



# Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of the **Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia**

## **as an example of maritime transboundary cooperation**

Good practice example application of SEA in a transboundary context to Maritime Spatial Plans in the  
Adriatic Sea

**Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning**

Environment Directorate

Environmental Assessment Division

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## Introduction:

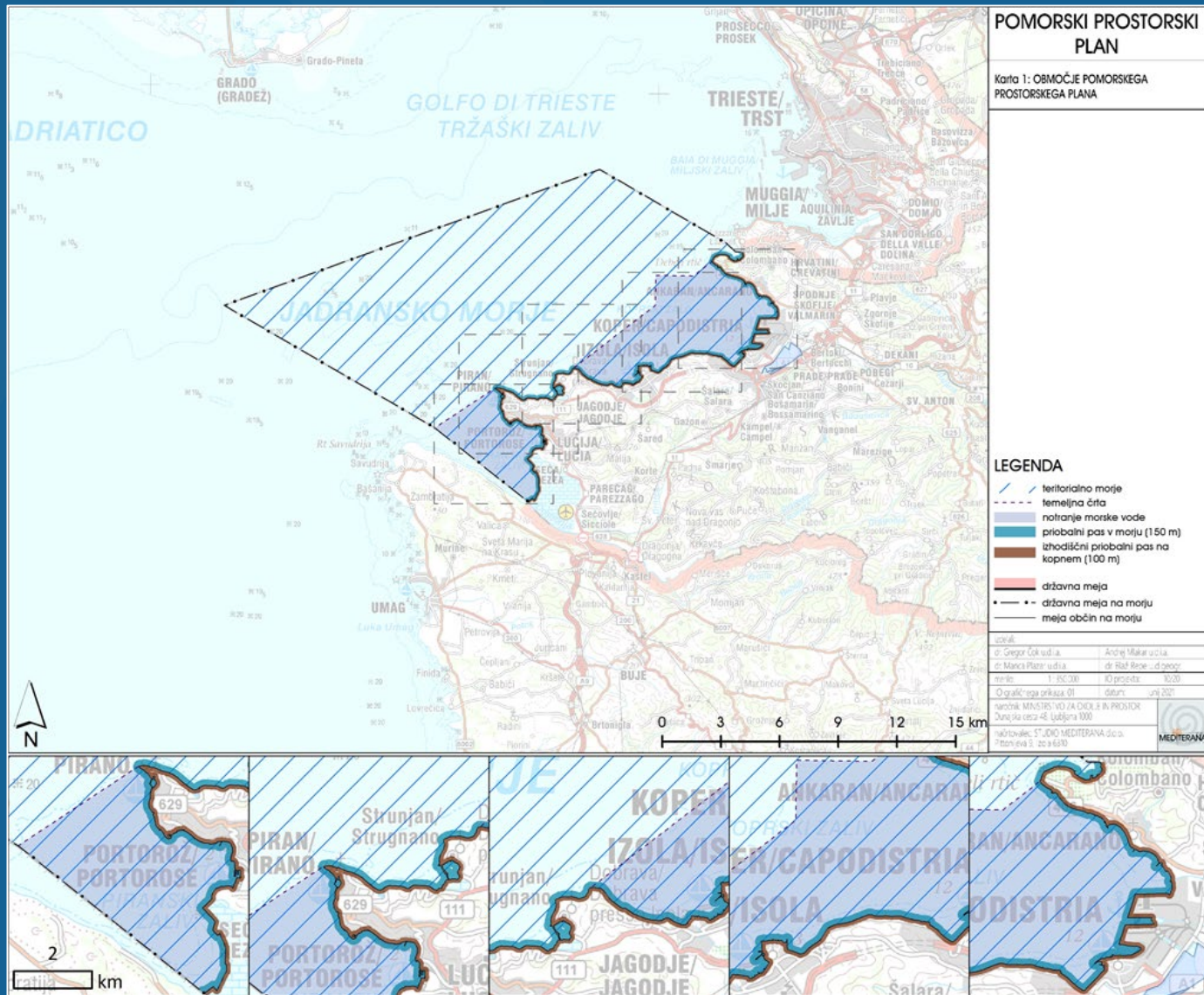
### Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia

- **Planner / plan preparer:**  
Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning  
Spatial Planning - Construction and Housing Directorate
- **Plan prepared by:**  
Studio mediterana d.o.o., U-M-A d.o.o., Manca Plazar s.p.
- **Environmental Report prepared by:**  
Zavita, svetovanje d.o.o. and DVOKUT-ECRO d.o.o.

