Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
Republic of Latvia

Maritime spatial planning and offshore energy – restrictions?

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Why do we plan the sea?

- ✓ **Reduce conflicts** between sectors and create synergies between different activities
- ✓ **Encourage investment** – by creating predictability, transparency and clearer rules
- ✓ **Increase cross-border cooperation** – between EU countries to develop different activities
- ✓ **Protect the environment** – through early identification of impact and opportunities for multiple use of space

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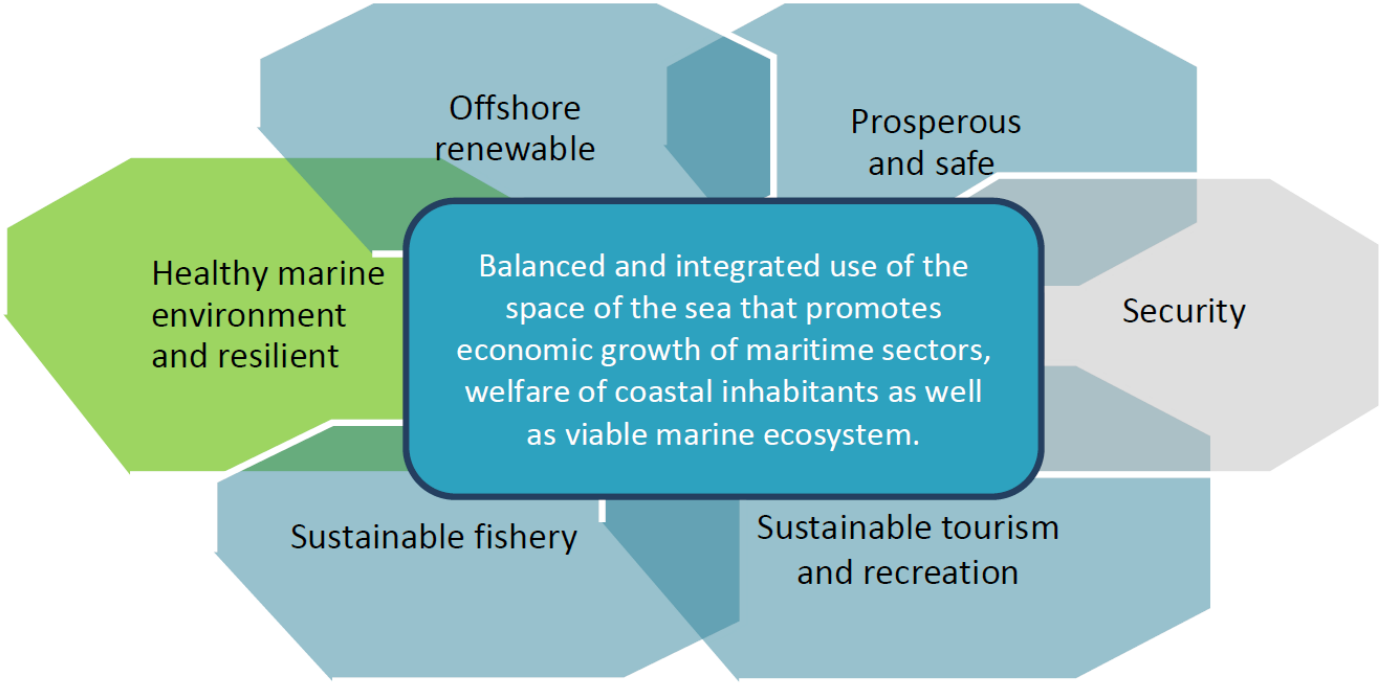
Elaboration of First Latvian MSP draft

When: from January 2015- May 2016

Overall aim:



