

Community of Practice on Maritime Spatial Planning

Key summary points

Last update: December 2024

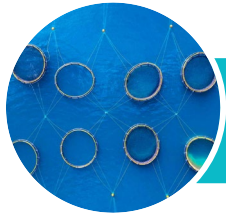
CINEA/EMFAF/2022-3.5.1/SI2.881692

WESTMED
blue economy initiative

Supported
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WestMED Technical / Working Groups (TGs)/ Community of Practice (CoP)



Sustainable Aquaculture



Maritime Clusters



Maritime Spatial Planning



Green Shipping and Ports

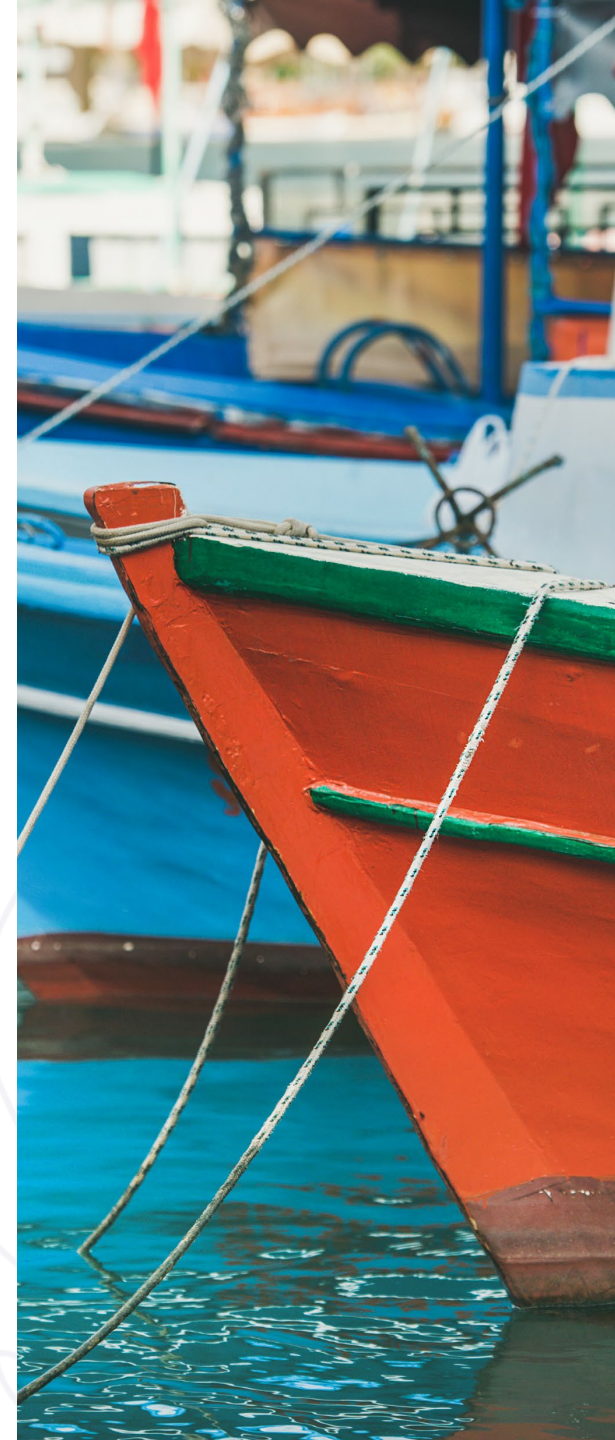


Sustainable tourism



Content

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Context

- In the Mediterranean, there are many policy drivers for the implementation of Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) at regional, sub-regional and national levels. These include the MSP Directive implementation for the European Union Member States, the Ministerial declaration on Blue Economy of the Union for the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean ICZM protocol, the Conceptual Framework for MSP developed by UNEP/MAP and the MSPglobal pilot project in the Western Mediterranean Sea.
- During the WestMED '22 Hackathon organised by the WestMED Assistance Mechanism in Malta and a couple of meetings under the MSPMED project, relevant stakeholders discussed the benefits of creating an open MSP Community of Practice within the framework of the WestMED Initiative and supported by CINEA and DG MARE. This, to facilitate easier and more coordinated exchanges between MSP experts/ practitioners from both the northern and southern Western Mediterranean countries and beyond.

**Need of a permanent dialogue across borders
between individual experts on MSP**



Aim of the Technical Group (I)

- The main objective of the MED-MSP-CoP is to establish a permanent communication and dialogue across borders between experts on MSP (i.e. planners, technical experts, researchers), to exchange knowledge and relevant experiences in the region, to reach a shared perspective on topics of common MSP interests and enhance the cooperation between the northern and southern countries of the Mediterranean.
- Short term specific objectives:
 - Creation of the Coordination Team of the MED-MSP-CoP formed by a core group of experts (voluntary basis) and design of the annual plan of actions;
 - Identification of experts to be involved in the MED-MSP-CoP;
 - Analysis of previous / ongoing projects and initiatives regarding the priority topics identified by the MED-MSP-CoP;
 - Stocktaking of future relevant events to capitalize on for the organization of back-to-back meetings;
 - Identification of major gaps and needs;
 - Extension of the MSP-CoP to the entire Mediterranean.



