# European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency

## Delivering the EU Green Deal

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***15th meeting UfM Regional Platform on Sustainable Blue Economy***

***Brussels, 27 June 2024***

# MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING IN THE EU

**41M€** under EMFF/EMFAF direct management (2014-2023)

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

**19** Maritime Spatial Plans by Member States in 2023

**30** regional and cross-border projects under EMFF/EMFAF direct management since 2014

## WHAT IS MSP?

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) is a fundamental tool for a development of the Sustainable Blue Economy. It allows us to sustainably manage the use of our seas and oceans, to reduce conflicts, create synergies between human activities and ensure they take place in an efficient and safe way.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The next generation of EU MSPs will have a key role in:

- Becoming 'Climate-Smart', in line with the European Green Deal.
- Increasing offshore wind capacity in Europe to at least 111GW by 2030.
- Establishing protected areas on 30% and restore at least 20% of the EU's sea areas.
- Identifying optimal sites for seaweed farming and multi-use.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**
Check the European MSP Platform | (europa.eu)

| 2012 | 2014 | 2016 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2026 | 2030 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Establishment of Member States Expert Group on MSP | Adoption of the MSP Directive (MSPD) | Launch of European MSP Platform | Creation of Technical Group on Data for MSP | Implementation of MSP Directive through the Adoption of National Plans | Publication of Commission report on MSPD Implementation | Launch of the Blue Forum: stakeholder dialogue between users of the sea | Publication of Commission report on MSPD Implementation | Achieving the European Green Deal objectives |

**European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)**

**European Commission - Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**

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European MSP Platform

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# 1. MSP projects EMFAF 2022-2024

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

- **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://mspgreen.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/

**MEDIGREEN** (SP, IT, FR, EL, DZ, HR (+ MT, TN)) (*GA in preparation*)

Targeting to advance the European Green Deal (EGD) transition in the Mediterranean Sea -> transnational cooperation in Maritime Spatial Planning.

Focus on key uses and activities: Offshore Renewable Energies (ORE), fisheries, aquaculture and nature protection.

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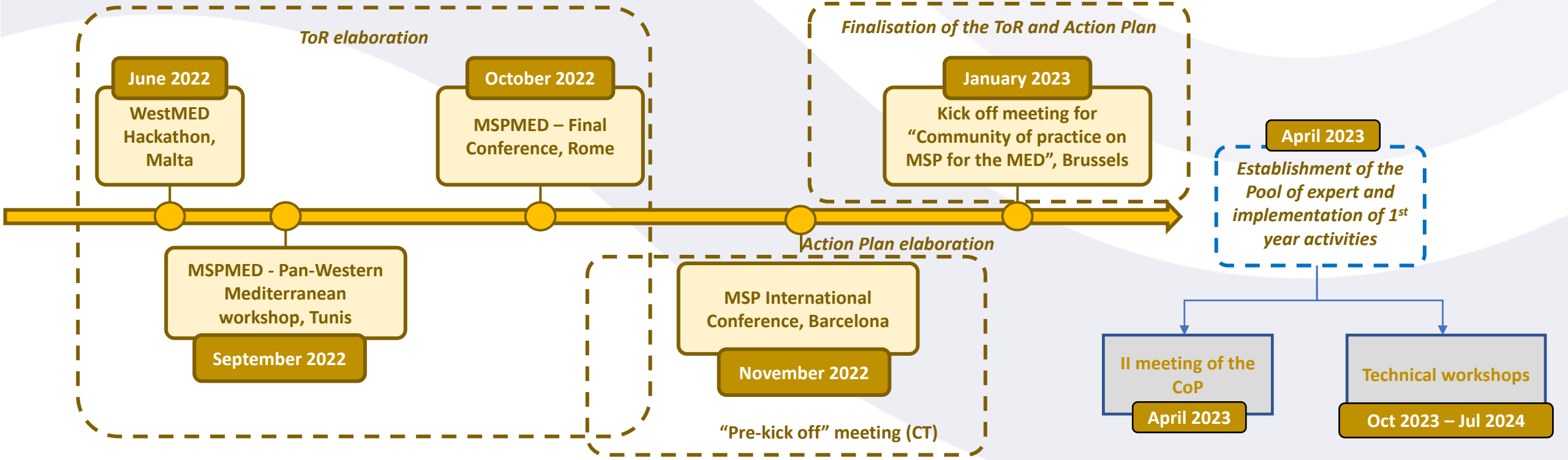
# 2. What is the MED MSP Community of Practice ?