First Draft of Latvian MSP

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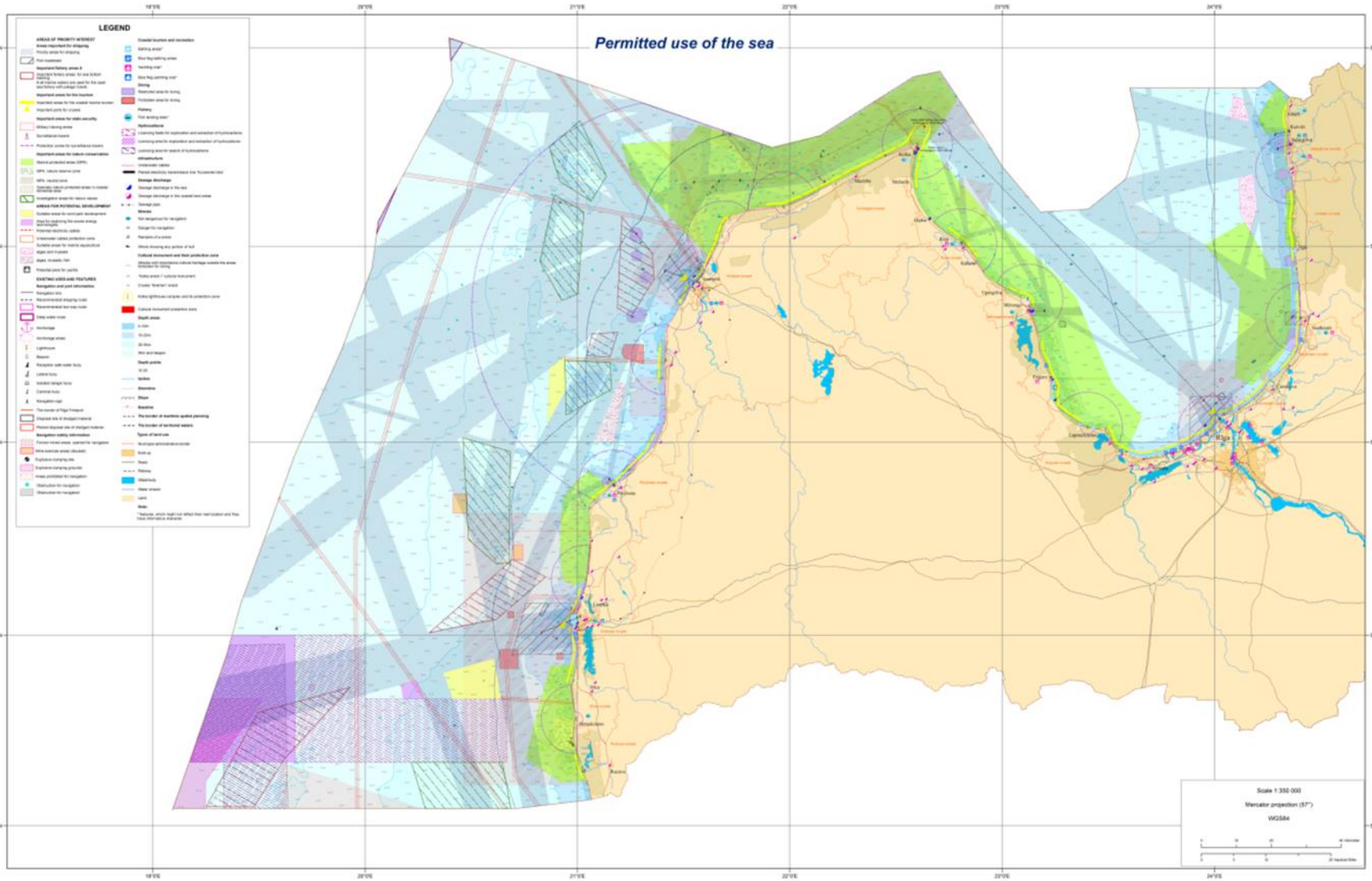

