

Technical Expert Group on Data for MSP - 2nd Phase Relaunch
Workshop – 28th June 2021
WEBEX Meeting

All presentations given during the meeting will be available on the European MSP Platform

1. Introduction

Andrej Abramic (Co-Chair): welcomed everyone to the launch of Phase 2 of the Technical Expert Group (TEG) on Data for MSP and provided a brief introduction to the evolution of the TEG and primary output of the first phase which was the delivery of a technical solution for the harmonization of data based on the work done by HELCOM VASAB with BASEMAPS, by the MarSP project based on the INSPIRE model and finally by EMODnet Human activities who developed a hybrid model. Recommendations were prepared for Member States with regards to the use of the three available data models in support of the production of a harmonised MSP data layer for the EU.

In this next phase until September 2022, it is intended to have four meetings, with at least one face-to-face meeting if possible. The TEG will remain primarily as an expert knowledge group. Five technical topics are going to be developed within the group and the technical expert forum will be maintained and will allow for interesting deliverables to be included in the next discussion. The group remains open to new proposals and experts and it is expected to have a final deliverable on recommendations for support of data management, assessment of plans but also monitoring. In addition, through the MSP Assistance Mechanism, Member States will be invited to request support for the development of their digital plans in line with the recommendations prepared which it is proposed to deliver through an MoU to be presented shortly.

2. Why TEG follow up, relation to MSEG

Anja Detant (CINEA): First of all, the EASME agency has moved to CINEA but the work done previously will continue under this new agency.

Within the different MSP cross-border projects the agency was following, a feeling emerged of a need to exchange on data and relevant topics for MSP and the implementation of plans, following which, the idea of this group was conceived, and the first brainstorming discussion took place in October 2019. Whilst the first phase of the TEG has had good results, there is still a lot to be done, and it was decided that the work must continue, particularly since the work of the TEG is relevant to the Member States who have their plans ready, as well as to those who are finalising their plans, and those who are fully into the implementation and monitoring of their plans.

At the end, it is expected to have final recommendations and guidance. The ambition is to take back the work to MS and present the ongoing process and invite them to come back with questions.

The aim of this group is really to act as a pool of experts that can be used by the MSP Assistance mechanism to give clear guidance to Member States on how to work, but also to offer dedicated training. In the coming months there will be a number of calls launched on the CINEA website that could be of interest to the MSP community, creating a link between MSP and MSFD.

3. Memorandum of Understanding between the EU MSP Platform, EMODnet and TEG

Juan Ronco Zapatero (DG MARE): The memorandum is a guide with background on the history of the TEG, a definition of the purpose and scope of the support proposed. The main purpose is to provide guidance on how to cooperate to implement the proposals made in the 'Recommendations Document'. There is a table describing activities in support of the implementation of the proposals for harmonisation of data with the type of support MSs may need (training, ad-hoc support, targeted support on issues related to the implementation of the data models) and for each of these types of support, there is a description of needs to be satisfied, actors that can respond, and the procedure that will need to be followed.

Member States are invited to contact the AM with their needs for support, who will try to identify the expertise required and/or contact the TEG co-chairs, or EMODnet and they will decide what is the best configuration to address this need. The MoU will be signed, and it is reminded that it is guidance and has no legal effect, the document will then be published in the European Maritime Forum in the pages of the technical Expert Group.

Finally, one area of work that is really needed is the one on Socioeconomic impacts of MSP. Following the publication of the study on economic impacts of MSP, one of the main conclusions was that there is insufficient data available.

4. Introducing technical topics within the TEG

MSFD & MSP Data Management – Stefano Menegon & Alessandro Saretta (see presentation)

The first phase of this technical topic produced a lot of results and the main objective is to share experience on using MSFD outcomes to support MSP processes and to identify a coherent approach to foster the connection between MSFD outputs and MSP process for EU MS. There are different topics under this activity, regarding spatial alignment that can identify issues and possible solutions and also try to deal with interactions. Another topic is the best way to incorporate the MSFD descriptors and finally the CEA as a linking element between MSP and MSFD. Possible outcomes of this could be a brief conceptual approach/model, consisting of 2 - 3 pages of recommendations that will be integrated in the final deliverable of the TEG, examples, and a paper if there are good results. This activity will run for the next 12-18 months.

