

BALTIC 4th FORUM MSP

1 - 2 JUNE 2021, ONLINE



REPORT

July 2021

Report prepared by the Capacity4MSP and Land-Sea-Act lead partners - VASAB Secretariat and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia



EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

4th Baltic MSP Forum

Delivering MSP – Interactions and Capacities Across All Levels

The 4th Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Forum took place on 1 – 2 June 2021, online and was broadcast from Latvia. The Forum was organised within two Interreg Baltic Sea Region projects - Capacity4MSP and Land-Sea-Act, and served as a final conference for both projects.

Already for the 4th time the Baltic MSP Forum was organised to bring together the maritime spatial planning (MSP) community from the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and beyond to discuss, share, learn and develop new ideas to enhance MSP in the region.

The slogan of the 4th Baltic MSP Forum was ‘**Delivering MSP – Interactions and Capacities Across All Levels**’. It comes with a message that in the year 2021, when EU countries in the BSR are on track with maritime spatial plans and are stepping into plan implementation phase, a consequent question must be asked and addressed – what’s next?

All relevant information about the 4th Baltic MSP Forum and Forum presentations can be found here:

www.balticmspforum.eu

4th Baltic MSP Forum in numbers

- 300 registered users
- Participants from 31 countries around the Globe
- 75 speakers
- 962 poll interactions
- 20 digital expo stands
- 9 workshops
- 2435 likes
- 805 comments

Opening of the 4th Baltic MSP Forum

The 4th Baltic MSP Forum was opened with welcoming speeches by:

- **Artūrs Toms Plešs, Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia**
- **Alda Nikodemusa, Head of the VASAB Secretariat**
- **Dainius Čergelis, Chair of the VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR)**

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Full agenda of the 4th Baltic MSP forum - [HERE](#).

Watch the playlist of recorded sessions - [HERE](#).

Policy Debate: How can MSP address many ambitions, challenges?

Moderator: Rhona Fairgrieve

Speakers:

- **Felix Leinemann, European Commission, Head of Unit Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning, European Commission**
- **Iván Pineda, WindEurope, Director of Public Affairs**
- **Markus Meier, Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde, Professor/ Head of Physical Oceanography and Instrumentation Department**

The debate focused on the following questions:

- Has implementation of the EU MSP Directive changed from what was envisaged in 2014 and is the Commission content with the level of implementation of the MSP Directive across Europe?
 - What has turned out to be important for member states when they have developed their approaches to MSP, e.g. Support Mechanisms, transboundary cooperation projects, having the freedom to design MSP that suits their own circumstances?
 - How can MSP help deliver the goals set out in the new EU Green Deal?
- Do offshore wind energy developers prefer to be guided to areas of good wind resource that have been identified by the MSP process or do they prefer to find their own potential sites for development?
 - How can MSP help deliver renewable energy targets and work towards the decarbonisation agenda?
 - Does MSP need to be updated to match the pace of industry development, e.g. to consider the combinations of activities present in areas where floating offshore wind installations may go in future?
- What are the outstanding gaps in data and research that would help put MSP into action?
 - How can MSP help other strategies and instruments deliver ways of addressing the climate change?
 - If we are looking for evidence-based MSP, will we run out of time to gather the necessary information that will enable marine planners to make the right decisions about future uses of marine resources?

Main takeaways

- From novel solutions to standard practises in MSP incl. employing multi-use when economic activities in the sea (also emerging) could be combined with nature conservation, caring for cultural heritage and enhancing wellbeing of communities.
- An ecosystem-based approach is fundamental as vast economic uses are dependent on the health of ecosystems. MSP is key in making biodiversity protection compatible with a steady course towards the decarbonisation of economies.
- By 2030 and beyond MSPs of EU member states should push for strong long-term visions and ambitious purposeful goals, such as to have at least 60GW of offshore wind in EU waters and to protect 30% of marine space as protected areas.
- The challenge for the next decade is to align MSP more closely with the national climate and energy goals, in facing this challenge better knowledge will be crucial for improved modelling of climate change impacts in relation to the Baltic Sea in particular.



Panel discussion on regional frameworks: What to expect? What are the most important changes in the new regional frameworks?

Moderator: Rhona Fairgrieve

Speakers:

- **Rüdiger Stempel, HELCOM Executive Secretary**
- **Joacim Johannesson, HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group co-chair**
- **Liene Gaujeniete, EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Policy Area 'Spatial Planning' coordinator**
- **Ingela Isaksson, MSPglobal International MSP Expert**

The panel discussion looked for answers to the following questions:

- How is the Baltic Sea Action Plan helpful for MSP and vice versa how can MSP contribute to the good environmental status – what are the specifics in the context of updated draft BSAP?
- In context of drafting a new Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2021-2030 - what are the most important changes in the new document? What are the novelties?
- Why should we have MSP as an action within the EUSBSR Policy Area 'Spatial Planning', what is the added value of that?
- In context with UN Sustainable Development Goals – SDG 14 deals with Life Under Water but how can MSP help to achieve some of the other UN Sustainable Development Goals, including ones on land?
- Implementation of transnational frameworks – how do we create synergies among regional and local level and what does it take to translate them to different geographical scales?

Main takeaways

Transparent and well-established dialogue will be of key importance in the future. As all EU countries are stepping into the implementation phase of MSP and blue growth strategies, the dialogue and collaboration will be continued.

How to further enhance cooperation in the region? Three ideas:

- Enable an open, transparent regional dialogue and provide adequate platforms to do so. MSP is a way how to enable this dialogue.
- Be inclusive – involve all stakeholders ranging from academia to business representatives and from policymakers to regional and local level authorities to cover the widest possible spectrum of interests to foster shared objectives.
- Base all actions on the best available scientific knowledge, to translate these actions to all levels. To speak the same MSP language among levels.

Sustainable Development Goals present an excellent example of how a global agenda is most effectively implemented on a local level with real tangible results.