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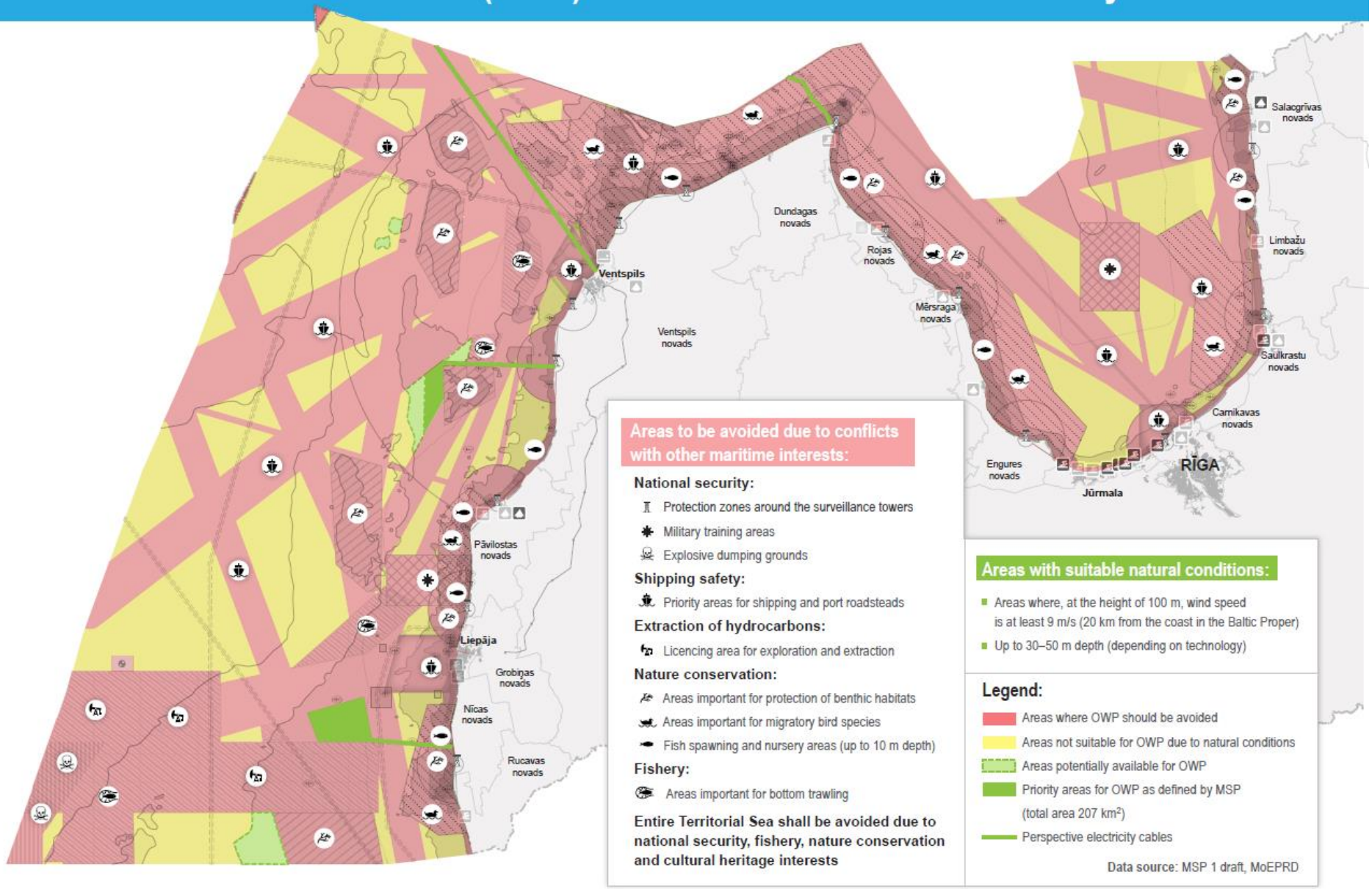
MSP objectives for offshore energy:

- ✓ Use of offshore energy **shall be promoted** by reserving a sufficient area for this kind of maritime use;

- ✓ At the same time offshore renewable energy **shall not harm the viability of the marine ecosystem** or cause substantial losses to other marine resources or users of the marine space

