



Document title	Capacity4MSP Flagship recommendation for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)
Code	6-2
Category	DEC
Agenda Item	6 - Coordination of Horizontal Action Spatial Planning and MSP related projects and events
Submission date	10.3.2020
Submitted by	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
Reference	

Background

Actions of the EUSBSR can be implemented by means of flagships – projects and processes. In addition, they can serve as examples for desired action. This template is meant to help assess projects/process applying for flagship status. It is to be completed by the responsible policy area or horizontal action coordinator when submitting of a proposal for flagship status. The template is based on the provisions (criteria/procedure) to become a flagship as outlined in the EUSBSR Action Plan.

The following template was filled-in with information about the project platform Capacity4MSP to apply for flagship status. As an Interreg-funded project platform, Capacity4MSP will create a practically oriented and interactive collaboration platform for knowledge exchange and intensified dialogue between MSP practitioners, policy- and decision-makers and other stakeholders. It will increase the visibility and impact of projects, build up potential synergies, deepen and widen gained know-how by synthesizing, amplifying and transferring the project outcomes to new practical solutions.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to agree on the recommendation of flagship status for Capacity4MSP.

Capacity4MSP Flagship recommendation for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

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Flagship title:

Project platform

“Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers”

(Capacity4MSP)

EUSBSR policy area/horizontal action (contributing to which EUSBSR objective(s)/sub-objective(s)):

Horizontal Action “Spatial Planning” – with its main goal to increase territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea region by encouraging the use of maritime and land-based spatial planning in all Member States around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation.

I. Short description of the project (to be published in the annex of the Action Plan)

Platform aims to strengthen the capacity of maritime spatial planning stakeholders, policy- and decision-makers through intensified dialogue activities and amplifying the gained knowledge in maritime spatial planning. Capacity4MSP builds on the results of the current and recently completed MSP projects and ongoing MSP processes in the Baltic Sea Region.

During the last decade significant progress has been achieved in building cooperation networks and creating a strong policy background for maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region. Nearly all Baltic Sea Region countries are engaged in MSP processes and are in various stages of preparation of their maritime plans, making our Region a front-runner in Europe and the world.

Capacity4MSP will create a practically oriented and interactive collaboration platform for knowledge exchange and intensified dialogue between MSP practitioners, policy- and decision-makers and other stakeholders. It will increase the visibility and impact of projects, build up potential synergies, deepen and widen gained know-how by synthesizing, amplifying and transferring the project outcomes to new practical solutions.

A regular dialogue with stakeholders is a crucial part of Capacity4MSP. By collecting and discussing lessons learned in previous MSP projects and national MSP processes, project will ensure efficient and value-added knowledge-transfer within and outside the Region and across various sectors and governance levels.

To reach these goals, the project will provide the following main outputs:

1. Synthesis report based on outcomes of relevant MSP-related projects in correlation with ongoing MSP processes and activities in the BSR countries
2. Identified support mechanisms for the implementation of the MSP including:
 - 2.1. Report on identified support mechanisms for the implementation of MSP encompassing conclusions
 - 2.2. User guide and visualization material of BASEMAPS available for MSP data providers
 - 2.3. A proposal of an institutionalised process for a regular follow up of the regional MSP commitments in the BSR

2.4. MSP roadmap for Russia

3. Thematic multi-level and cross-sectoral workshops
4. Planners Forum meetings
5. Integrated report on MSP stakeholder involvement engagement
6. Final conference jointly organized with 4th Baltic MSP Forum

Lead partner: VASAB

Project Partners:

Aalborg University (DK)
 Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SE)
 HELCOM
 Ministry of Environment and Regional Development of Latvia (LV)
 Scientific and Research Institute of Maritime Spatial Planning Ermak NorthWest Limited liability company (RU)
 Submariner Network for Blue Growth (DE)
 Russian State Hydrometeorological University (RU)
 Gdynia Maritime University (PL)

Associated Organizations:

Finnish Heritage Agency, The Baltic Region Heritage Committee (FI)
 Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia (LV)
 Danish Maritime Authority (DK)
 Ministry of Justice, European Affairs, Consumer Protection and Equality (DE)
 HA Spatial Planning
 Maritime Office Gdynia (PL)
 Danish Maritime Authority (DK)
 Estonian Ministry of Finance (EE)
 Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation (PL)
 Ministry of Energy, Infrastructure and Digitalization (DE)
 Leontief Centre (RU)
 University of Tartu (EE)
 Federal Public Service of Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment (BE)
 Finnish Ministry of the Environment (FI)
 Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (DE)
 The Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania (LT)