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MSP Pitch Session

The pitch session brought together multiple organisations, projects, initiatives to spread the word about the multifaceted work done in maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond. Topics covered and the respective speakers in this session:

- **Update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective. Maria Toptsidou, Spatial Foresight**
- **BlueBioSites: Finding optimal sites for the Baltic Blue Bioeconomy. Angela Schultz-Zehden, SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth**
- **Baltic Offshore Grid Initiative. Priit Heinla, Elering AS**
- **Project eMSP North and Baltic Sea Regions. Nico Buytendijk, Netherlands Enterprise Agency**
- **Improving the knowledge on the state of the marine environment. Dace Strigune, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia**
- **Mapping cultural ecosystem services: approach in MAREA project. Agnese Reķe, Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia**
- **Towards a revised maritime spatial plan for the German EEZ. Bettina Käppeler, German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency**
- **EUSBSR PA Spatial Planning. Liene Gaujeniete, VASAB Secretariat**

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Keynote speech - Addressing all levels – what does it mean in practice?

Keynote by Jacek Zaucha, Researcher at Maritime Institute of Maritime University in Gdynia

The keynote speech started with questions - what exactly it means to work with and across different levels in the MSP process? Is it connected to the hierarchy of power, or the climb on the expertise level, or is it about keeping the balance for a certain level or is it about the interdependency which might be crucial to fulfil the task and move forward? For example, [Handbook on the multi-level consultation in MSP](#) illustrated how those different levels are addressed in different tasks and at different times, with the approach further entailing many other advantages.

However, while describing all possible perceptions of levels in regard to MSP, an aspect of jurisdictions becomes very crucial. A focus on jurisdictions creates a risk that important relations constituting the specificity of marine space will be neglected by MSP. It should be really thought through how the stakeholders without predetermined jurisdictions can be included in MSP, how to cope with overlapping or contradicting jurisdictions, and, finally, how to act in situations when jurisdiction is not clearly established, but the issue is important (e.g. in relation to the sustainable development, MSFD is responsible for the environmental sustainability, Blue Growth Strategy for economic sustainability, but what to do with social sustainability?).

Some solutions to overcome the aforementioned mentioned risks were summarised:

- informal planning spaces that transcend national and sub-national borders and cover both land and sea;
- listening to stakeholders without formal jurisdictions;
- content oriented and communicative coordination;
- creation of boundary spanning objects within the MSP;
- promoting ocean literacy and educating MSP planners;
- networking to link perspectives and dimensions.

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Closing plenary: Addressing challenges in implementation of MSP across all levels. What are the challenges in implementation of maritime spatial plans?

Moderator: Rhona Fairgrieve

Speakers with the experience from national, regional, local levels:

- **Donata Paulauskaitė, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, Chief specialist**
- **Natalia Zajac, Ministry of Infrastructure, Head of unit, Integrated Development and Maritime Spatial Planning Unit**
- **Tiina Tihlman, Ministry of the Environment, Ministerial Adviser**
- **Kaarina Rautio, Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council, Planning Manager**
- **Carl Dahlberg, Lysekil municipality, Project leader**

The discussion was focused on the following issues/questions:

- Experience of some of the challenges in implementing MSP across different levels of interest and geographic scale.
- Which aspect of the MSP process are adding most value to implementing what has been developed in your country so far?
- Knowing the importance of stakeholder engagement, how will the engagement process for implementation differ from the work carried out during the development phase?
- Who else might need to be involved if they haven't been involved so far? And what can MSP learn about the scale and involvement of the general public in coastal planning processes?

Main takeaways:

- Interestingly enough, the current circumstances (the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic) have boosted new media and communicative tools, as well as the skills of experts and the public to a certain extent. Unlike the proceedings of the MSP elaboration phase, MSP implementation has not been stopped or even paused by the current situation, instead the circumstances have provided an opportunity to advance and deepen stakeholder involvement, e.g. new way of laying out the comprehensive information etc.).
- Timely, broad but structured stakeholder involvement creates trust and understanding, which makes it easier to relate to resulting solutions as the experience and memory of process discussions creates important sense of attachment/shared responsibility/ ownership to the MSP document and its solutions, which in turn become lasting bond are valuable when carrying out the implementation phase.
- The implementation phase is also expected to present new learning opportunities in relation to stakeholder engagement.
- It is widely agreed that the connections between land and sea, as well as the integration of the planning marine and coastal areas is crucial to keep the existing and boost future reasonable dynamics within the sea-land interface. Hence for an improved understanding of the impacts of the solutions provided by the MSP, monitoring will play an important role in the MSP implementation period.
- Still new players, new uses and new approaches to conducting activities in the marine space are yet to come (e.g., autonomous vessels, floating wind farms), so the implementation of MSP will be a very intense and dynamic process at all levels.



WORKSHOP SUMMARIES

Workshop 1: Fostering MSP through stakeholder involvement in national and international planning processes

WORKSHOP 1:

Fostering MSP through stakeholder involvement in national and international planning processes



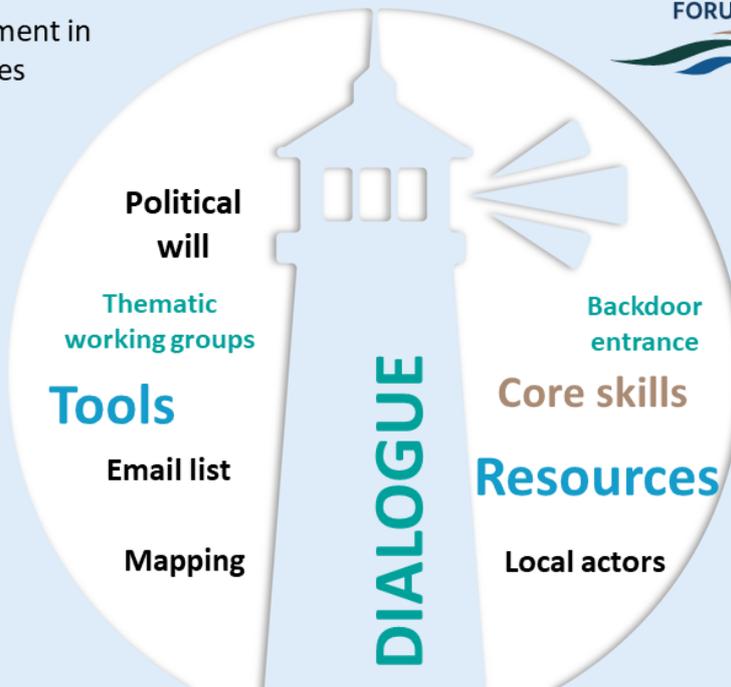
Start involvement from the beginning

Mix of fun & serious activities

Everyone at the same table

Continuing process of dialogue

Coherence in MSP across the borders



Workshop, moderated by **Inga Jekabsone from VASAB Secretariat**, was centred around the practices of stakeholder involvement in national and international maritime planning processes (MSP).

