



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE AND ENERGY



Mediterranean  
Action Plan  
Barcelona  
Convention

# Strategic Environmental Assessment in a transboundary context to Maritime Spatial Plans in the Adriatic Sea Espoo Convention

## *Transboundary cooperation*

### 1 subregional meeting, Roma 28-29 May 2024

**Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy**

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Espoo Convention working group, 11 meeting, 22  
december 2022

Item 5(a): Good practice example of application  
of SEA in a transboundary context to Maritime  
Spatial Plans in the Adriatic Sea



# Slovenia in Adriatic

## Introduction:

# Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia

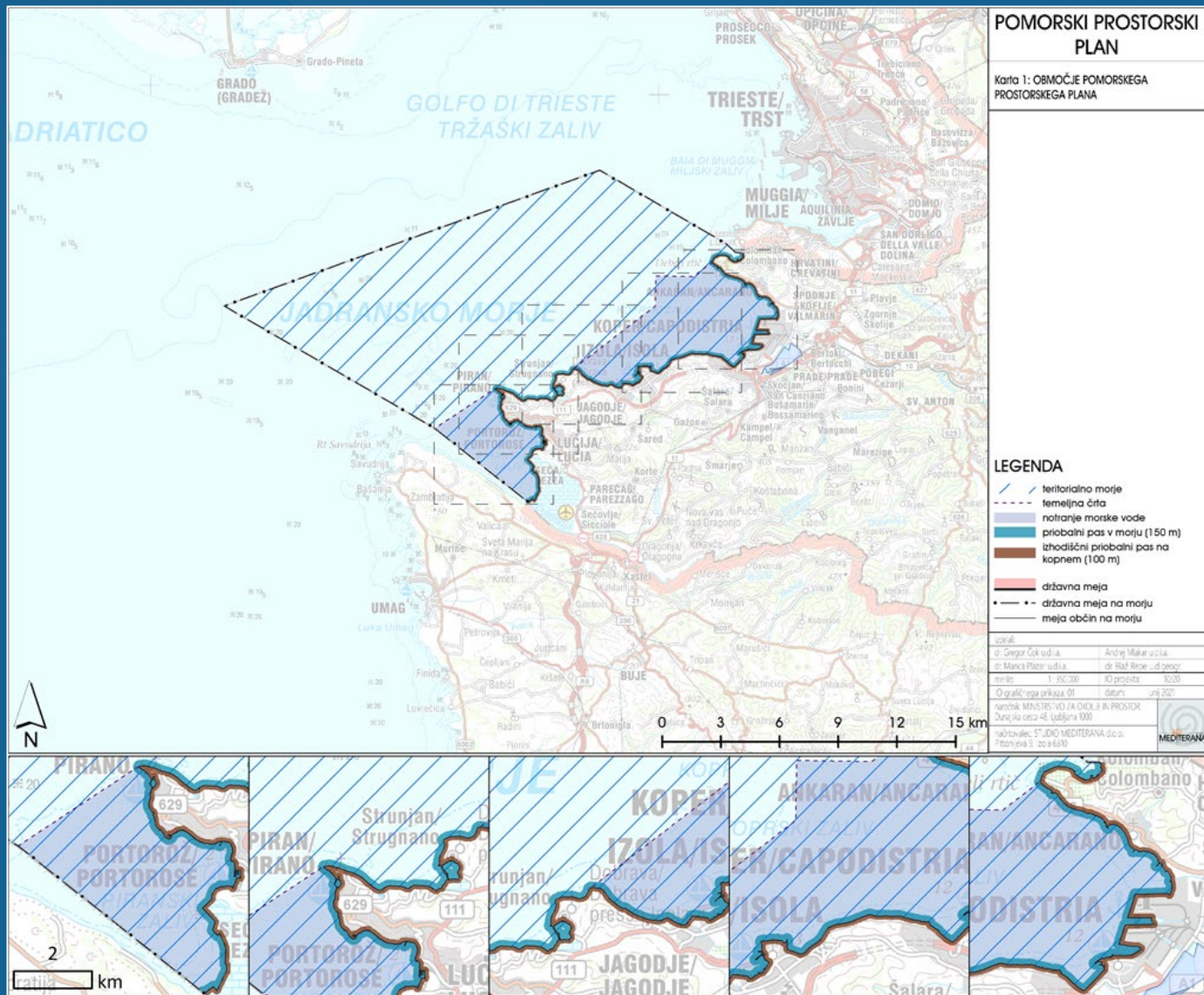
- **Planner / plan preparer:**  
Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning  
Spatial Planning - Construction and Housing Directorate
- **Plan prepared by:**  
Studio mediterana d.o.o., U-M-A d.o.o., Manca Plazar s.p.
- **Environmental Report prepared by:**  
Zavita, svetovanje d.o.o. and DVOKUT-ECRO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

