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<b>Document title</b>	Status of the Capacity4MSP project and its contribution to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	6 - Coordination of the EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Planning, MSP related projects and initiatives
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<b>Reference</b>	

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### Background

The document contains the information on progress of project platform Capacity4MSP and its contribution to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

## Status of the Capacity4MSP project and its contribution to the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

**Project's title:** Project platform Capacity4MSP: Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers

**Project's lifetime:** 1 August 2019 – 31 March 2022 (prolonged due to Covid-19)

**Total project budget:** € 1.089.272,50

**Lead partner:** VASAB Secretariat

**Project partnership:** 4 partners from research institutions, 2 partners from the public authority, 2 international organisations and 16 associated organisations

***Capacity4MSP project platform has been granted with the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Flagship status under the Policy Area 'Spatial Planning'.***

The 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.

### Main project outputs:

1. Synthesis report with policy messages 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 institutionalized tool 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 and engagement
6. Final conference jointly organised with 4th Baltic MSP Forum

### What is done:

- **Development of the Synthesis report** that sums up ongoing activities in MSP and the results of MSP related projects in the Baltic Sea Region:
  - Organised discussion round in June 2020;
  - Discussion on draft report as well as on policy messages and proposals for project ideas continued during PP meetings (10 November 2020 and 16 March 2021) and Planners' Forum meeting on 17 March 2021;
  - A workshop dedicated to the policy messages was organised on 30 June 2021. The Synthesis Report is ready (content-wise). Proofreading and layout of the report are ongoing.

### Main findings of Synthesis Report

The overall aim of this report is to synthesize and multiply the gained knowledge from various maritime spatial planning (MSP) projects and MSP practice within and outside the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) in order to supplement EU, pan-Baltic and national commitments towards well-functioning MSP in the BSR by 2021. The report is composed of two parts:

1. In the first part the good practices in the themes important for future of BSR MSP are screened and analysed. The following themes have been investigated: (a) cumulative impact assessment, (b) green infrastructure, (c) land-sea interactions, (d) transnational actions, (e) climate change, (f) blue growth (blue economy) and carrying capacity of the marine environment, (g) data, (h) MSP education, (i) safety, (k) socio-economic analysis, (l) multi-use and conflict analysis, (m) energy, (n) new shipping, (o) aquaculture, (p) maritime cultural heritage, (r) recreation and tourism, (q) vision, (s) ecosystem-based approach, (t) monitoring and evaluation.
2. In the second part, the conclusion of this examinations are proposed in terms of: (a) installing synergies between themes, (b) list of issues/activities of key importance for development of BSR MSP (gaps in good practices, needs for further transnational co-operation) (c) criteria and indicators for process, content and performance of MSP.

As a result of analysis, following top priorities (tasks) have been indicated:

1. Spatial oriented tools helping MSP planners to understand what could be the socio-economic consequences (primary, secondary and tertiary i.e. through the multiplier effect) of allocating a given amount of sea space to the given sea use;
2. Monitoring of MSP processes (coherence of MSP), MSP results and , monitoring/assessing impact of MSP on other policies;
3. Analysis of the interactions related to the social sustainability (how allocation of the sea space benefits various social groups on land);
4. Analysing ways of MSP adaptation to the climate change;
5. Good practices on combining blue growth and carrying capacity of the environment;
6. Support for multi-use of energy sites.

- **Development of Report on identified mechanisms for the implementation of MSP:**
  - Draft report is discussed within Planners' Forum on 17 March 2021;
  - The final draft of the Report on identified mechanisms will be ready by the beginning of November 2021.
- Regarding the promotion of **BASEMAPS**, user guides as well as animated clip are available online:
  - [User guides for basic users](#);
  - [User guides for data providers](#);
  - [Online animated clip](#);
  - The BASEMAPS 'help desk' sessions within the MSP Data Expert Sub-Group are ongoing (last session on 14 October 2021).
- **Russian MSP Roadmap:**
  - Russian partners have started work on Russian MSP Roadmap by preparing several reports on spatial data on natural conditions and economic activities. [Prepared report on results of survey on Russian stakeholders in MSP](#);
  - Several workshops for Russian stakeholders have been organised (16 September 2020 in Durso, Krasnodar region; 23 September 2020 in Moscow; [23 October 2020 in St. Petersburg](#); round table "Marine Spatial Planning - view from the Kaliningrad Region" in January 2021, [MSP workshop within Baltic Sea Day \(23 March 2021\)](#));
  - A draft version is planned to be shared by the beginning of November 2021. The summary in English will be ready at the beginning of December 2021.
- **Thematic multi-level and cross-sectoral workshops:**
  - [Workshop dedicated to the BASEMAPS data portal took place on 16 September 2020 \(online\)](#) and 25 March 2021 (online);
  - [Workshop "Maritime Spatial Planning and Offshore Wind Energy" took place on 22 September 2020 \(online\)](#);
  - [Intersectoral workshop and expert discussions on Russian MSP Roadmap on September 23 2020 in Moscow](#);

