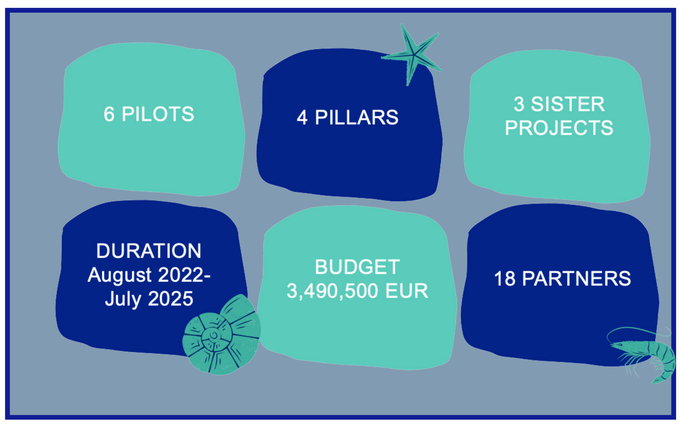
MSP4BIO: Improved Science-Based Maritime Spatial Planning to Safeguard and Restore Biodiversity in a Coherent European MPA Network

Coordinator: SPRO. **Partners**: CEREMA, CCMS, GMU, UCA, UNANTES, UTARTU, WWF-MED, WWF-EPO, CORPI, HELCOM, CNR, VLIZ, SYKE, UAC, NIMRD, PAP/RAC, SEASC

Overview

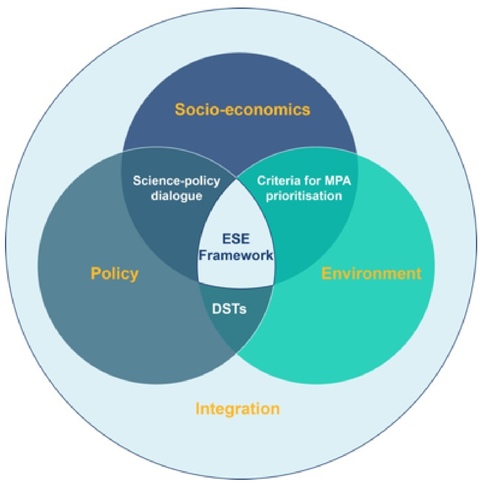


Objectives

1. **Improve the science base** for the description of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and, for the identification of new restoration, enlargement, and management of existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).
2. **Develop and demonstrate a novel flexible management framework** that integrates ecological and socio-economic dimensions for the prioritisation of strategic and spatial conservation-management measures.
3. **Strengthen the role of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as an integrative framework** to support the coherent implementation of relevant policies (Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive, EU MSP Directive, the European Birds Directive and Habitats Directive, Common Fisheries Policy, etc.) as well as the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Convention on Biological Diversity post-2020.
4. **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.

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.



Ambition

- MSP4BIO will **develop and deploy innovative integrated management approaches and tools** that will maximise environmental protection while at the same time considering socio-economic impacts.
- MSP4BIO will **co-develop and test an ad hoc innovative, flexible Ecological-Socio-Economic management framework** (ESE) that allows for better integration of systemic biodiversity considerations in MSP as well as in sectoral planning processes.
- The ESE framework is developed as a **flexible, integrated ecosystem-based approach** to respond to a need for a management that is flexible enough to accommodate changes in a rapidly changing environment covering coastal, offshore, and deep-sea marine ecosystems as well as the links between them.
- MSP4BIO will use **socially innovative participatory development approaches** in the test areas - Communities of Practice and thus ensure the co-development, and validation of approaches and tools while improving awareness and confidence of planners.
- Through validation, it will **raise the overall TRL in each of the test sites** to TRL 4 or 5, depending on the site

Expected key results

EU-wide overview of biodiversity data availability

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

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

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

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

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

Key users

Primary: MSPlanners, MPA managers, environmental authorities;

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

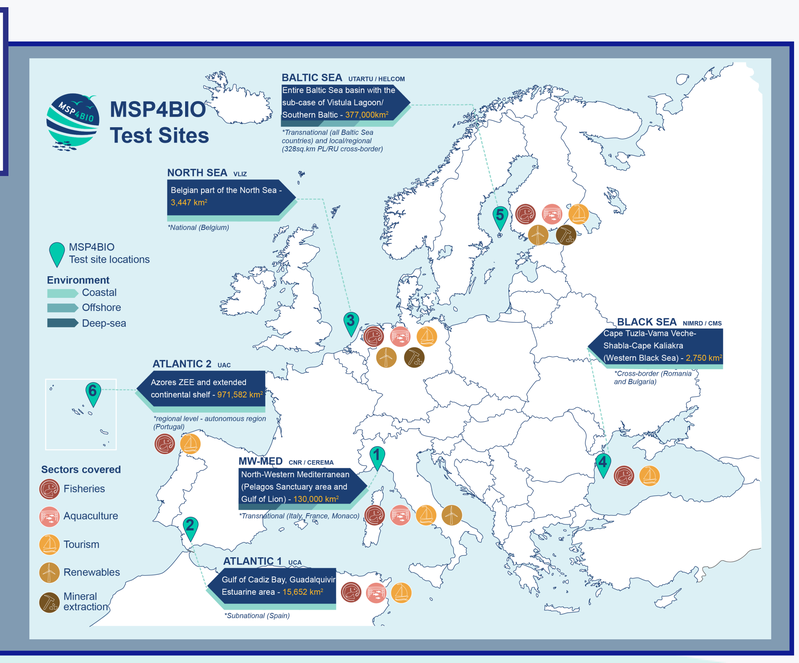
Beneficiaries

Primary: Policymakers at EU, regional seas & national levels, NGOs, scientists, & experts in biodiv., 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.

MSP4BIO Pilots



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