MSP as a tool for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean

Training Workshop

(9 - 10 April 2019, Zagreb, Croatia)

Report of the training workshop "MSP as a tool for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean"

(9-10 April 2019, Zagreb, Croatia)

Introduction

1. Based on UNEP/MAP-PAP/RAC Programme of Work (2018/2019), a training workshop "**MSP as a tool for the implementation of the ICZM Protocol in the Mediterranean"** took place at the premises of the Croatian Journalists' Association (*Novinarski dom*) in Zagreb, Croatia, on 9-10 April 2019 . The training was organised by PAP/RAC, with the support of the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS). In addition, support to the meeting has been provided by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), through MSPglobal initiative.

2. The main objective of the training was to support the establishment of a common basis and understanding across the Mediterranean region regarding the implementation of the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) within the Barcelona Convention system. In addition, the training provided the opportunity to share best practices and lessons learnt from the MSP application across the Mediterranean region.

3. The training was attended by 36 participants from 16 Mediterranean countries, as well as by representatives of research, international and non-governmental organisations.

4. A full list of participants is given in Annex 1 and the Agenda in Annex 2 of this report**.**

Agenda item 1: Opening and Welcome

5. Ms Željka Škaričić, PAP/RAC Director, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, expressing her great satisfaction for having representatives from 16 Mediterranean countries present at the workshop. She emphasized the role of the Barcelona Convention as a framework to harmonize the Mediterranean countries approach to MSP – applying same methods and same tools to implement the MSP in their respective countries. In that context, she highlighted the importance of a Common Regional Framework for ICZM (to be presented for adoption at the CoP 21 in Naples, Italy, in December 2019) and a Conceptual Framework for the MSP (adopted at the CoP 20 in Tirana, Albania, in December 2017). She thanked IMELS for supporting this workshop, as well as for implementing many other related activities, and welcomed IOC-UNESCO to transfer their worldwide experience in MSP to the audience.

6. Ms Silvia Sartori welcomed the participants on behalf of IMELS, highlighting the importance of gathering countries around the table to discuss the implementation of MSP. She also stressed the importance of the workshop in the context of EUSAIR pillar 3 with specific focus on MSP and ICZM. In terms of links of the workshop with the relevant MSP initiatives in the Mediterranean,

SUPREME and SIMWESTMED projects were highlighted, as well as the future CAMP project between Albania and Italy that should ensure harmonization of coastal management.

7. Ms Aya Khalil welcomed the participants on behalf of IOC-UNESCO, introducing the relevance of the MSPglobal Initiative for the Mediterranean. She underlined synergies and close collaboration with PAP/RAC and announced the joint organization of regional trainings on MSP and the Sustainable Blue Economy in the coming months, to support the development of international guidelines on transboundary and cross-border MSP. Also, she indicated that, in the context of this project and with the support of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the MSP Challenge game will be used with all participants during a half-day session.

Agenda item 2: Introduction

8. After presenting the training objectives, Ms Marina Marković (PAP/RAC), introduced to the participants the concept of MSP in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, in particular highlighting the role of the ICZM Protocol and Conceptual Framework for MSP. In addition, new methodological approaches towards assessing the land-sea interaction (LSI) and utilising the ecosystem approach in MSP were presented.

9. MSPglobal, a joint initiative by the IOC-UNESCO and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) to develop new international guidelines on Maritime Spatial Planning, was introduced to participants by Ms Khalil (IOC-UNESCO). Over the course of three years, MSPglobal will contribute to improving the cross-border and transboundary cooperation where it already exists and promote MSP processes in areas where it is yet to be put in place. Among others, it aims to develop guidance on international cross-border planning and perform a pilot regional project in the West Mediterranean: Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia (with other WestMED countries that can participate in training activities). Finally, in order to support participation of stakeholders in different activities of the initiative, participants were invited to fill in a "StakeForm" in order to follow up and get engage within the project.

10. All presentations from the Introduction session are available here.

Agenda item 3: National overviews and discussion

11. Representatives of participating countries briefly presented the status of MSP implementation in their country, links of MSP with land-use planning and/or ICZM and the MSP needs of the country. Presentations were made by representatives of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain Turkey. A Tunisian representative could not attend the session, but the Tunisian presentation is available here, together with the other country presentations. From the presentations it was clear that current practice and level of MSP implementation is quite different across the Mediterranean.

