



OUTCOME OF THE 13TH MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 13-2016)

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3.2 The Meeting took note that the events related to the ocean governance will take place next spring.

3.3 The Meeting took note of the following information on national MSP developments:

- Denmark: MSP legislation setting the framework for MSP is in place and MSP process is under development.
- Estonia: Two pilot areas MSP have been recently finalized. Estonia is currently developing a model of financial implication of different use of the sea. Estonia will share the experience on that in future.
- Finland: National legislation in MSP came into force in October 2016. Regional councils will draft three MSPs. The Ministry of the Environment is providing general guidance and is in charge of cooperation with neighbouring countries. Finland also clarified that Åland island has own responsibility in elaboration of the MSP legislation.
- Germany: Transposition of the EU Directive into national law: An amendment of the Federal Spatial Planning Law has passed the federal Cabinet and the legislative procedure is foreseen to be completed soon. Update of the State Development Programme Mecklenburg-Vorpommern: The former State Development Programme Mecklenburg-Vorpommern of 2005 has been updated and the new programme came into force in June 2016. Same as the former State Development Programme also the new programme covers both land and sea, i.e. MSP for the territorial waters of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is included. The foreseen lifetime of the programme is about 10 years
- Latvia: Latvia has notified the transposition of MSP Directive with existing regulations. Those are spatial planning law (2011) and secondary legislation on elaboration of MSP (2012). These legal acts are more detailed than requirements in the MSP Directive. The national MSP in Latvia is still in elaboration phase. Recently a study of existing regulations concerning the use of sea was performed in order to better integrate MSP in existing legal framework. The MSP will be once again discussed with stakeholders and it is foreseen to be adopted by the government by mid-2017.
- Lithuania: In June 2015 the MSP document was adopted by the Parliament. The document is prepared and adopted as a part of national comprehensive plan which now integrates both land and sea territories. The EU Directive has been already transposed into national legislation.
- Poland: MSP legislation is already in place and the work on Polish MSP has begun. In November 2016 took place the first international meeting regarding possible content and direction of development of the Polish plan. Representatives from all BSR countries were invited (except Norway). The first draft of the plan should be ready up to end of the second quarter of 2017. The second international meeting, where the above mentioned draft will be presented is planned for the fourth quarter of 2017.
- Sweden: The first yearly draft Swedish MSPs have been developed and will be published on the 1st of December 2016 on the website of SwAM. They will be discussed with stakeholders during spring 2017. MSP is high priority in the Swedish chairmanship in VASAB.
- Russia: The national legislation in MSP has been under development. The sequence of the legal acts to be adopted has been identified. According to that, the MSP legal act will follow the Federal law on state management of maritime activity which will identify the responsible authority. The Federal law on state management of maritime activity is currently in the Parliament.

3.4 The Meeting took note of the updates of National MSP Contact points for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning as presented in document 3-1.

3.5 The Meeting took note of the recent developments and activities related to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and Horizontal Action (HA) Spatial Planning for which HELCOM and VASAB act as the Horizontal Action Coordinators (HACs) and the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG acts as the Steering Committee concerning the MSP part.

3.6 The Meeting took note of the ongoing pre-selection of seed money project proposals under Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme.

Agenda Item 4 Ecosystem-based approach in MSP

Documents: 4-1, 4-2

4.1 The Meeting took note that the Guideline for implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP was adopted by the 72nd meeting of VASAB CSPD/BSR without prejudice to the national legislation on MSP taking into account its non-binding nature and approved by HELCOM HOD 50-2016.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the information on the workshop on application of ecosystem approach organized by the Baltic SCOPE project and its Task Force on the ecosystem approach, on 24 November 2016 in the second MSP Forum as presented by Sweden.

4.3 The Meeting took note of the information on the development of “green infrastructure” concept for the purpose of MSP in Sweden (document 4-2, **Presentation 1**). The Meeting highly appreciated the presented concept and noted that the concept is mainly based on biodiversity. Sweden clarified that the ambition had been to include both connectivity and biodiversity but the connectivity part needed further development.

4.4 The Meeting took note of the information by Germany on the ongoing project related to, among other issues, the connectivity and identification of the priority areas for nature conservation. Germany indicated that the tasks are quite similar but just bear different names and invited Sweden to be in contact on the project level to continue a dialogue.

4.5 The Meeting took note of the remark by Estonia that the developed concept as well as the Symphony tool might be of relevance to other countries and could be elaborated in other projects. The Meeting agreed that the development of the concept of green infrastructure on a regional level might be considered for inclusion into the group working plan.

