

MEDAC MEDITERRANEAN ADVISORY COUNCIL

Presentation of the study on “Maritime Spatial Planning through the years: Insights of a decade of EMFF and EMFAF funded projects”

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Assistance Mechanism Maritime Spatial Planning

- ✓ 26 completed projects under the EMFF programme (2014-2020)
 - ✓ 6 projects launched since 2021 under the EMFAF programme (2021-2027)
 - ✓ 262 reports reviewed
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- Reflect on the **evolution of the MSP**,
 - Understand the **achievements**,
 - Identify **challenges** (*evolving, persistent, emerging*),
 - Shed light on **best practices, applied solutions and recommendations** (operational, strategic)
 - **Learn from one another**,
 - **Strengthen our future work together!**

Maritime Spatial Planning Through the Years: Insights of a Decade of EMFF and EMFAF Funded Projects

Background Technical Study

JULY 2024

European Maritime, Aquaculture and Fisheries Fund (EMFAF)



sml

Pesceres
Italia

cofad



European
MSP Platform



KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECTS SINCE 2014

- Enhance Governance in MSP
- Increase Capacity in MSP
- Facilitate and Encourage Transboundary Cooperation
- Establish and Strengthen Data and Tools
- Engage Stakeholders in MSP
- Coherence and Cross-Compliance with Marine Policies

TOOLS USED:



Stakeholder
engagement



Public consultation
and awareness-raising



Data management
and sharing



Technical knowledge
and maritime skills



Support to EU
Member States



...EXPANDING FOCUS IN RECENT YEARS TO ADDRESS EMERGING CHALLENGES:

- MSP and the European Green Deal
- Socio-Economic Dimensions of MSP
- Climate Change Mitigation through MSP
- Advancing a Sustainable Blue Economy
- Monitoring and Environmental Impact Assessment



European MSP Platform

Cross-sectoral coordination



- Lack of cross-sectoral approach
- Different stages of progress and activities of sectors
- Different stages of progress technologies available among maritime sectors
- Lack of synergies/conflicts identification
- Emerging sectors integration challenges (lack of resources, coordination, facilitation of MSP process accounting for development)

Socio-economic dimension



- Socio-economic assessment and data issues
- Socio-economic integration and analysis
 - Lack of comprehensive understanding of the interactions between human activities and marine ecosystems
 - Insufficient focus on capturing the socio-economic dimensions of marine ecosystems in MSP studies
 - Complexity of economic interactions and dynamic nature of marine industries

CHALLENGES

Multi-use



- Imbalance in sector representation
- Coherent development and compatibility
- Spatial-use, allocation and planning conflicts
- Coordination and cooperation challenges

Cross-border cooperation



- Lack of common approaches and standards
- Terminology, language and cultural differences
- Policy implementation and governance differences



European MSP Platform

Cross-sectoral coordination



- Development of (national) cross-sectoral coordination strategies
- Establishing cross-sectoral working groups/forums/platforms
- Aligning national laws and strategies with MSPD, MSFD, WFD etc.
- Acknowledging the differences within and between sectors that may impact spatial implications
- Developing a holistic integrated approach for sustainable ocean governance
- Stakeholder engagement, conflict resolution and synergies facilitation

Socio-economic dimension



- Socio-economic data integration
- Socio-economic integration and assessment
- Stakeholder engagement and collaboration
- Maximizing local benefits through ecosystem protection and economic returns



BEST PRACTICES & LESSONS LEARNED

Multi-use



- Efficient spatial design strategies
- Conflict minimisation and synergies development
- Integrated policy and regulation approach
- capacity building, and resources

Cross-border cooperation



- Coherent transboundary MSP framework
- Standardizing data practices
- Exchanging practices,
- Collaboration among GIS specialists, data experts, and marine spatial planners



European MSP Platform

Spatial and temporal availability challenges

Difficulties in data acquisition

Accessibility challenges

Cross-border data challenges

Data compatibility issues

Data gaps and issues related to the use of "best available" data

Data



● Climate Change (CC) integration in MSP

● National governance and institutional challenges

● Policy coherence challenges

● Local customization and collaboration challenges

Governance and Policy issues



Monitoring and evaluation



Attributability and causality challenges and complexity in identifying policy impact

Difficulties in establishing a comprehensive monitoring system in MSP

Complexity in formulating monitoring indicators to assess plan achievements, and articulating monitoring indicators related to specific policies

Difficulty in developing a regional integrated monitoring program grounded in indicators and targets

