

# NEWSLETTER #2

# EDITO



Regions to Boost  
National Maritime  
Spatial Planning

In August, the ocean surface hit its highest ever recorded temperature. Copernicus (the European Union's Earth observation programme) measured this peak in the global daily average temperature of the ocean surface. Illustrating both that the ocean is our primary ally in the fight against global warming (since it absorbs up to 90% of the excess heat generated by greenhouse gases) and that European cooperation is crucial to share knowledge. The lesson learnt from this new record of temperature could be summed up, like the one we were taught when painting: no green without blue.

To achieve the “shift” towards a greener blue economy, “even closer engagement with stakeholders, from businesses large and small to local groups” is needed (COM(2021) 240 final). Looking at improving the participation of regions, local authorities and stakeholders in the development and implementation of national Maritime Spatial Planning, REGINA-MSP contributes to achieving the ambitions of the European Green Deal, especially in its efforts to develop a sustainable Blue Economy.

The REGINA-MSP project has now left its launch pad to enter its operational phase. This autumn will see the implementation of stronger engagement processes with MSP stakeholders through a series of workshops on regional case studies and communities of practice. The objective is to improve the participation of regions, local authorities and stakeholders as key players for mainstreaming MSP in their territories, favoring actions at ecosystem scale, improving cooperation at sea basin level and collecting relevant data for local issues.

This newsletter will look back at the [highlights from the last few months](#), update you [on ongoing tasks](#) and announce the [next steps to be taken](#).

We wish you fruitful workshops and cooperation,

**REGINA-MSP team**

# What has happened in the last few months?

## A SERIES OF 3 WORKSHOPS ON “DATA & DATA PORTALS FOR REGIONAL MSP NEEDS”



Shom organised 3 online meetings on Data and geoportals needs for Maritime Spatial Planning (12<sup>th</sup> April, 16<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023) bringing geodata experts from REGINA's case studies regions together. This provided an opportunity to better understand regions' needs and strengths in MSP processes and implementation. A [newsletter](#) followed each online meeting to summarise the topics discussed.

Following these 3 online meetings, Shom is hosting a final workshop (26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023), which will take place in hybrid mode at the French State Secretariat of the Sea in Paris-La Défense, between project partners, representatives of the case studies'

regions, regional GIS experts and geodata technicians. If you wish to participate, please register to attend the online workshop at [this link](#).

### Key focus of the workshop

The goal of this workshop is to focus on the data used, needed and available for regional MSP. The workshop included presentations from case study representatives from the regional and local authorities of Spain and Ireland.

### Development & presentation of 2 new tools

Presentation of the grading scheme for regional geoportals (to identify weaknesses and assets of existing geoportals)

Presentation of the repository of the different GIS information available at the regional level (portals and providers)

These 2 tools aim at providing a wider access to regional and national geoportals. With the broader goal to move towards greater interoperability and to meet the needs in terms of Marine Spatial Planning, making the most of existing resources.

### An interactive discussion

An interactive discussion will take place to see how data can help understanding potential conflicts of use in the different case study regions. Lastly, the creation on REGINA-MSP website of an interactive map listing the portals will be considered.

## First “Fitting for purpose” workshop in Thessaloniki

The first local workshop in Central Macedonia region was organized in Thessaloniki, on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the premises of the Technical Chamber of Greece.

### Bringing together the regional authority & executive staff

It was a full-day workshop aiming at bringing together the regional authority of Central Macedonia with the executive staff from all the coastal municipalities of this region. More than 40 representatives from Central Macedonia administration participated in the workshop.

### Participative tools

During the first part, invited speakers analyzed the current situation in the marine space of Central Macedonia. The use of participative tools (slido, & online questionnaires) allowed to collect valuable information (for geodata, existing plans, ocean literacy initiatives).

### Innovative data techniques

The second part of the workshop, a MSP-game was performed by the undergraduate students from the Spatial Planning School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Using real geodata from Central Macedonia region, the students showcased the challenges and solutions for MSP.

The MSP game, combined with innovative data techniques, provided an opportunity for regional and local authorities of Central Macedonia to work together, share their views and understand the necessity for building a common MSP strategy for the North Aegean Sea.

By the end of the workshop, the participants express their wish to be engaged in the following local workshops taking place in Central Macedonia region within the framework of REGINA-MSP.



# Ongoing tasks

## A few words on the MSP state of the play survey

### Objectives of the survey

The survey on “regional and national implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning” has been designed by the MaREI Centre, at University College Cork (Ireland) 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, among the six geographical commissions of the CPMR.

