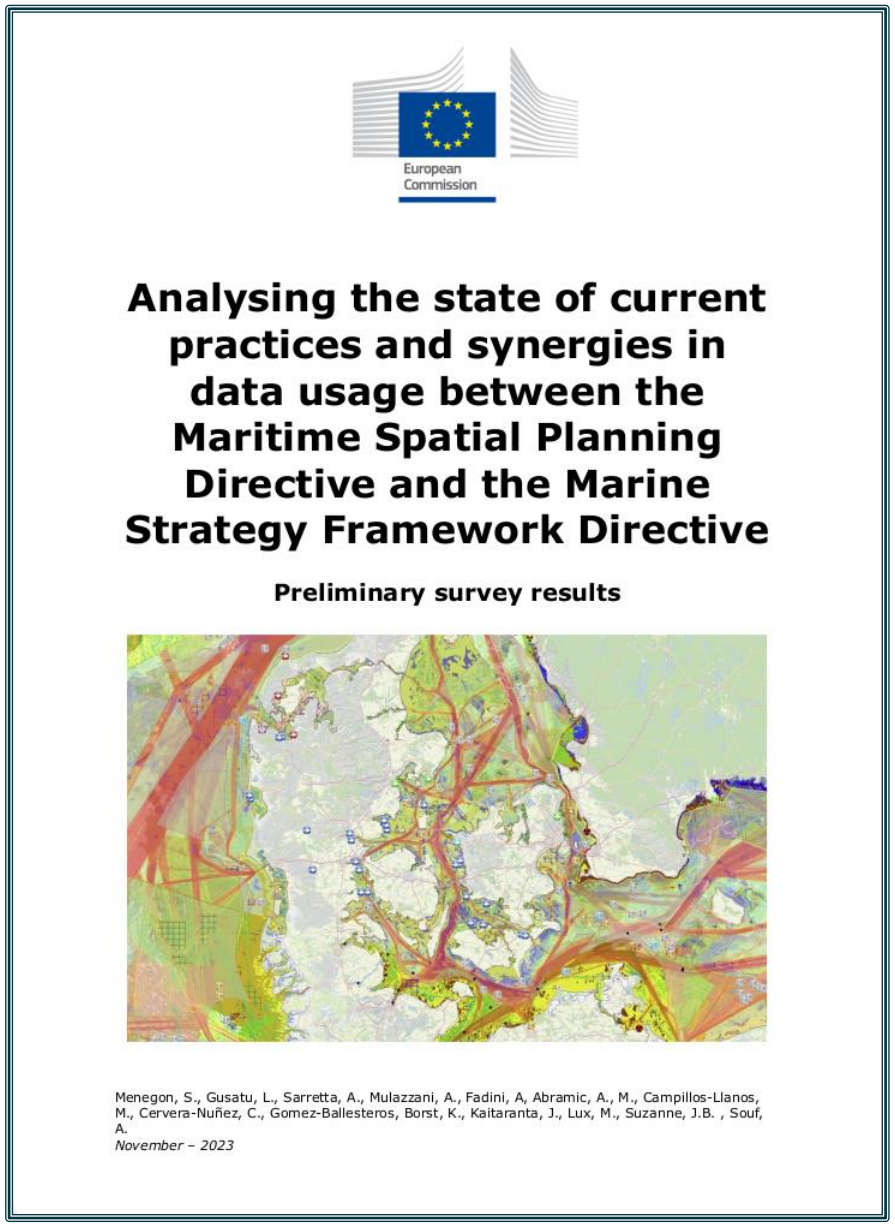
Analysing the state of current practices and synergies in data usage between the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

MSP Data Tools and Guidance Workshop - Technical Expert Group (TEG) on Data for MSP
13th March 2024 – Brussels / Hybrid