CHALLENGES



Ecosystem and biodiversity conservation



● Balancing economic growth and conservation

● Conservation planning and implementation

● MPA management

● Degradation of ecosystem services

Land-sea interactions (LSI) (ICZM)



● Legal and conceptual challenges

● Methodological challenges

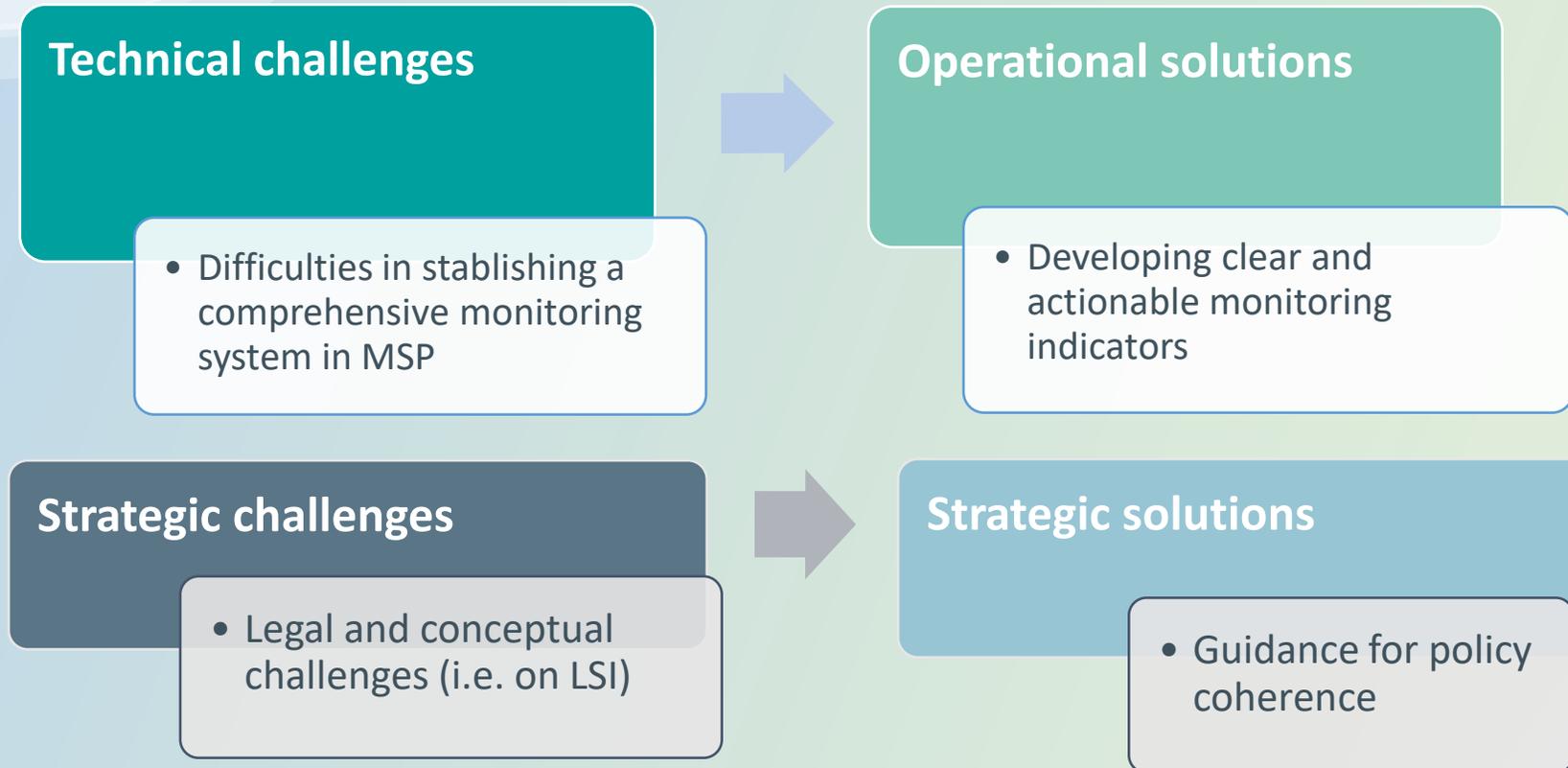
● Integrated coastal zone management challenges



European MSP Platform



What kind of solutions can projects provide to MSP challenges?



