

ASCOBANS 28th Meeting of the Advisory Committee

**European Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Assistance Mechanism
- European MSP Platform & European Blue Forum**

Patrycja Enet

MSP Assistance Mechanism North Sea focal point

27 September 2023

Integrated Maritime Policy

Directive 2014/89/EU - Maritime Spatial Planning

Directive 2014/89/EU of the European parliament and of the council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning



Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning

In Europe, Maritime Spatial Planning is part of the overarching Integrated Maritime Policy of the EU - the objective is to 'support the sustainable development of seas and oceans and to develop coordinated, coherent and transparent decision-making in relation to the EU's sectoral policies affecting the oceans, seas, islands, coastal and outermost regions and maritime sector'.

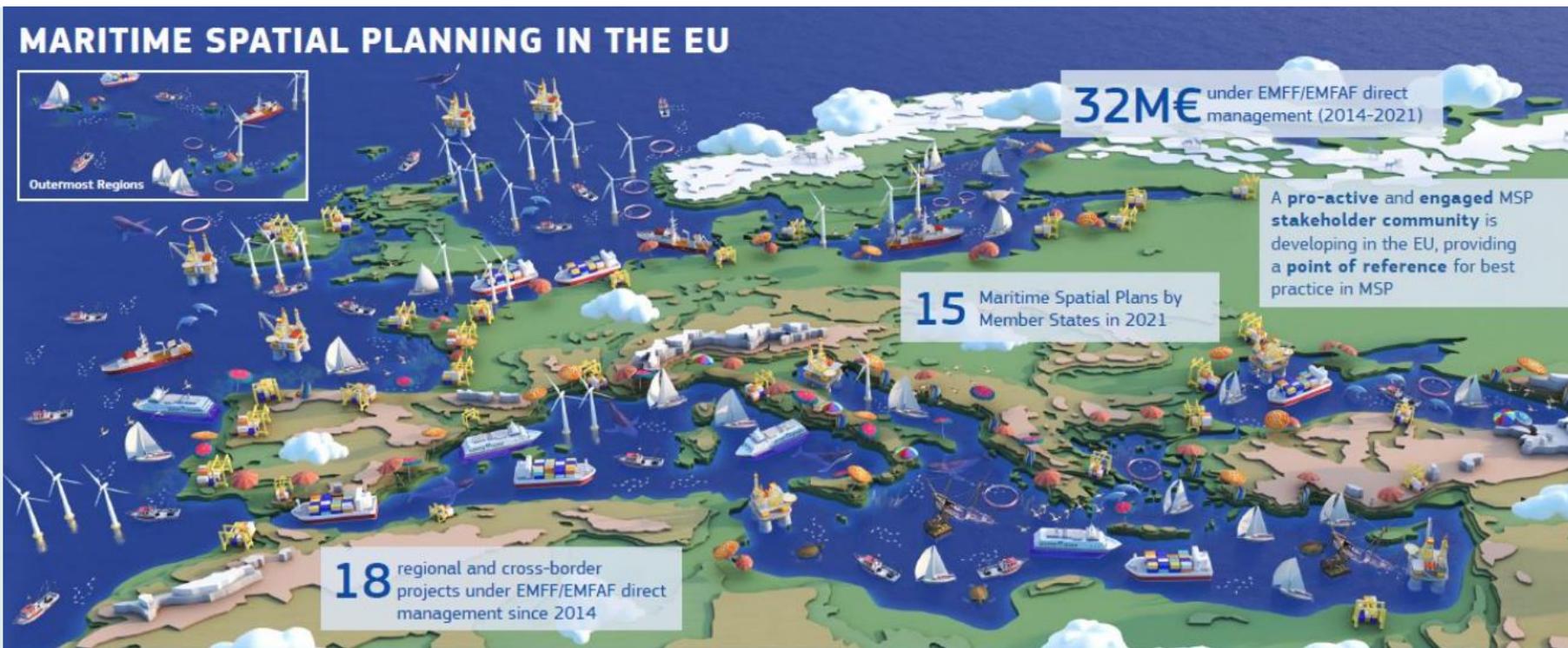
Ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning

In Europe, MSP provides a holistic, knowledge based and **ecosystem-based approach** to marine management, promotes **long-term environmentally sound economic development for protecting habitats and biodiversity, providing ecosystem services** and balancing and de-conflicting interests through spatial planning. (European Commission 2014)

Implementing MSP plans and processes in the context of maritime related objectives of the European Green Deal strategies

In Europe, a European Green Deal is supported by the Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy (2020) and the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 (2020), which play a role in supporting the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Global Post-2020 Biodiversity framework, by addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis (breaking silos).

MSP in Europe - Timeline



European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)

European Commission - Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

Supported by



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The Assistance Mechanism for Implementation of MSP

<https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/>



European Commission

- **European MSP Assistance Mechanism** provides support to Member States and the European Commission (EC) in the implementation of the EU MSP Directive, and establishing and running the European Blue Forum
- **MSP Assistance Mechanism is implemented & funded by the European Commission** - European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) on behalf of Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)
- **A dedicated team of MSP experts + Provision of a Sub-regional Focal Point Service**
- **European MSP Platform:** <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/> – an interactive information gateway
- **Member States Question & Answer service**
- **Technical studies** – filling identified knowledge gaps
- Provision of targeted and bespoke **training and capacity building**
- Organisation of **MSP Expert Working Group Meetings**
- Secretariat of the **Technical Expert Group on Data for MSP**



The expert team

Team

Brussels Office

Sea basin focal points:

- **North Sea:** Patrycja Enet

- **Baltic Sea:** Kristina Veidemane

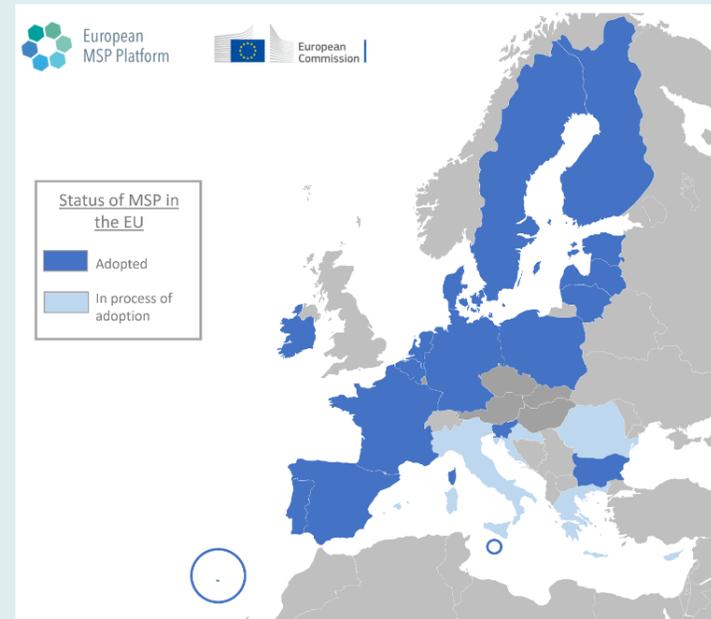
- **Atlantic:** Frédéric Herpers

- **West Med:** Marta Pascual

- **East Med:** Stella Kyvelou

- **Black Sea:** Natasa Vaidianu <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/msp-platform/team>

- **Outermost regions:** Ricardo J. H. Tabraue



European MSP Assistance Mechanism – key objectives

ADVISORY SERVICES AND EXPERT KNOWLEDGE ON MSP

- support the EC and Member States in the implementation of MSP and future uses and inform on development and practices in 'doing MSP' as well as on future challenges -> Ad-hoc advice and support to MSs, Receipt of requests for support from MSs and provision of expert advice, A key role in supporting and facilitating cooperation at the sea basin level.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ON MSP - MAINTAINANCE & DEVELOPMENT OF A KNOWLEDGE BASE

- Review and update information and knowledge on the MSP Platform Website
- Continue to expand available information to ensure it remains a comprehensive repository of MSP reference material useful to Members States and the wider MSP Community

MAINTAIN AND EXPAND THE KNOWLEDGE BASE AND WEBSITE SERVICE OF THE MSP PLATFORM

- Develop and Improve the MSP Platform Website (<https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/>) to ensure it remains a valuable resource and tool for Members States, MSP Practitioners and the wider MSP Community ; Study work - Short & in-depth policy papers



Review on how to preserve space for the future uses of the seas:

what methods can we apply to address the needs of future generations?



