



REGINA-MSP

Regions to Boost
National Maritime
Spatial Planning

NEWSLETTER #1

Dear colleagues,

After just over 5 months, the REGINA-MSP project is well under way. The Opening conference was the occasion to gather representatives of all the partner institutions of this project paving the way for fruitful future collaborations and to bring together a larger audience involved in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). This first meeting, organised in Brest was very stimulating, benefiting from the participation of more than 50 people in person and about 40 online.

This 2-year project aiming at improving the participation of regions, local authorities and stakeholders in the development and implementation of national maritime spatial planning is based on a methodology combining analysis of existing literature, interviews with stakeholders and participatory workshops. Policy briefs will summarise the information collected and policy papers will issue recommendations at the 3 levels (regions, participating States and the European Union) for future MSP amendments. The expected impacts include enhanced mobilisation at regional level in favour of MSP and a better implementation of the Green Deal and the European Cohesion Policy.

This newsletter aims to keep you informed of the different activities taking place in the project's framework. It reflects the information gathered among the consortium. In order to grow the REGINA-MSP community, feel free to send information related to our topic you would find interesting to share.

As its name suggests, the added value of REGINA-MSP is an in-depth study of 8 regional cases across 5 countries (Ireland, France, Spain, Italy and Greece). Thus, while the first part of the newsletter will present the **next steps of the project**, the second part of the newsletter will be dedicated to a short **introduction of our 8 case studies**. Lastly, we will share **upcoming events** related to MSP to ease synergies and cooperation.

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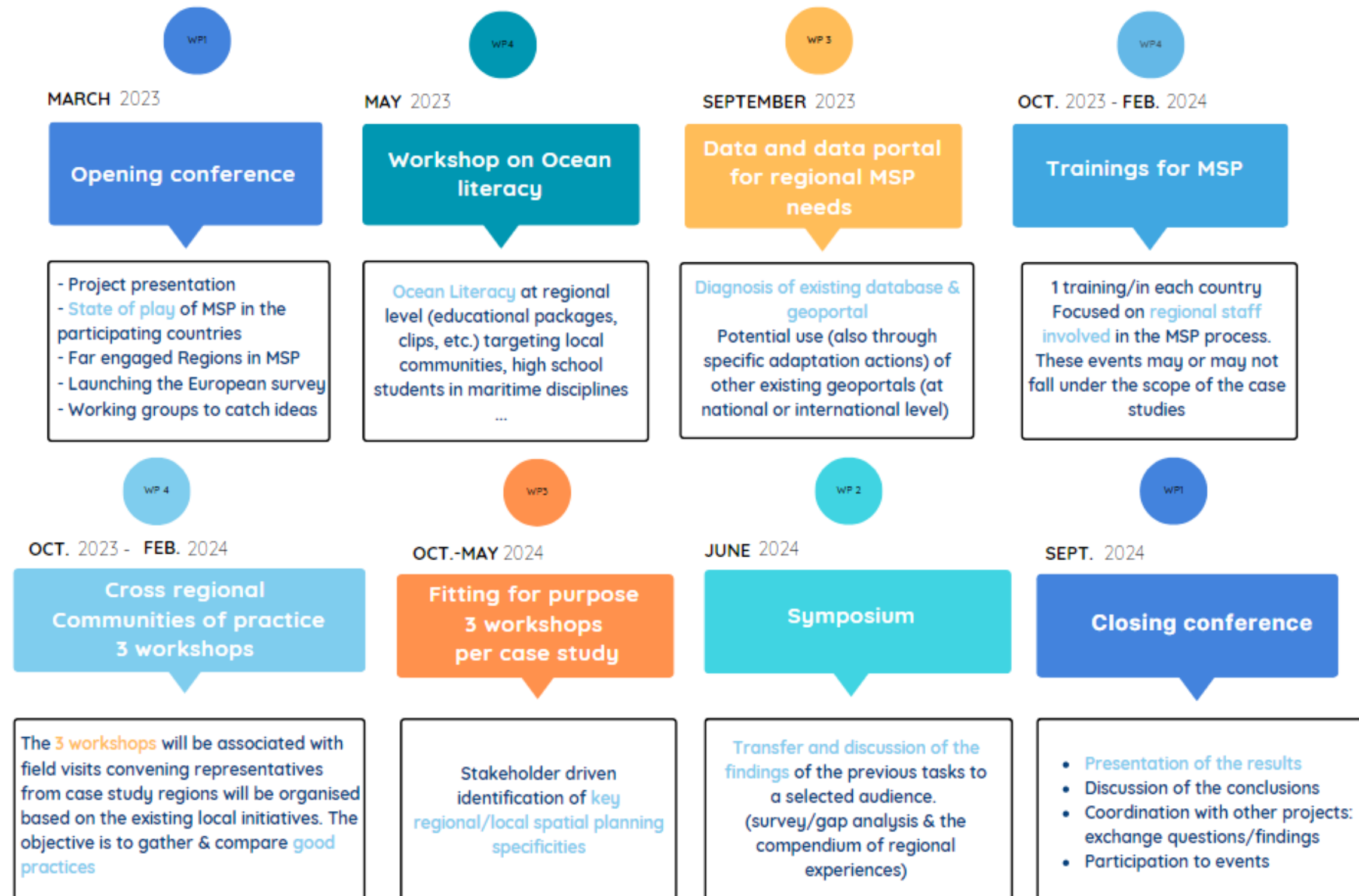
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WHAT'S NEXT IN THE PROJECT?



