Work plan of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group for 2022-2024

Approved by the VASAB CSPD/BSR in its 88th meeting in December 2022 and the HELCOM Heads of Delegation of EU and EU Member States in a correspondence procedure in February 2023.

Objective 1 : Implementation of maritime spatial plans builds knowledge base for the new MSP cycle

	Roadmap 2030 Action	Roadmap2030 Output	Tming	Lead / co-lead and support	Workplan timeframe	Concrete output
1.1.	Harmonized evaluation of MSPs	BSR evaluation framework for MSPs; common set of general definitions	2023	- Baltic Sea countries - eMSP NBSR and ReMAP projects	2023	A report document as guiding framework
1.4.	Best practices of MSP implementation, monitoring and evaluation	Regular exchange in HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group	Cont.	- Baltic Sea countries and observers - support from the Secretariats	Continuously	Information exchange and regular update of country fiches
		Conference on Implementation of MSP in the BSR with input from other regions	2023-2025	- eMSP - other relevant projects	to be defined by 2023	to be defined in HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG
		MSP Planners Forum acting on the regular base	Cont.	- VASAB and HELCOM Secretariat (under the PASPS project)	2022-2024	Up and running of a regular MSP Planners Forum
1.6.	Improve MSP related data retention and flows and data actuality	MSP Output data is available in BASEMAPS	2022	- BSR MSP Data ESG	2022	MSP Output data is available in BASEMAPS
		Shortlisting of MSP input data themes to be regularly updated in regional portal, including climate change related spatial data	2022	- BSR MSP Data ESG	Shortlisting to be available in 2022	Plan on how to Improve availability of MSP input data based on the shortlisting
		Overview on national MSP data portals	2025	- Baltic Sea countries: country fiches - VASAB Secretariat update the structure of country fiches	2022: proposal and approval on updated structure of the country fiches	Updated information in country fiches to possible extent Updated input on national MSP data portals in the Country Fiches
		Continuously exchange the best practices in MSP related data handling with MSP data platforms beyond the Baltic Sea region	Cont.	- BSR MSP Data ESG - support of eMSP and other projects	Continuously	Exchange and increasing of knowledge Collaboration with Regional Sea Conventions, EU, project, EMODnet
1.7.	Links with relevant scientific frameworks and maritime knowledge; education of MSP planners	Regular consideration of recent scientific developments at regional MSP related events; contributing to regional MSP science and educational needs	Cont.	- HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats - support of the Baltic Sea countries - universities and relevant educational institutions	Continuously	Exchange and increasing of knowledge Collaboration with ICES WG for Marine Planning and Coastal Zone Management

Objective 2: Maritime Spatial Planning improves regional policy coherence

No.	Roadmap 2030 Action	Roadmap2030 Output	Timing	Lead / co-lead and support	Workplan timeframe	Concrete output
2.1.	MSP authorities continue close collaboration	Continuous dialog utilizing various regional platforms	Cont.	- Secretariats - Baltic Sea countries - support of relevant projects - EU MSP-Platform Reference to actions 1.4, 1.7 and 2.3	Continuously in WG meetings	Close collaboration towards coherence of MSPs Events for engaging stakeholders in dialogue, 1 per year Short study visits in other planning authorities
2.2.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group as a platform for cooperation of MSP authorities with other HELCOM bodies and stakeholders	Continuous dialog with sectors utilizing various regional platforms	Cont.	- HELCOM Secretariat - support of the Baltic Sea countries - relevant projects (e.g. eMSP)	Continuously	Knowledge exchange and better planning with HELCOM Biodiv WG, EN CLIME, MARITIME WG, Safe NAV WG involvement in EU and global processes eMSP: exchange with stakeholders
2.3.	Regional collaboration of MSP authorities and planners with various sectors	Regular regional events	regularly	- Secretariats - Baltic Sea countries - WG to discuss most relevant sectors Possible link to 2.1 and 2.2	Continuously, starting from 2023	Aligning sectoral policies, awareness of MSP role EUSBSR, CBSS events Cooperation with BEMIP OW WG Invite e.g. HELCOM MARITIME and Safe NAV groups to the events
2.5.	Good practices and application of planning and policy instruments for coordination of land-sea interactions	Report on good practices addressing land-sea interactions	2022	- Latvia - support of the Secretariats - Baltic Sea countries . Land-Sea-Act project	2022	Outcome of discussion on land-sea interactions
2.7.	Coordinating the EUSBSR Policy Area "Spatial Planning" to improve cross-sectoral and multi-level cooperation across the region	HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group acts as the Steering Group for MSP related topics within the EUSBSR Policy Area "Spatial Planning".	Cont.	- HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats (PASPS project)	Continuously	Steering Group decisions Promotion of cross-sectoral and multi-level cooperation with other initiatives and platforms

Objective 3: Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to achieving progress towards good environmental status of the Baltic Sea set in the Baltic Sea Action Plan

