

**D44 (D2.24)**  
**Report of VI**  
**Technical Workshop**

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| <b>Responsible Institute</b>                    | <b>CORILA</b>                                       |
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| <b>Infographics</b>                             | <b>Folco Soffietti</b>                              |
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## MSP-MED | 6<sup>th</sup> Technical Workshop 29/03/2022 (9:30-13:00 CET)

### *Monitoring of Implementation - Introduction*

MSP is foreseen to work as an adaptive management tool that does not end with its implementation. The full cycle of planning is expected to carry out continuous monitoring that will work as the basis to adapt/design the new cycle. A key step (the 9<sup>th</sup>, according to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) A Step-by-Step Approach toward Ecosystem-based Management, 2009) to review the plan effects and help identifying best assets and improve fewer effective ones.

The MSPglobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning (2021) highlights that monitoring can target different stages and aspects on MSP:

- MSP processes
- the plan(s) and its relevance
- the implementation of the plan

- outcomes of the plan

and specifies that indicators are needed to follow up and evaluate the plan-making process, implementation and outcomes.



## Why is it important to tackle this topic?

Monitoring is essential for planning in order to understand if the plan is successful, if its vision and objectives are met and how to upgrade it and adapt it. The implementation of a plan is a long process (5 to 10 years). In order to monitor the implementation of the plan, it is necessary to identify a reliable set of indicators. To achieve an optimal result, monitoring is expected to take place along the implementation phase (e.g. annually) to cover the full scope of the action.

The MSP Directive (EU Directive 2014/89/EU) has foreseen monitoring, referring to it in these terms:

(18) Maritime Spatial Planning should cover the full cycle of problem and opportunity identification, information collection, planning, decision-making, implementation, revision or updating, and the monitoring of implementation, and should have due regard to land-sea interactions and the best available knowledge. Best use should be made of mechanisms set out in existing or future legislation, including Commission Decision 2010/477/EU (1) and the Commission's Marine Knowledge 2020 initiative.

While Art 14, *Monitoring and Reporting* states that

- 2. The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and to the Council, at the latest one year after the deadline for the establishment of the maritime spatial plans, and every four years thereafter, a report outlining the progress made in implementing this Directive.

The UNESCO's guide *Marine Spatial Planning: A Guide to Evaluating Marine Spatial Plans* identifies eight steps for effective monitoring:

- Identifying the Need for Monitoring and Evaluation and Prepare an Evaluation Plan;
- Identifying Measurable Objectives of the Marine Spatial Plan;
- Identifying Indicators and Targets of Performance for Marine Spatial Management Actions;
- Establishing a Baseline for Selected Indicators
- Monitoring Indicators of Management Performance
- Evaluating the Results of Performance Monitoring
- Communicating the Results of Performance Evaluation

Eventually, the *MSPglobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning* gives a few reasons for the performance of monitoring (Chapter 8):

- Learning from and improving MSP processes and plans are among the key purposes of monitoring and evaluation.
- Monitoring and evaluation produce information that can be used for ensuring broader societal transparency and for holding responsible authorities accountable.
- Monitoring, evaluation and adaptation are all interlinked. The monitoring of the implementation of the plan and its outcomes is a continuous process that generates the information needed for the evaluation which, in turns, provides the necessary information for adapting the plan when it is reviewed.

**The monitoring of implementation is a key step of the planning cycle to ensure that this phase is effective and that the subsequent evaluation will have the needed information to be carried out.**

## ***What are the objectives of this sixth MSP-MED technical workshop?***

This workshop was triggered by international experiences on monitoring of first MSP plans cycles. It represented an occasion to share among the project partners the national approaches to methods put in place or foreseen to achieve the monitoring of implementation and the monitoring of planning of the ongoing plans in the Mediterranean.

**The main goals of this workshop were to compare different approaches and methods of monitoring that have been put into practice or are foreseen to be adopted in the following months of the 2021 deadline.**

## ***What should be addressed during this sixth technical workshop?***

Giving the multiple strategies for monitoring and the difference of indicators that could be addressed, the event was subdivided as follows: (1) greetings, (2) presentation from guest institutions on effective monitoring processes; (3) national sessions and following Q&A, aimed at sharing and discussing more in detail the national strategies. Topics of discussion:

- **Starting from the beginning: Selecting SMART objectives;**
- **Identification of monitoring processes;**
- **Identification of good indicators to enable the monitoring;**
- **Monitoring, evaluation and adaptation interconnection.**

### ***1) Introduction to the topics***

#### **MSP Global:**

A brief presentation of the selected topics was given by Riku Varjopuro, MSP Global representative:

- SMART objectives
- Identification of monitoring processes
- Identification of good indicators
- Monitoring, evaluation and adaptation interconnection

### ***2) Guest institutional overview***

The workshop was introduced by a former EU Member State having already performed a full cycle of planning to give insight into their method of monitoring.

### **UK/England- Marine Management Organisation (MMO) :**

The United Kingdom, now a former EU country, has started its withdrawal from the Union two years after the MSP Directive release and after having inspired MSP at international level. The Marine Management Organization is now monitoring the first implementation of English marine plans.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is the governmental body responsible for maritime activities (fishing, licensing, etc.), the marine environment and the Marine national plans.

### **Questions for guest institutions:**

#### **1: Please describe the national approach to monitoring of implementation**

- 1 Authorities/ Performers in charge
- 2 Timeline and frequency of monitoring
- 3 How the monitoring performed compares with the 8 steps of the IOC-UNESCO MSP Guide on evaluating plans?

#### **2: Please give a deeper overview of the following aspects**

- 1 Guiding SMART objectives
- 2 Guiding targets and indicators
- 3 How evaluation was carried out linked to the monitoring actions?
- 4 How subsequent adaptation was performed?
- 5 Was the public/stakeholders informed of this and how?

### ***2) Mediterranean approaches***

#### **Presentations from Competent Authorities**

This series of presentations from Mediterranean Competent Authorities (10'-15' per country) were focussed on explaining how the monitoring is foreseen (authorities in charge, timing, process, etc.).

Each of the presentation was followed by 5' of Q&A



### **Guiding questions for national authorities/partners presentations on national approaches:**

#### **Identification of monitoring processes**

1. How will the national plan's implementation be monitored?
  - Which bodies will be involved in terms of level of governance or dedicated committees?
  - When will the monitoring happen (timeline & frequency)? Is monitoring aligned with other process (i.e. MSFD)?
2. Which General strategy/approach of monitoring will be adopted?
  - Science-based
  - Dialogue-based (Stakeholders/institutional reviews)
  - Will it be a mixed method?
3. Is the participatory process (implementation phase) monitored and evaluated?

#### **SMART objectives**

4. Which are the initial target objectives/goals of the plan?

#### **Identification of good indicators**

5. Which are the identified key indicators? Please describe them/ explain which attributes were considered for their definition.

#### **Monitoring, evaluation and adaptation interconnection**

6. How is the connection between monitoring and evaluation (and therefore adaptation) ensured?
7. How can the SEA monitoring program for the MSP plan be included in the process?

#### **Q&A Sessions:**

Questions taken via Zoom chat or direct intervention.