12. All presentations from National overviews session are available here.

Agenda item 4: MSP Tools

13. Following presentations by countries' representatives, Mr Emiliano Ramieri (Thetis) presented the European MSP Platform – an exchange forum for MSP practitioners throughout Europe. In addition to the key information on the status of MSP implementation in a relevant country, as well as initiatives on regional and sub-regional scales, it has a thorough database of projects and initiatives, also outside the EU. It offers access to existing and forthcoming resources, assisting in capacity building and fostering development of new practices.

14. Ms Michele Quesada da Silva (IOC-UNESCO) presented the IOC-UNESCO MSP Website – a multilingual support platform for MSP practitioners worldwide. In the context of the MSPglobal Initiative, it will aim to update training material and develop a factsheet for each country following the structure of the European MSP Platform.

15. Mr Giulio Farella (CNR-ISMAR) presented the Tools4MSP Platform – an open source web platform for MSP-oriented data and knowledge sharing and co-production within the Adriatic-Ionian Sea. A set of web tools that can assist decision-makers and strategists in undertaking MSP-oriented case studies and supporting the development of environmental management strategies was presented. The Platform has modelling functionalities for: Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA), Maritime Conflict Analysis (MUC) and Marine Ecosystem Services (MES). In addition, practical examples from utilising the tools in the Strait of Sicily-Malta, Tuscany and North Adriatic, within SUPREME and SIMWESTMED projects were presented by Mr Niccolo Bassan (IUAV).

16. Ms Marina Markovic (PAP/RAC) presented the pilot case of Boka Kotorska Bay in Montenegro, an example of linking ecosystem approach (EcAp) and MSP, through vulnerability assessment. This tool will be further used in the preparation of the MSP for Montenegro, as part of the GEF Adriatic project.

17. During the discussion, it was agreed that capitalizing on ICZM for the implementation of MSP is of essential importance for all the Mediterranean, especially when it comes to assist countries' needs. In particular, this is due to the fact that ICZM, through the ICZM Protocol, has a legally binding character throughout the Mediterranean.

18. All presentations from the MSP Tools session are available here.

Agenda item 5: MSP Challenge session

19. In the afternoon session, all participants took part in the MSP Challenge board game, moderated by IOC-UNESCO. The game is a tool which has been used in several MSP stakeholder engagement activities in recent years. It is a table top strategy game where a fictitious sea basin shared by three countries is used to plan different maritime activities represented by colourful acrylate tokens, with various symbols. The game is very easy to understand and has mostly been used as a low-technology approach to raise awareness about MSP. Pictures from the MSP Challenge session are available here: http://www.mspglobal2030.org/resources/photo-gallery-msp-global/

20. Following the Game, a short survey was undertaken to collect the reflections of the participants. Overall, participants were satisfied with the Game experience. In addition, as main challenges encountered during the Game, participants highlighted:

    - Complexity of the system (difficulty of planning all sectors)

- Complexity of the Game (many tokens)
- Managing conflicts between sectors
- Connecting/integrating land and sea

Compared to real-life MSP practices, participants stressed that:

- The negotiations were very focused on the environment, that is not always the case (this reflects the real position of the participants, who were all from the Environmental "sector")
- The maritime sectors were not so well represented due to lack of specific sectoral knowledge (it was suggested to add more sectoral information/rules in the Game)

Participants also identified that:

- The tourism sector tried to influence more
- All groups ignored oil and gas sector (again, reflecting the real position of the participants towards environmental issues)

Agenda item 6: Land-sea interactions

21. Mr Emiliano Ramieri (Thetis) presented the Land-Sea Interactions (LSIs) as a complex phenomenon that involves natural processes across the land-sea interface, as well as the impact of socioeconomic human activities that take place in the coastal zone. Some specific aspects of LSI, such as types of interactions, were also elaborated. Specific focus was given to different approaches to LSI in planning, giving practical examples from different European countries. It was particularly stressed that LSI can be part of ICZM, MSP and other planning processes.