CNR ISMAR ISTITUTO DI SCIENZE MARINE

Stefano Menegon



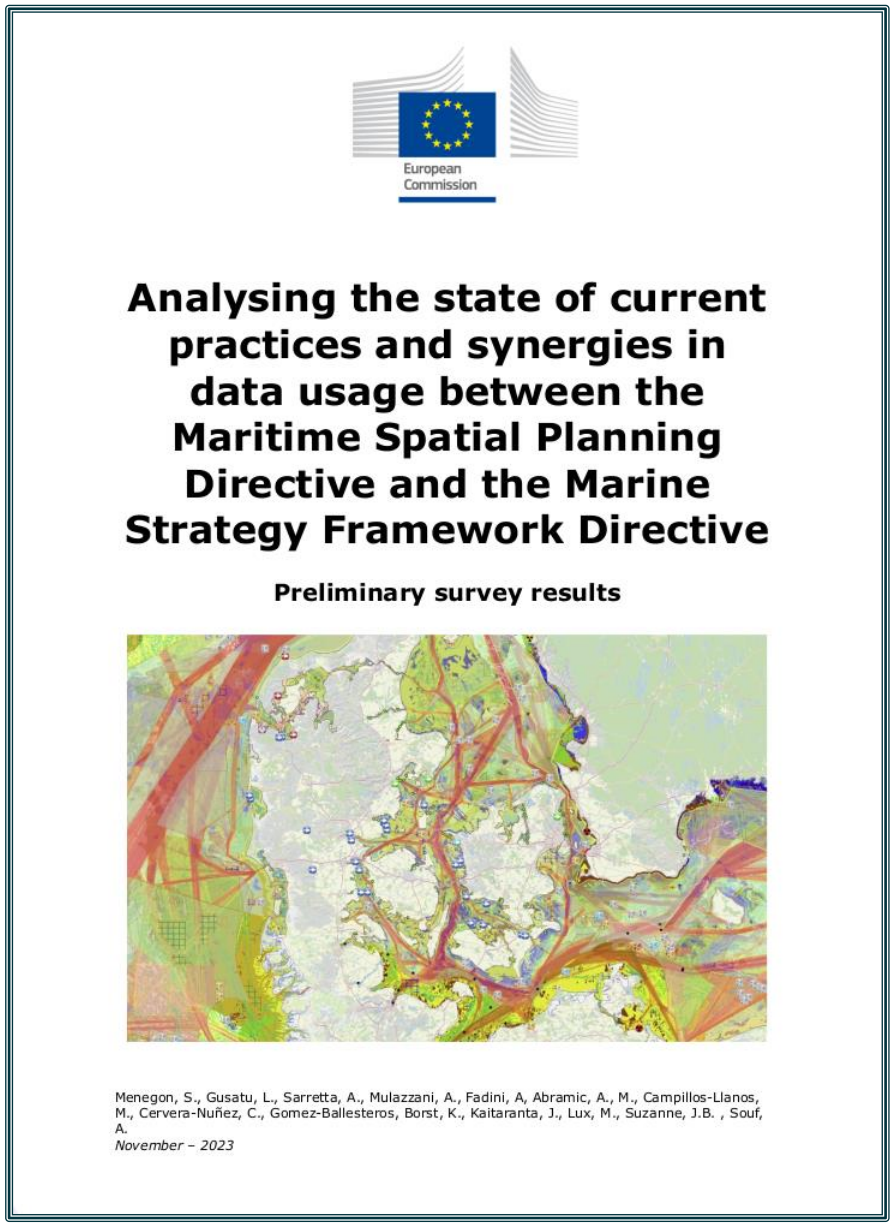
REVIEWING AND EVALUATING THE MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

ReMAP 2022-2025

DESIGNING ONLINE TOOLS TO SUPPORT MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP)

ReMAP Analytical module

Marine Strategy Framework Directive and MSP links



MSFD & MSP Data Management
TEG sub-group

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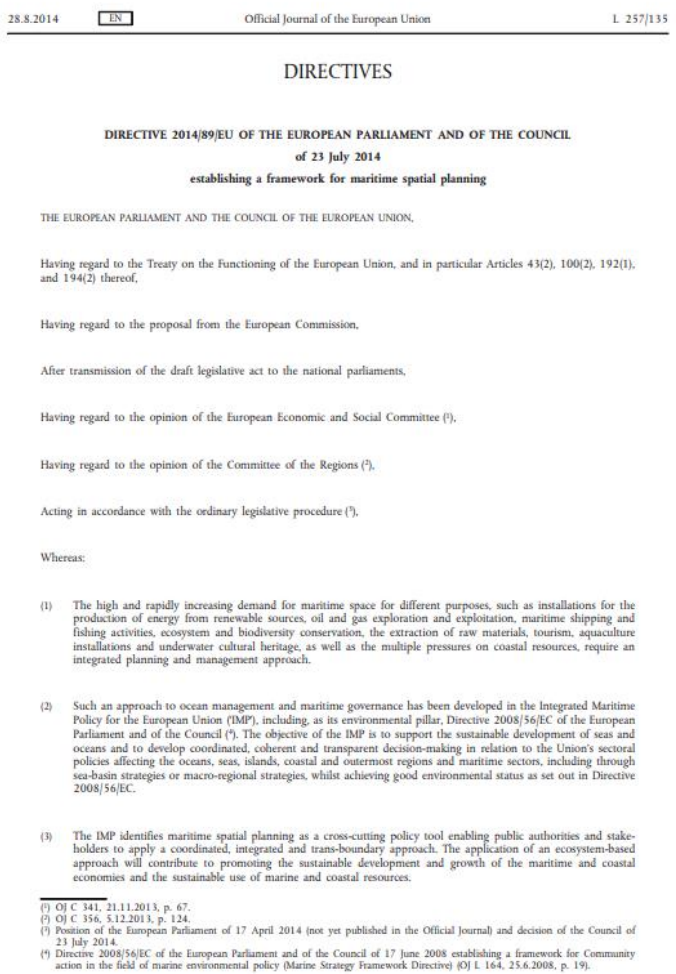
With the support of

