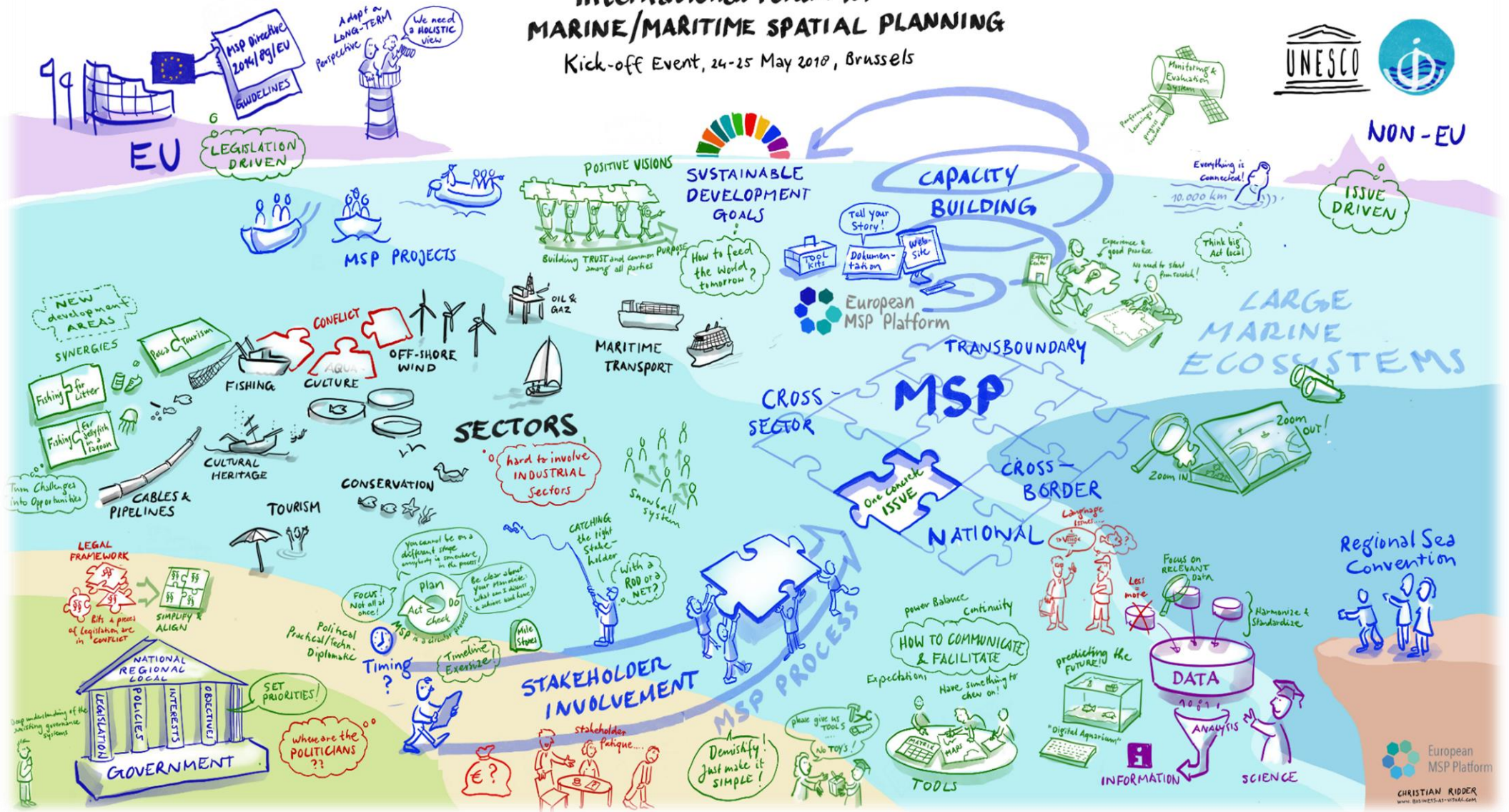


International Forum for MARINE/MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

