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Assessment of Regional MSP Framework

HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group 19th Meeting

St Petersburg, 28 October 2019

Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management

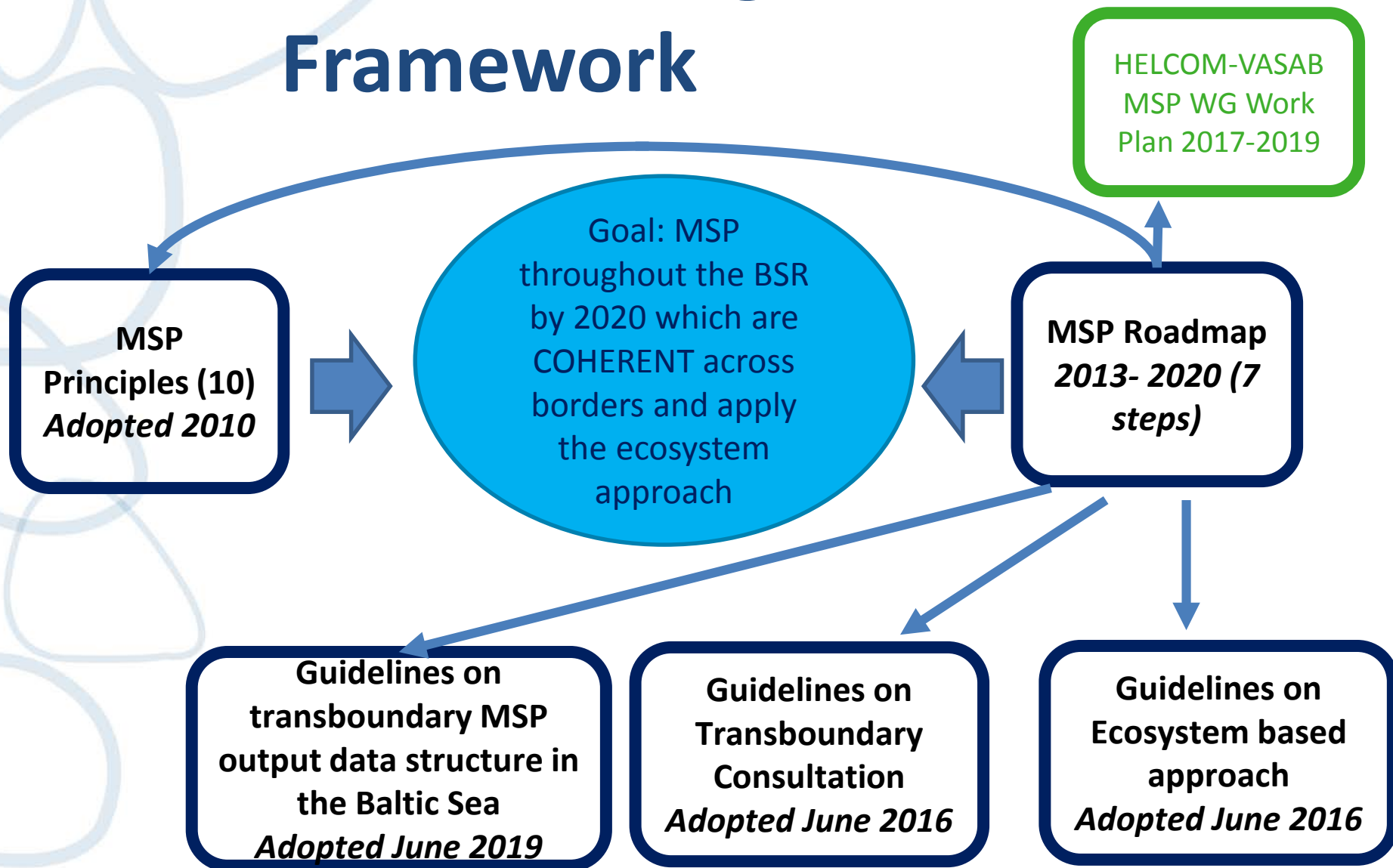


Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
of the Republic of Latvia

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Common Regional MSP Framework



