

Regions to boost  
National Maritime  
Spatial Planning

REGINA-MSP:  
Improving the role of regional  
and local authorities and  
stakeholders in MSP to deliver  
sustainable blue economy



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP

29/11/2023

MED-MSP-CoP

# Combining bottom-up and top-down approaches for MSP

- Key role of the Regions:

- Application of various policies including EU ones
- Responsibilities in terms of land planning, economic sectors, ICZM
- Stakeholders' engagement
- Inter-regional cooperation at sea basin level

- Across the EU, quite diverse roles of Regions in MSP

- Difficulties for implementing a common EU framework for MSP



*How to improve the participation of the regional & local authorities and stakeholders in the drafting and implementation of national MSP?*



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP



# Regions to boost National Maritime Spatial Planning – the REGINA-MSP project



12 partners – 2 sea basins – 8 case studies

Specific Funding Programme:  
EMFAF-2021-PIA-MSP

Budget:

Overall: 1 957 909.44 €

EC contribution: 1 566 327.55 €

Duration: 2022-2024



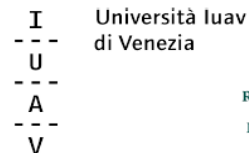
- Region of Murcia 
- Galician coast 
- Sardinia Region 
- Pays de la Loire Region 
- Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur 
- Crete Region 
- Central Macedonia Region 
- County Mayo 



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP



Università Iuav  
di Venezia



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



CETMAR  
CENTRO TECNOLÓGICO DEL MAR

RÉPUBLIQUE  
FRANÇAISE  
*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*



SHOM  
L'océan en référence



CNR  
ISMAR  
ISTITUTO  
DI SCIENZE  
MARINE



UCC  
University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



MaREI  
Energy · Climate · Marine



ΠΑΝΤΕΙΟΝ  
ΠΑΝΤΕΙΟΝ



CPMR  
CRPM



CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS  
CSIC



ARISTOTLE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
THESSALONIKI



# Baseline assessment of MSP

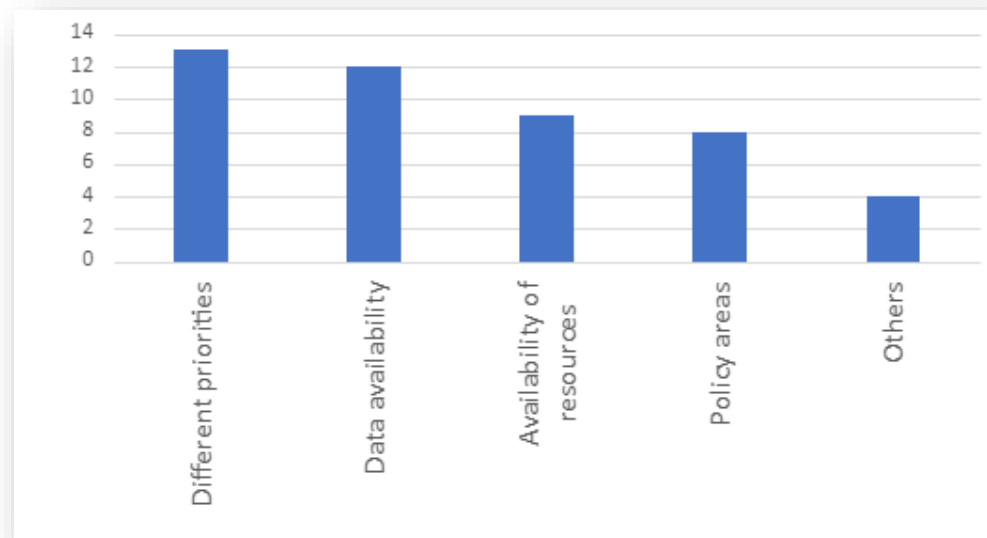


37 replies from 12 countries:  
Spain, Italy, Greece, Finland, France, Ireland, Sweden, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Lithuania

# Existing gaps between national MSP and regional priorities



- Different priorities:
  - lack of shared criteria for prioritising activities (e.g. fisheries and offshore renewable energy)
  - strong relation to gaps in policy areas and in coordination among administrations, governance and participation structures, in particular weaknesses in transboundary cooperation
- Data availability on the environmental, socio-economic and cumulative impacts on the different sectors and territories



