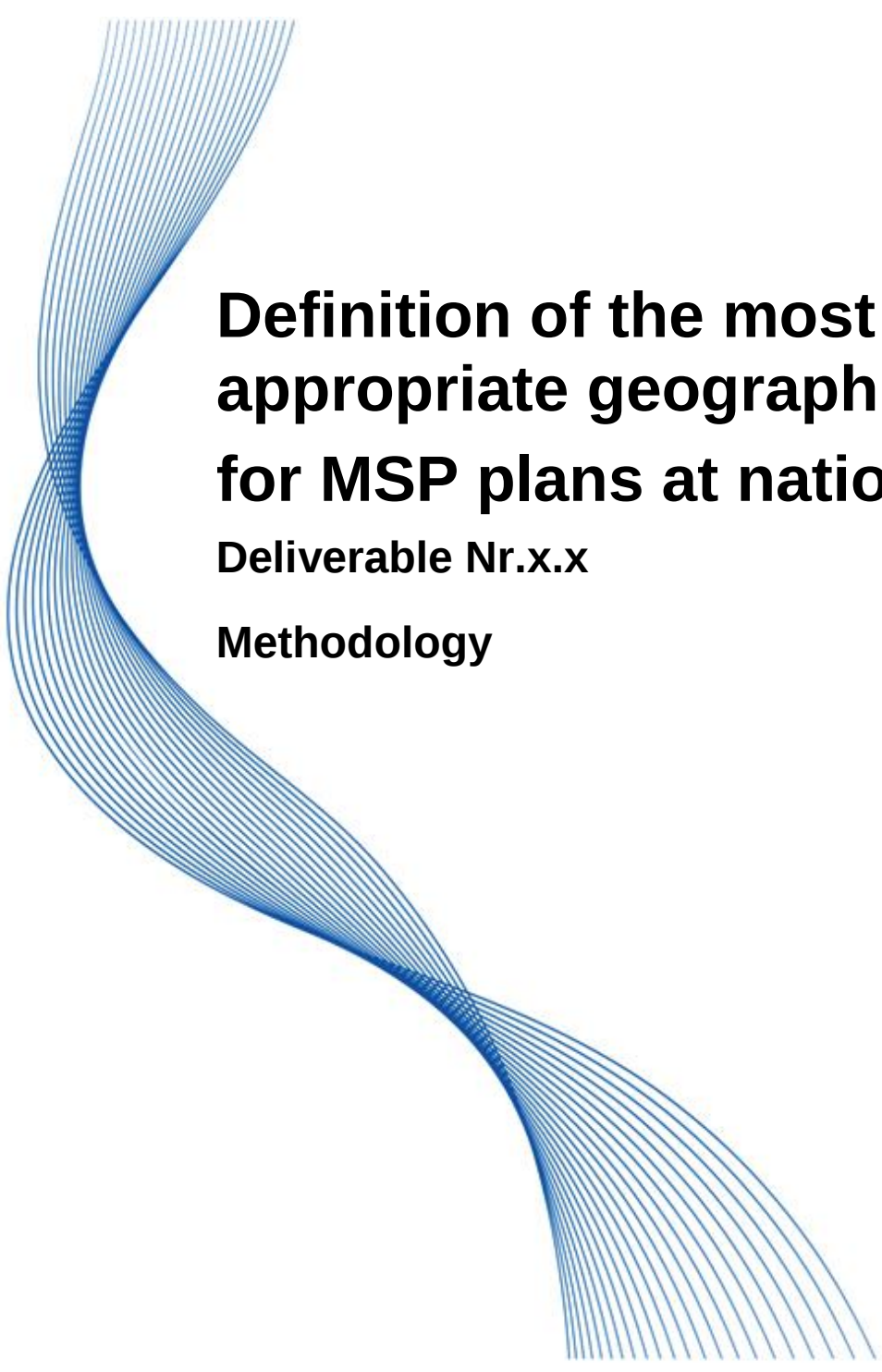




Supporting maritime spatial Planning
in the Eastern Mediterranean
(SUPREME)



Definition of the most appropriate geographical scale for MSP plans at national scale

Deliverable Nr.x.x

Methodology



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Methodology setting

Specific objective

The methodology proposal is functional to reach the goal of Task C 1.3.5, namely the "*Definition of the most appropriate geographical scales for MSP plans at national scale*". The choice of the geographical scale is very important because it will affect also the level of definition (strategic, planning, management) and the specific nature of the indications of the Maritime Plans. In the sea, important ecosystem processes and human activities have a various range of geographical scales. Therefore, the identification of the appropriate scale and its resolution of intervention is a complex decision, in the process of developing effective management plans that take into account ecological, economic and social processes.