- MSP Platform
- DG MARE - CINEA
- DG ENV

March 2022 - January 2024

Background



28.8.2014 EN Official Journal of the European Union L 257/135

DIRECTIVES

DIRECTIVE 2014/89/EU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 23 July 2014
establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 43(2), 100(2), 192(1), and 194(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions (2),

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure (3),

Whereas:

(1) The high and rapidly increasing demand for maritime space for different purposes, such as installations for the production of energy from renewable sources, oil and gas exploration and exploitation, maritime shipping and fishing activities, ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, the extraction of raw materials, tourism, aquaculture installations and underwater cultural heritage, as well as the multiple pressures on coastal resources, require an integrated planning and management approach.

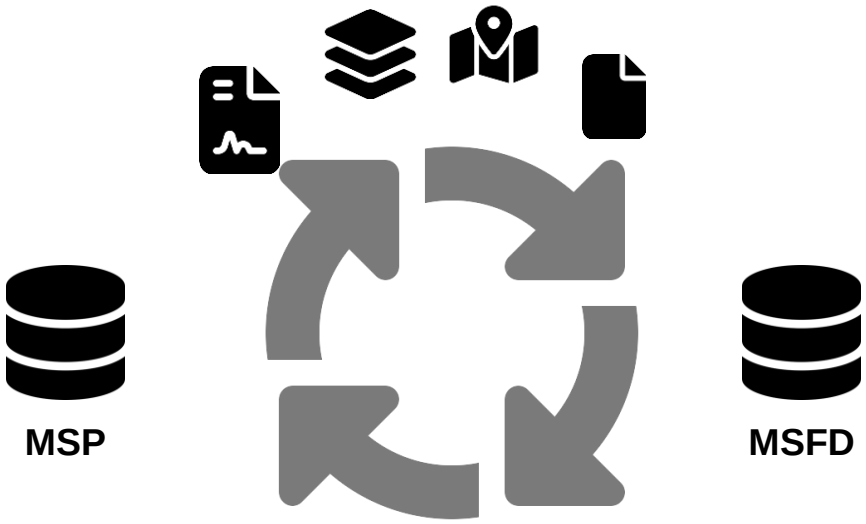
(2) Such an approach to ocean management and maritime governance has been developed in the Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union ('IMP'), including, as its environmental pillar, Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (4). The objective of the IMP is to support the sustainable development of seas and oceans and to develop coordinated, coherent and transparent decision-making in relation to the Union's sectoral policies affecting the oceans, seas, islands, coastal and outermost regions and maritime sectors, including through sea-basin strategies or macro-regional strategies, whilst achieving good environmental status as set out in Directive 2008/56/EC.

(3) The IMP identifies maritime spatial planning as a cross-cutting policy tool enabling public authorities and stakeholders to apply a coordinated, integrated and trans-boundary approach. The application of an ecosystem-based approach will contribute to promoting the sustainable development and growth of the maritime and coastal economies and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources.

(1) OJ C 341, 21.11.2013, p. 67.
(2) OJ C 356, 5.12.2013, p. 124.
(3) Position of the European Parliament of 17 April 2014 (not yet published in the Official Journal) and decision of the Council of 23 July 2014.
(4) Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) (OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19).

- The MSP Directive explicitly requires an ecosystem-based approach (MSPD - Art. 5)
- MSFD is a fundamental source for obtaining reliable data regarding the condition of the marine environment and, consequently, for incorporating the ecosystem-based approach into MSP processes
- Importance of MSFD data to support evaluation, monitoring and adaptive management

