



Document title	Analysis for the current HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG work plan and possible future actions
Code	3-4
Category	INF
Agenda Item	3 – Development of the regional MSP framework
Submission date	19.10.2021
Submitted by	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
Reference	

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.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021 took note of the draft Analysis for the current HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG work plan as the basis for future planning. The Meeting agreed to provide written comments on the document 8-1 to the Secretariats (florent.nicolas@helcom.fi, elina.veidemane@vasab.org) by 21 May 2021. The Meeting also agreed that the work plan will be discussed during HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 23-2021.

This document contains the analysis including the contribution from one Contracting Party. It was used as basis by the Secretariat to prepare the input document for the next workplan submitted to this meeting (cf. document 3-2).

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Analysis for the current HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG work plan and possible future actions

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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	Updated Country Fiches on HELCOM and VASAB webpages. Presentation by relevant authority of the recent MSP development at the WG with reflection on the discussion in the WG's outcomes.	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.	Action 1.4. Facilitate exchange of information on the best practices of MSP implementation, monitoring and evaluation across the BSR and other sea basins, Action 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	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Projects (i.e. Capacity4MSP) Sweden	Continuous According to a work plan of projects	Reflection on the implementation of the Guidelines in the meeting outcomes. An overview of the good practices to implement the guidelines with conclusions on possible needs to revise.	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	Action 2.4. Review of guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation Action 3.1 Update the EBA-guidelines Action 3.2 Develop a Baltic SEA-framework including themes, common data, assessment methods for

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	guidelines, if necessary.						impact evaluation, cross-border consultations
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.	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	To be continued	Objective 2 Maritime Spatial Planning improves regional policy coherence Action 3.3 3.3 Establish cooperation between HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group and HELCOM STATE and CONSERVATION to

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	the EU directives.				MPAs in MSP; preparation of the request on fisheries data. P		develop common language and views on Ecosystem based management and green infrastructure, cumulative assessment methods, spatial data, status assessments
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 December 2021. Project outcomes including relevant recommendations can be presented at the H-V MSP WG meeting in spring 2022 e.g. principles for climate change adaptation in coastal zones; case studies on the use of land-sea resources. . A dedicated workshop “Tackling land-sea interactions on the way towards Blue Growth in	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. Action 2.5 Explore good practices and application of planning and policy instruments for coordination of land-sea interactions across different levels and sectors

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					Baltic Sea Region” was held on 3 rd March 2021 and its outcomes are available on VASAB webpage (https://vasab.org/event/workshop-land-sea-interactions-towards-blue-growth-in-the-bsr/)		
2.4	Exploring a possibility for long lasting mechanism for cooperation of MSP practitioners (e.g. planning forum)	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
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	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. Action 3.4 Identify how MSP can support conservation and sustainable use in equitable way reflecting

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	regional environmental objectives.						marine protected areas (MPAs) and possible Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) or other areas of high natural values in maritime spatial plans (as a basis for steering harmful HOD 60-2021, 5-8 Page 6 of 7 activities away from such areas) and identify possibilities for MSP to support the BSAP targets related to protected areas as well as national and regional strategies.
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		

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3.4	Update of Regional MSP guidelines based on outputs of the task 1.2	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 Scope project. The work to be continued in line with the new Roadmap.	To be continued	2.4. Review of guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and cooperation 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-	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	The task is proposed to be revised in line with the new Roadmap.	1.1 Develop a guiding framework to support harmonized evaluation of

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	border coherence				for MSP coherence based on the report of the task force on cross-border coherence. A draft report is submitted and discussed during HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021		MSPs, including a set of definitions
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	Action 3.5 Promote the use of methods and tools in MSP for assessing cumulative environmental and other impacts of sea-based activities Action 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	Sweden with contribution by Germany, Latvia and taking note of work being	2021	Session during a HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on Pan Baltic Scope activities and results on EBA and GI.	A concept of the green infrastructure was considered by HELCOM-VASAB MSP group in 2019.	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.and 3.4

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	infrastructure concept into MSP practices. Including data development e.g. HOLAS III.	done by HELCOM State & Conservation Working Group, HOLAS II, Baltic Scope and outputs from Pan Baltic Scope projects.		Invite feedback from State & Conservation. A draft of the regional concept of marine green infrastructure, based on the output from Pan Baltic Scope should be further developed (if needed).	Further development has been postponed.		
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). The BSR MSP data ESG have in principle agreed to work towards filling up BASEMAPS as the main regional data portal for MSP	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	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and	Continuous	Proposals on communication and	Recommendation on common requirements for	To be continued	1.6. Improve MSP related data retention and flows

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	mechanisms for improving quality and availability of data required for development of coherent MSPs	BSR Data ESG as well as other HELCOM groups: FISH, State & Conservation, PRESSURE, MARITIME, SAFE NAVE and regional data holders e.g. ICES		collaboration mechanisms between HELCOM Working Groups.	aggregated fisheries data has been developed and currently being communicated with HELCOM FISH group. The BSR MSP data ESG have started the work with INPUT data part on BASEMAPS		and assuring data actuality, 3.2. Develop a Baltic SEA-framework including themes, common data, assessment methods for impact evaluation, cross-border consultations
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 elaborated and agreed output data structure. The work is ongoing and data of adopted plans are being constantly uploaded to BASEMAPS according to the agreed structure.. 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	Task especially for the HELCOM Secretariat for data availability	Continuous	Information and content available on HELCOM and VASAB webpages, including BASEMAPS.	Information on HELCOM and VASAB websites is being regularly updated	To be continued	1.6. Improve MSP related data retention and flows and assuring data actuality

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	data through development of publicly available information resources	and VASAB Secretariat HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG BSR Data ESG Capacity4MSP other projects			including Basemaps and Map and Data Service.		
5.2	Support the education and professional development of MSP planners	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (support if requested) Capacity4MSP project platform Other projects	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 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, but can be considered under 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

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							<p><i>understanding on how MSP can contribute to regional goals</i></p> <p><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 on the role of MSP between involved stakeholders</i></p>
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	<p>Energy/shipping workshops or dedicated session organised back-to-back with WG Meetings</p> <p>Collaborate with HELCOM groups: MARITIME SAFE NAV State & Conservation.</p>	<p>BEMIP is invited to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 22-2021</p> <p>Energy workshop was organised by Capacity4MSP project on 22 Sept 2020</p>	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

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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	Continuous	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"