## Programme

| Programme    |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>09:30</b> | Introduction and greetings:<br>MSPMED: <i>Folco Soffetti</i> (IUAV) (5 mins)<br>MSP Global: <i>Riku Varjopuro</i> introduction (10 mins)  |
| <b>09:50</b> | Presentations by guest institutions (15 min each)<br>England – <i>Jethro Watson</i>   |
| <b>10:30</b> | Q/A to Guest Institutions   |
| <b>11:00</b> | Virtual Coffee Break  |
| <b>11:10</b> | <i>Mediterranean approaches: Presentations from Competent Authorities</i><br>(10 min each, 5 of which in Q&A sessions)<br>-Spain<br>-France<br>-Italy<br>-Greece<br>-Slovenia<br>-Malta<br><br><i>Round Table</i> (30 mins) |
| <b>13:30</b> | Debriefing and conclusions  |

## Participants

| MSP-MED Partners |   |
|------------------|---|
| CORILA-IUAV-CNR  | <i>Fabio Carella, Folco Soffetti, Hadi El Hage, Amedeo Fadini, Martina Bocci, Alessandro Sarretta</i> |
| PA               | <i>Michelle Borg, Alexia Attard, Elaine Camilleri, Ivan Fava, Anja Delia</i>                          |
| Shom             | <i>Armelle Sommer, Adeline Souf</i>   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| OFB  | -   |
| RRC Koper  | Slavko Mezek, Lenča Humerca Šolar                                     |
| UTH  | Harry Coccossis   |
| YPEN   | Efi Stefani, Elena Lalou, Evgenia Lagiyou, Anna Spyropoulou           |
| IEO,CSIC   | Elena Gutiérrez Ruiz, Cristina Cervera Núñez,                         |
| <b>MSP Competent Authorities</b>   |   |
| Ministry of Transports and Infrastructures (Italy)   | Represented by project partners                                       |
| Ministry for the Sea (France)  | Represented by project partner  |
| MSP Technical Committee (Malta)  | Michelle Borg, Alexia Attard, Elaine Camilleri, Ivan Fava, Anja Delia |
| Ministry of Environment and Energy (Greece)  | Efi Stefani, Evgenia Lagiyou, Anna Spyropoulou Elena Lalou            |
| Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge – DG for the coasts and the sea (Spain) | Aurora Mesa Fraile  |
| Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (Slovenia)  | Lenca Humerca Solar   |
| <b>Other Institutions</b>  |   |
| MSP Global   | Riku Varjopuro, Michele Quesada Silva                                 |
| Marine Management Organisation (England)   | Jethro Watson   |
| CINEA, EC  | David Sanmiguel   |

## Report of the event

The meeting was attended by an average of 30 people, and facilitated by Hadi El Hage (IUAV).

Official greetings and introduction were done by Folco Soffietti (IUAV) on behalf of the project coordinator of MSPMED.

Folco Soffietti gave an overview about the previous technical workshops done through the previous period of MSPMED as part of WP 2: Setting-up of Maritime Spatial Plans, these workshops are part of Task 2.7: Sharing experiences among countries.

6 Technical workshops were conducted:

- Governance
- Land Sea Interactions
- Ecosystem Based Management
- Stakeholders Engagement in MSP
- From Data to Knowledge-
- **Monitoring of Implementation**

The workshops were attended by all the partners, Competent Authorities were invited and several guest institutions took part in them: IOC-UNESCO, DG MARE, MSP Platform, TEG for MSP, EMODnet, HELCOM, UNEP-MAP, ETC-UMA, US (Spain), ATZI, FAO-GFCM, WWF Mediterranean, WWF Italy, Scotland's Government, Finland Cooperation for MSP, MMO UK.

The importance of addressing the topic of monitoring was also shared, where monitoring is essential for planning in order to understand if the plan is successful, if its vision and objectives are met and how to upgrade it and adapt it. The implementation of a plan is a long process and to achieve an optimal result, monitoring is expected to take place along the implementation phase. And it is mentioned in the MSP Directive of 2014 and several UNESCO Guides, such as

*Marine Spatial Planning: A Guide to Evaluating Marine Spatial Plans*

*MSPglobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning*

Folco Soffietti finally presented the agenda of the day and informed about the upcoming events concerning MSPMED consortium that should take place:

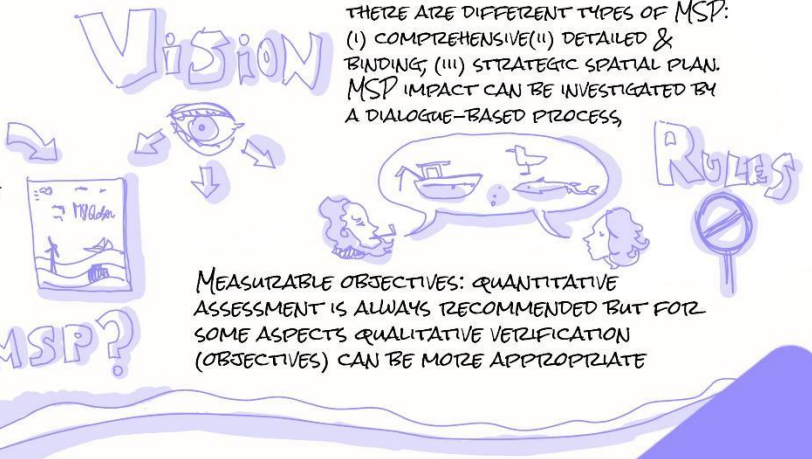
- Ravenna: EMD Workshop and project meeting (18th-20th of May)
- Barcelona: Underwater noise ws and SP-FR-IT event (10th-11th of May)
- Athens: Pan Eastern Med Workshop (20th-21st of June, tbc)
- Tunis: Pan Western Med Workshop (27th of September)
- Rome: Final Conference (October)

## Presentations by Guests institutions

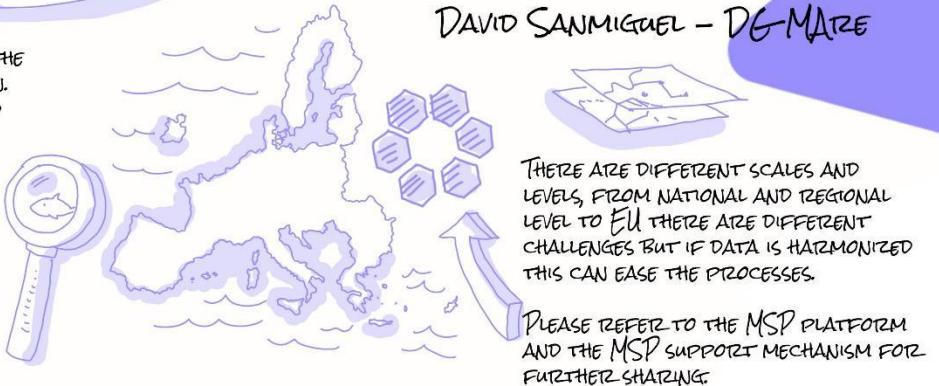
Riku Varjopuro (MSPGlobal Initiative)

**Riku Varjopuro – MSPGlobal**

INTERNATIONAL GUIDE ON MSP KEY POINTS ON EVALUATION. ELEMENTS TO BE MONITORED: THE MSP PROCESS; THE IMPLEMENTATION; THE OUTCOMES. THE GUIDE DISCUSSES THE CHALLENGE OF ISOLATING THE EFFECTS OF MSP. IN FACT DEVELOPMENT OF SECTORS IS DETERMINED BY MANY CONTEXT FACTORS AND THIS HAS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE PLAN.



**EU COUNTRIES ARE MOVING FROM THE MSP DIRECTIVE TO IMPLEMENTATION. MONITORING WAS NOT SO EXPRESSED IN THE DIRECTIVE AND IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE HOW COUNTRIES ARE DEVELOPING IT. OF COURSE SYNERGIES WITH THE EMFD ARE IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY ON THE PROTECTION ISSUES.**



Riku Varjopuro presented the International Guide on MSP - Key points on evaluation. The elements to be monitored: the MSP process, the implementation, and the outcomes. The Guide discusses the challenge of isolating the effects of MSP. The development of the factors is determined by many context factors and this has to be taken into account when monitoring and evaluating the plan.

Mr Varjopuro recalls there are different types of MSP: (i) comprehensive spatial management plan; (ii) detailed, binding plan; (iii) broad-scale, strategic spatial plan. MSP impact mechanisms can be investigated by a dialogue-based process.

## Objectives of the MSP plan



| Ecological + Economic + Social   |   |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| S  | M   | A  | R  | T   | I   | E  |
| SPECIFIC   | MEASURABLE  | ACHIEVABLE   | RELEVANT   | TIME-BOUND  | INCLUSIVE   | EQUITABLE  |
| When the objective is precise and concrete enough not to be open to varying interpretations by different people. | When the objective allows <u>verification</u> of its achievement through indicators. Such objectives are either quantified or based on a combination of description and scoring scales. | When the objective is set at a level which is ambitious but at the same time realistically achievable within the context, knowledge and resources available. | When the objective is directly linked to the drivers and vision. | When the objective is related to a fixed date or precise time period to allow an evaluation of its achievement. | When everyone is welcomed – particularly those most impacted – into processes, activities, and decision/ policymaking in a way that shares power. | When the elements of fairness are included seeking to address systemic injustice and inequity. |

Source: UNESCO-IOC/European Commission, 2021

Objectives of the MSP plan are of course relevant and should be identified according to SMARTIE, thus including inclusiveness and equity.