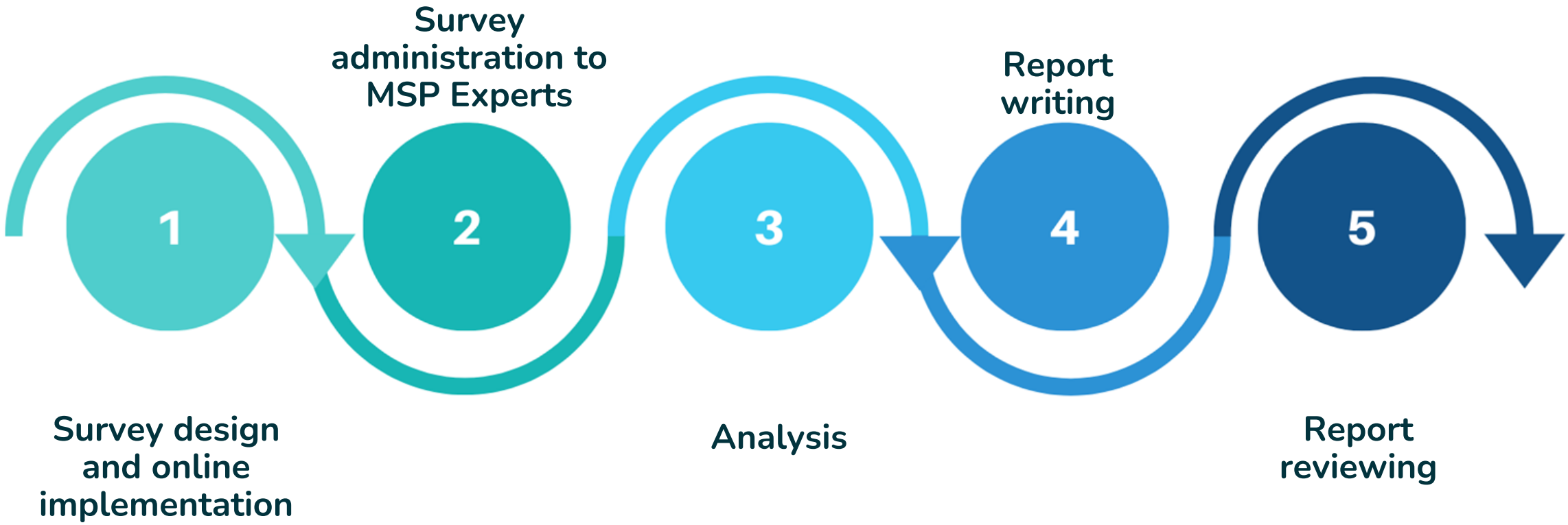
Aim of the activity



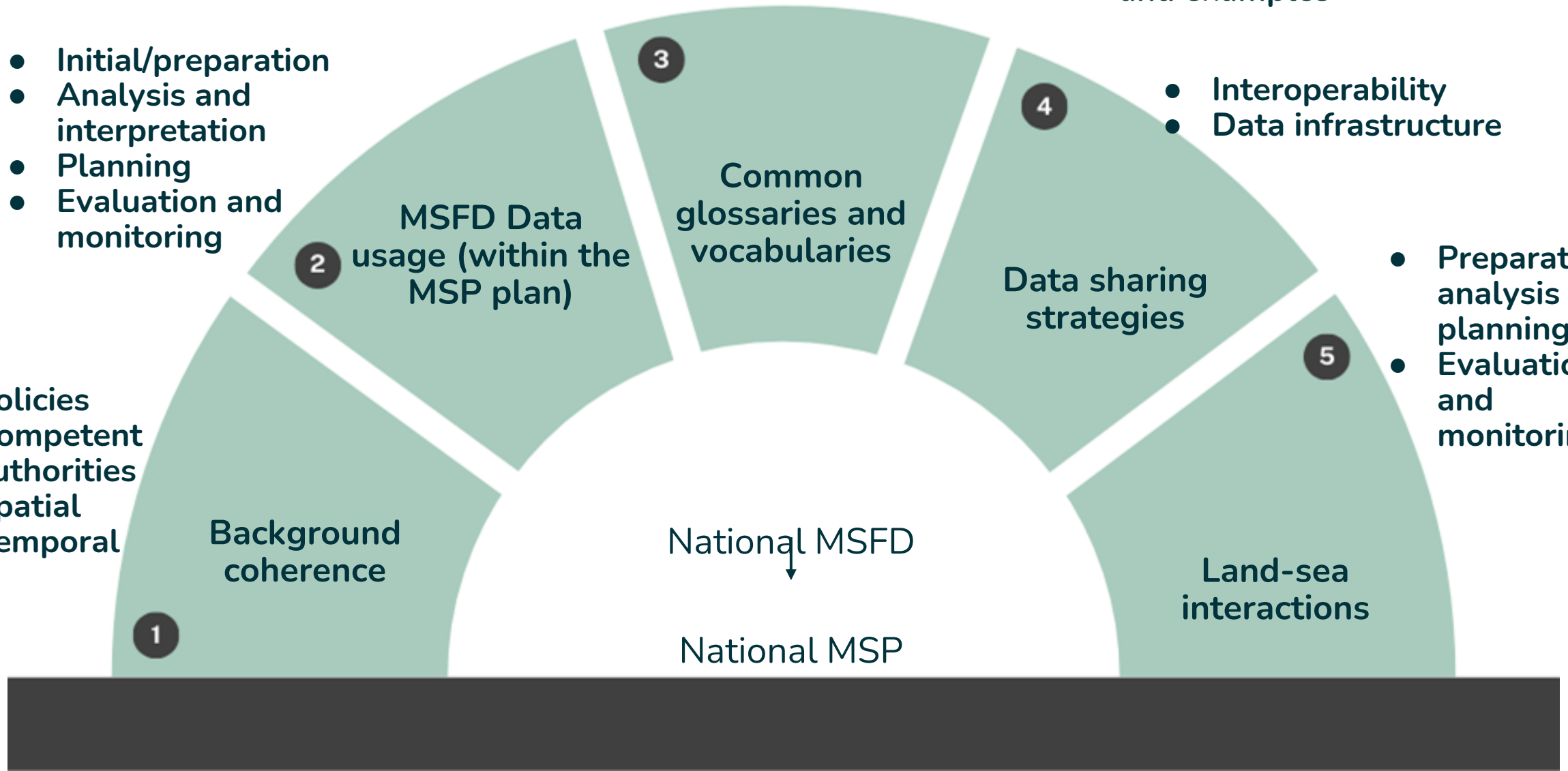
Clarify how the national MSP processes have incorporated the implementation of the national MSFD, particularly focusing on data integration.

