



Document title	Draft Analysis for the current HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG work plan and possible future actions
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Background

The HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group work plan 2020-2021 has been agreed by the 57th Meeting of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation (HELCOM HOD 57-2019) and VASAB CSPD/BSR on 27 January 2020 via written procedure. As the mandate and work plan are both coming to an end, the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats initiated a draft evaluation of the work plan implementation. The document is intended to support discussions for the upcoming work plan and well as the mandate.

The basis material to prepare this document is the [work plan 2020-2021](#). Three columns (Status of implementation, proposed future action and relevance to the new MSP Roadmap 2030) were added to reflect the state of implementation of individual actions and propose future actions for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to discuss the draft evaluation of the workplan implementation for the period 2020-2021, comment and propose the next steps to develop the next work plan.

Nr	Task description	Lead country/support	Timeframe	Deliverable/ concrete output	Status of implementation	Proposed future actions	Relevance to new MSP Roadmap 2030 (action or objective)
Action 1. Follow up progress in regional MSP							
1.1.	Continuously update of national information on MSP developments including implementation of the joint MSP principles	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Continuous	<p>Updated Country Fiches on HELCOM and VASAB webpages.</p> <p>Presentation by relevant authority of the recent MSP development at the WG with reflection on the discussion in the WG's outcomes.</p>	On-going Regularly updated country fiches are available on VASAB and HELCOM webpages.	In line with the update of the MSP Roadmap's goal, the task can be revised with focus on the follow up of the implementation of national MSPs.	1.4. Facilitate exchange of information on the best practices of MSP implementation, monitoring and evaluation across the BSR and other sea basins, 2.1. Continuous dialog utilizing various regional platform e.g. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, MSP Planners Forum
1.2	Compile good practices on the application of the regional MSP related Guidelines (incl. relationship to practical implementation of the ESPOO Convention) and propose revision of the guidelines, if necessary.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Projects (i.e. Capacity4MSP) Sweden	Continuous According to a work plan of projects	<p>Reflection on the implementation of the Guidelines in the meeting outcomes.</p> <p>An overview of the good practices to implement the guidelines with conclusions on possible needs to revise.</p>	On-going Pan Baltic Scope: Synthesis report on the Ecosystem Approach to Maritime Spatial Planning ; recommendations to develop the EBA guidelines; MSP Framework assessment.	to be continued in line with actions proposed for the draft Roadmap	2.4. Review of guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and cooperation 3.1 Update the EBA-guidelines

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Action 2. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP							
2.1	Exchange experiences, know-how and good practices (e.g. on multi-uses, socio-economic, cultural aspects), using the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as a platform for regional dialog.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Planning Forum Capacity4MSP and other projects	Continuous	Presentation of the good practices identified in projects (e.g. Seed money, flagship projects) and outcomes of the meetings. Planning forums, seminars, workshops, organized preferably back to back with HELCOM - VASAB MSP WG meetings.	Discussions within the Planning Forum and reported to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG. Presentations to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG from Finland on MSP in Finland; outcomes of BalticRIM project on underwater cultural heritage in MSP.	To be revised in line with the goal of the new Roadmap focussing on building knowledge base for the new MSP cycle. Planning forum as long-term mechanism to be discussed by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021; .	Objective 1 Implementation of MSPs builds knowledge base for the new MSP cycle
2.2	Exchange experience in linking implementation of MSP and other legal and policy frameworks including e.g. the EU directives.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG [and European Commission]	Continuous	Regularly update information in the outcomes of the meetings	Cooperation with initiative on offshore energy has been launched; On-going discussion within the H-V MSP WG on approaches to account climate change factors in MSP; cooperation with HELCOM State&Conservation on MPAs in MSP; preparation	To be continued	Objective 2 of the new Roadmap,

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					of the request on fisheries data. P		
2.3	Evaluation of approach on coherence of terrestrial and marine planning in MSP	Latvia / HELCOM Secretariat	2020	Discussion paper on practices in the countries (Land-Sea-Act project). Practical examples and workshop.	Action could be considered as accomplished after consideration of the project results by H-V MSP WG. Project ongoing until September 2021. Project outcomes including relevant recommendations can be presented at the H-V MSP WG meeting in autumn 2021 e.g. principles for climate change adaptation in coastal zones; case studies on the use of land-sea resources.	A revision of the task is proposed in line with the goal of the new Regional MSP roadmap.	Objective 1 Implementation of MSPs builds knowledge base for the new MSP cycle.
2.4	Exploring a possibility for long lasting mechanism for cooperation of MSP practitioners	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Capacity4MSP Pan Baltic Scope	2021	A concept of a long-lasting mechanism for cooperation with planning forum function and terms of reference for cooperation mechanism.	Action can be considered as accomplished after consideration of the concept and ToR for "Planner's forum", developed by Capacity4MSP project.	The task is proposed to be revised in line with new Roadmap.	Output of Action 1.4 - MSP Planners Forum acting on the regular base

