



Regions to Boost  
National Maritime  
Spatial Planning



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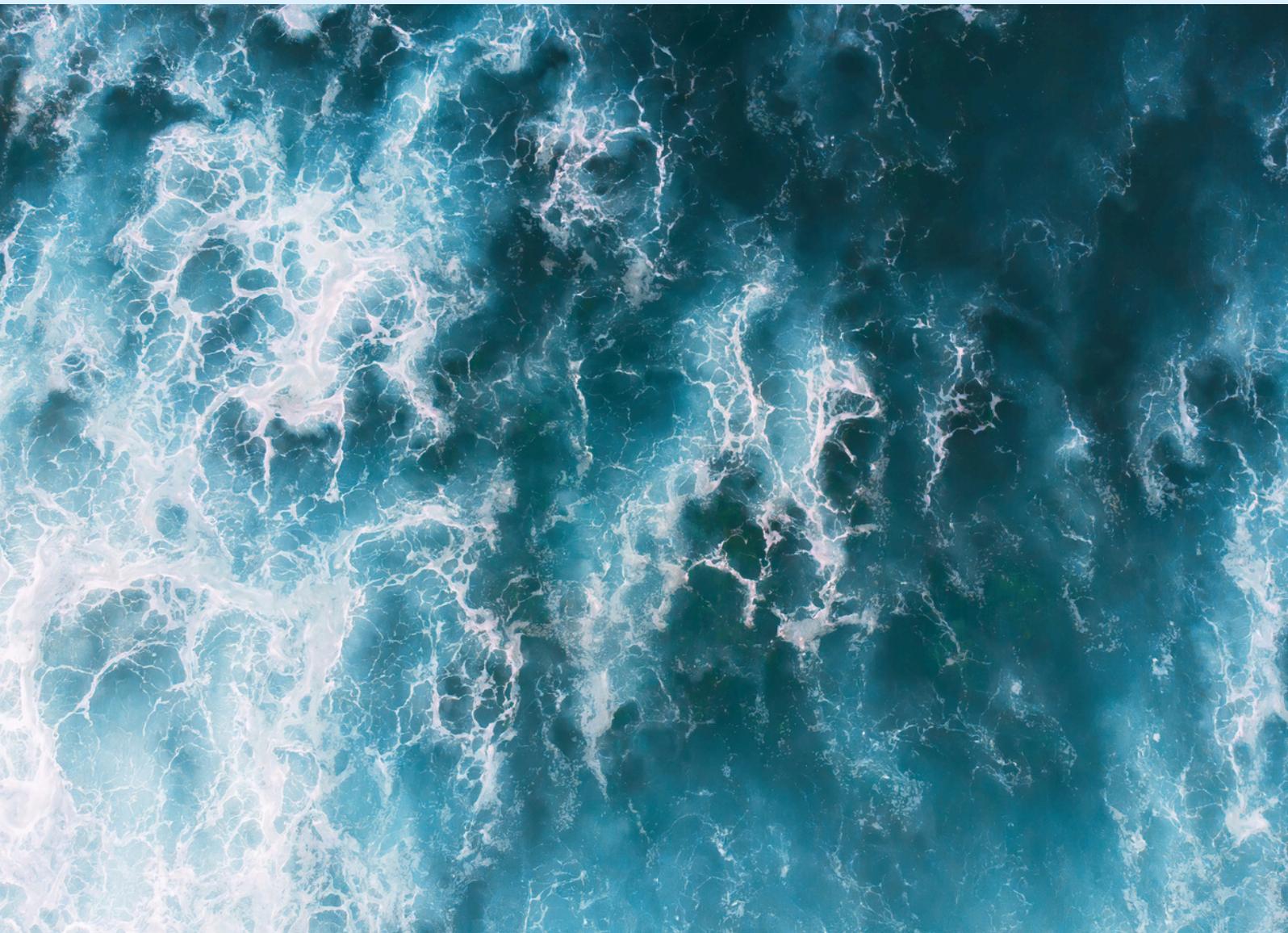


## REGINA-MSP

### Communication brief

### Training for MSP

Experience feedback from training sessions as part of  
REGINA-MSP



## REGINA-MSP communication brief series

The REGINA-MSP project is a two-year project (2023-2024) that aims to greater integrate the regional and sub-regional needs, perspectives and stakeholders into the development and implementation of national Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). The project highlights potential challenges to this integration and opportunities to reduce them, building on a general analysis at the European level and an in-depth analysis in eight case study regions in five European countries (France, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Spain).

A specific task of REGINA-MSP (task T4.2) was dedicated to the topic of capacity building and in particular training in MSP, as a way to strengthen the role of Regions and local collectivities in MSP processes. This communication brief summarizes the main outcomes of the REGINA-MSP project for the topic of capacity building, based on various training activities carried out within task T4.2 (training sessions organised in the countries part of the project). A specific deliverable of the project has also been published (D4.2, available at <https://www.regina-msp.eu/deliverables>), providing a comprehensive handbook trainer guide to organise training sessions for regional and local stakeholders involved in MSP. This brief is part of a serie of communication briefs produced as part of REGINA-MSP, focusing on various topics related to MSP and on each case study region and country part of the project.

