



Pan
Baltic
Scope



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Pan Baltic Scope Bringing Better Plans



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Pan Baltic Scope Bringing Better Plans

Authors: Collaboration of Pan Baltic Scope
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Pan Baltic Scope – bringing better plans

Pan Baltic Scope was a collaboration between 12 planning authorities and organisations from around the Baltic Sea. We worked towards bringing better maritime spatial plans in the Baltic Sea Region.

A sea of plans

The goal of the Pan Baltic Scope collaboration was to achieve coherent national maritime spatial planning around the Baltic Sea and to build long lasting mechanisms for cross-border cooperation on maritime spatial planning

Better together – created solutions

We identified focus areas and created solutions in a collaborative process. We:

- developed common tools and approaches
- built on experiences from previous projects like Baltic SCOPE
- carried out concrete cross-border cooperation that supported national planning solutions

Results

- New tools for more coherent maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region
- Recommendations on key issues
- Deeper understanding
- Greater trust

Who could use it?

The results of Pan Baltic Scope are useful for spatial planners. The results can also be used by experts, managers, consultants and researchers working on

- environmental assessment
- economic and social analysis
- green infrastructure
- land-sea interaction stakeholder engagement
- maritime spatial planning

Key results can be important for policymakers.



Dive into our 12 topics:



The Planning Forum – hands-on, cross-border work



"A Planning Forum like this supports cooperation and coherence between plans."

"The Planning Forum has allowed us to get a cross-border perspective for our national maritime spatial planning process"

"It's inspiring! Every meeting generates a lot of ideas."

Learning from experience

One of the lessons from the Baltic SCOPE project was that we needed a hands-on and practical forum where planners could get together to cooperate and exchange knowledge. Coherent plans could not come about without cross-border cooperation.

Better together

By having regular meetings, the planners have had the chance to discuss current issues with colleagues around the Baltic Sea. The familiarity with the neighbouring authorities responsible for maritime spatial planning led to a more effective exchange of information even outside of the forum.

By having a flexible approach to what issues we brought up to discussion in the forum, all members had the possibility to learn and contribute with their own needs and expertise.

Strengthened cross-border understanding

The planning forum succeeded in dealing with hands-on planning issues between partners. It enhanced the cross-border perspective and led to knowledge exchanges. The understanding of each other's plans and legal systems has increased thanks to the Planning Forum discussions. All this added value to the national planning. Its role as a hub for all the activities in the project made it the natural focal point of Pan Baltic Scope.

Who could use it?

The Planning Forum as a format for collaboration can be adapted and used in work on other sea basins. The Planning Forum was a useful arena for collaboration between planners. It also served as a basis for suggestions to policymakers.

Learn how we did it at
www.panbalticscope.eu



Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned Throughout the Project

Challenge

Transboundary maritime spatial planning, MSP, is a complex process facing a number of challenges, including competing national interests, heterogeneous planning systems, sectoral divisions and low stakeholder participation. We need to learn about the main challenges and enablers to emerge from projects, so policymakers and practitioners can learn more about transboundary MSP and receive feedback on how to develop more efficient and inclusive processes.

Solution

Throughout the project, independent researchers routinely surveyed and interviewed project participants to gauge and assess their views on how project activities were progressing. The focus of this research was to establish what challenges and obstacles they encountered during the project and how they overcame them. The aim was to identify tools and methods that could be used and replicated in future transboundary MSP activities; as we learn, we grow, and when we share that knowledge, we can help others to grow.

Results

The researchers provided feedback to the activity leaders on the main results. The findings from their research were helpful in project activities so they could potentially adapt, improve and overcome challenges and obstacles. We collated the results from the surveys and interviews in a final Report and Activity Fact Sheets summarising challenges, enablers and achievements from each project activity. We also produced a lessons learned video to provide the key findings and outputs from the project to a wider audience.



Who could use it?

The results are useful for policymakers, planners and researchers. They provide a valuable insight into the main challenges related to transboundary MSP processes and outline recommendations on how to overcome them. The findings outlined are particularly useful for policymakers and planners to help guide future transboundary collaborations and projects. They also provide researchers with useful insights on recent developments in the ever growing and evolving field of MSP at different levels of governance.