Provide reflections and possible recommendations

Activity workflow



Survey design



- Policies
- Competent authorities
- Spatial
- Temporal

- Initial/preparation
- Analysis and interpretation
- Planning
- Evaluation and monitoring

Assessment guidelines and examples

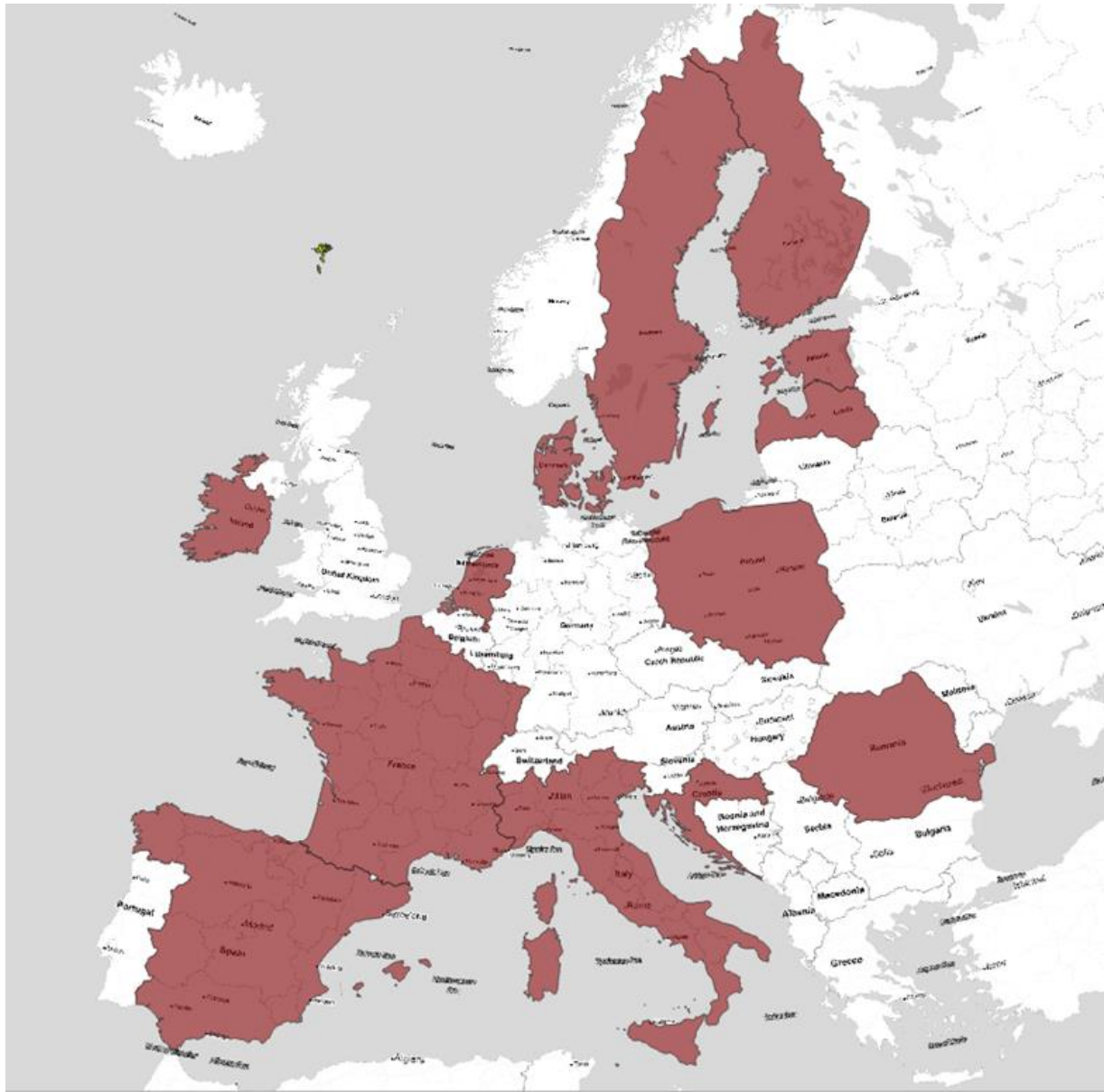
- Interoperability
- Data infrastructure