### Organising a tailor-made training

#### Why is a training process on Maritime Spatial Planning, important for local and regional staff?

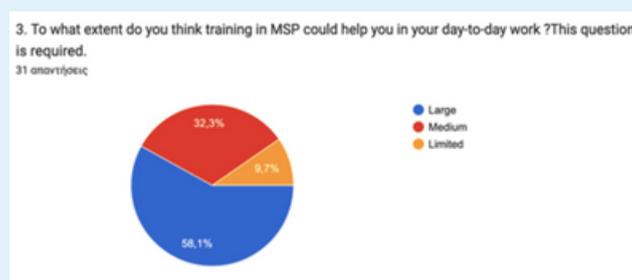
The REGINA-MSP partner countries organized a series of training events in 2024 to build stakeholders' capacity about MSP across scales. The training enabled local and regional stakeholders to develop the necessary skills, acquire new knowledge, to actively and efficiently participate in current and future MSP processes. It focused on the needs of those directly impacted by MSP, including local and regional governments, coastal communities, maritime industry representatives, NGOs, less informed stakeholders etc. The training process was tailored to the specific needs of each local/regional territory and empowered territorial actors to understand their contextual challenges and opportunities, the interdependence of actor's actions, the needed cross-sectoral collaboration, and even how the local/regional actions contribute to the national, macro-regional or even European MSP goals, towards a long-term sustainability of land and sea space.

## The methodology

A brief online desk research was carried out to identify existing learning resources, training materials, or learning platforms focused on training stakeholders about the MSP process.

### STEP 1 - Identifying training needs

An online questionnaire was developed and circulated to local and regional staff to assess their knowledge, identify the existing gaps in knowledge and skills regarding MSP, and gather their actual expectations about a MSP training.



All respondents to the questionnaire addressed the lack of sufficient information on “MSP across scales” related issues and relevant dedicated training and expressed a strong preference for customized, hands-on learning experiences including on-site study visits.

**55%** of them asked for training about stakeholders' analysis, engagement strategies and collaborative processes and techniques.

**51%** of them asked for training about Scenario's building and forecasting techniques in relevance of climate change pressures

**48%** of them asked for training about data accessible portals, GIS tools

### STEP 2 - The Trainers' Manual

A Trainers' Manual was elaborated by Panteion University (D.4.2, [1]) and circulated to the REGINA-MSP trainers as a guide to the training process, aiming to enhance the effectiveness of the REGINA-MSP capacity-building process for local and regional staff of the partner's countries. The manual is structured into three distinct modules, each of them comprising various Sessions. It is specifically designed for trainers embarking on the maritime spatial planning (MSP) learning process at regional level. Each session comprises a guide for Trainers intended to guide them in terms of the topics to be discussed, the learning methods endorsed and other useful resources (scientific literature, videos, training material, etc.). Modules or Sessions could be standalone, providing trainers with the flexibility to navigate the content based on their degree of familiarity and expertise on the MSP topics or on the training needs of the participants. Whilst not exhaustive, the Trainers' Manual provides a concise overview of the key topics in MSP revealed from the online questionnaire.

The **Module 1** provides an in-depth understanding of the basic concepts and principles underlying MSP and the key challenges affecting policy makers at regional and local level.

The **Module 2** explores how to implement a participatory planning process, and the role of relevant stakeholders. The module presents key tools, techniques, and data used across scales.

The **Module 3** emphasises climate impacts on marine ecosystems and the integration of climate considerations in MSP. It discusses relevant theoretical regimes about the ecosystem approach in MSP and practical tools like SEA, Cumulative Impact Assessment, Scenarios building etc.



Trainers were advised to select a minimum of two Sessions from the 1st module and one from modules 2 and 3, as per their training needs. Additionally, partners are encouraged to offer feedback on the training process conducted in their country using the template provided in Appendix B. This feedback is valuable for assessing the effectiveness of the training and making improvements for future sessions.

### STEP 3 - The training activities per countries involved

Based on identified needs and the specific characteristics of the specific countries and regions, the REGINA-MSP partners organized a series of training events across the countries involved in the project (Greece, France, Italy, Spain, Ireland). Over **200 stakeholders were trained** through four in-person training events (Greece, France, Italy, Ireland) and one online Session (Spain), totalling **67 hours** of instruction, knowledge sharing, study visits and a gamified approach in tackling key terms, challenges and opportunities of ocean literacy.



**Where:** France

**Partner:** CEREMA

**When:** 27-28 March 2024

A two day face-to-face seminar organized by CEREMA, in Plouzané, with 10 participants from Brittany's local authorities (city councillors), Pays de Brest, French Office for biodiversity, representant of shellfish management agency.

**Modules addressed:** MSP key challenges, context and policies (M1), Understanding MSP across scales (M2), Data for MSP (M3)

Financial tools of MSP.