Measurable objectives: quantitative assessment of quantification of objectives is always recommended but for some aspects qualitative verification (objectives), is also recommended.



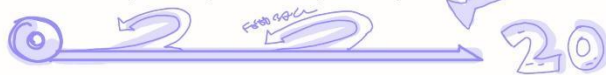
## Jethro Watson (Marine Management Organisation, United Kingdom)

### JETHRO WATSON – MARINE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MMO IS A NON DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODY DELEGATED TO MSP IN ENGLAND. IN UK MSP DIRECTIVE IMPLEMENTED BY THE THE 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN. PLANS COMPULSORY FOR 2021.

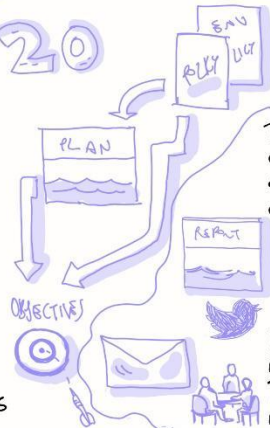
PLAN IN ENGLAND: 11 PLAN AREAS IN 6 MARINE PLANS, INSHORE AREAS 12NM, OFFSHORE 200NM. MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009 MARINE POLICY STATEMENT

THE PROCESS IS NOT LINEAR BUT THERE IS A LOT OF FEEDBACK BETWEEN THE MONITORING ACTIVITIES AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION.



PLAN HAVE A 20 YEARS SPAN BUT REPORTING ON MONITORING ARE EXPECTED EVERY 3 YEARS IN REVIEW:

- THE EFFECTS OF THE POLICIES IN THE MARINE PLAN
- THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THOSE POLICIES IN SECURING OBJECTIVES
- PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARDS SECURING OBJECTIVES
- PROGRESS BEING MADE TOWARDS SECURING MARINE POLICY STATEMENT OBJECTIVES
- RELEVANT MATTERS AND CONTEXTUAL CHANGES



EFFECTS OF THE PLAN ENCOMPASS DIRECT CONTROL, DIRECT INFLUENCE, INDIRECT INFLUENCE.

IDENTIFICATION OF INDICATORS AND TARGETS ARE KEY. BASED ON OBJECTIVES AND WHAT IS WANTED TO BE MEASURED AND HOW MEASUREMENT WILL BE PERFORMED.



OUTCOMES OF MONITORING ARE ASSESSED BY A RANGE OF TOPICS ACROSS ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL RANGE. INTERRELATION WITH OTHER EXISTING MONITORING PROGRAMS IF FUNDAMENTAL. MSP HAS MULTIPLE OBJECTIVES WITH MANY CROSS-CUTTING POLICIES INTERRELATED.

RESPONSES TO MONITORING RESULTS FALL INTO THREE CATEGORIES: CHANGES IN MONITORING; CHANGES TO THE SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION; CHANGES TO THE PLAN CONTENT



IT IS ESSENTIAL TO FEED BACK THE OUTCOMES FROM MONITORING AND EVALUATION TO STAKEHOLDERS. PERIODIC REPORTS, NEWSLETTER, SOCIAL CHANNELS, MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS.

Mr Watson started his presentation by saying that the MMO is a non-departmental public body delegated to MSP in England. The *25-year environmental plan* requires England's marine plans by 2021 (indications of the 2014 MSP directive were implemented before Brexit and were not amended afterwards). There are 11 plan areas in 6 marine plans covering inshore areas 12nm and offshore 200nm. These marine plans have a 20-year horizon.

Mr Watson provided the framework for MSP in England, including marine planning legislation. In 2014 the first plan was adopted. Monitoring has started after plan adoption with yearly data collection and reporting windows every three years are foreseen. The

process is not linear but there is a lot of feedback between the monitoring activities and plan implementation. Issues can arise related to data collection and delays can occur.

There are 3 monitoring reports available (2 for the East plan and 1 for the South). Effects of the Plan encompass: Direct control, Direct influence, Indirect influence.

Designing an evaluation model is key to design monitoring. With the time passing, the direct influence of the Plan decreases and the effects of other external factors increase, making it more difficult to distinguish the real effect of the plan. The identification of indicators and targets are key. Outcomes of monitoring are assessed by a range of topics across economic and environmental range. Interrelation with other existing monitoring programs is fundamental (e.g. marine protected areas). MSP has multiple objectives with many cross-cutting policies interrelated that needs to be taken into account with an organic approach. Trends are observed and compared with expectations from the plan. Responses to monitoring results fall into three categories: changes in monitoring, changes to the support to implementation, changes to the plan content.

Mr Watson reported that it is essential to feed back the outcomes from monitoring and evaluation to stakeholders. Periodic reports, newsletters, social channels, meetings/workshops are envisaged by the English process.

The key challenges encountered were: (i) provision of data where there is no framework for exchange of data with other parties; (ii) integration and evaluation into plan development; (iii) attribution of some effects to the influence of the plans.

In a Q/A session, here were some questions addressed to the MMO representative:

**Q:** Is the MSP monitoring process directly linked to the monitoring process of other policies that have similar objectives (e.g. climate change, environmental status)? If so, what are your recommendations to effectively connect them? In the MSPglobal Initiative we discussed about using existing monitoring initiatives

**A:** Different data sources and different monitoring processes are ongoing by different agencies

**Q:** England had to meet a 2021 deadline, are you still bound to the 2014 MSP Directive? Why is the MSP time span in England so long?



**A:** The directive was already implemented into national laws so England had to respect the requirements. Time is long but many monitoring and reviews are going to take place.

**Q:** The policies of the plans are organised in 12 sectors or themes: How do you deal with cross cutting issues that regard more than one theme? e.g. Economy and Environmental protection... How did you set the targets?

**A:** Policies are cross-cutting. Regarding cross-cutting issues, consultation and dialogue with stakeholders is key. Understanding the plan effects is also qualitative. Regarding targets that depend on the specific policy, some are more prescriptive, some less. Ultimately, it depends on where we intend to take the plan, until now the main effort is put on understanding how decision makers are using the plan and how the authority can shape the plan.

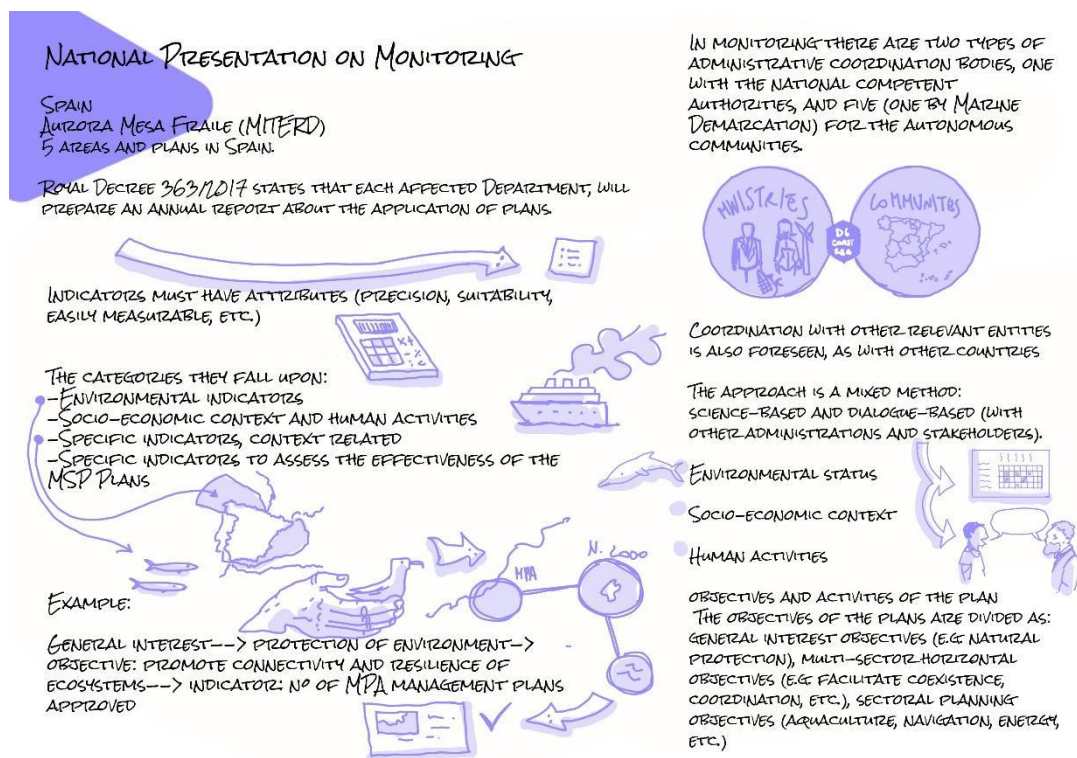
**Q:** During the presentation it was mentioned that an outcome is "changes to plan content". What is the experience in this aspect so far? How plans are likely to be modified/adapted considering also that Riku summarised the type of MSPlans in three categories (regulatory, strategic..).