Kick-off Event, 24-25 May 2010, Brussels



NON-EU



European MSP Platform
CHRISTIAN RIDDER
www.bri.mcs-stuttgart.com



AGENDA

OPENING SESSION

- **Bernhard FRIESS**, Director for Maritime Policy and Blue Economy, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission (DG MARE)
- **Valentina MABILIA**, Policy Officer, Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission (DG MARE)
- **Alejandro IGLESIAS-CAMPOS**, Programme Specialist, Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)
- **Rhona FAIRGRIEVE**, Manager of the Scottish Coastal Forum

PLENARY 1: EU CROSS-BORDER PERSPECTIVES

- **Dominique CARVAL**, Marine Spatial Planning Project Manager, French Hydrographic and Oceanographic Services, France
- **Andrea BARBANTI**, National Research Council – Institute of Marine Sciences CNR-ISMAR, Italy
- **Ingela ISAKSSON**, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Sweden
- **Lodewijk ABSPOEL**, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Netherlands
- **Luz PARAMIO**, Regional Fund for Science and Technology, the Azores, Portugal

PLENARY 2: INTERNATIONAL CROSS-BORDER PERSPECTIVES

- **Gonçalo CARNEIRO**, Senior Consultant, Niras, Sweden
- **Ivica TRUMBIĆ**, LME: LEARN Chief Technical Advisor, IOC-UNESCO, France
- **João Paulo SANTOS DE CARVALHO**, National Technical Advisor, Benguela Current Commission, Angola
- **Zhiwei ZHANG**, State Oceanographic Administration of China, China
- **Antonio DÍAZ DE LEÓN**, President, ICES Consulting, Mexico

TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

- **Workshop 1:** Cross-sector and transboundary integration in MSP
- **Workshop 2:** Stakeholder involvement

CONCLUSIONS

- **Angela SCHULTZ-ZEHDEN**, Contract Lead of the EU MSP Platform
- **Christian RIDDER**, Contract graphic recorder of the event

CLOSING PANEL

- **Julian BARBIÈRE**, Head of Marine Policy and Regional Section, Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Section, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)
- **Felix LEINEMANN**, Head of the Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning, Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission (DG MARE)
- **Vladimir RYABININ**, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO)

INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR MARINE/MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING (INTERNATIONAL MSP FORUM)

In March 2017, the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DG MARE) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) adopted a **"Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning processes worldwide"**. This roadmap will contribute to sketching out a vision and a role for MSP in implementing the **Agenda 2030**. It defines priority areas and strategic objectives for mutual cooperation and includes a set of actions to be implemented in the coming years, reaching out for collaboration with other UN bodies and Member States.

One of the actions of this Roadmap is to establish an **international forum for discussion and exchange, offering concrete examples and guidelines** on how to apply MSP. The forum's overarching objective would be to **empower** a new generation of planners, sectors, businesses and civil society to **identify solutions** and commit to cross-sectoral actions to **conserve our ocean** and to **use its resources in a sustainable way**.



Six workshops will be organized in different regions, from 2018 to 2020, having as target audience:

- ✓ **Policy makers and practitioners engaged in Maritime Spatial Planning;**
- ✓ **Local and regional authorities, engaged in the planning and management of the sea-land interface;**
- ✓ **NGOs addressing marine protection;**
- ✓ **Maritime sector and industry stakeholders dealing with planning and spatial use;**
- ✓ **Academics engaged in MSP and/or the Blue Economy.**

1ST INTERNATIONAL MSP FORUM

The 1st International Forum for Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning brought to Brussels (Belgium) **over 130 participants** from **38 different nationalities**, working in 27 countries, although many are based in a country and contribute to the development of MSP in other regions. The forum had good gender balance, with **55% women**. **Young MSP planners** from the Erasmus Mundus Master Course on MSP were invited to work as rapporteurs of the workshops.

The participants belonged to different categories of MSP stakeholders: governmental authorities, Academia, NGOs and private sector (consultancies and clusters). Their interests were very diverse: environment, fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, energy, infrastructure, tourism, science, and coastal/marine management/planning.

