



Maritime spatial planning (msp) in europe: challenges in transition

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As most of the European population lives within 60 kilometers from the sea, coastal and marine environment is strongly influenced by human activities. This pressure increases the need not only for terrestrial but for maritime space as well. MSP can contribute to the sustainable use and the effective management for both the marine and coastal resources, by creating a framework for consistent, transparent, sustainable and evidence-based decision-making.

Particularly coastal and island urban areas characterized by significant natural resources, sensitive ecosystems, sites, monuments and settlements of great historical and aesthetic value, all of them constitute integral components of European landscape.

However, there is a downgrading that in the last decades by the lack of spatial planning, which has provoked land and maritime use conflicts, illegal interventions, environmental degradation and in many cases economic and social crises. Moreover, marine and coastal activities are often closely interrelated and strongly connected with urban development issues. These Land-Sea interactions should guarantee the coherence between terrestrial and marine space with specific terms and the management of their relations with other sectoral policies (as tourism, maritime transport/ infrastructure, etc.).

Taking into account these considerations, the special session explores conceptual, theoretical and implementation issues in the maritime spatial planning process with a special focus on issues such as:

- Sustainable MSP and integrated Land -Sea management and sustainable development (culture, tourism, energy, maritime transport, fisheries and aquaculture, etc.).
- Economic, social and environmental aspects to support sustainable urban development in the vulnerable space of coastal areas and islands.
- Reinforcement of the resilience of coastal areas and islands by the implementation of spatial policies and plans.
- Legal framework for maritime spatial planning in Europe, challenges and prospects.
- Involvement of stakeholders in the maritime spatial planning process.
- Selected case studies analysis.