



Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group 4th meeting

13-14/06/2016
Estonian Maritime Academy of
Tallinn University of Technology, Tallinn

DECISIONS

General

1. Interreg BSR project application for EUSBSR HAC&PAC support “Horizontal Action “Spatial Planning” Support - HASPS 2” has been approved in 14th June 2016. The project HASPS 2 implementation will start from 1st august 2016 and will end by 31st July 2018. Among the other activities the project also supports the BSR MSP Data expert group – within the project 1 more MSP Data group meeting will be supported in 2016 and a follow-up event in 2017.
2. Project application “Pathways and Needs towards a Baltic Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure for MSP - MSPDAT” were submitted to the BONUS call 2015 “Blue Baltic”. According to an announcement of the evaluation on 30th June 2016, the project proposal was rejected.
3. VASAB Committee of Spatial planning and development has decided to prolong the mandate of the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG for three years, i.e. till the end of 2019. HELCOM Heads of Delegations had the decision on prolongation on 14-15 June 2016.

Presentations:

4. **European MSP Platform** (by Bronwyn Cahill, s.Pro) is intended as a service to Member States to support implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) throughout the EU. This initiative is financed by EC (DG Mare) and has 3 general tasks:
 - a. **Task 1:** one year Technical Studies on specific MSP topics (current study on Data issues is going to be finalised in December 2016; other topics for the further studies in subsequent years will be selected accordingly to the MSs needs within the EU MSP Expert group, by the November 2016 next topic will be announced);
 - b. **Task 2:** Support member states (MS) implementation of MSP, including the following services:
 - i. Website development and maintenance to serve as a repository of relevant MSP information
 - ii. Operate a dedicated focal point service for each sea basin
 - c. **Task 3:** Administrative and technical support to DG MARE for MSP related meetings, workshops and conferences
5. The technical study “Data & Information Needs for MSP in European Sea basins” aims to identify main data, information and knowledge issues and gaps from perspective of MS at different stages (and scale) of MSP implementation. So far challenges at European and regional scale on data issues have been identified as:
 - a. Availability of suitable data sets in consistent manner across sea basins / regions
 - b. No statistical unit for sea space (i.e. NUTS equivalent)
 - c. Difficult to disaggregate information between land and sea
 - d. Paucity of data or information on land-sea interactions, e.g. degree to which coastal communities are dependent on their links to adjacent seas and the potential for them to benefit from growing maritime sectors.

- e. Limited social, economic and governance data but this is changing
 - f. Gaps and weaknesses in historical time series, data quality
 - g. Translating data and information into indicators to assess pressures
 - h. Accessing / handling tacit knowledge
 - i. With regards the spatial data infrastructures (data portals) relatively few developed in project context, with limited value without long term data strategy (not maintained, restricted access, language specific etc.)
 - j. Quite a few mapping tools developed across all sea basins (covered themes mostly on: boundaries, environment, ecology and activities).
6. Within the **Baltic LINes project** (“Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans”, financed by Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020) **Work Package 3 “BSR MSP data infrastructure for shipping routes and energy corridors”** aims to improve the access to relevant, spatial data and information in cross-border MSP. The outcomes will provide the starting point for turning this vision into a reality by developing a system, which offers an interactive web-map user interface for discovering, accessing, analysing and displaying harmonised cross-border data and information based on a Baltic Sea Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) prototype. The “Baltic LINes” project will develop planning criteria for certain issues (shipping and energy) based on data information which has been gathered in each country. Taking into account that Russia are not obliged to follow INSPIRE Directive, as well as the fact that there are only few existing spatial data infrastructure facilities in region on particular themes, BSR SDI prototype would provide hybrid solution to serve all needs and possibilities. In order to achieve the goals of WP3, project will be closely interlinked with the work of the BSR MSP Data Expert sub-group. Project already has been testing the first outcome of Data group – the INPUT data table in relevance of *shipping* and *energy*. In this regard the other project “NorthSEE – A North Sea Perspective on Shipping, Energy and Environment Aspects in MSP” will develop similar approach in North Sea and will ensure the linkage and coherence between two seas.
7. In order to implement the INSPIRE Directive in Estonia, there is established single web-portal where to find all relevant data which is compliant to INSPIRE Directive (presented by Sulev Õitspuu). Next step of web-portal development is to increase the usage of the INSPIRE services and provide technical upgrades. It was noted that for MSP there are needed more data sets as they are mentioned in 3rd Annex of INSPIRE Directive. The access point for Estonian INSPIRE datasets and data services is <http://inspire.maaamet.ee/>
8. Accordingly to the overview on national INPUT data reports (by Kamil Rybka), Data group has defined 52 data sets (which are grouped accordingly to the MSP Directive themes). In total there are identified ~400 datasets, owned by ~100 different institutions in the Baltic Sea region countries. Analysis shows that 81% of those 52 datasets are available, are under preparation or are planned to be stored within HELCOM Spatial Data Infrastructure.

