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## Background

The project eMSP NBSR - Emerging ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning topics in North and Baltic Seas Region is funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). A total of 17 partners from the North and Baltic Seas Regions are part of the consortium, led by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of The Netherlands. The project implementation began in September 2021 for a total duration of 30 months.

This document presents the structure of the eMSP NBSR project and its activities.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information and discuss how the project can contribute to the implementation of the Regional MSP Roadmap 2021-2030 and the Working Group's Work Plan.

## Status of eMSP project for North and Baltic Seas - 2021-2024

### Background information to eMSP NBSR

As the Member States of the European Union should have their Maritime Spatial Plans ready since March 2021, MSP in Europe will enter a new stage. This new period is a unique opportunity to assess what has been achieved so far in the respective countries and sea basins, and what needs to be done to ensure MSP fulfils its potential. It is also a unique opportunity to share the lessons learnt, to expand and align the available information and knowledge base, and to use the newly gained knowledge and experience to jointly tackle the challenges ahead. The MSP NBSR project is designed to address the urgent need for learning of maritime authorities and inter-ministerial bodies to incorporate all these requirements into their MSPs. A Community of Practice (CoP) will be at the heart of the project and will facilitate continuous learning as a long-term way to “future proof” MSP.

A total of 17 partners are involved in this project as listed in the table below:

Name	Short name	Country
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy/RVO*	RVO	The Netherlands
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management	I&W	The Netherlands
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.	LNV	The Netherlands
Danish Maritime Authority	DMA	Denmark
Uni DK	Uni DK	Denmark
De Blauwe Cluster VZW	BE BC	Belgium
Regional Council of Southwest Finland	FI RCSW	Finland
Ministry of the Environment Finland	FI MoE	Finland
Finnish Environment Institute	SYKE	Finland
Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission – Helsinki Commission	HELCOM	Finland
Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine	SHOM	France
Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie	BSH	Germany
State Regional Development Agency, VASAB Secretariat	VASAB	Latvia
Maritime Institute of Maritime University in Gdynia	GMU	Poland
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	SwAM	Sweden
Nordregio	Nordregio	Sweden
Government of Åland	FI GA	Finland

\*Lead partner

### Structure of the project

The aim of the eMSP NBSR project for the North Sea and the Baltic Sea regions is to enable the Maritime Spatial Planners of managing authorities and policymakers to reflect on current practice, to learn effectively from each other, to collectively identify problems and solutions, and to collectively provide feedback to national governments and the European Commission on implementation, development and research actions, and managerial approaches that can or should be taken to deal with future challenges and opportunities afforded by the sea in a coherent way and with involvement of industry, academia and non-governmental organisations.

The project is designed in 5 Work packages (WP):

- **WP 1:** Project Management.
- **WP 2:** Inception phase. The first 6 months of the project will be dedicated to set up the frame for the content-oriented work of the project, especially for the Work Package 3.

- **WP 3:** Maritime Community of Practice. This WP is a Community of Practice (CoP) that will facilitate continuous learning as a long-term way to “future proof” MSP. The CoP will tackle the 5 following topics, called learning strands:
  1. Ocean governance;
  2. Ecosystem-based approach;
  3. Sustainable blue economy;
  4. Monitoring and evaluation;
  5. Data sharing, information and communication technology serving MSP.
- **WP 4:** Science-Policy Interface and Policy and Governance Implications.
- **WP 5:** Project Communication.

### Current status of eMSP NBSR

From September 2021 until February 2022, the inception phase (WP2) will provide a working frame for other content-oriented work packages, in particular WP3. This WP will focus on examining of the existing MSP context in both seas covered by the project in order to substantiate and guide the work of the CoPs.

From February 2022, the project will be in the implementation phase.