- Preparation, analysis and planning
- Evaluation and monitoring

Survey responses

13 surveyed countries

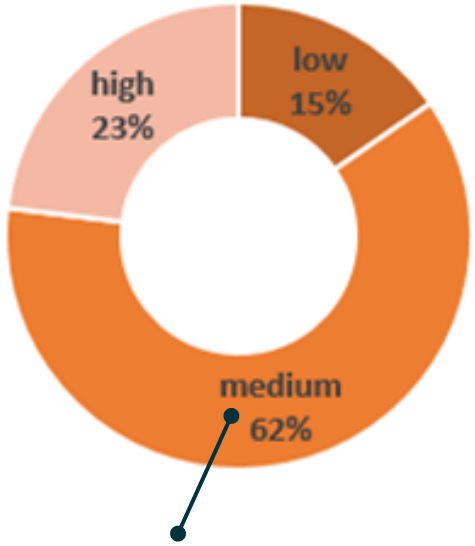
- Croatia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Poland
- Romania
- Spain
- Sweden
- The Netherlands



Results - brief report - Coherence

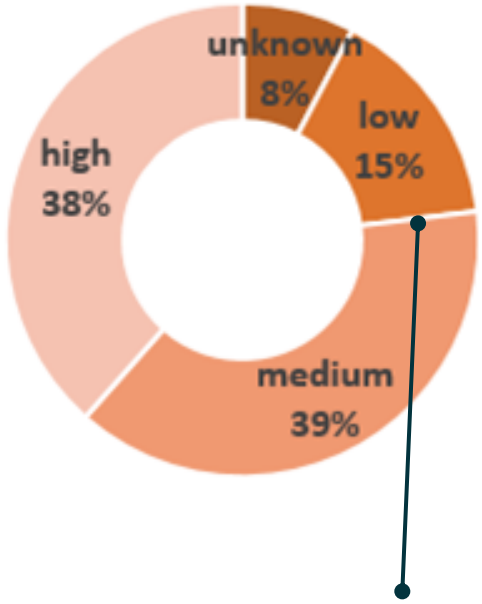
Background coherence is important to facilitate coherence of data

Policies



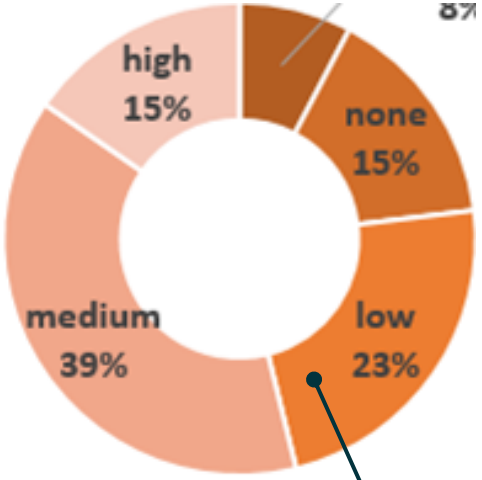
Interrelations exist, but there are no shared pathways or specific joint actions.

Spatial scales



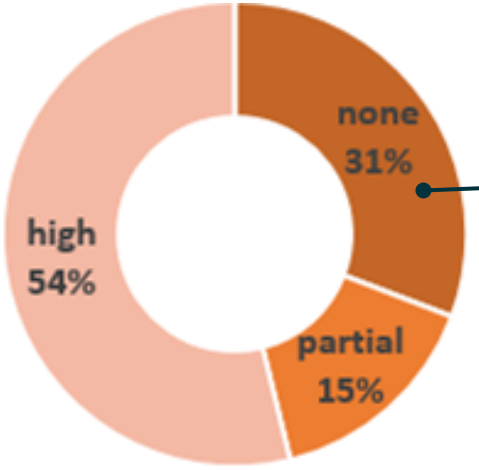
MSP is considered mainly spatially and temporally oriented, while the Marine Strategy is not formulated with a strong spatial component