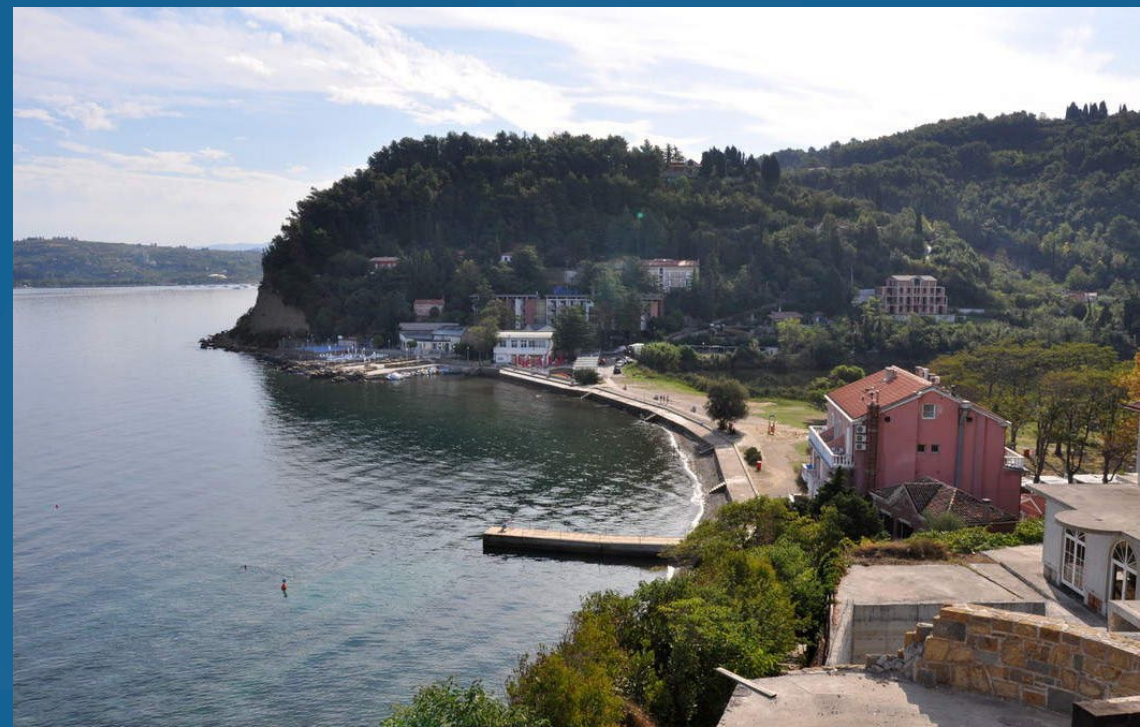
## Planning Area:

- The Maritime Spatial Plan (MSP) encompasses the territorial sea and internal waters of the Republic of Slovenia and the coastal strip. The territorial sea encompasses the sea between the baseline and the state border of the Republic of Slovenia at sea (maritime border).
- The coastal strip has been determined by considering the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (ICZM Protocol). The coastal strip encompasses the marine and land parts.
- The marine part of the coastal strip reaches 150 meters in the direction from the coastline towards the sea.
- Coastal strip on land encompasses at least a 100-metre-wide coastal area from the boundary of the coast towards land.

# Planning Area:



# Planning Area:



# Planning Area:



# Planning Area:



## Planning Area:





## Legal framework:

- Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning
- Protocol on Strategic Environment assessment (SEA Protocol), UNECE,
- Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean / Act ratifying the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean
- Spatial Management Act of the Republic of Slovenia (ZUreP-2)

## Legal framework:

### Strategic environmental impact assessment of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia

- SEA Protocol, UNECE,
- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment (SEA Directive)
- Environmental Protection Act (ZVO-1)
- Spatial Management Act (ZUreP-2)
- Nature Conservation Act (ZON)
- Decree on the environmental report and a more detailed procedure for strategic assessment of the effects of the implementation of plans on the environment