The Workshop started with a presentation by **Alda Nikodemusa from VASAB Secretariat** on the transnational perspective of stakeholder engagement in MSP. This was followed by **Kristina Veidemane from Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia**, who presented the results of the recent study on stakeholder involvement and engagement in MSP in the Baltic Sea Region conducted within the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Project Platform Capacity4MSP. Three distinct case studies were shown in detail: Russian Federation's case on development of MSP Roadmap was presented by **Larisa Danilova from Ermak NorthWest**, Germany's case on MSP in Exclusive Economic Zone - by **Kira Gee from Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)** and the North Sea's case - by **Yolanda Schmal from CPMR - North Sea Commission**. The last part of the workshop was conducted as a panel discussion. **Kristina Veidemane** facilitated the discussion between **Pille Metspalu (Hendrikson&Ko Ltd, Estonia)**, **Mari Pohja-Mykrä (Regional Council of Satakunta, Finland)** and **Joacim Johannesson (Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Sweden)** who shared their experiences and views about the most effective approach in identifying and mapping stakeholders, successful instruments to be used in stakeholder involvement and participatory decision-making process.

Main takeaways from the workshop:

- Stakeholder involvement process should start at the earliest possible stage of MSP. Later the continuation of the participatory process should be ensured throughout all stages of MSP through formal and informal methods. Planners, as well as all stakeholders shall acknowledge that building trust is an incremental process and takes time and efforts from all parties.
- Incentives should be created to ensure that all relevant and significant (powerful) stakeholders sit at one table. Additionally, to ensure the active and equal participation in decision-making process in MSP the so-called “backdoor entrance” strategy can also be used.
- All MSP practitioners should acquire core communication skills to promote effective dialogue with stakeholders. Ideally, a Communication Manager should be employed at MSP authorities.
- Different targeted tools and models for supporting communication with stakeholders should be created for the various MSP phases, e.g., joint emailing list, thematic working groups, mapping database, thematic games or interactive exercises. Participation can be made more attractive by integrating game-like aspects into the engagement process; however, they should be used mindfully to empower the stakeholders involved. The methods and tools used shall take into account the cultural and political differences, and planners or communication managers should apply the necessary skills in selecting the most appropriate tools in local context, to avoid irritation and discontentment.
- Politicians are one of the main stakeholders; thereby, the communication with them should be regular to ensure that MSP remains on their political agenda.
- Evaluation of the communications and interactions during the development of the MSP can also support the implementation process. Such experience assessment at national and/or regional and local level would support MSP in the future.

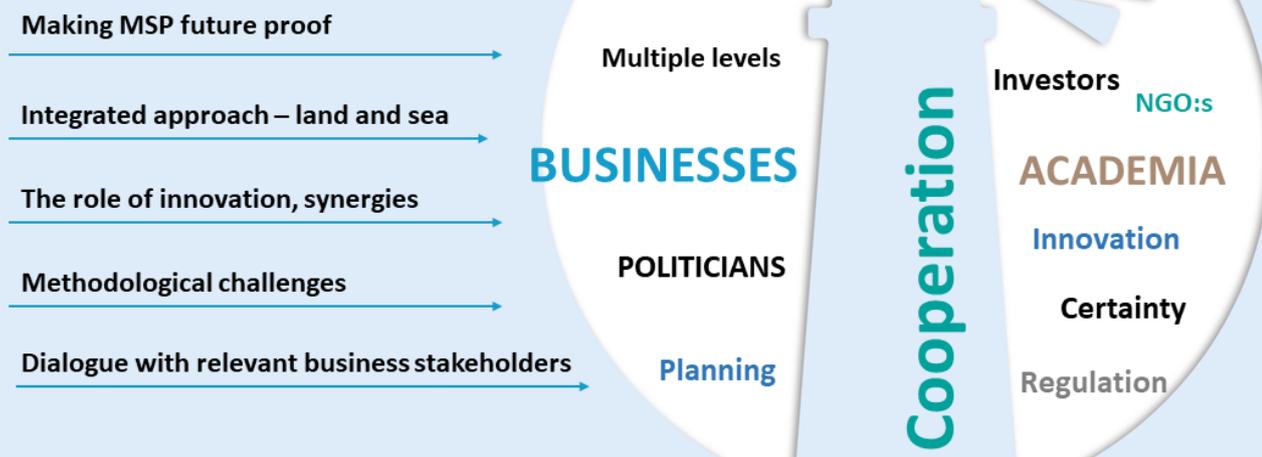
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Workshop 2: Measuring, understanding and integrating blue economy aspects in planning – the role of the regional and local level

WORKSHOP 2:

Measuring, understanding and integrating blue economy aspects in planning – the role of the regional and local level



The workshop was moderated by **Mārtiņš Grels from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia**, it highlighted some of the challenges in measuring Blue economy to better understand it, showed the possibilities in developing sustainable, higher added value products and services using sea resources and integrating Blue economy aspects into planning.

The Workshop started with a presentation by **Andreas Lagemann from the Hamburg Institute of International Economics** on Measuring of the Blue Economy and challenges on the regional scale. The second presentation by **Ida Lindbergh from the Gothenburg Region** was “Understanding the regional and local blue economy – the case of West Sweden”, where various ways to get information were explored. After that followed a presentation by **Fredrik Gröndahl, KTH Royal Institute of Technology**, President of the Executive Board – SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG, about research and innovation as a precondition for Blue Growth. In the last presentation of the workshop **Ivana Lukic from Sustainable projects GmbH/ SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG** shared her insights into the impacts of MSP on the Blue Economy, including increasing certainty for investors as the rules of the game are clearer.