Find our products at
www.panbalticscope.eu



Across the archipelagos of Finland, Åland and Sweden



Cross-border challenges

Maritime spatial planning in Sweden, Finland and Åland differs in an important way. The plans in Finland and Åland are at a regional level, while the Swedish plans are national. The consequence of this was largely unknown at the start of the project.

Transboundary solutions

The archipelagos of Finland, Åland and Sweden are full of planning challenges and cross-border interactions, as well as a myriad of land-sea-interactions.

The goal of our case study was to develop the tools and knowledge needed to make sure that we can preserve this fragile ecosystem, while promoting opportunities that the blue economy brings. We did this by bringing key stakeholders to meet and exchange ideas. External maritime spatial planning experts in the area shared their knowledge of previous projects in the area with the participants.

In this case study, we investigated similar issues on different scales, from a national level down to a local level, engaging both local and national stakeholders. What kind of knowledge did we need to exchange, and how could we handle the multi-level governance involved in decision-making for these areas?

Results

Our work has led to a greater understanding of our own challenges, as well as regional and cross-border challenges that we need to solve together. With these newfound understandings, we can continue making better plans, together.

Who could use it?

The results from the Finland-Åland-Sweden case are particularly useful for those who are starting out their maritime spatial planning process in an area with one or more close neighbours.

Check out the story map at www.panbalticscope.eu



Monitoring and Evaluation



Monitoring and
Evaluation

Challenge

In order to improve the processes and effectiveness of the plans, it is important to assess the quality of the maritime spatial planning, MSP, process and to know the results of the plans. How can we monitor and evaluate MSP, while acknowledging the reported challenges in knowing the impacts of broad-scale spatial plans and policies? The needs for monitoring and evaluation are different, since maritime spatial planning is not conducted in identical ways in the BSR countries.

Solution

The Baltic SCOPE project worked on a common framework for evaluation of MSP. In Pan Baltic Scope, we selected the Polish and Latvian plans as case studies. Working from the targets of the plans, we constructed evaluation frameworks that identified possible qualitative and quantitative indicators and suggested processes for conducting monitoring and evaluation.

Results

Objectives given for the plans are not always specific enough for successful monitoring and evaluation. There is a need to develop general objectives and more specific sub-objectives.

Useful indicators do not focus on the results of the plans only. We also identified indicators that focus on the context of MSP, on the process and inputs needed for successful MSP and on the outputs that produce the preferred results.

Finally, the monitoring of MSP cannot be based only on indicators, because of the difficulty to know which changes are a result of MSP, and which are not. As a complement, input from experts and stakeholders can be collected in deliberative, systematic assessments of how MSP influences maritime sectors, marine environment and the society.

Who could use it?

The results from the monitoring and evaluation activity is of use for planning authorities, sector agencies and researchers.

**Find the task report at
www.panbalticscope.eu**



Follow-up of Common Regional Framework

Painting a common picture

We needed to know how the maritime spatial planning, MSP, authorities have used the common regional framework in the national MSP. Did we all apply the common regional framework in the same way? Is it still up to date or are improvements needed?

Identifying the image

We followed up on the implementation of various parts of the common regional framework by carrying out desk research on national MSP. Stakeholders were actively involved via a series of workshops, a survey and interviews. The countries were asked to share their experience on successes and challenges so far and suggest tasks for the future agenda.

Seeing the whole picture

We analysed the MSP principles and learned that they are still relevant, but the newest knowledge on MSP should be incorporated.

We collected data on the guidelines via a survey which aimed to find out how the transboundary consultations are organised and collected accounts on good practices.

We evaluated the MSP Roadmap in the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group and found out that the Baltic Sea states have achieved great progress in fulfilling the tasks on the Roadmap on national and pan-Baltic level. In the future there should be more tasks related to monitoring and evaluation, sectoral integration and awareness raising on MSP.

Who could use it?

The key target group is the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, who will use the outcomes to update and elaborate a common MSP framework in future. The material is also useful for MSP authorities, policy makers, sectoral authorities and researchers.