Project's lifetime: 1 August 2019 – 30 September 2021

Total project budget: € 1,089,272.50

(ERDF: € 909,950.00; ENI and Russian Federation budget: € 179,322.50)

Link to website: <http://capacity4msp.eu/>

II. Short assessment by the policy area coordinator/horizontal action coordinator

Key criteria (please briefly explain how the following criteria are met):

- *Macro-regional impact of the flagship*
- *How does it contribute towards the objectives/indicators/targets of the EUSBSR*
- *How does it help implement one or more actions of the policy area/horizontal action concerned*

The Baltic Sea has limits in terms of its ecological integrity and the available space for different activities which, from other hand, are inherently connected to activities and processes on land. Therefore transnational cooperation is a core prerequisite for successful and long-lasting planning and management of the sea. Capacity4MSP directly supports the macro-regional commitments and ongoing work towards the finalisation of maritime spatial plans by 2021, by integrating and synthesizing various outputs of single projects and relevant MSP activities, analyzing them from a macro-regional perspective and ensuring efficient and effective knowledge transition across and beyond the BSR. In this regard, Capacity4MSP also intends to support the joint initiative of the European Commission and IOC-UNESCO "MSP Global", which promotes cross-border MSP globally and is developing guidance on international cross-border MSP.

Platform`s consortium with its 9 Project partners and 16 Associated organizations covers whole Baltic Sea Region and is supporting the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group by indicating potential focus areas for a future MSP agenda and regional cooperation after 2021, as well as consider possible MSP cooperation project themes for the next EU financial perspective 2021-27.

Capacity4MSP corresponds directly to the ambition of the HA "Spatial Planning" to "Encourage the use of maritime and land-based spatial planning in all Member States around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation" in order to achieve a "territorial cohesion perspective of the BSR by 2030". Moreover, HA "Spatial Planning" coordinators – VASAB and HELCOM are involved in the Platform as Project partners.

Due to MSP`s comprehensive and cross-cutting nature, Capacity4MSP contributes to all three strategic objectives of the EUSBSR. The project's contribution is directly linked to indicators and targets at a strategic level of the EUSBSR under the objective 'Save the Sea' where the main task is to ensure and improve cooperation on MSP among the BSR countries and by applying the ecosystem based approach in MSP to ensure a rich and healthy wildlife. In addition, Capacity4MSP contributes to the EUSBSR objectives 'Connect the region' and especially 'Connect the people' in the region (authorities, stakeholders etc.) as these aspects are often also a result of successful MSP processes. By ensuring space for future activities and protecting the carrying capacity of the marine environment, blue growth can be boosted effectively and successfully, hereby increasing 'prosperity in the region'. Capacity4MSP builds a bridge between the EUSBSR HA "Spatial Planning", the EUSBSR Policy Area (PA) "Ship", PA "Energy", PA "Culture", PA "Nutri" and their respective Flagships. In this way, Capacity4MSP capitalizes on mutual synergies and will enhance the effectiveness of EUSBSR cooperation on MSP.

General criteria (please briefly explain to what extent the following criteria are met):

- *Transnational dimension (at least three Baltic Sea region states including at least two EU member states):* The project involves 9 partners from 7 different countries and 16 associated partners from 8 BSR countries and 1 outside the BSR; moreover – consortium involves partners from Russia; the partnership composition ensures that the project will be implemented in a good and professional way.
- *Realistic timeframe for implementation:* The project`s timeframe is sufficient - the duration of the project is 26 months.
- *Financial and activity plan:* The project has clear financial and activity plan – each activity has relevant budget.
- *Established partnership and flagship leader identified:* The project has established extensive partnership with clear divide of responsibilities and tasks among the partners. The project lead-partner is VASAB Secretariat.
- *Specific criteria's for policy area/horizontal actions (if applicable):* The project has a clear transnational dimension, it contributes to the implementation of VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region, Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020 and to the strategic target of the Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the BSR by 2020/2021 which are coherent across the borders and apply the ecosystem-based approach.

III. Please briefly explain how the procedure was followed with regard to assessing flagship status (e.g. recommended by steering committee/coordination group for support)

On 29-30 January 2015 the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group has agreed on the procedure of support on behalf of EUSBSR Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" to the potential flagship projects of MSP relevance.

Proposal to recommend the project flagship status will be discussed in the 20th HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group meeting in Warsaw, Poland on 1-2 April 2020.