy and cross-sectoral synergies** that may benefit all parties. It is therefore important, together with neighbouring countries, to systematically search for such synergies while transposing international obligations. Moreover, there should be a mutual awareness between countries of the implications of national MSP strategies in terms of compatibility and coherence.
5. Closer interaction between environmental protection and resource use sectors within countries can lead to improved and shared understanding of how the **environmental protection and development of maritime/Blue Growth sectors together may promote long-term sustainability.** This, in turn, can facilitate regional collaboration. One way to achieve this can be to establish cross-sectoral working groups to identify and address contentious MSP issues.
6. In parallel with overall integration between the Ecosystem Approach and Blue Growth, **regional groups of specialists** can be set up to refine coordination of policies on specific MSP components to address potential trade-offs and seek synergies between policies and sectors.

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Stakeholder integration

7. MSP should seek to **engage a broad range of stakeholders**, including authorities and well-organised interests and other interested or affected parties, **early in MSP. Stakeholder participation in MSP needs further development**, built on evaluation and reflection on earlier and ongoing participation processes by authorities in dialogue with society and academia. Also, legal minimum requirements and other incentives affecting stakeholder involvement need to be scrutinised in relation to the mobilisation and balancing of various societal groups.
8. **Stakeholder involvement in MSP may need to become more continuous than the formal process and clearer in its aims.** MSP authorities should develop stakeholder analyses that provide a rationale for whom to involve and when to involve them. The development and maintenance of trust and communication channels for exchange and learning takes time and requires continuity. Existing collaboration networks and projects can be used as a base, but should be kept open for new stakeholders. Authorities should also **explore non-statutory forums and methods** beyond formal MSP procedures. In developing such informal participation, it is important to take steps to maintain sufficient transparency.
9. An open, inclusive approach to participation in MSP requires that **stakeholders have the capacity and resources to participate effectively and meaningfully.** Stakeholders' interests, needs, expectations and possibilities to engage in MSP may vary greatly within and among user groups (e.g. fishing and recreation), as well as change over time. In countries starting up their MSP processes, it may be necessary to mobilise, inform and train specific groups as well as the public. **Authorities designing and moderating MSP processes need to have the capacity, time and resources** to provide access, legitimacy and transparency for various groups and remain attentive to complexity and changes in the stakeholder landscape.

Knowledge integration

10. **Strategic Environmental Assessments as foreseen by the EU SEA Directive or sustainability appraisals as performed in the UK may offer potential to integrate ecological and social knowledge.** To realise this, there is a need to map and assess socio-cultural values and knowledge as well as other types of expert and lay knowledge more routinely through MSP processes. Such a SEA will need broad stakeholder engagement and incentives to promote knowledge sharing.
11. **MSP should use social science** to develop approaches to better support stakeholder engagement, as well as open and democratic forms of MSP decision-making, particularly in case of tensions and conflicts in MSP settings. Social science might also help in eliciting values, interests, beliefs, and critically analysing MSP processes. Equally important is advancement of research on MSP governance and to improve public access and Baltic-wide sharing of relevant information from research, sectoral organisations etc.
12. MSP authorities will benefit from development of **robust evaluative criteria to judge the sufficiency and quality of the evidence base**, including consideration of uncertainties and the

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limits of science. Where knowledge is lacking or its credibility or saliency is questioned, interdisciplinary or even transdisciplinary (involving experts and non-experts in collaboration) knowledge production may usefully supplement MSP decision-making.