Metadata Standard for Marine Plans - Adam Leadbetter (see presentation)

This Working Group will consider the needs of metadata to describe Marine Spatial Plans. Metadata is important in terms of data governance; in improving the discoverability and impact of Marine Spatial Plans; in analytics; and in monitoring in terms of aggregation, publication and update. In developing this metadata profile for Marine Spatial Plans user needs should be front and centre in order to avoid the pitfalls that other metadata initiatives have occasionally fallen into where they mandate fields which users are not interested in. An initial scan of what metadata schemes, formal or informal, already exist for Marine Spatial Plans and how gaps identified through discussing user needs will be addressed. Formal publication of the results through conference presentations and potentially peer-reviewed journal outputs.

Network Services for MSP - Pascal Derycke. (see presentation)

Are the network services fit for purpose? What are the best practises in terms of achieving machine learning solutions like data mining, classification and learning? The aim of this topic is to study, with other experts, ways to have more operational solutions for the implementation of network services and to have more efficient processes.

Socioeconomic Impact of MSP - Marta Ballesteros & Jose Santiago (see presentation)

The reason to include socio economic impacts is mainly based on the MSP directive 2014/89/EU where there are 13 references to socio-economy. There are previous studies on socio economic aspects and the main finding is that there is a lack of data, social or economic indicators. In the latest study of the economic impact of MSP we tried to improve the accuracy in order to monitor these socio-economic impacts. Under this activity we propose to undertake analysis of official plans developed by MSs.

The expected outputs of the thematic group will be a set of recommendations and lessons learnt based on how to gather socio-economic data linked to MSP (a base could be the last EU Blue Economy Report 2021), how to aggregate this data in MSP terms and how to use them (One aspect of the work will be to identify the public expenditure versus the public revenues that are linked to planning activities.), some pilot case studies will also be proposed to develop the activities.

MSP Data Framework – Andrej Abramic (see presentation)

This is the work developed within the PLASMAR project. It has been working fine, however, after some observation, we decided to restructure information received:

- Marine environment data cluster: how to define it, what is biodiversity?
Structured data information using MSFD, Good Environmental Status applying 11 quality descriptors and 39 related criteria elements. According to the MSFD article 19, this data should be publicly available.
- Marine conservation cluster, information on MPAs, what are the conservation targets....., there are two open European data bases, Natura 2000 and Common Database on Designated Areas (CDDA).
- Oceanic parameters cluster: relevant because determinant for most of maritime activities.
- Coastal Land use cluster: analyse and identify land-sea interaction
- Current maritime activities cluster

The idea is to update the work done on the MSP data framework, including governance and socio-economic data.

5. Discussion, Questions & Answers on TEG topics

Joni Kaitaranta (TEG Co-chair): Invited participants to raise questions regarding the topics proposed.

Q: Joni: Do you have any ideas on how you would involve the MSFD players here? It would be interesting to hear.

A: Stefano: We can try to invite some experts involved in the MSP Implementation reports, who did state of the art review of the different Member States. Meaning regarding implementation of the different Member States, but also that know the specific technical aspect.

Q: How about spatial scale specifications and compatibility? Conflict or intensity issues?

A: In terms of socio-economic data this is one of the issues, the level of aggregation could be a problem or not depending on data availability. There are rules to harmonize them and try to specify impacts on socio-economic terms. The geographical scope is different, and we have to aggregate in a proper way.

Q: Adam, you refer to mapping some of the existing metadata standards. Did you have some specific standards already in mind, for example related to spatial data or was it more in broader extend?

A: it depends on what the users want to have from metadata. I am looking at what fields we can map across, but it might be that a full inspire record might not be what we need here. Depending on the agreed use cases for the metadata.

Q: Are there topics that were not mention that can be addressed to support Member States work on MSP?

A: there was one topic that was not presented today on the standard Human Activities data. We can see if it would be presented in the next meeting or what the situation is on that.

6. Conclusion, wrap-up and following steps

Chris McDougall (AM MSP): It was a summary of where we concluded the first phase, the recommendations that have been made to the Member States are going to be extended further with the offer of training. Member States are invited to reach out to the assistance mechanism or directly to the European Commission with any support they may require. With regards to the second phase of the TEG, a lot of information has been discussed today, and five primary technical topics presented which are going to be addressed until September 2022. The next step from our perspective is to invite you to reach out to the technical leads, to send them an email expressing your interest to be involved in that particular topic.

Anja Detant (CINEA): Please note, we will continue with these plenary sessions, so even if you don't want to be part of a specific topic you are welcome to take part in the plenary sessions. And if there are other ideas or suggestions, please reach out to us. You are very welcome to share them and to reflect on how we can take them into account.

Juan Ronco Zapatero (DG MARE): 2 messages from the Commission:

- We expect that the groups will work as autonomously as possible
 - this group TEG has been set up to support and help Member States in their work on maritime, especially in particular data
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Close of Meeting.