## Preparation and adoption process:

Starting points and key objectives (published on the website, June 2019)  
Application of intent

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning  
Spatial Planning – Construction and Housing  
Directorate

Screening Decision ( December 2019)

Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning  
Environment Directorate  
Environmental Assessment Sector

Draft of the Maritime Spatial Plan and Environmental Report

Determining the adequacy of the environmental report (opinion on the adequacy of the environmental report, December 2020)

Public debate on the Draft of the Maritime Spatial Plan and Environmental Report (from 28.12.2020 to 28.2.2021; documentation also published on website)

Drawing-up plan - the Maritime Spatial Plan, considering results of SEA and ER and opinions obtained during public debate (February to May 2021)

Application for plan approval (May 2021)

Decision on the SEA – env.acceptability of the plan, plan confirmation (8.6.2021)

Decree on the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (15.7.2021)

## **Purpose and key objectives of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP)**

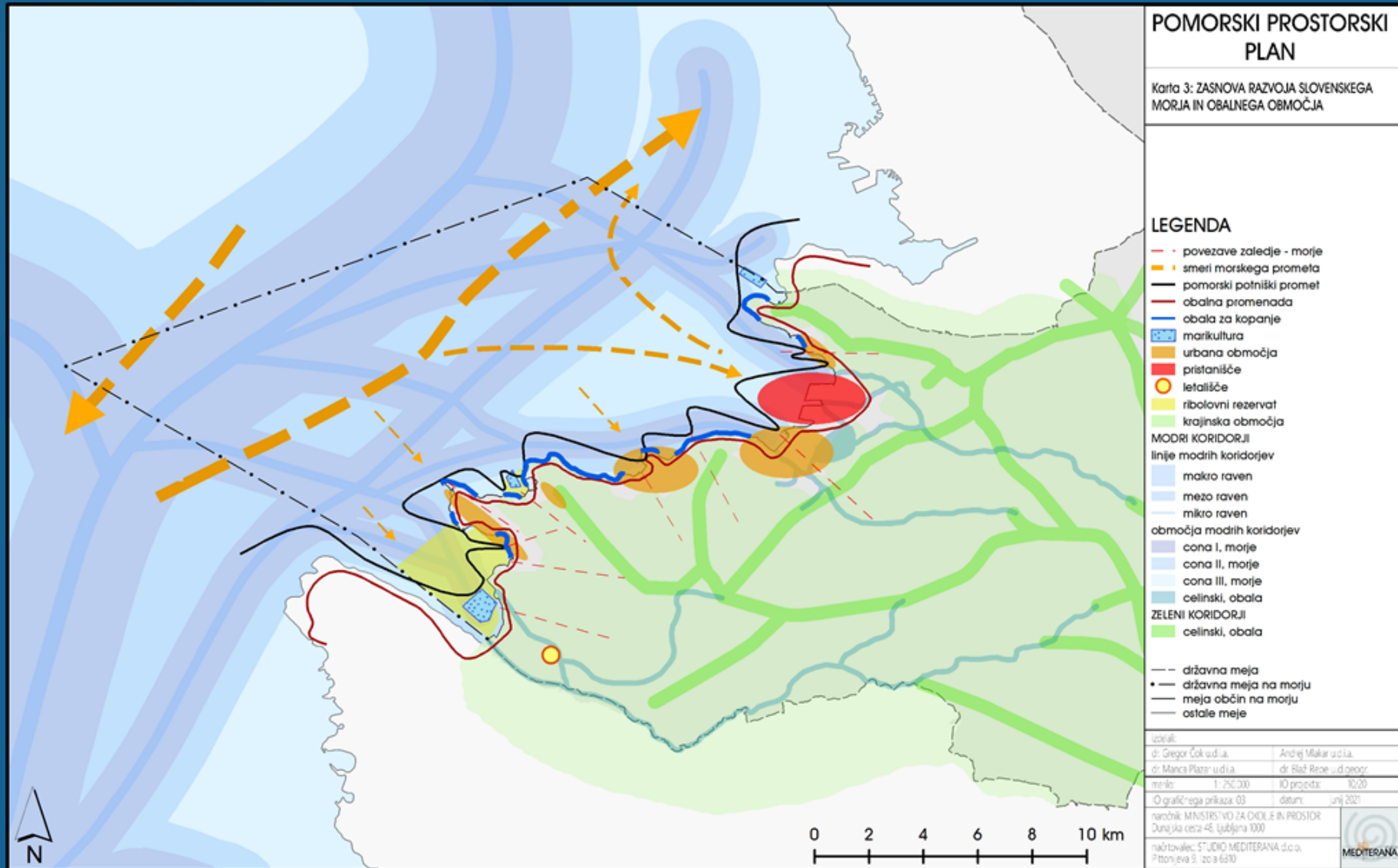
- MSP is strategic document that provides spatial development guidelines for activities and use in the Slovenian sea and the coastal strip on land.
- The purpose of the MSP is to coordinate the existing and planned activities and usages at sea and in the coastal strip on land in a manner that enables creation of good environment status.
- The MSP determines the objectives and guidelines for further development of activities and use at sea in a manner that will attain sustainable spatial development, sustainable growth of maritime economics, sustainable development of maritime areas and sustainable use of sea resources.