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	(e.g. planning forum)						
Action 3. Development of the regional MSP framework							
3.1	Contribute to the update of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan reflecting in the document the role of MSP in achieving regional environmental objectives.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	2020-2021	Input from the WG to the BSAP update process.	Accomplished. Input was provided. An MSP dedicated section was recommended for inclusion in the “horizontal actions” segment of the updated BSAP.	This task can be revised in line with the objective 2 of the new Roadmap. The WG can contribute to various policy/strategic documents assuring regional policy coherence e.g. o the update of VASAB Long-Term Perspective.	Objective 2 Maritime Spatial Planning improves regional policy coherence.
3.2	Update of the regional MSP Roadmap	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	2020-2021	Regional MSP Roadmap 2021-20XX.	Accomplished after MSP Roadmap has been adopted in October 2021		n/a
3.3	Update of the MSP Principles	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	2020-2021	Updated Joint MSP Principles, linked with the update of HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and MSP Roadmap.	Accomplished. Assessment carried out in the frame of the Pan Baltic Scope project revealed no need to update MSP principles		
3.4	Update of Regional MSP guidelines based on	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Projects (i.e. Capacity4MSP)	2020-2021	Updated MSP guidelines on EBA considering Pan Baltic Scope outcomes and other projects.	On-going. Recommendation to update the Guideline were proposed by Pan Baltic	To be continued	2.4. Review of guidelines on transboundary consultations, public

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	outputs of the task 1.2				Scope project. The work to be continued in line with the new Roadmap.		participation and co-operation 3.1 Update the EBA-guidelines
3.5	Develop a system to follow up implementation of the relevant goals set in the regional MSP framework.	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG other relevant HELCOM workgroup Capacity4MSP, other projects (DG MARE contract on follow up and indicators of MSP) Pan Baltic Scope	2021	A concept of the system to follow up implementation of the relevant goals set in the regional MSP framework (e.g. workshop on implementation/follow up).	On-going. Current implementation within Capacity4MSP, to be finalized in 2021	to be continued.	Objective 1 of the new MSP Roadmap. Actions 1.1-1.4.
3.6	Develop a common understanding of the cross-border coherence	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Task Force	2020	Report of the task force on cross-border coherence	On-going. The task can be accomplished after acceptance of the criteria for MSP coherence based on the report of the task	The task is proposed to be revised in line with the new Roadmap.	1.1 Develop a guiding framework to support harmonized evaluation of MSPs, including a set of definitions

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					force on cross-border coherence. A draft report is submitted and discussed during HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021		
3.7	Consider the practical use of socio-economic parameters including ecosystem services in MSP	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Continuous 2020	Regularly update information in the outcomes of the meetings and exchange information between countries. Report from Pan Baltic Scope on Economic and Social Assessment for MSP.	The implementation of the task depends on the consideration of the Pan Baltic Scope project report on economic and social assessment for MSP.	To be continued	4.2. Investigate the linkage between environmental and social-economic dimensions through an ecosystem services analysis.
3.8	Development of the practical means to integrate the marine green infrastructure concept into MSP practices. Including data development e.g. HOLAS III.	Sweden with contribution by Germany, Latvia and taking note of work being done by HELCOM State & Conservation Working Group, HOLAS II, Baltic Scope and outputs from	2021	Session during a HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on Pan Baltic Scope activities and results on EBA and GI. Invite feedback from State & Conservation. A draft of the regional concept of marine green infrastructure, based on the output from Pan Baltic	A concept of the green infrastructure was considered by HELCOM-VASAB MSP group in 2019. Further development has been postponed.	The implementation of the task will be continued in line with the actions included in the new Roadmap.	Objective 3 Actions 3.2 and 3.3.