OPENING SESSION

Bernhard FRIESS welcomed the participants on behalf of the European Commission. He highlighted the importance of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) as a crucial element for the sustainable management of the oceans. The way an ocean is managed in one location can have considerable consequences for other global regions. To tackle challenges related to the seas effectively, a holistic global approach for managing the seas, such as MSP, is needed. DG MARE and IOC-UNESCO jointly organised the 2nd International Conference on MSP in Paris, in March 2017 that resulted in a Joint Roadmap to accelerate MSP processes worldwide. The next step will be to develop common guidelines on transboundary MSP, based on a wide consensus on standards and shared good practices. The International Forum for MSP's kick-off event is meant to launch this process and start the development of said guidelines.



Valentina MABILIA started by briefly defining and distinguishing cross-border and transboundary MSP, the first being related to a border between two countries, while the second refers to regions with jurisdictional areas of more than two countries. European legislation on MSP (MSP Directive) mandates transboundary collaboration among the Member States to ensure coherent plans, as well as also expresses intent to cooperate across borders with non-EU countries. The Commission also set up the European MSP Platform to assist EU Member States in the implementation of the Directive by sharing relevant knowledge and experiences on MSP. Moreover, since 2014, 12 transboundary projects were funded to develop tools and instruments to support MSP implementation in all EU sea basins.

Alejandro IGLESIAS-CAMPOS highlighted that MSP initiatives have multiplied from 5 countries in 2005, to around 90 in 2017. This development is in line with the efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (Life below water, which aims the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans) of the Agenda 2030. The common objective is to cover more than a third of the global EEZ by approved maritime spatial plans by 2030. IOC-UNESCO and the European Commission has been good partners in promoting MSP. The exchanges and the work of the International Forum on MSP are contributing to Priority area 5 of the Joint Roadmap: “Building Mutual understanding and communicating MSP”. Additionally, a new project dedicated to international guidelines for MSP co-financed by EASME/MARE and IOC-UNESCO - which includes two pilot projects and initiatives on transboundary MSP in the Western Mediterranean and Southeast Pacific region – will be launched soon.

Rhona FAIRGRIEVE shared experiences from the development of the Scottish Marine Plan, as well as the lessons learnt through the DG MARE co-funded SIMCelt project. The Scottish MSP is situated in a complex setting, having to deal with different governmental levels, a multitude of local authorities, international borders, vast sea areas and numerous islands. The Scottish Coastal Forum is an arena for stakeholders, which is funded by the national government. Scotland’s National Marine Plan, provides a single framework for managing all of Scotland’s seas, and will be supplemented by 11 regional plans with more detailed guidance for inshore waters (out to 12 nm). The SIMCelt project aimed to promote practical cross-border cooperation on MSP in the Celtic Sea.



PLENARY 1: EU CROSS-BORDER PERSPECTIVES



Dominique CARVAL began the plenary reflecting on the challenges of data and information sharing between MSP authorities and stakeholders, drawing on the experience gained through her participation in EU projects. The first lesson learnt is that these projects allow contributing partners and public bodies to share and compare their knowledge, to learn from each other, and to harmonise approaches. As different actors use different systems for organising data, a jointly agreed classification is lacking.

Andrea BARBANTI explained that available data can be used to build tools – which should not be “toys” - to assist the MSP decision-making processes. What is relevant is how to use the data. The challenges in the Adriatic-Ionian region are mainly: the complexities of multi-level governance; lack of true joint transboundary planning and plans; the difficulty of involving non-EU countries; and issues regarding areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).

Ingela ISAKSSON stressed that is essential to the blue economy to maintain healthy seas and sustainably manage resources, showing the “SDG wedding cake”, which place the environment as the basis of the sustainable development to achieve societal and economic goals, having the SDG 17 “Partnerships for the goals” as the “crown of the cake”. Ten countries surround the Baltic Sea, share its resources and face the same environmental challenges, which is why it is vital to think and plan beyond national borders. The Baltic SCOPE project brought together MSP authorities and regional organizations to ensure coherence across national plans, while finding common solutions to transboundary challenges. One of the main project lessons is that MSP policies should be based on the same planning evidence, which is facilitated by the intergovernmental organizations HELCOM and VASAB.

