

# How to implement the ecosystem approach in drafting a plan for marine areas ?

- EU-member states has the planning mandate
- Spatial planning is regulated by national land use planning legislation – spatial planning systems may be different but the planning process is fairly similar in BSR countries
- The plan delimits areas for particular purposes and uses, but does not include any implementation or management

# The spatial planning system

- Planning authorities lead the planning process
- Sectoral and regional authorities, NGO's, the public participates
- A few planning levels – each one has its own function and requirements
- Interrelationship between the levels
- The planning area is defined according the need
- A plan may concern one sector or be comprehensive
- Planning procedure can take several years

# The spatial planning process

- Start
- Setting goals
- Preparation
- Proposal
- Approval
- Monitoring
- Revision

# Key elements of spatial planning

- Participation and impact assessment based to SEA directive -> planning options
- Open and predictable process
- Right to make appeals

# 1. Starting

- Pressure to draft a plan, decision to start and finance it
- Work plan, participation procedure, impact assessment procedure
- Public is informed of the start
- Area, starting points, preliminary planning options, preliminary goals defined
- Existing and lacking knowledge, potential impacts and impact area identified

## 2. Setting goals

- Identify and clarify sectoral goals
- Clarify the feasibility of the preliminary planning options
- Identify threats
- Existing knowledge and further needs

# ...starting

- Authorities responsible for ecosystems, NGO's and public participates
- Identify ecological conditions, ecologically important areas, functions of the ecosystems, ecosystem services
- Identify current level of knowledge of the ecosystems, future changes
- Identify potential impacts of the plan to the ecosystems, their functions and services

# 3. Preparation

- Revision of the goals
- Draw up planning options and present their impacts
- More precise investigations and assessments when needed
- Close cooperation with sectoral authorities, NGO's and public; negotiations, hearings, opinions
- Public display



# 4. Planning proposal

- Revision of the goals
- Assess the achievements of the goals
- Assess the impacts, resolve how to mitigate the negative impacts
- Elaborate a monitoring programme according the impacts
- Public display

# 5. Approval of the plan

- Decision how to take into account the statements received and discussions
- Finalising the plan and the impact assessment
- Informing the public

# 6. Monitoring

- Achievements of the goals
- Evaluate the time period of the plan
- Implement the plan and monitor the impacts

# 7. Revision

- When needed