

Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

Scientific Report

Marine Spatial Planning

By Natasa Vaidianu

Action number:	CA 15217
STSM title:	Marine Spatial Planning
STSM start and end date:	17/03/2018 to 26/03/2018
Grantee name:	Natasa Vaidianu
Institution:	University of Bucharest
Host:	Wesley Flannery
Host Institution:	Queen's University Belfast

Purpose of the STSM

This proposal corresponds directly to the COST ACTION Ocean Governance objectives and activities and to the ambition of the EU directive on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).

With its approach, this proposal will help to achieve the goal of implementing MSPs that are coherent across borders in a particularly comprehensive manner.

The Romanian Black Sea region is one of the busiest areas for shipping (Constanta is the biggest port) in the Black Sea basin, with high exploitation of natural resources (oil, gas) and contains unique natural reserves (including Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve or 2 Mai - Vama Veche Marine Reserve). Romania and Bulgaria, the EU members around the Black Sea, have just initiated the MSP process during the end of 2016, translating into national legislation the EU directive articles (http://www.parlament.ro/pls/legis/legis-_pck.htp_act?ida=138826).

The Black Sea is a transnational area, with riparian countries like Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and Georgia and coordination among national Maritime Spatial Plans is more than useful to capture synergies and to prevent incompatibilities concerning environmental protection, shipping routes, energy infrastructure, and tourism. Most of them have not implemented or are currently developing national Maritime Spatial Plans to promote sustainable development of the sea within their national boundaries. Better spatial planning is needed to reduce further deterioration of ecological conditions of the Black Sea. Special attention must be paid to the most vulnerable coastal and deltaic areas. Lack of scientifically sound background information and/or the high cost of getting the information are limiting the effectiveness of spatial planning in coastal waters.

The lessons learned from MSP over the last decade revealed the importance of applying multidisciplinary approaches to expand and deepen the involvement of stakeholders from economic and political decision-making spheres, as well as considering **social and cultural dimensions**.

Taking into account the above issues, this STSM objectives have explored the governance process and sought new ways of communication and how to better implement the EU Directive, creating a bridge towards governance and policy in European area. In terms of mechanisms for data collection and availability, probably the most important element of data and information management for MSP are the coordination and integration of data. In Romania, a wide range of data types are available but they are managed by different institutions and in different formats, with limited ability to integrate them in a spatial platform such as Geographic Information System (GIS).

Description of the work carried out during the STSM

During this period, we discussed the topics exposed above, gaining new insights and understanding positive effects in a globalised system of fostering human-nature related processes of development and change.

We have defined and started to work on a paper together with 3 PhD students from Queen's University and Dr. Maria Hadjimichael (the vice-coordinator of the COST Action). The activities were defined on prior experiences from past MSP projects, understand good MSP practices and use of existing governance mechanisms and structures. The general outline of this collaborative work was

to learn about successful lessons in order to bridge the gaps among initial objectives of the plans and plans created and implemented in each country.

Description of the main results obtained

Our main aim is to review the objectives of the published marine plans and to identify the gaps between the promises and the deliverables, in order to set recommendations for the new plans that have to come until 2021. The methodology will try to follow four pillars - normative, strategic, operational or monitoring objectives, on three dimensions - economic, social and ecological.

We already created a Dropbox for an efficient work, with these two databases folders where the plans extracted will be uploaded - the PhD students and myself will have to do this work in about 2 weeks. The next step will be to share these plans among co-authors in order to extract the information we need, filling a Google Drive table/sheet (which it will be provided by Wes).

Future Collaborations

My research in the Black Sea and Danube Delta was presented to MSP staff within Queen's University – the feedback provided me new ideas and approaches for future studies and papers.

Moreover, we established a draft structure for another collaborative paper, written as a systematic review with focus on stakeholder participation in MSP process.