**A:** Decisions are driven by a wider government direction. We are probably moving from a broader to a more prescriptive planning approach with the next generation of marine plans but this will probably bring bigger trade-offs.

## National Presentations

The round of presentations from national experiences in the Mediterranean was introduced by a short presentation of the speaker of each country.

### Spain (Aurora Mesa Fraile)



Aurora Mesa Fraile provided an overview of MSP in Spain. 5 Plans have been developed, one for each marine area.

There is an obligation for annual reporting about plans. Monitoring is done in close connection with the bodies established for monitoring under MSFD, in which there are two administrative coordination bodies, one with the national competent authorities and five for the autonomous communities pertaining to each marine area (Marine Demarcations).

Coordination with other relevant entities is also foreseen, with other countries through the project. The approach is a mixed method: science-based and dialogue-based (with other administrations and stakeholders).

- Environmental status

- Socio-economic context
- Human activities

## Monitoring of MSP in Spain

### ► Examples of indicators

| Group of objectives            | Subgroup                             | Objectives   | Indicators  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>General interest</b>        | Protection of the marine environment | MA.1. To promote the connectivity, functionality and resilience of marine ecosystems through giving them the status of marine green infrastructure<br>MA.3. To guarantee that the plans consider the need to increase the protected marine surface<br>MA.5. To ensure that current and planned future human uses and activities do not compromise the achievement of the Good Environmental Status of the marine environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area and state of the marine habitats and species according to the evaluation of the descriptors of MMSS and Nature Directives</li> <li>• Change in the area of MPA</li> <li>• N° of management plans approved</li> <li>• [...]</li> </ul> |
|                                | R&D                                  | I.1. To have a series of areas in Spanish marine waters used for research, innovation and development, which facilitate the sustainable development of emerging marine sectors   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N° of new R&amp;D areas declared</li> <li>• Area</li> <li>• N° of projects executed in those areas</li> </ul>  |
|                                | UCH                                  | CU.1. To guarantee the conservation of known or suspected UCH against HA that require the use of marine space  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N° of places of cultural interest declared</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Multi-sector horizontal</b> |                                      | H.4. To identify, and to enhance as far as possible, synergies between uses and activities.<br>H.6. To improve coordination across authorities responsible for planning uses and activities of the maritime space.<br>H.8. To improve the visibility of the activities, uses and interests of the various users or managers of the maritime space.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N° of new multi-uses authorized</li> <li>• N° of inter-administrative coordination meetings held</li> <li>• N° of participatory events organized</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Sectorial</b>               | Cables                               | C.2. To promote that future cables take into account [...] the need to maintain the integrity of the seabed, especially those with protected, biogenic and/or vulnerable habitats  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N° of new cables installed</li> <li>• % of length of cables within protected or vulnerable areas</li> <li>• % of length of cables within priority use areas for protection of biodiversity</li> </ul>                                      |
|                                | ORE                                  | R.1. To identify the areas with the greatest potential for developing offshore wind energy in each marine demarcation.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marine area identified as high-potential area (HPA) for ORE.</li> <li>• % of HPA for ORE that finally hold ORE facilities.</li> </ul>  |

### Objectives and Activities of the plan:

General objectives of the Plan include general objectives, multi-sector horizontal objectives, and sectoral planning objectives.

Indicators have been selected within two types: environmental and socio-economic context related (they have been revised by public authorities; are continuously revised/updated with results from projects), indicators are also divided (as objectives) into three categories.

Open issues: the exchange of information with other administrations (in common with marine strategy), how to analyse the data, how to obtain information from stakeholders, how to identify emerging needs from stakeholders. A specific MSP measure regarding the preparation and implementation of a stakeholders engagement strategy and another specifically for monitoring and evaluation are included.

In a Q/A session, here were some questions addressed to the Spanish Competent Authority representative:

**Q:** From the presentation, it emerges that other bodies are required to submit monitoring reports to your directorate. Is this only regarding use of the plans i.e. decision-making authorities using the plans in their decisions? It would be interesting to hear arrangements in place across other countries as well.

**A:** Different bodies will intervene (each competent body is in charge of sending to the MSP CA an annual report regarding their area of competence in MSP) but it has not already been designed a full method to implement those contributions.

Adeline Souf, representing the French CA also replied to this question by saying that in France it is stated who is going to contribute, which bodies are involved and need to collect data, the frequency is also stated. Frequency will likely be biannual.

## France (Adeline Souf)

### NATIONAL PRESENTATION ON MONITORING

FRANCE  
ADELINE SOUF (SHOM)

FRANCE HAS APPROVED A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE COAST AND THE SEA IN 2017 TO BE REVISED BY THE END OF 2021. IT INCORPORATED BOTH MSPD AND MSP. THE SEA BASIN STRATEGIC DOCUMENT PROVIDES OBJECTIVES, VOCATIONAL AREA MAP (MSP), MONITORING INDICATORS AND ACTION PLAN.

MONITORING IS LEGALLY BINDING AND SHOULD INCLUDE « MARITIME AND COASTAL ACTIVITIES, MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS, SITES, LANDSCAPES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE, RISKS, KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TRAINING, LOCAL INITIATIVES AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT... ».

PROGRAMS, SUB-PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONAL INDICATORS ARE ORGANIZED FOR EACH MARINE BASIN.

DATA SHOULD BE INCORPORATED FREQUENTLY, ACCURATELY, AND ACCESSIBLE.

THE NATIONAL STRATEGY HAS 23 INDICATORS TO FOLLOW.  
4 MAIN OBJECTIVES  
1: ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION (E.G. POPULATION DENSITY)

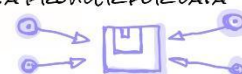
OBJECTIVE 2: SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT (E.G. EMPLOYMENT RATE)

OBJECTIVE 3: GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND PRESERVATION OF AN ATTRACTIVE COASTLINE (E.G. ECOLOGICAL STATUS OF FISH STOCKS)

OBJECTIVE 4: FRANCE'S INFLUENCE (E.G. EVOLUTION OF COMMERCIAL FLEET)

THE STRATEGY HAD BEEN DECLINED INTO 4 DOCUMENTS + 4 DOCUMENT FOR THE OUTERMOST REGIONS  
MONITORING INCLUDE MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS... ACTIVITIES, USES AND PUBLIC POLICIES  
COASTAL ECOSYSTEM: STATE AND PRESSURE.

DIFFERENT DATA PROVIDERS FOR DATA COLLECTION.



Adeline Souf (Shom) illustrated the MSP process in France. France has approved a national strategy for the coast and the sea in 2017 for 6 years to be revised by the end of 2022. This is framing all policies related with the coasts of the sea. The strategy is shaped for the different sea basins and sea regions. It incorporated both MSFD and MSP.

The national strategy has 23 indicators to follow. 4 different objectives: (i) Ecological transition (e.g. evolution of greenhouse gas, electrical power and type in the coastal municipalities; (ii) sustainable blue economy development (e.g. n. students of students related to sea and coast-line, (iii) good environmental status of marine environment and preservation of landscape (iv) France's influence.

The strategy had been declined into 4 documents (one for each sea basin) + 4 documents for the French outermost regions (one for each sea region).

