



Co-funded by the European
Maritime and Fisheries Fund



mस्पmed

Towards the operational implementation of
MSP in our common Mediterranean Sea

Project Presentation



MSP-MED, Towards the operational implementation of MSP in our common Mediterranean Sea. An European co-funded project, helping the development of MSP in Member States of EU facing the Mediterranean Sea.

The project aims at enhancing **national maritime plans** of coastal Member States in the Mediterranean Sea and promoting international cooperation in this basin.

The overarching objective of the initiative is to facilitate the MSP Directive implementation, by supporting the establishment of coherent and coordinated maritime spatial plans across the Mediterranean Region.

The project will run from **2020 to 2022**, adapting to the situation created by the global pandemic.

A Consortium of partners from six Member States was created to achieve these ambitious goals, they are: **CORILA**, the project Coordinator, IUAV, CNR-ISMAR (Italy), OFB, Shom (France), IEO (Spain), YEPEN, UTH (Greece), RRC Koper (Slovenia), PA (Malta).



2 years
Duration

6
Member
States

3.135.916,25 €
Budget

10
Partners

THE CONSORTIUM



CORILA, the Project Coordinator, is an Italian consortium of research centers and universities, born for the safeguarding of Venice and its lagoon. In the last years, it coordinated various interdisciplinary European projects on MSP and is presently supporting, together with CNR-ISMAR and IUAV, the Italian MSP Competent Authority (Ministry of Sustainable Infrastructure and Mobility) in charge of the MSP implementation.



IUAV is an Italian public university located in Venice, also specialized in MSP and Climate Change adaptation and Environmental planning. It coordinates since 2013 the Erasmus Mundus Master Course on Maritime Spatial Planning.



The **Institute of marine Science of the National Research Council of Italy (CNR-ISMAR)** has been working on MSP since 2013, through several projects at transboundary, national and local scale, covering all steps and aspects of the MSP process and developing specific instruments and tools.



The **French Office for Biodiversity (OFB)** is a public body, under the supervision of the French ministries for ecological transition and of agriculture. It provides technical assistance to the French competent authorities in the MSP directive implementation at national and sea basins level and supports other public policies with regards to biodiversity matters.



The **Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO)** is a public organism devoted to research and development activities in the ocean, including multidisciplinary oceanography, marine geology, marine pollution, fisheries and aquaculture. It provides methodological and technical support to the Ministry for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, which is the competent authority for MSP and MSFD in Spain.



The Department of Planning and Regional Development of the University of Thessaly in Greece (**UTH**) has extensive experience in spatial planning & development research addressing, among others, issues related to maritime spatial planning, integrated coastal zone, river basin management and integrated development of island regions.



Regional Development Center Koper (RRC) is a Slovenian public institution, dealing with entrepreneurial and sustainable development of the region Istra, Brkini, Kras. RDC has extensive experience in the field of Maritime Spatial Planning and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, gained by participating in many EU projects.



The Greek **Ministry of Environment and Energy (YEPEM)** is the competent authority for Maritime Spatial Planning in Greece.



Shom is the **French hydrographic office**, a public operator for reference maritime and coastal geographic information. Shom provides support to government maritime and coastal policies and has been involved in MSP for many years through the European projects.



The **Planning Authority (PA)** of Malta main functions are to regulate, control and develop space, both on land and at sea. The PA is the national focal point for ICZM and MSP and participates in regional initiatives, including international projects in support of transboundary co-operation on MSP.



MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING...

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) emerged worldwide as an important **policy and management tool** for planning the different uses of Seas and Oceans efficiently, in order to achieve both a sustainable development of the **Blue economy** and a long-lasting **safeguarding of marine resources**. In MSP, authorities and planners work jointly to identify objectives and best practices to manage the sea, based on the protection of ecosystem's services and **allocation of activities**.

MSP is also recognized as a useful tool to strengthen **cross-border cooperation** and improve ocean governance.

The European Union issued a Directive in 2014, stating the importance of MSP for the correct **management of EU waters**, and assessing that EU coastal countries are expected to deliver national plans by **2021**. The project MSPMED has, therefore, a very practical and urgent use.

These are some of the most relevant results provided by MSP:

- ▶ Reducing conflicts and creating synergies between different activities.
- ▶ Encouraging investment through predictability, transparency and legal certainty.
- ▶ Increasing cross-border cooperation between EU countries to develop renewable energy, allocate shipping lanes, lay pipelines and submarine cables etc.
- ▶ Protecting the environment by assigning protected areas, calculating impacts on ecosystems and identifying opportunities for multiple uses of space.



...IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Mediterranean is a peculiar basin almost enclosed by land and therefore with a very specific **ecosystem** and endemic species. It is also home to important sites of **cultural heritage**, and communities that have used the sea from ancient times as a connection and to thrive economically. Nowadays, **23 coastal countries** rest on its shores, 8 of which are EU Member states. The region is home to around **480 million people** and many potentially impacting activities are intensively carried out daily, such as maritime transportation, resources extraction and fishing. This **complex socio-economic framework** highlights why the Mediterranean and its specific ecosystem, require a **taylored management**.