Download the assessment of how we use the framework at
www.panbalticscope.eu

Find the building blocks of the common regional framework at
<https://vasab.org/theme-posts/maritimespatial-planning/helcom-vasab-msp-wg/>



Ecosystem-Based
Toolbox

Ecosystem-based Toolbox

Challenge

The ecosystem-based approach is not coherently implemented across the Baltic Sea Region. For coherent cross-border planning to be possible, approaches, methods and knowledge have to be shared between the countries in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Baltic SCOPE project produced a checklist toolbox for the ecosystem-based approach in maritime spatial planning, MSP. It showed that the ecosystem approach was possible. Pan Baltic Scope gave an opportunity to expand on EBA, and further harmonize the Pan-Baltic approach.

Solution

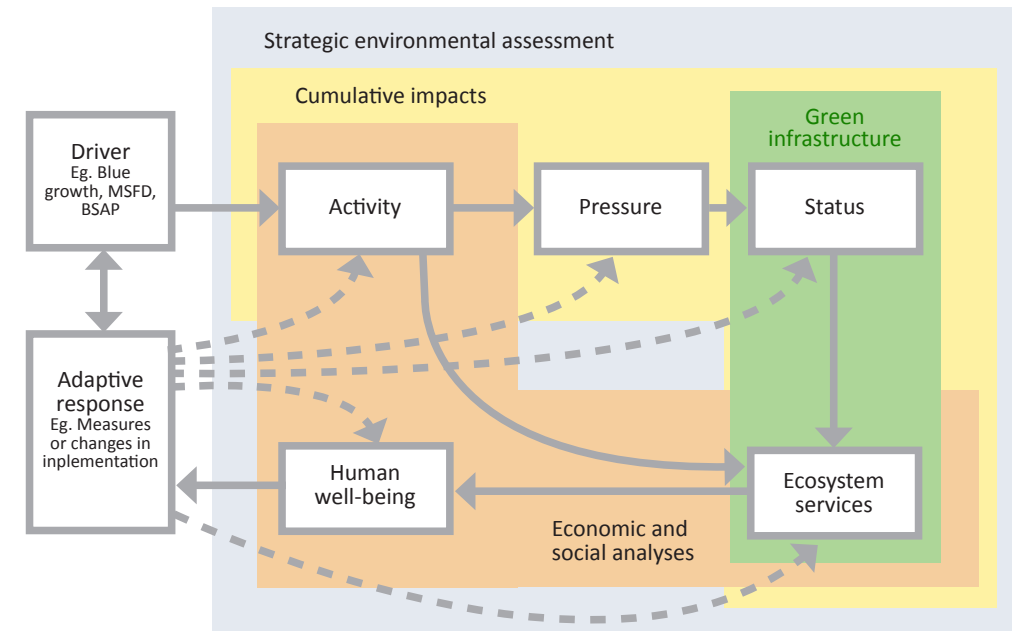
We took stock of the current EBA research in maritime spatial planning and the current practices regarding EBA in the Baltic Sea region. We also co-operated closely with other activities in the project to make sure that we covered all relevant topics regarding the ecosystem-based approach. It included these activities: Ecosystem-Based approach in sub-basin Strategic Environmental Assessment, Cumulative impacts, Green Infrastructure and Economic and social analysis.

We synthesised the current research on EBA in MSP, which included an evaluation of the current HELCOM and VASAB EBA guidelines in relation to the Malawi principles from the Convention of Biological Diversity. We developed proposals for revision of the guidelines based on the synthesis report, survey results and workshop input, strengthening dimensions on local knowledge and the precautionary approach in the Baltic Sea.

Results

Further developed tools, methods and concepts to support the implementation of EBA in MSP:

- Synthesis Report on the Ecosystem Approach to Maritime Spatial Planning
- Recommendations on how to revise the HELCOM-VASAB EBA guidelines



Tools to support ecosystem-based approach in MSP

Who could use it?

The results could be very useful for MSP practitioners, HELCOM, sector representatives, NGOs, local authorities and upcoming research projects.

Download the full synthesis report and recommendations at www.panbalticscope.eu



Ecosystem-Based Approach in sub-basin Strategic Environmental Assessment

Incomparable assessments

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) work in the Baltic Sea needs to be comparable between countries to be of more use. SEAs are an important tool for the implementation of the Ecosystem-Based Approach (EBA).