*"[…] group of **people** who share a **common concern**, a set of **problems**, or an **interest** in a topic and who **come together** to fulfil both individual and **group goals**. […] they often focus on **sharing best practices** and creating new knowledge **to advance a domain of professional practice**."*



# General objectives

- **Create a permanent** communication and **dialogue across borders** among experts on MSP to exchange knowledge and experiences and to reach a shared perspective on topics of common interest
- **Enhance cooperation** between the north and the south and the west and the east of the Mediterranean sea on common MSP challenges and opportunities
- **Share practices and knowledge** about how to use MSP as an enabler for sustainable blue economy and improved protection of the marine environment
- Provide **recommendations** supporting **regional cooperation** on MSP and MSP **national processes**

# Identified topics of work and their relevant initiatives/projects for further engagement

MSP supporting the extension, improved management and improved connection of MPAs and OECMs

→ **Involvement of maritime sectors in marine conservation**

MSP as enabler for the implementation of national Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) strategies and initiatives

→ **MSP as strategic framework for Sustainable Blue Economy**

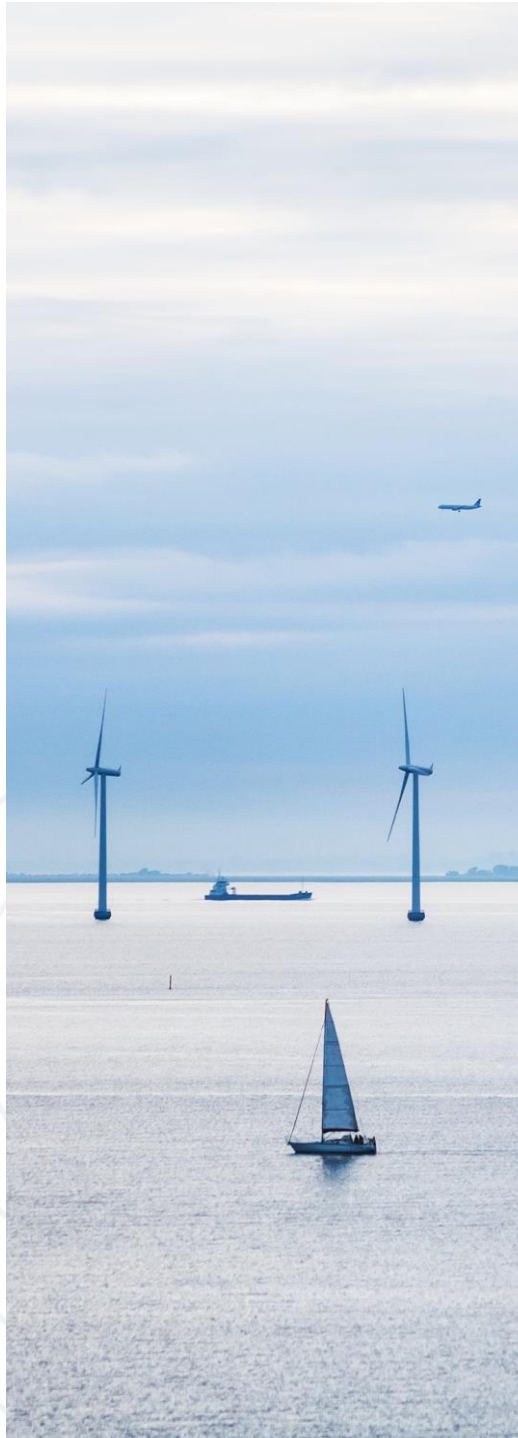
# Activities

- **+90 experts** that meet online and promote cross border dialogue to enhance collaboration between north and south of the Mediterranean.
- **3 Workshops and 5 Regional Webinars**:
- MSP supporting local communities' economic activities in the Southern Mediterranean
- MSP and offshore wind energy
- A sea of knowledge to capitalize within MSP processes
- Sharing knowledge as key for advancing MSP practice: examples form other communities of practice and knowledge platforms
  - Co-development of policy solutions for better integration of biodiversity conservation in MSP and sectoral policies (MSP4BIO) – 24 June 2024
  - Blue Azores: strengthening the network of marine protected areas in Azores islands - 19th of July 2024