Main takeaways from the workshop:

- Measuring Blue economy on a regional scale (NUTS3) is challenging, but adjustments in measuring methodology to make use of the existing regional data to best fit the Blue economy definition, as well as future developments in data gathering and reporting could help.
- To better develop Blue economy, we need to have an integrated approach – to see the land and the sea as one and support innovation synergies between sectors.

- A dialogue with the relevant business stakeholders and assessment of the demand for space is necessary for Blue economy development.
- MSP, as well as other plans and regulations can give greater certainty in fostering Blue Growth.

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Workshop 3: Marine Cultural Heritage – challenging part of MSP

WORKSHOP 3:

Marine Cultural Heritage – challenging part of MSP



MCH-MSP experience sharing – bi-directional learning process!

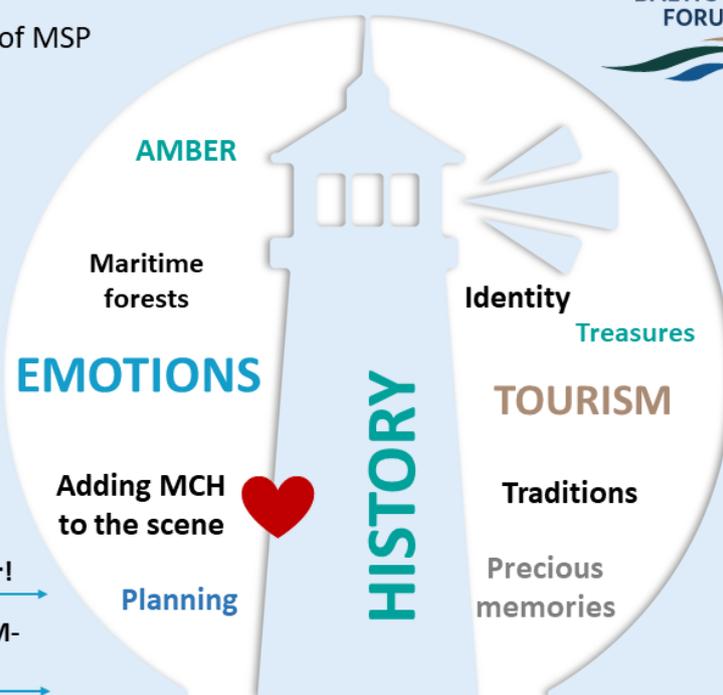
Joint knowledge of the sea – necessity for informed and smart decisions!

Different scales and different history creates challenges – we like them!

Intangible MCH – new guest onboard!

National MSP at final stage – with various intensity integrating MCH – let's be smarter!

Memorandum on cooperation with HELCOM-VASAB WG on MSP – sweet obligation!



Maritime Cultural Heritage (MCH) is a relatively novel issue in MSP in most of the BSR countries, in particular, if a broader approach to MCH is adopted i.e., covering the entire land-sea interface not only the underwater objects (UCH). With this broader understanding maritime spatial planning must take into consideration the impact of terrestrial MCH on the use and development of marine spaces.

Another challenge is that new territorial categories have to be created (relevant for maritime cultural heritage) such as battlefields, ship traps or underwater landscapes, which encompass a wide spectrum of cultural heritage.

Finally - in the Baltic Sea Region, MCH is considered as one of the key drivers for multi-use i.e., development of other related sectors, in particular tourism. The social recognition of the cultural aspects has recently also gained more attention in MSP related research.

There is a limited body of knowledge on how to include MCH in planning processes, while the Baltic Sea hosts exceptionally well-preserved wooden shipwrecks, protected as cultural heritage, attracting tourists (particularly divers) from all over the world.

During the workshop there were three presentations briefing participants on the recent developments in the field of maritime spatial planning for MCH, more specifically focusing on:

- the results of the recent BalticRIM project which touched upon the above-mentioned challenges and contributed to national planning processes in various ways,
- the findings of one of the Land-Sea-Act project's case studies focusing on intangible cultural heritage, understood as values that people attribute to marine ecosystems.

Marianne Lehtimäki (independent expert, Finland) and **Salamaria Tikkanen from Finnish Heritage Agency** presented the results of the BalticRIM project - the BalticRIM Wiki and DataPortal, focusing on the main examples for the second round of MSP in the Baltic Sea Region. The Finnish concept was presented as a good example of integration of MCH. The Finnish MSP took into account Cultural Heritage as one of the sectors of blue growth throughout the whole process - in preparatory documents, scenarios, and as a topic in numerous workshops etc.

Iwona Pomian from National Maritime Museum, Poland presented the results of the Polish case study, focusing on the paleolandscapes of the Puck Bay, part of Gdańsk Bay in Poland. The research methodology was laid out together with the final maps and proposals for planning solutions, which were officially submitted to the MSP process in Poland.

Joanna Piwowarczyk from Institute of Oceanology Polish Academy of Sciences presented the assumptions and early findings of the analyses of the approach to the intangible MCH, which was tested in the Gulf of Gdańsk area. The research was based on interviews with coastal inhabitants, discussing their experienced cultural uniqueness and broad reliance on culture.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion which brought together the presenting experts, as well as the BalticRIM Lead Partner **Matthias Maluck** and BalticRIM expert – **Susanne Altvater**.

Main discussion points:

- Examples of practical implementation of projects' results, for example, how the MCH data base was enriched with new information and how the cooperation between the MCH managers and maritime spatial planners were performed in Germany, Schleswig-Holstein.
- The challenging proposal of the memorandum on cooperation on MCH, explored within the BalticRIM project and addressed to the HELCOM-VASAB Working Group on MSP.
- Practical implementation of the Underwater Cultural Landscape concept in the Finnish planning process.
- Challenges for the future – how to keep the momentum of and due attention to the MCH in-between the two MSP rounds, how to include it in the MSP monitoring and evaluation, how to deepen the cooperation and bi-directional experience sharing, how to introduce new cultural ideas to the management process, how to involve MCH stakeholders into the discussion – to be smarter and better prepared for the second round of the maritime spatial planning.