1. Feedback on the Opening conference



Picture of the Opening conference, Brest March 1-2, 2023

The Opening conference of the REGINA-MSP project was held on the 1st of March in Brest, France. It was the opportunity to share the objectives of the project and to discuss their implementation with a broad audience. A state of play of the MSP processes in the different partner countries and in Finland was presented, and examples of inspiring initiatives in terms of integration of regional and local scales were shared.

If you want to have an insight of what was discussed during the Opening conference, find all the presentations on our website: [here](#). A video will be available soon.

2. A few words on the state of the play survey

A survey for regional and national authorities will be launched, as a first step of WP2 “Baseline assessment of MSP implementation at national and regional levels and Compendium of regional and subregional experiences of the REGINA-MSP project. This survey has been designed by the [MaREI Centre](#), Environmental Research Centre at University College Cork with the support of the [Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions \(CPMR\)](#) and [THETIS](#). The survey seeks to determine the current status of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) or its equivalent in the REGINA-MSP partner countries and their regions, covering the six geographical commissions of the CPMR. In their responses, Regions (NUTS2 level) and national competent authorities for MSP will be able to develop their visions of MSP, what they are currently implementing, what their expectation are, and provide their perceptions on possible improvements to better align with objectives at national, regional and local levels, as well as how to foster efficient linkages between EU maritime policies and the European Green Deal. Based on the survey replies, a gap analysis will be undertaken to determine the current status of national and regional maritime spatial planning and to highlight potential opportunities to strengthen links between all these processes. The survey is the first step to gain knowledge on the state-of-play before a deeper analysis carried out in specific case studies as part of WP3. Collected information will provide insights to the REGINA-MSP project consortium on:

- What different Regions expect to gain from the implementation of MSP
- How they are involved in its implementation
- How regional and local ambitions are linked with overarching national MSP objectives
- Potential weaknesses that could be addressed or strengths that could be useful to other regional and national contexts.

To receive further project-related information and the forth coming survey please subscribe to the REGINA-MSP mailing list here: <https://forms.gle/xMS6y19x7fxyG8Km8>

For more information, please contact:

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3. Regina goes to Cagliari for ocean literacy

A workshop is organized in the framework of the project task 4.1 that intends to provide a methodology for regions in order to promote MSP through ocean literacy. The workshop will then allow the sharing of experiences from regional case studies and the identification of best practices and strategies to promote MSP plans and processes at regional level via ocean literacy. This discipline has been recognized as a preferred method to foster engagement and understanding of MSP dynamics. The workshop will also be a moment to present experiences from experts (in maritime and cultural fields) and initiatives regarding culture, lifestyle and education that can bring MSP closer to the regional stakeholders and to the general public. The workshop's **main objective is to check the performed work in terms of methodology definition, and assumptions with real stakeholders, identifying gaps and innovative strategies.**

The event is supported by the UNESCO Ocean Decade and the European Maritime Day in My Country.

