

Online Workshop - Tuesday, 22 of September 2026

Towards wise marine governance in the Mediterranean



ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ
ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ

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Spatial/Territorial Governance

“Marine governance” is a special type of “spatial governance”

As a term, it has recently gained momentum because of the increasing interest of coastal countries in:

- ☐ allocating a growing number of activities in their seas,
- ☐ performing MSP.

Spatial governance is:

... *“the way **spatially-relevant policies**, considered together, are applied”*

... *“the result of **multi-level** and **cross-sectoral** relationships in the field of public policies”, promoting **“horizontal and vertical cooperation** in the shaping and implementation of these policies”.*

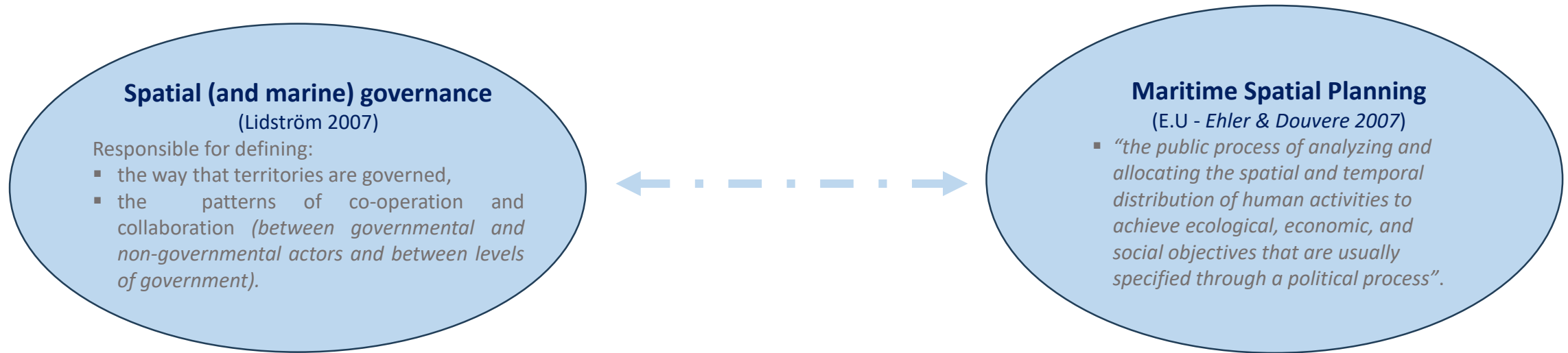
CoE – CEMAT

Council of Europe - Conférence du Conseil de l'Europe des Ministres responsables de l'aménagement du territoire)



Understanding the “dialog” between Marine Governance and MSP

In some circles, the term (marine) governance is treated as synonymous with spatial planning (and MSP) (Faludi, 2012). However, this is not accurate.



(Marine) governance is directly associated with:

- **competencies** and **decision-making** are shared among the different levels of government and administration.
- **public participation** and **consultation** processes, among stakeholders that have a stake in the territory in question.

Wise marine governance is a prerequisite for effective MSP.

Trends in (Spatial/Marine) Governance

Evolutionary

Based on EGT (Evolutionary Governance Theories) it focuses on the way societies, markets and governance evolve.

(Beunen, van Assche, and Duineveld 2015)

Adaptive

It pertains to society's capacity to understand and respond to environmental (and social) feedback in uncertain conditions, aiming at sustaining resilience of the system configurations.

(Hahn et al. 2006)

Transformative

Suggesting the adoption of radical and innovative societal governance approaches to surpass existing problems arising from system structures that have evolved over decades and cannot be tackled by simply adopting new policies.

(Verbong and Loorbach, 2012)

Reflexive

Actors challenge dominant discourses of MSP and reset the institutional rules of the game. It is useful at the regional seas level, where transboundary governance schemes are (or need to be) in place.

(Van Tatenhove, 2011 and 2017)

This effort of scholars to determine and specify options of marine governance, is reflecting their need to tackle all the peculiarities related to:

- the complexity and the transboundary nature of the sea and
- the repetitive nature of spatial planning and MSP.

AGENDA

10:00 – 10:15

Introduction to the workshop - Emiliano Ramieri, co-chair of the MED-MSP-CoP

Towards wise marine governance in MSP and the Mediterranean – Marilena Papageorgiou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

10:15 – 10:40

PART I: Marine governance and MSP challenges in non-EU countries

Advancing MSP in Tunisia: current governance gaps, institutional needs and future steps

Lobna Boudaya, University of Sfax (Tunisia)

Marine governance and MSP in Algeria

Samir Bachouche, National Research Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (Algeria) and co-chair of the MED-MSP-CoP

Q & A

10:40 – 11:05

PART II: Marine governance valuable practices in EU countries

Insights and challenges from the French experience

Neil Alloncle, CEREMA - Centre for Studies and Expertise on Risks, the Environment, Mobility and Urban Planning - (France)

A sea of competences: navigating marine governance in Spain

Cristina Cervera Nuñez, Spanish Institute of Oceanography - IEO, CSIC (Spain)

Q & A

11:05 – 11:15

Break

11:15 – 11:45

Group interaction

11:45 – 12:10

PART III: Cross-border governance mechanisms at the Mediterranean level

Marine policy development for MSP in the Mediterranean

Marina Markovic, UNEP/MAP PAP-RAC

MSP cooperation and governance with emphasis on the Mediterranean

Thanos Smanis, Expert coordinator of the EU MSP assistance mechanism and CLIMAZUL (Greece)

