



European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

Delivering the EU Green Deal



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11 October 2023

Maritime Spatial Planning in the EU



EU MSP Directive

All EU countries must set plans by 2021

Funding
MSP cross-
border projects
Producing data, tools,
methodologies



EU MSP Platform

Technical support,
studies and
workshops



MSP Expert Group

Exchanges of best
practices in the EU



International MSP

Best international practices,
transboundary pilot projects,
international workshops



14th meeting of the UfM Working
Group on Blue Economy - 11
October, 2023 UfM Secretariat

Regional dialogue and sectorial progress
Advancements on Maritime Spatial
Planning (CINEA)

1. *MSP Directive*
2. *MSP projects, supported by EMFF and EMFAF*
3. *MSP commitments in the MED*
4. *Community of practice on MSP for the MED*

1. MSP Directive 2014



Plans should:

- Involve stakeholders
- Develop cross-border consultation
- Apply an eco-system based approach
- Use the best available data and share information,
- Take into account land-sea interaction,
- Promote the coexistence of activities,
- Be reviewed at least every 10 years

OBJECTIVES

- Prevent and reduce tensions on access to the maritime space
- Anticipate future uses
- Preserve and protect the marine ecosystem
- Improve certainty and predictability for private investments
- Reduce co-ordination costs for public authorities



32M€ under EMFF/EMFAF direct management (2014-2021)

A pro-active and engaged MSP stakeholder community is developing in the EU, providing a point of reference for best practice in MSP

15 Maritime Spatial Plans by Member States in 2021

MSP as a strategic tool

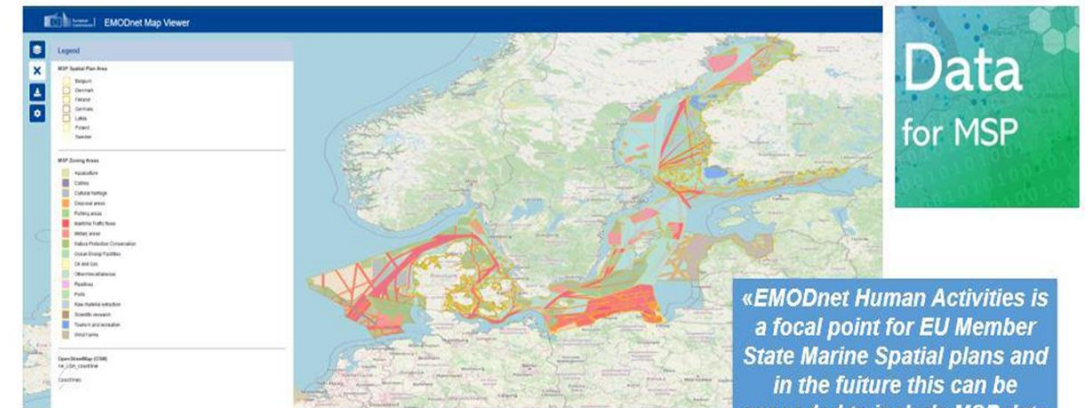
- Coastal Member States had to adopt a plan by 2021. Most of the MS (17 out of 22) have a plan in place (Sept.2023).
- Strategic tool particularly relevant at a time of **planning transition and managing changes** (e.g. planning offshore wind development and extension of marine protected areas).
- Helps conducting discussion and **work at regional level** on **cumulative impacts** of offshore wind and human activities, co-existence at sea and **multi-use of the sea space**, impact of climate change, etc.
- MSP is an **adaptative tool**, the most advanced EU MS are updating or revising their plan for the 2nd or 3rd time to accommodate to new objectives for **nature protection and offshore wind**.

Working on harmonization of MSP plans

10 countries have their plans displayed in EMODnet (BE, DE, DK, EE, Fi, LV, NL, PL, SP, SE)

Data model applied = work of **TEG Data for MSP** (<https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/msp-resources/technical-expert-group-teg-data-msp>)

EMODnet: A EU focal point for National (MS) Maritime Spatial Plans



EMODnet Central Portal Map viewer
Map layer: National Member State Maritime Spatial Plans, EMODnet Human Activities

- EMODnet hosts National (EU MS) Maritime Spatial Plans
- EMODnet works in close co-operation with the EC JRC Technical Group (TG) on Data for MSP and in dialogue with Regional Sea Conventions towards a technical solution for harmonising EU MSP within EMODnet.