This workshop will take place in hybrid format on the 10th of May, it will be host at Mediateca del Mediterraneo (MEM): Via Goffredo Mameli, 164, 09123 Cagliari, Italy. An introductory part will run from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and after lunch a session will be dedicated to a working table with examples from case studies and feedbacks on the strategy's methodology.

To register please use the following form: <https://forms.gle/YsxtYNex9G2qS38W9>

4. A few words on the data workshops

Shom was happy to launch its task 3.2 'Regional data and geoportal for maritime spatial planning' on the 12th of April 2023. This task consists in 3 online meetings (April 12th, May 16th and June 23rd) and one in-person meeting in Paris at the end of September. It brings geodata stakeholders from the regions together and is an opportunity to better understand regions' needs and strengths regarding marine spatial planning process and enforcement. This task focuses on the analysis of existing database and geoportals and potential use (through specific adaptation actions). A particular focus will be put on data needed for the monitoring and the evaluation of plans, highlighting the role of regional and local authorities. The results of this assessment will be discussed in relation to activities developed by other projects focusing on data (for example the [TEG on Data for MSP](#), [eMSP-NBSR](#)) to enhance collaboration at an interregional level. Shom would like to invite GIS officers and data experts working in the case studies regions in the field of maritime spatial planning to participate to the next workshops on the 16th of May between 2 pm and 4 pm CET. For people who have not registered yet to the first online meeting you can register through [this link](#).

Discussion publique

NOTES

Notes partagées

UTILISATEURS (30)

- Ad Adeline Souf (Vous)
- Al Alexis Esquerrié (SHOM, France)
- Bé Bérénice Lequesne
- Di Dimitra Kitsiou (Vieboam)
- Em Emilie Delaroche (Vieboam)
- Sh Shom moderator
- St Stavros Sakellariou
- Ba Bastien Fouque (Shom) invité
- Ca Carlos Garcia Alonso invité
- Cé Céline Jacob (CEREMA) invité
- Cl Claire Boudy invité
- Da Daniele Brigolin (IUAV) invité
- Em Emiliano Ramieri CNR-ISMAR (Vieboam) invité
- Er Erika M.D. Porporato - IMC invité
- Fa Fabio Carella invité

Regions to boost National Maritime Spatial Planning

REGINA-MSP
12th of April 2023

ONLINE MEETING ON
REGIONAL DATA AND GEOPORTAL FOR MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING(MSP)

Greek geoportals relevant to MSP data
Stella Kyvelou, Panteion University & Dimitra Kitsiou, University of Aegean

Co-funded by the European Union

REGINA-MSP

12/04/2023
Online

II. 8 case studies in 3 key information

2 sea
basins

Atlantic

Mediterranean



8 CASE
STUDIES

1. Region of Murcia, Levantine-Balearic Marine Demarcation (Spain)



Credit: Juan Manuel Ruiz

Rich in environmental values and activities, rich in complexity!

The Region of Murcia is located in the south east of the Iberian Peninsula. It has approximately 275 km of coastline with a high concurrence of different types of maritime uses and activities in its sea waters such as navigation of large commercial vessels, anchorages, military manoeuvres, aquaculture, etc. In addition, it has a rich biodiversity, with the presence of numerous species and habitats, many of which are listed in the European Habitats and Birds Directives and/or the Spanish legislation to be protected. Furthermore, it presents valuable underwater cultural heritage sites.