Aim of the Technical Group (II)

- Mid term specific objectives:
 - Design of capacity building activities according to the identified gaps and needs and discuss available funding and resources in the sea basin;
 - Assess how to include the private sector and the NGOs in the MED-MSP-CoP, i.e. pool of expert or within specific working groups.
 - MED MSP CoP to become a regional tool, to facilitate knowledge sharing on national and regional processes, in close liaison with MSP competent authorities
- Long-term objectives:
 - Collaboration on specific actions capitalizing on results of previous projects and project development on transboundary issues;
 - Upgrade the advisory role of the MED-MSP-CoP to support regional Mediterranean MSP framework



Structure of the Technical Group

- On 26 January 2023, CINEA and DG MARE officially launched the Community of Practice during the kick-off meeting in Brussels. Experts discussed the structure, objectives and the action plan for the first year of exchanges.
- The CoP is managed by CINEA and DG MARE, with the support of the WestMED Assistance Mechanism and the MSP Assistance Mechanism.

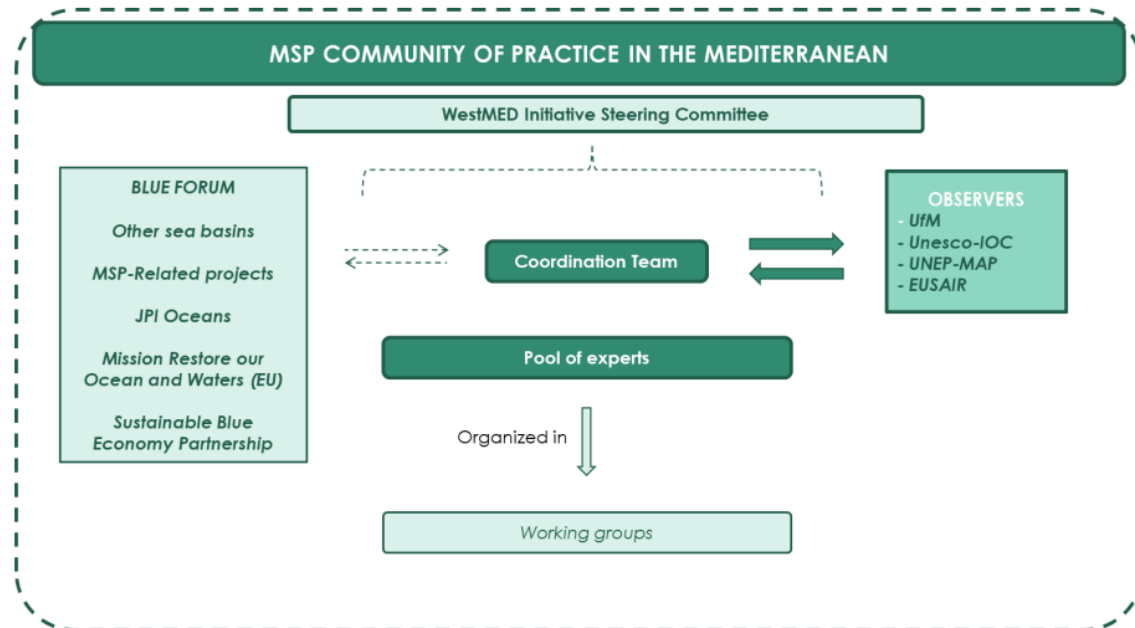


Figure 1. Structure of the MED-MSP-CoP.



Key activities of the Technical Group (I)

1. Gather key experts on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Mediterranean

The European Commission calls for expert involvement in the development of a voluntary based Community of Practice for MSP in the Mediterranean (MED-MSP-CoP). The call targeted enthusiastic experts from Mediterranean countries on MSP and related disciplines (e.g. sustainable blue economy, protection of the marine environment, etc.) who want to actively participate and engage in the work of the MED-MSP-CoP and contribute to its expected outputs.

The European Commission provides technical support to the MED-MSP-CoP, notably through its MSP and WestMED Initiative Assistance Mechanisms. The CoP is a voluntary-based, independent group of experts. In any case the contents of the discussions and the outcomes of the MED-MSP-CoP are at the full discretion of its participants.