Multidimensional integration

Although this policy brief has primarily examined integration challenges in isolation, BONUS BALTSAPCE research shows that it is important to pay attention and address their interactions and cumulative impacts when developing and governing specific MSP processes. For example, the way stakeholder integration is addressed will also influence knowledge integration. Recommendations provided below are focused on such broader findings related to multiple integration challenges in MSP:

13. MSP processes have to be considered as equally important as the plan itself. Addressing integration can improve the process. Therefore, **the aims of integration should be clearly defined, and criteria measuring progress towards addressing integration challenges (and real benefits) should be developed when designing the MSP process.**
14. **Integration in MSP should not be a remedy for all types of problems** associated with the use of sea space and marine resources. MSP cannot ensure only win-win solutions by enhanced integration. However, if conducted in an integrated way, MSP **can enable the development of mutual understanding, compromises and collaboration**, as well as the **identification of fundamentally different interests, values and unavoidable trade-offs.**
15. **Temporal aspects of integration are important to consider.** This includes continual interaction and exchange of viewpoints between MSP actors across borders and levels as differences in timing of MSP processes will be unavoidable. MSP authorities must take account of the different time horizons of various national MSP and other governance processes, such as the EU's MSFD and CFP. Attention to temporal aspects will enhance MSP's ability to adapt to changing environmental and social conditions over time. This will require involvement of key stakeholders, close co-operation among sectoral authorities within countries, as well as among MSP authorities in neighbouring countries already during the MSP design phase.
16. **Integration requires institutional capacity building for MSP.** This will take time and resources as well as political commitment. A qualitative change of governance practices is needed to address the integration challenges outlined here. This would comprise a shift to a less expert driven and **more bottom-up approach involving a broader range of stakeholders and the inclusion of a wider knowledge base** (beyond natural sciences and including experience-based knowledge). Such a shift would need to occur at different planning levels – from the EU Commission and other international institutional fora down to MSP authorities and MSP stakeholders at national and sub-national levels.



Contact details and acknowledgements

This brief has resulted from the BONUS BALTSpace project, supported by BONUS (Art 185), funded jointly by the EU and BSR national funding institutions. The BONUS BALTSpace project includes partners from research organisations in Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland and Lithuania and is coordinated by Professor Michael Gilek from Södertörn University, Sweden: <michael.gilek@sh.se>. More information is available at: www.baltspace.eu.



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BONUS POLICY BRIEF: CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES FOR MSP INTEGRATION IN THE BALTIC SEA

MSP integration challenges

Marine/maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) aims to promote sustainable governance of marine and coastal areas and resources. This is a challenging task that involves problems of integration over various types of jurisdictional and geographical boundaries and between different sectors, policies, stakeholders and forms of knowledge.

This policy brief presents key policy-relevant research findings from BONUS BALTSPEACE on challenges and possibilities to address integration in MSP. The brief is intended for authorities responsible for MSP processes and all interested and affected stakeholders and policy makers. The recommendations provided here are based on key findings from in-depth case studies at different scales spanning from VASAB-HELCOM's Baltic-wide efforts, to national and subnational marine areas under the jurisdiction of Sweden and Denmark, Germany, Lithuania and Poland. Although the focus of BONUS BALTSPEACE research has been on the Baltic Sea region, it is argued that lessons learned also can be valuable for coping with MSP integration challenges in other marine areas.



01 Horizontal & vertical integration

Integration across administrative and geographical borders is pivotal to enhance functional coherence in the planning of marine areas, particularly at the macro-regional, Baltic Sea wide level. A key challenge is to promote effectiveness and synergies between parallel planning efforts in MSP at different administrative levels and in different countries and regions. This is important, since MSP is grounded in many regulations, norms, and practices at each of the planning levels: European, macro-regional (Baltic Sea region) and national (at times including regional and local levels). Moreover, various interrelated MSP objectives, roles and functions are pursued at different jurisdictional levels in MSP processes.

02 Policy and sector integration

One major challenge of is to increase coherence between relevant global policies, EU Directives, macro-regional commitments, national regulations and strategies, and national implementation. This is especially complex in MSP, as planning is typically embedded in different regulatory and ideological contexts. Also, bringing together and matching their goals, targets and ambitions and expectations towards the marine environment and its resources is important to foster sustainable development of marine areas and to avoid a domination of well organised lobbies.



