10. APPENDIXES

10.1. Appendix 1: Recommendations

BaltSeaPlan Recommendations

for the development and implementation

of a data exchange network and infrastructure

for Maritime Spatial Planning and Management purposes

in the Baltic Sea Region

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) has become a widely acknowledged tool for co-ordinating spatial use of the sea in the Baltic Sea Region. MSP is understood as a cooperative practice that involves several spatial and administrative levels. With regard to MSP purposes, stronger cooperation than has existed so far among data providers and the national authorities responsible for data collection is necessary in order to ensure that spatial information is easily accessible for (cross-border) planning purposes.

The INSPIRE Directive and EC regulation No 268/2010 on Data and Service Sharing provide a very good basis for such cooperation – although , many features of INSPIRE have not yet been implemented and marine space and maritime features are not so far adequately represented by INSPIRE data specifications. Numerous database initiatives such as EMODnet, WISE Marine, European Atlas of the Seas, MyOcean and BOOS, EuroGOOS, ICES and IOC data exchange policies have followed ever since. At the same time, there is as yet no overall operative cooperation structure in the Baltic Sea Region to meet the specific needs of MSP.

The HELCOM/VASAB Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning, which published Baltic Sea broad-scale MSP principles for achieving better coherence in the development of Maritime Spatial Planning systems in the Baltic Sea Region, emphasises the importance of a high quality data and information basis. Principle 6 states that Maritime Spatial Planning should be based on the best available, highest quality and up-to-date comprehensive information that should be shared by all to the largest extent possible. This calls for close cooperation from the relevant GIS and geo-spatial databases, including the HELCOM GIS, monitoring and research in order to facilitate a trans-boundary data exchange process that could lead to a harmonised pan-Baltic data and information base for planning. This base should cover historical baselines, present status as well as projects and future scenarios of both environmental aspects and human activities. It should be as comprehensive, openly accessible and constantly updated as possible and compatibility with European and Global initiatives should be ensured.

Taking all of the above into consideration, the BaltSeaPlan project partners recommend that a process be agreed on, with the minimum requirements and performance criteria necessary to ensure technical interoperability, up-to-date and complete MSP data sets, as well as the sustainability and financial efficiency of the proposed data exchange structure.

Recommendation 1. MSP Data Infrastructure

A pan-Baltic data MSP infrastructure for up-to date, transferable, interoperable MSP relevant data and metadata shall be created in line with the INSPIRE Directive. This directive should be amended with regard to marine space and maritime features to cover MSP relevant aspects.

Recommendation 2. MSP Data Specifications

The MSP data infrastructure should be based on the proposed lay-out and specifications with regard to data issues, data scope, formats and technical requirements etc. (as outlined in Annex ...). The data sets should cover all MSP relevant issues. These issues included in the model and listed in Annex ... can be regarded as a proposal for a basic or minimum range of information for MSP purposes, which should be further developed and extended as needed.

Recommendation 3. MSP Data Exchange Network

The transnational network for MSP data exchange shall consist of the following functional levels:

1) A pan-Baltic MSP Data Coordinating group - managing the Baltic MSP Infrastructure, making available pan-Baltic MSP relevant data sets, creating harmonised Pan Baltic MSP relevant data sets from national data etc.
2) National MSP Data Contact Points – making national MSP relevant data available to MSP Infrastructure
3) for larger countries or federal states) Regional MSP Data Points – making regional MSP relevant data available to MSP infrastructure in cooperation with National Data Contact Points
4) MSP Data Providers, offering their data to the regional / national MSP Data Contact Points according to the rules set.

Recommendation 4. Data exchange process

Data exchange should be facilitated via a Baltic Sea MSP data portal, offering digital map and geo data services. These could be linked and/or integrated into individual applications.

All registered users of the network would be entitled to unrestricted searching, viewing, downloading and processing of the data.

In turn, they should make available any product the data has been used for and/or provide their data according to

1) The legal policy as described in Recommendation 6, and
2) formal requirements like data input format specified in the data specifications (Annex ...)

to their respective National/Regional MSP Data Contact Point. National/Regional MSP Contact Points should provide for updated data sets in the data infrastructure at regular 6-month intervals – for issues facing dynamic development and rapid changes. Updating intervals for other issues need to be fixed as necessary.

Recommendation 5. Expert / Advisory Group

The Pan-Baltic MSP Data Coordinating Group consists of representatives from the National MSP Data Contact Points. A permanent MSP Data Expert Group in an advisory capacity to the Pan-Baltic Data Coordinating Group should be created consisting of spatial planners and GIS experts from all BSR countries with further experts on relevant issues to be appointed and/or consulted as necessary. Among its tasks should be:

1) monitoring and proposal of improvements to the content of pan-Baltic data sets and the data exchange system,
2) providing methodology for MSP in relation to data needs and management, and advice on gaps to be filled,
3) ensuring the link to other data networks as mentioned above,
4) ensuring the link to the Transnational MSP Coordination Secretariat (as suggested in BaltSeaPlan Vision 2030).

Recommendation 6. Legal policy

The pan-Baltic data infrastructure should draw on unrestricted and free of charge data produced e.g. in course of statutory activities of public institutions, or publicly funded projects. Other data on spatially relevant activities and functions should be made available as far as possible. In the case of duly restricted/commercial data, only the associated metadata and products will be made available via the network.

Recommendation 7. Resources

Baltic Sea states should grant adequate financial and organisational resources for securing the implementation and maintenance of a sustainable MSP data network and infrastructure. Existing networks such as the HELCOM/VASAB WG on MSP should be considered for building up the data exchange network.

10. Appendixes

Definitions

"MSP" is understood in the context of these Recommendations as Maritime Spatial Planning and Management;

"Data" is understood as spatial data relevant for Maritime Spatial Planning purposes;

"Metadata" is understood as "data about data" describing the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of data;

"Commercial" is understood as conducted for profit, cost-recovery or re-sale;

 "Product" is understood as a value-added enhancement of data applied to a particular application;

"Restricted" is understood as only accessible to users who have been given permission, for reasons of (national) security and others, and e.g. marked "confidential"

 "Unrestricted" is understood as non-discriminatory and non-confidential, thus generally accessible;

"Free of charge" is understood as no more than the cost of reproduction and delivery, without charge for the data and products themselves.