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Challenges and opportunities for maritime spatial planning of the Black Sea in Romania and Bulgaria

Final Conference of the **MARSPLAN-BS** project

Main public policy recommendations for cross-border MSP in Romania and Bulgaria

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The main purpose of Maritime Spatial Planning

- promote **sustainable development** and to identify the **utilisation** of maritime space for different sea uses as well as to **manage spatial uses and conflicts** in marine areas.
- **identify and encourage multi-purpose uses**, in accordance with the relevant national policies and legislation, taking into consideration **long-term changes** due mainly to **climate change**.



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Maritime Spatial Planning is a complex activity that involves different levels of authorities (national and local), economic operators (tourism, transport, resource extraction, fishery, aquaculture) and other stakeholders (research, environmental protection).



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The next steps in developing and implementing policies in MSP

- establishing the competences of all public authorities;
- assessing the context and defining the overall framework;
- organizing stakeholder participation and consultation;
- defining and analyzing the existing conditions and conflicts;
- defining and analyzing future conditions and conflicts;
- development and approval of the Maritime Spatial Plan;
- implementation of the Maritime Spatial Plan;
- monitoring and evaluation of the Maritime Spatial Plan;
- adapting and updating the maritime spatial planning process.



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1. Establishing the competences of all public authorities

- This step must include the review and assessment of legal documents, strategies, policies and plans for maritime spatial planning at national and international level;
- The Maritime Spatial Plan includes a strategic vision that aims to develop the sustainable management of the marine area.



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2. Assessing the context and defining the overall framework.

The Plan must include a strategic vision that aims to develop the sustainable management of the marine area.

- must be agreed and shared by all competent authorities, correlated with the legislation and with the sustainable development objectives;
- is based on objectives and targets and can be improved at any stage in the development and monitoring process of the Maritime Spatial Plan.



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The preparation of the planning process implies the following steps:

- adopting a working **plan** and a working **program**;
- establishing the **limits** and the **terms** of planning;
- adoption of a set of general, clear, measurable goals, **principles** and **objectives** that underlie the **process** of developing the Maritime Spatial Plan;
- **risk assessment** in the planning process and possible unforeseen situations.



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3. Stakeholder participation and consultation

In the development and implementation process, the stakeholders and relevant public authorities will be consulted on the Maritime Spatial Plan, as well as on its review process.



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4. Defining and analyzing the existing conditions and conflicts

- collecting and mapping on a territorial scale the marine characteristics;
- collecting and mapping on a territorial scale the information on maritime activities;
- identifying conflicts and compatibility elements between existing uses.



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5. Defining and analyzing future conditions and conflicts

- the forecast of the effects determined by the current needs of uses;
- estimating spatial and temporal requirements for new uses of maritime space;
- identification of future scenarios for the planning area;
- selecting the optimal scenario for using the maritime space.



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6. The elaboration and the approval process of the Maritime Spatial Plan includes the following steps:

- identifying the alternative measures for maritime spatial planning;
- criteria that will form the basis of the selection of the proposed measures;
- zoning plan;
- assessment of the Maritime Spatial Plan;
- adoption of the Maritime Spatial Plan.



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7. Implementation of the Maritime Spatial Plan

The process through which the Maritime Spatial Plan is transposed through sectorial programs and specific measures.



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8. Monitoring and evaluation of the Maritime Spatial Plan

Continuous activity that is done by systematically collecting data on selected indicators in order to provide informations to all involved actors regarding the progress of the goals and objectives management.



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9. Adapting and updating the maritime spatial planning process

The planning process can be adapted to changes in the strategic objectives of the Maritime Spatial Plan, induced by external factors, new policies, new information on the maritime system or new technologies that allow more efficient use in order to maintain a sustainable development of the maritime space.



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Lessons learned and Main public policy recommendations for the cross-border MSP in Romania and Bulgaria



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1. Cooperation between the two Member States is crucial for the for the cross-border maritime spatial planning process

- at institutional level (national and local);
- at the economic level;
- at the society level.



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2. Managing conflicts of marine use

- Protected areas vs Waste water discharges;
- Fishery vs Shipping routes;
- Submerged cultural heritage vs Underwater cables;
- Tourism and recreational activities vs Oil/gas extraction;

Conflict management must allow **development** in a sustainable manner taking into account the protection of the **environment**.



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3. Continuous monitoring and adaptation of the Maritime Spatial Plan to the new challenges:

- Economic;
- Environmental;
- Social.



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This is the concept of the Methodology for the elaboration of the Maritime Spatial Plan.



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Thank you for your attention!

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