**Activities:** Game on ocean literacy/serious game on MSP



**Where:** Italy, Sardinia

**Partner:** CORILA in Cagliari

**When:** 23-24 April 2024

A two-days face-to-face workshop was organised by CORILA in Cagliari (Sardinia), in collaboration with the Autonomous Region of Sardinia with more than 30 participants (14 trainers, 25 trainees in total). Participants were regional councillors, directorate directors and managers as well as harbour masters and coast guard officers affiliated with the Italian competent authority (Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport).

**Modules addressed:** MSP key challenges, context and policies (M1), Understanding MSP across scales (M2), Technological innovation and strategic interest for MSP (M3)

**Activities:** Gamification for stakeholder engagement and conflict management.



**Where:** Ireland, Ringaskiddy, Cork

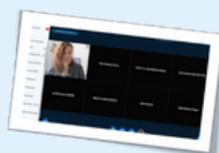
**Partner:** MAREI

**When:** 14th of May

The session was held in person over a full day in MaREI - the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine research and innovation co-ordinated by the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) at University College Cork and included lectures, MSP challenge board game and 2 study visits; a) in the [National Ocean Test Facility in Cork](#) and b) in the [Irelands National Maritime College](#). Participants covered a range of stakeholders such as representative of Cyber Security - Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), the Electronic Communications Policy, the Marine Spatial Planning - DECC, the Foreshore licencing, Researchers, Northern & Western Regional Assembly (NWRA.ie), Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA.ie), Southern Regional Assembly (Southernassembly.ie), Naval Service of Ireland in Cork, Department of Agriculture, Fishing and the Marine (DAFM).



**Where:** Spain,  
**Partner:** CSIC, Online event  
**When:** 17 May 2024



In Spain, the REGINA-MSP training was organized on May 17th, 2024, from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM, as an online open event by CSIC (Spanish National Research Council). The event included trainers from the MSP team at IEO-CSIC and an MSP area manager from MITERD (Spain's Ministry for the Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge). More than 110 participants were registered, mainly regional authorities from 10 coastal autonomous regions and 2 autonomous cities in Spain. Since more than 45% of participants had no knowledge at all for MSP processes, the sessions selected were the introductory ones.

**Module 1:** MSP policies, concepts and Key challenges

**Module 2:** Understanding MSP across different scales and actors

**Module 3:** climate smart MSP

**Where:** Athens, Greece

**Partner:** Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences

**When:** 23-25 April 2024



A three-day training programme titled "MSP across scales: from theory to practice" was organized by Panteion University. The event was put under the aegis of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Region of Attica and hosted by the National Centre of Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA).

**Modules addressed:** All three Modules (M1, M2 and M3) and Sessions were covered as far as possible with a balance between theory and practice.

The training was attended by 39 participants from three Greek regions (namely Crete, Central Macedonia and Central Greece), including also national and municipal staff. The event featured 20 trainers and two study visits to the New Metropolitan Athens S.A. of the Region of Attica, and the Organisation of Natural Environment and Climate Change (OFYPEKA) which operates under the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MSP authority), accordingly. The training was designed to provide participants with practical and theoretical insights into maritime spatial planning (MSP) across scales.



Photos of the training sessions in Greece as part of REGINA-MSP

Furthermore, the final reporting and dissemination of the REGINA-MSP Training took place during a Conference held at the Acropolis Museum on the 25th of July. The Conference host by Panteion University was dedicated to the incorporation of MUCH in MSP and its positive impact on soft power in Greece (HERSEA project funded by the Hellenic Foundation for Research and Innovation) and the launch of a relevant CoP with a pan-Mediterranean scope.

## Feedback from the 5 training events

- In principle, positive feedback from participants about the training on MSP across scales
- In all countries more than 70 % of the participants, found the training interesting and stimulating
- Participants stated an improved understanding of MSP and its applications
- Participants acknowledged that the training process enhanced their capability to contribute to local and regional planning initiatives related to MSP.

## Key recommendations

### European level

- Register the REGINA-MSP training course in related catalogues (CEREMA-PANTEION UNIVERSITY), organise its certification and foresee replicable training processes.
- Increase European financing in projects that target capacity building of subnational authorities in MSP.
- Consider the creation of a EU Platform that will promote training on MSP, through the promotion of tailor-made training material, training tools (e.g. based on gamification) and webinars adapted to local and regional needs. This could be an extension of the European MSP Platform.

### National level

- The national level should put pressure and ensure funding for the regions/cities to proceed to capacity building on MSP for their staff.

### Regional and sub-regional level

- Regular capacity building actions for regional and local staff.

## References

[1] S. S. Kyvelou, N. Marava, A. Smanis, et al, 2024. Trainers' Manual, REGINA-MSP project, Training for MSP across scales addressed to regional and local staff. European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency.

## Citation

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## Disclaimer

This communication brief has been developed as part of the REGINA-MSP project. Its content is based on the activities carried within the framework of the project and does not necessarily represent the views of the authors' organizations and nations.



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