22. Methodological guidance for undertaking LSI and its application was presented by Ms Martina Bocci (t-Elika). The methodological guidance was developed jointly by PAP/RAC, T-EliKa and Thetis as part of the SUPREME and SIMWESTMED projects. As part of the presentation, an overview of the methodology, description of steps (Figure 1) and practical implementation were presented to the participants.

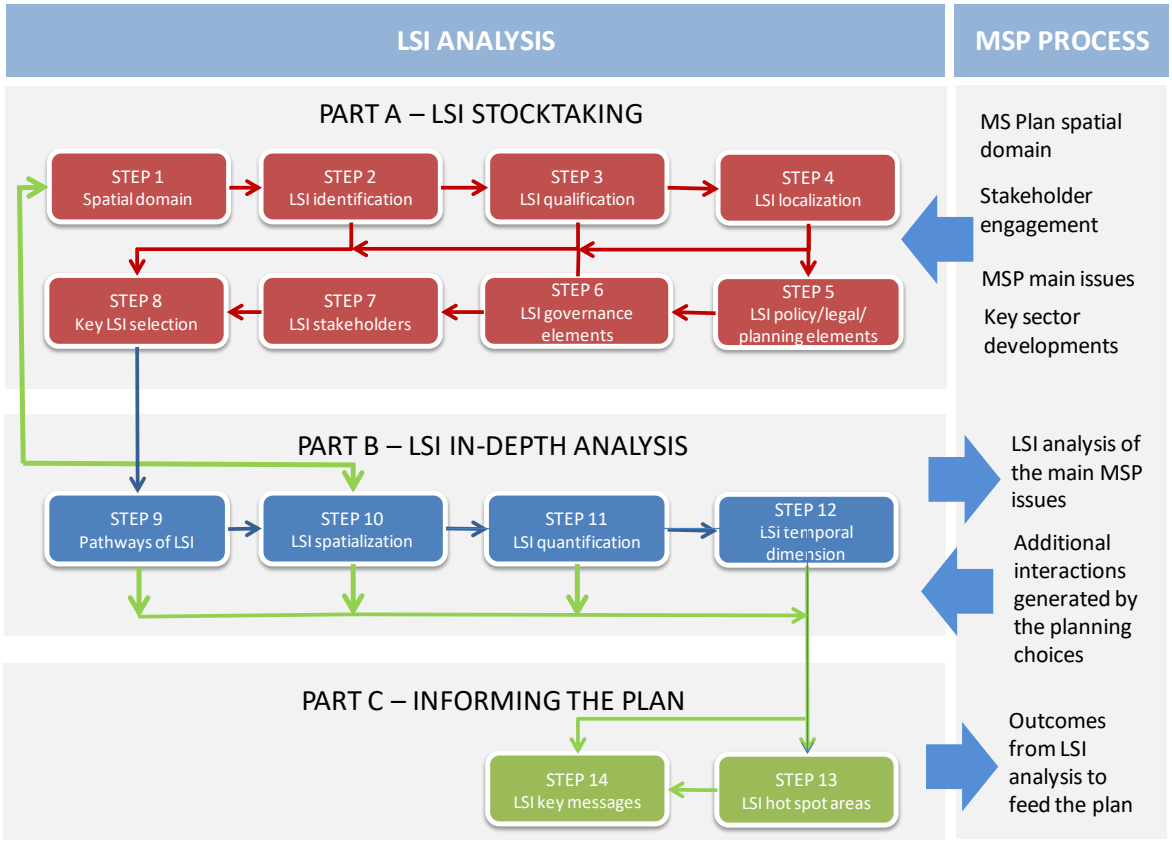


Figure 1: Step-by-step methodological guideline to account for LSI in MSP

23. In the discussion that followed, it was stressed that the LSI implementation depends on a geographical scope of the plan and hence, is adaptable to different spatial levels of coverage (local, national). Some participants expressed doubt in operability of the method that has 14 steps as it could lead to a "plan-within-a-plan" situation. However, it was explained that guideline was defined through 14 very simple steps, each of them not requiring extensive amount of time and resources, in order to contribute to clarity of its utilisation. The discussion confirmed that LSI is a "way" on how to bring ICZM into MSP. It is also a way to address the administrative, science-policy, but also gaps between the sectors across marine/terrestrial domain.

24. Presentations from the LSI session are available here.

Agenda item 7: LSI Round Tables

25. The session was organised around two Discussion Tables: i) proposed methodological guidelines for LSI; ii) LSI relevance and characteristics.