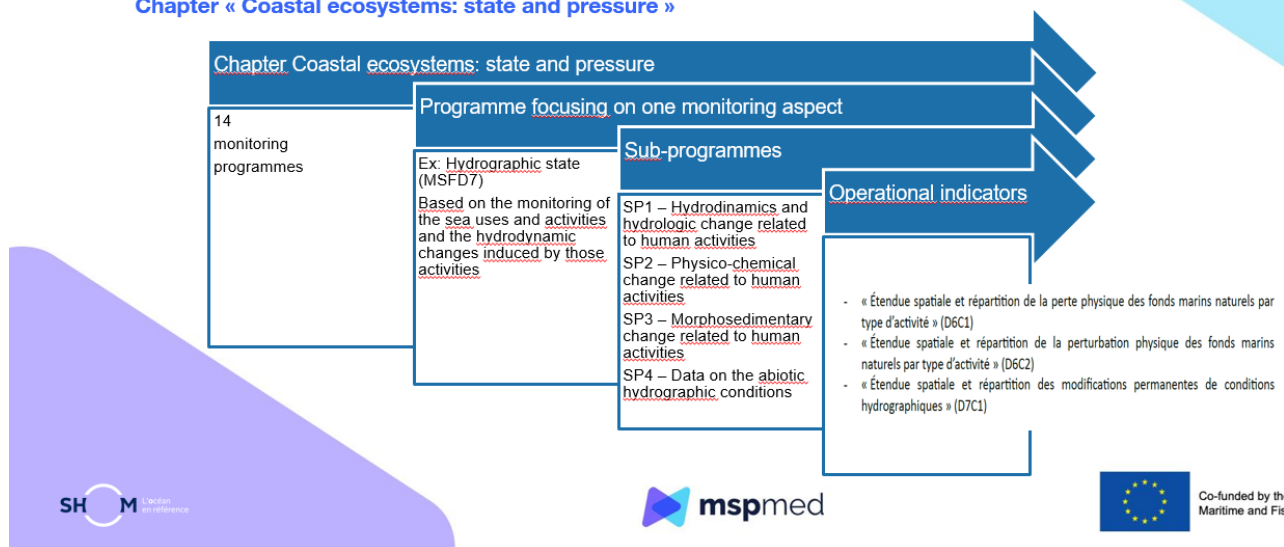
Monitoring includes marine and coastal ecosystems, it is fully integrated between MSFD and MSP. Activities, uses and, public policies are evaluated considering the coastal ecosystem state and pressures.

## Monitoring of the implementation process

### ▷ Monitoring programmes

Example of the monitoring programme

#### Chapter « Coastal ecosystems: state and pressure »



There are different data providers for data collection:



Data are made available through an information system:

Plenty of indicators are considered. They are also “site-specific”; the monitoring programs in the different sea-regions are different, according to the different specificities. Programs, sub-programs, and operational indicators are organised for each marine basin. Monitoring data can be accessed by external users with custom profiles, in order to fulfil the needs from different users.

Key features of data are frequency, accuracy, and accessibility:

Challenges include difficulty to rely on recurring, reliable, and available information. Lack of harmonisation, issues with data produced by private entities, data requirements for MSFD are different from the ones needed for MSP.

In a Q/A session, here were some questions addressed to the Shom officer:

**Q:** Are then the national-level indicators adapted/integrated in the regional-sea document to meet regional specificities?

**A:** National indicators are easy to monitor and are monitored at sea basin region, with more specific information and detail at local level. This may represent an increased difficulty since more complexity and specificity needs to be addressed.

## Italy (Amedeo Fadini and Fabio Carella)

### NATIONAL PRESENTATION ON MONITORING

ITALY  
FABIO CARELLA (IUAV) AMEDEO FADINI (CNR AND IUAV)

THE MSP COMPETENT AUTHORITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING

THE MSP PLAN HAS A 10-YEAR DURATION, SO IF THE MONITORING PLAN HAS TO BE CHANGED, THIS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WITH PARTIAL REVISION.



THE 5TH OPERATIVE PHASE IS ENTIRELY DEDICATED TO MONITORING PROGRAM WHICH ALSO INCLUDES THE ADAPTATION OF THE PLAN.



THE MONITORING PHASE SHOULD BE ALIGNED WITH EXISTING PROGRAMS AND AVAILABLE DATA SOURCES LIKE MSFD, EMFF, EMSA, ESPC, ISTAT



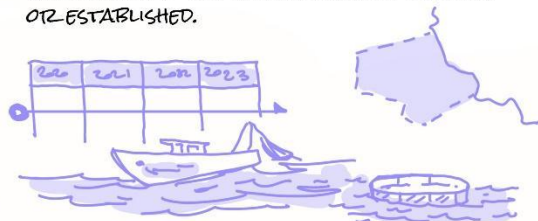
EXISTING DATA FLOW HAS BEEN ANALYZED TO CREATE A LARGE LIST OF INDICATORS.

EXAMPLE INDICATOR: TOURISM



THE MONITORING PROGRAM WAS DESIGNED WITH A FLEXIBLE APPROACH.

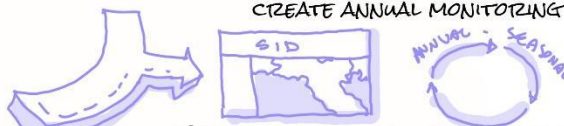
THE APPROACH TO MSP MONITORING CONSIDERS: (I) APPROPRIATE SPATIAL SCALE, (II) APPROPRIATE FREQUENCY (TEMPORAL SCALE), (III) ANALYZE APPROPRIATE INDICATORS IF THE SECTORS ARE EMERGING OR ESTABLISHED.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES ARE DEFINED FOR EACH THEME/SECTOR OF THE PLAN. EACH OF NATIONAL 3 SUB AREA HAS ITS SPECIFIC OR LOCAL OBJECTIVES.



DATA FLOW: THE MONITORING PROGRAM AIMS AT CREATING A GEO DATA BASE LINKED TO THE MSP PLANS DATA TO CREATE ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT



TWO MONITORING CYCLES ARE CONSIDERED: (I) ANNUAL/SEASONAL CYCLE, (II) OVERALL MSP CYCLE.

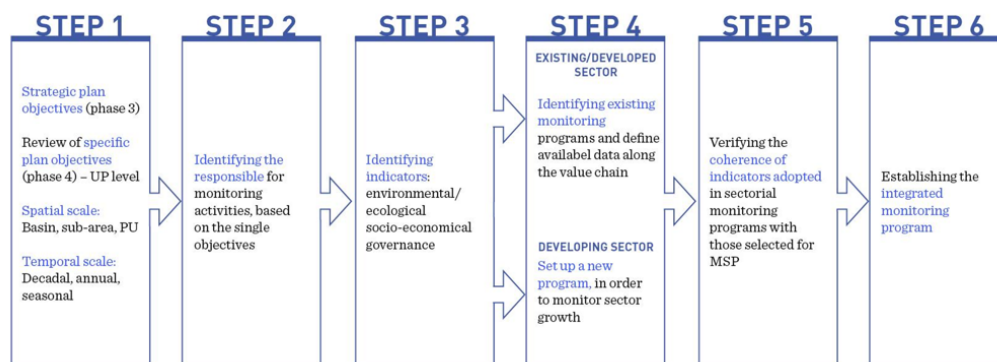
Fabio Carella (IUAV) and Amedeo Fadini (IUAV and CNR), representing the Italian CA, illustrate the Italian national guidelines for MSP which recall requirements for monitoring. The Competent Authority for the MSP Plan is responsible for monitoring. Having the MSP plan a 10 years duration, if the monitoring plan has to be changed this should be taken into consideration with partial revision.

The IUAV officer illustrates the main features of Italian Plans: three maritime areas divided into sub-areas; coastal and off-shore sub areas have been identified. A specific phase had been included in the Plans focusing on methodology and indicators for monitoring and adapting the plan.

The approach to MSP monitoring considers: (i) appropriate spatial scale, (ii) appropriate frequency (temporal scale), (iii) considered both established sectors and emerging ones. A conceptual framework has been defined for the monitoring program with a step-wise approach.