Temporal scales



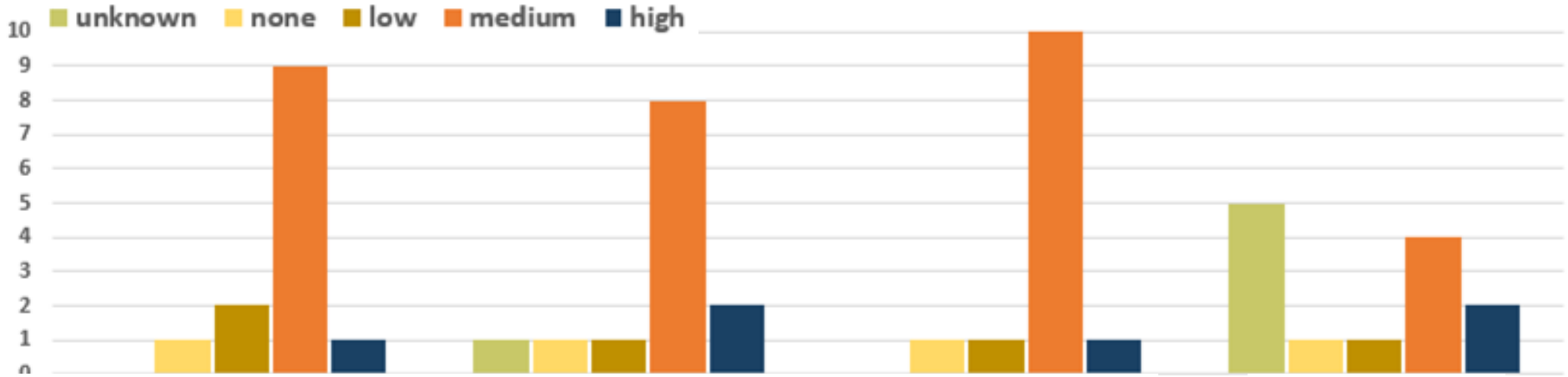
The two processes started at different times and have different cycles. However, there is an expectation that there will be alignment in the next round of revisions

Competent authorities



The two processes were taking place under different competent authorities

Results - brief report - MSFD data supporting MSP stages



Initial/preparation

MSFD data are combined with data from various studies to generate essential MSP maps

Mainly qualitative data

Analysis and interpretation

Mainly quantitative data

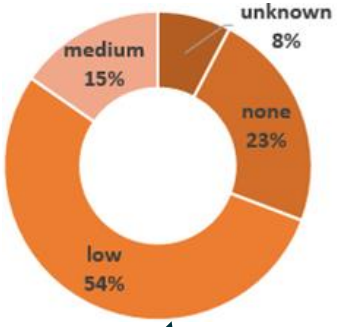
Planning

Mix of qualitative and quantitative data

Evaluation & monitoring

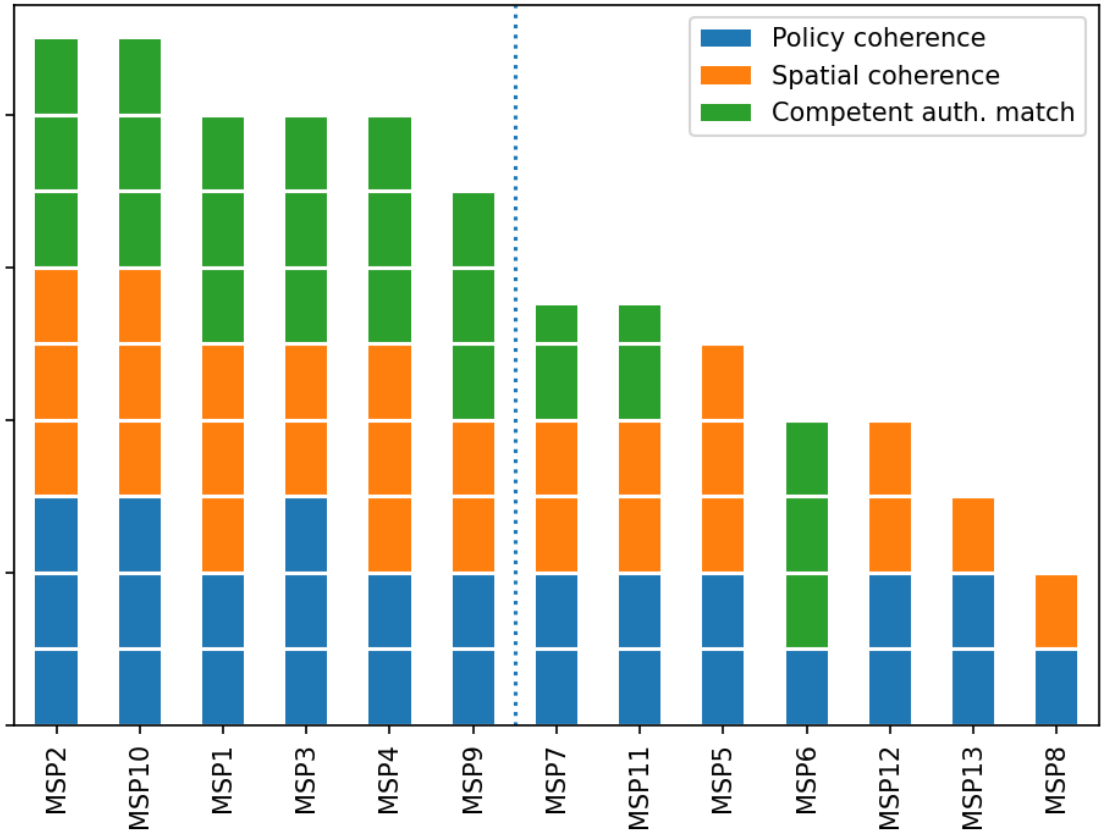
Due to the early stages of many MSP implementations, the correlation with MSP Monitoring & Evaluation is largely unknown