No.	Roadmap 2030 Action	Roadmap2030 Output	Timing	Lead/Co-lead and support	Workplan timeframe	CONCRETE OUTPUT
3.1.	Update the ecosystem-based approach guidelines	Updated EBA-guidelines	2025	- SE, DE, HELCOM Secretariat to guide - Task force on EBA guidelines including representations potentially from FI, WWF - eMSP project to provide support (e.g. learning strand on EBA)	Draft by 2024	Draft version of revised EBA guidelines
3.2.	Develop a Baltic SEA-framework	Follow-up on the sharing of environmental information and stakeholder participation in consultations and the Baltic MSP Espoo procedures	2022	- HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (task force) - HELCOM Secretariat - Use the results of Pan Baltic Scope and possibly further development within relevant projects such as eMSP Use results of 3.5, 3.1	2023	Draft report with survey results including themes, common data, assessment methods for impact evaluation, cross-border consultations
		Baltic SEA-framework to improve compatibility of SEA practices and results	2025	- HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (task force) - HELCOM Secretariat to approach Marine regions cooperation under ESPOO convention - Pan Baltic Scope project results Use results of 3.5, 3.1	2025	Draft Baltic SEA framework
3.3.	Cooperation between HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and relevant HELCOM bodies	Regular cooperation process involving HELCOM-VASAB MSP, State and Conservation and relevant bodies	2022 and cont.	- HELCOM Secretariat to coordinate - Results from relevant projects (eMSP, MSP4Bio, Strategic LIFE) Reference to action 2.2	Starting in 2022 Workshop in 2023	Workshop in 2023 and plan for further cooperation Common views on ecosystem based management, green infrastructure, cumulative assessment methods, spatial data, status assessments CBD post-2020 and EU Bd 2030 taken into account
3.4.	Identify how MSP can support conservation and sustainable use in equitable way (MPAs, OECMs etc.), BSAP targets related to protected areas, national and regional strategies	Development of Green Infrastructure maps including ecosystem services based on HOLAS III	2025	- HELCOM secretariat - Support from the BSR MSP Data ESG - other relevant experts and projects - BSAP actions on ecosystem services	2024	Draft Green Infrastructure maps including ecosystem services based on HOLAS 3
		Additional section in country fiches demonstrating how MSP supports conservation and sustainable use	2023	- VASAB secretariat - support of Baltic Sea countries Reference to action 1.2	2023	Revised country fiche template with SEA for MSP support conservation and sustainable use
3.5.	Methods and tools in MSP for assessing cumulative environmental and other impacts of sea-based activities	Stocktake and review of the existing methods and tools	2022	- Pan Baltic Scope results - HOLAS 3 / MetDev work - EU MSP support mechanism - eMSP project Link with SEA framework (task 3.2)	2024	Promotion of the methods and tools

Objectives 4 & 5 : Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to sustainable blue economy & Spatial planning contributes to climate change mitigation, adaptation and increased resilience of the Baltic Sea Region

No.	Roadmap 2030 Action	Roadmap2030 Output	Timing	Lead / Co-lead and support	Workplan timeframe	Concrete output
4.1.	Share experiences in guiding sectoral development to minimize economic losses and weakening of ecosystem services, apply cross-border actions that can be enhanced through MSP for sustainable blue economy	Report/Guiding document on good practices for sectoral sustainable development	2026	- Projects: eMSP Learning strands *(EBA, Blue Economy)*, MSP4BIO, MAREA, MSP-GREEN - eMSP partners: DK, FI, PL, SE (maybe WWF) - HELCOM Secretariat	2024 2024 2026	Draft ToR for Report Plan on how to gather national contributions/ EU etc. processes Report / guidance document
5.1.	MSP related sectors affected and impacted by climate change under different future scenarios, developing MSP-strategies for increasing capacity of different sectors to **adapt**	A discussion paper as guidance for strategic ways for integrating climate change adaptation into MSP for the next planning cycle, 2025, coordinate timing with mid-term evaluations of national **adaptation** strategies	2025	- Initiated by HELCOM Secretariat - support from Baltic Sea countries - Later to decide how to continue - Expert work or project needed - contribution of projects (MSP-GREEN, MSP4BIO, eMSP) Reference to tasks 2.2, 2.3, 2.6 and 4.4 This task is the background for 5.2.	2023 2024 2025	Presentation from EN CLIME at HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meetings & discussion how to cooperate Workshop in 2024 with EN CLIME and relevant stakeholders (cf. Tasks 2.3 and 2.6) Guidance document in 2025
5.2.	Explore how MSP can contribute to climate change **mitigation** and nationally determined contribution in terms of Paris Agreement	Stocktaking national experiences - an overview published	2025	- Baltic Sea countries - HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG contributing to implementation of the BSAP - Contribution of projects (MSP-GREEN, MSP4BIO, eMSP)	Start in 2022 2025	Discussion on how MSP could address coexistence between biodiversity and wind energy production Publication of overview and national contributions in the country fiches
5.3.	Identify how MSP can support adaptive conservation strategies to cater for spatial changes in ecosystems (e.g. migration), potential for including climate refugia in MSP for the entire Baltic Sea	Information document on MSP's role in adaptative conservation strategies, including best practices	2026	- support from Baltic Sea countries - contribution of projects (e.g. SELINA, MSP4BIO, eMSP) - cooperation with the HELCOM WG Biodiv Linked to Obj.3, task 5.1 and BSAP actions B12, B13, HOLAS 3 output	Start in 2024 2026	WG meetings & discussions on the task Information document
		Modelled maps of climate change impact on marine ecosystem (depending on availability of spatial data on climate change impacts)	2026	- Support from national contributions and modelling - cooperation with the HELCOM WG Biodiv - EN CLIME work (Obj. 5.1) - BSR MSP Data ESG for data use in MSP - result and contribution from projects (e.g. SELINA, MSP4BIO, eMSP) Linked to Obj.3, task 5.1 and BSAP actions B12, B13, HOLAS 3 output	Start in 2023	Presentation from EN CLIME at HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG & discussion how to cooperate/ 2023 (cf. 5.1.) Final output: maps estimating the potential effects of climate change on planning solutions.