03 Stakeholder integration

The ambition with regard to is an early and broad participation of stakeholders. This remains a challenge, since – despite a growing agreement on the need for such social inclusiveness – most stakeholder involvement in Baltic Sea MSP processes have so far been temporary/project-driven and/or restricted to authorities and key sector representatives. The stakeholder integration reasons for broader stakeholder involvement can be both practical (e.g. improved MSP processes and outcomes) and value and rights based (e.g. linked to democratic rights to participate).

04 Knowledge integration

One of the key challenges related to in MSP centres on how to mix expert and scientific knowledge with other types of stakeholder knowledge to improve the MSP knowledge base. Fair and open communication between scientists/experts and other stakeholders can foster mutual learning across groups over time. However, different deficits and limitations of knowledge, scientific uncertainty and scientific disagreement among different disciplinary perspectives are also important challenges to address.



Solutions: Multi-dimensional integration



MSP should not be seen as a remedy to all types of problems. It can enable development and mutual understanding, compromises and collaboration.



Temporal aspects of integration are important to consider. MSP authorities must take into account different time horizons of processes.



The aims of integration should be clearly defined, and criteria measuring progress should be developed.

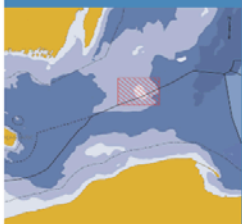


Integration requires institutional capacity building. A more bottom-up approach involving stakeholders and a wider knowledge base is required.

Recommendations / solutions for specific challenges

Hor. & Vertical	Policy & sector	Stakeholder	Knowledge
<p>The HELCOM-VASAB WG on MSP needs to find an agreement on which incompatibilities (e.g. differences in values, goals, priorities, ambitions, administrative routines etc.) between countries are most urgent to address to ensure coherence of the planning efforts at a Baltic-Sea level.</p>	<p>Systematically search to exploit policy and cross-sectoral synergies while transposing international obligations.</p>	<p>Engagement of stakeholders at relatively early stages of the MSP process should be enhanced</p>	<p>Strategic Environmental Assessments as foreseen by the EU SEA Directive or sustainability appraisals as performed in the UK may offer potential to integrate ecological and social knowledge.</p>
<p>The HELCOM-VASAB WG on MSP should try to enhance interaction among national sectoral and regional/local level administrations</p>	<p>Closer interaction between environmental protection and resource use (Blue growth) sectors to promote long-term sustainability</p>	<p>Stakeholder involvement in MSP may need to become more continuous than the formal process and clearer in its aims. Authorities should also explore non-statutory forums and methods</p>	<p>MSP should use social science to develop approaches to better support stakeholder engagement, as well as open and democratic forms of MSP decision-making</p>
<p>National MSP authorities could promote the establishment of bilateral or regional groups to discuss planning issues and share experiences in specific interest areas.</p>	<p>Regional groups of specialists can be set up to refine coordination of policies on specific MSP components to address potential trade-offs and seek synergies between policies and sectors.</p>	<p>Improve the capacity and resources of stakeholders to participate effectively and meaningfully. Also authorities designing and moderating MSP processes need to have the capacity, time and resources</p>	<p>Develop robust evaluative criteria to judge the sufficiency and quality of the evidence base, including consideration of uncertainties and the limits of science.</p>

The BaltSPACE project



BONUS

SCIENCE FOR A BETTER FUTURE OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION



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BONUS BRIEFING DOCUMENT: THE ROLE OF TOOLS IN PROMOTING INTEGRATION

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Background

The EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning, adopted in July 2014, requires all relevant Member States to prepare maritime spatial plans by 2021. The Directive stipulates that plans should take into account land-sea interactions and consider environmental, economic and social aspects. They should also promote coherence between MSP and other related processes, ensure stakeholder involvement, use the best available data, and involve transboundary cooperation with other Member States.