Offshore Wind Parks (OWP): conditions and MSP solutions by 2030



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	Shipping	Maintaining of shipping routes	Port areas	Dumping sites	Military training polygons	Coastal observation system	Areas of dumped explosives	Former mined areas	Coastal fishery	Pelagic trawling in open sea	Benthic trawling in open sea	Fish aquaculture	Algae and mussel aquaculture	Exploration of hydrocarbons	Extraction if hydrocarbons	Extraction of mineral resources	Wind energy production	Wave energy production	Underwater cables	Marine sports activities	Diving	Bathing areas	Areas for fish regeneration	Protection of benthic habitats	Protection of birds	Protection of coastal landscape	Protection of cultural heritage
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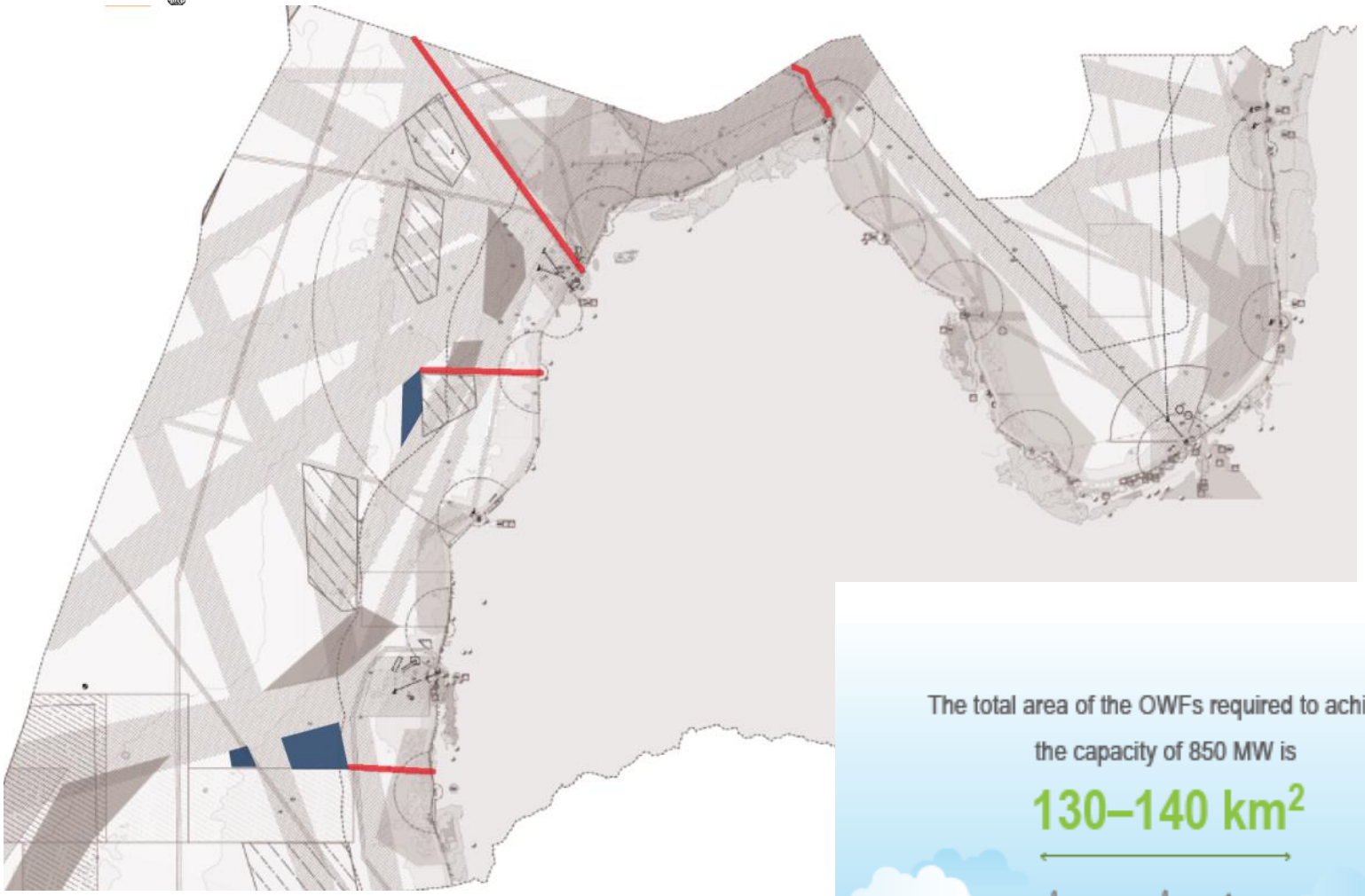
Protection of cultural heritage							-																				

- Compatible sea uses, that does not disturb or even promote each other
- Sea uses that are compatible under certain conditions
- Conflicting sea uses
- \- Sea uses that spatially are not overlapping

