



Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

PRE-EVENT BRIEF

ESPON Peer Learning Workshop: The Role of Marine Spatial Planning in reducing Marine Pollution in the Black Sea

Virtual (MS Teams)

15 December 2020

Introduction



The Black Sea has to deal with many threats such as overfishing, marine pollution, uneven development of aquaculture and invasive species. However, the highest priority should be given to marine pollution, as the Black Sea is considered as one of the most heavily impacted seas by human activities in the world. To make things more difficult, scientific knowledge of the Black Sea's ecosystems is quite limited compared to other seas. Due to this lack of evidence in combination with a large amount of pollution sources, it is difficult to directly determine the exact impact of each human activity.

Since the cross-border Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea was established in 1992 and the subsequent creation of the Commission for the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, several cross-border programmes between Black Sea states have emerged. These programmes either aim to develop scientific evidence related to marine pollution through increased monitoring or to enhance regional cooperation to protect coastal and marine environments. The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the Black Sea (2019) focuses on a common approach by integrating Land-Sea Interaction in the deep basin, trigger ocean-engaged citizens and increase incentives for innovation in the blue sector. While, overall, these initiatives are positive, they remain focused on the cooperation between states located around the Black Sea. Different forms of cooperation around other European seas exist and have showed promising results. Therefore, some practices and strategies applied in these other regions could be interesting to explore in the Black Sea.

ESPON has already addressed the problem of marine pollution from the larger perspective of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Land-Sea Interaction (LSI), or from a more area-focused perspective, such as the Territorial Scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region (BT2050). This peer learning workshop will gather different experts and academics - from ESPON-projects and other EU research projects - with key stakeholders from the Black Sea and intend to identify common experiences and good practices.

Objective

The main objective of this peer learning workshop (PLW) is to explore the applicability of marine pollution management strategies of other European seas in the Black Sea context. While these practices could potentially be interesting, they probably cannot be applied directly. The situation in the Black Sea is not only determined by the environmental particularities but also by the relations between the numerous actors engaged in different activities. Three questions will lead the presentations and the following discussions during the peer learning workshop:

1. What are the environmental specificities and the stakeholder characteristics that define the situation in the Black Sea with regard to marine pollution?
2. What practices and strategies from other European seas are relevant to addressing the issue of marine pollution in the Black Sea?
3. How should these practices be adapted in order to be applicable in the context of the Black Sea?

The territorial evidence and policy recommendations from ESPON projects will deliver the information needed about strategies applied in the North Atlantic region and the Baltic Region. Other external researches will bring a better understanding of the environmental situation in the Black Sea. Finally, the local stakeholders will reflect on what and how those strategies could be implemented in the Black Sea.

Structure and Input

The PLW will begin with territorial evidence and policy recommendations from ESPON studies. The sources and countermeasures against marine pollution in the North Sea Region are presented followed by the different future scenarios built by the BT2050 ESPON projects. These presentations serve as a potential toolbox of different practices applied in contexts other than the Black Sea.

This second part consists of results from studies focused on the Black Sea. These presentations offer a better understanding of the diversity of human activities and sources of pollution in the Black Sea.

As the first part intends to focus on approaches and practices in other sea-regions and the second part to describe the marine pollution issue in Black Sea, the third part will try to bridge all of this information. The feasibility of practices and strategies from the North Sea and the Baltic Sea are discussed in the context of the Black Sea. This final part starts with prepared reflections from several local key-stakeholders and is followed by a free discussion amongst attendees under the supervision of a moderator.

Agenda

- 13:15** **Opening**
- ESPON EGTC (*tbd*)
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- 13:30** **Part one: ESPON evidence and policy recommendations (20 min each)**
- *The existing measures to combat marine pollution in the North Sea Region* by Renaat De Sutter, professor at the AMRP, UGhent
 - *The Baltic Sea Region: a variety of territorial development challenges* by Shinan Wang of the BT2050 project (Nordregio, SE)
 - Q&A
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- 14:30** **Short break**
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- 14:45** **Part two: Academic/expert researches about the Black Sea (20 min each)**
- *How to determine the different pollution sources in the Black Sea?* by Miroslav Tsvetkov (Team leader of the EMBLAS project)
 - *Integrating LSI in Black Sea cross-border MSP to address marine pollution as a key planning issue* by Dr. Margarita Stancheva (Director of the CCMS)
 - Q&A
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- 15:45** **Short break**
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- 16:00** **Reflections of two local stakeholders**
- Mariya Georgieva, General Directorate Strategic Planning and Programs for Regional Development
 - Dr. Dimitar Berov, marine ecologist at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences *tbc*
- Discussion about potential new measures, collaborations and practices in the Black Sea
- Moderated by Prof. Luuk Boelens
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- 17:00** **Conclusions** by Tom Goosse

Goal and expected outcome

The primary goal of this Peer Learning Workshop is to establish a mutual learning process of dealing with environmental issues in the complex governance settings in the Black Sea context. Lessons learnt and policy recommendations from previous ESPON studies, e.g. ESPON MSP-LSI and ESPON BT2050, will initiate the discussion around their applicability in the Black Sea context.

The second objective is to set feasible focus points to manage marine pollution, using MSP-LSI to deal with this environmental issue. Particular attention will be put to determine cross-over measures and collaborations in MSP-LSI between stakeholders from different institutions and member states (Bulgaria and Romania).

Finally, the Peer Learning Workshop should offer new understandings and perspectives about the current shortcomings in MSP-LSI. The third goal of the event is thus to define the specific needs for additional ESPON research for Land-Sea territorial planning.



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Disclaimer

This delivery does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of the ESPON 2020 Monitoring Committee.