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Regions to boost
National Maritime
Spatial Planning

PROJECT FACTSHEET

PROJECT

Project acronym and number:

REGINA-MSP – 101081219

Summary

The project aims at improving the participation of the Regions, local authorities and stakeholders in the development and implementation of national Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). Building on a general analysis and discussion at European level and in-depth study of 8 regional case studies in 5 countries (Ireland, France, Spain, Italy and Greece), it is expected that this project will enhance uptake at regional level to further promote MSP, improving its contribution to the European Green Deal and interaction with the European Cohesion Policy. Recommendations will benefit MSP processes and the coordination of public policies at European, national and regional levels.

Context

As key players in achieving the European Green Deal objectives relating to the Blue Economy and Biodiversity Strategy, and as key enablers for engaging and involving stakeholders and local authorities, the Regions have a facilitating role in national Maritime Spatial Planning. However, the role of Regions in MSP is quite diverse across the EU. Their different involvement in the preparation of national marine plans and sometimes overlapping responsibilities for land planning can pose difficulties for implementing a common EU framework for MSP. Hence REGINA-MSP aims to work collaboratively to address these complexities and strengthen coherence of plans across the EU.

Main policy area:	Maritime spatial planning	x
	Ocean literacy	x
Seabasin:	Atlantic	x
	Mediterranean	x

Activities

The project is based on a bottom-up approach, questioning the coastal peripheral maritime Regions of Europe and co-elaborating with them in a cross-cutting analysis between regional case studies and developing final recommendations. In parallel, within the 8 case studies, the methodology combines analysis of existing documents and literature, interviews with actors and participatory workshops with stakeholders. Activities also include reviewing data needs for MSP at the regional level, the awareness of the general public, facilitating a community of practice with transferable materials at the sectoral level and the training of administrative officers involved in MSP implementation.

Results achieved



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The outputs comprise the background information collected, with policy briefs summarising it and facilitating the dissemination of regional experiences. Policy papers with recommendations will be produced at 3 levels: case study Regions, countries involved, and the European Union. With a dedicated Work Package on ocean literacy and effective stakeholders' engagement strategies coupled with the co-production of knowledge through the Work Package on the case studies, MSP-REGINA links academics and researchers with practitioners and societal actors as needed to ensure the project has maximum social impact in the selected regions. The targeted audience is the Regions, the MSP national authorities and the European Commission.

Policy contribution

The objective is to propose innovations in the role of Regions in MSP and to have positive impacts on the contribution of MSP to the European Green Deal, on sea basin cooperation and on progress in MSP at regional and local levels. In the longer term, the outputs could lead to evolutions in the legal and policy frameworks at European and national levels, enabling more effective consideration of regional and local scales and their actors in MSP. A positive interaction between MSP and the European Cohesion Policy is also expected to benefit the maritime dimensions of the Green Deal.

Synergies with other EU funding

REGINA-MSP will build synergies with different EU-funded projects, such as ongoing EMFAF projects: e.g. MSP-OR: promoting the use of the ecosystem approach; e-MSP NBSR: providing a platform for MSP implementation; MSP-GREEN: contributing to alignment of maritime spatial plans to European Green Deal ambitions. This will include Research and Innovation projects under Horizon Europe, particularly those associated with the Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Rivers'; and recently funded projects including those dedicated to marine policies and governance including, e.g. CrossGov, PERMAGOV and MarineSABRES projects. The REGINA-MSP Consortium will also monitor newly funded projects to determine potential for future synergies.

Other

REGINA-MSP is an innovative Maritime Spatial Planning project that focuses on two European Sea Basins, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and brings together actors and expertise from both along with the Regions in each. The Regions could be regarded as a critical linchpin in linking EU and national policy objectives with regional realities and local specificities. The project will therefore foster cooperation and coherence at all governance scales: EU, national, regional and local, which is essential to meet ambitious and challenging marine and maritime policy objectives.