The MSP principles

	Baltic Sea MSP principles	Recommendation
1.	Sustainable management	The definition requires revision to ensure consistency in the message as well as to integrate additional new, emerging issues of sustainable management.
2.	Ecosystem approach	The definition requires a revision as it states that “overarching principle for Maritime Spatial Planning which aims at achieving a Baltic Sea ecosystem in good status” is rather unfeasible considering that main pollution sources are land based, thus the potential contribution to achievement of the good ecosystem status is rather limited in its scope. Nevertheless, it is important to highlight importance of the MSP to contribute to achieving GES based on the MSP instruments and mandate.
3.	Long term perspective and objectives	revision of the definition is not needed

The MSP principles

	Baltic Sea MSP principles	Recommendation
4.	Precautionary Principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a debate is needed whether precautionary principle shall be kept as distinct principle or included within EBA as practical application is strongly linked to EBA and SEA.• clarification is needed with regard to the last sentence “A similar, but distinct, the forward looking perspective should be applied with respect to the economic and social dimensions.” Otherwise, the sentence is rather repetitive of the message in the MSP principle of sustainable development.
5.	Participation and Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• revision of the definition is not needed
6.	High quality data and information basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the headline could be revised by replacing “High” with “Best” as it is rather difficult to judge whether data has “high” quality
7.	Transnational coordination and consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• revision of the definition is not needed

The MSP principles

	Baltic Sea MSP principles	Recommendation
8.	Coherent terrestrial and maritime spatial planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• revision of the definition is not needed
9.	Planning adapted to characteristics and special conditions at different areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• revision of the definition is not needed
10.	Continuous planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• revision of the definition is needed to emphasize that planning is a cyclic process and different human and financial resources are required at each planning phases



Summary

- No new principle to be added, rather modify the relevant existing ones.
- Revisions are suggested for **6 out of 10** principles.
- During the Planning Forum of the Pan Baltic Scope project in Tallinn an idea on restructuring the principles has been proposed: ecosystem approach and sustainable management as overarching principles.



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Guidelines on Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation

Swedish Agency
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Transboundary consultation

- **Scope of the transboundary consultation**
- **Establishing a formal process of transboundary information exchange and consultation EARLY in the MSP process**
 - inform their neighbouring counterparts of their intention to start a MSP process; in the form of a formal letter/e-mail
 - state the intention and the nature of the maritime spatial plan
 - ask for relevant documents and any other information
 - inform the neighbouring countries, once the stakeholder process begins in order to give the neighbouring country the option of installing a parallel domestic stakeholder process




Not always the case, some countries rather start with internal stocktaking process and only then announce on MSP process

Transboundary consultation

- **Organising stakeholder involvement in the transboundary consultation process**
 - Each country has own procedures how to organise the transboundary stakeholder process for responding to neighbouring countries MSP
 - when requested by the competent authorities from a country which started elaboration of the MSP:
 - Initiate and run a stakeholder involvement process
 - Collect information and input to neighbouring MSP;
 - communicate the results of the stakeholder process to the country drafting MSP
- **The competent authorities of MSP inform how the remarks are considered**

Rather
passive
involvement
process



Not
always



Developing a transboundary consultation strategy

success

- Direct communication at the level of the competent authorities is essential for building up a capital of trust, so networking between the competent authorities and MSP practitioners should be encouraged.

Various experiences

- Face to face meetings with the neighbouring countries are encouraged, to present and discuss the planned MSP process

