

Hadriaticum DATA HUB. Data management, protocols harmonization, preparations of guidelines:
cross-border tools for maritime spatial planning decision-makers

D 2.1.2 High Level Policy Meeting MSP-GREEN Launching Conference

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PROJECT PARTNERS



EXTERNAL EXPERTS



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1. MSP GREEN Launching Conference, Tuesday, January 17th, 2023

Backed up by DG MARE mission “Restore our Oceans and Waters by 2030”, the sea horizon is on its way to become greener by mobilizing cross-country research and innovation.

Such mobilization was also reflected at the MSP GREEN Project Launching conference held on the 17th of January organized by CORILA, IUAV and CRN-ISMAR, in Venice (IT), at IUAV – Tolentini premises, admitting a successful start.

The MSP-GREEN project contributes to align maritime spatial plans to the ambition of the EGD by creating a framework for plans as marine enablers of the EGD. The framework will provide a cross-cutting approach to the EGD key topics relevant for the marine environment and the sustainable transition of blue economy: climate change, circular blue economy, protection of marine biodiversity, marine renewable energies, sustainable food provision. Recommendations on how to strengthen the EGD ambition of EU MSP plans will be prepared. The sea basins’ dimension will be promoted by considering environmental, socio- economic, and cultural specificities also, via dedicated Ocean Literacy driven communication.

The project is funded by the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and gathers partners from Italy, Spain, France, Latvia, Finland, Bulgaria and Germany, covering five EU basins, and will last two years. Partners are CORILA (Coordinator), CNR-ISMAR, IUAV (IT), CEREMA, IFEMER, UBO (FR), IEO (CSIC)(SP), MoEPRD (LV), RCSW (FI) and CCMS (BG). Associated Partners come from VASAB and BSH (DE).

The project was presented and complemented by a set of interventions from experts on key topics in the maritime sector: Biodiversity and ecosystems, Sustainable food production, Zero net emission, Climate Change adaptation and Carbon neutrality.

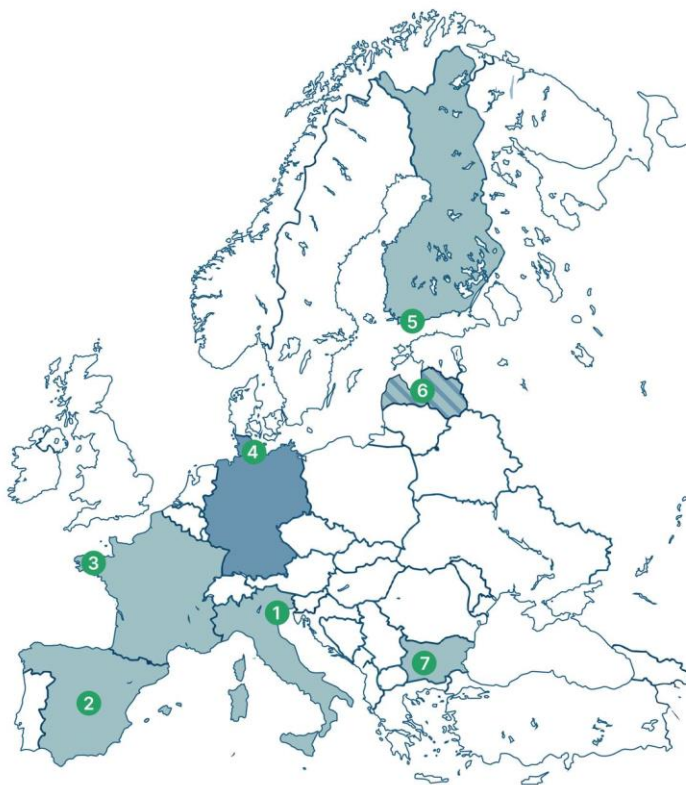
During the second part of the Launching conference a set of round tables were organized to allow sharing valuable experiences from involved countries. The experiences from Italy, France, Latvia, Finland, Spain Bulgaria and Germany focused on maritime Biodiversity, Sustainable food production, Zero pollution and circular economy, Climate change adaptation and mitigation, covering perspectives from 5 sea basins: the Mediterranean, the Baltic, the Black and the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

The HATCH project was introduced to the event attendees, and the roll-up was prominently displayed in the first room, easily visible to all registered guests.