Fulfilling these minimum requirements demands various forms of integration - between sectors, policies, stakeholders, administrative borders, and forms of knowledge. BONUS BALTSPACE is the first transnational, interdisciplinary MSP research project in the BSR to focus on four key integration challenges in MSP, namely policy and sector integration, multi-level and transboundary integration, stakeholder integration and knowledge integration.

This briefing document

What can tools contribute to addressing these four integration challenges? BALTSPACE assessed the capacity of a range of problem- and process-specific techniques and approaches (subsequently termed tools) in different case study settings. This brief sets out central learnings with respect to the BALTSPACE tools and some general conclusions for using tools to promote integration in MSP.

Tools assessed as part of the BALTSPACE case studies:

- Bowtie
- Culturally Significant Areas (CSA)
- Governance Baselines
- Integrated Indicator System for monitoring the spatial, economic and environmental effects of MSP solutions
- Marxan
- Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation
- Spatial Economic Benefit Analysis (SEBA)

The BALTSPACE assessment of tools and approaches

The BALTSPACE tool assessment is best understood as case study applications, where each tool was applied once in a particular country context in a format determined by the tool user. Some applications were desktop exercises, others were more participative, although most had some form of verification by stakeholders. The seven tools and approaches chosen for the assessment reflected both the variety of available methods and the diverse range of tasks in MSP. Some tools have mapping functions, some a dedicated data focus. Some are computer-based, and some related to forecasting (e.g. scenarios derived from applying the tools). Some are more descriptive, others more analytical; and some deliver a particular task in MSP while others support the MSP process as such. The BALTSPACE tools and approaches also accompany varying stages of the MSP cycle, as shown in the diagram below. Most tools have existed for some time and have had some prior application in MSP or environmental contexts; one tool (SEBA)

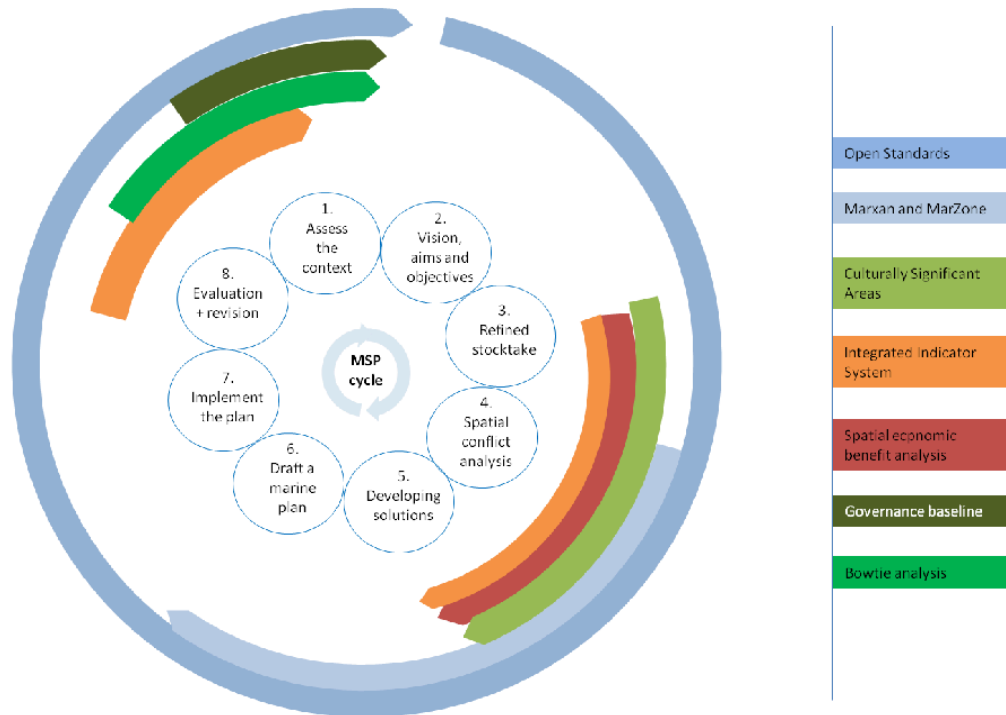
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was specifically developed for MSP as part of BALTSPACE. The assessment is based on the retrospective evaluation of the BALTSPACE researchers.



