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Background

Some revisions to the original document due to the COVID-19

MSP Global is a joint initiative by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) and the European Commission's DG MARE to develop new international guidelines on marine/maritime spatial planning and to accelerate MSP processes worldwide. The project runs also two case studies: West Mediterranean and Southeast Pacific.

The following document contains information on the last developments of the initiative.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Update on the MSPGlobal Initiative

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Since the HELCOM-VASAB 19-2019 MSP Global project organised its 4th MSP Forum together with the Pan Baltic Scope project. The [forum](#) was in 19-21 November 2019 in Riga, Latvia.

The MSP Global [Expert Group](#) that supports preparation of a new global MSP guidelines had its first face-to-face meeting right after the MSP Forum in Riga. The expert group discussed about the focus of the new guidelines in relation to existing guidelines and outlined main topics to be covered. The initial view of the expert group is that new guidelines will update the existing IOC-UNESCO guide "Step-by-Step Approach for Marine Spatial Planning toward Ecosystem-based Management" that was published in 2009 and add current elements such as transboundary collaboration and sustainable blue economy. The meeting assigned drafting responsibilities for different sections of the outline of the guidelines. An on-line meeting of the expert group was held in February 5th, 2020 to check the progress. **Another online meeting is scheduled for March 24th, 2020. The MSP Global Expert Group will have a face-to-face meeting in June or July 2020.**

The [next MSP Forum](#) was planned to take place in 27-30 April 2020 in Athens, Greece, **but it is now postponed to later date. The new date is not yet set.**

Initial, still unconfirmed information is that MSP Global will organise its 6th MSP Forum in autumn 2020 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.