Baltic Sea Region
MSP Data Expert Sub-Group
7th meeting

DECISIONS

Venue: HELCOM Secretariat

13-14/09/2017

General:

1. A new **PanBaltic SCOPE** project has been selected for DG MARE funding under EUMFF call in summer 2017. The new project will build on previous Flagships - "Baltic SCOPE – Towards Coherence and Cross-border Solutions in Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Plans" and "Baltic LINes – Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans" and among other activities will support the MSP Data Expert Sub-Group (hereinafter – MSP Data group) by testing an output data platform. The "Data Sharing activity" will be led by Latvia in close co-operation with HELCOM and will provide a practical help to the group by testing output data platform and solving technical issues. PanBaltic SCOPE project is expected to start in January 2018 and last for 2 years.

2. During the **INSPIRE Conference** "INSPIRE a digital Europe: Thinking out of the box" (held in Strasbourg, 6-8 September 2017) several sessions emphasized the role of marine spatial data infrastructure (MSDI) for MSP – in this regard BSR efforts on MSP data have been recognized. Accordingly to the INSPIRE Directive, the data sets of INSPIRE Annex 1 shall be INSPIRE compliant by 2018. However the complexity of the INSPIRE implementation and well-developed technological alternatives have led to the conclusion that revision and simplification of currently complex INSPIRE rules and data specifications might be needed.

3. The project "Pathways and Needs towards a Baltic Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure for MSP" (**MSPDAT**) has been granted for EUSBSR Seed Money 1st Call. MSPDAT supports MSP Data group`s work towards a regional spatial data infrastructure. The main target of the project is to prepare a full project proposal on work with environmental INPUT data, where MSP Data group would act as a reference group. Project lifetime is from September 2017 till August 2018. Project consortium of 9 partners will prepare:

    a. Report on the state of play of environmental INPUT data needs and gaps (by May 2018),

    b. Main project proposal (by September 2018);

    c. Report on future funding possibilities (by September 2018).

    Tentatively in November the first project meeting could be held as a "task force" together with the BSR MSP Data group. The "task force" would work on defining the needs and possible outcomes of the project. The invitation to the "task force" and other practicalities will be circulated in due time.

4. The ongoing Flagship "**Baltic LINes** – Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans" within its **Work Package 3 "BSR MSP data infrastructure for shipping routes and energy corridors"** aims to improve the access to relevant spatial data and information in cross-border MSP and has already adapted and updated the INPUT data table (outcome made by BSR MSP Data group) for project needs. The WP3 will deliver a MSDI prototype to provide data to the planners to support the planning process. The first version of the prototype is currently being developed and was named BASEMAPS (for Baltic Sea Maps). It will allow users to have access via web services to the most update datasets hosted by the countries. When the data is not available through such services, the users will be able to view and download the last updated data hosted by HELCOM. BASEMAPS is a hybrid system as compromise between centralized (current) and decentralized data (through web services) approaches and will be INSPIRE compliant. In this regard two reports have been conducted: "Data needs and availability" (which will updated on a regular basis) and "Data Exchange and Dissemination".

Presentation:

5. Mr. Rik Wouters (European Land Information Service, EULIS) presented the concept of Marine Cadastre. In order to introduce the concept of the Marine Cadastre, a preliminary study was conducted in 2014 (report is available here: https://goo.gl/St2R34). Marine Cadastre describes the location and spatial extent of rights, restrictions and responsibilities in the marine environment. The land cadastre can be considered as a good

analogy for Marine Cadastre. Although there is no reference to the notion of Marine Cadastre in the EU regulatory framework, some countries in the BSR demonstrate a rapid pace towards the development of an MSDI (maritime spatial data infrastructure). However existing MSDI`s have the focus more on "recording" than "registering". The marine cadastre elements might be considered in further development of MSDI`s.

Outcomes:

6. In order to provide the general overview of the MSP process in the Baltic Sea Region countries, the layer "**spatial plan area**" now has been published in the HELCOM Map and Data Service (http://maps.helcom.fi/website/mapservice/?datasetID=aa96bca9-23f5-4e24-bc92-be24cf101d59) as a background material. MSP Data group agreed that explanation of the metadata should be explained more detailed (code list descriptions should be added). Taking into account that in the future there will be more than one maritime spatial plan per particular territory (the new plan or draft plan and previous plan or existing plan), additional feature "other MSP plans" with respective web link should be added. Only the plan in legal force should be visualised on the layer.