Projects achievements

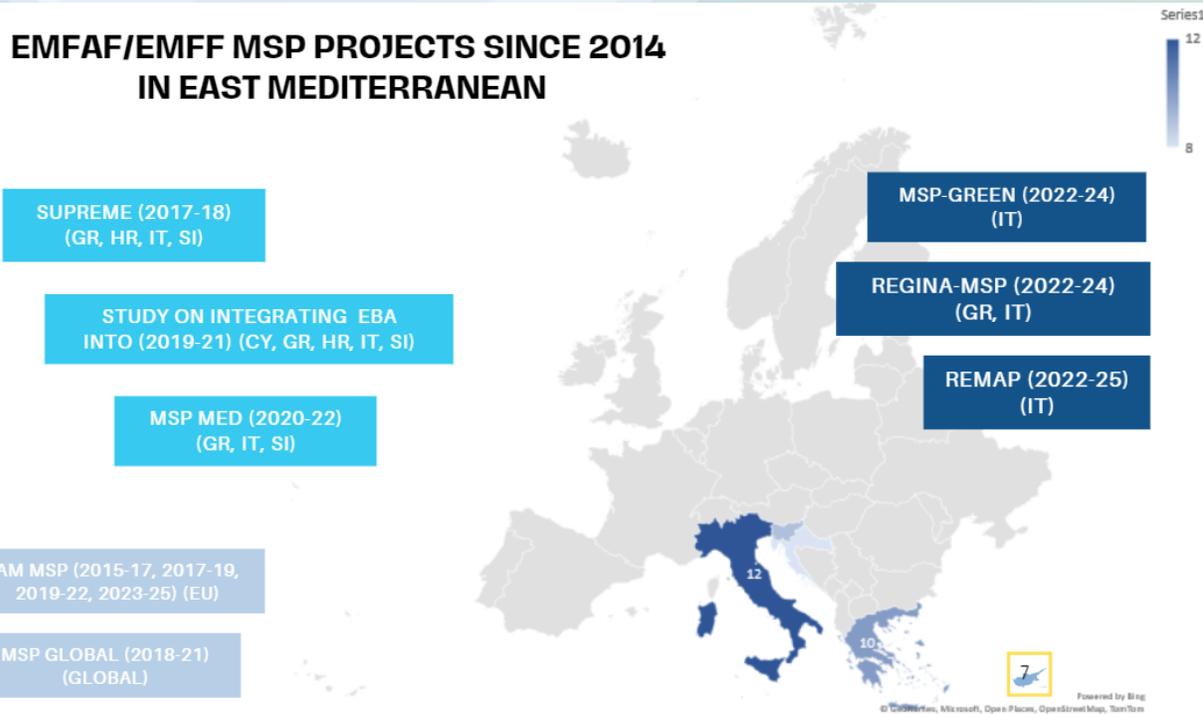
- ❑ Earlier projects emphasised foundational MSP concepts and early-stage processes, while recent projects deliver tangible products tailored to specific planning needs.
- ❑ Transboundary projects foster community building at the European level and facilitate science diplomacy to address challenges that transcend national borders.
- ❑ MSP initiatives serve as catalysts for geopolitical cooperation by providing a framework for dialogue, mutual understanding, and trust-building among nations with shared maritime interests. This also happens at the national level, bringing together CAs and researchers.
- ❑ EMF(A)F-funded projects have made significant strides in community building, capacity enhancement, raising awareness, and providing guidance on methodologies and networking opportunities.
- ❑ Projects developed centralised data repositories, leveraged expert inputs to mitigate model uncertainties, defined and analysed future conditions for long-term MSP predictions, created guidelines for result interpretation, and promoted integrated analyses of cumulative impacts and ecosystem services.
- ❑ Projects brought different multi-stakeholders together, supported collaboration among them to align their actions with relevant policies and increased their capacity through technical workshops and the development of skills for dialogue and effective engagement
- ❑ Projects facilitated cross-sectoral coordination and provided tools and a structured framework for creating synergies promoting multi-use initiatives
- ❑ Projects supported policy coherence and procedural improvements, emphasising the holistic integration of LSI into the MSP framework

