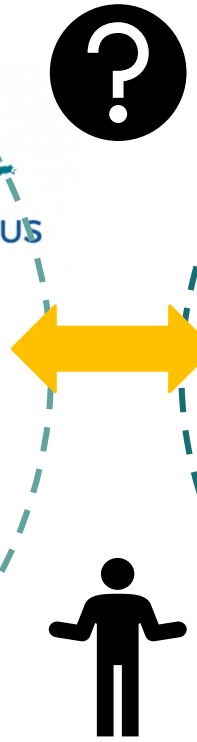
A sea of knowledge to capitalize: results of the screening of MSP projects and initiatives in the Mediterranean

29TH NOVEMBER 2023, MED-MSP-COP WEBINAR

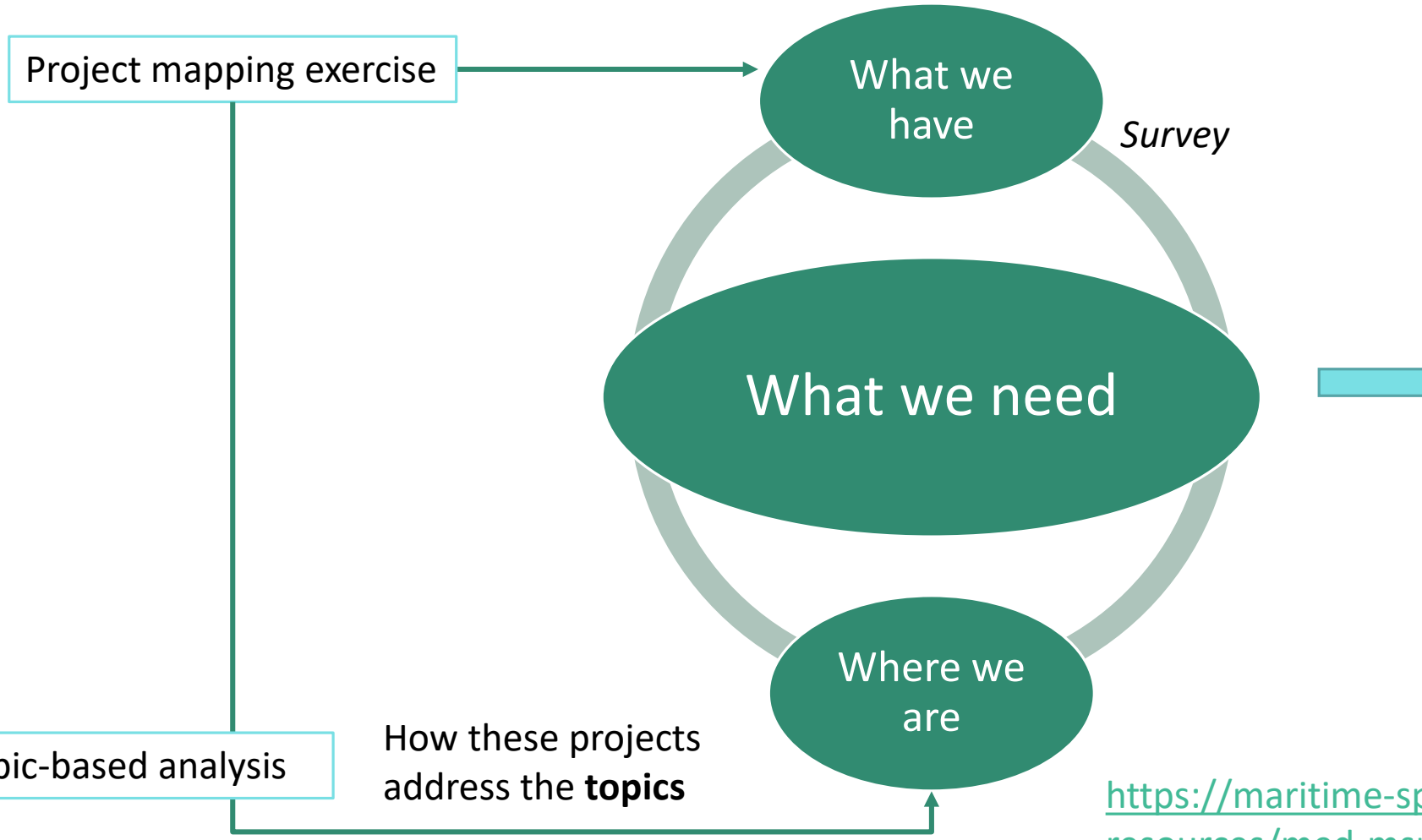
European MSP Platform

WESTMED blue economy initiative

Why mapping / screening projects in the Mediterranean?