Selected BALTSPACE approaches and tools and their fit in the MSP planning cycle

KEY LESSONS LEARNED

1. The right tool for the right task

Tools can play many different roles in MSP, ranging from the delivery of expert information and data to interpretations of data, from accompanying a particular process step to accompanying the entire MSP cycle. Good prior knowledge of the tools and their capacity is therefore needed, as well as clarity of purpose, to ensure the right tool is chosen for the right task. This must include understanding of the capacity of the tool (what it is designed to do), application requirements (what resources and skills are needed to apply it) and the limitations of the tool (what outcomes can be realistically expected within a certain timeframe).

It is helpful to differentiate between process- and task-focused tools, in other words those that support or analyse processes and those that deliver a particular output for MSP (e.g. maps, scenarios).

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2. Contributing to integration challenges

Knowledge integration is the challenge tools can most readily help with. This applies to integrating different types of data (e.g. integration of environmental and socio-economic data by the Indicators tool), as well as different forms of knowledge (e.g. bringing together expert and stakeholder knowledge through SEBA and Marxan). Process-supporting tools (such as CSA or Open Standards) may find it easier to integrate different knowledge systems, e.g. combining experiential, local or traditional knowledge with scientific data.

Stakeholder and sector integration is another challenge most tools can easily help with. Even if they are not originally designed for this, they can be consciously applied to involve different stakeholders (e.g. administration and industry), and integrate various levels of knowledge and expertise. With the right facilitation, tools can also contribute to stakeholder integration more indirectly by providing a platform for discussing the outputs of more technical tools such as maps and scenarios. The Open Standards application for example builds on broad stakeholder involvement to achieve best effects in the other integration dimensions.

Policy integration (e.g. sectoral or multi-level policy integration) - is an indirect outcome of tool use. Tools suited to policy analysis (such as Bowties or Governance Baselines) can merely point to policy gaps and action needs, with integration effects then depending on that action being taken. Policy integration is thus a later-stage result of the ongoing MSP process for which the tools are merely facilitators.

Greater land-sea integration is another benefit of applying some of the tools. Some tools, such as the Indicators tool or SEBA, specifically bridge the gap between terrestrial and maritime data, allowing connections to be made between activities in the sea, the spatial footprint of these activities (and changes over time) and the impacts of these activities on land. Others make a more indirect, qualitative contribution in that they promote integrative thinking across the land-sea divide (e.g. via perceptions of space in the CSA or Open Standards approach).

Depending on the scale at which the tool is applied, all of the above can have integration effects at a cross-border or transboundary level.

3. It's not the tool that counts but how it is applied

Tools do not deliver good results automatically, even when the right tool has been selected for the task at hand. Technical understanding of the tool and appropriate application make all the difference. Tool needs in MSP should therefore not only be considered in terms of "hard" requirements, but also in terms of the necessary "soft skills" that are needed for applying a particular tool. This particularly also refers to communication and facilitation skills on top of the necessary technical expertise.

Tool application is only as good as the application context allows it to be. For technical tools, this includes having the necessary resources and capacities at hand. But it also means aspects such as openness to reflection and debate, willingness to engage in an honest discussion of the constraints of tools, and the ability to act on the outcomes provided by them.

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4. Benefits of using tools

Most tools can be applied in a participatory setting if so desired; by doing so, their integrative potential can be enhanced (e.g. Open Standards). Participatory process design can deliver additional integration benefits, such as increasing stakeholder representation, enhancing the integration of particular sectors, or facilitating transboundary integration. Seeing "their" data integrated can increase trust and motivate stakeholders to remain involved in the MSP process, e.g. when producing cause-effect chains in Open Standards-supported workshops.

