

# PLAN4BLUE

## newsletter

NEWSLETTER 4, SEPTEMBER 2019

MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMIES

### *Final summary and highlights of the Plan4Blue project*

## Outputs to support maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea

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The three year journey of the [Plan4Blue project](#) to develop cross-border capacity in maritime spatial planning (MSP) in Estonia and Finland is coming to an end. The project approached MSP from complementary, multi-disciplinary perspectives. The four perspectives were blue economy, environmental management, spatial analysis and cross-border collaboration.



During the project implementation we had a pleasure to collaborative with a vast range of experts and stakeholders from different maritime sectors. We organised events and conducted surveys and interviews, which resulted in valuable input for project activities by hundreds of people. We are grateful for that. The Plan4Blue project results were also presented in dozens of events in Estonia and Finland and beyond.

This fourth and final Plan4Blue newsletter present highlights from project result grouped in specific themes below. Presentation of the highlight gives links to some of the key publications of the project. All the publications are available in the project's [Publications page](#).

# Highlights of the results of the Plan4Blue project

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## Project recommendations

We compiled recommendations from the project activities under four themes: blue economies, environmental management, spatial analysis and cross-border collaboration. The recommendations are both substantial and methodological.

### [Recommendations for maritime spatial planning for sustainable blue economies](#)

## Final conference

The Plan4Blue final conference took place in June 4-5 2019 in Helsinki. The two day event focused on all four themes of the project: blue economy, environmental management and cross-border collaboration. The final conference is reported on a dedicated [website](#) where you can find short summaries of sessions and all the presentations and posters.

## Sustainable Blue Economies

The current status and potential for sustainable blue economies was analyzed regarding all blue economy sectors applicable to the project area. Those sectors that were considered the most important for in-depth analysis were then selected for further analysis, including the economic performance analysis of blue sectors in the selected coastal regions of Estonia and Finland. Expert views were included from the Delphi studies, the scenario workshops, as well as from interviews. As a result, the alternative scenarios for blue economies describe how our choices will affect people and the marine nature in the Gulf of Finland and the Archipelago Sea. In addition, the status and trends of socio-economic cross-border networks connected to MSP were surveyed.

### Highlighted publications

- [Blue Growth – Drivers and alternative scenarios for the Gulf of Finland and the Archipelago Scenario](#) (pdf, 2 MB). 2018. Publications of the Centre for Maritime Studies, Brahea Centre at the University of Turku. A 75.
- [Assessment of the role of marine industries in the region](#) (pdf, 2 MB, 2018)

## Environmental Management

The “Environmental management strategy for MSP” is providing general guidance to planners, decision makers and stakeholders in improving the competitiveness and effectiveness of maritime planning activities existing within the national and transnational marine jurisdiction while at the same time maintaining and improving marine ecosystems resilience, conserving biodiversity and restoring degraded habitats to achieve the MSP related environmental policy objectives. The “Guidelines on environmental management for sustainable MSP” is targeted especially to MSP planners, decision makers and stakeholders with the aim to establish ISO 31000 risk management standard based common understanding and language for evaluating cross-border *ecosystem risk*

*management* options by referring to all phases of MSP - the visioning, planning and implementation including review, monitoring, evaluation, and adaptation.

#### Highlighted publications

- [Marine environmental vulnerability and cumulative risk profiles to support ecosystem-based adaptive maritime spatial planning](#). 2018. Aps, R., Herkül, K. et.al. ICES Journal of Marine Science
- [Environmental management strategy for maritime spatial planning](#) (pdf, 1 MB, 2019)
- [Guidelines on environmental management for sustainable MSP](#) (pdf, 1 MB, 2019)

## Spatial analysis

MSP, especially cross-border, poses many critical challenges to the production, management, analysis and presentation of spatial information. New analysis and visualization of MSP relevant spatial information has already increased capacity of planners, managers and stakeholders to assess and manage environmental and socio-economic impacts of cross-border marine activities in the Gulf of Finland area. New publications reveal the best practices of the MSP spatial analysis workflow. Spatial analysis demonstrated a variety of spatial data and map products for different stages of the MSP process. Map products and reports can be used as the basis of official planning processes in Baltic Sea area, and thus support and accelerate these processes.

- [Guide for cross-border spatial data analysis in Maritime Spatial Planning](#) (pdf, 2 MB). Practical handbook. 2019. Nylén T, Tolvanen H, Erkkilä-Välimäki A & Roose M. Publications of the Department of Geography and Geology of University of Turku 12. University of Turku, Turku.
- [Map visualisations of Plan4Blue MSP case studies](#) (pdf, 5 MB). Map deliverable. 2019. Roose, M., Nylén, T., Tolvanen, H., Erkkilä-Välimäki, A. Plan4Blue report.
- [From silent knowledge to spatial information – Mapping blue growth scenarios for maritime spatial planning](#). Scientific article. 2019. Tolvanen, H, Erkkilä-Välimäki, A, Nylén, T. Marine Policy 107, 103598.

## Cross-border collaboration in MSP

For successful collaboration it is essential to know how the neighbouring countries have organised MSP and what they are aiming at. Exchange of information is the main purpose of cross-border collaboration. It is important to utilize both formal and informal forms of collaboration. We should utilise the opportunity of sharing experiences and learning from each other. There is a particularly important phase after the first round of MSP planning to share experiences. The first planning cycle is a learning process! This assessment should pay attention also to how cross-border collaboration was conducted. Implementation phase of the plans lasts several years, during which countries monitor implementation of the plans. Monitoring and evaluation can produce knowledge that is useful and relevant also for the neighbours.

## Highlighted publications

- [Recommendations on cross-border collaboration](#)
- Case reports on cross-border topics: [shipping](#), [pelagic fishing](#) and [Natura 2000](#)

## Alternative scenarios for the blue economy in the Gulf of Finland and the Archipelago Sea

The short [animation](#) and the [infographics](#) introduce the assessment of different scenarios and their drivers within energy production, tourism, the maritime cluster, the blue bioeconomy and subsea resources. More detailed information in [scenario report \(pdf, 2 MB\)](#) and other reports.



Growth is forecasted for renewable energy sources in general, and solar energy and wind power in particular. ([Infographic](#), [pdf](#))



Growth is anticipated especially in the cleantech sector and in maritime transport. ([Infographic](#), [pdf](#))



Aquaculture and fish farming in particular are expected to increase. ([Infographic](#), [pdf](#))



Strong growth in different forms of tourism: nature, city and adventure tourism. Guest marinas and services for recreational boats are increasing, especially in Estonia. ([Infographic](#), [pdf](#))