26. As part of the Table 1, the discussion was structured around three main questions:

- Is LSI analysis being done in your country? In what context (MSP? ICZM? other planning process)?
- Do you think the methodological guidelines can be useful within the MSP/ICZM process? Do you think they can be practically applicable?
- Do you see useful to engage stakeholders in LSI analysis? Do you see it feasible?

At the end of the discussion, participants were asked to score the need for LSI analysis, usefulness of the presented methodological guidelines, practical applicability of the LSI analysis and availability of other tools for LSI analysis. The conclusion was that there is: high need for LSI analysis in planning process; high usefulness of the common methodological guidelines; moderate practical applicability of the LSI analysis; moderate availability of other methods/tools to undertake LSI analysis.

27. The discussion within the Table 2 was structured around three key questions:

- What are the key LSIs in your area which are relevant for the planning process?
- Are the anthropogenic or the natural interactions predominant?
- Are the Land→Sea or the Sea→Land interactions predominant?

Participants discussed, located (on a map) and classified LSIs according to their predominant type and the predominant direction. The final "map" with all the above-mentioned LSIs was created by the participants (Figure 2).

28. A detailed report on LSI Round Tables discussions is available in Annex 3.

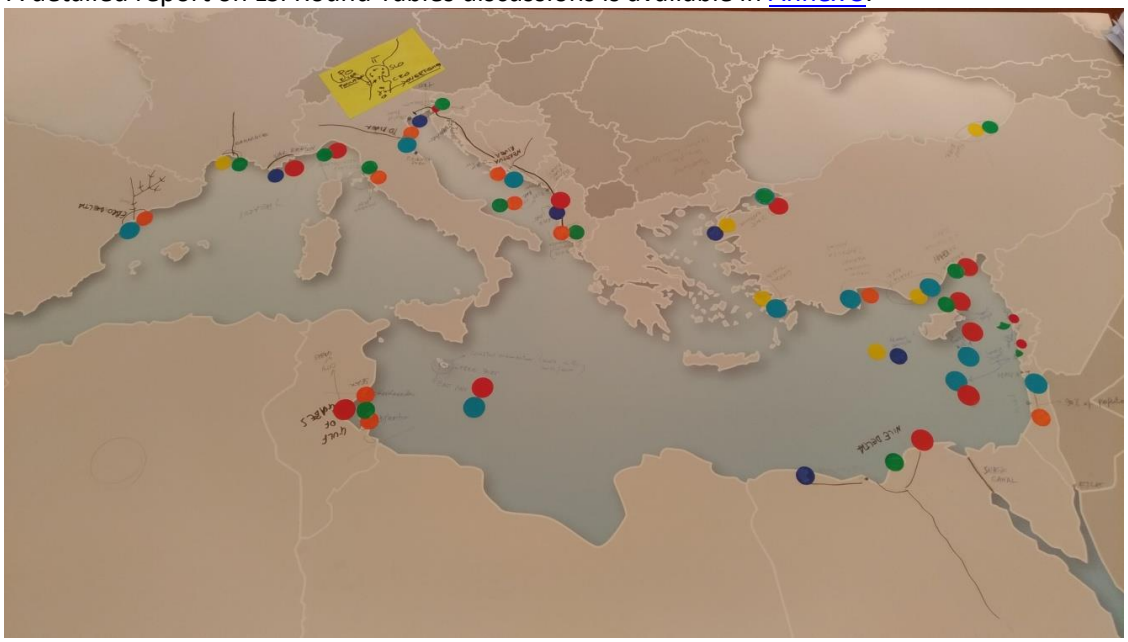


Figure 2: Map with different types of LSIs, recognised by the training participants

Agenda item 8: Transboundary MSP

29. During a part of the final session, participants were introduced by Ms Željka Škaričić (PAP/RAC) with the Regional Seas as a platform for a transboundary cooperation, on the example of the Barcelona Convention. Toolkit for MSP in Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) was presented by Mr Ivica Trumbić (IOC-UNESCO, LME:Learn project). The session was concluded with practical examples from cooperation within the Black Sea region, given by Ms Irina Makarenko (BS Convention).