## MONITORING PROGRAM

### Conceptual framework



1. Spatial, temporal scale
2. responsible institution for monitoring activities
3. identification of monitoring indicators
4. identification of existing programs or the need to establish a new one
5. verify the coherency
6. establishing integrated monitoring program



## MONITORING PROGRAM

### Indicators and objectives, examples

| INDICATORS  | TYPOLGY  | TEMPORAL RESOLUTION   | SPATIAL SCALE   | SOURCE  | STRATEGIC AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES | OTHER OBJECTIVES |
|---|--|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|
|   | E=environment<br>P=pressure<br>SE=socio-economic<br>G=governance | ANN=annual<br>SEA=seasonal<br>MON=monthly<br>ND=not defined | Spatial scale<br>NAT=all Italian seas<br>REG=regional<br>BAS=basin scale<br>SA=sub-area<br>PU=planning unit |   |                                   |                  |
| Pressure on the territory due to tourism, both in terms of arrivals and presences (ISPRA-environment) | P  | ANN   | NAT<br>SA   | ISPRA<br>(Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale) | OS27, 4aFVG, 5.aSA, OS1.RER       | OS32, OS33       |
| Average C footprint of tourists (ETIS toolkit - indicator D14)  | P  | SEA   | REG   | ISTAT<br>(Istituto Nazionale di Statistica)                             | OS27                              | OS19, 7aSA       |

There is a need to integrate the data from different programs, authorities, etc. to avoid duplication of effort. Priority indicators have been identified according to their sensitivity, technical feasibility, availability of data flow.

Two monitoring cycles are considered: (i) annual/seasonal cycle, (ii) overall MSP cycle. Monitoring MSP is an ambitious program of data flow and interactions. An annual monitoring report is expected to be prepared to provide feedback to the plan process. A data infrastructure will be created to support MSP implementation but also specific needs from the sectors.

### (Q&A Session):

**Q:** How will the additional regional or sub-reports work, their purposes and likely focus?

**A:** Right now they are not officially part of the Monitoring Program, it will be an additional output. It is linked to the Regional bodies involvement creates some issues: they have their own strategic objectives and very peculiar specificities. They can also enforce regional policies. The plan should also integrate these inputs and data from Regions; for instance landscape protection policies were not easy to integrate. Regions were asked to use the data framework set up by the CA for monitoring and yearly information will be required.

## Greece - Anna Spyropoulou

### NATIONAL PRESENTATION ON MONITORING

GREECE  
ANNA SPYROPOULOU

A NATIONAL SPATIAL PLANNING STRATEGY FOR MARITIME SPACE IS IN ITS CONSULTATION PHASE. UPEN MUST IMPLEMENT MSP AND MSFD.

THE SELECTED SMART INDICATORS WILL REFLECT THE TARGET OBJECTIVE WILL FOLLOW (I) GOVERNANCE (II) SOCIO-ECONOMIC (III) ENVIRONMENTAL



THE GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION DATA PARAMETERS HAVE BEEN CLASSIFIED IN 9 THEMATIC CATEGORIES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE COUNTRY'S SPECIFIC FEATURES AND PRIORITIES.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES  
SOCIAL / ECONOMIC / DEMOGRAPHIC DATA  
GEOMORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

PHYSICAL / CHEMICAL / BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS  
ENERGY / MINERAL RESOURCES  
ACTIVITIES / USES

INFRASTRUCTURE / FACILITIES  
DANGERS / PROTECTION  
SPATIAL PLANNING



MANY MINISTRIES ARE INVOLVED IN THE MONITORING PROCESS. (MARITIME AFFAIRS & INSULAR POLICY, DEFENSE, INTERIOR, CULTURE & SPORTS, ETC.), REGIONAL BODIES IN EVALUATION.

MSP PLANS ARE EVALUATED EVERY FIVE YEARS AND REVIEWED AT LEAST EVERY 10 YEARS. MIXED METHOD FOR MONITORING FIRST TIME IT WILL BE SIMPLE, FOCUSED ON THE MOST ESSENTIAL ISSUES, PROVIDING SPACE FOR IMPROVEMENT.

CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF INDICATORS:

EFFECTIVENESS,  
EFFICIENCY,  
INCLUSION,  
TRANSPARENCY AND  
TERRITORIAL AND SOCIAL COHESION



THE GEOSPATIAL PORTAL IS PLANNED TO BE ACCESSIBLE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STUDY (SEAS) IN GREECE IS: INTEGRATED INTO THE APPROVAL PROCESS OF THE MSFs, DRAFTED AND MADE PUBLIC ON THE BASIS OF JMD (JOINT MINISTERIAL DECISION)

Anna Spyropoulou frames the current state of MSP in Greece. The National Spatial Planning Strategy for maritime space is in progress (currently in consultation phase). The first Maritime Spatial Framework (MS plan) is also under preparation.

MSP Plans are evaluated every five years and reviewed at least every 10 years.

The criteria for identification of indicators are intended to be the following: Effectiveness, efficiency, inclusion, transparency, territorial and spatial cohesion. Currently MSFs (MS plans) technical specifications, are in the process of elaboration and their target objectives are under consideration. However, it is clear that the SMART indicators will reflect those target objectives, and shall be quantitative and qualitative in nature, following the three pillars: (i) governance (ii) socio-economic (iii) environmental.

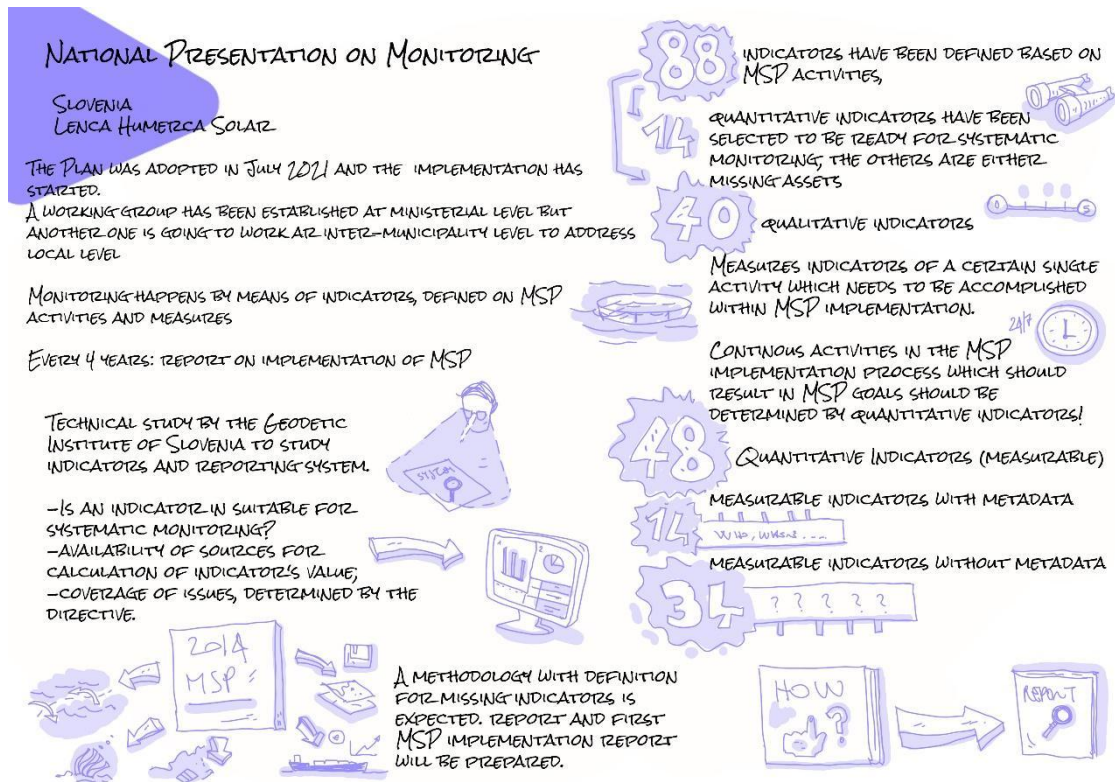
The data required for the monitoring of MSFs (MS plans) are recorded on the basis of the strategic objectives of the MSPD. The geospatial information data parameters have been classified in 9 thematic categories, taking into account the country's specific features and priorities:

- Administrative boundaries
- Social / Economic / Demographic data
- Geomorphological characteristics
- Physical / Chemical / Biological characteristics
- Energy / Mineral resources
- Activities / Uses
- Infrastructure / Facilities
- Dangers / Protection
- Spatial Planning

Those identified 9 themes will be the base for the indicators development.

Monitoring evaluation and adaptation are interlinked. A Geodatabase of existing data is being updated and supplemented. The Geospatial Portal is planned to be accessible by the general public providing both general and more specific information on marine areas.