MSP-GREEN and HATCH share significant commonalities in their objectives and approaches. Both projects are committed to aligning maritime spatial plans with the European Green Deal (EGD), contributing to a more sustainable Blue Economy. They undertake comprehensive analyses of existing Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) initiatives, evaluating their integration of EGD objectives. Additionally, both projects aim to strengthen the role of MSP plans in achieving EGD goals, fostering cross-cutting collaboration and communication through dedicated work packages.

Communication and dissemination efforts are emphasized in both projects, aiming to engage regional sea communities and raise awareness of EGD ambitions. Furthermore, the projects extend their outreach beyond the EU, facilitating a dialogue with non-EU countries on the significance of marine planning for a Sustainable Blue Economy.

Both MSP-GREEN and HATCH prioritize the analysis of interactions between MSP plans and the EGD, identifying opportunities for policy improvement at both EU and national levels. Synergies with other EU-funded projects are actively pursued, leveraging results and activities in related fields to maximize the impact of their initiatives. In essence, these projects share a commitment to advancing maritime spatial planning in alignment with the overarching goals of the European Green Deal.




Maritime Spatial Planning as enabler of the European Green Deal

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2. Background: MSP GREEN project

The new project MSP-GREEN, n. 101081314, contributes to align maritime spatial plans to the ambition of the EGD by creating a framework for plans as marine enablers of the EGD. The framework will provide a cross-cutting approach to the EGD key topics relevant for marine environment and sustainable transition of blue economy: climate change, circular blue economy, marine biodiversity, marine renewable energies, sustainable food provision. Recommendations on how to strengthen the EGD ambition of EU MSP plans will be prepared. The sea basins' dimension will be promoted by considering environmental, socio-economic, and cultural specificities also, via dedicated Ocean Literacy driven communication.

Based on the provisions of the MSP Directive, Member States delivered, or are in the process of finalising, their MSP plans. However, the elaboration of plans started years ago. In the meanwhile, environmental and socio-economic targets have changed. The MSP Directive recognizes that healthy marine ecosystems, if integrated in planning decisions, can deliver substantial benefits and sustainable blue economy can be developed. In 2019 the EU launched the EGD and in 2021 the Communication COM/2021/240 was adopted, defining an agenda for the green transition of maritime sectors and evidencing the need to promote the achievement of EGD goals in the marine domain.

The project will run from 2022 to 2024 with a total budget of 1.933 490,03 Euros.

Activities:

- WP1 "Project management and coordination" leads the project to operational and financial achievements.
- WP2 "Analysis and evaluation of EGD ambition integration into MSP plans" evaluates whether and how MSP plans have considered the EGD objectives and identify the major gaps. (Feeding WP3 and WP4).
- WP3 "Strengthening MSP contribution to EGD" fosters the role of national MSP Plans in contributing to EGD objectives (WP2). (Feeding WP4).
- WP4 "Towards a Greener MSP for Europe: scaling-up and innovating" gathers the outcomes from WP2 and WP3 and elaborate them to be shared across the EU and the sea-basins. Recommendations will be prepared, addressed to EU MSP Authorities of the five regional sea-basins.
- WP5 "Communication and dissemination" shares project outcomes and promote MSP, the EMFAF actions and maritime EGD.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Assess whether and how MSP plans have considered the EGD objectives.
- Assess what are the major gaps, challenges and trade-offs in mainstreaming EGD into MSP.
- Identify and exchange valuable practises of incorporation of EGD elements in MSP plans.

- Identify, design and start implementing additional actions to strengthen the implementation of EGD-related objectives.
- Provide recommendations to EU countries on how to use MSP in fostering the achievement of the EGD goals.
- Engage regional sea communities – including non-EU countries – in a dialogue on the EGD ambition and the role of marine planning for a Sustainable Blue Economy.

