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Regions to Boost  
National Maritime  
Spatial Planning

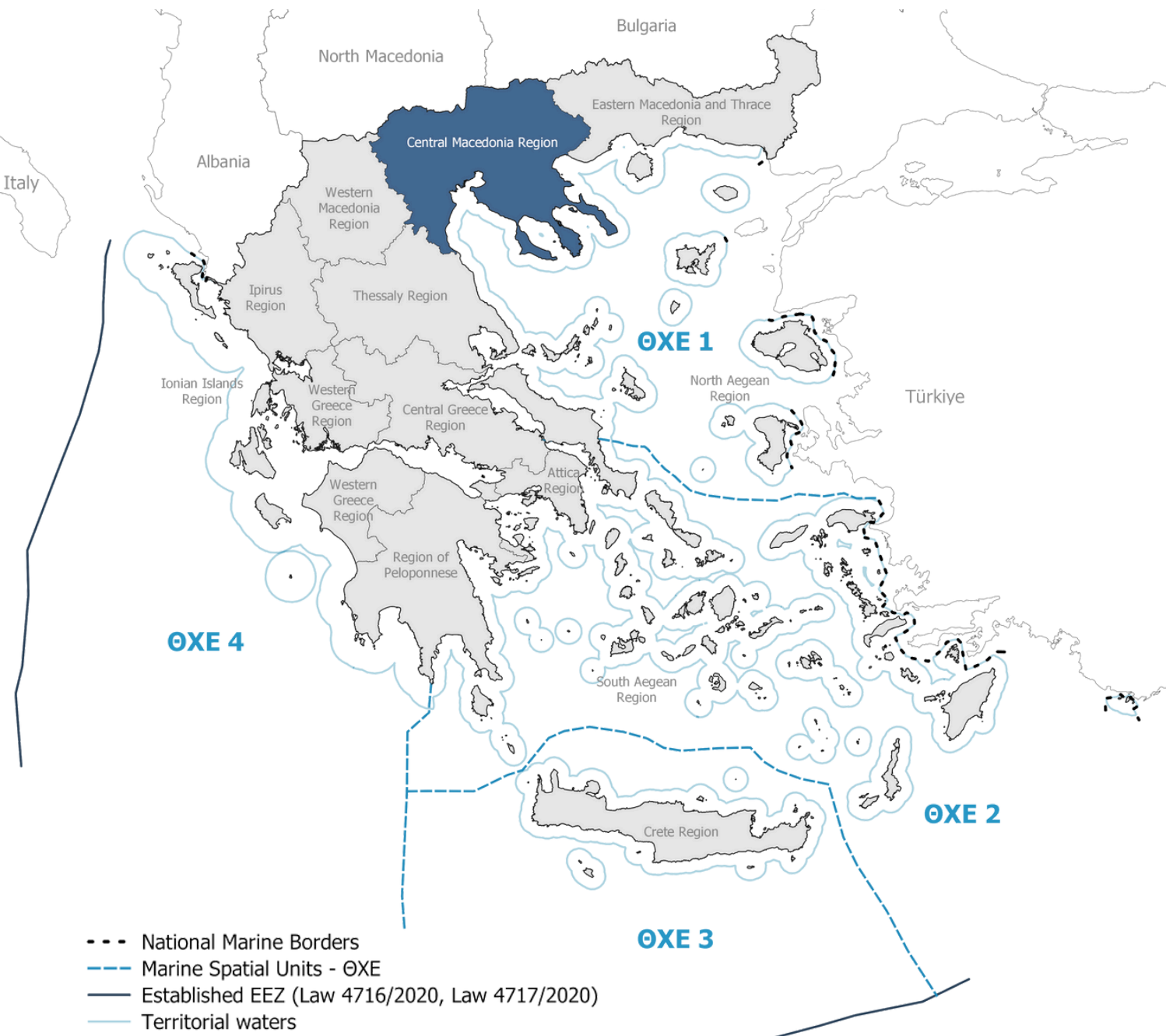


ARISTOTLE  
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# CENTRAL MACEDONIA REGION



## Central Macedonia Region and the Marine Spatial Units



### Central Macedonia Region (CMR):

- is located in northern Greece and has an extensive coastline of more than 700 km.
- is characterised by a unique and sensitive marine ecosystem that hosts rich biodiversity.
- is part of the Marine Spatial Unit of the North Aegean Sea (ØXE1), where the first (out of 4) Greek Marine Spatial Plan has already been drafted (pending approval).

### In the Region the activities that took place were:

- The 1st international workshop, in Thessaloniki in October 2023, exploring “The need for cross-regional Communities of Practice (CoPs) in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) – Boosting the role of regions”
- Two local workshops in May 2023 and May 2024 to engage regional stakeholders in building a common vision for the marine space of CMR.

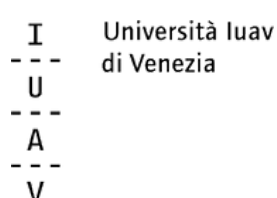
## The policy recommendations for advancing regional MSP in CMR focus on four aspects:

- **Legal aspects:** regional authorities should be formally involved in the MSP consultations. The passing of licensing power and responsibilities related to the marine parts to regional authorities should be considered.
- **Governance:** cross-regional and (sub)regional governance schemes need to be established, with the involvement of local authorities and stakeholders. Regions can also explore the possibility of joining existing MSP Communities of Practice. They can also take the initiative to build a new MSP CoP, either (sub)regional or cross-regional (at national or international level).
- **Resources and capacity building:** regular training initiatives should be designed, targeting regional and local staff as well as regional stakeholders. Locally-based Universities and research centres can share their expertise.
- **Data:** a regional MSP geospatial database should be built, to include higher resolution data. Additional data should be gathered to allow comprehensive analyses, such as land-sea interactions, risk and hazard, economic, valuations of marine sectors.



Workshops in Thessaloniki, CMR

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