Lodewijk ABSPOEL talked about the situation of MSP in the North Sea, in comparison to others a relatively ‘small’ sea, where nine different authorities with different languages and backgrounds have been undertaking maritime spatial planning for quite some time already. In order to improve coherence between MSPs in the region, the NorthSEE project promotes exchanges between MSP authorities, experts and related institutions. Making information

visual and bringing people together in a playful manner are solutions to tackle possible language barriers.

Luz PARAMIO described cross-border MSP cooperation in Macaronesia, a region covering more than 4 million km² of sea. Due to the islands' remoteness and the region's distinct oceanic features, MSP processes in Macaronesia face some specific. Therefore, Madeira, the Azores and the Canary Islands work together in the MarSP project to jointly develop concrete actions and to build the necessary capacity and tools for implementing the MSP Directive, including mechanisms for cross-border cooperation.

PANEL DISCUSSION

What are the effects of transboundary MSP projects?

ISAKSSON: Thanks to projects the countries have the opportunity to reach beyond their borders. Projects are extremely helpful to create also the necessary upper level of a joint vision among countries.

How to bring different sectors together?

CARVAL: Actors from all sectors can contribute with valuable information to MSP processes. However, engaging different stakeholders can be a sensitive topic; a balance needs to be struck between often opposing interests of different stakeholders, such as between conservation efforts and economic development.

How to bridge the gap between partners in different stages of MSP implementation?

ABSPOEL: All the countries have common issues at the same step and it does not really matter in which step a country is, because planning is a cycle. It is important to be clear and open about your mandate and the scope for negotiations you have. One should not think too narrow.

How do you get ministries to actively work together?

BARBANTI: National ministries are under a legal obligation to work together, but cooperation is a process, which requires time. Once the authorities at national level are set up and start working effectively, the regional levels will be obliged to follow suit.

How to take the ecological component into account?

PARAMIO: The sustainable management of the environment is the goal and an ecosystem-based approach is the basis.



Take Home Messages

PARAMIO: *For the next round of MSP, it is vital to account for climate change adaptation measures.*

ABSPOEL: *First, the country needs to have its own agenda, then discuss with the neighbouring countries. Be aware of the impacts that decisions taken in your jurisdiction have on other seas. Look at the wider scope, collaborate with your neighbours and beyond and connect sea basins.*

ISAKSSON: *Share experience on monitoring and evaluation for effective implementation of MSP. We are better and stronger if countries and experts talk to each other and work together.*

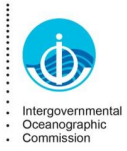
BARBANTI: *MSP is fascinating because it combines human, economic and ecological dimensions. It is a great exercise and opportunity for science to inform policy.*

CARVAL: *MSP can contribute to solutions to major issues, for instance by solving the conflicts on overlapping EEZ claims. Alternatively, MSP can help developing viable workarounds to manage disputed maritime areas. Rationalize the legal framework and data sharing as to move from data to governance.*

PLENARY 2: INTERNATIONAL CROSS-BORDER PERSPECTIVES



Gonçalo CARNEIRO opened the second plenary by presenting the study carried out for the European Commission on international best practices for cross-border MSP, that provides recommendations based on a review of four MSP process outside of Europe: Rhode Island, Coral Triangle, Southern Ocean and Xiamen. Some of the key good practices identified by the study include: invest in a deep understanding of the existing governance system; invest time and resources during the MSP processes in building trust and a sense of



common purpose; adopt an issue-driven approach to MSP; adopt a long-term perspective; manage expectations for stakeholder involvement; and design a monitoring and evaluation system that analyses performance and progress towards goals.

Ivica TRUMBIĆ talked about transboundary MSP in the context of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), which are relatively large areas of ocean space adjacent to continents in coastal waters and extending seaward. In this sense, they are transboundary by nature. The LME concept is closely related to MSP, as both are transboundary in nature, operate on an international scale, involve multiple spatial levels, and integrate natural and socio-economic systems. The LME: LEARN project is based on five modules: productivity, fish and fisheries, pollution and ecosystem health, socioeconomics, and governance. The project's outcomes are: toolkits designed to support managers, stakeholders and other LME practitioners by providing practical guidance on how to implement MSP at LME scale; trainings; and regional networking.