Policy contribution

The project is specifically designed to improve tool, including policies, at EU and national level. It will analyse the interactions between MSP plans and EGD, hence identifying opportunities for enhancement of MSP and maritime EU regulations. The concept applies also to the policies currently existing to allow the development of sustainable blue economy (especially transport, fisheries and aquaculture) and adaptation to future changes, including decarbonization, by means of pilot cases on offshore renewable energy and circular economy.

Synergies with other EU funding

MSP-GREEN assumes and complements the results or ongoing activities of several EU-funded projects in which the partners were or are involved, in both the following two categories:

- a) Projects directly related to MSP, in different EU seas (i.e. SUPREME, SIMNORAT, SIMWESTMED, MSPMED, SIMAtlantic, Baltic Scope and Pan Baltic Scope, eMSP NBSR, MARSPLAN-BS II, Remap, REGINA-MSP, MSP4BIO, Marine Plan)
- b) Other programs (Interreg, Life) on topics related to MSP (i.e. Land-Sea-Act, Capacity4MSP, LIFE REEF) and on EGD, Climate Change, decarbonization, biodiversity, etc. (Adriadapt, Adriacim, Framesport, EcoMED, Cascade, BIODIVERSEA LIFE-IP, MPA Europe, etc.).

Results and achievements

- Repository of best practises and lessons learnt
- Co-generated EU and sea basin level recommendations to ensure that MSP plans are coherent with respect to EGD objectives.
- Policy recommendations and identify concrete actions to boost the EGD components of MSP plans
- Policy briefs including elements of "policy feedback"(possible improvement of the MSP Directive and MSP policies at sea basin level
- Reach out coastal and maritime stakeholders and make them aware of EGD ambitions,
- Share EGD ambitions and the way they can be integrated within MSP with non-EU countries, in the frame of sea basin cooperation mechanisms

Participants

MSP-GREEN has been conceived as a pan-basin proposal. The motivations are: ambition to contribute with results valuable at EU level, opportunity to exchange experiences among different countries and sea- basins,

strengthening mutual learning and minimising duplication of effort, interest in exchanging reflections at regional level on EGD challenges and opportunities offered by Sustainable Blue Economy and support efforts of joint work towards coherent MSP.

In addition, previous experiences in MSP projects have been taken into due consideration, such as the opportunity to capitalise on gained knowledge and established excellent collaboration among some of the project partners. Finally, the partnership integrates research institutions closely collaborating with and supporting analytical and planning functions of MSP authorities in the Mediterranean and in the Black sea, responsible MSP authorities (MoEPRD, FI RCSW, BSH as associated) and an organisation for intergovernmental (and macro-regional cooperation on spatial planning and development (VASAB, associated partner), ensuring the possibility to gather experience on the ground and provide concrete outputs that are mutually discussed and validated at different governance levels and stakeholder groups.

Besides having wide experience in MSP and being directly involved in national MSP processes, the consortium partners provide a cluster of complementary competences: project coordination (CORILA), communication (MoEPRD, CORILA, IUAV, FI RCSW), sea-basin strategies, governance and stakeholder engagement (CEREMA, FI FI RCSW, MoEPRD), maritime sectors and environmental compatibility (CSIC, CNR, IFREMER, University of Brest), Sustainable Blue Economy (FI FI RCSW, CCMS, CEREMA).