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Workshop 4: Maritime Spatial Planning, towards the good environmental status of the Baltic Sea

WORKSHOP 4:

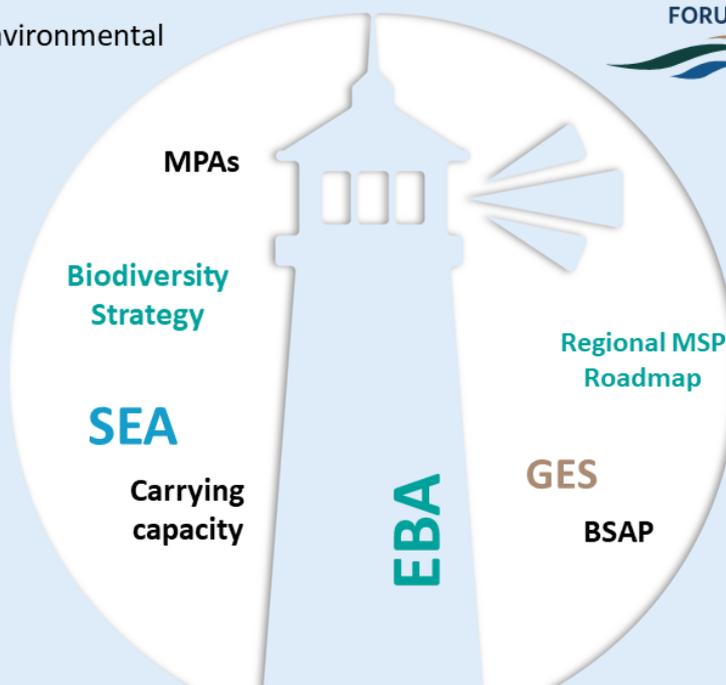
Maritime Spatial Planning, towards good environmental status of the Baltic Sea



Effort to include MSP in the updated BSAP in line with the new MSP Roadmap.

With Maritime Spatial Plans recently implemented, there are still many gaps to address in the future.

Biodiversity Strategy may increase environmental targets, it is important to think about how to include the link to MSP in further discussions and in the implementation.



The workshop, moderated by **Jan Schmidtbauer Crona from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management**, was centered around the role that MSP can have in achieving Good Environmental Status (GES) through ecosystem-based approaches.

The Workshop started with **Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky from HELCOM Secretariat** presenting the regional framework for the Baltic Sea Region, which is currently being updated. This was followed by **Kerstin Schiele from the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde**, who talked about the role of Strategic Environmental Assessment in the context of MSP, and its potential to contribute to ecosystem-based approaches. **Vanessa Ryan**, from WWF Finland, presented a framework for the assessment of Maritime Spatial Plans developed by WWF. Finally, **Penina Blanket from Ministry of the Environment of Finland** and **Riku Varjopuro from Finnish Environment Institute** gave an insight into how the EU is currently developing its Biodiversity Strategy to restore Europe's biodiversity by 2030 and the challenges MSP might face in contributing to the implementation of this strategy.

Main takeaways from the workshop:

- There are many efforts in place to include MSP in the updated Baltic Sea Action Plan - the main policy agreement uniting forces for the protection of the Baltic Sea environment, in line with the new MSP Roadmap for the BSR.
- Most Maritime Spatial Plans were established only recently, so there is a need to keep track of how implementation will unfold. There are still many gaps to address in the future, such as getting information on carrying capacity limits and assess how far we are in reaching the goal of 30% of areas being protected and if such protection is effective.
- The Biodiversity Strategy may increase overall environmental targets, but the link between this strategy and MSP specifically still needs to be developed.

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Workshop 5: The role of MSP in supporting sustainable ocean Multi-Use and Blue Economy

WORKSHOP 5:

The role of MSP in supporting sustainable ocean Multi-Use and Blue Economy

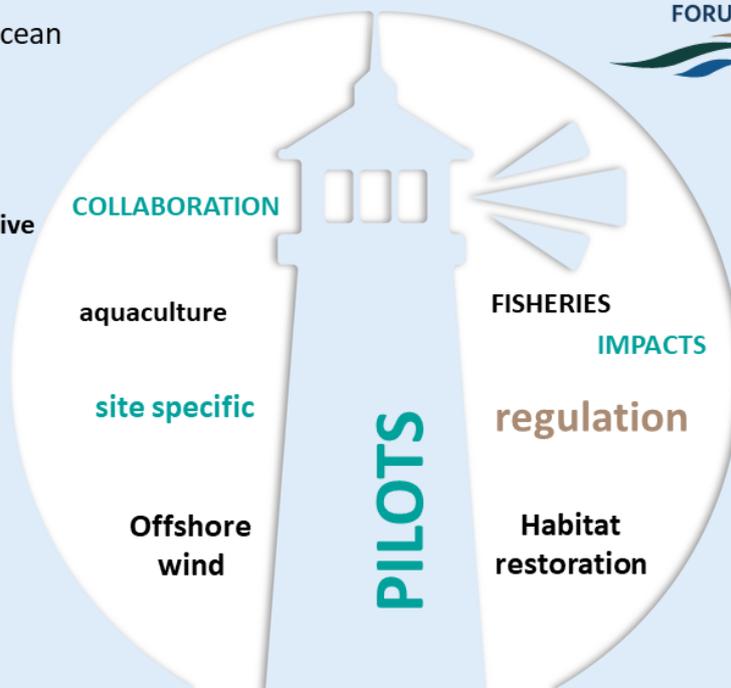


Multi-use for a more just and nature inclusive blue economy

Regulation barriers and uncertainty about impacts

Demo pilots, information sharing and permanent fora are the key

It needs to be driven by the policy and regulators are to drive pragmatic solutions



The participants of the workshop titled 'The role of MSP in supporting sustainable ocean Multi-Use and Blue Economy', co-organised by [SUBMARINER Network](#), [UNITED](#) and [MULTI-FRAME](#) project teams, had an opportunity to hear five presentations that were followed by an open discussion. Questions such as *Who drives multi-use? Are fishers willing to compromise? Is MSP open enough to ocean innovation?* were raised by attendees.