Collected information will provide insights to REGINA-MSP consortium on:

- What regions expect to gain from the implementation of MSP
- How they are involved in its implementation
- Potential weaknesses that could be addressed or strengths that could be useful to other regional and national contexts



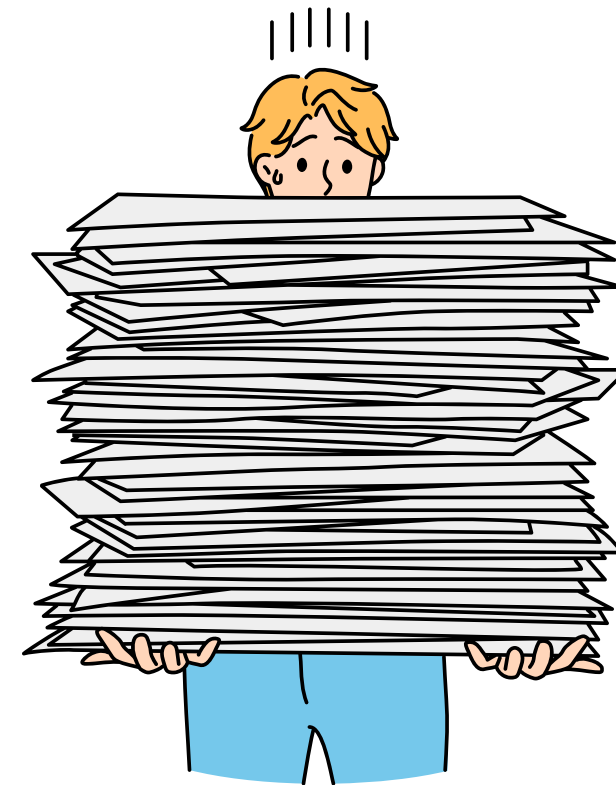
### A survey still open to participation

The survey is still available until **6<sup>th</sup> September 2023** and can be completed via this online form available in English, French, Spanish, Italian and Greek at [this link](#).

The survey is open to any regional and national authority and local stakeholders from the Atlantic, North Sea, Baltic Sea, Balkan and Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea basins and EU Islands who wish to express their views on the current implementation of the MSP and share their experience. Their valuable input will enable to produce, based on the survey results, a report analysis on the state-of play of MSP implementation and the role of the regions by the end of 2023.

## Regional and local plans and strategies

An inventory and cross-analysis of marine and coastal strategies and plans available at the regional and local levels in REGINA-MSP case study areas is being conducted. In order to guarantee comparability of results from this analysis, a common framework was defined, but flexible enough to suit case study specificities. The analysis considers strategies and plans of different typologies: [cross-cutting ones](#), protection and [conservation-oriented ones](#), and those dealing with [specific economic sectors](#) or activities at sea. For each strategy or plan main elements relevant for the planning and management of the marine spaces are analysed through common templates, i.e.: spatial scope, objectives, measures, monitoring and reviewing mechanisms. Cross-analysis among different strategies and plans at the case study level and across case studies will [identify major overlaps, coherence and incoherence in light of MSP needs](#).



# Next steps to be taken

## Fitting for purpose workshops: stakeholder driven identification of regional/local MSP specificities

A series of workshops (Oct. 2023 – March 2024) will be organized to engage regional and local stakeholders in discussing key aspects of coastal and maritime spatial planning regionally and locally. These workshops will be also used to assess the availability and effectiveness of sectoral networks in the regions and eventual connections available with other regions, particularly in the context of the sea basin strategies. When relevant, regional specific MSP visions and objectives will be elaborated, coherently with the national ones. Scenario analysis and tools to support the analysis of conflicts/synergies and information gaps, and the identification of planning options might be applied through the cases studies. Concepts such as [Land-Sea Interactions \(LSI\)](#), [Marine Green Infrastructure \(MGI\)](#) or [Sustainable Blue Economy \(SBE\)](#) could be approached through this task. **1 to 3 workshops will be organised per case study, over a total period of 6 months.**



# Cross-regional workshops for communities of practice

The aim of these 3 cross-regional workshops is to favour the emergence of cross regional communities of practice. To identify and promote communities of practice among groups of stakeholders who are not strongly organised at national and European level and thus who don't benefit from experience sharing and are poorly heard in MSP debate and consultation.

**What is a CoP?** A Community of Practice is a group of people who share a common interest or passion. It is a meeting place where professionals share analyses, inform and advise each other and develop new practices [...]. A CoP goes further than communities of interest and informal networks because it has a collective task (Andringa and Reyn, 2014).

The added value for the regional authorities

- Understand the complexity of MSP governance and how participatory democracy in MSP can be improved
- Appreciate the role of CoPs in boosting the role of regions in national MSP
- Learn how to set up a CoP when a MSP challenge arises in a region
- Take advantage of other existing CoPs related to the sea and MSP
- Benefit from being involved in an eventual CoP through experience
- Sharing among MSP regional authorities from other countries

Oct. 2023 - workshop in Central Macedonia (Greece)

Participatory democracy in MSP and why regions need to be part of a Community of Practice

End Jan. or early Feb. 2024 - workshop in Galicia (Spain)

How does a CoP for MSP work? Simulation process of a CoP for MSP.

End of Mar. 2024 - workshop in Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur (France)

Set the ground for a maritime/coastal regions MSP CoP that suits your region.



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