Outcomes:

- 9. Acknowledging the scope and differences of available datasets, it was noted once more that the Data group will not tend to harmonise these data. This task could be further developed and tested by other thematic projects. The contribution of Data group here will be publishing INPUT data tables.
- 10. Group developed and agreed on OUTPUT data table, indicating main themes, layers, attributes and geometric elements which should be complemented with specific regulations of particular sea-use. The OUTPUT data table will be tested by existing MSP cases in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Germany for further improvement.
- 11. Data availability and common understanding itself will not ensure the coherence of the maritime spatial plans in the BSR; countries should have cross-border consultations/discussions before drafting planning solutions. Additionally, when preparing maritime spatial plans, the use of both languages – national and English, should be considered.
- 12. The initial list of data and information GAPS & CHALLENGES were prepared:
 - a. The availability and transparency of research data is not well organised at governmental level and planners lack systematic approach how to implement research data into MSP, as well as comprehensive information about what kind of information which institutions have;
 - b. Many scientific institutions have developed GIS systems that could be integrated into MSP;
 - c. Scientific or monitoring data usually cannot be used directly for MSP – additional clarification or harmonisation is needed;

- d. The performance of new initiatives (like improvement of data availability) is quite often affected by decreasing/insufficient number of employees in state administrations – existing recourses barely cover current duties;
 - e. Some data or information is available in written format, tables, on papers - additional processing is needed for MSP purposes;
 - f. Different institutions use different terminology describing similar data sets that might be confusing when looking for relevant data for MSP;
 - g. Only information on military exercise areas is available, other information is considered as restricted;
 - h. There is poor information on owners and use of existing cables in sea;
 - i. At national level there is no single data base for tourism/recreational information – the information is fragmented at local or regional level;
13. Group discussed it`s possibly contribution to the Data Workshop to be organised within the BALTIC 2nd MSP Forum. As it was suggested, the workshop would present to wider audience the first outcomes of BSR MSP Data group and raise up discussions about what would be the relevant solution for data harmonisation in the Baltic Sea region.

Tasks:

- 14. Data group outcomes (INPUT data table, OUTPUT data table, GAPS in data) will be published in “google documents” by Elina, to ensure an online updating and availability of these documents to Data group members. These documents should be considered as working documents (not representing the official opinion of the MSP Data group).
- 15. Data group members shall confirm the final version of INPUT data table by 1st July 2016. After 1st July 2016 INPUT data table will be published in VASAB webpage for wider audience and use.
- 16. OUTPUT data table and list of data GAPS should be complemented or adjusted by group members by 15th August 2016.
- 17. Data group agreed to have a detailed look at identified INPUT and OUTPUT data sets in regards their compliance with INSPIRE Directive:
 - a. For the next meeting Maili will prepare an overview identifying which INPUT Data themes are covered (compatible) with the Annex 3 of INSPIRE Directive;
 - b. Jakub will prepare template for identified OUTPUT datasets that are not covered by INSPIRE.
- 18. Countries that have already prepared maritime spatial plans (or their drafts) (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Germany) will fill out the template of OUTPUT data table by 15th August 2016.
- 19. Kamil Rybka will prepare proposition of draft document summarizing works of the Group (‘Final Report’).
- 20. Next – 5th meeting will be held in autumn 2016, proposed venue – Polish Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation in Warsaw. Further information will be provided in August/September 2016.
- 21. The main focus of the next meeting will be drafting the final report on BSR MSP Data Expert group findings.