7. **Sea-use code list** nearly has been translated in all languages of BSR (DK is missing). In some cases where there is no data in the maritime spatial plan translation is not provided.

8. In order to test the first model of sea-use data structure, the two test-cases where elaborated – German-Polish and Estonian-Latvian MSP test cases. The test-cases gave first impression about the planning approach in the countries. The MSP data structures are more comprehensive if there is data management structure established however the data descriptions could be more extended.

9. The data sets deriving from legislation (e.g., NATURA 2000 territories) or current human activities (existing objects, areas) are serving as INPUT data in preparation of the plan and which can have a particular designation in the maritime spatial plan as OUTPUT data.

10. Preferable geometry for sea-use types is a polygon which can have spatial implication and conditions while it is not that clear for lines or points. Problems with different geometries also could apply to the visualization of data on border areas.

11. When different coordinate systems are used, data transformation is needed which might cause some inaccuracies. Datasets should be prepared in WGS-84 coordinate system instead of using national coordinate systems in order to avoid discrepancy of the data from different countries.

12. The data sets were grouped by each sea-use category and described by indicating relevant sea-use type (priority, allowed, restricted, forbidden). Such approach does not allow easy to understand the implication of sea-use type, especially in the territories where sea-uses are overlapping or priority use exclude another use.

13. The discussion is needed on how to visualize different sub-categories of sea-uses (e.g., different types of protection areas), as well as different restrictions for one sea-use (e.g., several types of fishing may have different restrictions and conditions).

14. Although the "General use" has no separate geometry in the plans, it should be discussed how to describe it in the maps.

15. Taking into account the results of test-cases, it was agreed to have another round of test-cases where data will be structured by priority uses and complemented with additional features – other possible sea-use types and relevant sea-use categories and comprehensive description. It is ensured that the new structure is compliant with INSPIRE Directive.

16. In order to ensure comprehension of MSP data and durable data structures behind MSP, it is crucial to have MSP planners and GIS specialist working together closely.

17. MSP Data group agreed on the general outline of the Guidance Document which should be finalized by the end of 2018.

18. For the forthcoming meetings MPS Data group agreed to start the meetings with a general short introduction on the latest MSP and data developments in each country and HELCOM.

Tasks:

Layer "spatial plan area"

19. In order to finalize the output data layer "spatial plan area" it was agreed:

    a. To update the template of the layer by adding code list descriptions (process step, regulation nature), as well as additional feature "other MSP plans" with respective web links (**Joni**);

    b. **Joni** will add the missing information about Swedish and Danish maritime spatial plan areas;

    c. **Bettina** will send updated outline of the spatial plan area of Schleswig-Holstein region Territorial Waters.

    d. **Maaret** will send the names of Finnish maritime plan areas.

    e. **Joni** and **Bettina** will consider the possible cartographic visualisation solutions till the next MSP Data group meeting.

Minimum requirements

20. The draft of Minimum requirements for transboundary MSP output data is available online: https://goo.gl/68bdAV:

    a. **Jakub** will update the document according to the conclusions of the 1st round of test-cases;

    b. **Group** is welcomed to provide comments and adjustments to the document which will be discussed in the next MSP Data group meeting.

Layers of planned sea uses

21. Sea use code list is available for online editing and adjustments: https://goo.gl/VROrIs. **Denmark** should:

    a. look through the list and, if necessary, suggest additional types;

    b. provide the translation of listed sea use codes into national language (so called, glossary).

22. In order to further test the proposed approach for layers of planned sea uses, **2nd round of test-cases** will be carried out by PL & DE (**Kamil, Jakub & Bettina**) and LV & EE (**Kristīne, Armīns & Maili**). The data will be structured by priority uses and complemented with additional features – other possible sea-use types and relevant sea-use categories and comprehensive description.

Next meeting

23. Next – 8th meeting will be held in the beginning of December 2017 as lunch-to-lunch meeting. Particular date and place will be considered via emails according to the availability of MSP Data group members.

24. Main topics for the next meeting:

    a. Short introduction on latest MSP and data developments by each country and HELCOM;

    b. Results from the 2nd round of the bilateral test-cases (Kamil, Jakub & Bettina; Kristīne, Armīns & Maili);

    c. Suggestions and comments of updated Minimum Requirements for transboundary MSP output data;

    d. Results from MSPDAT project "task force".