Key lessons learned

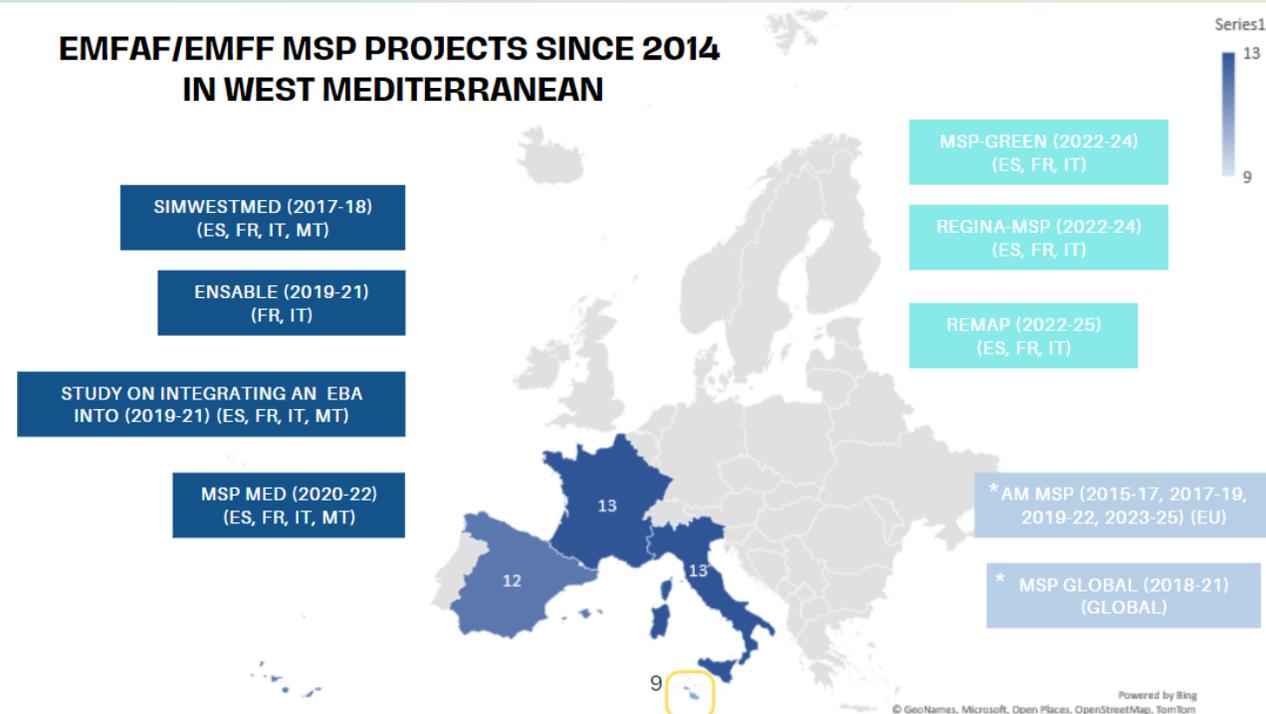
- Each country and sea basin faces unique challenges and requires tailored solutions, but collaboration and shared learning are essential for success
- MSP is complex, with challenges that evolve and intersect with emerging issues like climate change, often requiring patience and additional resources for comprehensive solutions.
- MSP challenges vary in source and essence, requiring different solutions. Projects addressed the challenges they faced differently—some required technical solutions, such as methodological developments, while others needed strategic recommendations related to policy and governance.
- While projects can propose both operational and strategic solutions, the full impact depends on their adoption by decision-makers and changes to policies or legislation, which often fall outside the project's direct influence.
- Climate change necessitates collaboration across borders to enhance adaptability and address uncertainty, strengthening connections between experts and planners.
- To address the dynamic nature of climate change and its impacts on marine ecosystems, Adaptive MSP Management emerges as a crucial strategy.
- There is a need to broaden the discussion of MSP beyond existing circles and enhance ocean literacy to engage civil society and policymakers effectively

Sea-basin analysis: Mediterranean

EMFAF/EMFF MSP PROJECTS SINCE 2014 IN EAST MEDITERRANEAN



EMFAF/EMFF MSP PROJECTS SINCE 2014 IN WEST MEDITERRANEAN



Current initiatives

MEDIGREEN project

Nov24 – Apr27
EMFAF project

Approach for nature protection at
sea basin level

*Transboundary
cooperation in MSP*

EBA

*MPAs
coherence*

MED-MSP-CoP

Since Jan23
CINEA & DG-MARE with the
support of WestMED

EGD-MSP approach to fisheries,
aquaculture and MRE at the sea
basin level

*Tailored regulations
targeting specific activities
to balance development
and conservation efforts*

Do you have a question about MSP?

Send it to info@maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu or make use of our 48h Question & Answer Service.

Central Office

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Consortium



Contact Points and Experts

We are happy to assist you with any support or questions you may have, such as disseminating information on an MSP event or publication, searching for relevant information and contacts in order to address your needs.

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Team

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 - North Sea
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - East Med
 - West Med
 - Black Sea
 - Outermost regions