



Workshop summary

Tackling land-sea interactions on the way towards Blue Growth in Baltic Sea Region

Organised by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia on the 3rd of March, 2021, in digital format



Maritime spatial planning experts, practitioners and planning specialists from various governance levels came together in a cross-sectoral dialogue during an online workshop “Tackling land-sea interactions on the way towards Blue Growth in Baltic Sea Region”.

During the workshop the main themes were the complexity of land-sea interactions (LSI), the development and measurement of blue economy and good practices of consideration of land-sea interactions and challenges ahead.

In the opening speech Kristine Kedo (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia) highlighted that there are still challenges in maritime spatial planning that are relevant to all coastal countries and Inga Jēkabsons (VASAB Secretariat) informed participants on intensified dialogue activities within the platform project “[Capacity4MSP](#)”.

Part 1: Setting the scene - complexity of the land-sea interactions theme

The session included key-note presentations on multi-level governance, blue economy, and well-being of coastal communities in relation to land-sea interactions and marine spatial planning.

Andrea Morf (Nordregio) presented the outcomes of the “[Baltic Scope](#)” and “[Pan Baltic Scope](#)” projects. Issues include raising awareness on land-sea interactions (LSI), as LSI have many themes and enablers, there are inevitable gaps in institutional capacities, there is also a need for guidance and forums as enablers of knowledge exchange. The main conclusion was that MSP needs land-sea interactions.

Kristine Kedo (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia) outlined the ongoing work on guidance for multi-level governance in the Baltic Sea Region within the “[Land-Sea-Act](#)” project. Stakeholder engagement is the key for success of multi-level governance because: “the play of the governance is as good as actors are prepared for the play”. There are four pillars for governance: its governance levels, types of stakeholders, power, knowledge.

Holger Janssen (Planning Association Rostock Region) showed a practical Mecklenburg-Vorpommern state development programme that looked at both land and sea issues and postulated that land-sea interactions are a core part of spatial planning in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern region, and also in all of BSR. The main aspects are the connectivity between land and sea, nature conservation and energy infrastructure development.

Zbigniew Mogila and **Jakub Kwiatkowski** (Institute for Development, Sopot, Poland) reasoned that there is room for improvement in measuring the Blue economy sector development and comparable national/local data should be taken into account when measuring Blue economy.

Ida Lindbergh (Gothenburg Region) presented the work done on elaborating regional maritime strategy in Gothenburg region and the results of a survey of Blue economy businesses, one of the conclusions drawn from the survey was that for business development access to land and especially to spaces connecting land and sea is of vital importance.

Hannes Palang (Tallinn University) presented landscapes and wellbeing as important concepts that might be useful for planners to account for in coastal planning. Landscapes should be able to satisfy at least some of human needs, e.g. to promote mental wellbeing.

The session also included interactive Q&A and discussion elements:

Which sector of blue economy will demand additional space (will expand spatially) in the land-sea interface of your country/region in your opinion?