30 Presentations from the Transboundary MSP session are available here.

The training workshop was closed on 10 April at 13.00 hours.

Annex I: List of participants

Ms BENABDELADHIM Leila	L'Agence de Protection et d'Aménagement du Littoral (APAL), Tunisia
Mr BRICELJ Mitja	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planing, Slovenia
Ms CONSTANTINIDOU Joanna	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Cyprus
Ms DEUR Martina	Šibenik-Knin County, Croatia
Ms DOMINKOVIĆ-ALAVANJA Snježana	Ministry of Environment and Energy, Croatia
Mr GALOFRE SAUMELL Jordi	Ministry of Environment, Spain
Mr KAPEDANI Rezart	Independent expert, Albania
Mr KRSTINIĆ Patrik	WWF Adria
Ms LAZAJ Lorela	Regional Administration of Protected Areas of Vlora, Albania
Mr LEVINSON Matan	Ministry of Environmental Protection, Israel
Mr MARKOVIĆ Dragan	PE Morsko dobro, Montenegro
Ms MAROVIĆ Tamara	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro
Ms MAROHNIĆ KUZMANOVIĆ Vesna	Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning, Croatia
Mr MOUSSA Paul	Ministry of Environment, Lebanon
Ms NAL Seda	Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Turkey
Ms NASCHITZ Ruth	Nature and Parks Authority, Israel
Ms NIKOLIĆ Viktorija	Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro
Mr NJAVRO Josip	Municipality of Neum, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mr PRVAN Mosor	WWF Adria
Ms SARTORI Silvia	Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, Italy

Mr SHETA Ahmed	EEAA, Egypt
Mr SOYLEMEZ Emrah	Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Turkey
Mr ŠKERLIČ Iztok	Municipality of Izola, Slovenia
Ms VELAY Luisa	Conservatoire du littoral, France
Ms VELLA Alexia	Planning Authority, Malta
Mr VUKIČEVIĆ Sreten	PE Morsko dobro, Montenegro
Ms ZOUBAIR Naoual	Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Morocco
UN ENVIRONMENT / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN	
Mr. ANTONIADIS Stavros	UN Environment/MAP
Ms JAKELIĆ Lada	PAP/RAC
Ms MARKOVIC Marina	PAP/RAC
Ms POVH ŠKUGOR Daria	PAP/RAC
Mr SEKOVSKI Ivan	PAP/RAC
Ms. Željka ŠKARIČIĆ	PAP/RAC
INVITED EXPERTS	
Ms. Daniela ADDIS	Law Firm Environment & Sea
Mr. BASAN Niccollo	Università Iuav di Venezia
Ms BOCCI Martina	T-EliKa
Mr FARELLA Giulio	NCR-ISMAR
Ms KHALIL Aya	IOC-UNESCO
Ms MAKARENKO Iryna	Black Sea Comission, Permanent Secretariat
Ms QUESADA da SILVA Michele	IOC-UNESCO

Ms RAMIERI Emiliano	Thetis
Mr TRUMBIĆ Ivica	IOC-UNESCO, LME:Learn

Annex II: Agenda

TUESDAY, 9 APRIL

8.30 – 9.30	**Registration**
9.30 – 9.45	**Opening and Welcome** PAP/RAC Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) IOC UNESCO
9.45 – 10.30	**Introduction** - Objectives of the meeting (PAP/RAC) - Introduction to the MSP within the Barcelona Convention (PAP/RAC) - Introduction to MSP global Initiative (IOC-UNESCO)
10.30 – 11.15	**National overviews and discussion** - *round table* *Possible themes (one slide per each participant):* - *Status of MSP implementation in a country* - *Links of MSP with land-use planning and/or ICZM* - *MSP needs of a country*
11. 15 – 11.30	*Coffee break*
11.30 – 13.00	**MSP Tools** - European MSP Platform – A getaway and exchange forum for MSP practitioners throughout Europe (Thetis) - Multilingual IOC-UNESCO MSP Website – Support platform for MSP practitioners around the Globe (IOC – UNESCO) - Tools4MSP Platform - Open source tools developed to support the implementation of MSP (CNR-ISMAR) - Implementation of MSP tools - Practical examples from SUPREME and SIMWESTMED projects (CNR-ISMAR; IUAV) - Linking EcAp (IMAP) and MSP – A pilot case from Montenegro (PAP/RAC) *Round table discussion on possible utilisation of MSP tools, linked with countries' needs: questions and answers*
13.00 – 14.30	*Lunch break*
14.30 - 16.30	**MSP Game** (moderated by IOC-UNESCO) - Introduction to the Game - Playing the Game - Panel discussion on results

WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL

9.00 – 9.10	**Introduction to the second day** (PAP/RAC)
9.10 – 10.00	**Land-Sea Interactions (LSI):** - Introduction to LSI: links with ICZM and MSP - Methodological guidance on LSI with practical implementation/testing the tool *Discussion: questions and answers*
10.00 – 11:00	**LSI round tables** *World cafè method (structured conversations for knowledge sharing in which groups of people discuss at several tables, with individuals switching tables).* *Structured conversation around 2 tables, 30' for each table.* ***Discussion table 1: proposed methodological guidelines for LSI*** ***Discussion table 2: LSI relevance and characteristics***
11.00 – 11.15	*Coffee break*
11.15 -12.30	**Transboundary MSP** - Regional Seas as a platform for a transboundary cooperation: Barcelona Convention (PAP/RAC) - Toolkit for MSP in Large Marine Ecosystems (LME) (LME:Learn; IOC-UNESCO) - Transboundary MSP in the Black Sea region (BSC) - Common approach towards MSP in the Adriatic (PAP/RAC)
12.30. - 12.40	**Closure**
12.40 – 13.40	***Cocktail lunch***

Annex III: MSP Training - LSI interactive session - Results

Discussion Table 1: Proposed methodological guidelines for LSI

Discussion was structured around three main question, whose elaboration by participants is given below.

1. **Is LSI analysis being done in your country? In what context (MSP? ICZM? other planning process)?**
   - LSI analysis is considered in the context of ICZM and has been implemented in some CAMP experiences
   - LSI analysis is considered in the context of MSP pilot cases
   - processes similar to LSI analysis are applied in relation with some specific topics (considering both natural processes, e.g. salt water intrusion and human activities, e.g. maritime activities at sea and their needs for land connection)

2. **Do you think the methodological guidelines can be useful within the MSP/ICZM process? Do you think they can be practically applicable?**
   - They are useful and they are, at least partially, applicable
   - They must be adapted to the specific national context and therefore considered in a flexible manner
   - They require time and effort to be applied. Both should be available during the planning process
   - They need to be revised and fine tuned: a precise definition of terminology used must be provided (a glossary to be prepared)
   - From a communication point of view, they should be simplified and the number of steps reduced, in order not to let people overestimate the complexity of their applicability

3. **Do you see useful to engage stakeholders in LSI analysis? Do you see it feasible?**
   - Engaging stakeholders in LSI is vital and possible, however, it is also difficult and effort demanding
   - A clear and professional leadership of the process is key
   - Conflicting interests need to be managed
   - Particularly challenging when dealing with sensitive topics (e.g. energy)

At the end of the discussion, participants were asked to score (from 1 to 3) the need for LSI analysis, usefulness of the presented methodological guidelines, practical applicability of the LSI analysis and availability of other tools for LSI analysis (Figure 3). Scoring was undertaken through four sentences that were represented on a panel and stickers were distributed.
9 persons participated in the exercise. The results were as follows:

- High need for LSI analysis in planning process (overall score = 27; average score = 3)
- High usefulness of the common methodological guidelines (overall score = 22; average score = 2.4)
- Moderate practical applicability of the LSI analysis (overall score = 16; average score = 1.8)
- Moderate availability of other methods/tools to undertake LSI analysis (overall score = 17; average score = 1.9).