João Paulo SANTOS DE CARVALHO presented the MSP processes in the Benguela Current LME (BCLME), where Angola, Namibia and South Africa have signed a Convention, establishing an intergovernmental partnership that promotes an integrated, ecosystem-based management of the BCLME. MSP implementation has encountered several challenges, including a lack of data and information in certain domains, limited financial and human resources, inadequate legislation, integration of small-scale fishers' interests, and limited awareness and support within the government and stakeholders. On the other hand, the regional cooperation on MSP presents an opportunity for the three countries to grow together as one region, to build personal relationships, and to improve integration of national and regional conservation planning

processes to inform MSP. It was highlighted the importance of demystifying MSP by continuing the dialogue among all stakeholders and authorities, and adopting a learning-by-doing approach.

Zhiwei ZHANG introduced the audience to a transboundary project on collaborative research interests in MSP between China and South Korea in the Yellow Sea. While China has been working on MSP since 1979 – through ICZM - and is currently preparing the 4th generation plan, MSP work in South Korea is more recent, as the first national Plan has only been adopted this year. The experience has revealed a number of challenges relating to: the large size of the Yellow Sea, the different policy backgrounds, regional disputes over sea borders, limited data availability and conflicts of interests between national stakeholders.

Antonio DÍAZ DE LEÓN spoke about MSP in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and the North Brazil Shelf LME, collectively referred to as CLME+. The CLME+ Partnership and Alliance tries to regroup all the regional actors in an effort towards sustainable management, use and protection of the sea basin. So far, MSP efforts remain largely national and not transboundary. Currently, in the CLME+ region disputes among sectors, for example between the fishing and the environmental sector, hamper the MSP implementation. If stakeholders engage in a constructive dialogue, sectors can begin to better understand each other's viewpoints and start building trust. A number of elements were identified to successfully launch MSP processes: political will, knowledge and practice, leadership, effective use of funds, keeping the momentum, a legal framework in place, stakeholder participation.

PANEL DISCUSSION

How to ensure effective participation of stakeholders?

SANTOS DE CARVALHO: It is crucial to convince sectoral stakeholders that synergies can be found and that they are not necessarily a threat to each other.

How to approach areas with countries without diplomatic relations?

DÍAZ DE LEÓN: Countries do not need to have close relations. Through the use of the right mechanisms, states can still cooperate on issues that transcend diplomatic problems.

The main challenges for cross-border MSP according to 80 sli.do users



Take Home Messages

SANTOS DE CARVALHO: *First, we need to acknowledge that, although we share the same ecosystem, every country's needs and viewpoints are different. Second, all three countries around the Benguela Current are new to MSP; therefore the approach is learning-by-doing. Finally, when planning nationally, try to think rationally from the outside.*

DÍAZ DE LEÓN: *Transboundary MSP is not only about bringing people together, but you need to have a common issue, that will bring countries to cooperate.*

ZHANG: *Knowledge is crucial for decision making in the context of MSP and Coastal Management. Local cooperation in transboundary areas and public participation showed as the key of success to conservation and sustainable uses.*

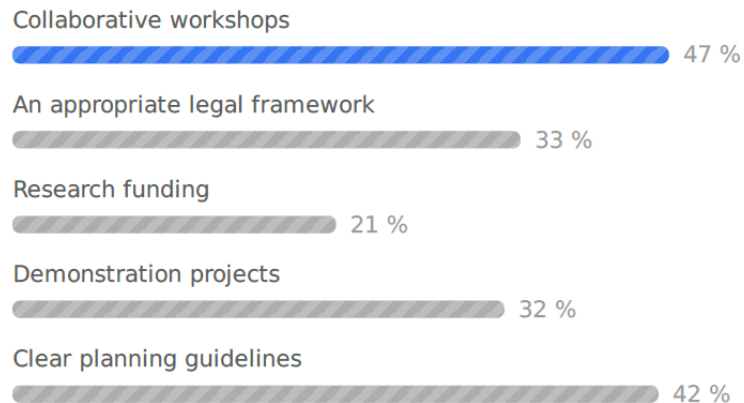
TRUMBIĆ: *We have more practical experience in MSP than we think we do. Significant progress is being made. Rather than discussing, let us start developing plans more actively than we have been doing so far.*