- MSP in general
- MSP and EBM
- **MSP and Sustainable Blue Economy**
- MSP and EGD
- MSP and Stakeholder Engagement
- MSP and IZCM
- MSP and Capacity Building
- **MSP and MPAs**
- Transboundary cooperation in MSP
- MSP and CC
- Governance in MSP
- Data and tools
- and more...



Identify **synergies** & provide **recommendations** to solve persisting gaps and challenges

https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/msp-resources/med-msp-cop

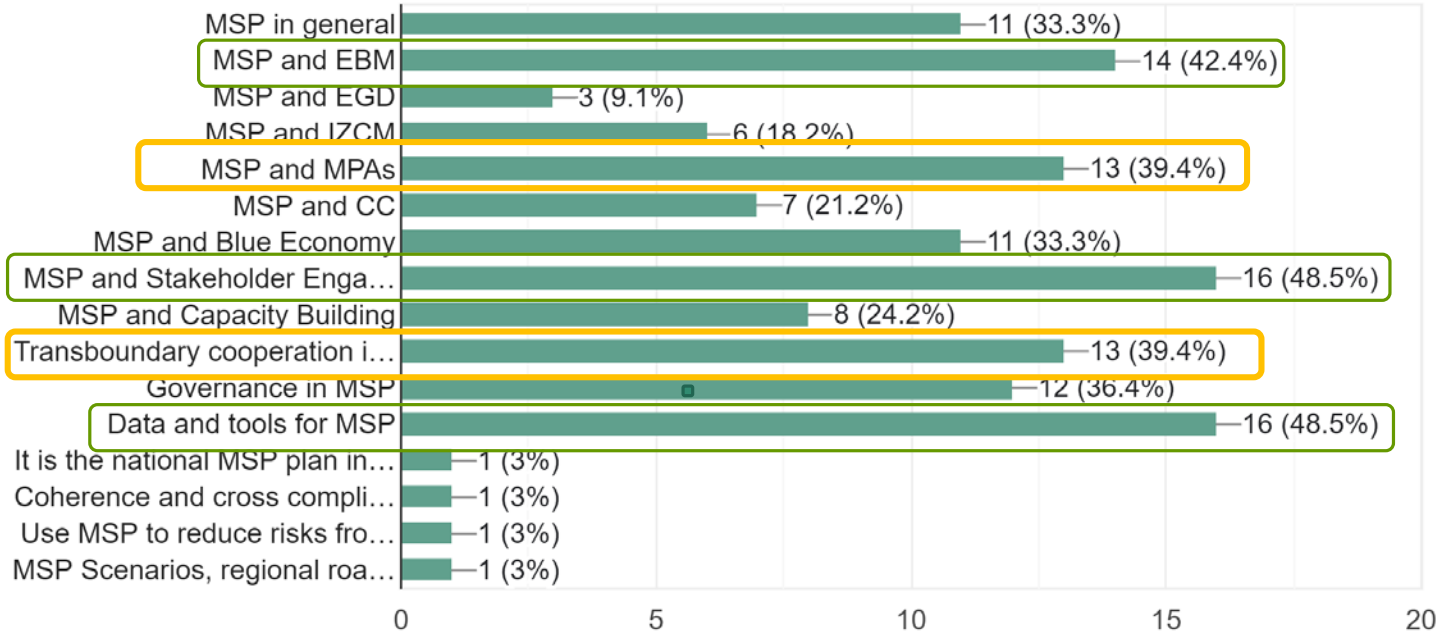
Results

Number of projects screened till now:
32 projects

Main topic of research

Main topic(s) of research Multiple choice Please use as much as possible the predefined values, you can include more details in the short abstract field.