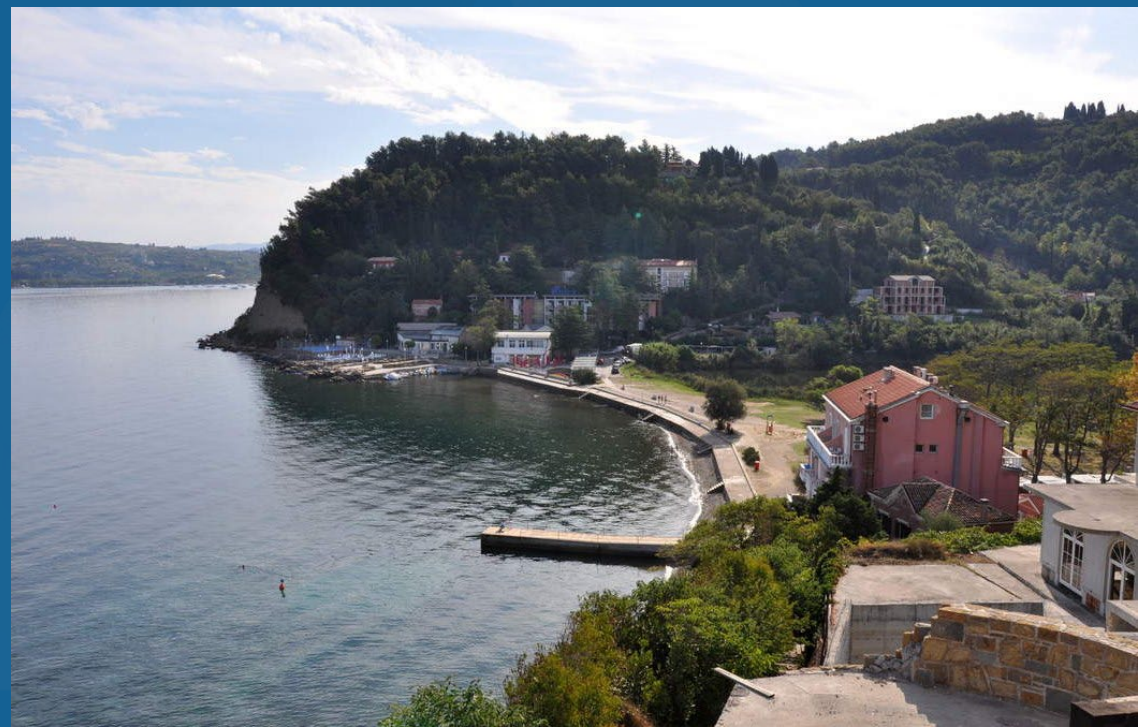


# Planning Area:





# 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 Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the Mediterranean / Act ratifying the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean
- Spatial Management Act (ZUreP-2)

## Legal framework:

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

- 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 a comprehensive 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))

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

Screening Decision on strategic environmental impact  
assessment (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 participation (from 28.12.2020 to 28.2.2021; documentation also  
published on website)

Drawing-up plan - the Maritime Spatial Plan (February to May 2021)

Application for plan approval (May 2021)

Opinion on the acceptability of the effects 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.

