

# MSP4BIO

Improved Science-Based Maritime Spatial  
Planning to Safeguard and Restore Biodiversity  
in a coherent European MPA network

- Presenters name  
name of the event, location



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# MSP4BIO: KEY FACTS

6 PILOTS

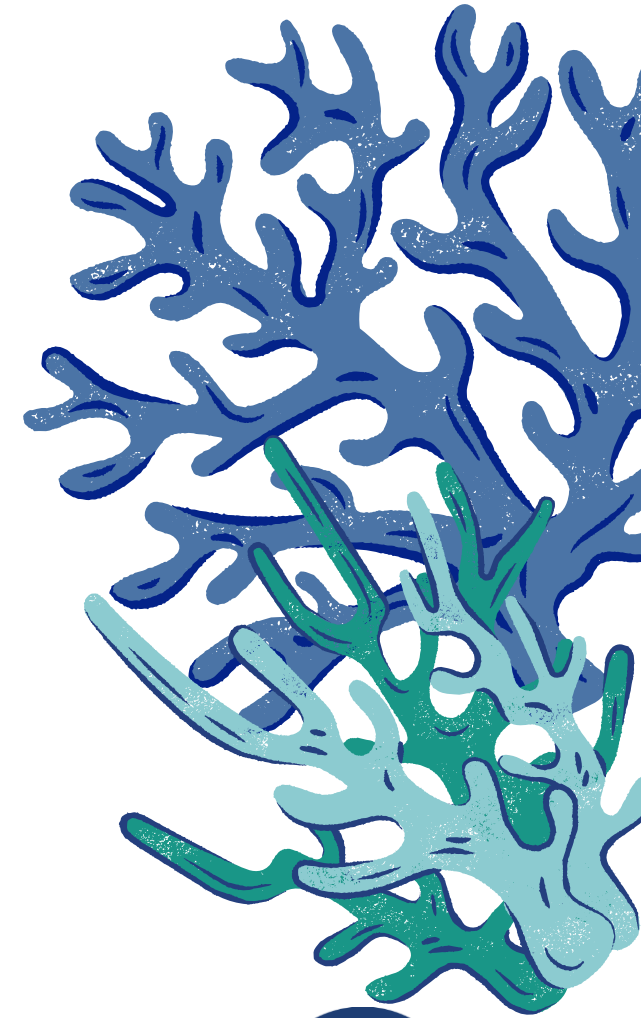
4 PILLARS

3 SISTER  
PROJECTS

DURATION  
August 2022-  
July 2025

BUDGET  
3,490,500 EUR

18 PARTNERS



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# MSP4BIO: OVERALL GOAL

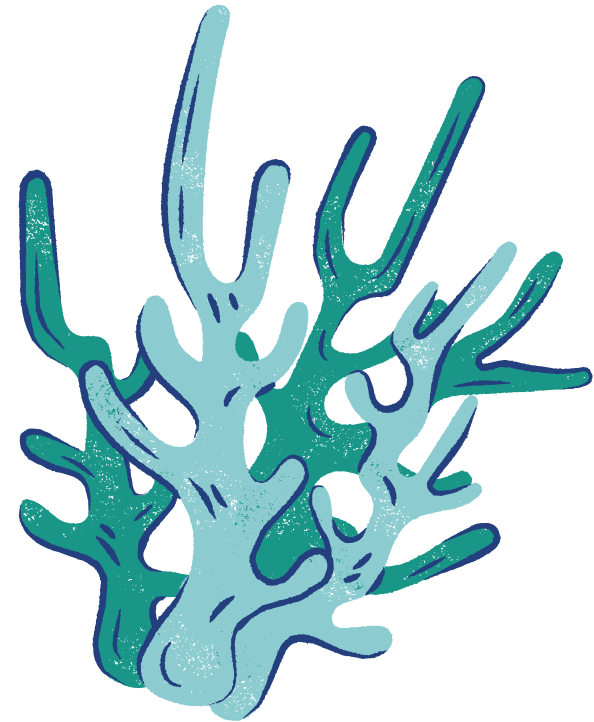
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Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)  
Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS) 2030

