Supporting maritime spatial Planning in the Eastern Mediterranean

Co-funded by the EC – DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)

News Item No.1 (June 2018)

SUPREME at a glance

Supreme is a two-year project, co-founded by the EC – DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE), focusing on two key objectives:

• To support the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning (Directive 2014/89/EU) in the EU Member States of the Eastern Mediterranean.

• To launch and carry out concrete and cross-border MSP initiatives between these States.

The project involves partners from 4 Mediterranean countries, namely Croatia, Greece, Italy, and Slovenia, as well as UN Environment/MAP.

It is coordinated by CORILA - Consorzio per il coordinamento delle ricerche inerenti al sistema lagunare di Venezia.

Key Project achievements so far

A basin scale analysis strongly MSP oriented

During the first year of the Project, an initial assessment has been carried out covering key maritime sectors and activities, socio-economic trends and main pressures affecting the coastal and marine ecosystems of the Eastern Mediterranean, based on existing available information. The initial analysis included also a review of legal and governance aspects of MSP Directive implementation in the Project countries.

Fisheries, maritime transport, energy, coastal and maritime tourism, environmental protection and conservation, and coastal zone development were identified as key sectors for MSP implementation, and conflicts and potential synergies were assessed.

Relevant information was collected in a systematic way at national level in 4 Country Fiches (Croatia, Greece, Italy and Slovenia) including the following components:

• Marine Environment (MSFD based/oriented)
• Maritime activities and their socio-economic trends
• Land-sea interactions
• Conflicts and synergies in the use of maritime space
• Legal framework and governance structure
• Planning Issues
Recommendations and guidelines to support common understanding and integration of Barcelona Convention principles in MSP activities

MSP is a fairly new and emerging process in the Mediterranean region compared to land use planning. However, the Barcelona Convention and in particular its Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Protocol provide an overall framework for MSP implementation within the territorial sea limits of all the Mediterranean countries. The EU Directive on MSP is a key enabling factor that has triggered initial concrete actions towards MSP implementation in all EU Member States of Eastern Mediterranean and its transposition in these countries is either completed or in progress. Since all the Mediterranean EU Member States are Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, MSP activities should be implemented also in the light of its main objectives, to ensure region-wide coherence and achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of the marine waters, applying ecosystem approach-based management (ECAP).

SUPREME project identifies eight key issues relevant for MSP implementation in the Eastern Mediterranean and for each of the eight issues proposes a series of recommendations and guidelines for implementation of MSP in the frame of the Barcelona Convention.

Development and proposal of a conceptual methodology for transboundary MSP aspects

Although MSP is primarily a country-based process, focusing on countries priorities, cross-border cooperation is essential to ensure that MSP plans are coherent and coordinated across the coastal zones and the marine regions, as also required by art. 11 of the EU MSP Directive.

A conceptual methodology, including procedural steps for cross-border MSP, has been proposed. The methodology addresses key issues including cooperation frameworks and structures, definition of transboundary areas and common planning and management goals, geo-data management, stakeholder engagement and specific issues of international cooperation.
Case studies

1. Northern Adriatic (Italy: Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto and Emilia Romagna Regions)

2. Slovenian coast (Slovenia)

3. The Dubrovnik-Neretva County (Croatia)

4. Inner Ionian Sea - Corinthian Gulf (Greece)

5. Myrtoo Sea (Peloponnese – Crete passage (Greece)

SUPREME Calendar

**SUPREME Stakeholder Meetings**

**Italy**
The Northern Adriatic and the Maritime Spatial Planning
Venice, 28 February 2017

**Greece**
Consultation workshop for MSP with central administration (with other coordinating Greek ministries)
Athens, 26 January 2018 (organized by YPEN, NTUA, UTH and NKUA)
Consultation workshop for MSP with representatives of local government and other stakeholders for the 4th SUPREME case study: Inner Ionian Sea - Corinthian Gulf
Patras, 9 March 2018 (organized by YPEN, NTUA, UTH and NKUA)
Consultation workshop for MSP with representatives of local government and other stakeholders for the 5th SUPREME case study: Myrtoo Sea
Sparta, 30 March 2018 (organized by YPEN, NTUA, UTH and NKUA)

**Croatia**
Meeting with coastal county institutes for spatial planning
Šibenik, 1 December 2017 (organized by Institute for Spatial Planning)
Meetings with national level key stakeholders on needs, assessment and data gaps
Zagreb, 08 February 2018, 12 February 2018, 20 February 2018, 1 March 2018, 6 March 2018, 7 March 2018, 4 April 2018 (organized by CISD)
Workshop with national level key stakeholders on future trends and challenges based on analysis results, with reference to the 2nd SUPREME case study
Dubrovnik, 15 May 2018 (organized by CISD)
Workshop with representatives of county/local government and other stakeholders for the 2nd SUPREME case study
Dubrovnik, 17 May 2018 (organized by CISD)
Workshop with county institutes for spatial planning on future trends and challenges based on results of interviews and analysis, with reference to the 2nd SUPREME case study
Dubrovnik, 17 May 2018 (organized by CISD)

**Relevant meetings and events**

3rd Forum of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR), Catania, 24-25th May 2018

IOC UNESCO – EC DG MARE International Forum for marine/maritime spatial planning
Kick-off Event
Brussels, 24-25 May 2018

European Maritime Days
Burgas, 31st May – 1st June 2018.
Workshop: MSP and Land-Sea Interaction: a vision from South and Eastern Europe

Mediterranean Coast Day
Split, Croatia, 25 September

Regional MSP Workshop
Rome, Italy, November 2018 (tbc)

Final SUPREME and SIMWESTMED (joint) conference
Venice, 12-13 December 2018