33 responses



Results

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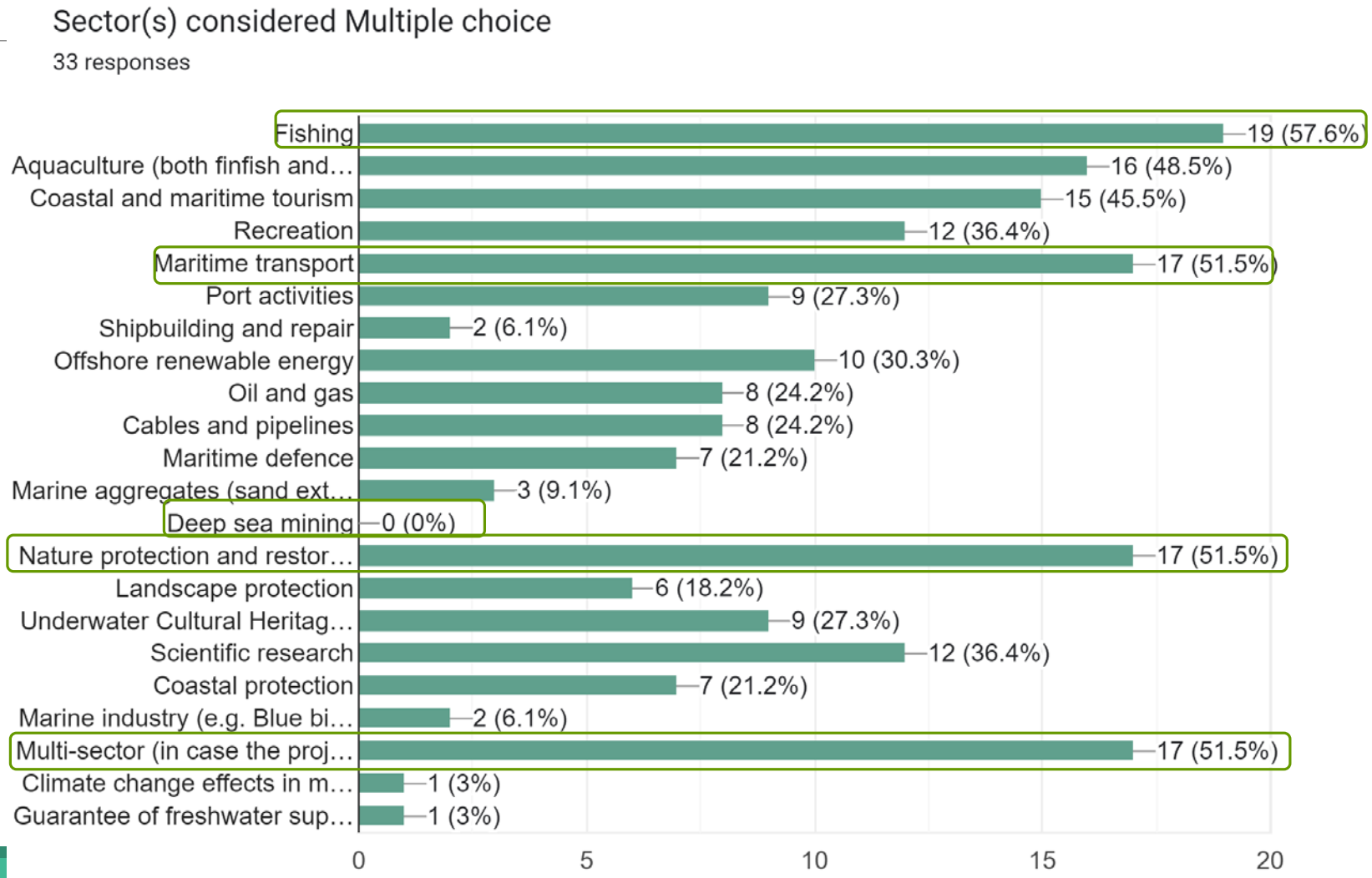
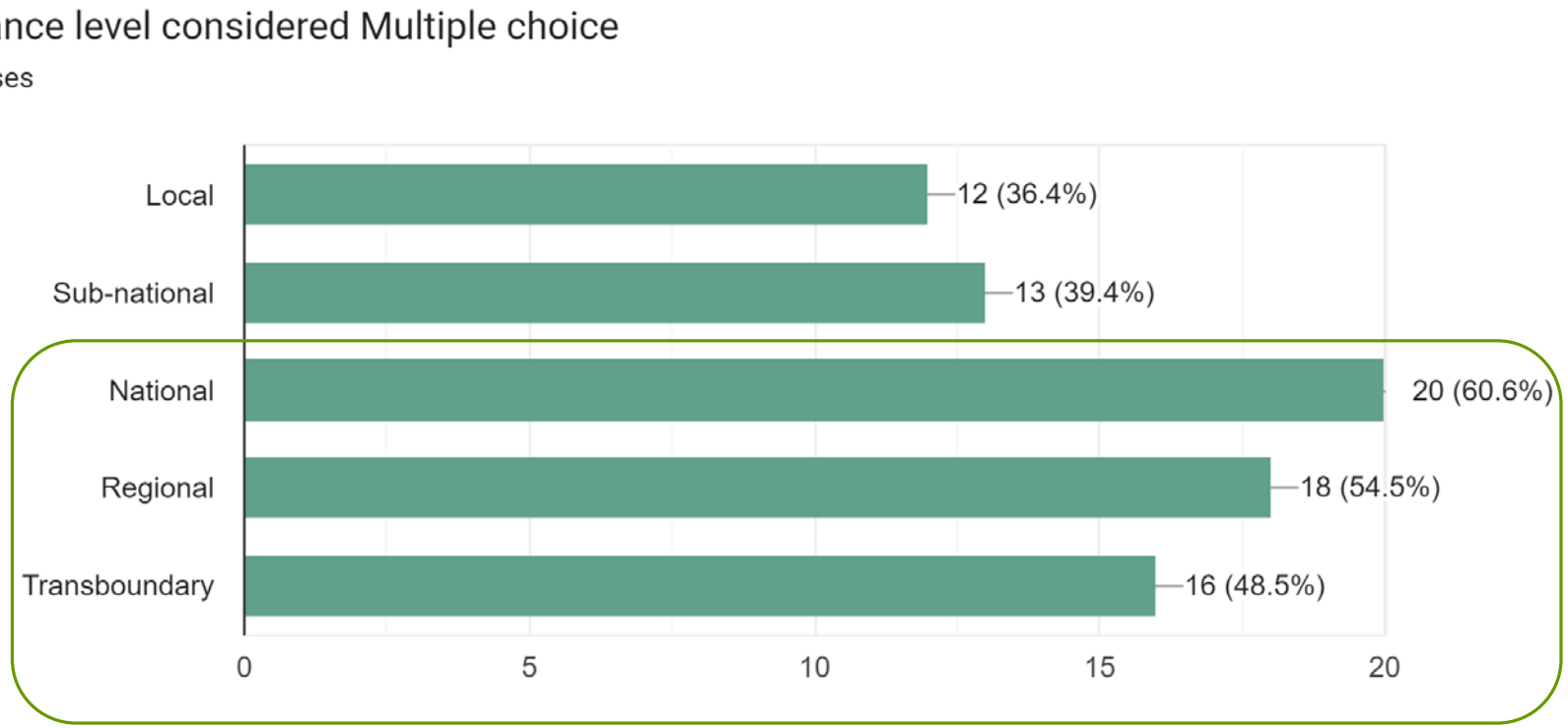
Sectors considered in projects