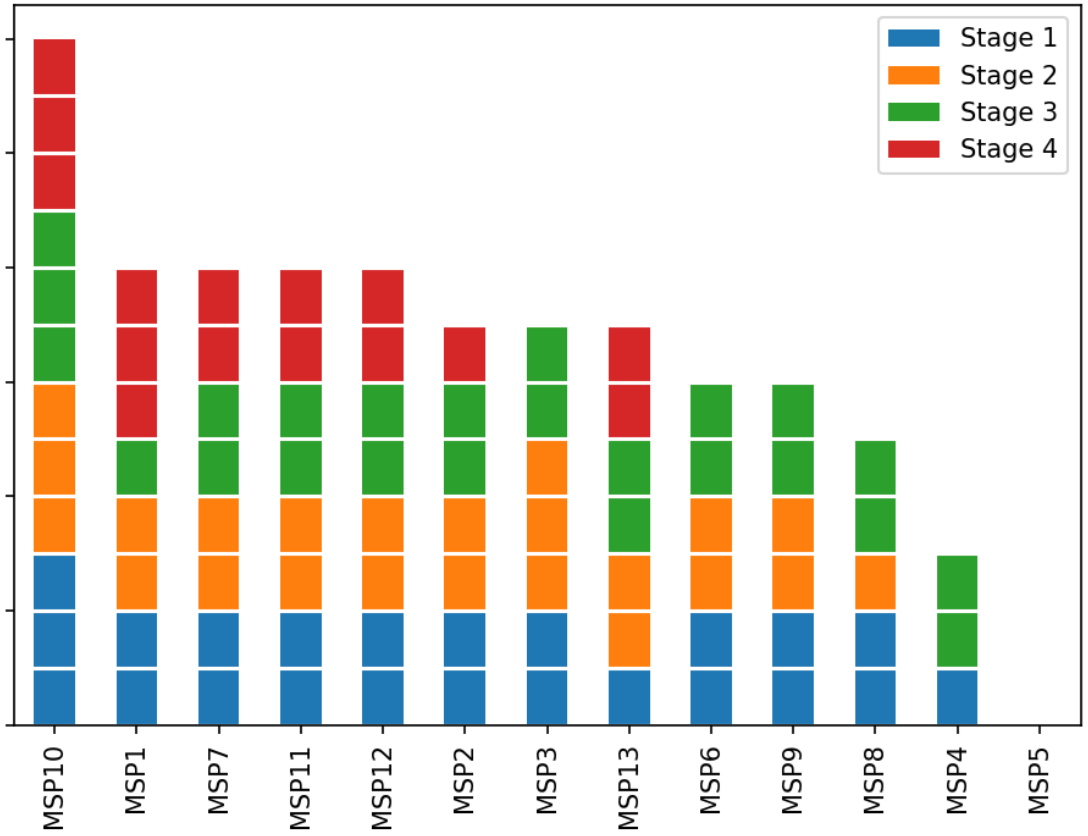
Data sharing strategies



There is generally a lack of common data sharing strategies and interoperability

Results - brief report - Analysis by countries





Lessons learnt and further suggestions

- Common policy objectives and cooperation between the competent authorities are essential to facilitate the integration of data between the two processes
- There is a clear opportunity to align and integrate MSFD data collection and analysis in the last stage of the MSP plan evaluation (i.e. monitoring), through the use of data from the MSFD monitoring and the assessment of environmental status
- However, in cases of scale mismatch between the MSFD reporting units and the MSP planning elements, the integration of MSFD data into the plan processes is difficult and reduces the potential for future improvements

Lessons learnt and further suggestions

- Improved access to raw quantitative data, such as MSFD indicators, is seen as crucial to effectively support the planning process, rather than solely relying on descriptive data and GES values.
- Establish matching working protocols for institutions and technicians working in both areas, MSP and MSFD.
- Improve data sharing facilities: encourage sharing of all data and information (possibly in an open form) including qualitative (result) data as well as (quantitative) raw (indicators) MSFD monitoring data.
- Enhance interoperability to ensure systematic and automated access to MSFD data, for instance, by implementing interoperable standard services or APIs.

How improve the analysis

- Expand the analysis to assess additional factors that may influence the quality of data integration (es. size of maritime areas)
- Enhance the analysis by including more EU MSs in the survey, as well as organising in-depth interviews as a follow-up of the results obtained through the survey
- Extending the scope of the survey to better include the **MSFD viewpoint**
- Initiate collaboration with specialised groups focused on data and information within the context of MSFD, such as WG DIKE and TG Data (DG ENV)