Baltic Sea Region
MSP Data Expert Sub-Group
1st meeting

01-02/10/2015
Radisson Blu Hotel Latvija
Elizabetes iela 55
Riga, Latvia

DECISIONS

1. Data ESG in its procedures should be guided by the "Terms of References for a Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-group" (adopted by VASAB/BSR and agreed on by HELCOM 36-2015) and "Rules of Procedure of the Helsinki Commission – Baltic Marine Environment protection commission" (adopted by the Extraordinary Meeting on 7 September 1999; and revised by the 21st meeting of the Commission in 2000, by the 22nd meeting in 2001, by the 23rd meeting in 2002, by the 29th meeting in 2008 and by the 41st meeting of the Heads of Delegation in 2013 as mandated by the 34th meeting of the Commission in 2013).

2. The main agreed formalities and procedures:
   a. The ESG work is terminated till the end of 2016 with possibility to continue the work in future;
   b. In terms of content, the ESG works accordingly to "Terms of References for a Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-group" (hereinafter – "ToR"). The tasks set in the "ToR" should be considered as guidance and ESG is welcome to amend or add other issues to the "Outputs" list.
   c. The ESG chair is elected by group core members;
   d. The Chair is supported by a co-chair, who is a representative of the meeting's host ("rotating "co-chair");
   e. Each country has one vote;
   f. The VASAB Secretariat and/or HELCOM Secretariat will provide regular reports to HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working group and other institutions when required.
   g. VASAB Secretariat will deliver a decision paper after each meeting. Decision paper will consist of general decisions (not detailed conversations).
   h. HELCOM Secretariat will provide a special folder (*work space*) within the HELCOM Meeting-portal where the all materials (presentations, agendas, decision papers, drafts of outcomes etc.) will be stored.

3. Data ESG elected **Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda** (Poland) as the group Chair in consensus.

4. The representatives of each BSR country gave a short presentation about their approaches of data use in MSP about data needs, data ownership and availability, as well as data accessibility. VASAB Secretariat will provide a general overview for common problems and challenges according to presentations.

5. Representative of HELCOM Secretariat Mr. Joni Kaitaranta gave a presentation about HELCOM data sets (~400) and ways of accessibility (in future: centralized approach to decentralised data hosting).

6. Jens P.W. Hartmann presented the ongoing process of establishment of IHOs Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure.

7. Group members discussed and agreed on further tasks which are compiled in *Revised*

work-plan. Main conclusions:
  a. There is different variety of data sets that are used in MSP processes in BSR countries; as most data has been collected for sectorial needs so far, there is a lot of processing needed to have an appropriate data for MSP particularly.
  b. Due to the data variety and different approaches in each country, as well as the common understanding of harmonised MSP plans around the Baltic Sea, further ESG work should be focused mainly on transboundary issues;
  c. There should be settled strong sectorial targets and future needs that may help planners to determine the uses in the sea;
  d. The transboundary issues for MSP should be selected via test-cases (e.g. Baltic SCOPE project etc.) and survey of MSP planners;
  e. Only few data sets probably will be needed for transboundary MSP;
  f. The INSPIRE Directive should be taken into account when compiling the Data sets that are needed for indicated transboundary issues;
  g. The scope of data will depend on importance and each country`s interests;
  h. Acknowledging the countries responsibility and competence in MSP, the Guidance of data sharing/availability (both – input (planning evidence?) and output (future uses)) will be prepared with emphasis on data modelling and harmonization to ensure comparability of maritime spatial plans;
  i. Instead of having physical Spatial Data Infrastructure ("exchange"), it is necessary to discuss the availability of data (*where is what*). Decentralized data hosting should be supported to avoid a duplication.
8. Group members will send to Elina (VASAB Secretariat) the information for Additional Contact Point list (experts on different data/files who may be contacted or invited to help ESG).
9. 2nd ESG meeting will be held in Hamburg, Germany, **on 19-20 January 2016**, as lunch to lunch meeting. The possible presentations were outlined:
  a. MSP Directive by Katarzyna
  b. German SDI (invited by Bettina)
  c. German INSPIRE Contact Point (invited by Bettina)
  d. Draft proposal of transboundary MSP issues from BalticSCOPE project perspective by Susanne and Bettina, Jānis? Other volunteers?
  e. EMODNET (invited by Elina).
10. 3rd ESG meeting will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in April 2016. The 4th meeting should be held before the 20th June 2016 (as regards the conditions of HASPS project).
11. The outcomes of the meeting will be prepared and sent by VASAB Secretariat to group members to amend/comment.