CARNEIRO: *Documenting all MSP experiences can be useful as a means of learning. As generic statements are of limited utility, it is important to document how the specific problems were solved in a given context, so that they can be compared and assessed.*

TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS

Two workshops were conducted with experts who shared their practical experience about cross-sector/ transboundary integration and stakeholder participation in MSP, considering the main challenges and lessons they could extract from these experiences, whether the experience could be replicable (or not) in other contexts, highlighting good practices and fit-for-purpose solutions. Participants were divided into round-tables and the key messages of each workshop are summarized below per topic discussed.

The top enabling factor for delivering synergies between sectors according to 91 sli.do users?



Workshop 1: Cross-sector and transboundary integration in MSP

Coordinating and integrating different sectors during the planning process

As cross-sector integration is intricately linked with stakeholder engagement, which needs a context-specific strategy. Key issues for developing such a stakeholder strategy include trust building, ocean literacy, developing a common language, and emphasizing capacity building. It is critical to highlight the benefits of cross-sector integration and to present stakeholders with successful examples.

Developing a dialogue between different government levels

It is important to have national MSP legislation in place to initiate a national MSP process, but these could also be initiated based on the desire to resolve a specific conflict. Having a centralized governmental authority is important to help lead the process, but leaders could also come from other authorities. Gathering different levels of government together during a planning process can be done through existing or newly developed structures such as steering committees, forums, or regional councils. From a cross-border perspective, it is crucial to build on Regional Seas Conventions, transboundary projects and existing scientific cooperation between government levels, as well as to focus on common issues and objectives. But internal cooperation needs to work well before starting transnational cooperation.

Effect of national sector integration on cooperation with neighbours

There is often a lack of cross-sector integration in national MSP processes, which makes cross-border cooperation on MSP more difficult. Establishing a permanent forum in parallel to the planning processes, where all stakeholders are involved, could be very valuable. However, involving private stakeholders can be difficult, both on the national as well as on the cross-border level. High-level political support for MSP within a country can be influential in convincing sectoral stakeholders to provide input to planning processes.



Collecting and integrating data at cross-border / international level

Although pilot projects often produce recommendations and good practices regarding the sharing of data, these do not always translate into official planning processes. There is a real challenge of data interoperability and accessibility, which link into the issue of harmonisation. It might be worthwhile to consider 'unofficial' data, but with a quality-check procedure. MSP does not always need all the data available, but it is essential to invest in trust building concerning the sharing of sensitive data.

Capacity building

There is a strong need for sharing experiences in MSP processes, and to focus on learning-by-doing in a structured way. For many countries, there is a need for institutional capacity building, and to invest in awareness raising. Capacity building should be, however, based on specific needs and be mainly based in institutional capacity building instead of individual.

Timing

It is important for sectoral stakeholders to understand at what times of the year activities are peaking. The timeline of national MSP processes is often not aligned with sectoral plans, neither between neighbour countries; cross-border timeline exercises might therefore prove very valuable to understand varying timelines, as well as communication between planners from different countries that share the same sea basin. Emphasizing important milestones and annual targets during the planning process and communicating these to stakeholders in a timely manner, will ensure that stakeholders feel

truly involved and will prioritise the planning process in their own work as well.



Communication and consultation

It is important to meet face-to-face starting at an early stage and to invest in frequent meetings with stakeholders. This is a true prerequisite for building a common understanding and trust. Language barriers may not only refer to national languages, but also to differing understandings of terminology. In that sense, cultural differences and values should be acknowledged and dealt with. English usually works well between experts, but not between stakeholders when this is not the official local language.