The workshop highlighted the need for a more inclusive approach to planning, considering all sectors and multiple national priorities, including not only energy security, but also food security, as well as nature protection in line with the Biodiversity Strategy 2030. The concept of ocean multi-use has been recognised as an approach that can support a more just and nature-inclusive perspective towards blue economy development. Impressive multi-use designs (incl. offshore multi-purpose platforms) have already been developed, several demonstration pilots are currently ongoing (such as the UNITED offshore wind and native North Sea oyster restoration and farming in Belgium), while policy in several countries has also been in favour of such solutions (e.g., the Netherlands, Romania, Portugal). Nevertheless, regulatory barriers remain in place and there are still only a few actual multi-use developments mainly due to the lack of knowledge about and understanding of possible impacts on the environment and economy.

To address the regulatory barriers and uncertainty about impacts the workshop highlighted the need for:

- Demonstration pilots in a real environment that would generate information and build the confidence of planners and regulators in such solutions;
- Information sharing from such pilot examples between the research community, industry and governments;
- Permanent fora for the discussion that goes beyond MSP consultations, with regulators present at the table to drive pragmatic solutions.

Among others, the need to address climate change by developing nature-inclusive offshore energy was also stressed. This was supported by the ongoing study on the combination of offshore wind and seaweed (kelp forests) which is currently being planned in Sweden and the [recent study that has assessed the nature restoration opportunities in 50 offshore wind farm sites in the UK](#).

Based on the evidence, multi-use needs to be driven by policy, while regulation has to follow to enable actual developments. Maritime Spatial Planning can be a good starting point and an important lever in the process towards transitioning to a more integrated blue economy.



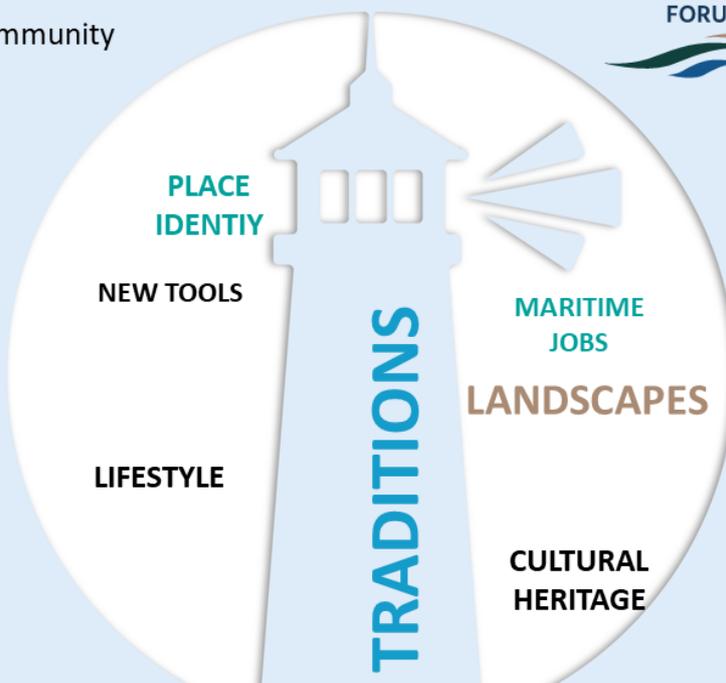
Workshop 6: Land-sea interactions and values of local community

WORKSHOP 6:

Land-sea interactions and values of local community



- Locals as problem owners or victims →
- Site selection process shall be based on multiple aspects including local values →
- Not enough attention to climate change →
- Transdisciplinary approach (social science) highlights the local values →
- Integration between the levels; MLG →



The workshop was held in the frame of Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme’s project “Land-sea interactions advancing Blue Growth in Baltic Sea coastal areas”. The main aim was to present and discuss the project’s case studies and findings about how understanding and assessing existing and future values, needs and uses of space can aid in facilitating balanced development and management of marine and coastal environment.

The aims of the workshop:

- to share approaches and methods used in addressing key challenges in taking into account land-sea interactions in MSP;
- to highlight the local value perspective in addressing land-sea interactions in MSP;
- to discuss key recommendations for advancing land-sea interactions in MSP and other coastal planning processes.

The workshop was moderated and opened by **Kristīna Veidemane from Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia**. Firstly, the presentation block consisted of 4 thematic presentations from Land-Sea-Act project's case studies:

- “Balancing local coastal tourism and use of offshore wind energy: case study from southwestern Kurzeme” by **Anda Ruskule from Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia**;
- “Planning Blue Growth in a marginalised area: a case study from northern Estonia” by **Anu Printsman from Tallinn University, Estonia**;
- “Barriers and opportunities for more sustainable tourism: cultural and environmental values around the Gulf of Gdansk” by **Tymon Zieliński from Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences**;
- “Balancing coastal tourism and nature conservation, case study of Fehmarn Municipality, Germany” by **Damian Arikas from Baltic Environmental Forum Germany**.

Afterward the presenters were invited to participate in the moderated expert panel exploring how strengthen coastal community values in the land-sea interface could be strengthened in marine and coastal planning. 2 additional experts joined the presenters on the panel – **Andrea Morf from Nordregio** and **Kuido Kartau from Saare Wind Energy** – to discuss the approaches and mechanisms to be applied in order to account for these values in decision making and to explore good/successful examples.

Main discussion points and conclusions from the expert panel:

- Different and contradicting roles and situations can often be observed in regards to the perspective of locals – they can be problem owners or victims in the search for balance in coastal area development, new interests and traditions;
- integration between planning levels is a crucial aspect in striving to respect local values;
- it is important to pay sufficient and timely attention to climate change and application of different planning tools to address climate change issues in coastal areas;
- a transdisciplinary approach (social science) is crucial and highlights the local values;
- site selection process shall be based on multiple aspects including the local values.

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Workshop 7: Multi-level governance for the coast and the sea – the new normal?

WORKSHOP 7:

Multi-level governance for the coast and the sea – the new normal?