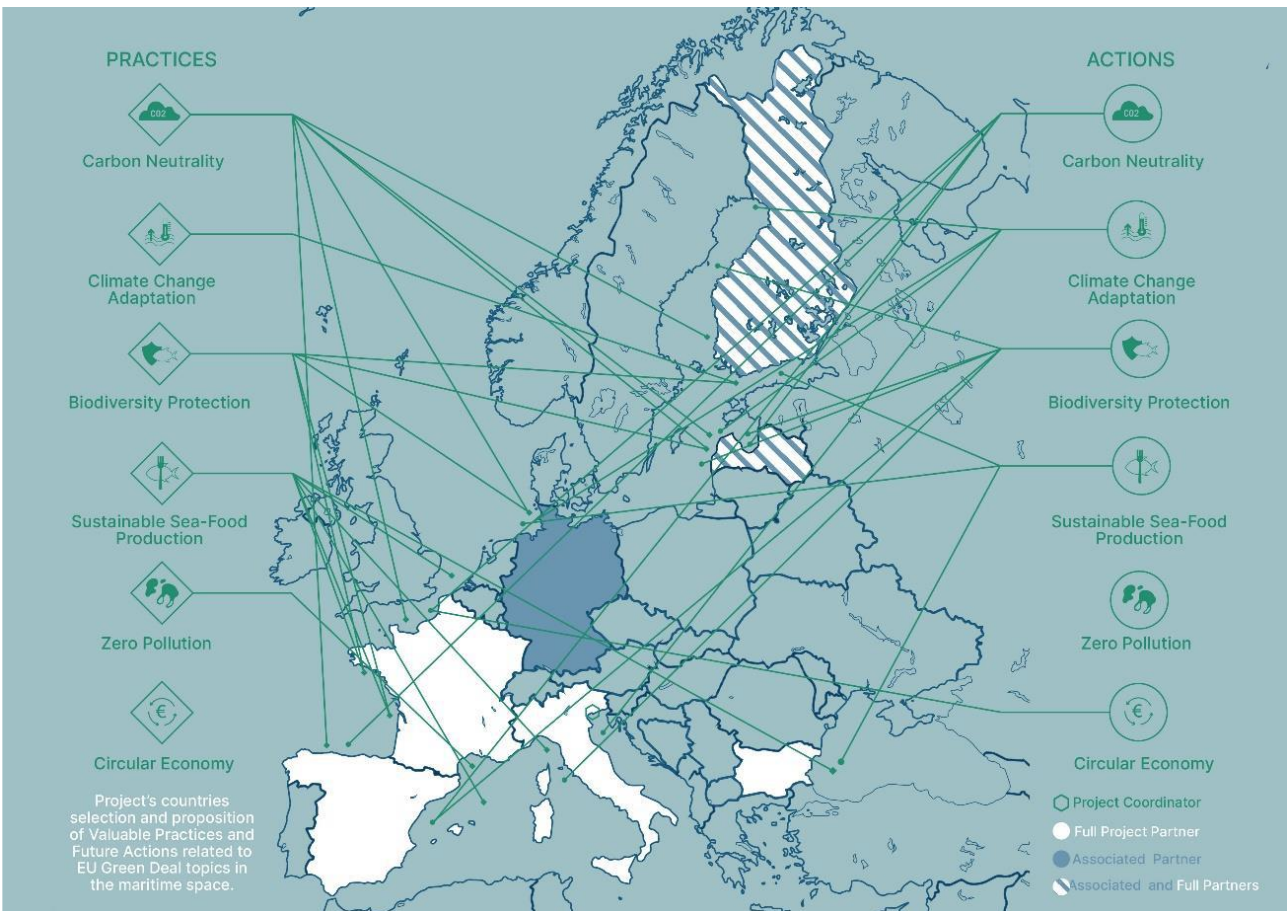
Full partners. The Project Coordinator (PC) is CORILA, Consortium for coordination of research activities concerning the Venice lagoon system, an association between universities and national research bodies, supervised by the Ministry of Universities and Research. CORILA successfully coordinated a number of EU-funded projects on MSP: ADRIPLAN, SUPREME, MSPMED. CORILA is affiliated in this project with two of its associated bodies (IUAV and CNR). These three institutions are currently supporting the Italian MSP Competent Authority in developing the national Maritime Spatial Plans. IUAV is an Italian public university based in Venice, with a strong experience in researching and teaching MSP and Climate Change adaptation and Environmental planning. Over the last decade it has been partner of several EU projects and initiatives (Erasmus Mundus, Marine Ecomed, ADRIPLAN, MSPMED, etc.). IUAV will contribute to the project by bringing specific competences in policies evaluation, climate change adaptation, marine aquaculture, spatial analysis and communication. The Institute of Marine Science of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) has been working on MSP since 2013, through several projects at transboundary, national, and local scale, covering all steps and aspects of the MSP process and developing specific instruments and tools. In this project, CNR will provide expertise in climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation integrated within MSP. CEREMA (Centre for Studies and Expertise on Risks, the Environment, Mobility and Urban Planning) is a multidisciplinary expertise centre, helping national and local public policies. In the sector of coastal and marine management, CEREMA is the main support agency for the preparation of the sea basin strategies, which include implementation of the MSP and the Marine Strategy directives. It brings to the project its global experience of sustainable development issues at sea as well as recent specific works in relation with ecological transition in blue economy sectors. IFREMER (French Ocean Research Institute) is a “public industrial and commercial institution” (EPIC) under the joint supervision of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, and Ministry of Environment, Energy and Sea. IFREMER develops research, studies and expert assessments on main current topics relating to marine ecosystems, coastal zones and maritime activities. IFREMER and the University of Brest will contribute to the project with their experiences for France