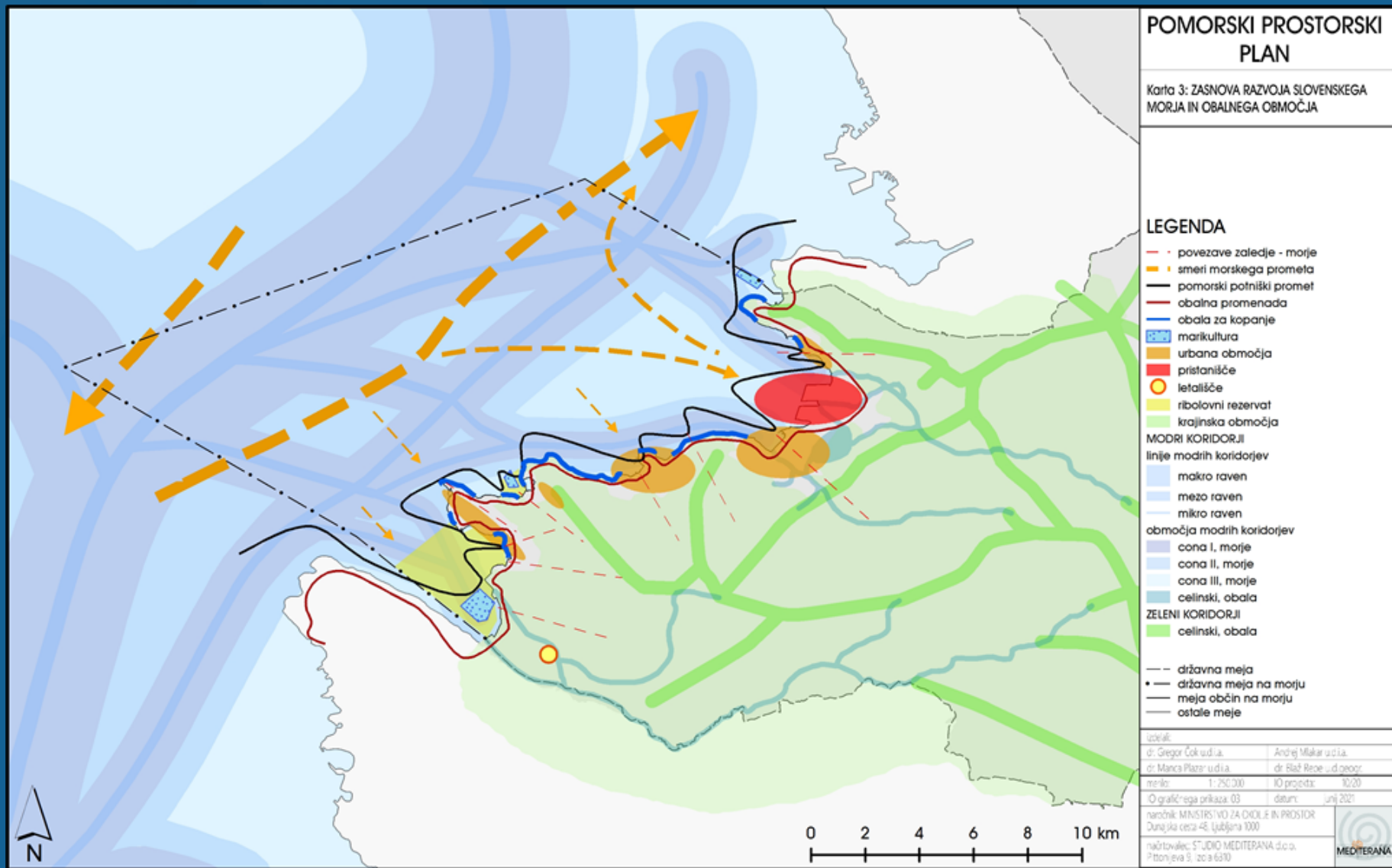


## Objectives of the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