Tools can act as a door opener to MSP, making the process more transparent, tangible and setting achievable tasks. At the same time, more complex tools (such as the Open Standards) can at first seem overwhelming, requiring extra commitment from all those engaging with it and demanding particular skills in communicating the workings and expected outcomes of the tool. Such initial efforts usually pay off in the long run.

Up and beyond the specific outputs a tool can produce (such as maps), MSP can capitalise on the learning process that results during tool application for stakeholders and planners.

Some of these "soft" impacts take time to manifest; they will also depend on other external circumstances unrelated to tool use.

5. Tool constraints

Data constraints and knowledge gaps limit the applicability of data driven or statistical tools. Especially economic data is often missing at the right scale. Social and spatial data are also difficult to obtain and can be difficult to compare across borders.

All tools require dedicated users and facilitators, in most cases with specialist skills or expertise. This not only applies to computer-based tools or models, but also to desktop or process-focused tools. Social science knowledge is essential for working with local communities, for example, and prior experience is required for desktop tools based on a particular way of thinking (such as bowties).

In some cases, the real constraint is not with the tool itself but with feeding its outputs into the MSP process. This can be a question of language, e.g. linking qualitative community values to places and translating this into areas with boundaries that can be depicted on a map. It can also be a question of having the right facilitator who is capable of feeding new information and knowledge generated into the right phase of the MSP process and connecting to other relevant (e.g. sector) processes .

Some tools highlight limits of knowledge integration - for example when non-spatial values cannot be translated into spatially explicit maps. Different worldviews are also difficult to easily integrate within a tool, as every tool is grounded in a particular worldview and therefore constrained to some degree. Such integration would require a deliberative setting, which could be an add-on or follow-up to tool use.

How tools are being applied, and the indirect benefits that can arise from their application, have not been a focus of dedicated MSP tool evaluation so far. The main difficulty with this type of evaluation is the attribution problem: Which integration effects, especially longer-term effects, are down to the use of a tool or the result of other circumstances?

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For more information on the BALTSPEACE assessment of tools and approaches see the following resources:

- Addressing MSP integration challenges: The role of tools and approaches (BALTSPEACE report, April 2018). The report contains a detailed assessment of the BALTSPEACE tools together with an evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses with respect to the four integration challenges.
- Addressing MSP integration challenges: A handbook of tools and approaches (BALTSPEACE handbook, April 2018). The handbook presents six of the tools and sets out why, when and how they could ideally be applied in MSP contexts.
- YouTube tutorials on selected tools

All are available on www.baltspace.eu

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POLICY BRIEF: IMPACT ON MSP PROCESSES



1. European Legislation



2. Research on integration challenges



3. Contributions to real-life practice

Influence ongoing MSP processes



Transnational impacts



Training the next generation



Using new tools



Impacts beyond the Baltic Sea Region



1 In Poland, the study of fishermen's experiences and opinions generated better understanding of how to involve fishers in the MSP process currently underway.

2 In Germany ideas were provided on how to maximize alignment between regional and federal MSP.

Through participating in various events, the project provided input for the work of transnational MSP institutions, such as the HELCOM-VASAB Working Group on MSP. Patterns of transboundary interaction were analysed, and recommendations were made for sharing and transferring MSP experience more effectively.

A one-week summer school was organised in Klaipeda in August-September 2016 with the aim of training young researchers and professionals in analysing how trans-boundary integration challenges play out in various MSP situations. Besides gaining new knowledge, the students expanded their network.

A range of tools and approaches have been assessed to assist planners on how to address integration challenges. **3** Marxan was used to identify MPAs in Denmark, and a new tool "Spatial Economic Benefit Analysis" was developed which is able to map the distribution of economic benefits associated with specific maritime uses.

Results are currently informing the development of MSP in Namibia through a project facilitated by the German Development Corporation GIZ. Information is shared on a broader sustainability perspective, transboundary integration and stakeholder participation.



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