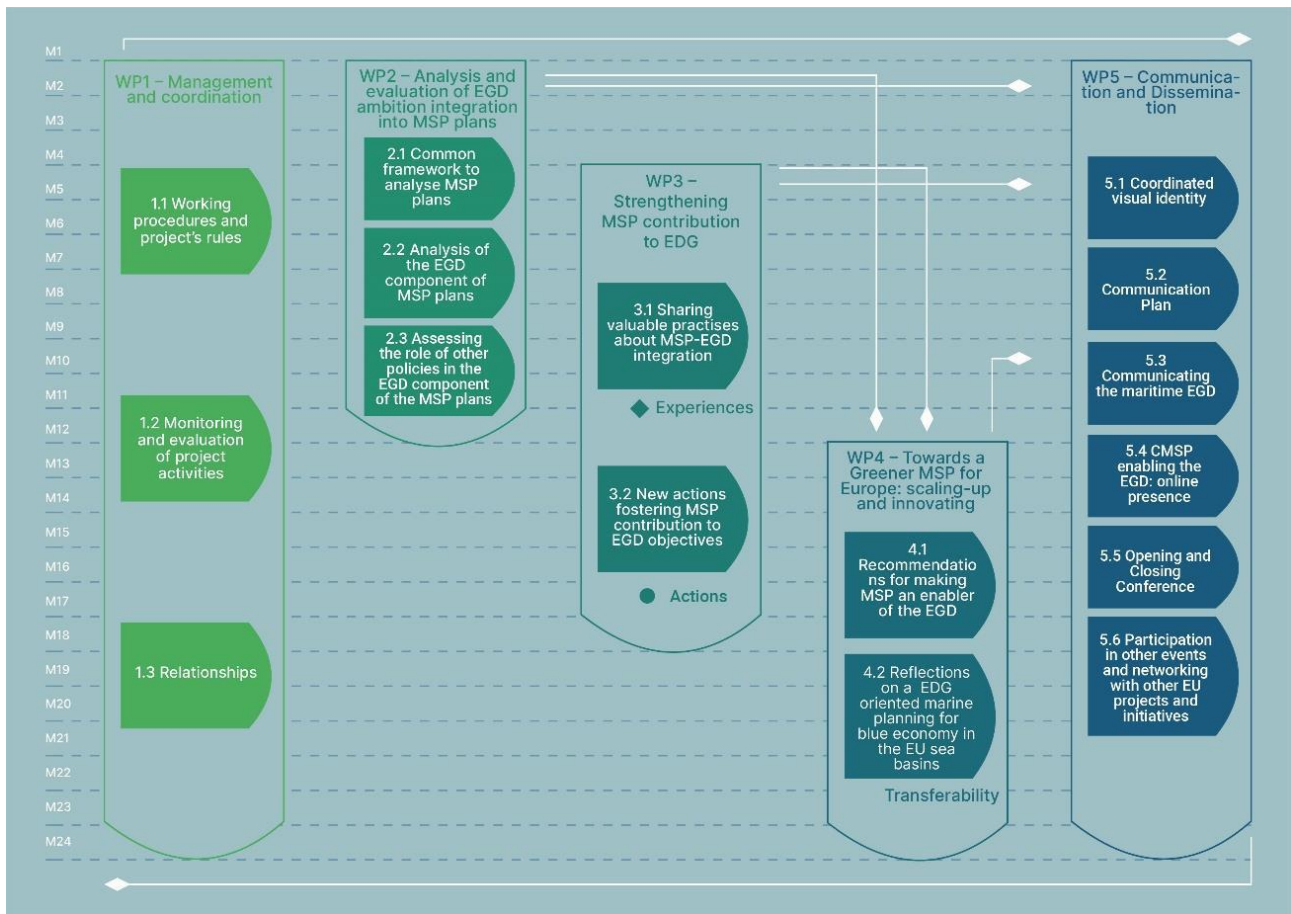
and the maritime basins (North Sea, Atlantic, Mediterranean), particularly from a governance point of view. The University of Brest (Université de Bretagne Occidentale -UBO) is a multidisciplinary university based in Brittany. The European Institute for Marine Studies (IUEM) is a multidisciplinary research, training and observation centre in natural and social sciences. MSP-GREEN will be implemented at the IUEM within the research unit AMURE (bringing together partners from UBO and IFREMER), a social sciences group specialized in the study of public policies related to maritime activities, sustainability of marine resources uses and ecosystem preservation. CSIC (Spanish Institute of Oceanography of the Spanish National Research Council) is a public research body dedicated to research in marine sciences, sustainability of fishery resources and the marine environment. The CSIC depends on the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain and advises administrations on matters related to oceanography and sea sciences. It provides technical support to the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, in relation to MSP and MSFD directives implementation and it has participated in past transboundary MSP projects (i.e. SIMNORAT, SIMWESTMED, MarSP, SIMAtlantic and MSPMED). The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia (MoEPRD) is the national MSP authority.