Access to space and water for marine aquaculture



The Implications of the Ocean Governance Framework established by the United Nations for the Implementation of the EU MSP Directive

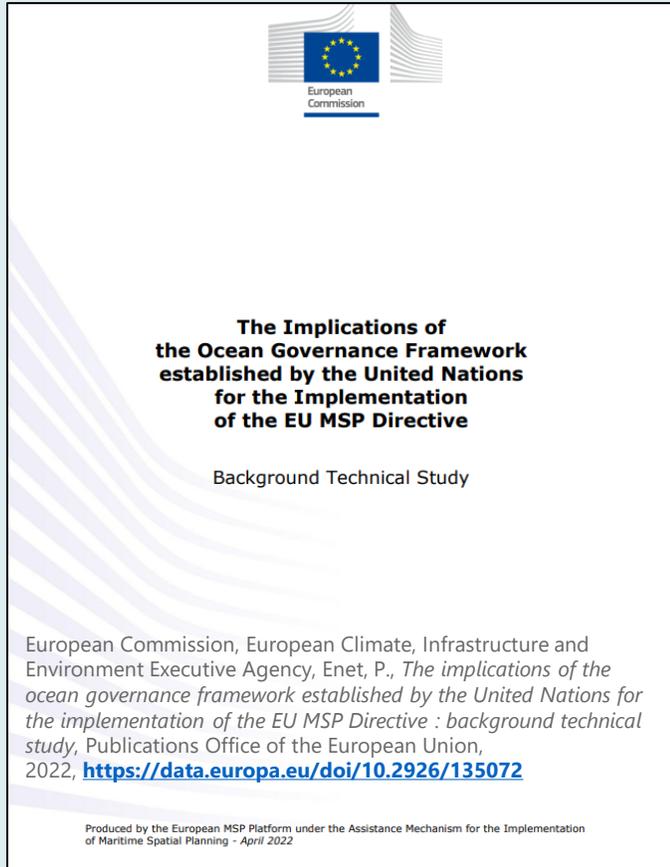


How to incorporate Underwater Cultural Heritage into Maritime Spatial Planning: Guidelines and Good Practices

ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A EUROPEAN BLUE FORUM FOR USERS OF THE SEA

- Initiate and coordinate a dialogue across the EU blue economy sectors, on the protection and future use of the oceans and seas
- Provide analysis on trends and management of changes in the blue economy in relation with the relevant European Green Deal objectives (Identify changing and competing uses of the sea and produce strategic medium and long-term analysis, based on targets and scenarios for 2030 and in view of the EU 2050 objectives set up in the European Green Deal)

Examples of technical background studies



2022



2023

- ❑ Sea space has become increasingly congested and competitive in Europe with the resulting multi-stressors.
- ❑ Spatial conflict management is an ongoing effort and a learning process with good practices to share around Europe.
- ❑ With the adoption of the European Green Deal, supported by the Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, new aspects need to be taken into consideration in planning and the management of spatial conflicts.