## Slovenia - Lenca Humerca Solar



The Slovenian CA briefs on Slovenian MSP. The Plan was adopted in July 2021 and after 6 months the first report on implementation is available. A working group has been established at ministerial level but another one is going to be established at municipality level to keep in touch with the local level.

88 indicators have been defined based on MSP activities. A technical study was implemented to assess the priority of indicators by the Geodetic Institute of Slovenia. The study assessed whether the available indicators are suitable for systematic monitoring, sources for calculation of indicators value is available. 14 quantitative indicators have been selected to be ready for systematic monitoring; the others are either missing sources, methodology, approach for calculation, missing metadata elements.

The indicator system is conceived as a tool to make the plan implementation more efficient. Indicators of results are qualitative indicators. Indicators for activities should be transformed into quantitative indicators. A methodology with definition for missing indicators is expected to be included in the zero-status report and the first MSP implementation report will be prepared.

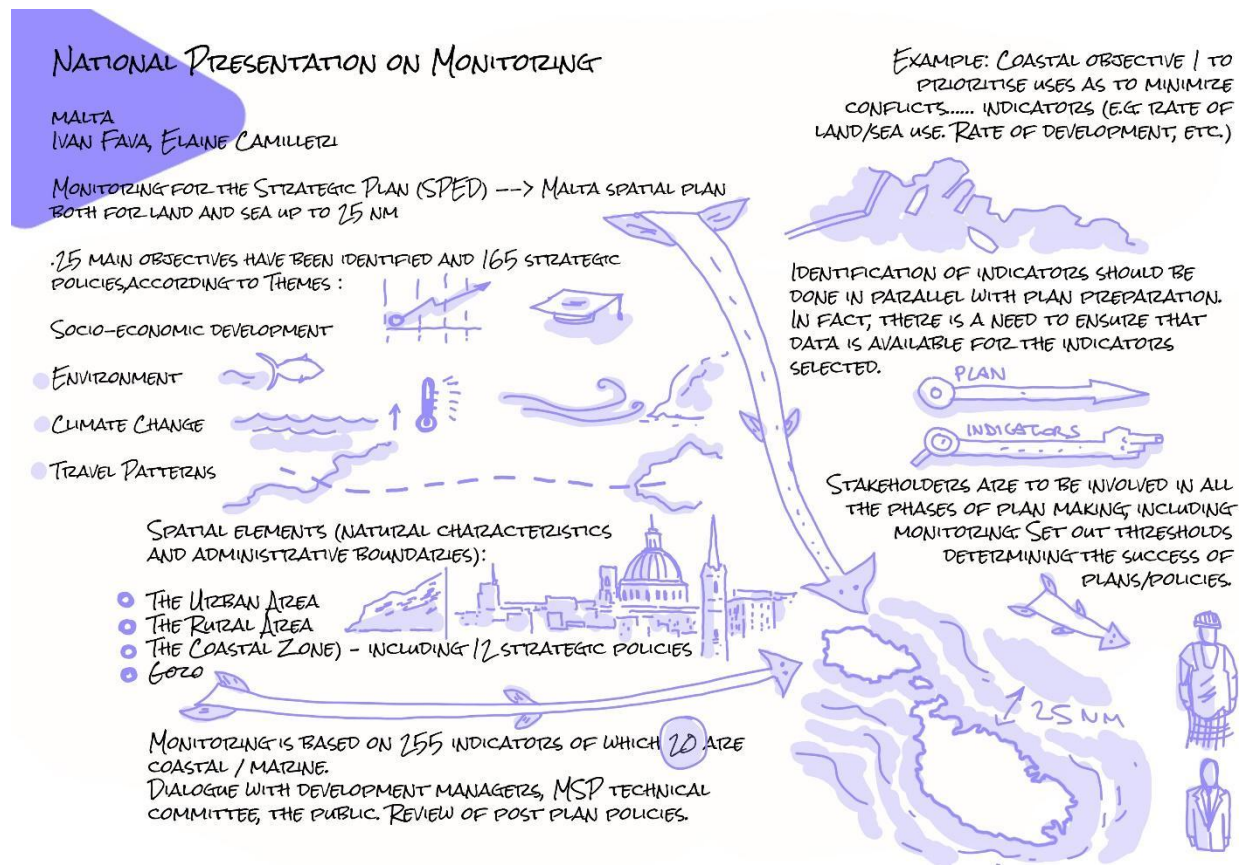


## (Q&A Session)

**Q:** Is it possible to have an example of an indicator with all metadata elements (ready to use) and one indicator that is missing metadata elements?

**A:** Blaz Kovacic: An example (of ready to use indicator) is fish farming but for other uses, such as underwater archeological areas there is lack of information. Mariculture and protection are well covered, while other sectors are less complete.

## Malta - Ivan Fava, Elaine Camilleri



Ivan Fava illustrated the monitoring for the Strategic Plan (SPED) representing the Malta spatial plan that includes both land and sea. 25 main objectives have been identified and 165 strategic policies, all interrelated and integrated across the geographical area: urban area, rural areas, coastal zone and Gozo island.

Monitoring is based on 255 indicators of which 20 are coastal / marine. Identification of indicators should be done in parallel with plan preparation. In fact, there is a need to ensure that data is available for the indicators selected.

Dialogue between responsible for monitoring and planners is key already during the phase of plan preparation (review). Monitoring indicators are linked to objectives; Elaine exemplifies the case of Coastal Objective and related indicators.

### ▷ *Analysis of SPED Indicators – Coastal Objectives*

**Coastal Objective 1** - To prioritise uses that necessitate a location on the coastal zone and marine area in a manner which minimises user conflicts, does not accelerate coastal erosion, protects biodiversity, cultural heritage, landscapes and visual access to them, public access and use and increases resilience to climate change impacts.



#### **Indicators:**

##### **CO1 a) number of approved developments by type, within CZMA**

CO1 b) Rate of land and sea use change within CZMA

CO1 c) number and extent of approved development in CZ with high vulnerability to erosion

CO1 d) Rate of change in length of artificial coastline [UNEP/MAP reporting]

Co1 e) Rate of development granted vs combined/separate map layers of protected areas: natural/cultural/landscape

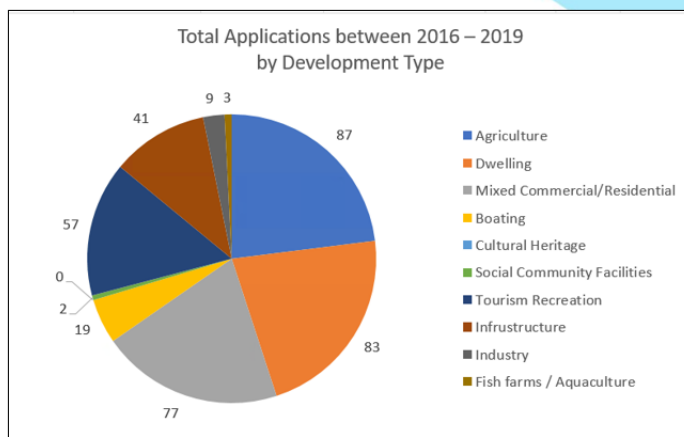
CO1 f) Rate of change in area of artificial coast vs protected areas [UNEP/MAP reporting]

CO1 g) Approved permits vs beaches, dive sites and swimming zones in rural and urban coast

Stakeholders are to be involved in all the phases of plan making, including monitoring. Set out thresholds determining the success of plans/policies.

## Tables and Graphs

| Development Type               | Number of Applications |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Agriculture                    | 87                     |
| Dwelling                       | 83                     |
| Mixed Commercial / Residential | 77                     |
| Boating                        | 19                     |
| Cultural Heritage              | 0                      |
| Social Community Facilities    | 2                      |
| Tourism Recreation             | 57                     |
| Infrastructure                 | 41                     |
| Industry                       | 9                      |
| Fish farms / Aquaculture       | 3                      |



## (Q&A Session)

**Q:** If there is in place a measurement of the number of applications, for instance, for aquaculture, the outcome may have a strong influence from external factors right? (i.e. market fluctuations). Is this the correct meaning of "applications" in this context?