Results

Number of projects screened till now**: 32 projects**

Scales considered in projects



Results

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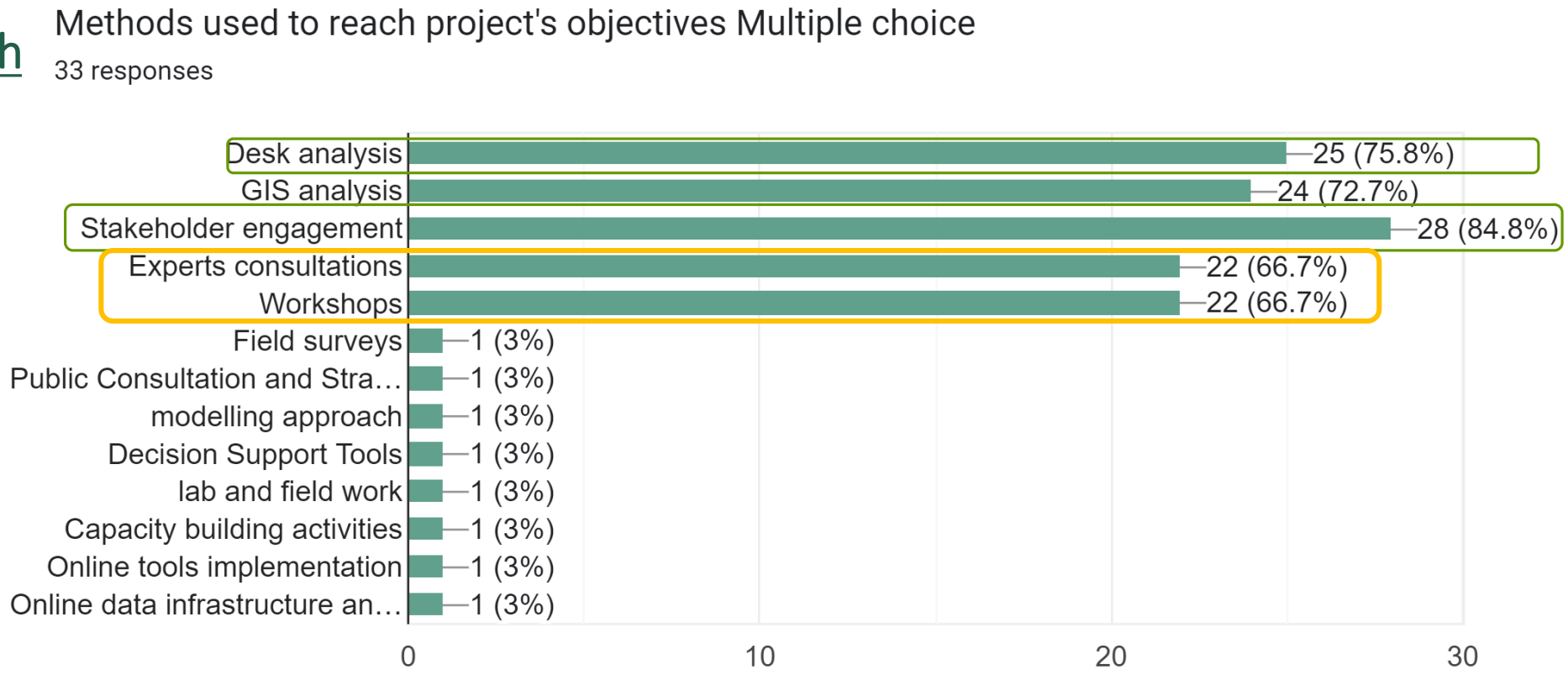
Method used to reach project's objectives



Results

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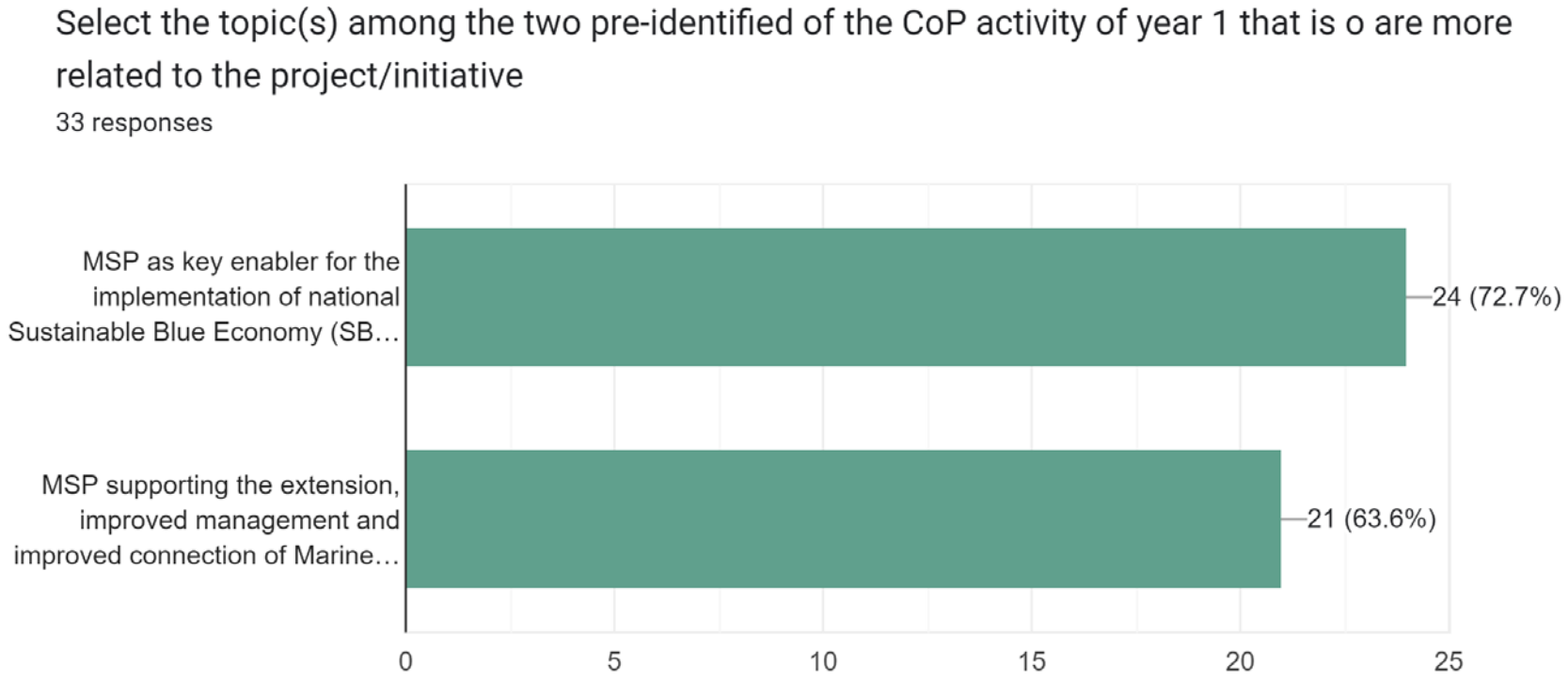
MED-MSP- CoP topic most related to the project/initiative