EU Green Deal

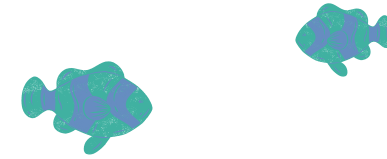
POLICY IMPLEMENTATION



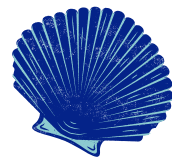
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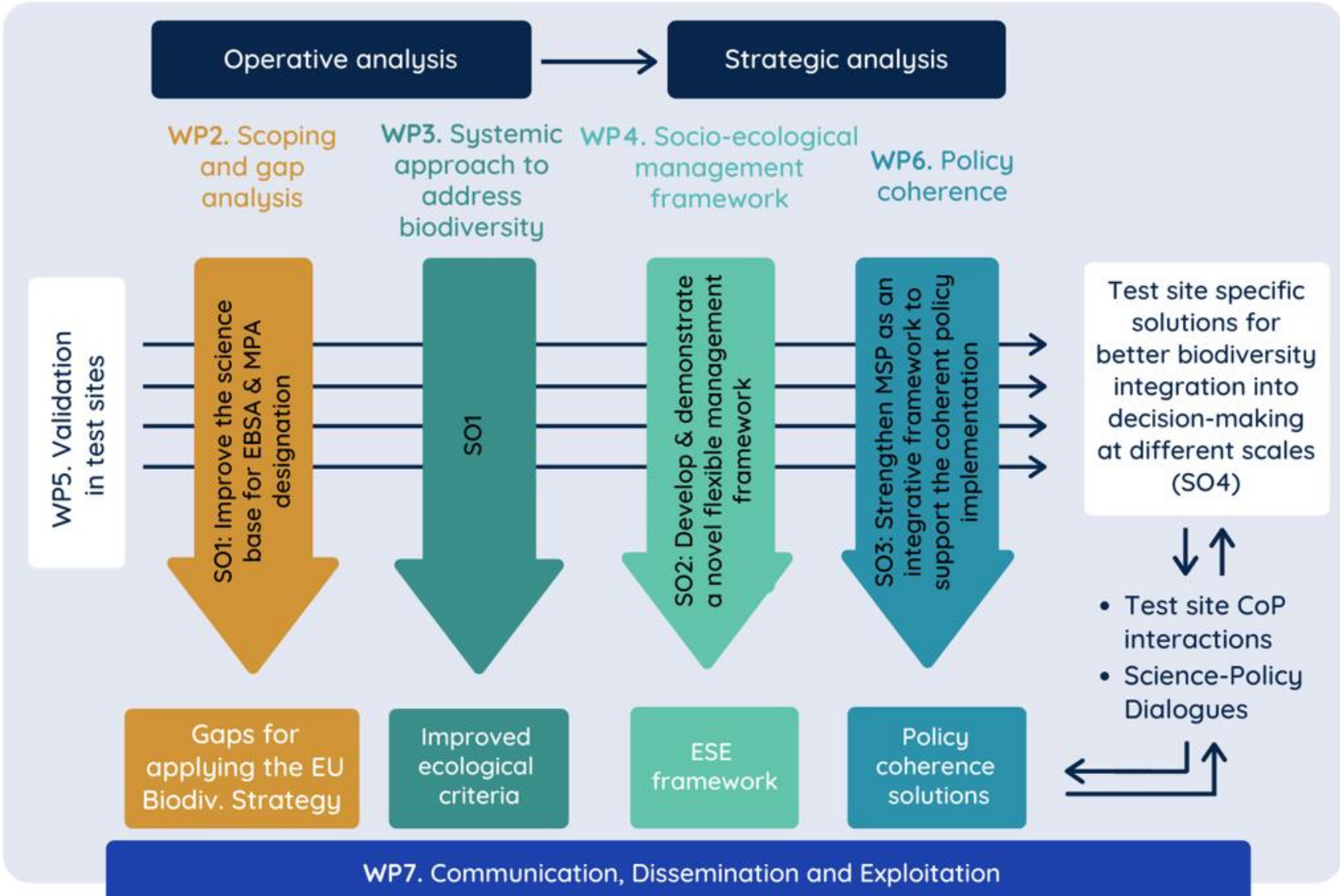
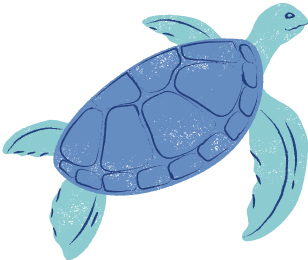
# MSP4BIO: OBJECTIVES