Q & A

12:10 – 12:30

Group interaction

Marine governance challenges at the national level

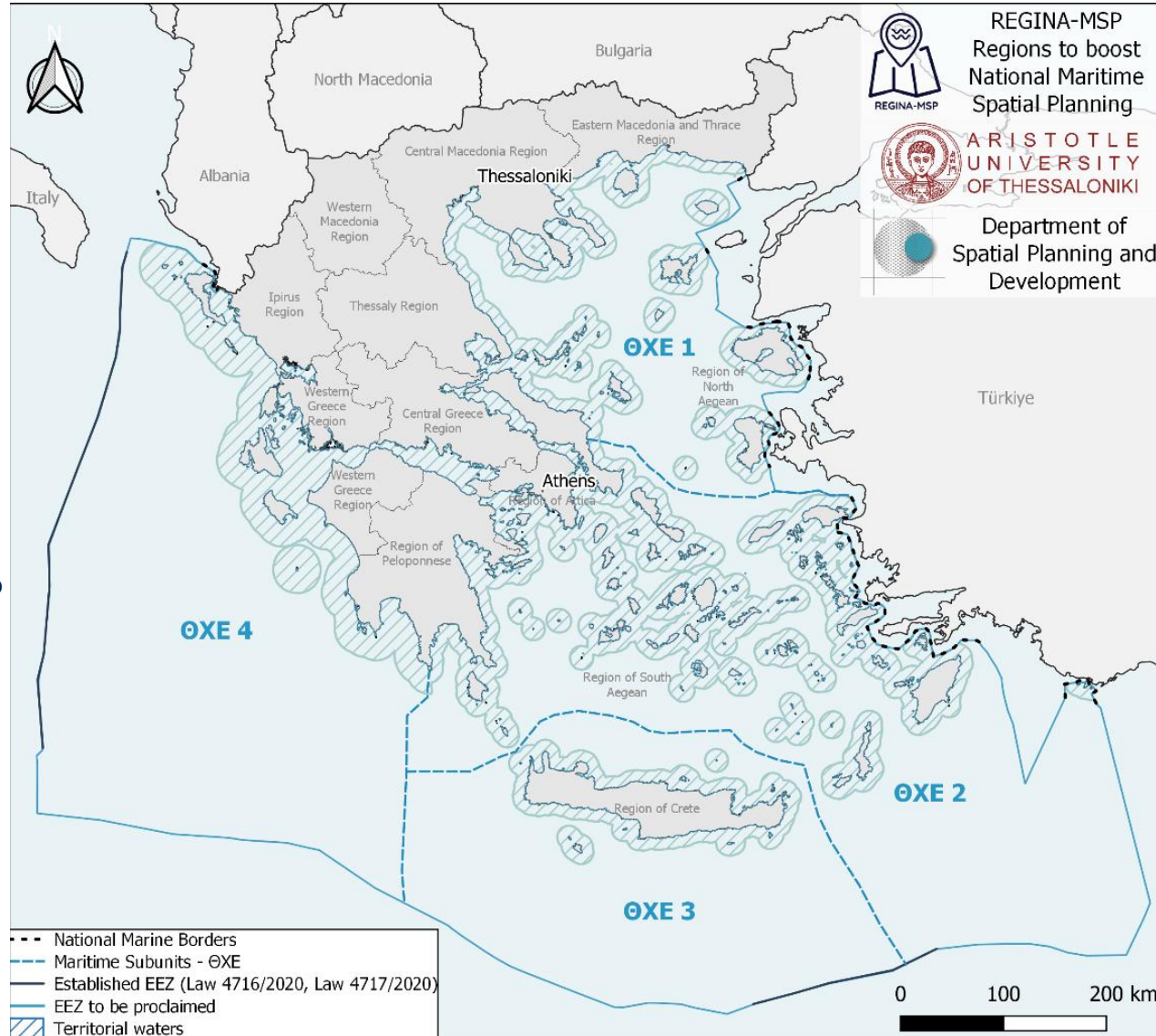
Governance challenges

Have Mediterranean countries reached:

- ✓ wise allocation of competencies across administration levels?
- ✓ proper decentralization of decision-making?
- ✓ pertinent consultation processes?
- ✓ inclusive public/stakeholders' participation?
- ✓ updated data (for the public and for informed decision making)?

The UNCLOS challenge...

To which degree the national MSP of Mediterranean countries is affected by the non-proclamation of EEZs?



Topics for group interaction

Part I + II:

Marine governance challenges + experiences from EU and non-EU countries

1st round of discussion

Distribution/Allocation of competencies:

- Across governance levels (horizontal and vertical complementarity, decentralisation of decision-making etc)
- Interaction and coherence across the land and sea interface

Equity among stakeholders' participation:

- Weak and powerful “players” of the seas: how can we achieve a more equal participation?
- Can we balance ecosystem protection and economic growth (what is the role and contribution of NGOs and other stakeholders)

Marine governance challenges at the Mediterranean level

A regional Sea Basin shared by 23 countries (in 3 Continents) - 7 of which part of the EU

Can we achieve:

- ✓ effective cross-border cooperation and transboundary marine governance?
- ✓ spatial justice and coherence between the East and West Mediterranean?
- ✓ coherence across national MSPlans?
- ✓ inclusive stakeholders' participation?
- ✓ coherence of (marine) data and flow of information?

Topics for group interaction

Part III:

Marine governance mechanisms at the Mediterranean level

2nd round of discussion

Cross-border cooperation and development

- The East and West Mediterranean “division” and characteristic challenges
- Challenges related to the UNCLOS affecting national MSP initiatives and possible solutions
- MSP-related topics for international/cross-border cooperation