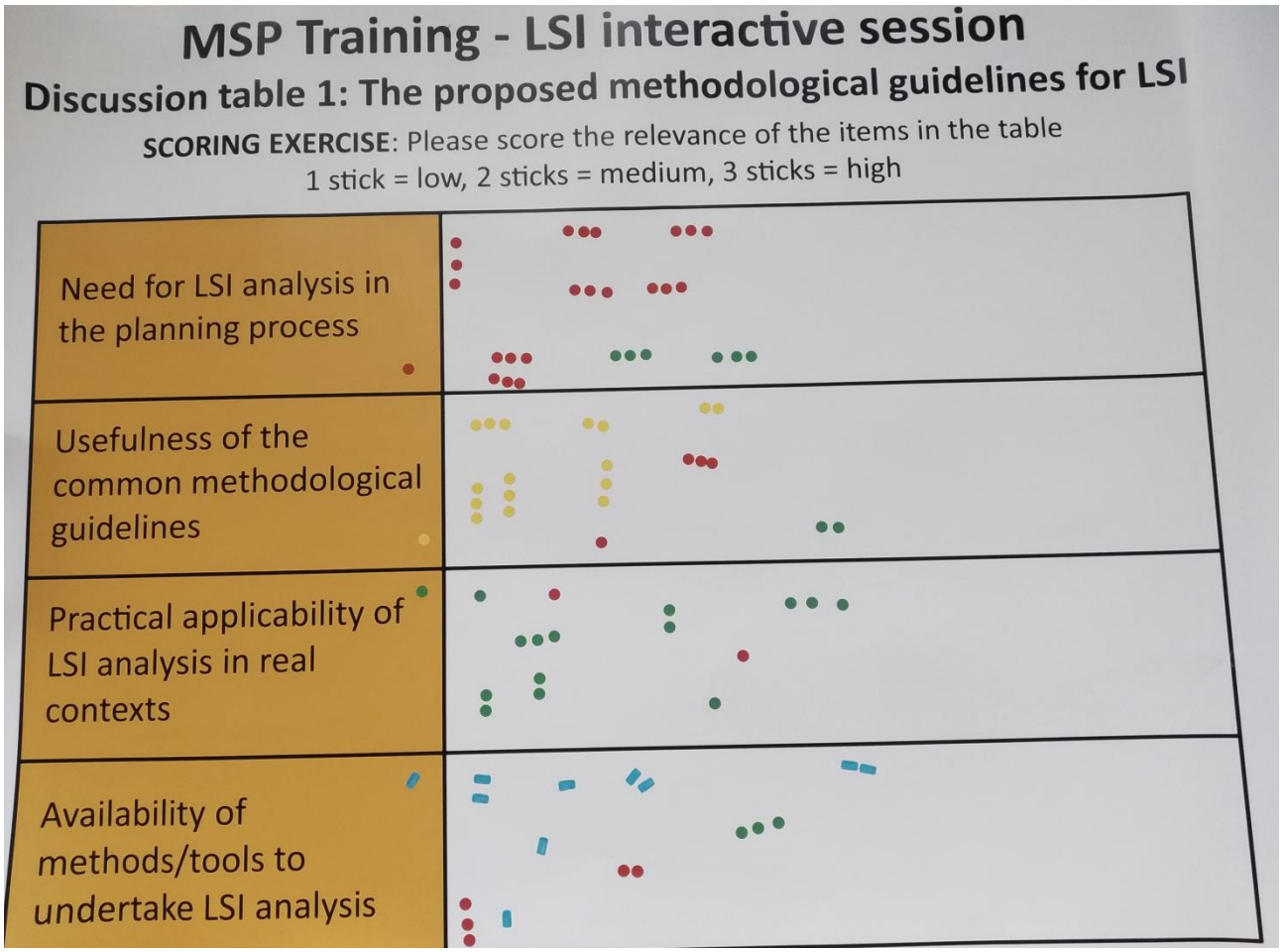


Figure 3: The results of the scoring exercise (Discussion Table 1)

Discussion Table 2: LSI relevance and characteristics

1. What are the key LSIs in your area which are relevant for the planning process?
2. Are the anthropogenic or the natural interactions predominant?
3. Are the Land→Sea or the Sea→Land interactions predominant?
4. Can you recommend a site where LSI methodological guidelines could be tested?

Participants discussed, located (on a map) and classified LSIs according to its predominant type and the predominant direction.

Most of the participants identified deltas as hot spots of LSI:

- Ebro Delta in Spain: Natural LSI: subsidence, erosion, decreased sediment intake (due to dams along the river and its tributaries). Anthropogenic LSI: fisheries, transport or oil & gas extraction.