**A:** It refers to development applications for uses in coastal areas. PA and external data are considered, e.g. in the aquaculture sector. It also depends on the market requests that influences applications

## David Sanmiguel CINEA - EC: Recommendations

**Riku Varjo-Putro - MSPGlobal**

INTERNATIONAL GUIDE ON MSP KEY POINTS ON EVALUATION. ELEMENTS TO BE MONITORED: THE MSP PROCESS; THE IMPLEMENTATION; THE OUTCOMES. THE GUIDE DISCUSSES THE CHALLENGE OF ISOLATING THE EFFECTS OF MSP. IN FACT DEVELOPMENT OF SECTORS IS DETERMINED BY MANY CONTEXT FACTORS AND THIS HAS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE PLAN.

**VISION**

THERE ARE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MSP:  
(I) COMPREHENSIVE (II) DETAILED & BINDING; (III) STRATEGIC SPATIAL PLAN. MSP IMPACT CAN BE INVESTIGATED BY A DIALOGUE-BASED PROCESS.

**MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:** QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT IS ALWAYS RECOMMENDED BUT FOR SOME ASPECTS QUALITATIVE VERIFICATION (OBJECTIVES) CAN BE MORE APPROPRIATE

**RULES**

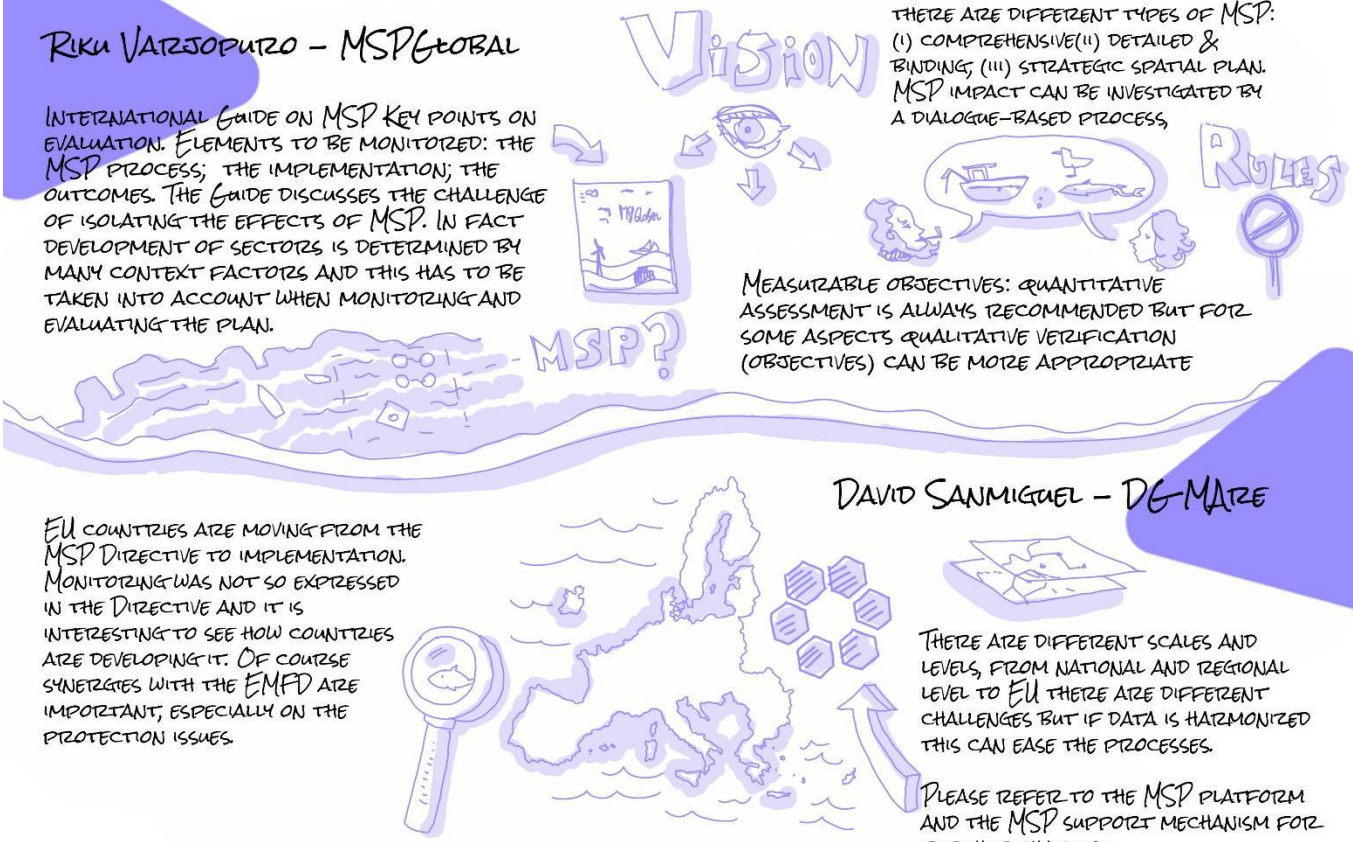
**MSP?**

**EU COUNTRIES ARE MOVING FROM THE MSP DIRECTIVE TO IMPLEMENTATION. MONITORING WAS NOT SO EXPRESSED IN THE DIRECTIVE AND IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE HOW COUNTRIES ARE DEVELOPING IT. OF COURSE SYNERGIES WITH THE EMFD ARE IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY ON THE PROTECTION ISSUES.**

**DAVID SANMIGUEL - DG MARE**

THERE ARE DIFFERENT SCALES AND LEVELS, FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL TO EU THERE ARE DIFFERENT CHALLENGES BUT IF DATA IS HARMONIZED THIS CAN EASE THE PROCESSES.

PLEASE REFER TO THE MSP PLATFORM AND THE MSP SUPPORT MECHANISM FOR FURTHER SHARING.



David Sanmiguel from CINEA, European Commission intervened at the end of the workshop and shared that there has been an evolution from the MSP Directive to MSP implementation. Monitoring was only briefly mentioned in the Directive and it is interesting to see how countries are developing it. Of course synergies with the EMFD are important, especially on the protection issues.

There are different scales and levels, from national and regional level to EU there are different challenges but if data is harmonised this can ease the processes. CINEA's officer recommended referring to the MSP platform and the MSP support mechanism for further sharing, also mentioning that TEG for MSP can also be a useful contact point. He also mentioned that there are other projects and studies funded by EMFF :e.g. Panbaltic Scope gave interesting insights on monitoring. Next projects may cover these aspects of monitoring and the EC can support further development of this aspect.



Finally the floor was given to Martina Bocci who was the rapporteur during this workshop to wrap up the conference and give away key takings:

- Monitoring aims to measure the advancement on plan implementation but, more importantly, the effects of the actions foreseen by the plan. Despite being the main aim of monitoring, isolating the effect of MSP is particularly challenging because of changes in the context linked to other elements (socio-economic conditions, environmental conditions).
- Design of an evaluation model for the plan is a prerequisite for defining the characteristics of the monitoring program;
- Essential characteristics for monitoring indicators are shared among the countries: adequate frequency, accuracy and accessibility.
- MSP monitoring relies for many components on indicators measured under other policies (e.g. notably MSFD). Therefore, there is a great need for MSP Competent authorities to establish stable exchanges with institutions/entities/processes responsible for other monitoring processes.
- Despite the important bulk of knowledge that quantitative indicators can bring to the evaluation processes, a strong program approach should combine quantitative and qualitative indicators. Moreover, monitoring should integrate science-based and dialogue-based approaches, thus considering stakeholder opinion during the implementation phase.
- Stakeholder engagement is fundamental in all stages of MSP, including monitoring. This regards several dimensions: need to acquire feedback on effects of plan implementation; opportunity to complement data collected by public institutions with results of monitoring/surveys carried out by private entities; opportunity to "give back" to stakeholders that contributed to the plan information regarding plan implementation and its effect; possibility to remain aligned with the needs from the sectors that change over the time and also in relation to the dynamics of plan implementation.

Final greetings and thanks were given by the facilitator Hadi El Hage.

## *Essential references used for this report*

[Directive 2014/89/EU establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning](#)

[Marine Spatial Planning \(MSP\) Toolkit \(Chapter 4\)](#)

[Marine Spatial Planning A Step by Step Approach toward Ecosystem-Based Management \(Chapter 4\)](#)

[MSPglobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning](#)

[A Guide to Evaluating Marine Spatial Plans](#)