

The first Meeting of Steering Group of the EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Planning (1-2022 SG EUSBSR PA SP on MSP)

The first Meeting of Steering Group of the EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Planning (PA SP), hosted by Germany, was held on 6 October 2022 in Hamburg. The Meeting was attended by representatives of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland and Sweden. Observer organizations and invited guests were represented by the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), the World Wide fund for Nature (WWF), Submariner Network, Institutes from the Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon, the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and Brockmann Consult. The list of Participants is in Annex 1.

The Meeting was chaired by the Co-Chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group: Joacim Johannesson, Sweden and Kai Trümpler, Germany. Elina Veidemane (VASAB) and Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky (HELCOM) acted as Meetings Secretaries.

The agenda of the first Meeting of Steering Group of the EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Planning has been agreed as a part of the agenda of IC 1-2022 HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

1.1 The Steering Group took note of the information on the latest developments and activities related to the EUSBSR PA Spatial Planning (document 1-1). The Steering Group took note that PA 'Spatial Planning' is working in two areas – land-based spatial planning which is coordinated by VASAB, and maritime spatial planning co-coordinated by VASAB and HELCOM. The revised EUSBSR Action Plan has been adopted by the European Commission and that implies changes in the governance structure and steering group work of the EUSBSR. Based on the new structure each PA can only have one Steering Group. Therefore, there is one Steering Group of PA Spatial Planning that meets in two formations: VASAB CSPD/BSR for land-based issues and joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group for MSP issues. Both Secretariats assist the WG in this role, by e.g., keeping the group informed of activities related to the EUSBSR and PA Spatial Planning (such as funding opportunities and meetings) and representing the PA in various meetings and processes as needed.

1.2 The Steering Group took note of the Rules of Procedures for the SG and editorial changes made to the original version by the request of NCG of the EU SBSR.

1.3 The Steering Group took note of the Policy Area "Spatial Planning" Support project work plan and that, according to the work plan, the HELCOM Secretariat will be supporting activities related to BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-Group and VASAB Secretariat will facilitate the Planners Forum meetings, as well as both Secretariats will facilitate project ideas development, communication with stakeholders, promotion and visibility of Policy Area work.

1.4 The Steering Group further took note of the information about workshop "Sustainable oceans by governance and planning – dream or reality?" which took place in the frame of the 13th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR. The Steering Group welcomed the workshop and requested co-coordinators of the PA SP to make the workshop report and presentations available for stakeholders.

1.5 The Steering Group took note of the information on MSP4BIO project - Improved science-based maritime spatial planning to safeguard and restore biodiversity in a coherent European MPA network, which started in August 2022. The project was presented by the HELCOM Secretariat (**presentation 1**).

1.6 The Steering Group welcomed the presentation noticing linkages with regional commitments of the Regional MSP Roadmap 2030 and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG work plan. The Steering Group agreed that the project will provide valuable input to the implementation of respective regional commitments.

1.7 The Steering Group highlighted crucial role of cooperation between Spatial Planners and MPA managing authorities for maintaining and developing regionally coherent MPA network and pointed out that MSP4BIO project will act as a catalyst for such cooperation.

1.8 The Steering Group was of the view that project implementation requires involvement of broad stakeholders' community and supported the plan to utilize community of practice as a tool to engage stakeholders. In this respect the Steering Group recommended to MSP4BIO project to learn from eMSP NBSR project which is already applying this tool in routine work.

1.9 The Steering Group invited SELINA project to closely cooperate with the MSP4BIO project on ecosystem services. The Steering Group further encouraged MSP4BIO to utilize data from HOLAS 3 in relation to cumulative effect.

1.10 The Steering Group took note of the information on the Capacity4MSP overview and outputs (**Presentation 2**).

1.11 The Steering Group took note of general presentation of the [Land-Sea-Act](#) project results (**Presentation 3**), and the new MSP-GREEN, [SELINA](#) (Science for Evidence-based and Sustainable Decisions about Natural Capital) and Baltic Sea2Land projects (**Presentation 4**). The Steering Group noted that Land-Sea-Act project highlights local aspects of spatial planning which are often unheeded in regional cooperation.

1.12 The Steering Group took note of the report on Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms for MSPs in the Baltic Sea Region, presented by Submariner Network (**Presentation 5**).

1.13 The Steering Group took note of the invitation from Submariner Network to join "Mission Ocean" initiative and related events.

1.14 The Steering Group took note of the status of eMSP NBSR project for North and Baltic Seas (document 5-4) as well as of the outputs and tasks of eMSP NBSR LS on EBA and its contribution to the implementation of the Regional MSP Roadmap 2021-2030 (**presentation 6**).

1.15 The Steering Group welcomed the project's ambitions noticing its high relevance to the regional needs and HELCOM-VASAB WG work plan. The Steering Group expressed interest in community of practice as a tool for stakeholders' involvement applied in eMSP NBSR project and invited the project to share experience of its application at future Steering Group meetings.

1.16 The Steering Group invited the project to inform regularly on the project development to make effective use of project outputs for the development of regional MSP process.

1.17 The Steering Group took note of the information on the implementation of the project "Taking Social Sustainability to the Sea: Strengthening the Social Pillar in Marine Spatial Planning" presented by Institute from the Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon (**Presentation 7**).

1.18 The Steering Group discussed social dimension of MSP considered in the project, emphasizing the need of equal recognition of all sectors in MSP and especially accounting for the need of minorities as well as mainstreaming processes. The Steering Group also noted that participatory MSP process helps sectors to be recognized and heard.

1.19 The Steering Group took note of the information on Earth Observation (EO) Applications for Integrated Maritime and Territorial Spatial Planning in the Baltic (BalticAIMS) (**Presentation 8**) and thanked the project for the valuable information.

1.20 The Steering Group took note of the information about workshop on the use of remote sensing in maritime management and encouraged Steering Group members to join the workshop.

Participant list.

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