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

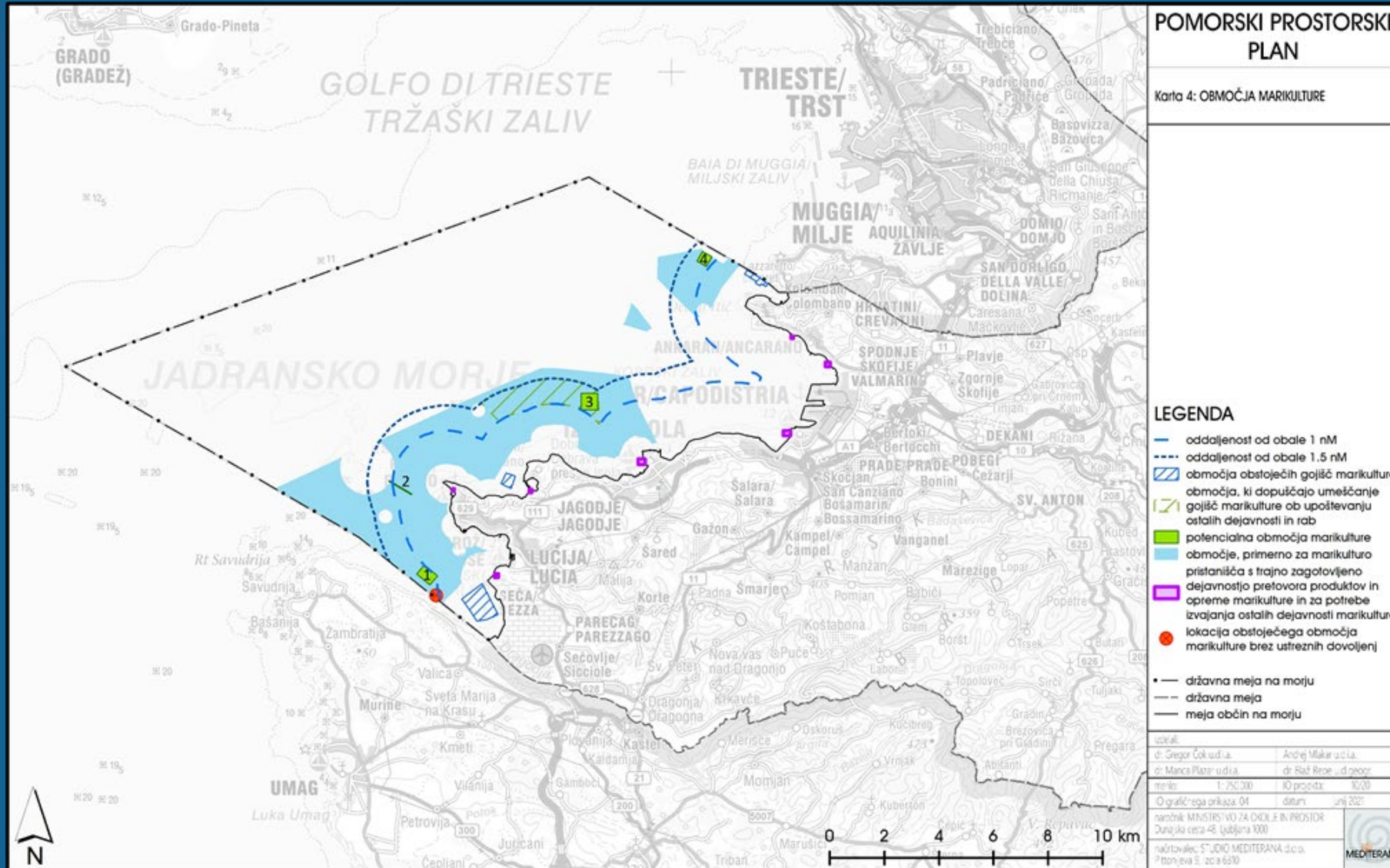
# Concept of spatial development of the Slovenian Sea

