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<b>Document title</b>	Progress report of the project “BONUS BALTSAPCE – Towards Sustainable Governance of Baltic Marine Space”
<b>Code</b>	5-1
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	5 - MSP related projects
<b>Submission date</b>	17.9.2015
<b>Submitted by</b>	HELCOM Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

The attached progress report of the project “BONUS BALTSAPCE – Towards Sustainable Governance of Baltic Marine Space”, launched in spring 2015, has been received by the HELCOM Secretariat from the BONUS BALTSAPCE team.

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the project’s progress.

## BONUS BALTSAPACE progress report

### 1. Analytical and evaluation framework

The development of an analytical framework for the analysis and evaluation of the identified MSP integration challenges is a critical task in the BONUS BALTSAPACE project. A draft framework has been set up, which will be validated based on the exploratory research findings from the case studies (see 2. Case studies). For issues in relation to transboundary (stakeholder) integration in MSP processes, synergies with the DG MARE funded Baltic SCOPE project, which aims at developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for cross-border MSP cases, will be made use of. To this end, the interview process has been coordinated. BONUS BALTSAPACE has integrated its questions into the interview guidelines used by SYKE within Baltic SCOPE. Interview results will be shared.

A summer course on MSP and integration challenges is planned for late August 2016. PhD students are the target group.

### 2. Case studies

The BONUS BALTSAPACE project has defined three broad case study areas: the South-Western Baltic case (DK, DE, SE, PL), the Eastern Baltic case (LT, LV, EE, SE) as well as the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group which offers a pan-Baltic governance perspective. It is the aim to identify MSP integration challenges, including enablers and constraints for integration, in specific sub-case studies. A preliminary list of sub-cases has been compiled. Synergies will be sought with the Baltic SCOPE project and parallel ongoing national MSP processes when examining the BONUS BALTSAPACE sub-cases. Initial country assessments on MSP integration challenges in Poland and Lithuania have been drafted. Having agreed upon a template, initial country assessments for all BONUS BALTSAPACE countries will be developed in the coming months. A MSP Dialogue Forum on the integration challenges identified will be held with planners from the South-Western Baltic and Eastern Baltic case areas between December 2015 and early 2016 respectively. The aim is to receive input for the case studies and feedback on the theoretical assumptions that will help refine the analytical framework. Planning work on these MSP Dialogue Forums has started. Also a MSP Dialogue Forum at pan-Baltic level is foreseen. Work (interviews, etc.) on the case studies is planned to start by 2016

### 3. Science-based approaches and tools

BONUS BALTSAPACE aims to develop new tools and approaches as well as refine existing ones that support planners and stakeholders in MSP processes. A draft catalogue of approaches and tools has been compiled, which comprises the following tools/approaches:

- Marxan site selection tool
- Spatial cost-benefit analysis
- Integrated indicator system
- Bow-tie approach
- Governance baselines
- Open standards

It provides an overview on each tool, describes its use, necessary inputs, outputs, strengths and weaknesses and makes reference to further information sources. Furthermore, it has been analysed how each tool/approach relates to the integration challenges as well as which tools/approaches can

complement each other. The underlying idea behind each tool/approach will be presented and discussed with planners and researchers at the Baltic SCOPE kick-off event on 29 September 2015. It is the aim at this event to receive input, advice and constructive criticism from this audience to make sure that the tools/approaches will be developed in a ways so that they are useful for planners. Research on each tool is planned to start by end 2015 / beginning of 2016 (depending on the tool).

#### **4. Communication**

BONUS BALTSAPCE has developed a communication strategy to manage the project's dissemination activities. This includes the following activities which have been implemented so far: i) presentation of BONUS BALTSAPCE at relevant events, e.g. the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Jurmala, Latvia in June 2015, ii) launch of the BONUS BALTSAPCE website (<http://www.baltspace.eu/>) iii) first BONUS BALTSAPCE newsletter sent out to more than 900 recipients with an MSP background as well as sector representatives.