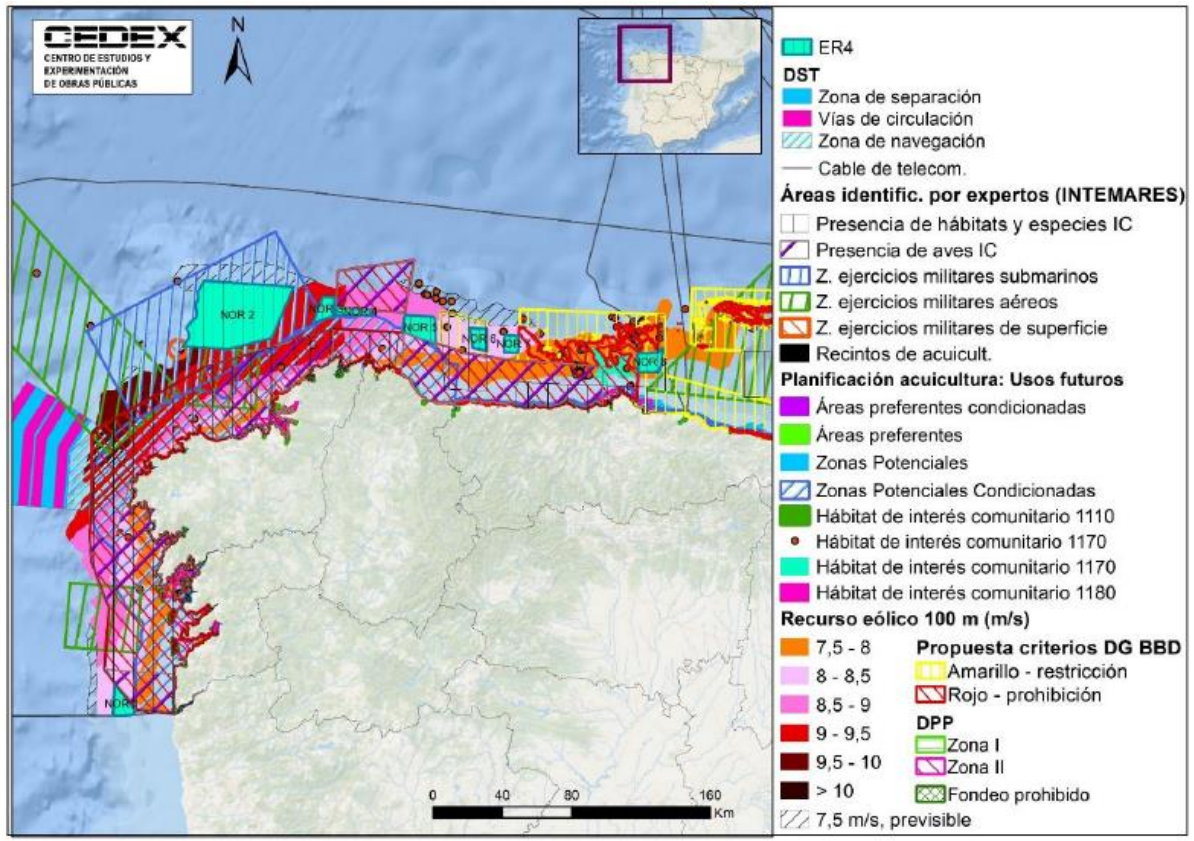
UPCOMING EVENTS!

**Next Steps:**

- Analysis of regional projects to discuss challenges and relevant recomm **papers**
- Continue the cross-border dialogue through the webinars based on thematics raised by the community
- Exchanges with relevant CoPs from other Sea Basins



# 3. The challenge: Multi-use & Maritime Spatial Planning




- Multi-use encouraged in several Green Deal strategies
- E.g. “the Commission will work with Member States to include areas for multi-use when revising national MSPs” Delivering on the EU offshore renewable energy ambitions
- Multi-use by default needs to become mutli-use « by design »