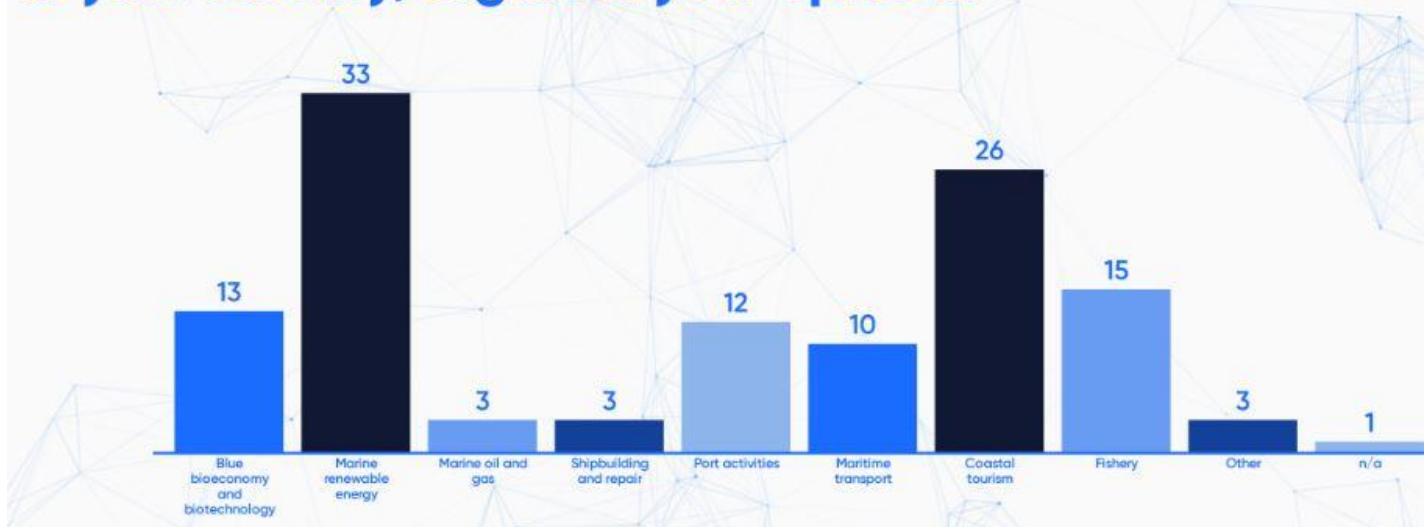


Figure 2. Participants' answers about potential spatial growth of blue economy sectors in their countries

How would you assess the state of the following governance aspects in the land-sea interface of BSR?



Figure 3. Participants' answers about the assessment of state of governance aspects in BSR potential spatial growth of blue economy sectors in their countries

PART 2: Getting to know good practices of consideration of land-sea interactions and challenges ahead

Coastal tourism & coastal environment

Hans Sorensen (Middelgrunden Wind Farm, Copenhagen) demonstrated an example of offshore wind farm (Middelgrunden) which was developed as an early energy community with more than 8500 shareholders and where energy production and tourism sector go hand in hand.

Anne Nummela from the Regional Council of Satakunta, Finland presented the regional level MSP of Satakunta, emphasized the need for stakeholder collaboration in the context of LSI.

Ivana Lukic (SUBMARINER) was joining in during the panel discussion.

Key points from the discussion:

- the new strategy on offshore renewable energy shows that we will need more space, still various sectors can have synergetic development while using same marine space. Examples of the offshore energy industry and tourism also being an opportunity,
- measurable criteria (like distance from coast etc.) for the placement of offshore wind parks are not enough, involvement of local people and profit sharing is important too.

Session also to include interactive Q&A and discussion elements:

What would be the main important criteria for planning and licencing OWP in the BSR? What could be measures to mitigate potential negative impacts?

Mentimeter

Wind, depth, distance to coast	Impact to marine ecosystem	Negotiations and giving steak to locals (sharing revenues with local communities)
available funding	Data on underwater nature and bird migration routes used in planning to exclude wind farms in key areas with nature values	Opinion of coastal comunites
National renewable energy targets	Synergies with local community- dialouge and value added	Impact to landscape
Objective EIA	From the LSI perspective the important criteria could be the distance from the shore, cabel corridors, the size of the OWP.	Considerations to recreation and cultural historical aspect.
Stakeholder involvement	political decisions	distance from coast
Make sure to make relative vulnerability assessments for other interests that might be threatened/ pass thresholds into negative spirals. Also check the consecutive effect chains further up onshore/offshore.	Shallow off-shore areas: will there be any left (for longtailed duck, harbor porpoises etc)?	Communication and interaction through GIS and other data, which shows the change in the scenery etc.
involve the people living close to - the people there can see the turbines	VisibilituGrid connection to electricity transmission system should be considered and planned by collaboration from stakeholders from all governance levels.	

Figure 4. Answers, comments and suggestions of the participants

Coastal tourism & coastal environment

Andris Klepers (Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences, Latvia) shared insights from the research on the Baltic Sea coast (~500 km) in Latvia. In 2019 there were around 8 million visitors who left strong impact on 1/5th of the coastline which means that in the future Latvia needs more active management of tourism flows (including public infrastructure development).