## Objectives of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

1. mariculture (development in the range of current areas, with the possibility of relocating to more suitable areas)
2. fisheries (development in the range of current areas)
3. infrastructure for the exploration, exploitation and extraction of oil, gas and other energy sources, minerals and aggregates and the production of energy from renewable sources (exploration and exploitation of offshore oil and natural gas is not allowed)
4. maritime transport routes, traffic flows and maritime transport activities
5. defense and protection against natural and other disasters
6. nature conservation and protected areas
7. mineral resources
8. scientific research
9. deployment of undersea cables and pipelines
10. tourism and recreation
11. protection of cultural heritage
12. urban development

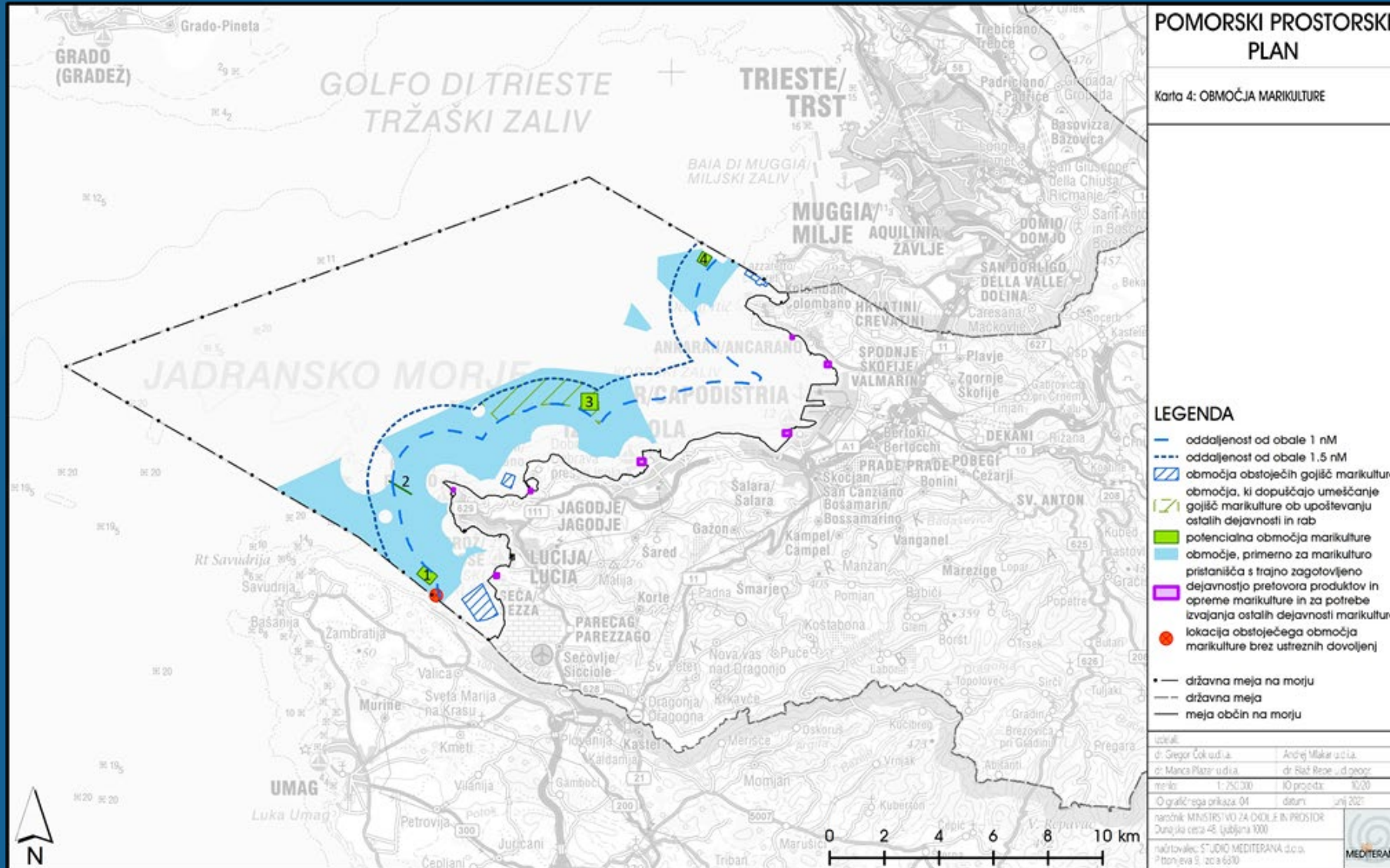
# Concept of spatial development of the Slovenian sea