Since 2016 the European Union supported the creation of national maritime plans, by funding several projects. MSPMED builds on these past initiatives, some of them are:

- ▶ **SUPREME** www.msp-supreme.eu
- ▶ **SIMWESTMED** www.corila.it/it/SIMWESTMED
- ▶ **MUSES** www.muses-project.com
- ▶ **Portodimare** www.portodimare.eu
- ▶ **ADRIPLAN** www.adriplan.eu
- ▶ **MARINE ECOMED** www.marine-ecomед.net



PROJECT STRUCTURE

Five Working Packages (WP) were identified to meet the objectives with related tasks and subtasks:

The main objectives of the **WP1** are to lead the project to operational and financial achievements, while monitoring project progresses, and identifying risks and implementing counter-measures when needed in order to assure the accomplishment of all requirements of the Grant Agreement (GA) in a timely manner. The partner leader of WP1 is the Italian institution, **CORILA**.

The main objective of **WP2** is to support the establishment and implementation of Maritime Spatial Plans in the MS involved in the project, in line with the objectives pursued in the framework of the MSP Directive. Each partner has been able to develop specific tasks (2.1 to 2.6) based on specific national needs. The leader of this WP is French partner **OFB**.

The main objective of **WP3** is making use of the best available data and organise the sharing of information in an exhaustive way, necessary for maritime spatial plans, by using relevant mechanisms and tools. The leader of this WP is **CORILA**.

The main objective of **WP4** is to set up activities able to foster a concrete cooperation on MSP between Member States and with third countries in the Mediterranean. To achieve this, the first foreseen actions are to identify common issues, driving or hindering transboundary/cross-border MSP implementation in the Mediterranean and provide suggestions to strengthen drivers and/or remove obstacles. The WP leader is the Spanish partner **IEO**.

WP5 aims at easing the communication among partners and MSP actors in the Mediterranean, as well as disseminating the results of the project and MSP features among stakeholders and the public. The leader of this WP is **CORILA**.

WP1 Coordination & Management

WP2: Setting-up of maritime spatial plans

Task 2.1 Italy: Vision, strategic objectives and vocation analysis for the Italian maritime areas

Task 2.2 France and Spain: Planning the offshore Gulf of Lion with respect to the ecosystems

Task 2.3 Spain: A pilot case for planning the Region of Murcia respect to the habitat conservation

Task 2.4 Greece: Development of a governance scheme and monitoring mechanism

Task 2.5 Malta: Governance for MSP

Task 2.6 Slovenia: Development vision, objectives and concept for Koper Bay

Task 2.7 Sharing experiences among countries

WP3: Data use & sharing

Task 3.1 Building and sharing a common knowledge catalogue

Task 3.2 Data use and sharing in Italy

Task 3.3 Delivering an operational MSP Geoportal for Malta

Task 3.4 Data use and sharing in France

Task 3.5 Greece: Delivery of an Online interactive MSP platform

Task 3.6 Slovenia: Filling data gaps for Koper Bay area

WP4: Cooperation among Member States & Third Countries

Task 4.1 Address Transboundary issues of common concern on maritime surveillance

Task 4.2 Establishing a solid transboundary cooperation in MSP among bordering Mediterranean Member States

Task 4.3 Establishing transboundary cooperation mechanisms and instruments with third countries

WP5 - Communication & Dissemination

RESULTS

The expected results of the project are various and range from very practical outcomes to more wider impacts.