Key figures

- 275 km of coastline
- It hosts one of the highest aquaculture productions at national level.
- It present appearance of species as Lithothamnion corallioides and Phymatolithon calcareum (part of maërl beds) as well as seagrass meadows of Posidonia oceanica and Cymodocea nodosa.
- Important underwater cultural heritage

Implication of the region in MSP process

The MSP national process and the case study developed in projects such as REGINA-MSP, are dual processes on a single track. There is a considerable overlap between both. Objectives and results of the pilot projects are also relevant regarding the national MSP process. The Region of Murcia has a demand for a more detailed planning due to current and potential future conflicts between uses and marine conservation. For this reason, the case study of the Region of Murcia capitalized on the work carried out in the [MSP MED](#) project and is in its continuity, providing the opportunity to fill in some of the identified gaps.

2. Galician coast, North Atlantic Marine Demarcation (Spain)



The Galician region: a strong legacy of maritime activity with a wide variety of uses

The coast of Galicia (NW-Spain) represents almost a third of all Spanish coasts with a length of about 1,650 kilometres (800 km of cliff coast and 300 km of beach). The shoreline is characterised by coastal inlets such as estuaries called “rías” which are high productivity ecosystems. More than 60% of its population is concentrated in the Coastal areas and it has more than 80 fishing towns. The region consists of 6 ports of general interest, among which the Port of Vigo stands out as being one of the European’s leading fishing ports. There are also more than 120 small ports under the umbrella of the Regional Ministry of the Sea, whose facilities are used by more than 60 fishing guilds and 1,300 aquaculture auxiliary boats. Approximately 50 marinas are located along its coasts.

Key figures

- 9,250 fishing boats, 3,400 mussel rafts and 6,000 shellfish gatherers that mainly operate inside the Rías
- Recreational and leisure activities along its coastal area, mainly in the South part (Rías Baixas)
- 1 national park that includes 2 small archipelagos and 2 islands.

Implication of the region in MSP process

The regional government of Galicia, as part of the Spanish North Atlantic Demarcation, has provided relevant information, contributions and allegations during the development and consultations processes of the national MSP (Planes de Ordenación del Espacio Marítimo, POEM).

3. Sardinia Region (Italy)



MSP co-design in the hearth of the Mediterranean : participative assessment of conflicts and synergies in Northern Sardinia

The area extending from the Asinara Gulf to the Olbia Gulf, is incredibly rich in terms of ecological values. Several protected areas are located in the, including Asinara, Maddalena and Capo Testa. At the same time many activities are co-existing, especially aquaculture, fishery, coastal/maritime tourism and shipping.

Key figures

- 3.5 million of tourists per year in the area
- 15 aquaculture areas
- Small scale fisheries represent an important socio-cultural value for the area
- 2 national parks, 3 marine protected areas and several Natura 2000 sites

Implication of the region in MSP process

Sardinia region contributed to the Italian MSP plans developing zoning, spatial and regulation measures for its territorial waters. REGINA-MSP will assess the interactions among uses and will advance proposals to improve the planning in the case study area.

4. Pays-de-Loire Region (France)



A regional strategy built on the promotion of maritime identity, blue growth and on sea/coast enhancement and preservation

The Region has a dynamic and highly diversified maritime economy, with a leading commercial port on the French Atlantic coast (Nantes Saint-Nazaire) and fishing, shellfish and salt farming activities, in addition to a strong tourist appeal. Its industry relies on shipbuilding with one of the world leaders of highly complex ships and offshore installations, nautical sector and marine energy. The first operational commercial offshore windfarm in France is located in the region's coastal waters nearby Saint-Nazaire. Another offshore windfarm is under development in the area. The Region also benefits from a remarkable coastal biodiversity linked to the proximity of the Loire and the Vendée coastal rivers and of canyons with cold corals further offshore.

Key figures

- 1st commercial port on the French Atlantic coast
- 1.15 billion euros of sales in the nautical industry
- 450 km of coastline

Implication of the region in MSP process

The Region is involved in MSP process in a number of ways, including restoring water quality, strengthening and developing maritime sectors of excellence and supporting knowledge and acculturation related to the sea. Particularly, the Region is mobilised for the implementation of the action plan of the National MSP in relation with marine energy, decarbonisation, tourism and fishing activities.

5. Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur – PACA (France)



A historical maritime region facing sea preservation and blue growth challenges

The region has a millenary maritime history and relies on the sea to thrive. It has 3 coastal metropolises, 3 trade ports, 135 fishing and leisure ports and numerous seaside resorts. It thus faces huge challenges in terms of coastal and marine biodiversity protection and restoration on one hand, and tourism and blue economy on the other hand.

Key figures

- 1,000km of coastline
- maritime jobs account for 6% of regional employment
- 2 national parks including MPAs within their boundaries

Implication of the region in MSP process

The region has been involved in the definition and in the implementation of MSP process at the French Mediterranean basin level and takes part in the MSP governance. The PACA region took advantage of this process to reaffirm its maritime policy (clean ports, coastal waters' quality, Posidonia meadows restoration).

6. Crete Region (Greece)



State and Region co-managing Multi-use in the marine space

The Region of Crete is an internationally prominent, attractive and strongly competitive tourism and cultural destination. It is also of international interest in the energy sector, given its strategic location, the huge wind and solar resources, as well as possession of local experience and expertise. Lately, since energy issues became critical, there has been significant market interest to develop approx. five OWFs in the Region. This has boosted the elaboration of the MSPlan of the Crete “Marine Unit”, as previewed by the draft National Spatial Strategy for the Marine Space (not yet approved by the Council of Ministers). In the framework of the REGINA-MSP project, the key challenge is to balance socio-cultural values and heritage with sustainable

blue economy and Green Deal objectives. Functional marine zones and “Integrated Maritime Investments” will be explored as a financial tool for MSPlans on regional and subregional level.

Key figures

- Crete is the most populated Greek island with 634,930 people in 2019. Approximately 42% of the population lives in cities and towns whilst 45% lives in rural areas. Its coastline represents 1,046 km.
- Crete’s coastal zone is a place of natural and cultural heritage where many natural environment conservation areas and archaeological sites are declared. The northern coast of Crete (65.8%) has been intensely eroded, having potential negative effects on both natural/cultural environment and tourism activity.
- The port of Heraklion, the capital of Crete region, is the third largest passenger traffic port in Greece after Piraeus and Rafina, and has also very important commercial activity.

Implication of the region in MSP process

The marine area of Crete Region is part of the Crete Sea (**OXE 3**), for which a Maritime Spatial Plan will be elaborated in the near future, provided that financial resources will be ensured for this task.

7. Central Macedonia Region (Greece)



Achieving blue growth and tourism development in a sensitive marine ecosystem with semi-closed gulfs

Central Macedonia Region (CMR) is in the north Aegean Sea, which is characterized by a complex geomorphology and seabed topography that includes semi-closed gulfs and other coastal formations (deltas, estuaries, etc.) that contain a very rich marine biodiversity. Two marine protected sites as well as underwater antiquities are found in the coastal zone of CMR. Thessaloniki, the capital of CMR, is the second largest city of Greece and is known for its very strong economic and industrial profile and for being an international transport node. Tourism and aquaculture are other important sectors not only for the metropolitan area of Thessaloniki, but also for the Region. The stake for MSP in this area, is to achieve optimal organization and growth of existing marine sectors (especially marine and coastal tourism), without undermining the flow of ecosystem services in the sensitive semi-closed gulfs.