Adaptation through collaboration

We developed a methodology on the basis of a test case in the south-western Baltic. The work was thorough and innovative in using as many sites and cross-border partners as possible. By creating an adaptable concept for the EBA implementation and making it easier to compare SEAs, cross-border coherence has come much closer than it was before.

Results

We have produced a practical handbook for the planners' daily business which helps to compare the SEAs and benefit from the methods, data and processes. The modular EBA concept will show how to implement an EBA in each step of MSP. This will result in easier implementation, stronger mutual understanding and the promotion of a trans-boundary and holistic perspective.

Who could use it?

Authorities responsible for MSP, SEA and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG, upcoming research projects.

Check the handbook and the background report at
www.panbalticscope.eu



Assessing Cumulative Impacts



Problems stacking up

Many people, if not all, are affected by cumulative impacts. To minimize risks and support long-term sustainability, it is important to understand how our use of the sea affects the marine environment – now, in the past, and in the future.

Understanding of cumulative impacts in maritime spatial planning, MSP, is developing in many countries. However, many issues are trans-boundary and we can only solve them together. Further, there is a need to refine methods and make them coherent among countries, so that we can address impacts in a comparable way.

Building new tools

Our main aim was to increase regional capacity and knowledge to evaluate cumulative impacts in the Baltic Sea. We identified the state-of-the-art in the countries and the key issues to solve, and searched for solutions. We tested the work in case studies: one on how cumulative impacts can be assessed at the Baltic Sea scale in relation to offshore wind farm development, and one with a focus on green infrastructure.

To support the work, we developed a Cumulative Impact Assessment Tool, which is now available for further use. It supports various analytical designs, and the mapping of green infrastructure.

Time to use the new tools

We summarized all of our results in a report, including project recommendations for future development.

The Cumulative Impact Assessment Toolbox is openly available.

Who could use it?

Planners who want to understand cumulative impact assessment and how it can be carried out.

Managers set to evaluate cumulative impacts in need for practical tips.

**Get the tool at
GitHub**

**Use the online tool at
www.helcom.fi**



Green Infrastructure in Maritime Spatial Planning

Challenge

Green infrastructure is a network of nature that contributes to the functioning of plants and animals, and the well-being of people.

The EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy states that ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15 % of degraded ecosystems.

But what is green infrastructure in the context of marine environment, and how to map it?

Solution

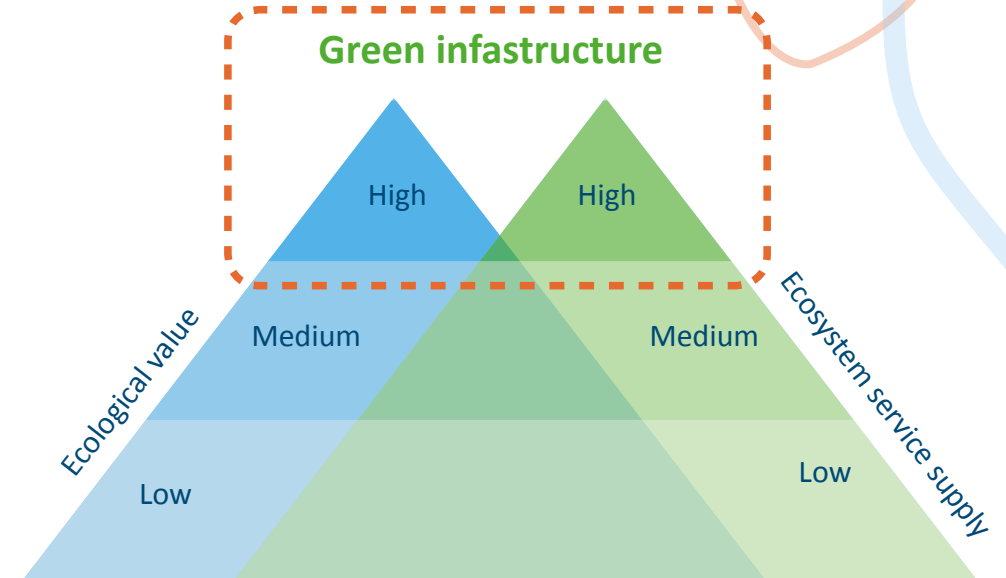
To reach this target, we outlined the concept of marine green infrastructure based on the results of previous and ongoing studies and tested the concept at the Baltic Sea scale by using available data. We used data from the HELCOM Maps and Data services, reflecting distribution of more than 30 ecosystem components. We produced new pan-Baltic maps of essential fish habitats, representing spawning, recruitment and nursery areas of commercially important fish species. This was possible thanks to close collaboration with the HELCOM, ICES and national research institutes, involving relevant authorities and experts in cross-border meetings. We used the newly produced spatial data to map the areas of high ecological value and associated supply of ecosystem services. We aggregated this information into a synthetic map of marine green infrastructure of the Baltic Sea.