4.6 The Meeting took note that the Co-chair of HELCOM State & Conservation WG approached the Co-chairs of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG regarding possible steps and cooperation between the groups on MPA and MSPs. The Meeting thanked the Co-Chair of S&C group for the initiative and invited the Chair together with the HELCOM Secretariat to develop the suggestion further based on comments by the Contracting Parties/member states to be provided by **15 January 2017**.

4.7 The Meeting took note of the information on social and economic analysis (ESA) for MSP as presented by Ms. Soile Oinonen, Finland (document 4-1, **Presentation 2**). The Meeting pointed out a longer-term timeframe needed for the ESA development work. The Meeting found it relevant to exchange information on national approaches and work on ESA as social and economic aspects are required to be taken into account in MSP by the existing legislation.

4.8 The Meeting took note of the information by Sweden that MSP plans should include ESA but the methodological aspects are still under discussion and welcomed work which might lead to fruitful results in future. The Meeting also noted the view of the EU Commission welcoming further developments of the ESA and its integration into the MSPs.

4.9 The Meeting took note of the position by Lithuania that the ESA should be performed in accordance with the legal frame work.

Agenda Item 5 Planning future work and a new Work Plan

Documents: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3

5.1 The Meeting recalled the coordinated process to consider a future work plan on Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea as presented in document 5-2.

5.2 The Meeting took note of the decisions by VASAB and HELCOM on the prolongation of the mandate of the group as presented in document 5-1. VASAB CSPD/BSR prolonged the mandate until the end of 2019 as HELCOM HOD prioritized to prolong the mandate up to 2021.

5.3 The Meeting considered the request by HELCOM HOD to update the Terms of Reference of the group. The Meeting agreed that the mandate stands as it reads now as it seems to be valid. However, there are some references that could be updated. The Meeting requested both Secretariats to make the needed technical changes by **15 December 2016**.

5.4 The Meeting took note of the identified MSP topics as presented in document 5-3.

5.5 The Meeting elaborated and agreed that the new work plan could be exposed for three years and could be revisited and further expanded afterwards. The Meeting requested the Secretariats to make editorial adjustment of the agreed document without substantial changes (by **29 November 2016**) and submit it for approval to HELCOM HOD and VASAB CSPD/BSR.

5.6 The Meeting took note of the progress towards achieving the main tasks of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group including the outcomes of the third and fourth meetings of the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Sub-Group held on 12 April 2016 and 13 June 2016, presented by the Chair of MSP data Sub-Group. The next meeting of the group will be held in Warsaw on 15 December 2016.

5.7 The Meeting agreed to prolong the mandate of the MSP Data Expert Sub-Group for the next 3 years. The Meeting agreed to review the ToR for the subgroup at the next Meeting, if it would be needed.

5.8 The Meeting took note that the EU funded "HASPS 2" project supports the MSP Data Expert Sub-Group.

5.9 The Meeting agreed that the next meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 14-2017) will take place in the second week of May 2017 and welcomed the offer by Sweden to host the Meeting in Stockholm.

5.10 The Meeting welcomed the invitation by Poland to host the 15th meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in Gdansk in the end of 2017.

5.11 The Meeting discussed the working method of the group and agreed on the following:

- to organize at each meeting an exchange of practical experience in MSP based on presentations by the countries possibly including cross border issues; Germany offered to present recent results of planning in Mecklenburg Western Pomerania;
- the group should more utilize means of intersessional work to which allocation of national resources should be improved;
- to encourage the Contracting Parties to consider offering a leadership in intersessional activities to support implementation of the work plan.

Agenda Item 6

MSP related projects and events

Documents: 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3-Rev.1, 6-4

6.1 The Meeting recalled the existing procedure for granting flagship status and support letters as presented in document 6-1.

6.2 The Meeting took note of the new procedure of Interreg Baltic Sea Region Seed Money proposal pre-selection as informed by the VASAB Secretariat. In total five seed money proposals were received for the pre-selection (three MSP-related and two for land-based spatial planning). The Co-chairs and Vice-Co-chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG will jointly make the pre-selection for MSP and ICM-related seed money project ideas. Members of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG will be informed of the pre-selection results.

6.3 The Meeting took note of the information on the activities within the Baltic LINes project by Germany as presented in document 6-2. The Meeting acknowledged that the project had moved from the

Agenda Item 9

Outcome of the Meeting

Documents: 9-1

9.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 9-1.

9.2 The Outcome of the Meeting has been finalized by the HELCOM Secretariat and made available in the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#) as well as on the [VASAB website](#), together with meeting documents and the presentations considered during the Meeting.

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