



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Document title | A proposal for implementation of the DG MARE project on Maritime Spatial Planning (MARE/2014/22) in the Baltic Sea Region - Baltic SCOPE |
| Code | 2-3 |
| Category | DEC |
| Agenda Item | 2 - MSP developments and regional coordination |
| Submission date | 16.1.2015 |
| Submitted by | Sweden |
| Reference | |

Background

A proposal for implementation of the DG MARE project on Maritime Spatial Planning (MARE/2014/22) in the Baltic Sea Region has been submitted by the Swedish Agency for Water and Marine Management (SWAM) in collaboration with the responsible MSP authorities of all other Baltic Sea Region countries, the regional sea organisations HELCOM and VASAB as well as the research institutions Nordregio and SYKE. The project is titled "Baltic SCOPE – Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Plans".

Action required

The Meeting is invited to:

- take note of the information,
- consider and decide if this initiative can be supported as a flagship project under HA Spatial Planning of the EUSBSR.

Project outline

1. Basic project information

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Title: | Baltic SCOPE – Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Plans |
| Funding programme: | DG MARE (Call MARE/2014/22) |
| Budget: | 2,65 M € |
| Duration: | March 2015 - February 2017 (24 months) |

2. Background

The MSP Directive prescribes that EU Member States need to implement Maritime Spatial Planning by 2021. One key aspect of this directive is to promote consistency and coherence of maritime spatial plans across marine regions. This not only requires practical MSP experience within Member States and the capacity to apply best practices, but also ongoing cooperation across borders and mechanisms that facilitate the exchange of best practices. Such cooperation is not easy to establish, and despite the ongoing activities of EU Member States in implementing MSP at national or regional level, cross-border cooperation between Member States remains limited at this point in time. The main aim of the project is to achieve coherence and consistency between the various national plans through cross-border cooperation. The project will work towards this aim a) in the scope of two case study areas by finding concrete solutions to place-based “hot topics” (in terms of mediating cross-border conflicts or making use of synergies) as well as by b) generating generic good practices, methods and results for cross-border MSP processes.

3. Partners

Baltic Scope is a joint tender, bringing together **all MSP authorities and relevant Regional Sea Organisations** in the Baltic Sea Region.

| N° | Country | Project partner |
|----|---------|---|
| 1 | SE | Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SWAM, lead partner) |
| 2 | DE | Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) |
| 3 | DK | Danish Nature Agency (DNA) |
| 4 | PL | Maritime Office in Szczecin |
| 5 | LV | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development |
| 6 | EE | Ministry of the Interior |
| 7 | FI | Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE) |
| 8 | BSR | VASAB Secretariat |
| 9 | BSR | HELCOM Secretariat |
| 10 | BSR | Nordregio |