<https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/msp-resources/technical-expert-group-teg-data-msp>



Proposal for making harmonized MSP plan data available across Europe

*Results of the work of the Technical Expert Group (TEG)
on MSP data*

2021



Maritime Spatial Planning Data Framework (MSPdF)

How to structure input data for MSP process,
monitoring & evaluation



2023

NEW

by the MSP Assistance Mechanism



Short policy papers: production of topic-specific short papers

- *Support to HELCOM-VASAB in implementation of a survey on the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in MSP in the Baltic Sea region*
- *Study on spatial restrictions to fisheries (both small scale near shore but also industrialized offshore) in the greater North Sea and Atlantic Regions*
- *MSP Infographics to present the three transitions: energy-nature-food*
- *Policy paper on the main principles of MSP coexistence and safety at sea*



In-depth studies: based on technical research to support MSP implementation

- *Compendium for multi-use and co-existence practices*
- *Assess previous EMFF & EMFAF funded MSP projects to identify impacts and recommendations by key topics to support analysis of main MSP trends*

<https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/european-blue-forum>

Design and establishment of a European Blue Forum

Objective:

A stakeholder forum formed from users of the sea for users of the sea to initiate and coordinate dialogue between sustainable blue economy stakeholders at all levels. It will develop synergies between their activities and reconcile competing uses of the sea.

Key Principles of the European Blue Forum:



1. The Blue Forum will be **flexible** and **expandable**.



2. The Blue Forum will be **fully representative** of all stakeholder communities and sea basins.



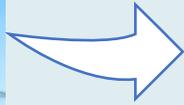
3. The Blue Forum's stakeholders will all participate in **dialogue on the same level**.



5. The Blue Forum is intended to function over **a long-term**, encouraging dialogue and exchange of knowledge on the blue economy in the EU.

4. The Blue Forum will be structured as a matrix to allow for exchange within or between **thematic focus areas** at **different geographical scales**.





25
SEP

2023

1st Deep-Dive workshop - 'What do we need from European Seas by 2030 – are we asking too much?'

EUROPEAN
BLUE FORUM

- How can we reserve space for human health and wellbeing given the perceived lack of marine space and coastal space – Is this a priority?
- What do we understand by the term 'degrowth'?
- How can we make sure that efficient local solutions are replicated at the national and EU scale?
- What are the barriers to the development of an equitable sustainable blue economy, ensuring no one is left behind?
- How can we ensure access to space for existing and future human activities at sea whilst ensuring that 30% of the marine space is protected?

Workshop 1:

What do we need from European Seas by 2030?
Are we asking too much?