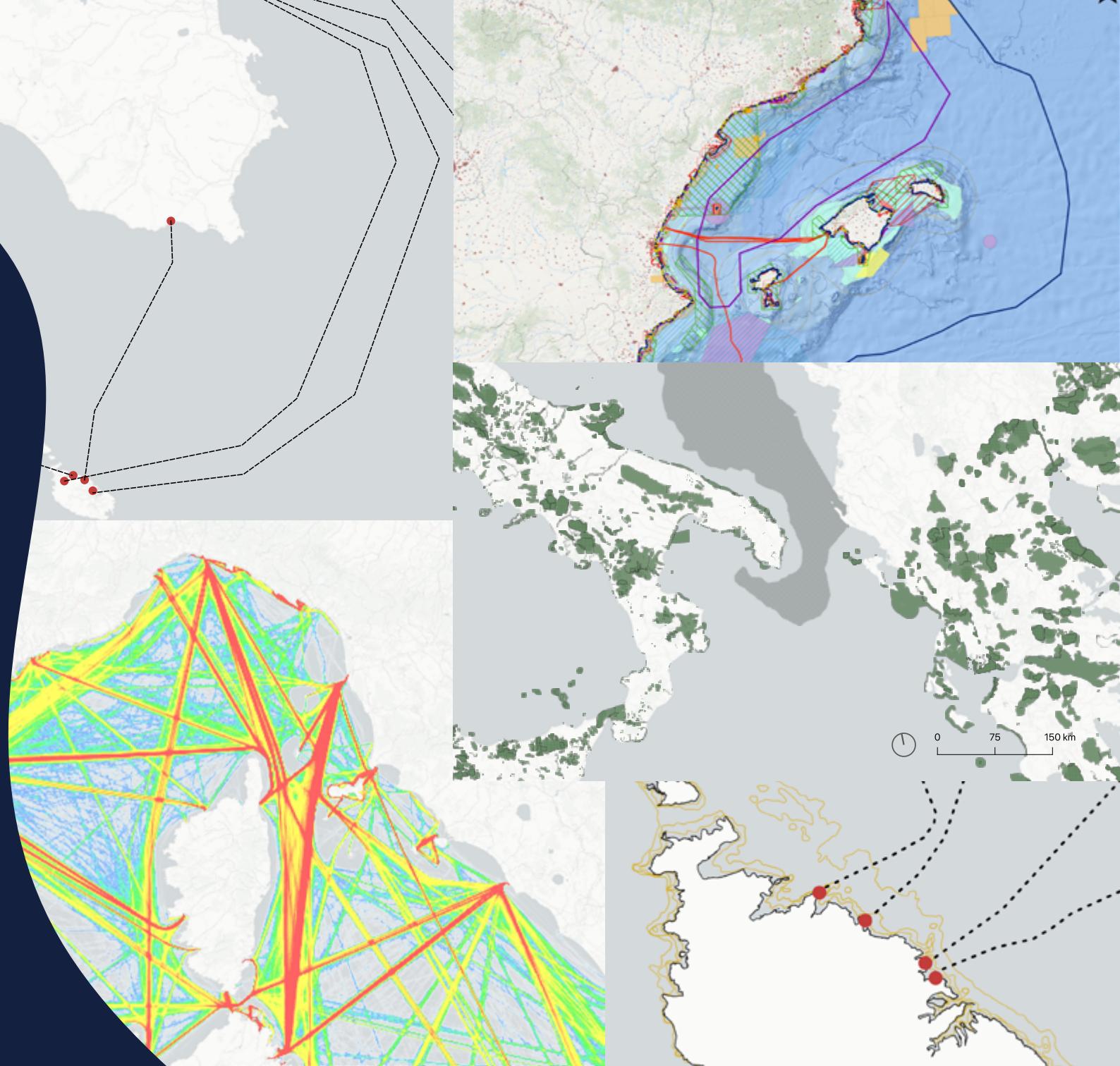
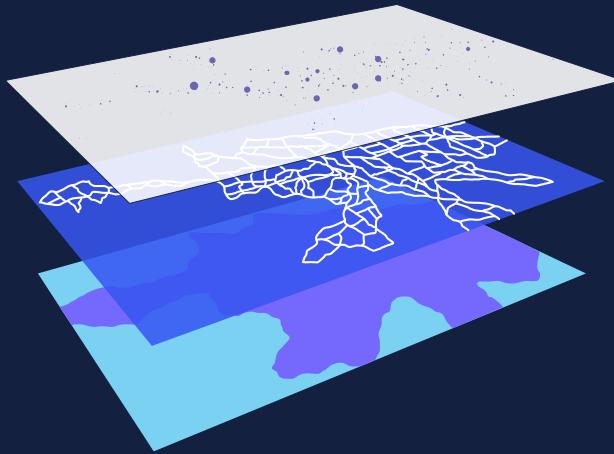
The support to national plans takes various shapes, as the production of **maps** and **datasets**, or documents with the identification of **objectives** and **key enabling factors**. On the transnational level, the collaboration includes the sharing of relevant data and the creation of **tools for data collection**, but also the **investigation** of issues of common concern.

Many **workshops** and **meetings** are foreseen, online or in presence, as a core part of the project. During the project all the results are available in the form of accessible Deliverables on the website www.mspmed.eu.

On a general term, the actions of the project concur in creating a **better coordination** between national and regional authorities, thus enhancing the efficiency of national plans.

This in turn results in more **sustainable blue economies**, with an increase in the quality of life in the coastal areas. The **knowledge** shared among countries during meetings will produce, in a whole, a more harmonized way of approaching MSP in the Mediterranean. The coordination of the different plans can also increase the **protection** of the natural resources in the basin (e.g. successfully implementing networks of **Marine Protected Areas**).

Finally, the MSPMED project aims to **increase public awareness**, for a better understanding and reception of the plans at the national level. The project envisions a **strengthened cooperation** between the Competent Authorities and experts of both **EU** and **non-EU states**, in line with the UN Sustainable Development goals (**SDG**) and the initiatives concerning **Ocean literacy**.





www.mspmed.eu

Credits

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