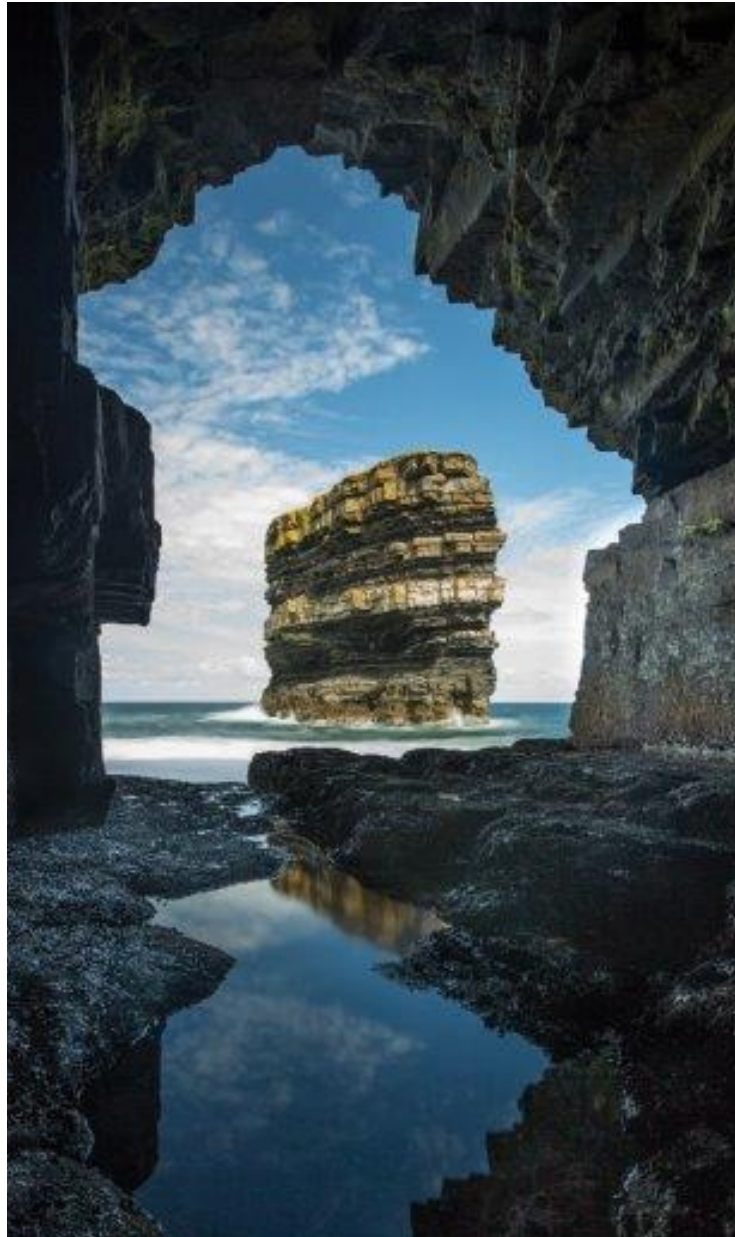
Key figures

- Thessaloniki Metropolitan area spreads along more than 40 km of the Region's coastline, while about one third of the coastal zone of CMR is urbanised (tourism-oriented development)
- The international port of Thessaloniki plays a major role in the development of the Region
- 80% of the mussels' production of Greece takes place in this Region (in Thessaloniki's Gulf)

Implication of the region in MSP process

The marine area of Central Macedonia Region is part of the North Aegean Sea (**OXE 1**), for which a Maritime Spatial Plan is pending adoption. This is the first (out of 4) MSP plans to be adopted in Greece.

8. County Mayo (Ireland)



Mayo's blue economy through a Designated Maritime Area Plan (DMAP)

The county is predominantly rural and boasts a scenic coastline. There are opportunities to harness the county's marine assets and capitalise on its location on the Wild Atlantic Way. Mayo has a strong tradition of sailing with clubs in Clew Bay and Achill Sound. The Tourism Action Plan for Mayo identifies marine leisure tourism as an economic opportunity. Future plans will look at opportunities to promote Mayo's Blueways. Aquaculture is an important industry for the county (41 production units). The sector is export oriented with the majority of aquaculture produce going to other EU Member States. The Northwest region, of which Mayo forms part, generated the second largest sales value in 2021 accounting for 21% (37.7 million / 6,214 tonnes), corresponding to one of the regions where most salmon and oysters are harvested. Despite the increases in sales value, employment in the Northwest has declined.