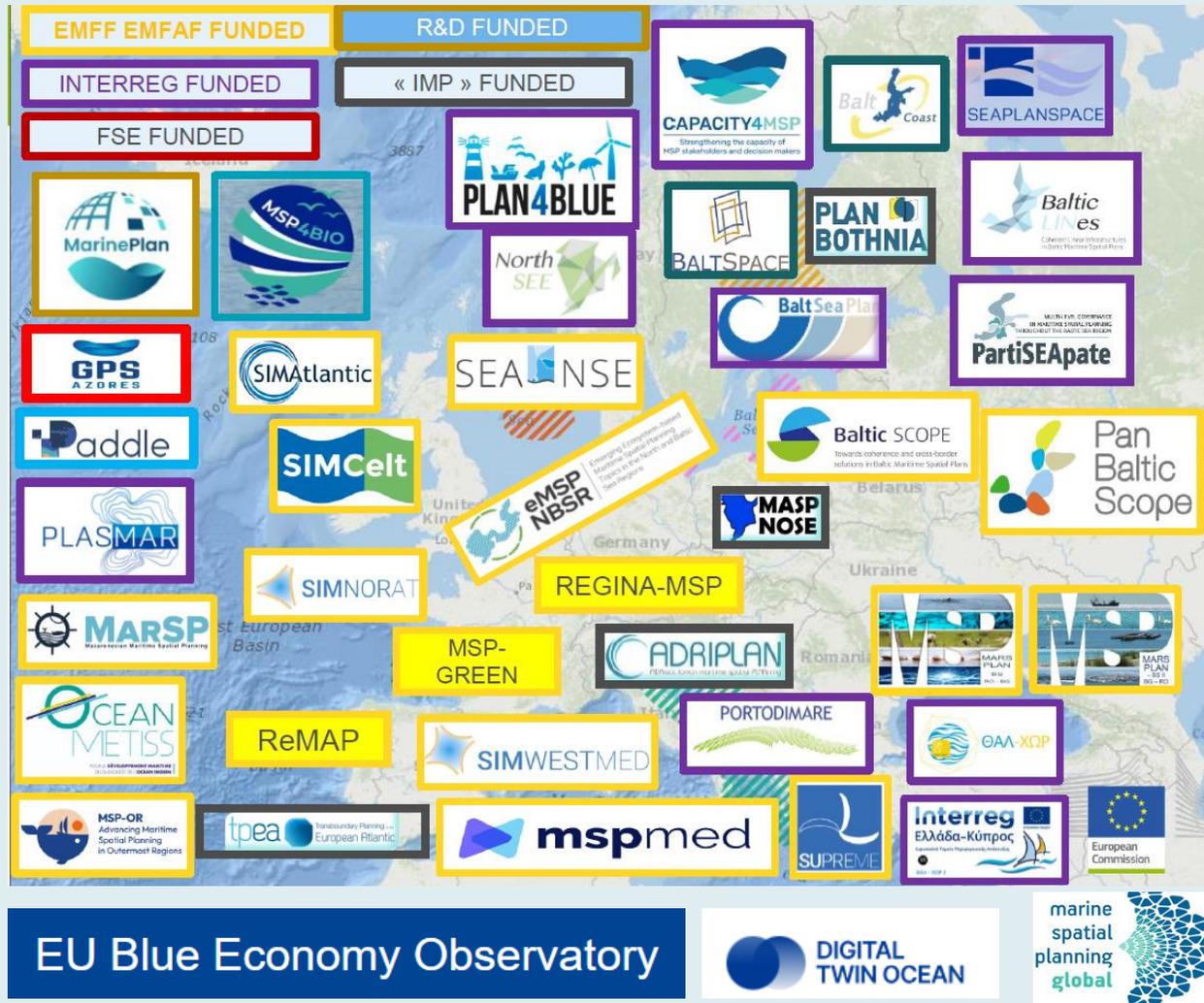


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OCT

2023

2nd Deep-Dive workshop - 'What does a fossil fuel free blue economy look like? How can we as a community support this transition?'

<https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/european-blue-forum-events>



New EC project (2023-2024) of relevance to ASCOBANS: - Ocean data and knowledge for EU policy making

Evaluating the European Marine Observation and Data Network EMODnet's potential to support policy making and contribute to it through two case studies: (i) related to the implementation of the MSFD and (ii) related to the implementation of the MSP Directive. Objectives:

- To produce a structured overview and assessment of *in-situ* data and knowledge sources on the marine environment, relevant to EMODnet's thematic areas
- To evaluate the capacity of EMODnet's existing data and data products to support in the assessment of the GES of the marine environment, in the context of the MSFD
- To assess the completeness of the information in EMODnet regarding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other spatial conservation measures (including fisheries restricted areas) also referred to as 'nature and species conservation sites and protected areas' (MSP Directive Article 8.2)

Draft Guidelines for Cetacean-sensitive
Maritime Spatial Planning for the ASCOBANS
Area



- Marine planning and management in the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Atlantic (Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea)
- Ecosystem-based Approach
- Knowledge-based System
- MSP expert knowledge for MSP implementation
- MSP data harmonization and framework
- Greater synergies and collaboration with a large network of engaged stakeholders, organizations, users of the sea

Do you have a question about MSP? Contact Points and Experts

Send it to info@msp-platform.eu or make use of our 48h Question & Answer Service. Your question will be forwarded to one of the Sea Basin Focal Points.

We are happy to assist you with any support or questions you may have, such as disseminating information on an MSP event or publication, or searching for relevant information and contacts in order to address your needs.

Central Office

- **Chris McDougall**, Project Leader
- **Thanos Smanis**, Expert Coordinator
- **Eleni Karfaki**, Events Coordination

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Team

- Brussels Office
- Sea basin help-desks:
 - Baltic Sea
 - North Sea
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - East Med
 - West Med
 - Black Sea
 - Outermost regions

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BLUE FORUM



Thank you!

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