Key activities of the Technical Group (II)

2. Organisation of events and webinars

Webinars

- 13 FEB 2024** Webinar
MED MSP CoP IV Webinar: Sharing knowledge as key for advancing MSP practice: examples form other communities of practice and knowledge platforms
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Presentation: MSP-OR Platform: an ocean governance hub: for the Outermost Regions - Helena Calado](#),
 - [Presentation: MSP4BIO CoP: a platform to co-develop a better alignment of MSP and MPAs management - Margarita Stancheva](#).
- 29 NOV 2023** Webinar
MED MSP CoP 3rd Webinar: a sea of knowledge to capitalize within MSP processes
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Presentation: Screening of MSP projects and initiatives in the Mediterranean - Cristina Cervera](#),
 - [Presentation: MSP GREEN: MSP as an enabler for EU Green Deal - Martina Bocci](#),
 - [Presentation: REGINA MSP: Improving the role of regional and local authorities and stakeholders in MSP - Céline Jacob](#).
- 13 NOV 2023** Webinar
MED MSP CoP II Webinar: MSP and offshore wind energy
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Presentation: Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature in the Mediterranean Sea - Cristina Simioli](#),
 - [Presentation: Multi-criteria techniques for robust offshore wind planning in MSP - Daniel Depellegrin](#).
- 13 OCT 2023** Webinar | Online
MED MSP CoP I Webinar: MSP supporting local communities' economic activities in the Southern Mediterranean
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Presentation: Planning for artificial reefs to restore marine ecosystem in Small Scale Fisheries - Aomar Bourhim](#)
 - [Presentation: Enabling sustainable aquaculture in the south-western Mediterranean through Maritime Spatial Planning - Samir Bachouche](#)

Scope

Ongoing projects

Regional Initiatives

National Initiatives



Key activities of the Technical Group (III)

Webinars

- 05 SEP 2024**
Webinar
MED MSP CoP VII Webinar: Science-based conservation planning of the Israeli EEZ
 - [Agenda](#)
- 19 JUL 2024**
Webinar
MED MSP CoP VI Webinar: Blue Azores - Strengthening the network of Marine Protected Areas in Azores islands
 - [Agenda](#)
 - [Presentation: Açores Marine Protected Areas- a short/long story - Helena Calado,](#)
 - [Presentation: Blue Azores: Strengthening the network of Marine Protected Areas in Azores islands - Adriano Quintela.](#)
- 24 JUN 2024**
Webinar
MED MSP CoP V Webinar: MSP4BIO science-policy dialogue THINK TANK. Co-development of policy solutions for better integration of biodiversity conservation in MSP and sectoral policies
[Agenda](#)
[Presentations: Co-development of policy solutions for better integration of biodiversity conservation in MSP and sectoral policies](#)
*The presentations from all three webinar sessions are available at the link above.
1. MSP4BIO policy coherence analysis: identified barriers to effective and coordinated MPA and MSP implementation at...

Scope

Cross border collaboration

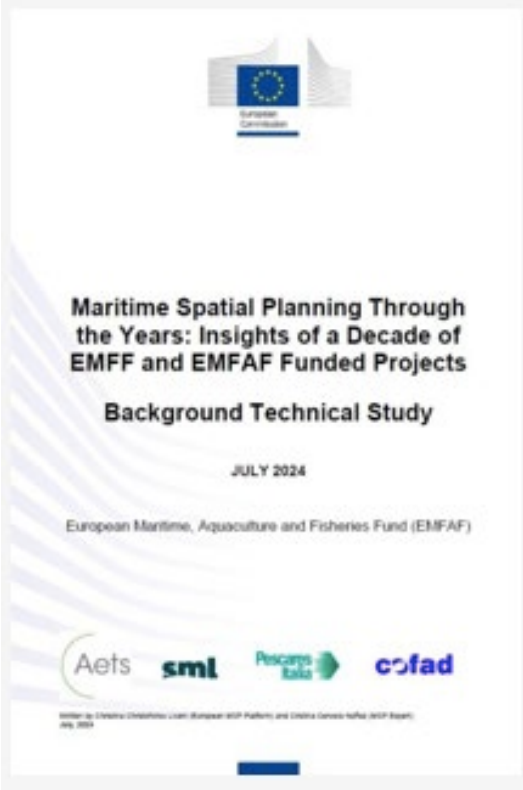
MPA in MSP

Policy Initiatives



Key activities of the Technical Group (I)

3. Advisory role on regional studies and publications



Synergies

1) At project level

- Recently EMFAF awarded MEDIGREEN
- EMFAF: MSP Green / REGINA / REMAP
- Horizon Europe MSP sister projects MPA Europe/MSP4BIO, MARINE Plan
- SBEP: MEDSEAPLAN

2) Synergies with other initiatives

- Union for Mediterranean
- Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature – Mediterranean Sea (Med OCEaN)
- UNEP Working Group on MSP


3) Cross Sea Basin collaborations

- eMSP
- Atlantic MSP CoP
- North and Baltic CoPs




Key documents of the Technical Group

- [MED MSP CoP Call for experts](#)
- [MED MSP CoP Terms of reference](#)
- [MED MSP CoP 1st year action plan](#)




MED MSP CoP Call for experts

[Download](#)



MED MSP CoP Terms of reference

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MED MSP CoP 1st year action plan

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Latest news of the Technical Group

- 19 December 2023. [MED MSP Community of Practice: experts from across the Mediterranean unite to share experiences and align perspectives](#)
- 27 January 2023. [The Community of Practice on Maritime Spatial Planning \(MSP\) for the Mediterranean has been launched!](#)
- Events and meetings. <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/msp-resources/med-msp-cop>



Thank you for your support!

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#WestMedStrat

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WESTMED
blue economy initiative

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