



Document title	Description of submitted project platform to the Interreg BSR Programme 2nd Call for Project Platforms: “Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers” - Capacity4MSP
Code	6-2
Category	INF
Agenda Item	6 – MSP-related projects and events
Submission date	11.3.2019
Submitted by	VASAB Secretariat
Reference	

Background

Interreg BSR Programme`s 2nd Call for the project platforms was open from 2nd October 2018 till 31 January 2019 to combine projects for more impact, more intensive use, better durability and transferability of the projects` outcomes.

VASAB Secretariat together with Maritime Institute in Gdańsk (PL), Aalborg University (DK), Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SE), HELCOM, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (LV), s.Pro (DE), Scientific and Research Institute of MSP Ermak NorthWest (RU) prepared and submitted a platform project application “Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers (Capacity4MSP)”.

The document contains the description of the submitted project platform “Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers”.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Description of submitted project platform to the Interreg BSR Programme 2nd Call for Project Platforms: “Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers” - Capacity4MSP

During the last decade significant progress has been achieved in building cooperation networks and creating a strong policy background for maritime spatial planning (MSP) in the BSR. Nearly all BSR countries are engaged in MSP processes and are in various stages of preparation of their maritime plans, making the BSR a front-runner in Europe and the world. Current regional goals for MSP are set for 2020/21 and a number of actions have already been initiated to enrich the existing policy and cooperation framework and to consider future macro-regional MSP cooperation. These actions include an update the Baltic MSP Roadmap; the VASAB Long Term Perspective; the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and the EUSBSR Action Plan.

Several key challenges of future MSP include the harmonization of national MSP in the BSR, practical MSP implementation and evaluation and monitoring. Capacity4MSP will address these issues by creating a practically oriented and interactive collaboration platform for knowledge exchange and intensified dialogue between **MSP practitioners** (involved in or responsible for the elaboration of MSP), **decision-** and **policy makers** (EU COM, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and its Data expert sub-group; responsible institutions for MSP etc.) and **other stakeholders** (blue-economy representatives, relevant EUSBSR coordinators, environmentalists etc.). It will increase the visibility and impact of single projects, build up potential synergies, deepen and widen the gained knowledge from projects by synthesizing, amplifying and transferring the project outcomes to new practical solutions.

A regular dialogue with stakeholders is a crucial part of Capacity4MSP and the project will collect and discuss the knowledge and experience gained in previous MSP projects and national MSP processes in order to ensure efficient and value-added knowledge-transfer within and outside the BSR and across various sectors and governance levels. The main outputs include:

- **A synthesis report** on the outcomes of MSP-related projects in correlation with ongoing MSP processes and activities in the BSR countries. It will gather achievements from projects, national & pan-Baltic MSP initiatives and will include an MSP cooperation agenda for 2020, possible MSP project cooperation themes and policy 'pointers' for further macro-regional MSP policy development.
- **Support mechanisms** for MSP practitioners and MSP policy- and decision makers around the BSR and beyond to support the 1) implementation, monitoring and evaluation of plans, 2) pan-Baltic MSP data use by developing a user-guide for the Baltic MSP webmap BASEMAPS, 3) a proposal for an institutionalized tool for a regular follow-up on the accomplishment of regional MSP commitments and 4) fostering the implementation of MSP in non-EU countries by developing a Roadmap for MSP in Russia.
- **Integrated report** with main takeaway messages concerning **MSP stakeholder involvement**, awareness-raising and engagement into MSP at various governance levels.

PLATFORM STRUCTURE

WP 1. Indicative Platform management and administration (lead by VASAB)

1. VASAB Secretariat (lead partner)
2. Maritime Institute in Gdansk (PL)
3. Aalborg University (DK)
4. Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SE)
5. HELCOM Secretariat

6. Ministry of Environment & Regional Development of Latvia (LV)
7. Sustainable Projects – S.Pro (DE)
8. Institute of Maritime Spatial Planning Ermak Northwest (RU)

Up to 5 partner meetings, to be organized back-to-back with other Platform events.

The HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG will act as a reference group for the project to ensure the involvement of all BSR countries dealing with MSP, thus providing them with an opportunity to react and feed into the outcomes of the project.

WP2. Deepened and widened knowledge for MSP (lead by MIG):

Group of Activities 2.1: “Capitalization of the current activities and projects” (lead by MIG)

Within the activity, a **Synthesis report** will be elaborated based on outcomes of the relevant MSP-related projects in correlation with ongoing MSP processes and activities in the BSR countries. It will gather achievements from projects and national and macro-regional MSP initiatives and identify additional focus areas for regional collaboration and cooperation for the future MSP cooperation agenda after 2020, as well as indicate possible MSP cooperation project themes for the next EU financial perspective 2021- 2027. The Synthesis report additionally will include **policy pointers** for further macro-regional MSP policy development.

Currently nearly all BSR countries are engaged in MSP processes, therefore the Synthesis report will support BSR countries' efforts by providing a compendium of knowledge collected from past and ongoing projects and initiatives. The joint analysis and synthesis will contribute to increasing the knowledge necessary for effective and coherent implementation of MSP, in particular when planning challenges and solutions are of a transboundary character. The Synthesis report will be prepared and adjusted in close collaboration with the MSP stakeholders' dialogue within the Platform (particularly cross-thematic workshops and the Planners forum).