# How can links between national MSPs and regional priorities be improved?



- Additional resources, expertise and training
- Inter- and intra- administrative coordination and cooperation
- Definition of common basic criteria to be followed for the drafting of regional and national plans
- Stakeholders' involvement with participatory and transparent governance
- Role of regions in the management of coastal waters (some regions asking for the acknowledgement of their competences over the territorial sea)
- Legal MSP instruments in the development and implementation of the regional strategies/plan



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP



# Relationship between MSP and other policies



## MSP & climate action

- High expectations from MSP for the energy transition
- Slightly less relevant: mitigating the impacts of climate change on economic activities & enhancing coastal defence measures



## MSP & ICZM

Quite high expectation for MSP to integrate and strengthen ongoing and future ICZM processes

Suggestions:

- Better consideration of coastal economic activities in MSP
- Improved collaboration with regional, local authorities and various stakeholders
- Preparation or update new plans and strategies
- Better consideration of Land-Sea Interface
- Clear and binding rules for ICZM

# Relationship between MSP and other policies



## MSP & environmental protection

MSP is considered as offering a high variety of opportunities to strengthen environmental protection through:

- Including the objective of nature conservation and restoration for the long-term planning of the marine areas
- Ensuring coherence between MSP goals and regional goals of environmental protection
- Identifying areas for the definition of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) or Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs)

### Suggestions:

- Establishing areas where conservation is prioritised
- Agreeing on strong guiding principles on EBA
- Collaborating with neighbouring countries
- Involving all actors and improving communication
- Reducing pressures and impacts of economic activities
- Boosting local initiatives



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP





What does “planning at sea” mean?

# Planning through plans & strategies



➤ Analysing plans/strategies applied on the territory

- Cross-cutting
- Protection and conservation-oriented
- Economic sectors and other marine uses and activities

- Identify and describe plans and strategies in place in each case study
- Highlight elements (objectives, spatial and non-spatial measures) relevant for the MSP process
- Identify major gaps and opportunities for MSP developments at the regional and/or local scale



# Planning through plans & strategies: Emerging results



- The level of involvement of regional authorities in the national MSP process greatly varies (primary actor in MSP, consultation process, no involvement at all)
- Several regional and local level plans and strategies relevant for planning and management of the sea space are in place in all case studies.
- Identified gaps: limited operational integration, lack of data supporting the operational implementation, limited analysis of conflicts between different uses at the local level
- Opportunities: integration to be strengthened in the second cycle of the MSP planning processes, availability of operational tools to implements MSP provisions at the sub-national level.



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP

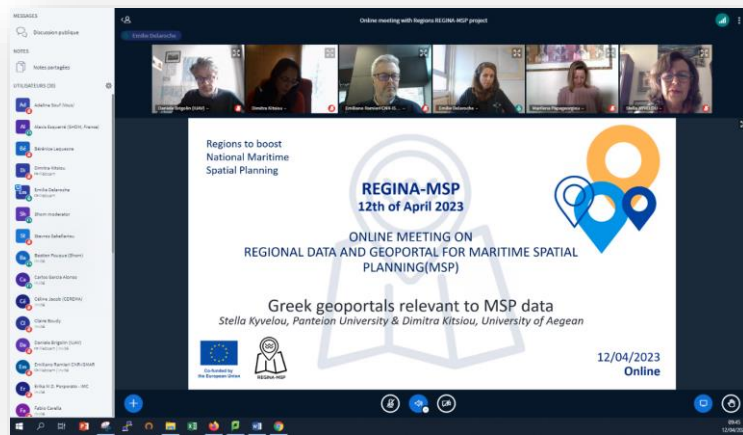


# Planning using data



## ➤ Reviewing data needs for MSP

- Online meetings to present regional and national geoportals
- In-person workshop in Paris
- Survey on data and geoportals



- Data and geoportals used by the regions
- Complementarity with data available at national level
- Data needs for monitoring and evaluating MSP



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP



# Planning with stakeholders



## ➤ Regional specificities

- 2/3 participatory workshops with stakeholders in each case study

Examples of topics addressed during the workshops:

- Interaction between marine aquaculture and määerl bed habitat
- Aquaculture technical challenges and costs of constructing, installing, operating and maintaining aquaculture facilities
- Interaction of artisanal fisheries with MPAs and cetaceans in the area



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP





What does effective engagement with stakeholders mean?