- Nile Delta in Egypt: Natural LSI: Sea level rise and subsidence. Anthropogenic LSI: highly populated, urbanization (new settlements in the western part of the Delta), pollution from agriculture.
- Neretva river in Croatia: Natural LSI: salinization of freshwaters, connection between coastal and marine protected areas (including Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites). Anthropogenic LSI: agriculture pollution, port of Ploče, hydropower project in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Po Delta in Italy: a very sensitive transition area.

The entire eastern Adriatic is a hot spot of LSI due to marine litter-related pollution since a high amount of waste is discharged by rivers, due to poor waste management systems. Coastal urbanization is also a great element of concern. Other LSI issues common to the entire Adriatic include fisheries, ports (e.g. Durres, Bar, Split, Rijeka, Koper, Trieste, Venice, Ravenna) and oil & gas activities.

The Gulf of Gabès in Tunisia is a hot spot of LSI. It has the higher tidal excursion in the Mediterranean. It is a nursery area for fish population and fishery is the main economic activity. It includes both natural areas (e.g. the lagoon of Biban) and a wide number of activities, such as offshore oil extraction, phosphate industry and commercial fisheries.

In Turkey, LSIs are mostly related to the huge number of existing (200) - including Mersin on the Mediterranean Sea and Izmit on the Sea of Marmara - and planned harbours and to the related industrial activities. Wide concern is also about combining the important development of coastal tourism and preservation of natural coastal and marine habitats.

In Albania, hot spots of LSI are located in the Durres harbour, on the south coast (Karaburum MPA, a SPAMI) and in the Vlore Bay (MPA, aquaculture, maritime traffic).

In Montenegro, the river Bojana Delta is one of the local hot spot areas, in particular in relation to natural and anthropogenic processes affecting the sediment balance along the coast and flooding risk. The port of Bar is another important element.

In Israel, about 90% of the population lives in the northern coastal area, where also important infrastructures are located, as the Haifa port. LSI issues also include planning on new islands and coastal and marine protection.

Besides the Adriatic coast, and specifically the northern Adriatic area, other Italian LSI hot spots have been identified in: Genoa port, Tuscany archipelago and Piombino port, the entire Pelagos Sanctuary mainly due to shipping activities.

Although LSI can be considered high for the entire extension of the island of Malta, some specific hot spot areas can be identified: along the northern and eastern coast due to intensive urbanization, in the western part of Malta facing the islands of Gozo and Comino and close to the Free Port on the east.

Main LSI issues in southern France are related to: management of the Camargue area and the Rhone Delta, the port of Marseille, the entire Var department where Posidonia meadows are impacted by siltation caused by intense dredging activities of sands for beach nourishment.

In Cyprus, hot spots of LSI are the Akamas peninsula (an area characterized by natural environment, protected area and biological diversity, but affected by tourism), Limassol (where LSI interactions are linked to the presence of energy hub and oil industry exploration fields), Larnaca (with the Saka lake and the area of the airport) and the eastern part (with protected areas and important touristic activities).

In Morocco, the areas of Tanger and the lagoon of Nador are the most relevant LSI hot spots in the Mediterranean Sea.

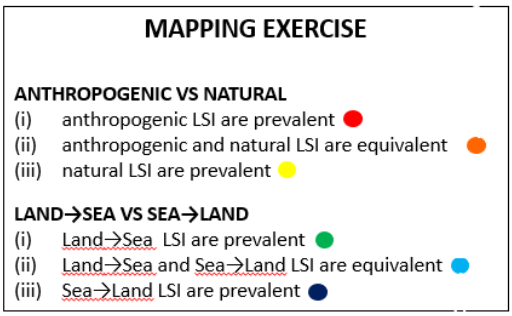
In Slovenia, the relevance for LSI is given by the strong eco-connectivity of the Adriatic-Alpine ecosystems characterizing the Soča-Isonzo River basin.

In Lebanon, LSI hot spots are located in the north of the country (with the cement industry in Chekka) and in the area of Mount of Lebanon (with Palm island natural reserve and Tyre natural reserve).

A map of the Mediterranean and the Mediterranean facing countries was available and stickers were used to locate:

- Anthropogenic or natural predominance (stickers with three different colours)
- Land→Sea or the Sea→Land predominance (stickers with three different colours)

Locating and classifying LSIs was done using the following key:



The final map with all the above-mentioned LSIs was produced by the participants and is available as Figure 2.