Group of Activities 2.2: “Supporting the implementation of the MSP in the BSR” (lead by S.Pro)

The group of activities will result in the following outputs:

1. **Report on identified support mechanisms for the implementation of MSP (by S.Pro)** encompassing conclusions on:

- criteria and indicators for process, content and performance of MSPs and related SEAs and proposals for how to follow up on the accomplishment of regional MSP commitments;
- favourable and less favourable conditions for implementing MSPs and the achievement of intended effects;
- relationship with / integration of other spatially relevant (sectoral) planning.

2. **User guide and visualization material of BASEMAPS (by HELCOM)** available for MSP data providers, planners and other users in the BSR. The user guide will explain step by step how to use the basic functions of BASEMAPS, especially its admin panel. The admin panel is the tool to add or update datasets and it is important that data providers use it on a common basis. The visualization material will consist of a short video displaying some examples on how to use the basic functions of BASEMAPS such as browsing, adding or updating data. This content will support the work of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Data group and will be also presented in a thematic workshop on data sharing through the Work Package 3 (GoA 3.1) as well as during a Planners Forum (GoA 3.2). Both of these events will bring relevant input to adjust the content of the user guide and the

interactive presentation to ensure and support their uses by MSP practitioners, stakeholders and data providers.

3. **Proposal of an institutionalized tool for a regular follow up** (by HELCOM) of the regional MSP commitments in the Baltic Sea Region.

4. **MSP Roadmap for Russia** (by Ermak NW) in order to stimulate the implementation of MSP in Russia. The Roadmap will consider relevant national MSP framework, identify key activities, relevant stakeholders and responsible institutions, as well as analyse compliance of MSP objectives with the goals and objectives of the national project 'Ecology' and RU federal and regional strategies for Baltic Sea.

WP 3. Intensified dialogue with MSP stakeholders and decision makers (lead by VASAB)

Group of Activities 3.1: "Cross-sectorial dialogue (lead by MIG)

The activity will result in at least 6 cross-thematic and transnational workshops in order to deepen and bring forward the gained knowledge from various MSP projects among various the project's target groups. The results of each workshop will be compiled in a workshop report and will feed into the further elaboration and adjustment of WP2 products (Synthesis report with Policy messages, BASEMAPS user guide, Russian MSP Roadmap). Findings from the workshops will also be used as an input material for the development of the integrated stakeholder report (GoA 3.3.).

Group of Activities 3.2. "Planners Dialogue" (lead by SwAM)

The activity will result in a series of Planners Forum meetings, to be hosted back to back with relevant pan-Baltic events (e.g. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meetings) and cross-thematic workshops within the Platform (GoA3.1).

Possible topics might include:

- Synthesis report – findings, feedback & adjustments (MIG)
- experience on MSP implementation, monitoring and evaluation from past and on-going processes in the BSR and beyond (s.Pro)
- BASEMAPS promotion among MSP practitioners and identification of their needs (HELCOM)
- tasks and competencies for the Russian MSP Roadmap (ErmakNW)
- Integrated report on Stakeholder involvement & engagement in MSP – findings, feedback, adjustments (VASAB)
- promotion of various impact assessment tools for MSP (AaU)

The main outcomes and conclusions from Planners Forum meetings will be compiled into a report and will feed into the elaboration of other Platform products (Synthesis report with Policy messages, proposal for regional follow-up system, support mechanisms for MSP implementation, integrated stakeholder report etc.). Moreover, the activity will result in a proposal for the durability of the Planners Forum as an informal MSP cooperation mechanism after the termination of the Platform project.

Group of Activities 3.3: "Accumulating knowledge on stakeholder involvement and engagement into MSP" (lead by VASAB)

The activity will result in an integrated report on MSP stakeholder involvement and engagement. It will include a harmonized overview and lessons learnt from projects` approaches and national MSP processes addressing stakeholder involvement, awareness-raising and engagement with MSP at pan-Baltic and national or regional level. The activity will also produce main takeaway messages for dissemination to MSP planners within and outside the BSR.

WP 4. Visibility and Communication of the Platform (lead by VASAB)

Group of Activities 4.1: “Increasing the visibility and strengthening the communication of the Platform” (lead by VASAB)

The activity will result in:

- 1) Capacity4MSP visual identity and communication materials (logo & common graphic design, flyer, presentation and report template, roll-up, website, etc.);
- 2) A kick-off event;
- 3) A final conference;
- 4) Representation of the project and its outputs at other relevant networks and events;
- 5) Published and distributed communication materials about the project.

MAIN MILESTONES OF PLATFORM

Start: August 2019 **End by:** July 2021

Partner meetings: up to 5, every 6 months and at concluding part

Platform kick off: together or back-to-back with Pan Baltic Scope final event in November 2019

Thematic workshops (4-5-6): up to proposals, back-to-back with Partner meetings and Planners Forum

Planners Forum meetings (3-4): if possible, back-to-back with H-V MSP WG meetings, Partner meetings

Final event: in June 2021

BUDGET

Total budget: € 999,972.50

Total ERDF: € 909,950.00

Total ENI + RUSSIA: € 90,022.50

Own contribution: € 192,695.88