MoEPRD has been a partner in other MSP related cooperation projects, including Pan Baltic Scope, Baltic LINes, Land-Sea-Act, CapacityMSP. MoEPRD in cooperation with VASAB secretariat will support the engagement of the relevant MSP authorities and other stakeholders in the project, as well as a wide dissemination of the project results in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond. MoEPRD will integrate the project results in the interim report on the implementation process of the national MSP and also test the options for updating the MSP of Latvia to account for the EGD objectives. The Regional Council of Southwest Finland (FI FI RCSW) has a coordination responsibility of the Finnish MSP cooperation and acts as a national contact point for cross-sectoral cooperation and transboundary MSP. FI FI RCSW has participated in international MSP projects, such as Plan4Blue and Pan Baltic Scope and is currently participating in eMSP NBSR -project that joins Baltic Sea and North Sea MSP authorities. FI RGSW utilised good practises of MSP collaboration and will contribute to the co-creation of shared knowledge of EGD opportunities and challenges in MSP. The Centre for Coastal and Marine Studies (CCMS) is a research non-profit foundation based in Varna, Bulgaria. CCMS activities comprise a vast range of coastal and marine research, as well as support to implementation of the EU coastal and maritime strategies by developing scientific basis and providing research, expertise, knowledge transfer, networking and consultancy. CCMS is closely collaborating with the competent MSP authorities in Bulgaria and Romania, and directly supporting MSP process and national plan in the partnership under the EMFF MARSPLAN- BS II project (2019-2021).

Associated partners. Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB), hosted by the State Regional Development Agency (Latvia) prepares policy options for the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region and provides a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the Baltic Sea countries. It also acts as the Policy Area “Spatial Planning” coordinator within the EUSBSR for land-based spatial planning and co-coordinates MSP jointly with HELCOM (Helsinki Commission). VASAB will support the project with dissemination of activities and results within their established network. At the same time project results are expected to feed macro-regional work towards the joint efforts strengthening the coherence in the MSP and increasing resilience to the changing climate in the Baltic Sea region. The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) is the authority responsible for drawing up maritime spatial plans in the German

EEZ, acting on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB). The second iteration of the MSP plan for the German EEZ came into force on 1 of September of 2021. The attention of the BSH is now shifting to evaluation and strategic consideration of future topics, with much discussion expected on blue energy, food security, sustainable shipping and protecting biodiversity. In MSP-GREEN, the BSH will act as “practitioner’s voice” for case studies, preliminary results and policy recommendations. It will also link MSP-GREEN to ongoing projects in the Baltic Sea and North Sea, and particularly with eMSP NBSR, making use of options for joint discussions or exchange. Eventually the Ministry of Environment of Finland wishes to state its support to the project (Letter of Interest in annexe) despite not being able to be formally an Associated Partner.