## Vision of the development of the Slovenian Sea



# Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

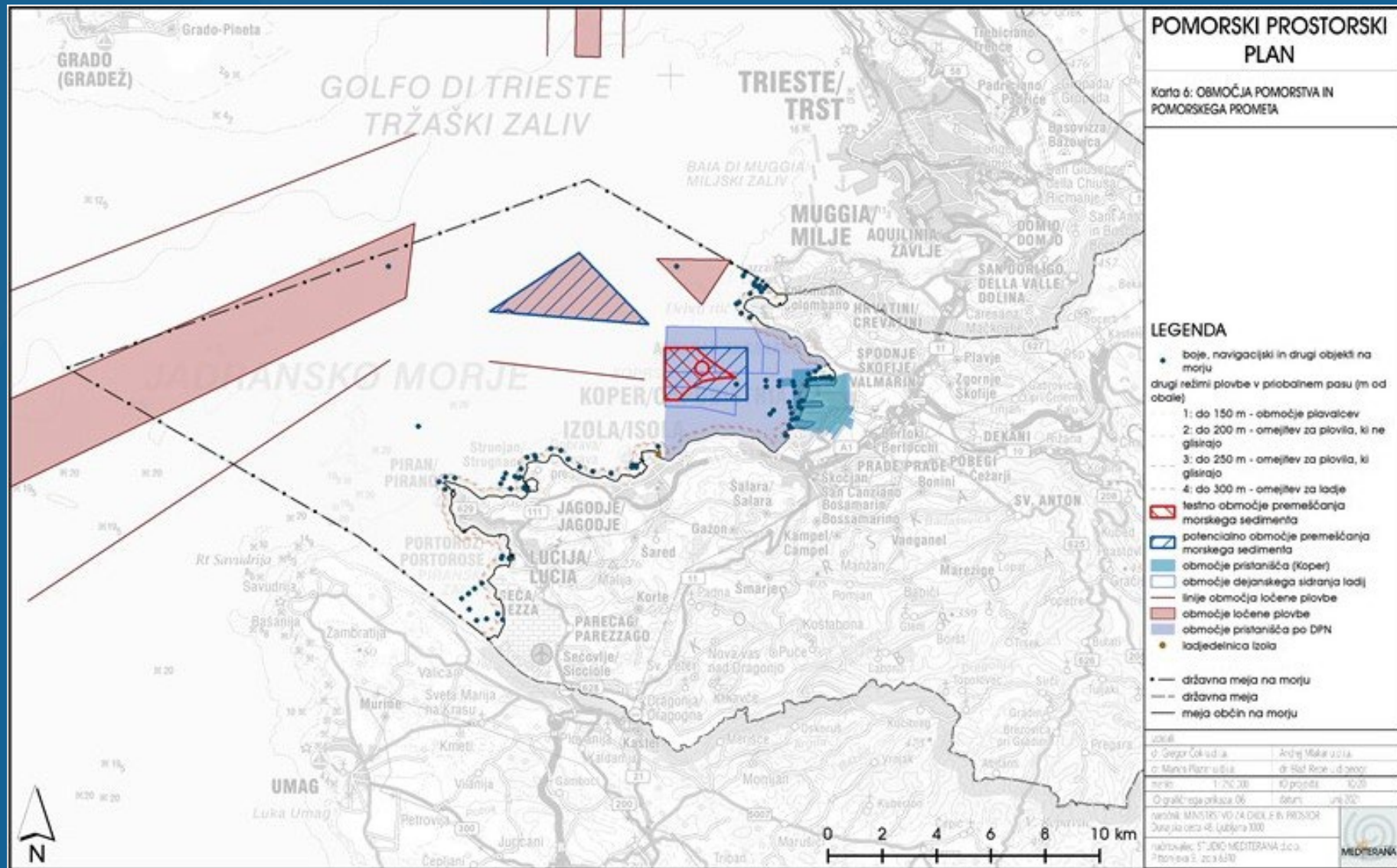
## Usages and activities at sea / Mariculture