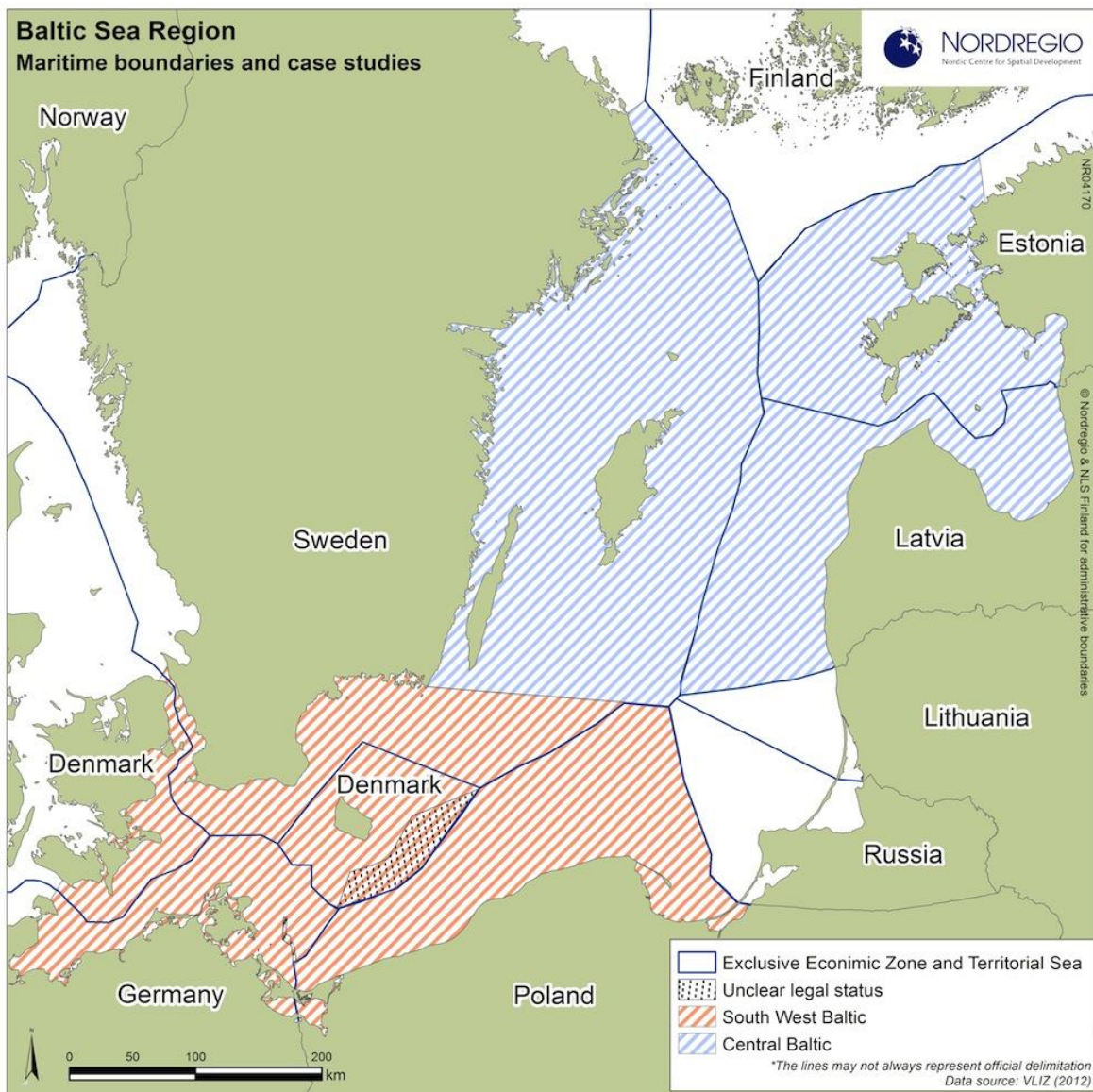
| N° | Country | Associated partners |
|----|---------|--|
| 1 | FI | Ministry of the Environment (financing partner) |
| 2 | LT | Ministry of the Environment |
| 3 | DE-MV | Ministry for Energy, Infrastructure and Regional Development |

The involvement of all BSR MSP authorities ensures **accountability** for the results of the project and makes sure the **outcomes are incorporated in national maritime spatial plans**. The joint tenderers have an innate interest in achieving the best possible outcome of the project since it will provide **essential added value** and **directly influence national MSP processes**. Moreover the involved MSP authorities form part of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and attend the EU MSP Expert Group meetings.

4. Project activities

4.1 Case studies

Transboundary MSP will be carried out in two case study areas:



The

South-West Baltic Case

This large case study area is bordered by Sweden, Denmark, Germany and Poland with different constellations (territorial waters / EEZ). Key transboundary issues (and possibly "hot topics") include shipping, offshore wind farming, sand and gravel extraction, fishing and MPAs.

The Latvian Cross-border MSP Case

Latvia, currently in an early stage of its own MSP process, is in the centre of the second MSP case, which includes all Latvian territorial and EEZ waters bordering Sweden and Estonia. A key element of the work will be an assessment and description of legislative regulations, content and scope of MSP in LV, LT, EE and SE. Particular focus will be on the development of cross-border co-operation procedures with respect to the Strategy Environmental Assessment (SEA); to discuss, identify and agree on common interests and strategies among the participating countries in relation to the main four sectors recalled in the MSP directive, i.e. energy, transport, fisheries and the environment, and to agree on the exchange of data and a comparative table of sea use zoning.

4.2 Format of Project Activities

Meetings will be the main means of delivering the project results. Apart from general project partner meetings and Project Steering Group Meetings, there will be case-specific planners meetings and thematic working group meetings.

Planners groups will bring together planners from the respective countries to organise the practical work in the case study areas. Their task is to carry out the initial assessment of the case study areas, link with data experts, design the cooperation process through thematic meetings, and draw together lessons from the thematic meetings.