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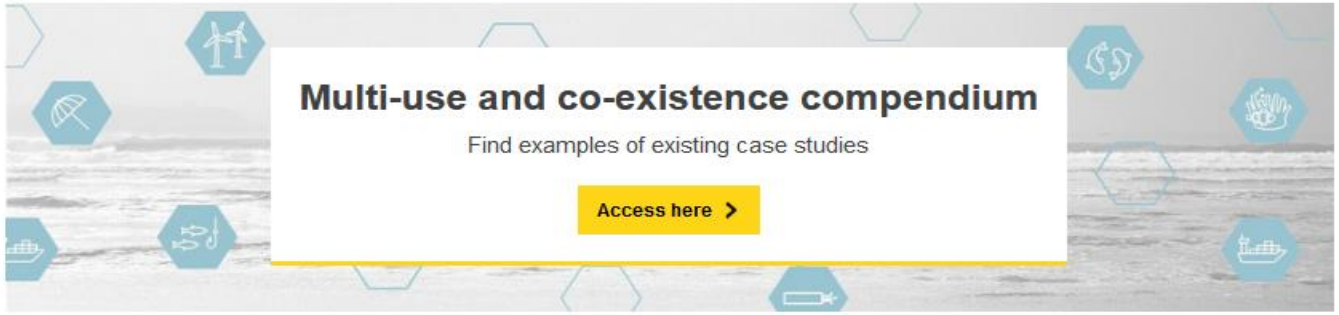
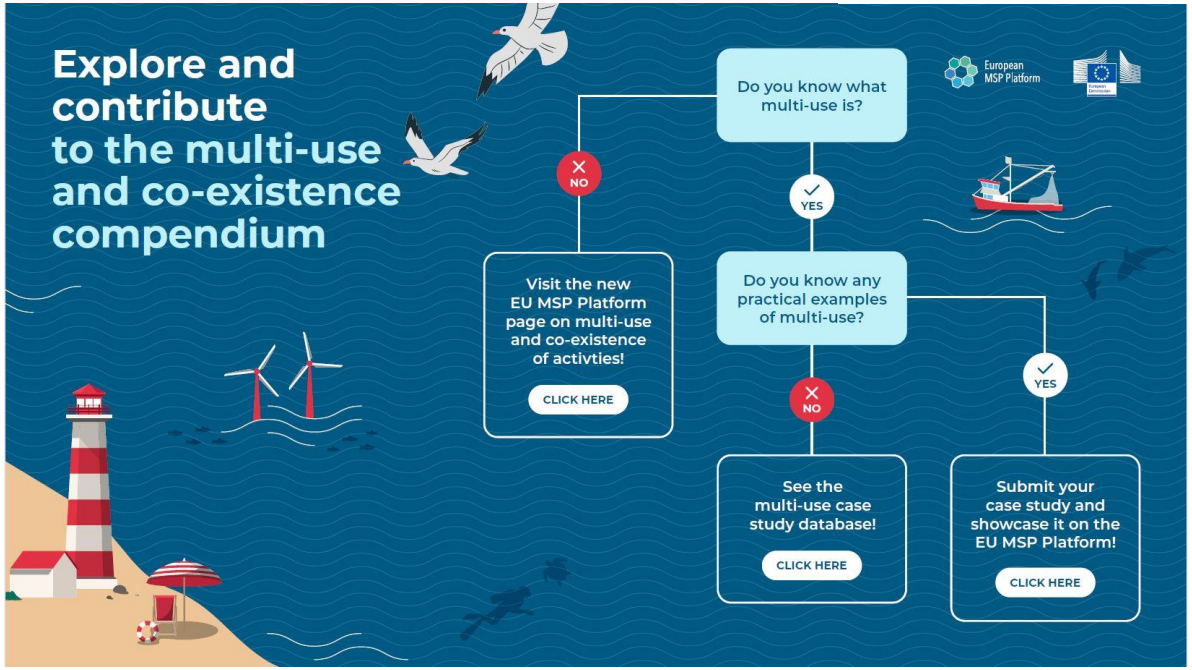
# New: Multi-use and co-existence compendium




CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMPENDIUM AND SUBMIT YOU CASE STUDY HERE




[Co-existence and multi-use of activities | The European Maritime Spatial Planning Platform (europa.eu)]

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# 4. MSP events

**MSP workshop: learning from the past for handling current and future challenges, March 14, 2024 15231 (europa.eu)**

Challenges discussed:
1. Ecosystem and biodiversity conservation: Environmental aspects, including how to ensure establishment of Marine Protected Areas as an integrated part of MSP processes,
2. Transboundary context and cross-border cooperation, including cooperation with third countries,
3. Taking into account Climate Change in MSP – “Climate Smart MSP”.

# Decade of MSP Directive !

## MSP week, 22-24 October, Marseille

1. Decade of MSP conference
2. Final conference MSP Green
3. Final conference REGINA

Side-events and meetings with REMAP/ TEG Data for MSP/ Cop MSP MED

**Provide your views and input:**
SURVEY on stakeholder participation in MSP processes in the EU

EUSurvey - Survey (europa.eu)

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# Thank you

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