Not always

- Direct communication to stakeholders on the planned undertaking

Timing of transboundary consultation

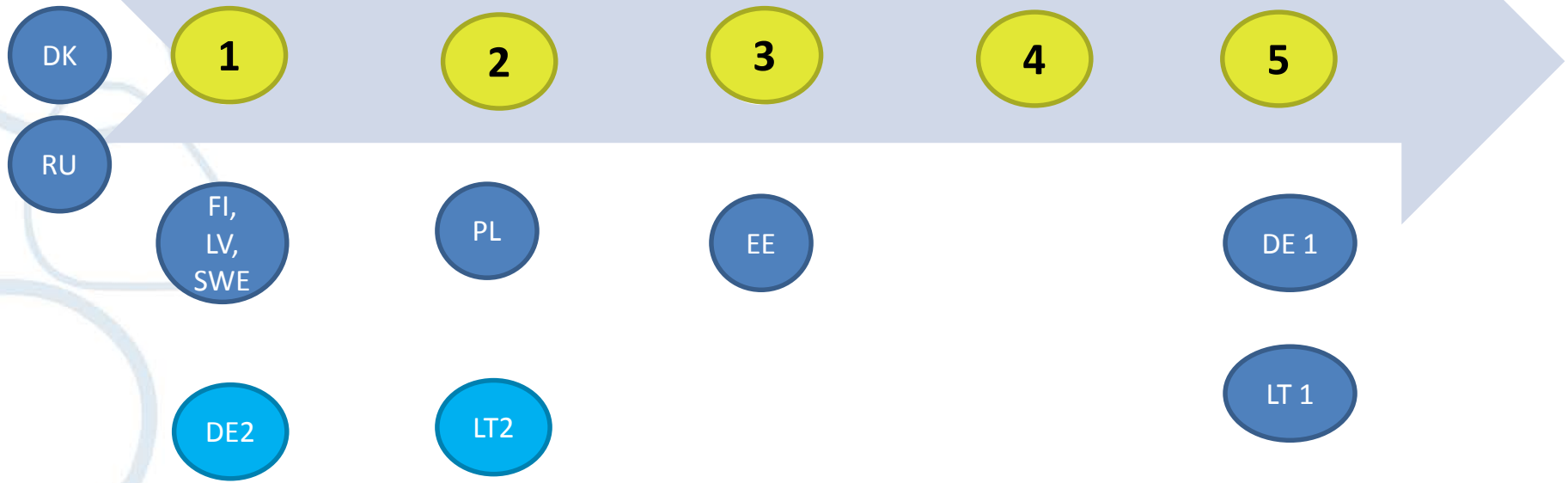
At the same time as national process (letter sent)

Stocktaking /assessment t of current situation completed

Main aims and objectives drafted

Scenarios or alternatives for maritime spatial use drafted

Draft version of the maritime spatial plan prepared





Main challenges and proposals for improvement

- **Some countries are experiencing of having too many formal meetings with limited outcomes.**
 - In general, informal and links to sectorial cooperation is seen as very important condition. Maybe the official process could go faster if there are more informal meetings.
 - Informal meetings before formal meetings make the latter more efficient, as the information changed in a deeper way.



Main challenges and proposals for improvement

- There is a room for improvement regarding **preparation and facilitation of the meetings**. Most often, materials are presented only at meetings without prior review; thus it is difficult to contribute. There have been also situations that meetings focused on topics that are of very low or non-direct importance as the cross-border issue.
- Transparency of the process shall be strengthened



Main challenges and proposals for improvement

- There is established good practice to nominate **MSP contact points** by each country. However, the contacts might not be always updated when staff has been changed.
- Although the main steps and principles of transboundary consultation are in general clear, a development of a separate and more focused **transboundary consultation strategy** could be considered for future.



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Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020

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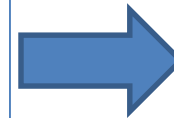


MSP Roadmap 2013-2020

GOAL: Will make every effort to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach.

7 steps

1. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP
2. Public participation
3. Ecosystem approach in MSP
4. Information and data for MSP
5. Education for MSP
6. National and Baltic Sea regional frameworks for MSP in place
7. Evaluation and follow-up



MSP WG
Work Plan

HELCOM-VASAB Roadmap

Steps	Output	Challenges
1. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MSP WG meetings 2. Global and EU cooperation 3. Guidelines on cooperation 4. Coordination of projects 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bridge with national level 2. Global cooperation 3. Application 4. -, to be continued
2. Public participation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency • Stakeholder involvement on other country's MSP
3. Ecosystem approach in MSP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application • Enhance/up-date guidelines
4. Information and data for MSP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact points for MSP 2. Share basic, relevant and available MSP information 3. HELCOM Map and Data service; BASEMAPS 4. Utilize existing processes (EMODNET, INSPIRE) 5. Report on marine and maritime activities 6. Guidelines on output data 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. -, to be continued 2. Data formats, ownership 3. Takes time, to be continued 4. Does not provide hudge address value

HELCOM-VASAB Roadmap

Steps	Output	Challenges
5. Education for MSP	Support to various programmes/projects	- Missing an regional overview of educational activities, needs for professionals
6. National and Baltic Sea regional frameworks for MSP in place	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. National frameworks for coherent MSP2. Apply guidelines	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Except Russia2. -, to be continued
7. Evaluation and follow-up	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. monitoring and evaluation needs of MSP2. Update the Roadmap	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Challenge in evaluation (how and what shall be evaluated)2. In process

Workshop on HELCOM- VASAB MSP WG WP 20-21

Which actions shall be included in WP?

- What shall be modified?
- What should be added?
- What is irrelevant?



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