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Background

The attached document contains a progress report of the project Baltic SCOPE – Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to

- take note of the report,
- reflect on how this work can be used in the national and transnational maritime spatial planning,
- raise issues for the Baltic SCOPE partnership to consider, including how to improve the usefulness, usability and use of its results.

Baltic SCOPE progress report

Baltic SCOPE is a collaboration to achieve coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic maritime spatial plans. The collaboration unites maritime spatial planning authorities and pan-Baltic organizations to find planning solutions to transboundary issues and improve the maritime spatial planning processes. The two-year collaboration is funded by the ten partners and the European Commission DG MARE.

Advancements on evidence, exchange and evaluation

Basis for solutions

- Bi-lateral and tri-lateral meetings in the Southwest case to solve transboundary issues.
 - Thematic meeting with national sector authorities and experts in the Central case.
 - Cross sectoral stakeholder conference in the Central case with national sector authorities and experts giving suggestions on issues and on recommendations to address the same issues.
1. Topic papers on Shipping, Environment, Fisheries and Energy. One for each of the two case areas Southwest and Central Baltic published. Get them at www.balticscope.eu.
 2. Additional shipping density maps.
 3. First test of common map showing valuable environmental areas (not reviewed)
 4. Paper on Maritime activities and MSP data
 5. Contributed to draft website tool where you will be able to compare traffic intensity and ship types between months, based on AIS data 2005-2014 separated in different categories produced partly within Baltic SCOPE.
 6. Comparison of how ecosystem approach will be used in six member countries. Will be base for analysis on how it can be used and to find common understanding of the approach.

Networks and operational exchange

- Added value for national MSP processes by continuously providing experiences, material and results feeding into countries on-going national MSP processes.
- Contributed to transboundary mindset(?) in helping minding other countries planning and its consequences for own operations. Especially perhaps among participating national sector authorities and agencies.
- Exchange planned with Baltic LINes 21-22 November, regarding topic papers, maps and shipping web tool, lessons on general implementation, institutional stakeholder involvement, going from sector perspective to integrated MSP perspective, as well as draft recommendations on transboundary issues and processes.
- Steering Group expressed the wish to explore possibility for a continuation in Baltic SCOPE 2.

Monitoring & Evaluation framework

- Identified preferred outcomes for transboundary collaboration and possible evidence of knowing that the outcomes are reached.
- Definition of framework criteria and indicators.

Lessons learned

Lessons will be presented in final report at end of project, and preliminary results at Baltic MSP Forum.

Survey among participants generally shows that:

- ✓ Coordination between partner institutions in Baltic SCOPE was successful
- ✓ Baltic SCOPE created stronger links between the planning authorities taking part in the project
- ✓ Baltic SCOPE has strengthened a pan-Baltic approach to maritime spatial planning.

- ✓ Partners were at different stages in their national MSP process and this was a perceived challenge for collaboration in the project. However, through Baltic SCOPE, planners have gained a deeper understanding of project partners' national planning systems.
- ✓ Baltic SCOPE successfully promoted cross-sectoral synergies.
- ✓ Baltic SCOPE has provided planners with new knowledge, tools and methods to deal with transboundary issues in MSP
- ✓ Participation in Baltic SCOPE has encouraged partner organisations to integrate transboundary perspectives into national planning processes

Dissemination

- Presented progress to the Ministry of the Environment in Finland, preparing the start of their national MSP process.
- Estonian seminar with planning department and external experts to gather input for the initiation of the national MSP process.
- Used at Swedish national cross-sectoral meeting and reference group.
- Discussion about Baltic SCOPE activities at meeting of projects Baltic LINEs and NorthSEE, June.
- Presented at VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting in Warsaw, June
- Key findings from the preparation of the Monitoring and Evaluation framework presented in the BaltSpace Summer School, August.
- Baltic SCOPE lessons learned presented for a worldwide audience at “*World Planning School Congress*” in Brazil, July.
- Touch screen app of project Baltic SCOPE developed. Received great interest at both European Maritime Day 2016 and at Strategy Forum of the EUSBSR at the VASAB/Baltic SCOPE expo stand.
- [Workshop on Blue Growth using InterVision method](#) was held at European Maritime Day 2016 and gathered a lot of participants.
- Mediterranean and Black Sea area at the Mediterranean Coastal Foundation event, September.
- Political Seminar at Strategy Forum of the EUSBSR, November.

Reports and documents to come

1. Lessons learned: Cross-border Responses to MSP Challenges
2. Recommendations from Southwest Baltic Sea
3. Recommendations from Central Baltic Sea
4. Experience of developing Latvian MSP – step by step recipe
5. Evaluating transboundary collaboration processes: a methodological framework
6. Three Checklists for Ecosystem Approach in MSP

Upcoming events

- Baltic MSP Forum 23-24 November will feature Baltic SCOPE's last public conference. Co-organized with VASAB and ICES
- Planners meetings 12 December
- Partner meetings 25-26 January, last and concluding
- End of project 15 March

Issues to manage

Coordination and resources between MSP projects.