## Vision of the development of the Slovenian sea



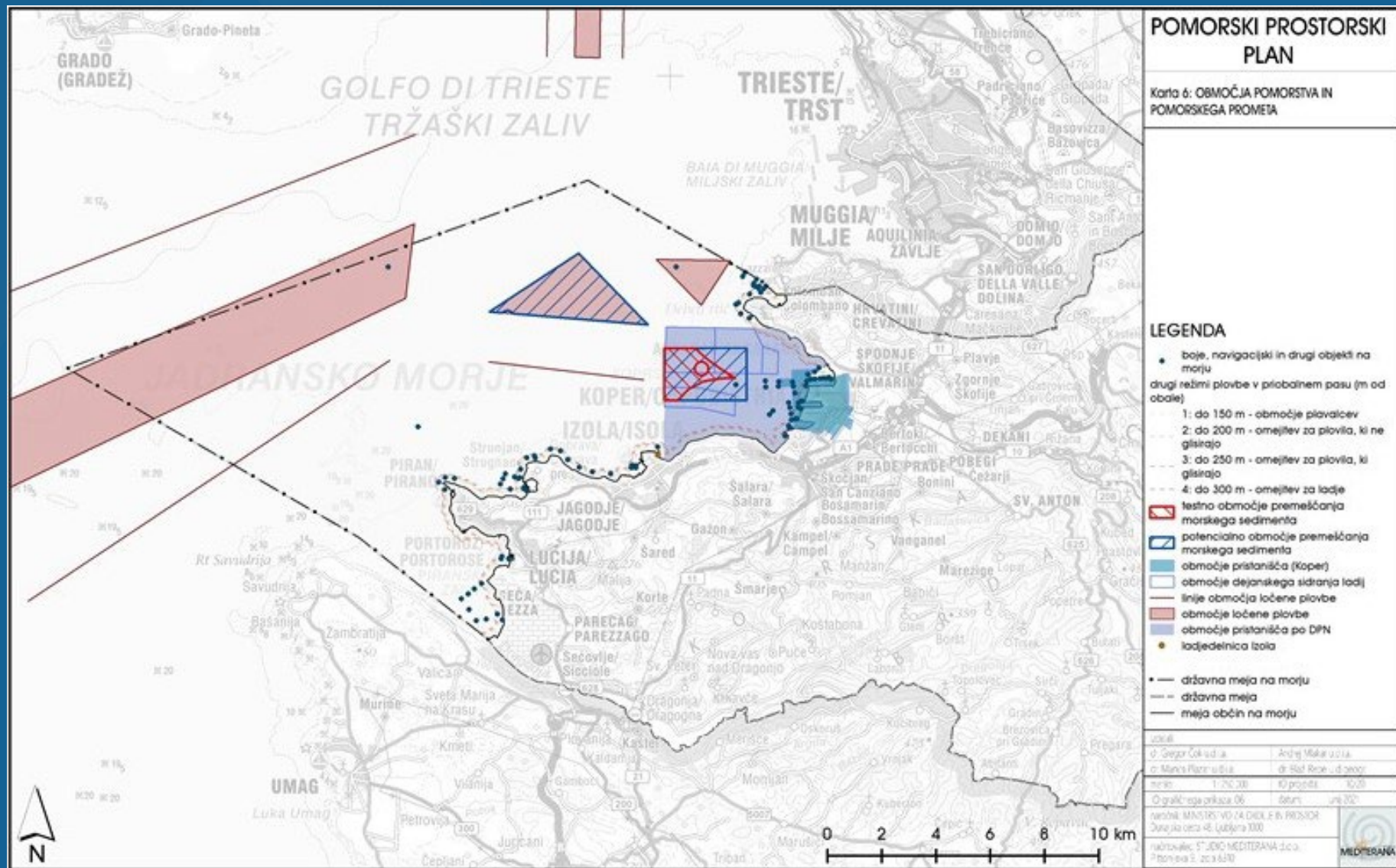
# Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