- **SO1. Improve the science base** for the description of EBSAs and, identification of new, restoration, enlargement and management of existing MPAs.
- **SO2. Develop and demonstrate a novel flexible management framework** that integrates ecological and socio- economic dimensions for the prioritization of strategic and spatial conservation-management measures.
- **SO3. Strengthen the role of MSP as an integrative framework** to support the coherent implementation of relevant policies (MSFD, WFD, MSPD, BHD, Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), etc.) as well as the EUBS2030 and the CBD post-2020.
- **SO4. Improved biodiversity and natural capital integration** into public and business decision-making at all levels for the protection and restoration of ecosystems and their services.



# MSP4BIO: METHODOLOGY



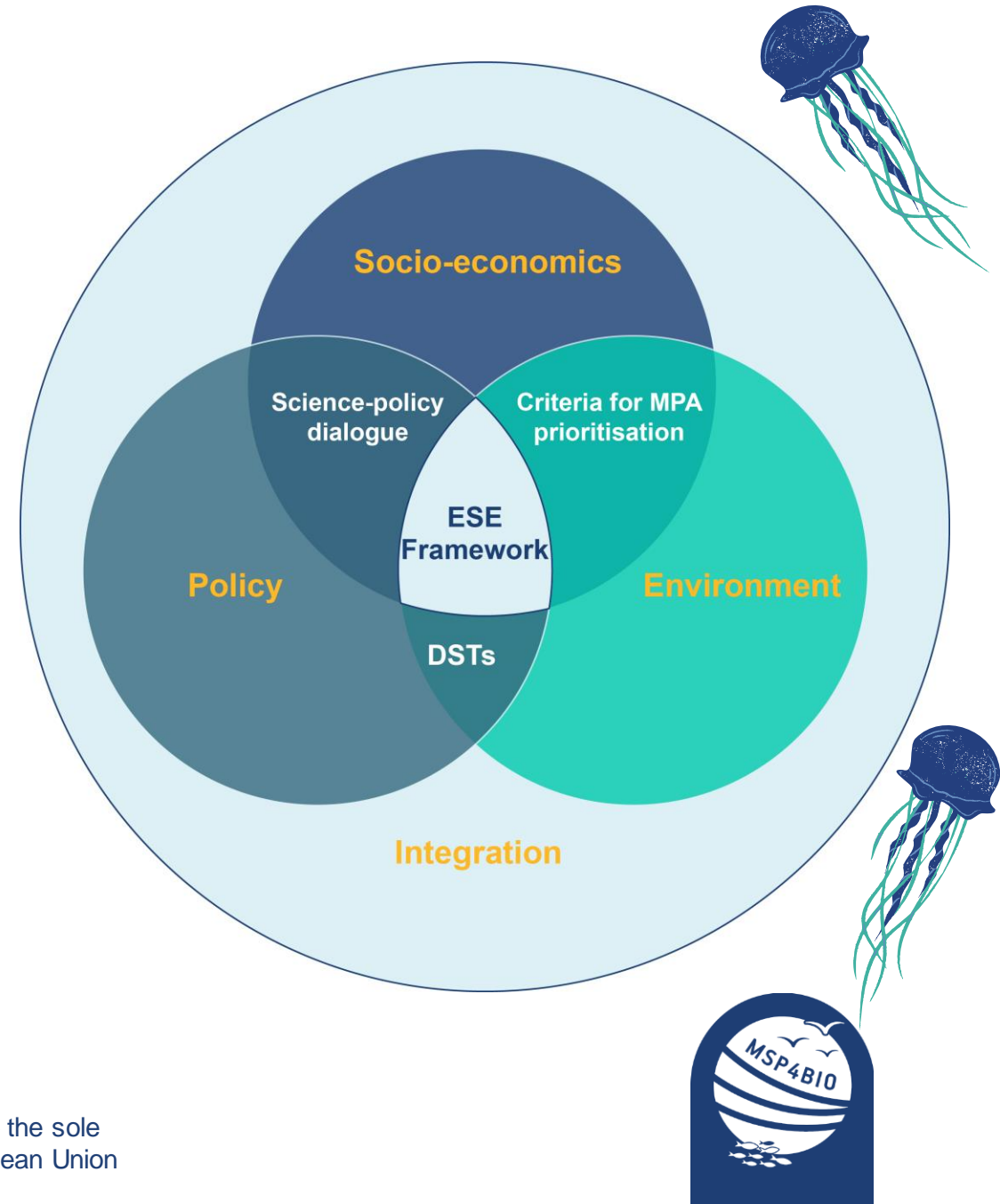
# MSP4BIO: PILLARS

**Pillar 1 - Environment:** MSP4BIO will improve the knowledge base and criteria for better prioritization of areas for biodiversity restoration and conservation.

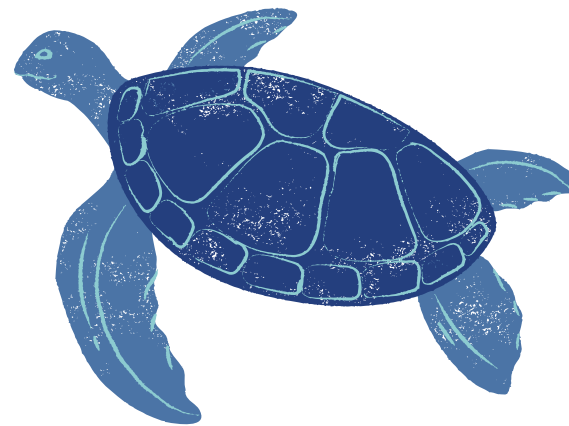
**Pillar 2 - Policy:** MSP4BIO develops solutions that support coherent policy implementation and effective mainstreaming of biodiversity into relevant policies.

**Pillar 3 - Socio-economic:** Develops a framework for a more integrated and flexible strategic and spatial integration between MSP and MPAs that gets validated in 6 pilot sites in all 5 European Sea Basins.

**Pillar 4 – Integration:** MSP4BIO integrates the socio-economic considerations in MPA prioritization and management.



# MSP4BIO PILOTS



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## BALTIC SEA

Transboundary sea basin

Ecosystem under multiple human-induced pressures

Need for more MPAs designated areas to achieve the regional goal

Need for a coordinated plan for human activities

## ATLANTIC 1 – GULF OF CADIZ

Hot spots with special needs for MSP and MPA

Need for improvement of MSP and stronger consideration of sea-land interactions in planning

