BONUS BASMATI
Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Ecosystem Services

Newsletter 1

June 2018

Integrated and innovative solutions for MSP

BONUS BASMATI was launched in July 2017, and will continue until June 2020. The project focuses on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and marine and coastal ecosystem services. It analyses governance systems in the Baltic Sea region in order to develop a transnational model for MSP. A major outcome will be a MSP tool called Baltic Explorer. It is a spatial decision-support system designed to support the MSP process around the Baltic Sea.



The **Baltic Explorer** facilitates broad access to information. It helps planners and stakeholders to overcome the challenges of MSP, such as transboundary and cross-border planning and comprehensive mapping and management of ecosystem services. The tool will be developed with the help of its end-users and it will be tested in three BONUS BASMATI case studies. Cross-border collaboration and stakeholder involvement play a crucial role in the project.



Photo: H. Luhtala

Upcoming events

- **PhD Course on SDSS, Copenhagen, August 2018**
- Project workshop on Conflicts and Synergies in MSP, Stockholm, September 2018
- Third partner meeting, Helsinki, October 2018
- Fourth partner meeting, Turku, May 2019
- PhD Course on MSP, Turku, May 2019

The first BONUS BASMATI **PhD course** introduces its students to various methodologies for spatial decisions support, give them an overview of existing systems, and discuss relevant evaluation criteria and decision alternatives in the context of MSP. **Registration open** – please see the website bonusbasmati.eu for details.

BONUS
Science for a better future of the Baltic Sea region

Latest news

Where to publish MSP papers?

The governance study is progressing according to plan. The project staff have also been active in stakeholder committees (e.g. ICES) and made suggestions for designing, implementing and evaluating the efficacy of relevant public policies and governance at national level originating from the work of the project. However, it has been observed that MSP papers are not commonly published in journals dealing with spatial planning and EU public policy. Even though the EU is pumping a lot of money into transnational MSP activities and research, and MSP has become a central objective of the EU Macroregional Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), it seems that academic journals are not yet ripe to accommodate new and innovative knowledge from MSP research.



Photo: J. Aigars

Your decision is as good as your data!

While preparing the data requirements of the project, BONUS BASMATI would like to issue a reminder about data quality, and the responsibility of the planners to review their source information carefully. Any plan needs to be based upon trustworthy information, and each practitioner and stakeholder should judge from their side whether or not data are adequate.



Photo: H. Tolvanen

Rethinking the indicators of ecosystem services

The difficulties of realizing sustainability can be assisted by rethinking the indicators of ecosystem services. An innovative framework ensures that we can weigh different sustainability aspects against each other. The indicators will be used in a range of studies to exemplify their use. This will range from studies of combining fish farms and mussel production to assessments about conflicts between marine protected areas and alternative developments.



Photo: I. Druvietis

The Baltic Explorer has begun to take its shape

An innovative spatial decision support system (SDSS) for MSP has begun to take its shape. The scientific literature and technology reviews are finished, as well as the elicitation of user requirements for SDSS in MSP. Based on the results, the development group has started prototyping of the system, which will provide tools for cumulative impact assessment and suitability analysis. Innovativeness of the system will be guaranteed by efficient geocomputing, enabling interactivity in a web map application facilitating collaborative planning. After BONUS BASMATI project ends, source code of the system will be published as open-source.

Case studies are progressing

The Latvian case study will focus on valuation of alternative sea use options in the light of designating the marine protected areas. Danish-German case study will be investigated based on aquaculture expansion activity. The Pan-Baltic case study investigates business perspectives in MSP, focusing on maritime transport and tourism.

Project events

Concepts and methods discussed in the kick-off meeting

The BONUS BASMATI project was officially launched in the kick-off event organised by Nordregio. An external event with invited speakers and guests was held as a part of an internal project meeting. The programme included speeches from the project staff as well as representatives from the BONUS secretariat and VASAB. Afternoon was dedicated to discussion about the concepts and methods related to MSP: an introduction to Q-method, ecosystem service concepts and indicators, moving from research to governance, and computing cumulative impact on the environment. In addition, experiences Baltspace and Go4Baltic projects were presented. The kick-off meeting was held in Stockholm in September 2018.

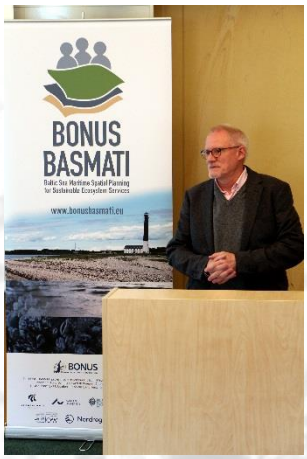


Photo: H. Tolvanen

Director of Nordergio Kjell Nilsson welcomes the partners to Nordregio.

Internal project meetings and workshops drive the project forward

Apart from day-to-day communication and unofficial work package meetings, two larger partner events gathering the project partners have been organised after the official kick-off meeting. Case studies were discussed and developed in a **project workshop** held in Riga, in October 2017. The second official **project meeting** was hosted by the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde, in April 2018. The meeting gathered all the project partners from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, and Sweden to discuss the progress of the BONUS BASMATI project.



Photo: H. Tolvanen

BONUS BASMATI partners in Stockholm during the kick-off meeting in September 2017.

Project partners

- Aalborg University, Denmark
- Aarhus University, Denmark
- Finnish Geospatial Research Institute
- Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology
- Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde, Germany
- Nordregio, Sweden
- University of Turku, Finland



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