## Usages and activities at sea / Mariculture



# Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

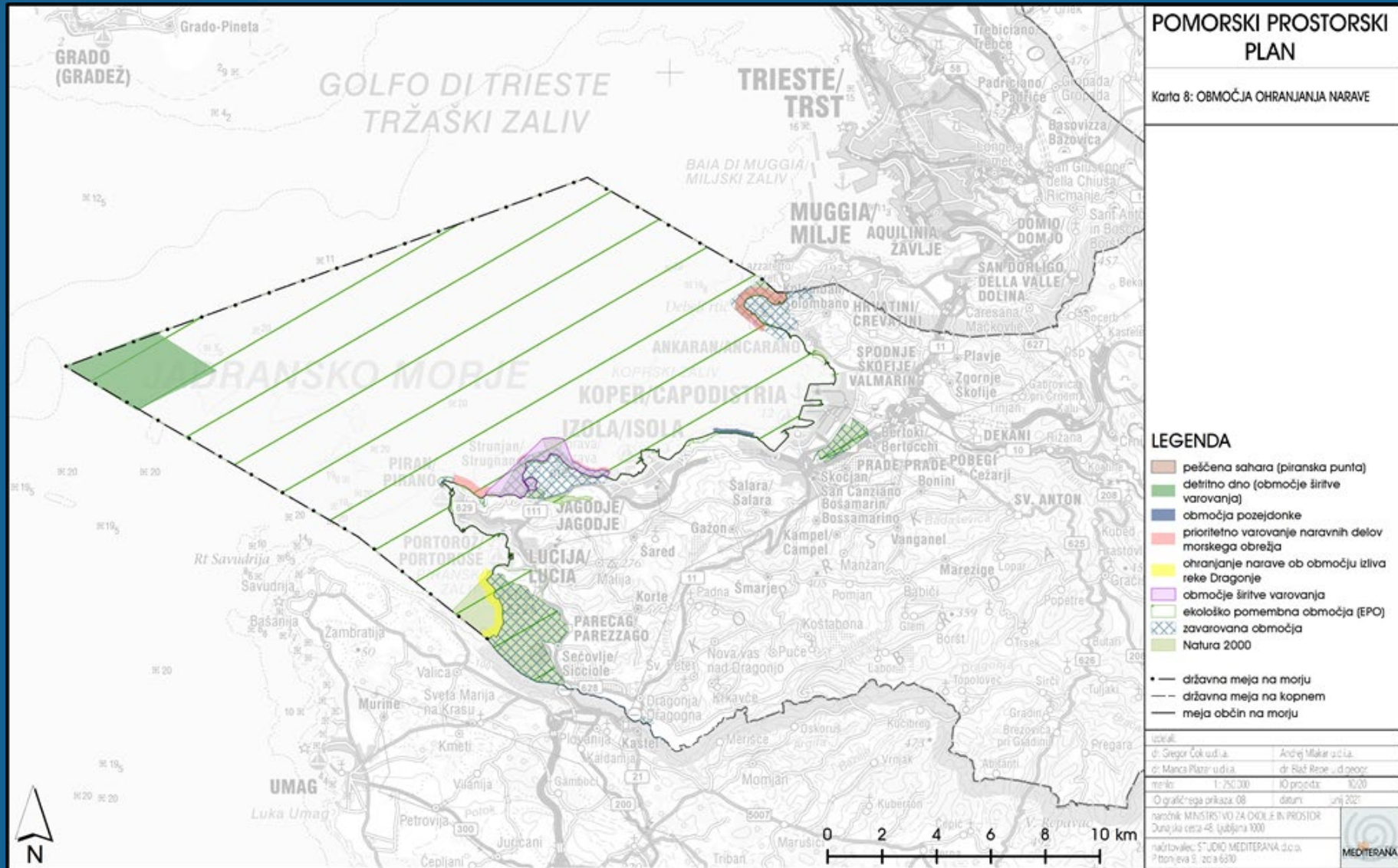
Usages and activities at sea / Maritime transport areas





# Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

## Usages and activities at sea / Nature conservation protected areas



# Strategic environmental impact assessment (SEA) of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia

- In the SEA long-term sustainability and the environmental effects were the focus.
- The objective of the SEA was to integrate environmental aspects in the planning and decision-making that sustainable development could be promoted.
- Within the **scoping** phase, it was assessed that the implementation of the MSP could have potentially significant impacts on:
  - the marine environment,
  - nature,
  - water use,
  - occurrence of accidents,
  - human health and quality of living conditions,
  - cultural heritage and
  - landscape qualities.
- Potential **impacts** were assessed based on the extent of changes of indicators of the state of the environment, the degree of compliance with the conservation objectives or other evaluation criteria, the state of the environment, the protection of natural resources or natural values, the characteristics of population and to human health.

# Strategic environmental impact assessment (SEA) of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia

- Mitigation measures are envisaged in the Environmental Report to reduce impacts on environmental objectives. The impacts of the implementation of the MSP on environmental objectives will be non-significant, taking into account all the proposed mitigation measures. Mitigation measures were sufficiently integrated into the proposal of the MSP.
- The MSP takes into account the fact that Slovenian coastal area is a particularly vulnerable environment due to climate change, expected rise of the sea surface and a complex interconnection of activities and usages at the sea and in the coastal area.
- The MSP enables:
  - the development of individual activities and usages at the Slovenian sea and in the coastal strip in accordance with the protection regimes and developmental possibilities, as well as marine environment status;
  - the recognition, preservation or introduction of blue and green corridors as part of green infrastructure;
  - spatial development of local communities in connection with the development of activities and usages at sea and on land.

## Transboundary consultations

- Slovenia is an integral part of the Adriatic-Ionian region, in which cross-border cooperation is implemented also as part of the macroregional strategy of the EU.
- Transboundary consultation was performed according to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context (ESPOO).
  1. Sending official notification to notification focal point, using the UNECE form, ITALY and CROATIA
    - asking for the answer in 30 days,
  2. Receiving confirmation for transboundary cooperation on time,
  3. Sending maritime plan and SEA report for observation and public consultation to ITALY and CROATIA, Translated
  6. Public participation organised in parallel in Slovenia, Italy and Croatia, (30 days),
  7. Comments/answers, consultation,
  8. Taking comments into account,
  9. The final printed version send to Italy and Croatia.
- Transparent process
- Environmental aim reached: no significant transboundary impacts of the Maritime Spatial plan of Slovenia to neighboring countries Italy and Croatia.

# Further transboundary cooperation in Adriatic

Maritime  
spatial  
plan  
Slovenia

Maritime  
spatial  
plan  
Italy

Maritime  
spatial  
plan  
Croatia

## Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia / Monitoring

- The implementation of the Maritime Spatial Plan is monitored with regard to the efficiency indicators for the implementation of this Plan and with regard to marine environment quality descriptors.
- The effectiveness of the Maritime Spatial Plan is monitored by means of indicators defined on the basis of planned activities and envisaged measures. The system of spatial indicators should be determined in greater detail.
  1. The working group for the implementation of the MSP is established not later than one year after the adoption of this plan.
  2. An inter-municipal service of the Istrian municipalities is established with the purpose of coordinated implementation of the MSP at local level.
  3. The report on effective coordination of other sectors, usages and activities at sea with the provisions of the MSP (every 4 years).



Thank you!

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[www.mop.si](http://www.mop.si)