In order to define the boundaries for *planning units* (i.e. homogeneous areas on which to apply Maritime Plans) it is important to identify two different types of boundaries: boundaries for analysis and boundaries for management.

Defining boundaries for analysis broader than the boundaries for planning/management will enable us to identify sources of influence (e.g., sources of pollution) that have an effect on our planning/management area as well as the authorities or institutions responsible for those sources, in the implementation of our spatial plans.

Starting from this point of view, the methodology proposes the use of a broader scale to define an analytical system (i.e. for testing on the *Case Study areas*), in order to develop a general framework for assessing the correct geographical scale functional to the delimitation of one or more *planning units*.

Methodological path

Assuming that the MSP has the objective of ensuring an integrated management of the multiple maritime activities without compromising the good environmental status of the sea, some criteria of analysis have been identified on which to base the methodological path.

Starting from the results of the Survey on *Marine Areas delimitation criteria and scale of interventions issues introduced by European Projects*, the methodology tries to identify the most used and appropriate criteria to analyze a marine area and delimitate possible *planning units*.

On the basis of the Survey feedbacks, these criteria result to be related mainly to: a) environmental issues (i.e. criteria finalized to map and compare different types of protection instruments in force); b) economic issues (i.e. criteria related to the uses of the sea such as fishing, tourism, transport, shipping, etc. aimed to map and analyze the different sea and coastal activities); c) administrative issues (i.e. criteria linked to the legal and political framework and to different existing maritime and coastal planning and management instruments).

In order to support the decision-making process in identifying the correct geographical scale to be attributed to the *planning units*, the methodology provides analytical and assessment parts.

The analytical part is aimed to recognize, on one side, environmental issues and, on the other side, maritime uses and economic activities and then to highlight impacts and overlaps between environmental instances and anthropic activities, specifically considering sectoral programs and policies acted by different institutional actors.

The assessment part suggests to use a SWOT Analysis for choosing among different possible options to delimitate the planning units, taking into account not only the environmental conflicts produced by different maritime activities, but also the evaluation of the peculiar political and institutional framework, in order to define geographical scale and level of intervention of the Plan in the most appropriate way.

Specifically, the methodological path will be divided into 5 phases:

- 1) Definition of analysis criteria
- 2) Recognition and mapping of environmental resources and protections
- 3) Recognition and mapping of the maritime uses and economic activities
- 4) Recognition of interferences between maritime uses/economic activities and environmental resources, and particularly of impacts (a) and assessment, through a SWOT Analysis, of possible options for delimitation of *planning units* (b).
- 5) Setting up of Recommendations

The analytical phases (2, 3 and 4 a.) will be applied to wider areas (i.e. Case Studies areas), while the phase of assessment and proposal (4 b.) will be applied to narrower areas (i.e. Focus areas).

Finally, the methodology will be transposed in Recommendations, after having been tested through the Case Studies, whose feedbacks will be useful to confirm it or correct it.

PHASE 1, Definition of analysis criteria

(Feedbacks from the Survey on Marine Areas delimitation criteria and scale of interventions issues introduced by European Projects)

In order to gain useful inputs from previous experiences, a first step was to analyze the results of the Survey, carried out on the most recent European Projects applied to the Mediterranean Region, in order to describe their approach in defining criteria for delimitation of pilot areas.

A list of delimitation criteria regarding economic issues (tourism, fishery, aquaculture, energy, transports, extraction of raw materials), social issues, infrastructural issues, morphological issues, environmental issues, landscape issues and other issues were analyzed within the Survey.

From the comparison among the EU Projects, it raised that the most used criteria were those related to environmental, economic and administrative issues. Therefore, they have been applied also to the methodology as analysis criteria.

Scope of application: - Mediterranean Region

Main references: - Survey on EU Projects

Outputs: - **COMPARATIVE MATRICES ON EU PROJECTS**
- **DEFINITION OF ANALYSIS CRITERIA**

PHASE 2, Recognition and mapping of environmental resources and protection levels

This recognition will allow to analyze distribution and possible overlaps of environmental resources and levels of protection. To this end, instruments for environmental protection (Maps of constraints, protected areas, etc.) as well as maps illustrating eco-systemic characteristics will be collected and analyzed. The analysis will allow to highlight also the presence of the main cross-border environmental aspects.