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		Pan Baltic Scope projects.		Scope should be further developed (if needed).			
Action 4. Information and data for MSP							
4.1	Development of guide for accessible and regularly updated regional MSP data	HELCOM via Capacity4MSP BSR MSP Data ESG	2021	Support tools and technical requirements to set use BASEMAPS . BSR data ESG would promote the use of BASEMAPS at national level.	The task can be considered as accomplished when a user guides developed under Capacity4MSP are submitted for consideration of H-V MSP WG (provisionally autumn 2021).	Work of the BSR MSP Data ESG to be continued in line with relevant actions of the new MSP Roadmap.	1.6. Improve MSP related data retention and flows and assuring data actuality
4.2	Investigate and develop mechanisms for improving quality and availability of data required for development of coherent MSPs	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and BSR Data ESG as well as other HELCOM groups: FISH, State & Conservation, PRESSURE, MARITIME, SAFE NAVE and regional data holders e.g. ICES	Continuous	Proposals on communication and collaboration mechanisms between HELCOM Working Groups.	Recommendation on common requirements for aggregated fisheries data has been developed and currently being communicated with HELCOM FISH group.	To be continued	1.6. Improve MSP related data retention and flows and assuring data actuality, 3.2. Develop a Baltic SEA-framework including themes, common data, assessment methods for impact evaluation, cross-border consultations

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4.3	Ensure MSP output data sharing through regional distributed information systems utilizing existing information platforms	HELCOM-VASAB MSP Data ESG	Continuous	Adopted MSPs are available in BASEMEPS in accordance with the Guideline on transboundary MSP output data structure.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP Data ESG started the work on MSP output data structure. The work to be continued in 2021. Work with the EU Technical Expert Working Group on Data for MSP	To be continued	1.6. Improve MSP related data retention and flows and assuring data actuality. Ensure regional compatibility of the MSP Input and Output Data and strengthen mutual cooperation in broader context, especially EU.
Action 5. Outreach and education							
5.1	Improve visibility and transparency of MSP related data through development of publicly available information resources	Task especially for the HELCOM Secretariat for data availability and VASAB Secretariat HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG BSR Data ESG Capacity4MSP other projects	Continuous	Information and content available on HELCOM and VASAB webpages, including BASEMAPS.	Information on HELCOM website is being regularly updated including Basemaps and Map and Data Service.	To be continued	1.6. Improve MSP related data retention and flows and assuring data actuality
5.2	Support the education and professional development of MSP planners	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (support if requested)	Continuous	Participation in MSP Forums with involvement of young planners, workshops and other events.	A young planner's session used to be arranged within MSP Forums and other events.	The task is proposed to be revised in line with the new MSP Roadmap.	1.7. Establishing of links with relevant scientific frameworks and maritime knowledge; support the education of MSP planners

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		Capacity4MSP project platform Other projects					and international educational exchange
5.3	Continuously increase Involvement of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in global and EU wide MSP initiatives	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats	Continuous	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG contributes to the elaboration of global MSP guidelines.	The HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG is regularly informed about the process of the elaboration of IOC-UNESCO MSP guidelines (MSPGlobal)	To be continued	International cooperation and visibility not directly mentioned in the Roadmap, maybe 2.2? <i>2.2 Use the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group as a platform for cooperation of MSP authorities with other HELCOM groups and sectorial stakeholders to establish a common understanding on how MSP can contribute to regional goals</i> <i>2.3 Enhance Baltic sea level collaboration of MSP authorities and planners with various sectors to contribute to aligning sectoral policies and sectoral decision-making and by raising awareness</i>

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							<i>on the role of MSP between involved stakeholders</i>
5.4	Ensure better cooperation between countries and sectorial stakeholders involved in MSP to strengthen coherent MSP and MSP applying ecosystem approach	Germany HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	2020-2021	Energy/shipping workshops or dedicated session organised back-to-back with WG Meetings Collaborate with HELCOM groups: MARITIME SAFE NAV State & Conservation.	BEMIP is invited to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021 Energy workshop was organised by Capacity4MSP project on 22 Sept 2020	To be continued	2.2. Use the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group as a platform for cooperation of MSP authorities with other HELCOM groups and sectorial stakeholders to establish a common understanding on how MSP can contribute to regional goals
5.5	Act as Steering Committee and co-coordinators of the EUSBSRS HA Spatial Planning	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG: Steering Committee HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats: co-coordinators	Continu ous	Recommend the status of the Flagship projects. Policy messages based on project's outputs Integration of the project outputs to the regional policy framework.	The Horizontal Action is now a Policy Area following the new EUSBSR Action Plan. H-V MSP group is continuously acting as coordinator of the EUSBSR considering outputs and policy messages of relevant projects.	To be continued	2.7. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG acts as the Steering Group for MSP within the EUSBSR Policy Area "Spatial Planning"