# Raising awareness through Ocean Literacy



➤ Facilitating the emergence of Ocean literacy strategy at regional level

- A workshop in Sardinia
- Methodology currently tested on Sardinia region



## INFEAS REGIONAL SYSTEM

The regional system is a network organization that facilitates the pursuit of shared objectives of education for the environment and sustainable development, through actions and initiatives developed in collaboration with various administrations, entities, organizations, associations operating in the sustainability education sector.

[Read more](#)

 Interactive map of the CEAS



Target audience: Regional policy makers  
Methodology developed in order to:

- Map the current offer: spatialization and questionnaires
- Identify action to be undertaken

4 different topics addressed: Regulations, Education, Culture, Research

# Raising awareness through Ocean Literacy



- Normative** (Regional laws, opportunities and limitations)
- Scientific and technical research** (Research centres/Universities and activities)
- Education** (Schools, summer camps, training courses, etc.)
- Culture and traditions** (Traditional activities, including food, tourism, etc.)
- Cultural Production** (Artisanal and artistic production and networks)
- Events** (Fairs, shows, presentations, engagement meetings)
- Communication** (Traditional and online media)
- Personnel** (Availability or need for dedicated HR)

## OL: a vast world

OL is very wide: it encompasses school courses, booklets, social media campaigns, training courses, etc.



Iuav, Bicocca and Mahre center's Maldive training course on MSP

### School activity on marine sciences



Plasmar comic book on MSP



Blue (Eco) print, social media campaign from MSP-MED



# Building capacity through trainings



➤ Training of authorities involved in MSP implementation at different levels

- A training to be organized in each country
- Survey on training needs
- Curriculum to be developed for the training



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP



# Sharing knowledge through networking & CoP



## ➤ Facilitating inter-regional communities of practice

- 3 workshops to build a common vision on the emergence of Communities of Practice for MSP



- Understand the complexity of MSP governance and participatory democracy in MSP
- Appreciate the role of CoPs in boosting the role of regions in national MSP
- Learn how to set up a CoP when a MSP challenge arises in a region
- Take advantage of other existing CoPs
- Benefit from being involved in an eventual CoP through experience & knowledge sharing



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP



# Sharing knowledge through networking & CoP



Hard to Reach OR typically engaged?	What is the degree of representation?
Select from a scale 1 to 3	
1 = very hard to reach to 3 = typically engaged	1= less represented or not at all to 3 = most represented



Co-funded by the European Union



REGINA-MSP



# Focus on the engagement of regional and local authorities & MSP

## ✓ Opportunities

- Topic of interest
- Activities undertaken linked to MSP
- Interest for experience sharing among countries
- Sometimes political will
- Sometimes skilled technical services

## ✓ Constraints

- But difficulties in understanding the concept of MSP
- But lack of competencies directly linked to MSP
- But high heterogeneity in terms of administration organization and experience in this field
- But no dedicated technical services
- But no political will

## ✓ Organisational issues:

- Identification of relevant contact person within an environment of high turnover
- Limited resources in public authorities and prioritization of their involvement
- Language barrier higher than expected



Co-funded by  
the European Union



REGINA-MSP



# Engagement of regional and local authorities – take-home messages

- ✓ Real need for capacity building on MSP
- ✓ Need for making visible the links between the activities undertaken by the regional/local authorities regarding ocean/coastal management and the MSP concept
- ✓ Need for engagement of regional & local authorities at both political and technical levels
- ✓ Need to sustain the engagement in time: e.g. through an assistance mechanism

# Contacts

# Thank you!



Céline JACOB

Project coordinator, CEREMA

[celine.jacob@cerema.fr](mailto:celine.jacob@cerema.fr)

Olivier LAROUSSINIE

Project leader, CEREMA

[olivier.laroussinie@cerema.fr](mailto:olivier.laroussinie@cerema.fr)



[www.regina-msp.eu](http://www.regina-msp.eu)