Synergies and conflicts between sectors

Conflicts may be transformed into synergies if seasonal arrangements can be made between planners and sectoral stakeholders. Synergies – such as multi-use - can help solving problems, while it needs political support. Ocean literacy can and should therefore play a large role in maritime planning processes.

The biggest challenges for stakeholder engagement to 60 sli.do users



Workshop 2: Stakeholder involvement

Identification of stakeholders

The specific context must always be taken into account when identifying stakeholders, and it is key to involve all or many relevant sectors. A stakeholder identification strategy must a) involve the governmental authorities of the scale of the MSP process, but taken into account that local stakeholders are easily identified by local authorities b) be conducted by professionals who know the context and the stakeholders; c) use the ‘snowball’ method; d) include formal and informal methods; e) build on previous processes (including sectoral); and f) ensure a fair power balance to ensure full representation, taking into account full representation - including minorities – as well as managing those trying to influence the process.

Stakeholder selection

Stakeholder selection depends on the specific planning process, the scale and the specific topics of interest. When analysing stakeholders, it is key to cast a wide net, and then to consolidate. It is key to first focus on those stakeholders that need to be on board, and to ensure that they are in fact the appropriate representatives. One must ensure that local actors are involved, but as plans can have transboundary impacts, foreign actors should be involved as well.

Stakeholder analysis

It is key to make use of existing networks and to build on the experiences of previous processes, making use of existing formal methodologies to identify, classify and understand stakeholder relations, although more free methods of mapping were reported as more commonly used. Stakeholder analysis is a must, and one must not forget to take into account issues such as literacy and cultural aspects.



Timing

It is key to involve stakeholders as early as possible, but only after defining clear objectives and the procedure of engagement. One must also leave room for flexibility, as some stakeholders may want to join the process at a later stage at their own initiative and it is never too late to reach out to stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement is usually invested in during the planning phase and less so during implementation, but often stakeholders are engaged again during the plan review process. This interrupted engagement is detrimental to stakeholder relations, especially if there is a long hiatus between the consultations.



Stakeholder engagement

It is key to work with stakeholders on both an individual level as well as to engage with them in groups, ideally at a local, regional as well as national scale. They must be reminded of the potential benefits of the plan for them, and one must prevent 'stakeholder fatigue'. Stakeholders should be informed of what is expected of them.

Conflicts

Building trust is crucial when engaging with stakeholders, as is the development of shared objectives and visions, as well as trying to find common issues. It is key to define the topics of discussion as concretely as possible, including the potential conflicts between stakeholders. In some processes, jointly developing scenarios can prove valuable, as can involving a skilled and independent professional moderator. In order to try and prevent stakeholder conflict, the planning process should start with the development of a stakeholder matrix, mapping all possible conflicts and understanding the power and responsibilities of relevant parties

Challenges

Stakeholder groups have different strengths and weaknesses that affect participation, including political support, financial means or legal backing. Finding adequate resources, including enough time, is challenging for all stakeholders. It is often difficult to arrive at a common understanding of what MSP is and should be, especially concerning cross-border planning. Since there are other marine policy processes (including sectoral) going on, it is a challenge to keep the stakeholder willingness to participate in MSP.

Reporting and communication

Workshops are a good format to engage the public as well as other stakeholders, and to facilitate a two-way exchange. Even if there is nothing specific to update, it is good to stay in touch with the stakeholders throughout the process. It is important to present stakeholders with the whole process of consultation, highlighting milestones where feedbacks are foreseen, not only at the end of the process.

CONCLUSIONS

Angela SCHULTZ-ZEHDEN, together with graphic recorder **Christian RIDDER**, summarized the main threads of the forum with the help of a 'rich picture' developed throughout the event.

The success of MSP processes will be defined by **understanding the underlying issues** that drive MSP. Such issues may be local, focused on resolving conflicts, but they may also refer to the avoidance of future conflicts. MSP is also about **tackling the challenges of tomorrow**, such as how to feed the world population, how to develop energy security or how to deal with climate change. MSP may offer solutions to such issues in very concrete ways, and it may assist on getting such topics on the political agenda. Key point is investment in **connecting people** to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the SDG14.