- [Workshop "Tackling Land-Sea Interactions on the Way Towards Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea Region" on 3 March 2021 \(online\)](#);
- [Workshop on Blue Bioeconomy organised on 27 April 2021 \(online\)](#).
- **Planners' Forum:**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Planners' Forum took place on 31 March 2020 (online);
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Planners' Forum took place on 11 November 2020 (online);
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Planners' Forum took place on 17 March 2021 (online);
  - Established a task force for development of ToR for the Planners' Forum concept (2<sup>nd</sup> draft presented on 17 March 2021).
- **Development of Report on stakeholders' involvement and engagement:**
  - Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia has submitted the final version of the Report on stakeholder involvement and engagement into MSP. Proofreading and layout of the report are ongoing.

#### **Main findings of Integrated report on stakeholder involvement process**

The outcome of the activity is "Integrated report on stakeholder involvement process Integrated report on MSP stakeholder involvement and engagement". The Report is being prepared by the Baltic Environmental forum – Latvia with inputs and feedbacks from the project partners and planners in the region.

The Report contains the following analysis and evaluation on the following aspects:

- Stakeholder involvement practice during the development and implementation of the MSP;
- Lessons learned and conclusions with regard to stakeholder involvement from MSP related regional projects supported by EU funding programmes;
- Stakeholder involvement and engagement into MSP addressed in the recent scientific publications covering Baltic sea region;
- Approaches in stakeholder mapping and analysis in MSP;
- Communication practices in MSP.

The key findings highlight the importance of strategic and systematic approach and process in communication and building the dialogue with stakeholders in the countries and across the borders which is supported by communication professionals not only during the development but also in implementation process. Consequently, resources for the communication and stakeholder involvement needs to be planned and allocated adequately.

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG could serve as one of the platforms to reflect on stakeholder involvement issues strategically. This activity could be supported by transnational projects which could support organisation of thematic or ad-hoc groups and discussion. Bringing national and sub-national level MSP outcomes to the local level and discussing implications and benefits from implementation is one of the crucial steps for planning authorities to support smooth implementation of MSP. This process would increase involvement of civil society, local actors from different maritime sectors.

- **The 4th Baltic MSP Forum** (joint final conferences of Capacity4MSP and Land-Sea-Act projects) took place on 1-2 June 2021 online. Report, presentations and video recordings are published on a website [HERE](#).



#### **4th Baltic MSP Forum in numbers:**

- 300 registered users
- Participants from 31 countries around the Globe
- 75 speakers
- 962 poll interactions
- 20 digital expo stands
- 9 workshops
- 2435 likes
- 805 comments

**What is next:**

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Capacity4MSP has been prolonged for six months (31 March 2022) without additional funding.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> PP meeting will take place on **23 November 2021** (online).
- The 4<sup>th</sup> Planners' Forum meeting will be organised back-to-back with a PP meeting on **24 November 2021**(online). The 5<sup>th</sup> Planners' Forum will be organised in 2022 (February/ March).
- The workshop on 're-thinking vision' will be organised on **2 December 2021** (online) in order to discuss inputs for the update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective regards MSP.
- The first workshop dedicated to cumulative impact assessment will be organised in Copenhagen on **6-7 December 2021** (in-person). The second workshop could be organised in Helsinki in January 2022 (TBC). A video will be developed as supplementary material for the workshops.
- Final versions of the above-mentioned reports will be available in the period from November 2021 to February 2022.
- It is planned to organise a final event in February/ March 2022. The invitation and information on modalities will follow.