Scope of application (for testing of the methodology): - Case Study area

Main references:

- Planning/management instruments for environmental marine protection
- Planning/management instruments for environmental coastal protection

Outputs : - **MAP OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

PHASE 3, Recognition and mapping of maritime uses and economic activities

This phase will allow to analyze distribution and different levels of intensity of maritime uses and economic activities on the sea and the coastal territories. The mapping will also allow to identify any overlaps and possible interferences between co-existing uses and activities in the same area. To this end, sectoral Programs for each activity and Land-based Plans in force on the coastal areas will be collected and analyzed. The mapping and analysis will also take into account the relevant cross-border aspects.

Scope of application (for testing of the methodology): - Case Study area

Main references:

- Sectoral Programs / Spatial Plans
- Land Based Plans (e.g. ICZM Plans)

Outputs:

- **MAP OF THE USES OF THE SEA**
- **MATRIX OF COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN DIFFERENT USES**

**PHASE 4, a) Recognition of interferences between maritime uses/economic activities and environmental resources, and particularly of impacts,
b) Assessment, through a SWOT Analysis, of possible options for delimitation of planning units.**

a. The analytical part will provide a framework, geographically differentiated, based on the type and number of interferences, related to compatibility and potential conflicts between environmental protection and maritime activities. The identification of potential interferences will be supported by the analysis of the Environmental Reports produced by the SEA¹ of the previously collected sectoral Programs and Plans. In this phase it will be important to consider with particular attention the areas of real or potential land/sea conflicts.

b. The assessment part is aimed to support the Decision Maker about the definition of geographical scale (wide or local), through the definition of one or more possible options for the delimitation of *planning units*. In order to define the most appropriate geographical scale, it is suggested to use a SWOT analysis to choose among different possibilities of delimitation, taking into account mainly three issues: 1) urgency related to the status of the conflicts between environmental protection and maritime activities; 2) institutional boundaries of the involved administrative bodies; 3) peculiar political and legal framework (comprehensive of the transboundary issues).

Strengths and *Weaknesses* could be related mainly to the status of conflicts, to the environmental relevance and to economic issues; *Opportunities* and *Threats* could be related mainly to political framework and transboundary issues

Scope of application (for testing of the methodology): - Case Study Area (a) / Focus area (b)

Main references:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment of Plans
- Strategic Environmental Assessment of Programs / Strategies

Outputs:

- **MAP OF INTERFERENCE BETWEEN MARITIME USES / ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**
- **SWOT ANALYSIS AIMED TO CHOOSE AMONG POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR PLANNING UNITS DELIMITATION (definition of geographical scale)**

¹ *Strategic Environmental Assessment* (SEA) is an important tool for implementing the ecosystem-based approach in maritime spatial planning as it identifies, describes and assesses the likely significant effects on the ecosystem. According to EU law (Directive 2001/42/EC) a SEA has to be carried out before a maritime spatial plan can be approved by the responsible authority in accordance with the criteria set out in this Directive and as required by the MSP Directive. This includes the preparation of an environmental report, the carrying out of public consultations, the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision-making and the provision of information on the decision. In addition, for EU Member States, impact assessments of habitats and species (Art. 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC) and of bird sanctuaries (Birds Directive 2009/147/EC) are obligatory

PHASE 5, Setting up Recommendations

After checking methodology on the basis of feedbacks deriving from the application to the Case Studies, it will be confirmed or improved and translated into Recommendations for the identification of the most appropriate geographical scale for the National Maritime Plans.

Scope of application: - Project Area

References: - Application of Methodology to the Case Studies

Outputs: - **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF AN APPROPRIATE GEOGRAPHICAL SCALE OF MARITIME PLANS**

PHASE 1,

Definition of analysis criteria

PHASE 2,

Recognition and mapping of environmental resources and protections

PHASE 3,

Recognition and mapping of maritime uses and economic activities

PHASE 4,

a) Recognition of impacts and critical issues related to interferences between environmental resources and maritime uses/economic activities , b) assessment, through a SWOT Analysis, of possible alternatives for delimitation of *planning units*

PHASE 5,

Setting up of Recommendations for the definition of the most appropriate geographical scale of the MSP Plans