MSP is multi-level because its influences range from the local to the national, from the sea basin to continental level, and may even

have impacts around the globe. It is important to focus on concrete developments and to motivate local actors, while at the same time ensuring that all activities are in line with larger scale strategies. It is important to properly understand the existing **institutional governance frameworks**, and the role that MSP can play in these.



A major issue for MSP concerns data, and how to focus on **relevant data**. From data, one can retrieve information, and in order to do so, one needs to employ tools. The issue of a **common language** is also crucial to ensure that stakeholder from different backgrounds properly understand each other. It is key to ensure that everyone agrees on the same meaning of terms, in order to avoid misunderstandings.



Stakeholder involvement is another major issue, and especially whether to consider a wide or a focused approach. A planner must ask themselves whether it is more important to include as many stakeholders as possible, or whether it is better to focus on believers – those that explicitly want to be involved. Then one must also consider how and when to approach the desired stakeholders: with pre-defined issues, or asking them to co-develop a vision?

In order to realise all of the above, it is crucial to invest in **capacity building**. This forum is a clear example of the importance of having enthusiastic people engaged in MSP, especially younger generations in addition to those that sit on a wealth of knowledge and experience. Cross-border projects promote active sharing among individuals with different levels of MSP experience, and can provide a venue for **coaching** or **mentoring**. Learning by doing is important, but one must take the opportunity to **build on existing knowledge and experience**, and most importantly, on the international MSP community.

The benefit of cross-border MSP according to 60 sli.do users



CLOSING PANEL

Julian BARBIÈRE commenced by commending the forum and its organizers for its gender balance, inclusion of the next generation of MSP professionals, as well as people with various experiences and expertise to share. The forum was an important contribution to achieving the SDGs through contextualizing the work that has been done to achieve the key priority areas of the **Joint Roadmap for MSP**. Regarding the priority **transboundary MSP**, an expert group will be formed with the role of capturing experiences that are linked to this International MSP Forum across all sea regions. On **ecosystem-based management**, there are a number of working groups focused on ocean stressors, which are meant to guide on-going and future MSP processes, as well as to help managers to develop tools relevant for MSP. Last, to achieve **capacity building**, there are currently several MSP trainings and workshops organized in various regions to help institutions, communities and stakeholders build their capacities and make meaningful contribution to MSP. Other capacity building initiatives include: the global survey on capacity building on MSP; established connections with Europe and agencies outside of Europe on capacity development; the IOC UNESCO website and the EU MSP Platform which bring an international dimension to website information sharing and outlines discussion on MSP; coupled with forums such as this one.

Felix LEINEMANN discussed the role of the **International MSP Forum** and the way forward. This MSP platform will help build capacities at various levels through a series of forums and events with a diverse target audience, including policy makers, local and

regional authorities, NGOs, industry representatives, academics and researchers. Themes identified for future workshops will include MSP for Blue Growth at a global scale; metrics for measuring growth and development of the maritime sectors; and data for MSP. How can we go on to build a community that enables collective and continues interaction? By sharing problems, knowledge and experiences between regions.



Vladimir RYABININ stressed the importance of the meeting as a shortcut to progress for achieving some aspects of the SDGs. MSP has a direct relationship with activities and functions of DG MARE and IOC-UNESCO, who will jointly continue to support activities that will promote MSP globally towards achieving the SDGs.



There is currently a dilemma of managing the oceans and its associated challenges (fisheries, pollution, acidification, invasive species, climate change, among others). There is the need for a new level of ocean science, and the **UN Decade of Ocean Science** and the UN Ocean We Want are initiatives that represent the opportunity for big changes. These changes must occur in the area of data acquisition, including new technology, tools and methods for acquiring ocean data. Informed science to predict issues will only occur with technological breakthroughs in design and investment. Finally, we should not forget the bottom up approach to ocean management through ecosystem-based management. There are currently 65 countries with some form of maritime spatial plans and additional on-going processes, demonstrating that there is good momentum and further room for progress.