Beate Burow (Environmental Department of Fehmarn Municipality, Germany) presented research focusing on coastal marine waters in Orther Bay of Fehmarn Island, Germany, which is a popular surfing spot with valuable nature assets. Future efforts will be focused on guiding the tourism flows to reduce the crowding and pressure on marine environment.

Andreas Skriver Hansen (University of Gothenburg) and **Magdalena Matczak** (Maritime Institute in Gdańsk) were joining in during the panel discussion.

Key points from the discussion:

- it is important to have systematic visitor assessment to have the necessary knowledge, furthermore, when coastal tourism is one of biggest contributors to Blue growth, coastal visitor monitoring can become a common interest for all of the BSR,
- in coastal places balanced measures need to be found to limit the capacity while retaining public access at the same time,
- key challenge with monitoring coastal tourism and recreation might be in linking different planning and management systems.

Session also to include interactive Q&A and discussion elements:

What would be suitable practices for monitoring of coastal tourism in relation to nature? What could be measures to mitigate potential neg. impacts?

Mentimeter

To plan suitable infrastructure for visitor flow

Monitoring number of people with counters or phone data etc. Combined with interviews. Tracking littering and erosion.

Giving information and change attitudes. Place tracks outside vulnerable sites

participatory data gathering (by local users)

apps to control/ guide flow of tourist and to educate of impact

collect waste not put in bins , check foot paths for destruction and make improvements for both so it does not happened again; it is what people really see

Measure: combined fluctuation in relation to type of use and associate w impact types.

Bathing water quality, state of habitat, vegetation cover, coastal erosion, amount of litter

Old-fashioned good manners should be revived in the interaction of human beings towards both nature and each other through monitoring cameras or other

Mobile phone data could be used to monitor anonymised coastal visitor flows. The flows could be mapped and analysed together with other data, e.g. data on the impacted coastal areas/spots.

Restriction of coastal activities in certain areas at certain times such as spawning grounds, during spawning seasons for ecologically at risk species. Planning both temporally and spatially

Qualitative, actor/ activity specific monitoring is key. Citizen science, supported/ facilitated by social sciences.

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Cloud source data/ social media

Setting up proper infrastructure

Channel activities, by infrastructure, accessibility and information to places that tolerate higher pressure. But in parallel have low crowding places and even no go places - adapt to ecosystem and local community needs.

linking the level of amenities and facilities with the allowed number of tourists

Figure 5. Answers, comments and suggestions of the participants

Marine/coastal cultural heritage and identities of coastal communities

Magdalena Matczak (Maritime Institute in Gdansk) highlighted the need for integrating tangible and intangible cultural heritage in MSPs, a key challenge there - the knowledge on maritime cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea Region is still limited.

Krista Karro (advisor on underwater archaeology, National Heritage Board of Estonia) reported on the practices that National Heritage Board of Estonia uses to bring the maritime cultural heritage closer to the general public, providing information online in registers and other digital solutions, including interactive platforms.

Sallamaria Tikkanen (Finnish Heritage Agency) was joining in during the panel discussion.

Key points from the discussion:

- it is important to involve the local community and to get data, information from the community (e.g., bottom-up/citizen science data showing bathing and important places),
- when culturally important and/or heritage places are mapped, it is crucial to know how to treat this information as background or as instrumental for creating regulation/restrictions - it is important to develop methods for including important cultural places/objects in plans,
- many questions might arise from work with intangible coastal/maritime values and traditions, however, it also might be an advantage in the involvement processes/work with the local community.