3. Target audience

The event aims to engage a diverse array of participants, encompassing not just MSP GREEN's collaborators but also crucial stakeholders such as regional and national (both Italian and international) public institutions and authorities. This broader inclusion is essential to garner support and facilitate the integration of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in future decision-making processes. Additionally, the event seeks the participation of associations, innovation hubs, and environmental agencies, key players in the science-policy interface, many of whom routinely utilize MSP in their daily operations. Representatives from the realms of research and universities are also invited to contribute their perspectives and expertise to enrich the event.

4. Agenda of the event



Tuesday, January 17th, 2023
h.9.30

Agenda (draft) :

Floor coordinator: Folco Soffletti IUAV

luav greetings: maritime sustainability from Europe to local
(*luav University Rector Benno Albrecht and Director for research Francesco Musco*)
15'

MSP-Green presentation
(*Pierpaolo Campostrini, project coordinator, CORILA*) 15'

Mission Ocean, Green Deal and MSP
(*Kestutis Sadauskas DG Mare, TBC*) 15'

EU Policies between Green and Blue: Green Deal, Sustainable blue economy, Marine
component of the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and other EU policies
(*Jacek Zaucha, University of Gdańsk*) 15'

Coffee Break 10.30-11.00

5 short contributions on EU Green Deal challenges
(Chaired by Andrea Barbanti CNR-Ismar) 90'

- *Biodiversity and ecosystems (Gian Marco Luna, National Biodiversity Future Centre, (NBFC) TBC)*
- *Sustainable food production (Alexandra Neyts, European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform)*
- *Zero pollution (Laurence Martin, Federazione Italiana del mare)*
- *Circular economy (Jorge Miguel Lara López, Port of Valencia TBC)*
- *Climate change adaptation (Catarina Frazao Santos, MARE-ULisboa)*
- *Climate change mitigation: Carbon neutrality (TBC)*

Lunch 12.45-14.00

Round of Parallel panel discussions (two rooms)

Each panel is composed of key expert, moderator, rapporteur-discussant and project partners and/or national CA. It will allow introduction to national experiences and strategies. The panels in each slot run in parallel with participant divided by room of interest.





Each panel will be structured around (1) Experiences to be included in the project, (2) Topics/aspects to be bettered within national MSP plans. Specific key questions will be addressed to drive discussion, inputs from the public will be welcome.

1st Slot 14.00-15.00

Room A: Biodiversity and ecosystems

Moderator: Martina Bocci CORILA

Rapporteur: Cristina Cervera Nunez IEO_CSIC

Room B: Sustainable food production

Moderator: Daniele Brigolin IUAV

Rapporteur: Fabio Carella IUAV

2nd Slot 15.00-16.00

Room A: Zero pollution and Circular economy

Moderator: Denis Maragno IUAV

Rapporteur: Giulia Lucertini IUAV

Room B: Climate Change adaptation and Mitigation

Moderator: Emiliano Ramieri CNR-Ismar

Rapporteur: Filippo Magni IUAV

16:00- 16:30 Plenary:

Keynotes from moderators 20'

MSP-GREEN next steps

CORILA 5'

EC/CINEA 5'

17.00 End of event and goodbye coffee



The event featured the following speakers:

- The project coordinator Pierpaolo Campostrini (CORILA) greeted everyone and started the conference.
- Francesco Musco (IUAV) gave the opening remarks and welcomed everyone in the IUAV premises. He highlighted the role of IUAV in MSP at national and international level and the effort of the university to promote and research sustainability.
- Pierpaolo Campostrini, as project coordinator, gave an overview of the agenda and emphasised the importance of communication. The EU Green Deal is an ambitious set of policies and initiatives, so it is important to involve different countries, different stakeholders across basins. MSP-GREEN has 5 marine regions from the Black Sea, the Atlantic ocean, the Baltic sea, to the North Sea and the Mediterranean Sea.
- Evangelia Tzika (DG MARE) presented the EU challenges, and provided a focus on the Restore our oceans mission covering the mission objectives and the policies and sectors touched by it as well as the different ways of getting involved. She eventually promoted endorsement by projects and initiatives and event, the Mission Forum to take place on the 17th of February 2023, in Brussels.
- Jacek Zaucha (University of Gdansk) introduced a reflection about the EGD with his own strong policies and how they can interlink with MSP. There is a need for coordination, MSP cannot do everything but key elements are of interest for MSP. The EGD takes previous policies and sets a tight deadline and the need to boost them. There are new ambitions and issues and also new solutions (e.g. multiuse).
- Andrea Barbanti (CNR-ISMAR) as chair started the second session titled “Short contributions on EU Green Deal challenges” by presenting the speakers and explaining how they would cover main topics considered by the EGD.
- Gian Marco Luna (National Biodiversity Future Centre) started his presentation by mentioning the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan - NextGenerationEU and how it defined the creation of a National Biodiversity Future Centre - NBFC and its necessity, vision and aims. By explaining its organization he highlighted the spokes (and relevant objectives) considered in terms of monitoring and mapping and solutions to reverse biodiversity loss in the marine environment. He concluded by describing the practicalities of the resulting gateway.
- Alexandra Netys (European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform) presented the role of EATIP and areas of intervention. She then went into details of the relevance of food production in terms of the EGD. She also provided an overview of the EU drivers regarding Aquaculture.
- Laurence Martin (Federazione Italiana del mare) presents the interests in terms of promoting blue economy. Decarbonization at EU level the Political vision that is/will be translated into causes concerns in terms of time constraints. The EGD has an ambitious timeline that needs also technological innovation to drive industries and private sectors. The maritime sector and shipping sector and all the activities to act concretely towards the ambitious aim. This will of course take time to decarbonize the sector, that will not let go the moment but it depends on the approach, it is a race, but a marathon not a sprint.

- Jorge Miguel Lara Lopez (Port of Valencia) shared the results of the Loop-ports project to explore circularity in European ports and potential actions under the Green Deal. He discussed the regulation and the importance of integration of circular economy in ports. It is important to consider: The design of the port: circular is not only waste but avoidance of waste creation; Recycling; Moving cargo and improving logistics with hinterland; It is at purchasing moment that circular economy starts. A set of potential actions in port clusters were shared.
- Catarina Franzao Santos (MARE-ULisboa) addressed the adaptation needs urging a Climate wise MSP. She provided an overview of how MSP contributes to climate adaptation: regulating exacerbating effects. Increase resilience and reduce human pressures/local stressors; allocating space for important ecological areas; promoting cultural solutions; supporting new opportunities: MSP can anticipate conflicts (via modelling, risk assessment, scenarios). And MSP can also work to minimise conflicts.
- Giuseppe Zollino (Università di Padova) explained that in his view the EGD is very ambitious, there are a set of available technologies for green transition. He offers a review of different methods, highlighting that there are benefits and issues for the different methods but all should be considered.

After the lunch break a Round of Parallel panel discussions took place.

Each panel was composed of key expert, moderator, rapporteur-discussant and project partners and/or national CA. It allowed the introduction of national experiences and strategies.

The panels were structured around (1) Experiences to be included in the project, (2) Topics/aspects to be better addressed within national MSP plans. Specific key questions were addressed to drive discussion, inputs from the public will be welcome.

Aims of the discussion were to identify experiences of Green Deal topic inclusion in MSP. Expected results: 1) list of available experiences, 2) opportunities for capitalization 3) list of gaps, challenges, aspects to be strengthened in MSP plans.

The closing remarks of the event were given by of University IUAV of Venice Rector Benno Albrecht and the project coordinator Pierpaolo Campostrini, recalling the need to be aware of the timeline and proceed steadily to foster the European Green Deal.

5. Pictures of the event



The opening session.



HATCH's project roll-up.