

POLICY BRIEF	
Project acronym and number:	REGINA-MSP — 101081219
Policy impact	
<p>REGINA-MSP studied the role of Regions (NUTS2) in maritime spatial planning, providing an overview at European level as well as precise state of play in 8 regional case studies. Barriers and levers identified, compendium of regional experiences, activities implemented in terms of ocean literacy and training, and final policy recommendations are direct contributions to the integrated maritime policy and the Cohesion policy of the EU, having the EU Green deal targets in mind. Proposals concern notably elements to incorporate in the Maritime Spatial Planning European Directive, principles for improved governance and data acquisition and sharing, and a roadmap for a cross-regional community of practice.</p>	
Impact for citizens and communities	
<p>Maritime spatial planning is implemented at national level, but concerns organisation in space and time of activities and environmental measures that will affect people at local level, which is difficult to capture at this broad scale. REGINA-MSP explored how a better involvement of regions and local authorities in MSP processes could help a better consideration for local stakes. It includes land-sea interactions, particularly sensitive for local people. It suggested varied governance solutions, taking into account the diversity of national context. It also suggested relying on local authorities to maintain contact with the general public and delivered a framework for developing a regional ocean literacy strategy.</p>	
Impact for companies and businesses (if applicable)	
<p>Numerous plans and strategies influencing companies and businesses at regional and local level are interacting with maritime spatial planning. REGINA-MSP gave evidence of the necessity of a better coordination in order to give a more consistent and efficient framework for activities at sea. Offshore renewable energies, aquaculture and tourism for example require the right planning scale and adequacy with the relative landplaning. Stakeholders' participation appeared also partial when organised by national authorities, missing regional specificities and ignoring least heard stakeholders like small-scale fisheries or local tourism operators. Proposals ask therefore investing regions with stakeholders' involvement mission and advancing MSP implementation at both regional and local levels.</p>	
Barriers and future needs	
<p>Maritime Spatial planning is quite new: the legal framework is not yet complete, nor all regions are aware of what is at stake. Recognising and clarifying the role of Regions in the elaboration, decision-process and implementation of MSP is the main barrier identified. Recommendations relate also to the necessary resources, skills, capacity and networks of public authorities staff. Data acquisition and sharing are also a key issue for a plainly informed process.</p> <p>Gaps also refer to the limited stakeholder engagement in MSP at regional and local levels and the need to create new mechanisms to facilitate communication between all stakeholders and the co-design of actions and plans.</p>	

Market readiness and IPR (if applicable)

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Other

REGINA-MSP highlights the role regions could play for enhancing cross-border cooperation in the implementation of maritime spatial planning, pointing out that they are sharing issues between neighbouring regions and have the capacity of funding actions, notably through the Interreg programmes.

REGINA-MSP proposed tailored actions for each of its eight case study regions and their specificities: Mayo County, Pays de la Loire, Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur, Galicia, Murcia, Sardinia, Central Macedonia and Crete.

It provided insights and food for thoughts to the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), which issued a policy paper, consisted of a series of policy proposals from the regions part of the CPMR, targeting EU institutions.

Finally it is worth mentioning the elaboration of a roadmap for a cross-regional community of practice for engaging regional authorities and experts across EU (and eventually non-EU) countries, to facilitate experience and knowledge sharing and the discussion around common MSP challenges.

EU funding statement

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