Results

We developed an approach for mapping the marine green infrastructure and demonstrated it at the Baltic Sea scale. The mapping results indicate areas of high ecological value which possibly form the green infrastructure of the Baltic Sea. We also identified the data gaps and limitations of the proposed approach as well as highlighted the needs for further research to improve the methodology.

Who could use it?

The proposed concept of marine green infrastructure can support planners in applying ecosystem-based approach in MSP, as well as nature conservation authorities in assessing coherence of the MPA network. The methodology developed by the project could be adapted to other sea basins.



Pan Baltic Scope approach to mapping marine GI



Learn about the Pan Baltic Scope approach to mapping marine green infrastructure at www.panbalticscope.eu



Economic and Social Analyses

Economic and Social Analyses

Challenge

Having an overall understanding of how maritime spatial planning, MSP, affects human well-being is crucial. We needed to develop the assessment of economic, social, cultural and ecosystem service impacts for the purposes of MSP. We also needed to exchange experience and information on how these impacts are evaluated across countries.

Solution

Our solution builds on previous HELCOM projects that developed frameworks and results for economic and social analyses of the marine environment. We reviewed existing approaches and data on assessing economic, social, cultural and ecosystem service impacts in national MSP and synthesised contemporary literature. We produced a national model for evaluating the economic impacts of MSP in Estonia, combined with the assessment of cumulative impacts (PlanWise4Blue).