Human activities threaten MPAs in their vicinity

## ATLANTIC 2 – AZORES (Graciosa Island)

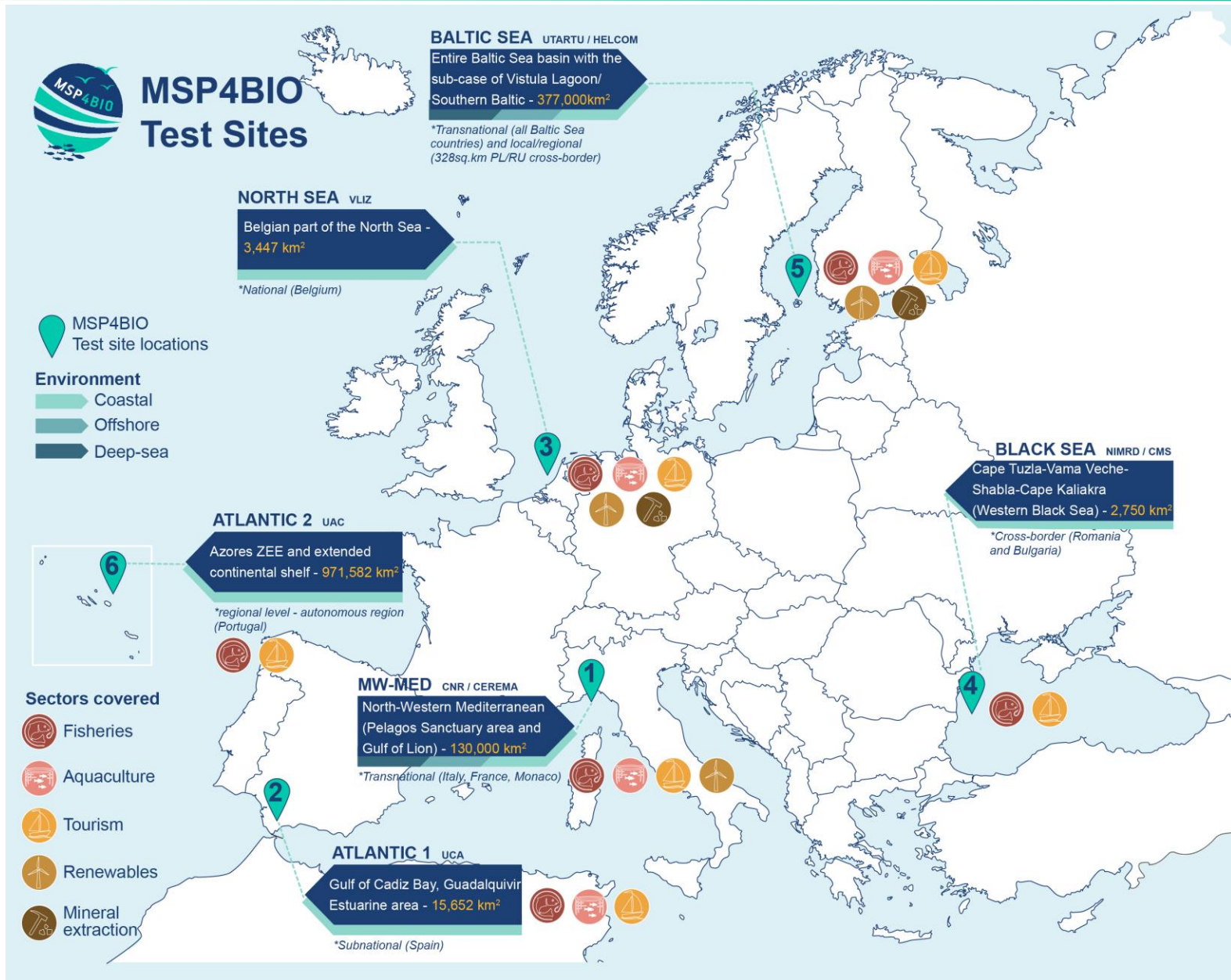
Rich habitat diversity – knowledge gaps in offshore and coastal areas

Need for strategies to enlarge MPA network and for “fully protected areas”

No MSP approved yet



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## BLACK SEA

Cross-border area: 2 countries

Diversity of marine domains

MPAs Support huge biodiversity and ecosystem services

MPAs fragmented and do not have operational management

## NORTH SEA – BELGIAN AREA

Well studied and monitored area

Need for spatial strategy for pelagic biodiversity conservation

Need for geographical biodiversity assessments units

## NW-MED

Governance complexity as area is shared between 3 countries

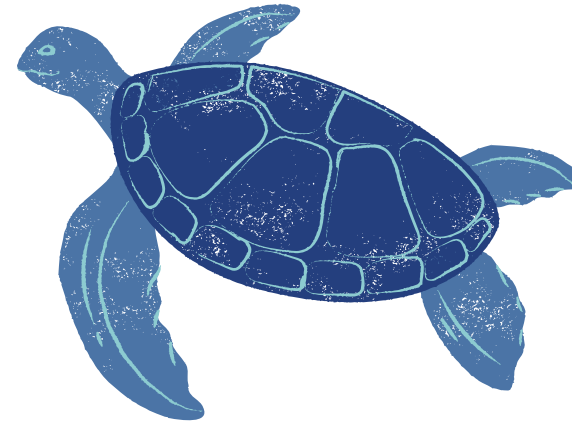
Large spatial scale

Diversity of marine domains

Multiplicity of human activities







# MSP4BIO: TIMELINE



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## START OF THE PROJECT

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August  
2022

## STATE OF THE ART AND GAP ANALYSIS

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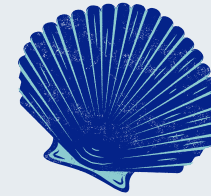
August  
2023