Number of projects screened till now**:**
32 projects

Key preliminary findings

How these projects/ initiatives address the MSP & MPAs topic?

- **MSP as a comprehensive marine conservation policy:** Through including the conservation program in MSP; Analysis of conservation targets implementation through MSP integration of EGD objectives

- **MSP for the identification of MPAs and their connectivity (MPA networks) :** MPA identification using data (and knowledge) gaps about human uses and biodiversity status interactions; MPA network design based on physical connectivity and spatial distribution of EBSA metrics; Identification of ecological stakes/ecologically valuable areas (areas to protect) through: stakeholder engagement, gathering of spatial data, expert consultation in the MSP process; Marine Green infrastructure integration on MSP for connectivity

- **MSP as a framework to design conservation measures**: Design of targeted actions in case where human-wildlife conflicts seems to exist; Scale-smart MSP – using the appropriate scale to identify regional/local specificities and design specific actionswith regards to conservation

Number of projects screened till now: **32 projects**

Key preliminary findings

How these projects/ initiatives address the MSP & MPAs topic?

- **Climate-smart MSP for MPAs:** Identification of MPAs (and MPAs networks considering CC effects (climate refugia) through a Climate-proof MSP process
- **MSP to monitor conservation objectives:** Operational monitoring protocols in line with conservation objectives.
- **MSP scenarios to assess protection targets:** MSP Scenario development for Sustainable Blue Economy focusing on biodiversity targets.
- **MSP analysis to support conservation:** Ecosystem services valuation & cumulative monetized impacts for decision-making; Decision support tools to enable the integration of systematic conservation into MSP; The inclusion in MSP of underwater noise analysis and its effects on marine fauna; Cumulative Effect Assessment in MSP; Development of tools to address sector/conservation (in)compatibilities

Number of projects screened till now: **32 projects**

Key preliminary findings

How these projects/ initiatives address the MSP & SBE topic?

- **MSP for the operationalization of Sustainable Blue Economy strategies:** MSP to foster sustainable innovation in blue sectors through the allocation of areas for experimental facilities with low environmental footprint; Identification of valuable practices implementing SBE objectives in MSP; Assessment of economic stakes, definition of strategic objectives, indicators and vocation maps; Recommendations for MPA managers, MSP authorities and businesses on how the environmental impacts of sectors can be prevented or minimized. Decision Support Tool to apply the recommendations; Design of policy plans that will be the infrastructure for the sustainable development of maritime sectors.
- **Multi-scale MSP for the operationalization of Sustainable Blue Economy objectives at the appropriate scale:** ICZM training for climate adaptation, sustainable development of coastal sectors (i.e. sustainable tourism and beach management); Design of tailor-made regional planning strategies through interviews and stakeholder consultations to consider the distinct characteristics of the respective social-ecological systems; Identification of actions needed at regional/local level to foster MSP implementation exploiting the development opportunities of regional strategic sectors. Guidance for Transboundary MSP. GIS for transboundary areas.