We have to have open and inclusive dialogue

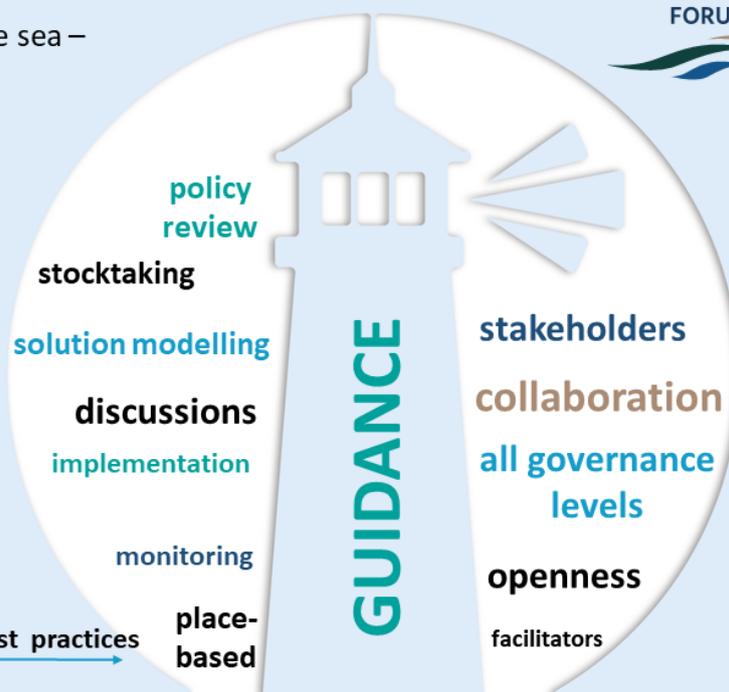
We have to be adaptive

Local – closer view, solutions

Regions as bridge

National authorities – broader view

Transnational – big picture, exchange of best practices



The aim of the workshop, moderated by **Ingela Isaksson from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management and IOC-UNESCO Marine Spatial Planning Global Expert Group**, was to discuss the principles and steps of a governance process that would reduce the barriers to cooperation between stakeholders and achieve better solutions for the management of marine and coastal areas.

The Workshop started with a presentation by **Anita Līvija Rozenvalde from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia** giving an insight into the draft Multi-level Governance Agenda for the Baltic Sea Region. The presentation was followed by an interactive session with questions to participants on governance steps, main themes be addressed by multi-level governance, the most active stakeholder groups and good governance. After that a moderated panel discussion on engagement of stakeholders in governance processes, power sharing and balancing competing interests took place, where experiences and opinions were shared by 5 panellists from national, regional and local authorities:

- **Tiina Tihlmann from the Finnish Ministry of the Environment,**
- **Donata Paulauskaitė from the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania,**
- **Mateusz Richert from Transport and Technical Infrastructure Team member at Pomorskie region,**
- **Anna Martinsson from the County Administrative Board of Blekinge, Sweden,**
- **Ināra Stalidzāne from Carnikava municipality, Latvia.**

Main takeaways from the workshop:

- To improve the governance process, we have to have an open dialogue and collaboration across all governance levels.

- Engaging relevant stakeholders in existing planning processes is crucial as stakeholders from local level have a close-up view of the issues, and can work towards the solutions directly, while the regional stakeholders are like a bridge between national and local stakeholders. National authorities have a broader view, and the transnational stakeholders are able to comprehend the big picture and they are important for exchange of best practices.
- In the governance processes of the coast and the sea the relevant authorities should be adaptive and ready for change to reach solutions.

WATCH THIS SESSION



Workshop 8: How to enhance tools for data driven decision making in MSP?

WORKSHOP 8:

How to enhance tools for data driven decision making in MSP?

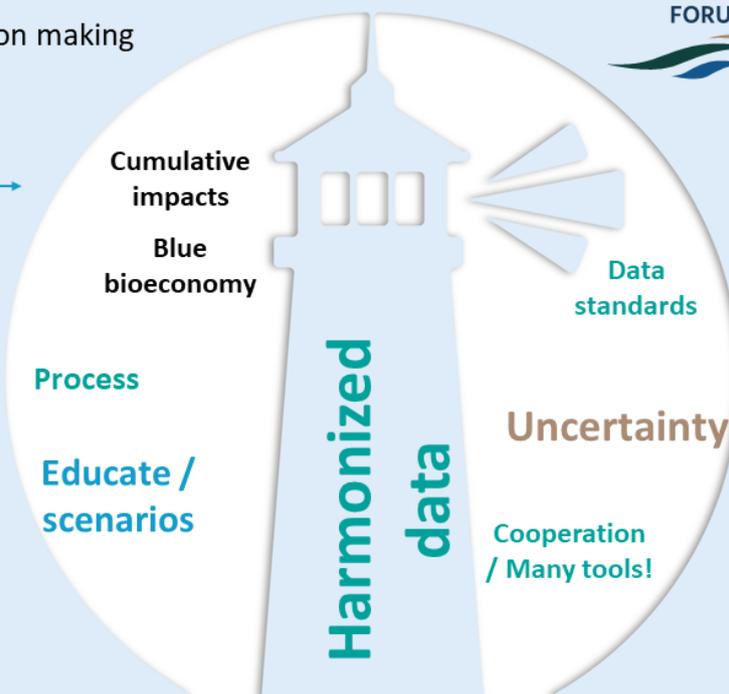


Many tools available for different purposes.

Updated and relevant data is the core (i.e. Harmonization)! The tools are evolving with time / development. Never ending story!

Targetted users: MSP, academics, etc. Knowledge is important! "All models are..."

It's time to pick up the best elements of each tools to have a common approach



The workshop, moderated by **Andrej Abramic co-Chair of the EU Technical Working Group on data for MSP** presented an overview of the different decision support tools developed for different uses.

The Workshop started with **Joni Kaitaranta from HELCOM Secretariat** presenting a brief overview of data challenges and solutions such as tools, being developed to address those problems. Among those solutions, are the different decision support tools developed in the Baltic Sea Region and focused on cumulative impacts. She was followed by **Henning Sten from Aalborg University (Denmark)** who presented the developments in decision support tools to identify conflicts between sea-based activities. Finally, **Anda Ikauniece from the Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology**, presented a tool, which is aimed at supporting effective identification and

monitoring of Blue Bioeconomy sites. **Jonne Kotta from the Estonian Marine Institute of the University of Tartu**, leading researcher of PlanWise4Blue, joined the panel discussion.