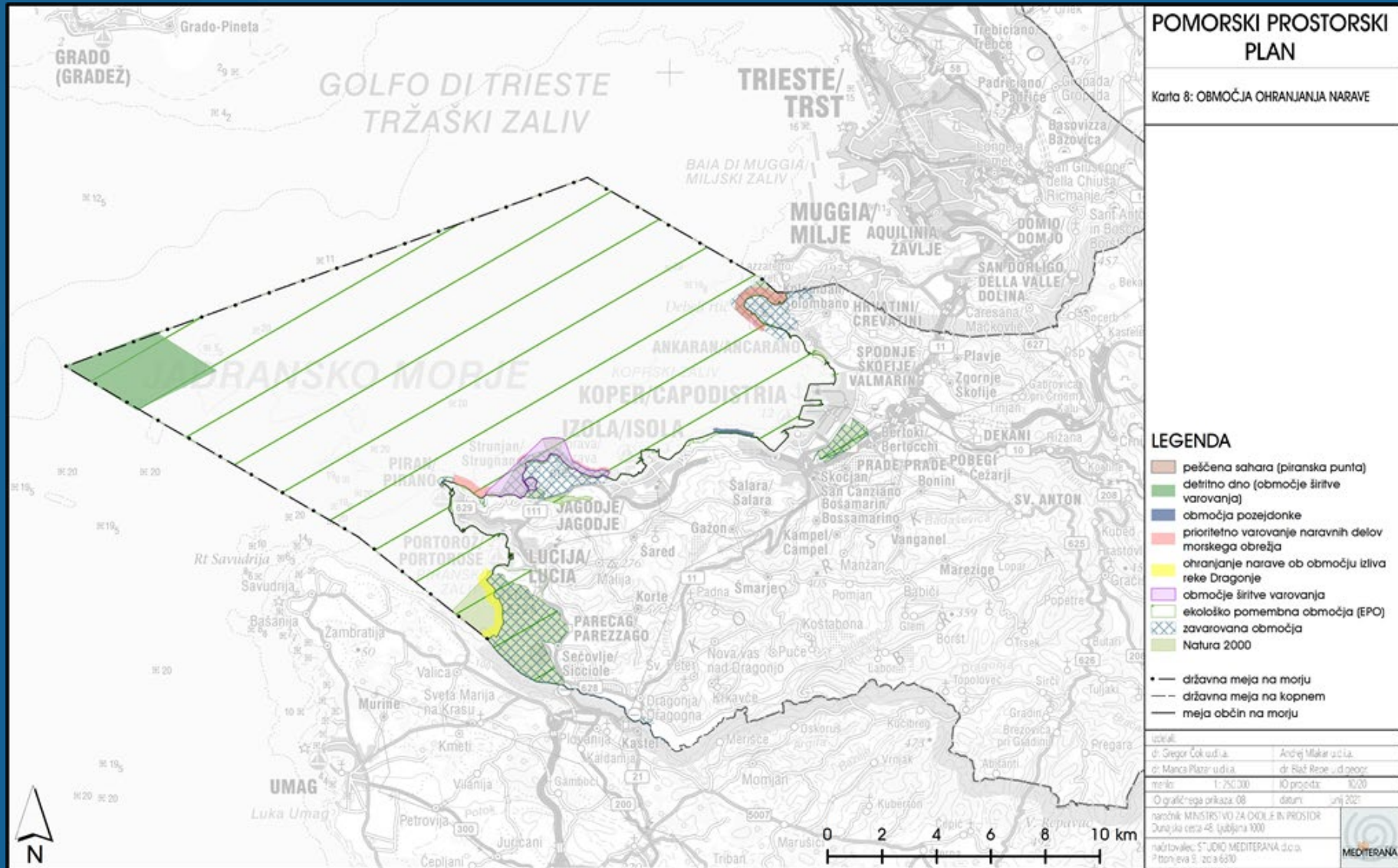
# Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP):

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.

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Series

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Practical Application of  
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Practical Application of  
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Biological Diversity