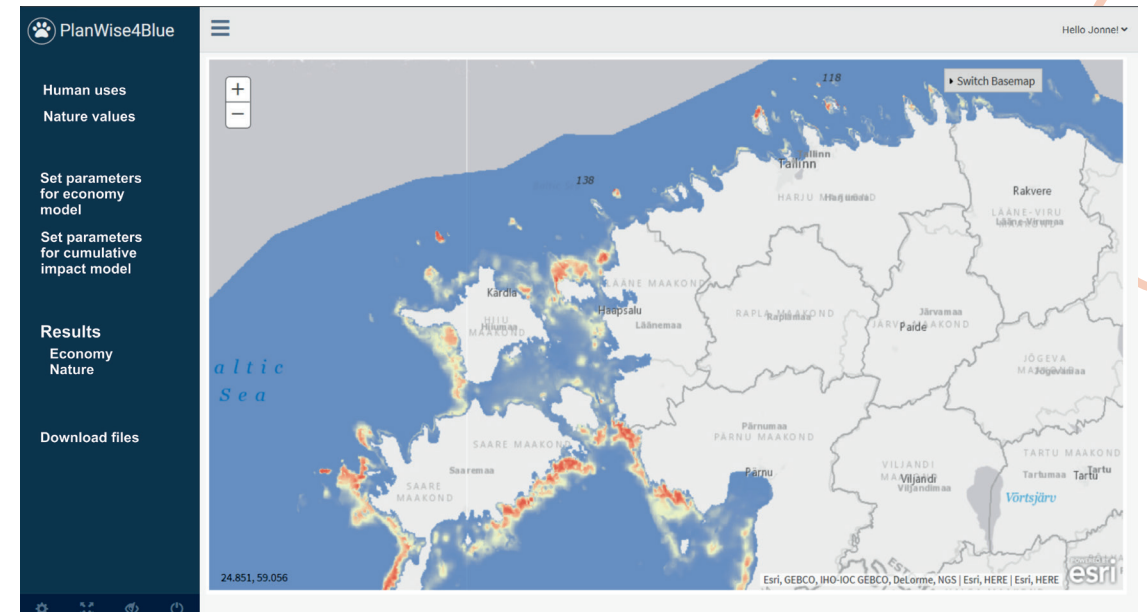
Results

We found differences in methods and gaps in knowledge and resources for assessing economic, social, cultural and ecosystem service impacts for MSP in the BSR. The main outcomes are recommendations on developing economic and social analyses for MSP, for coherent approaches, data and results across countries as well as to support national work. Integrated assessment of the ecosystem and socio-economic system, spatially explicit approaches and data, as well as increased resources would be crucial. The Estonian PlanWise4Blue model provided a practical solution for assessing economic impacts for MSP.

The recommendations are useful for developing further the assessment of economic, social, cultural and ecosystem service impacts in MSP regionally and nationally.

Who could use it?

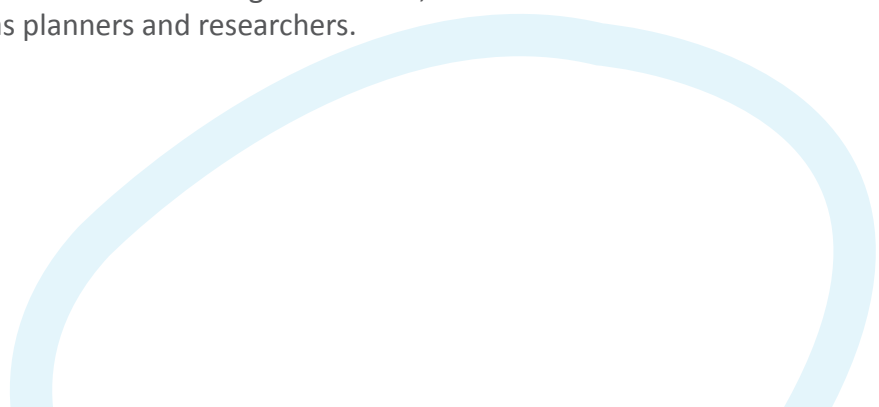
The recommendations can aid policymakers and national governments, the HELCOM-VASAB cooperation, as well as planners and researchers.



Assessing the economic impact of MSP with PlanWise4Blue

Check the recommendations at www.panbalticscope.eu

Find the model PlanWise4Blue at www.sea.ee/planwise4blue





Data Sharing

Data Sharing

Challenge

Data is the key to coherent maritime spatial planning, MSP, in the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea was the first region that established an MSP Data expert group, operating under HELCOM-VASAB. This group clearly stated a need for a Baltic Sea Region web-map of maritime spatial plans with comprehensive data specification and cartographic visualization.

Solution

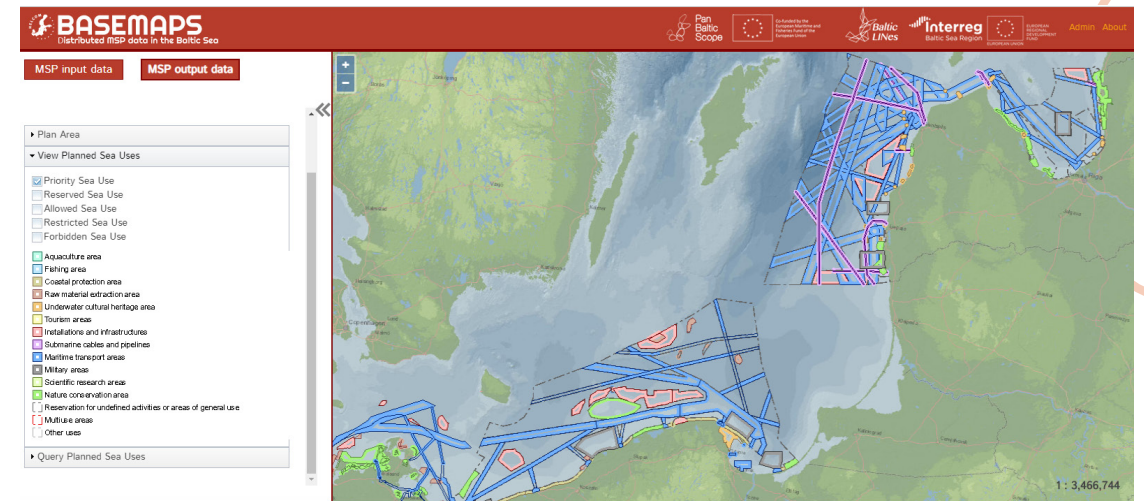
The work started in the Baltic LINES project, and we continued work on the common data portal BASEMAPS. Planners and stakeholders can access national plans and background maps on the web portal. We did extensive analysis and got commitment from national MSP data providers on setting up a common solution together with the MSP Data expert group.