2. MSP projects under EMFF and EMFAF

Period 2014-2021 (EMFF):

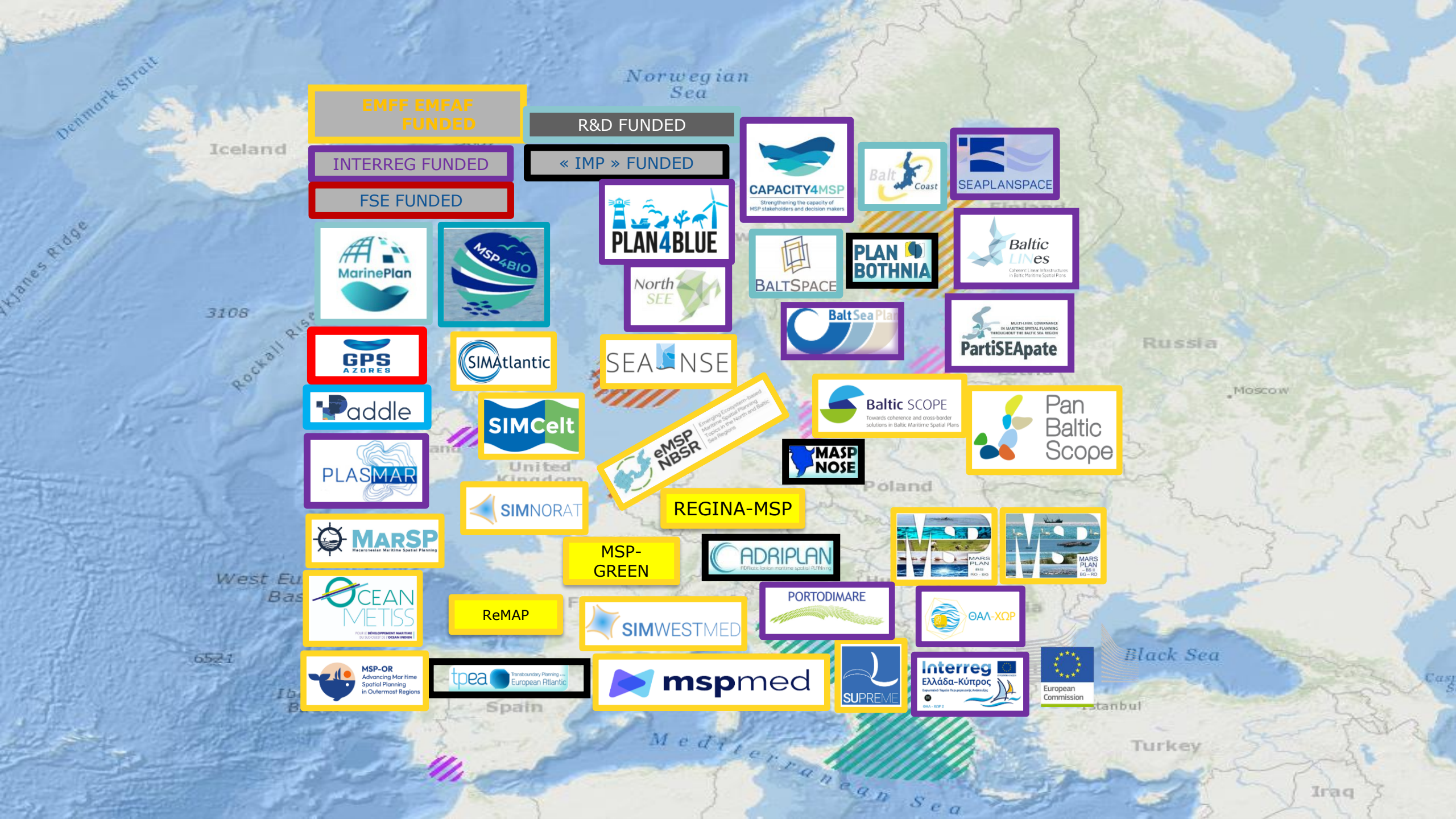
Contribute to the work in the MS to define MSP Plans & engage in cross-border planning with the neighbours:

18 regional, cross-border MSP projects funded (32M EUR).

Services delivered by the MSP AM since 2015

Specific studies on MSP (EBA-study, economic benefits of MSP, MSP toolbox, etc.).