Keys figures

Located on the west coast of Ireland adjoining the Atlantic Ocean, Mayo claims the longest coastline in Ireland, at 1,168 km or approximately 21% of the Irish coastline. County Mayo has a historical maritime heritage and coastal identity. The remote and rugged nature of the coastal landscape in addition to limited development has resulted in a pristine environment that is evident in the high number of Natura 2000 sites (19 SACs and 13 SPAs along the coastline).

There are a number of small islands located off Mayo including Ireland's largest island, Achill Island (pop 2,700), which is connected via a bridge. Achill is characterised by steep cliffs, including Croaghnaun at 688m one of the highest sea cliffs in Europe, with stunning views over Keem Bay, rocky headlands, sheltered sandy beaches, broad expanses of blanket bog and rolling mountains. Additional islands include Clare island (pop 159), Inisturk (pop 51), Inishbiggle (pop 18). The ability to retain populations on the islands is a challenge and something that should be addressed as part of marine planning to ensure that this unique cultural heritage is sustained. Ensuring economic opportunities and connectivity for island communities and their integration into the county is vital to sustaining vibrant island communities.

Implication of the region in MSP process

The Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 legislates for Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs). A DMAP is a forward-looking sub-national marine plan that will contribute to the overall management of the maritime area. DMAPs will support sustainable development of the maritime area and facilitate coherent and transparent decision-making. This paves the way for plan-led development of the maritime area. The DMAP will allow for a statutory plan to be put in place for Mayo's maritime area.

III. Save the dates

1. The European Maritime Day



The European Maritime Day (EMD) is the annual two-day event during which Europe's maritime community meet to network, discuss and outline joint action on maritime affairs and sustainable blue economy.

The EMD is the place where 'Ocean Leaders Meet'. It provides an engaging and completely interactive experience to catch up on the current state of play on a broad range of issues concerning the blue economy and the marine environment and to discuss ways of moving forward. It features a large number of inspirational speakers, thematic sessions, stakeholder workshops and pitch sessions organised by stakeholders and the European Commission. The EMD targets professionals from businesses, governments, public institutions, NGOs and academia as well as EU citizens interested in the sea.

Some of the project partners will participate in the event. For instance, Shom will have a booth dedicated to its various activities, with a specific focus on MSP in the morning of the 25th. **REGINA-MSP will have the pleasure to participate in a stand dedicated to European projects** on Maritime Spatial Planning. We will take advantage of the presence of a variety of stakeholders gathered on the 24th and 25th to listen to their views on the different approaches offered by the panel of projects, through a serious game named 'Operation ocean' and a quick survey.

All the sessions will be organised in an in-person format, with speakers and moderators in the venue. The opening session and the following high-level session will be available via webstreaming.

The 2023 edition of the European Maritime Day will take place in Brest, France, on 24-25 May as physical event. **Find out more here.**

2. UN Ocean Decade Conference



#OceanDecade24

2024
UN OCEAN DECADE
CONFERENCE
*Delivering the science we need
for the ocean we want*
10-12 April 2024
Barcelona, Spain

unesco
Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

2021-2030
United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE CIENCIA E INNOVACIÓN

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Ajuntament de Barcelona

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CSIC
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Institut de Ciències del Mar

Three years after the start of the [UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#), a global conference will bring together the Ocean Decade community and partners to celebrate achievements and set joint priorities for the future of the Decade on 10-12 April 2024 in the coastal city of Barcelona.

It will be a 3-day, in-person event co-led with a range of partners:

Government of Catalonia and the Barcelona City Council through the Barcelona Capital Nàutica Foundation, and the Spanish National Ocean Decade Committee, which is led by the Ministry of Science and Innovation through the [Spanish Research Council \(the CSIC is part of REGINA project\)](#).

A key outcome of the 2024 UN Ocean Decade Conference will be the publication of a set of white papers related to the [10 Decade Challenges](#), that will identify future priorities for the Ocean Decade to generate the knowledge needed for science-based solutions related to global challenges, such as climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation, sustainable ocean economy, pollution and natural hazards. A number of related high-level national and international events will take place in the sidelines of the conference.



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