

# Workshop “Integrating an ecosystem-based approach into maritime spatial planning”



# Capturing the complexity of ecosystems

## ▶ How can other EU legislation and initiatives support MSP, and in particular the integration of EBA?

- ▶ HELCOM: INSPIRE is very important as it gives data for human activities, Baltic Action plans, as they drive the force
- ▶ The integration of MSFD descriptors and monitoring programs was an essential step in the 'ecosystem approach' in the drafting of the MPS in Bulgaria. How the actual interoperability of MSP and MSFD would work, that is the main issue in my opinion
- ▶ SEA and Marine Strategies are the main EU initiatives that create a framework to integrate EBA in MSP. The real question arrives when trying to operationalize these "interactions" in practical basis
- ▶ Assessment of cumulative Impacts of the pressures
- ▶ ICZM guidelines are import [http://www.blacksea-commission.org/Downloads/Black\\_Sea\\_ICZM\\_Guideline/Black\\_Sea\\_ICZM\\_Guideline.pdf](http://www.blacksea-commission.org/Downloads/Black_Sea_ICZM_Guideline/Black_Sea_ICZM_Guideline.pdf) (Med ICZM Protocol-compatible). → also for land sea interaction

## ▶ What gaps and issues do you face?

- ▶ RO has not platform to integrate all the different information
- ▶ Huge data gap in EMODnet-biology for the BS due to different standards and best data collection points
- ▶ Data is a matter of availability and collection (biological and socio-eco)

## ▶ What opportunities are there to address these gaps and issues?

- ▶ Develop transitional documents that make MSP legally binding in the BS
- ▶ Share best practice and have workshops like today for exchanging and keep track of the progress and learn from mistakes
- ▶ EU-Black Sea Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (Black Sea SRIA) could be good framework for Black Sea data generation.

# Giving attention to the human-ecosystem connections and integration

- ▶ How can other EU legislation and initiatives support MSP, and in particular the integration of EBA?
- ▶ What gaps and issues do you face?
  - ▶ Socio-eco data is kept in different institutions, not common to share the data or to publish it
  - ▶ GeoEcoMar is working in seabed habitat mapping of the Black Sea. The current classification as well as delimitation of broad scale seabed habitats are used in the MARSPLAN policy decision. As participants in EMODnet - Seabed habitats, we faced a lack of consensus between habitats description, definition and translation in different classification schemes at regional level.
  - ▶ There is a lack of regional (transboundary) common datasets
- ▶ What opportunities are there to address these gaps and issues?
  - ▶ Institutional set up (vertical and horizontal) needs to be strengthened to ensure better data exchange. This is in particular important for data from other fields than marine area
  - ▶ BSC should push for legally binding impact assessment
  - ▶ SEA should apply to any spatial planning in the BS

# Organizing the MSP process

- ▶ How can other EU legislation and initiatives support MSP, and in particular the integration of EBA?
- ▶ What gaps and issues do you face?
  - ▶ Tap on e.g. MoU-s Black Sea Commission has with various institutions so that Black Sea Region can operationalize results of projects. However, the results of project are not legally binding, and governments can use them or not
- ▶ What opportunities are there to address these gaps and issues?
  - ▶ <https://communicatingmsp.msp-platform.eu/> as a source of resources
  - ▶ EU, BSEC and BSC need to be officially involved in process concerned with MSP
  - ▶ Working groups on technical issues (e.g. data) are needed → Excellent initiative to replicate HELCOM experience with data management.
  - ▶ Go from project to a process when really want to streamline issues and agree on same objectives
  - ▶ In the context of EMODnet Biology/OBIS we have run online training through the OceanTeacher Global Academy platform (<https://classroom.oceanteacher.org/enrol/index.php?id=430>) we can explore the targeted running of these courses
  - ▶ interesting network for knowledge and dissemination: Young Ambassadors for Black Sea <https://twitter.com/ConnectBlackSea/status/1320334980850003968>

# The role of international Commissions

- ▶ What role could the Black Sea Commission play to support a more synchronized integrated maritime policy at the Regional level?
- ▶ Better funding to BSC to join the projects and to have more opportunities to streamline issue in the regions
- ▶ Channeling support to the region rather than external projects in BS Countries
- ▶ Good experience Baltic to black Sea → should be extended to other regions
- ▶ More staff to support the process
- ▶ Same good example of Med and Black Sea in the field of ICZM was FP7 PEGASO project - BSC approved ICZM Guideline