Most suitable places for offshore energy



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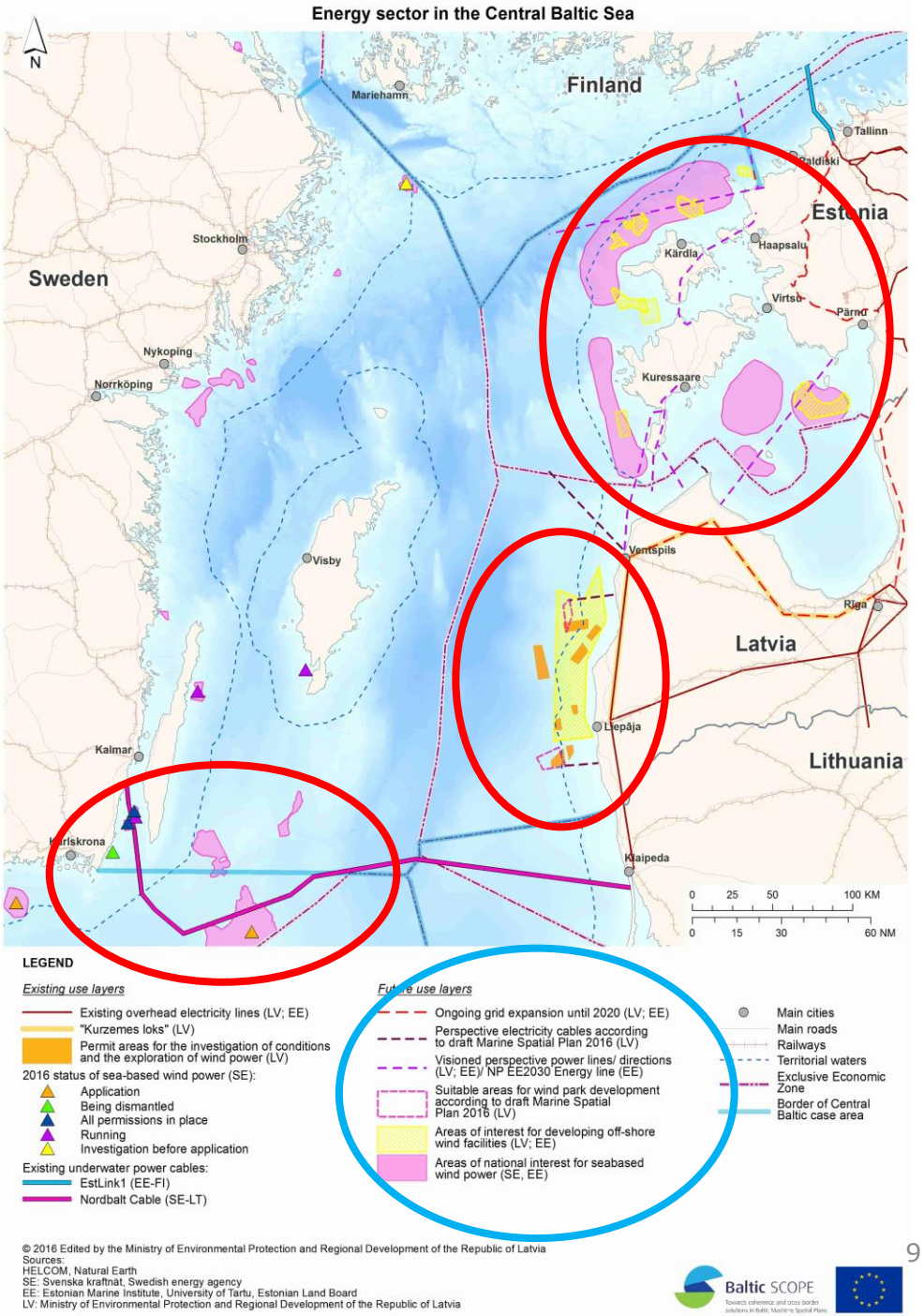
Project BalticSCOPE – new level of cooperation



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How the process is organized now?

Cabinet Regulations No. 631 **„Construction Regulations for Structures in the Internal Waters, Territorial Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Latvia”**

↓

Submission to the responsible ministry with proposal to determine an area in the sea

↓

Ministry of Economics | **Ministry of Agricultur**

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Government takes the decision

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Ministry of Economics starts the tender proces for issuing the licence in area of interest

Evaluation

Preparation for decision

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Cabinet Regulations No. 631 **„Construction Regulations for Structures in the Internal Waters, Territorial Waters and Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Latvia”**

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Maritime Spatial Plan

Ministry of Economics

Ministry of Agricultur

Evaluation

Preparation for decision

Government takes the decision

Ministry of Economics starts the tender proces for issuing the licence in area of interest

How it will be improved?

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How MSP will be applied?

- ✓ **A guidance document** - involve weighing incompatible interests against each other, or adjustments that may be required of an operation in order for it to coexist with another use in an area.

- ✓ The plan **provides predictability** for companies developing or engaging in maritime activities

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Thank you for your attention!

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