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
Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia

• **Planner / plan preparer:**
  Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
  Spatial Planning - Construction and Housing Directorate

• **Plan prepared by:**

• **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:
Legal framework:


• 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:**

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<td>Starting points and key objectives (published on the website)</td>
<td>June 2019</td>
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<td>Screening Decision on strategic environmental impact assessment (December 2019)</td>
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<td>Draft of the Maritime Spatial Plan and Environmental Report</td>
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<td>Determining the adequacy of the environmental report (opinion on the adequacy of the environmental report, December 2020)</td>
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<td>Public participation (from 28.12.2020 to 28.2.2021; documentation also published on website)</td>
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<td>Drawing-up plan - the Maritime Spatial Plan (February to May 2021)</td>
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<td>Opinion on the acceptability of the effects of the plan, plan confirmation (8.6.2021)</td>
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Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning
Spatial Planning – Construction and Housing Directorate
Environment Directorate
Environmental Assessment Sector

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 a 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.
Resource Manual to Support Application of the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
Tranboudary 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.

- Transboudary 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

Official translation of plan and printed version

Information on adoption

Information on final decision send to Italy and Croatia

Neighbouring countries
Transboundary SEA for Maritime Spatial Plan SLOVENIA

Transboundary SEA

Public participation

Consultation

SEA for Maritime Spatial Plan ITALY

Transboundary 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!