Thematic working groups will bring together sectoral as well as topic experts and authorities and planners to discuss transboundary issues for the selected "hot topics & issues". They will meet up to three times depending on progress and the complexity of the task. The most important task for these groups will be to find common principles for handling each sector's transboundary issues in MSP.

In both cases the project will follow a systematic step-by-step approach during which specific hot topics / issues are identified based on information brought together from the various inventories undertaken in each participating case country. These are then further refined and solutions developed in more specific thematic working groups. The solutions and necessary future steps identified are subsequently brought together again to the general planners level within the case study area in order then to filter them back to the respective national processes as well as leading to more generic recommendations to be brought to other MSP cases and the pan-Baltic (if not European) level.

As a result the project to provide real planning solutions for real transboundary issues. Planners from the participating countries will be enabled to take on board transnational considerations when developing their national MSPs. This means that national maritime spatial plans can be prepared based on in-depth information provided by neighbouring countries and common solutions found in joint discussions, leading to greater alignment of national plans.

4.3 Lessons learnt

Lessons learnt and practical recommendations for future cross-border MSP processes are to be derived from the two case studies.

Both cross-border consultation processes will be documented and evaluated with the help of a survey tool to be developed. The conceptual framework for the survey will make it possible to make comparable observations from both case study areas, to collect qualitative data in a structured way and "to look

through the lenses of an ideal cross-border planning process” (basically: to see what might otherwise be overlooked or invisible). The conceptual framework builds on the concept of territorial governance and its five dimensions: co-ordination of actors and institutions, integration of policy sectors, stakeholder participation, adaptation to changing contexts and realisation of place-based specificities and impacts (ESPO TANGO project).

The lessons will be formulated by summarizing, analysing and comparing the cross-border processes. There will be a focus on providing (1) best practices and practical solutions for cross-border cooperation for MSP processes, (2) guidance for other relevant issues such as the appliance of the ecosystem-based approach, the usage/usefulness of existing methodologies, data and networks in cross-border MSP work (e.g. the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet)) and (3) indication in regard to individual and institutional learning as well as transferability of lessons learnt.

4.4 Monitoring and evaluation

Apart from cross-border cooperation, the second topic of the call was monitoring and evaluation of MSP. The objective is to develop an E&M framework. For this end, the project will identify the most important aspects of the MSP process that could be reviewed in the course of monitoring and evaluation. The main focus this task will be to develop appropriate indicators and criteria that could be applied during the evaluation of the two MSP cases. These will be embedded in a concept for a suitable monitoring and evaluation process, including recommendations for appropriate timing of evaluation and governance structures. This might include recommendations on how and when to inform a neighbouring country that a Member State’s maritime plans are being evaluated, or recommendations for aligning national evaluation processes. It will also indicate the financial resources that would be needed to carry out the monitoring and evaluation in a meaningful way. The ambition is to develop indicators for the two concrete pilot areas, but to elaborate them further into a possible common framework to be applied across the whole Baltic Sea Region in future MSP processes to come.

4.5 2nd Baltic MSP Forum

Building on the success of the first Baltic MSP Forum, organised in the scope of the PartiSEApate project in June 2014, Baltic SCOPE seeks to organise a 2nd Baltic MSP Forum as the major project conference presumably in November 2016. At this occasion, project findings from the case studies, on transboundary coordination of MSP in general as well as the Monitoring & Evaluation framework will be presented to the European MSP community.

5. Supporting the pan-Baltic MSP process

The project aims to support the process of pan-Baltic MSP cooperation driven by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group mainly in view of strengthening practice on cross-border consultation among MS. Lessons learned and recommendations derived from the two case study areas will feed into the ongoing work of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, to be made available to the BSR more generally and to inform national and transnational MSP. This will be ensured by presenting interim results of the project at the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meetings. Two of the five overall project meetings will be held back to back with HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meetings.

In this way, the project will contribute to the development and implementation of the three guidelines expected to be developed and adopted by the HELCOM-VASAB Working Group on MSP within the project lifetime (a) transboundary consultation and cooperation in the field of MSP within the BSR (b) public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions and (c) ecosystem based approach.

Furthermore the work in the two case study areas, and the real MSP processes this accompanies, can deliver input to regional work on MSP data. One or two participants from each MSP case area could share experiences and to feed in to the overall discussion on MSP data exchange in the Baltic Sea region.

The project will also enable all BSR countries to regularly update the MSP country fiches to be agreed by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and to be placed i.a. on the HELCOM and VASAB websites.