MSP in the MED, supported by **MSPMED project** (IT, FR, GR, MT, SI , SP): Towards the operational implementation of MSP in our common Mediterranean Sea (<https://mस्पmed.eu/>)
→ workshops reaching out to non-EU neighbors



EMFF EMFAP FUNDED

R&D FUNDED

INTERREG FUNDED

« IMP » FUNDED

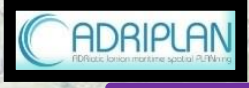
FSE FUNDED



REGINA-MSP



MSP-GREEN



ReMAP



Most recent MSP projects EMFAF 2022

- **REGINA** (Regions to boost National Maritime Spatial Planning) <https://www.regina-msp.eu/>
- **MSPGreen** (Maritime spatial planning as enabler of the European green deal) <https://mospgreen.eu/>
- **REMAP** (Reviewing and Evaluating the Monitoring and Assessment of Maritime Spatial Planning) <https://www.ismar.cnr.it/progetti-internazionali/progetti-in-corso-altri-progetti/remap/>

-> New phase in the MSP implementation: to consider the challenges in implementation and monitoring of the plans MS have adopted

-> Adapting these plans to the EU policy targets (**Biodiversity strategy, EU Offshore renewable energy targets, Green deal**).

3. MSP commitments in the MED

Commitment to work on MSP -> **UFM Ministerial & westMED Initiative**

- development of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) as a cross-cutting tool - key link with Integrated Coastal Zones Management (ICZM): built on an **ecosystem-based management approach**, to contribute to **developing national blue economy strategies** with sustainable Blue Economy Sectors, the **sustainable use of marine resources** and the conservation of healthy marine ecosystems and **biodiversity**.
- Adoption of a **Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA)** in North-Western Mediterranean Sea (July 2023 Pelagos Agreement – FR, IT, Mc, SP): improve the protection of cetaceans against the risk of collisions with ships in this area of crucial importance for marine biodiversity. Initiative launched in the framework of the **MSP-Med project (EMFF)** that was concluded last year. <https://pelagos-sanctuary.org/creation-of-a-pssa-in-the-north-west-mediterranean/>

MSP commitments in MED

- Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature – Mediterranean Sea (**Med OCEaN**) was launched September 2023.
- Coalition of NGOs, wind industry and transmission system operators from ES, FR, IT and PT (might be extended later to other countries committed to develop MREs)
- Commit to work together for sustainable offshore wind and grid development in the Mediterranean Sea and adjacent Atlantic waters.



4. CoP MSP for the MED

VOLUNTARY expert group in the MED

Technical level of discussions (support CINEA/DG MARE)

Two topics of common interest:

- **MSP** supporting the extension, improved management and improved connection of **Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures** in the Mediterranean, towards the targets set at the international and EU level on marine biodiversity protection.
- **MSP** as key enabler for the implementation of **national Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) strategies and initiatives**, through the adoption of an integrated approach and towards the balanced distribution of benefits.
- <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/msp-resources/med-msp-cop>

CoP MSP for the MED webinars

- Disseminate valuable practices on MSP in the Mediterranean
- Illustrate how such experiences tackle some of the key challenges related to the two focus topics addressed by the MED-MSP-CoP in its first year of activity, in short: **“MSP for MPAs and OECMs”** and **“MSP as key enabler for SBE strategies and initiatives”**
- Provide a regular opportunity for an open discussion on MSP-related issues of common interest for the MED-MSP-CoP experts
- Invite any other experts in participating to the discussion and more in general to join the MED-MSP-CoP.

MED-MSP-CoP Webinar *13th October 2023*

A sea of knowledge to capitalize: results of the screening of MSP projects and initiatives in the Mediterranean

Conservation planning of the Israeli EEZ: meeting conservation targets in a rapidly developing sea area while dealing with significant knowledge gaps

Moderated discussion on “MSP for MPAs and OECMs” and the specific subtopics

- **MPA designation and integration in MSP**
- **Decision support tools to better integrate marine conservation in MSP**

Useful links

- Report on MSP implementation:

[https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM\(2022\)185&lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2022)185&lang=en)

- European Commission site on MSP:

https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/ocean/blue-economy/maritime-spatial-planning_en

- The European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform

<https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/>

- **MSPGlobal:**

<https://www.mspglobal2030.org/>

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