Session also to include interactive Q&A and discussion elements:

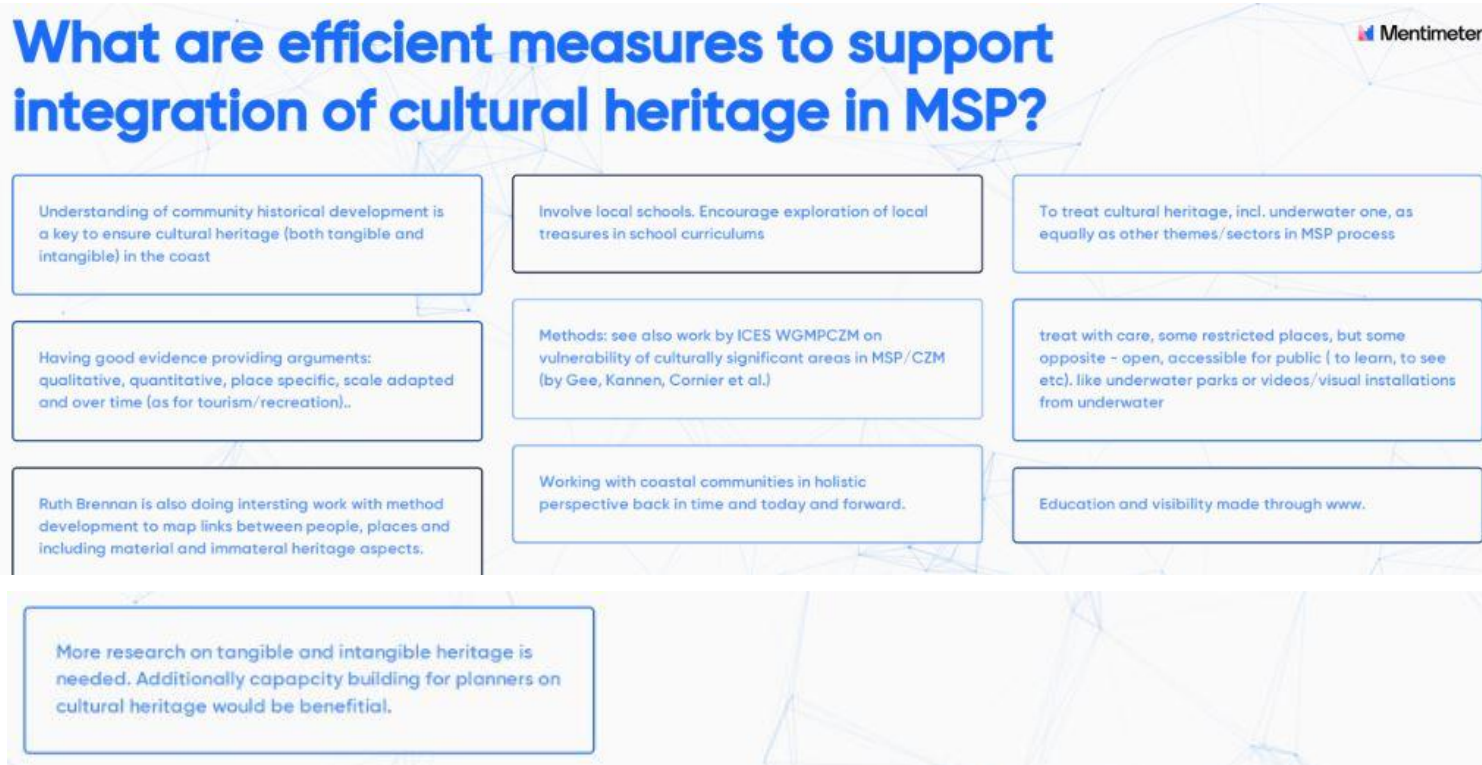


Figure 5. Answers, comments and suggestions of the participants

During the whole workshop experts also expressed that:

- integrated planning for land and sea or "one space perspective" is possible, but there are shortcomings we all need to address,
- large scale spatial plans with ambitious measures and priorities for coastal areas could help dealing with LSI issues,
- there is a strong need for more education on the land-sea interaction issues,
- the power games are very important in small (local) communities where community leaders have a great role in moving things forward,
- within Blue economy all value chains should be explored comprehensively.

Acknowledgments: the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia and the Capacity4MSP project would like to thank all the participants for their interest and active participation during the workshop, all speakers and panellists for sharing important knowledge and critical opinions in presentations and discussions, and, last but not least - technical support and the moderator for putting the whole workshop together and bringing the atmosphere as close to that of face-to-face events as possible in these challenging times in March of 2021.