Key preliminary findings

Number of projects screened till now: **32 projects**

Key findings – how these projects/ initiatives address the MSP & SBE topic? (Cont.)

- **MSP assessing trade-offs associated to the implementation of Sustainable Blue Economy Strategies:** Assessment of socio-economic costs and benefits of marine activities and ecosystem services in support of MSP; To provide a detailed understanding of the functions and interactions of the marine environment, assessing opportunities and measuring risks, while targeting Good Environmental Status (GES); Development of a tool to analyze socio-economic impact of adopting a plan in a given area; Assessment on how MSP plans integrate EGD ambitions, as for instance, SBE. Identification of associated gaps, challenges and trade-offs. Strategic Monitoring Framework for monitoring socioeconomic impacts of MSP.
- **MSP to allocate areas for sectors based on environmental and compatibility criteria:** MSP identifying areas for the development of specific sectors following ecological criteria and the minimization of conflicts with other uses. Description of current conditions and compatibility of maritime uses in the WestMED
- **Creating capacity and awareness for a better understanding and therefore better implementation of SBE:** Training of sector and/on foster its development and sustainability; Fostering the creation of CoPs for sectors that are normally not well organized and sometimes not properly heard in MSP processes. Open data platform to share information regarding SBE.

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Key preliminary findings

Key findings – how these projects/ initiatives address the MSP & SBE topic? (Cont.)

- **MSP scenarios for the assessment of Sustainable Blue Economy strategies:** Design of MSP scenarios considering specific management objectives; Design of scenarios for improving / adapting MSP for SBE; Development of MSP scenarios: trend scenario, conservationist scenario and integrated scenario. Each scenario is based on a vision, sector's status and drivers.

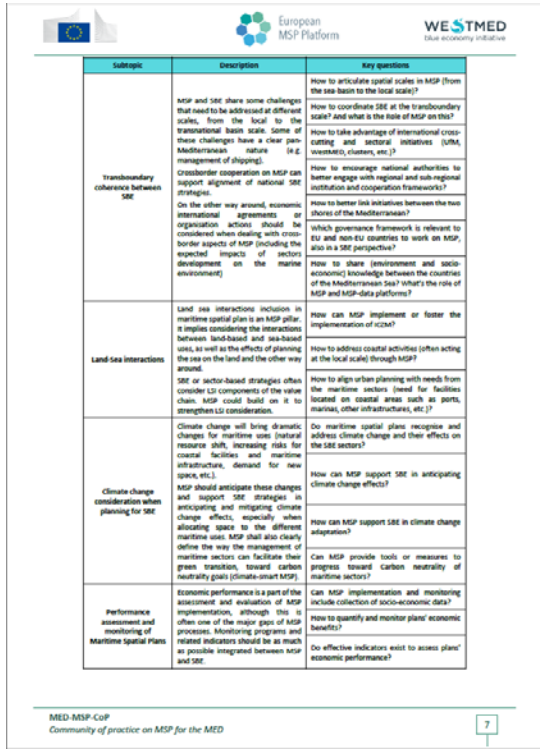
- **Climate-smart MSP for the operationalization of sustainable climate-proof Blue Economy strategies:** Analyse how uses can be affected by CC and how these considerations can be integrated in MSP; Tool that provides guidance on how MSP should consider climate change adaptation and mitigation in coastal and maritime economic sectors.

First conclusions & *Next steps*

There is a lot done and a lot going on, let's make the best use of it!

- Cross-check with the topics and questions proposed, are they already being addressed? By which project?
- Which of the topics identified are still not being addressed ? What are the persisting challenges & gaps?

Development of recommendations and design of new opportunities for collaboration in our Mediterranean Sea.



Report on the 2 online workshops and the session in the WestMED Stakeholder Conference (June 2023)

Thank you!

CRISTINA CERVERA-NÚÑEZ, on behalf of the Coordination Team