Main takeaways from the workshop:

- Updated and relevant data is one of the core components for decision support tools success. As such, data harmonization and data standards are central.
- Tools are naturally evolving with time, so this is a continuous development process. It is also important to remember that “all models are wrong, but some are useful”, so there will always be some level of uncertainty in the application of those tools. The level of uncertainty is an important topic which should be clear for the users of such tools.
- It is time to pick up the best elements of each tool in pursuit of a common approach. In order to do so, cooperation is essential. This process is currently undertaken under the upcoming Third HELCOM holistic assessment (HOLAS III).

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Workshop 9: MSP and Climate Change – from theory to practice in the Baltic Sea Region

WORKSHOP 9:

MSP and Climate Change – from theory to practice in the Baltic Sea region



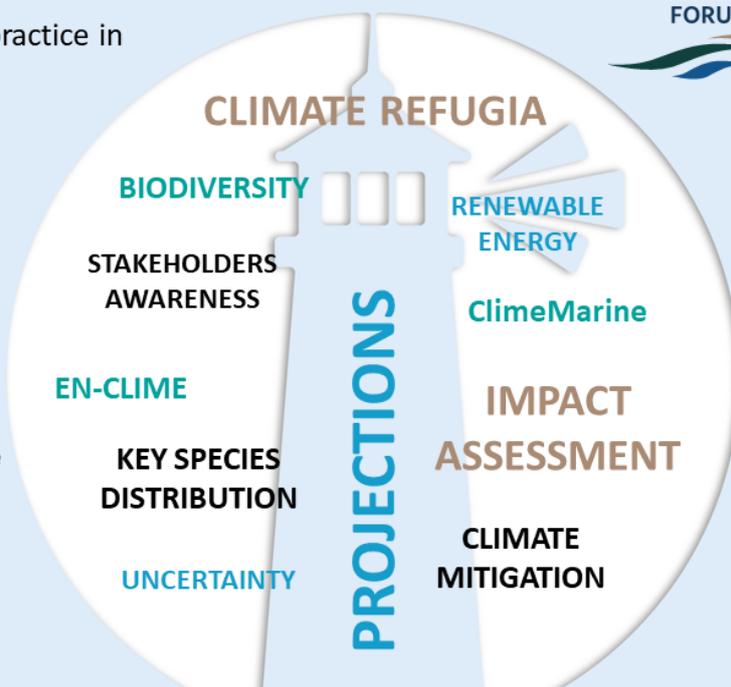
Experiences from national MSP - Sweden →

MSP in Denmark and renewable energy as a tool to meet climate change →

Knowledge about climate change in the Baltic Sea Region assessed by EN CLIME →

Assessing environmental impacts of climate change and the ClimeMarine project →

Climate refugia and the future distribution of key foundation species in the Baltic Sea →



The link between MSP and Climate Change is a topic that is getting more and more attention around the globe. Workshop 9 focused on the challenges and solutions of integrating climate change in MSP in the BSR.

The workshop started with and view into the MSP experience in Sweden presented by **Joacim Johannesson from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management**. The integration

of climate change was conceptualised, with a focus on offshore wind (for mitigation), biodiversity and sand extraction (both for adaptation and resilience). Then the Danish MSP experience was presented by **Henrik Skovmark from the Danish Maritime Authority**. MSP in Denmark is very recent, but there is a strong conceptual focus on renewable energy as a means to address climate change. Afterwards, **Markus Meier from the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde** gave a presentation on Climate Change in the Baltic Sea and the Earth Expert Network on Climate Change, where the climate change fact sheet of HELCOM Baltic Earth was presented together with a few selected examples of projected changes and why such information is so relevant.

Following the need for appropriate climate-related information, the ClimeMarine project was addressed by **Jonas Pålsson from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management** with details about the assessment of climate change impacts in Swedish marine waters, and on how this information is being added to the Symphony tool to support MSP decisions. Finally, **Oscar Törnqvist from Geological Survey of Sweden** discussed the importance of mapping and modelling future distribution of key foundation species in the Baltic Sea and identifying climate refugia. To future-proof environmental concerns in MSP under climate change we should:

- have information on future changes in species and ecosystem services,
- identify new focal areas and climate refugia and develop mitigation efforts with future ecosystem values in mind,
- rank marine areas by possible negative impacts to species based on the different models and scenarios.

During the panel discussion, the importance of having climate-related information was highlighted, namely regarding climate projections as well as projections on ecosystems change. At the same time, the uncertainty inherent to these types of information and the lot of assumptions that have to be made were recognised. It was concluded that having such information, when based on the strong scientific knowledge, is nevertheless key to start developing climate-smart marine spatial plans and planning for major challenges in the future.

Additionally, protecting relevant areas for Biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services, namely through the identification of areas of climate refugia, was identified as key to ensure sustainable use of the Baltic Sea and maintaining a healthy marine environment. Finally, because climate change integration in MSP is still in its early stages around the world, the Baltic Sea initiatives on the topic can be seen as good practice examples and as solutions to be followed. Raising awareness among stakeholders, scientists, and decision-makers will be essential to include climate change considerations in MSP and to making it truly sustainable in the long term.

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BALTIC 4th FORUM MSP



LAND
SEA
ACT



The project Land-Sea-Act aims to bring together stakeholders involved in coastal management and planning, to find solutions to Maritime Spatial Planning and Blue Growth challenges around the Baltic Sea and to elaborate Multi-level Governance Agenda on Blue Growth and Spatial Planning in Baltic Sea Region.

www.land-sea.eu



CAPACITY4MSP

Project platform Capacity4MSP aims to strengthen the capacity of MSP stakeholders, policy- and decision-makers through intensified dialogue activities and amplifying gained knowledge in MSP. Capacity4MSP builds on the results of the current and recently completed MSP projects and ongoing MSP processes in the Baltic Sea Region.

www.capacity4msp.eu

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www.balticmspforum.eu



THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE 4TH BALTIC MSP FORUM!