Results

HELCOM BASEMAPS is the result of our collaboration. By collaborating with national MSP data providers on finding the best solutions, we have managed to create both viewing and data upload tools within BASEMAPS. This enables knowledge exchange across borders. BASEMAPS allows you to get an overview of where the countries are in their MSP processes and offers you a possibility to browse MSP designations by types and sectors. With easy access to each other's data, cross-border collaboration is easier, we can notice mismatches between plans earlier in the process and it makes it easier to get an overview.

Who could use it?

Planners and stakeholders can both benefit from BASEMAPS. The possibility to compare plans across borders helps us to develop better planning solutions and take smarter decisions for our Baltic Sea. Being able to access spatial materials in one place and with harmonized visualization is a large step forward.



Neighbouring maritime spatial plans collected in BASEMAPS

Check the BASEMAPS and find the Step-by-Step guidance at www.basemaps.helcom.fi

Learn how we did it at www.panbalticscope.eu



Integration of Land-Sea Interactions



Challenge

With the EU directive, Land-Sea Interactions, LSI, has become a catchall phrase with many faces, even if it is not new in planning. Coastal areas and archipelagos had so far been less considered in cross-border maritime spatial planning, MSP, mainly focusing on the exclusive economic zone. We needed a common definition of LSI applicable in both marine and coastal planning and across borders.

Approach

We set out to find out how we can work with LSI through two case studies, one in the Riga Bay between Estonia and Latvia and an archipelago one, together with the FI-AX-SE activity. The cross-border nature of both cases enhanced the study further by highlighting how we interpreted LSI differently, depending on which side of the border we were looking from.

Results

A literature review confirmed that LSI is not well defined, and operationalised differently. So, also asking our planners, we developed a 4-dimensional framework to think LSI, with the:

1. social-ecological interactions to plan
2. institutional system along the land-sea planning continuum
3. processes and stakeholders to include
4. necessary knowledge and method

The Riga Bay case brought insights on local authorities' needs and opportunities to engage in planning the sea, including a good knowledge base and capacity building and extending cross sector planning thinking over the land-sea boundary.


The FI-AX-SE case showed how incomplete knowledge is and how important it is to think of future needs across the land-sea boundary and collaborate across levels and sectors – also including local knowledge.

Overall, scale and topics matter to engage in LSI, and public ocean literacy and capacity development for local authorities are crucial.

Who could use it?

Marine and coastal planners and sector authorities at all levels can make use of our results. Coastal stakeholders may find them useful to get engaged in planning.

Check out the Latvian-Estonian guideline as well as our scoping report and Lessons, Stories and Ideas on Land Sea Interactions at www.panbalticscope.eu



The Pan Baltic Scope project has been a successful cross-border cooperation in the Baltic Sea with the aim of bringing better maritime spatial plans.

Standing on a solid base of previous maritime spatial planning-related projects in the Baltic Sea region, most notably the Baltic SCOPE project, we cooperated on 12 activities in three thematic groups:

- Cross-border collaboration to support national maritime spatial planning where planners and researchers cooperated in five activities.
- Implementation of the Ecosystem-Based Approach and Data Sharing created methods and tools to support maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea.
- Integration of Land-Sea interaction into maritime spatial planning connected to both themes and explored the concept of Land-Sea Interaction.

The tools and methods created in the Pan Baltic Scope project are presented in this brochure. Each activity presents their work, as well as their final products and where to find them.

Pan Baltic Scope was a collaboration between 12 planning authorities and organisations from around the Baltic Sea. We worked towards bringing better maritime spatial plans in the Baltic Sea Region.

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