## IMPROVED ECOLOGICAL CRITERIA AND DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSIDERATION

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October  
2023

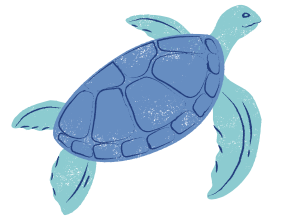


## ESE METHODOLOGY TO BE TESTED IN PILOT SITES

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April  
2024



## VALIDATION IN TEST SITES

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July  
2024



April  
2025

## ANALYSIS OF BIODIVERSITY POLICY COHERENCE

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April  
2025

## STRATEGIC GUIDE ON THE INTEGRATION OF MPA AND MSP

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July  
2025

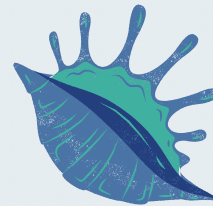
## DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED ECOLOGICAL-SOCIO-ECONOMIC (ESE) MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

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2025  
July

## FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS, TRANSFERABILITY AND SCALE-UP OF EFFECTIVE BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING IN MSP

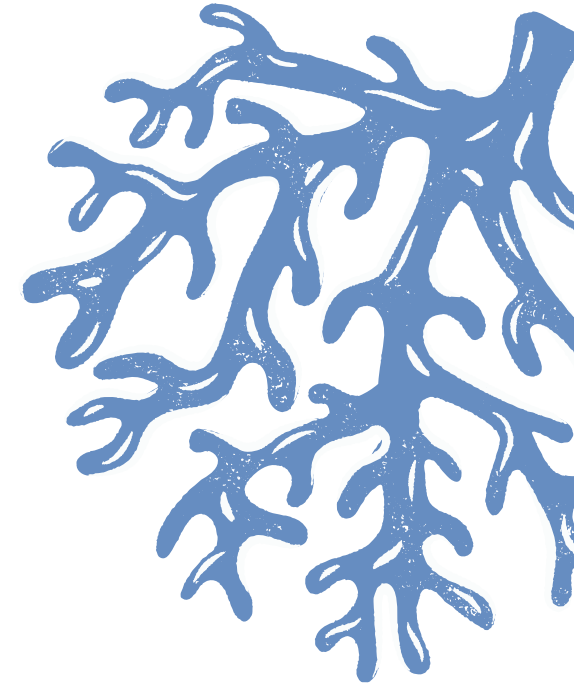
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February  
2026

## END OF THE PROJECT

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# MSP4BIO: KEY RESULTS



**EU-wide overview of biodiversity data availability**

**Policy coherence solutions** to strengthen MSPs compatibility with the new biodiversity policy requirements

**Integrated modular management framework** allowing for better integration of biodiversity considerations in MSP, wider participation and adaptations

**Improved ecological criteria** for identification of MPAs and EBSAs and improvement of MPAs network

**Ecological Toolkit** ensuring better integration of data in decision making (improved DSTs)

6 demonstrators at different governance levels producing **site specific solutions**



# MSP4BIO - Key users and beneficiaries

## Key users

Primary:  
MSPlanners,  
MPA managers,  
environmental  
authorities

Secondary:  
Authorities for the  
sectoral planning and  
project level tendering  
and permits

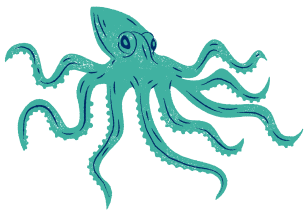


## Beneficiaries

Primary:  
Policymakers at EU,  
regional seas &  
national levels, NGOs,  
scientists & experts in  
biodiversity, MSP  
& sectors

Secondary:  
Business  
representatives esp.  
fisheries  
& aquaculture, as  
well as energy,  
shipping & tourism

Tertiary:  
Those who will in the  
future deal with  
biodiversity  
management  
(students);  
general public



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# MSP4BIO: PARTNERS



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