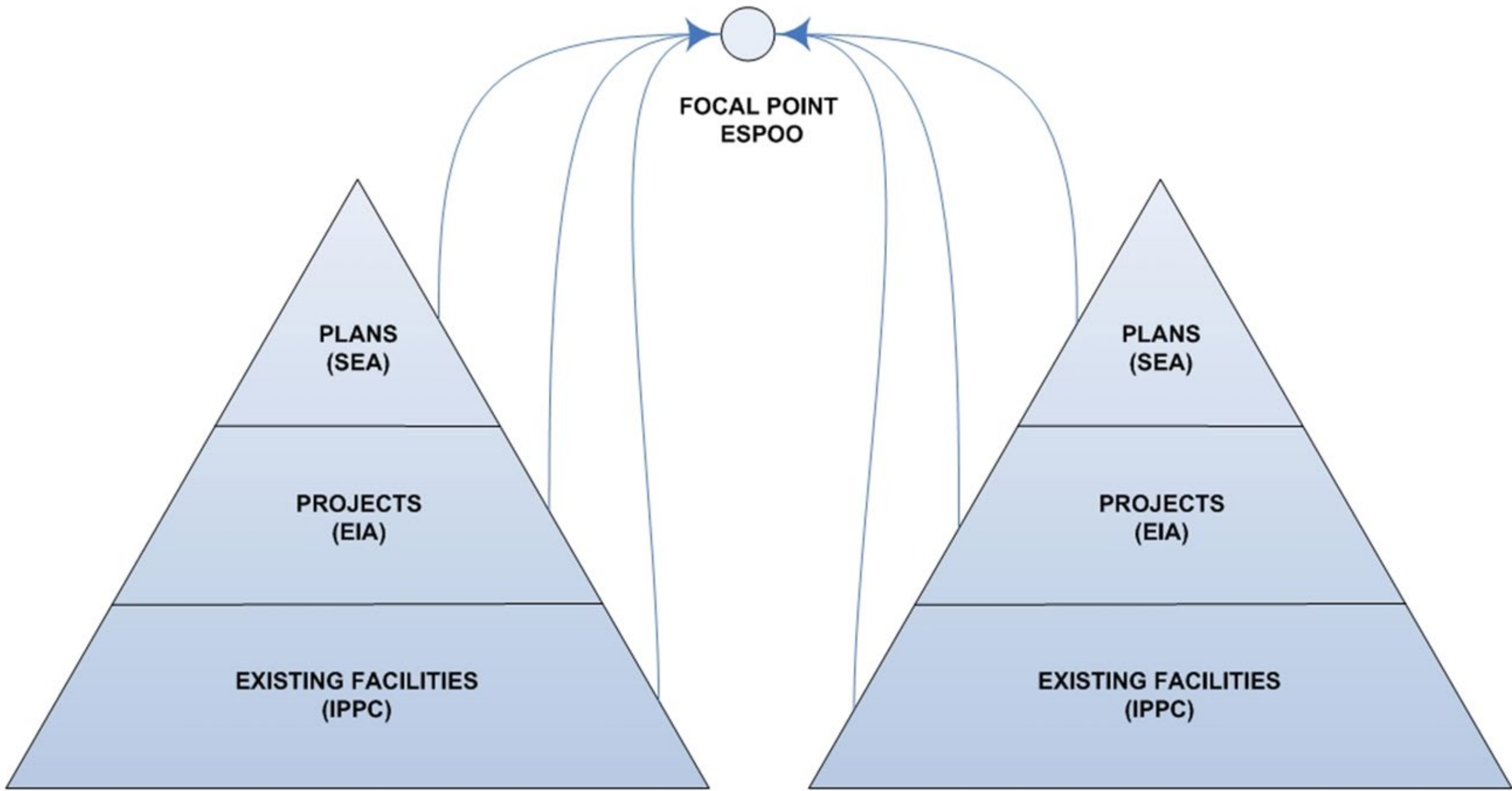
Guidance for  
Practical Application of  
the Convention on  
Transboundary  
Air Pollution





## Transboundary consultations

- Slovenia is an integral part of the Adriatic-Ionian region, in which cross-border cooperation is implemented 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).
- Cross-border consultations with neighboring countries Italy and Croatia.
- Cross-border impacts of the Maritime Spatial plan of Slovenia to neighboring countries Italy and Croatia will be non-significant.



## Notification

- Early notification with information
- Answer from the neighbouring countries

## SEA REPORT

- Environmental report and draft plan sent
- Public participation in parallel IT-SI
- Consultations with ministries and organisation

## FINAL PLAN

- Comments from neighbouring countries
- Comments from public
- Comments from ministries and organisations



Consultation  
Cooperation

Translation of  
final plan and  
final decision

Information on  
adoption

Neighbouring  
countries

Official  
translation of  
plan and  
printed version

Information on  
final decision  
send to Italy  
and Croatia

- SEA for Maritime Spatial Plan SLOVENIA

- SEA for Maritime Spatial plan ITALY



- Transboudary
- SEA

- Transboudary SEA

## Conclusion

Cooperation in planning on the sea helps in better organisation of the area and can improve mitigation measures

Public involvement and consultation on both sides improve the knowledge about the area and reduce conflicts

Transboundary cooperation could reduce environmental pressures taking into account the state of environment broader in Adriatic/Mediterranean



# Thank you!

<https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-12/Item2052028a2920GENEVA20Vesna20Kolar20Planinsic2020201220202220-v.pdf>