



**eMSP  
NBSR**

Emerging Ecosystem-based  
Maritime Spatial Planning  
Topics in the North and Baltic  
Sea Regions



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# Challenges, gaps and proposals to improve international framework for EBA in MSP

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Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky

HELCOM

[www.eMSPproject.eu](http://www.eMSPproject.eu)



## LS on EBA deliverables

- **An evaluation of the EBA status in national MSPs – overview of good practices.**
- **A map of gaps in existing international policy framework for EBA (Gap analysis).**
- **Recommendations to fill gaps and advance international framework for EBA in MSP (e.g. EBA guidelines).**
- **Study case illustrating practical approaches to the application of ecosystem-based approach in MSP:**
  - *MSP for GES*
  - *MSP and MPAs*
  - *MSP for SBE (jointly with LS on SBE).*
- **Policy briefs targeting urgent needs for enhancement of EBA in MSP in the light of Green Deal with concrete illustrative examples.**
- **Recommendations for a framework for continuous science and policy dialog and mutual knowledge exchange in the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions.**

## Content of the gap analysis

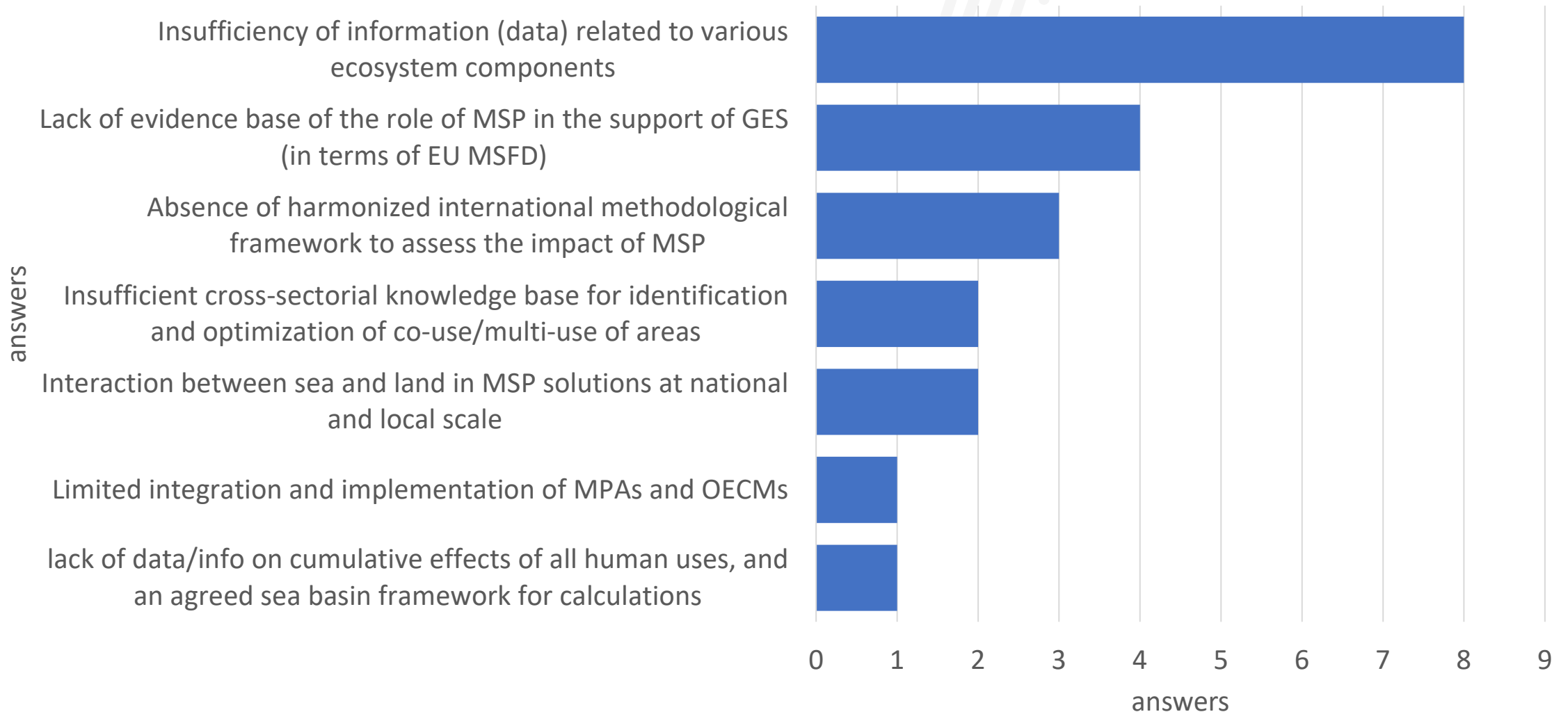
- Major challenges in the application of EBA in MSP.
- Comparison of the North and Baltic Sea regional EBA frameworks.
- Gaps in the existing Baltic Sea EBA framework.
- Key elements of ecosystem-based approach in MSP.
- MSP knowledge and data.
- PanBalticScope project recommendations for EBA in MSP.
- EU Green Deal and ecosystem-based approach in MSP.
- What can be concluded from “zero” (WWF) assessment?



## What are the major challenges?

- **Insufficient cross-sectorial knowledge base** for identification and optimization of co-use/multi-use of areas.
- **Lack of evidence base** on the role of MSP in the support of good environmental status in terms of **MSFD (WFD)**.
- **Insufficiency of information (data)** related to various EBA aspects, including ecosystem components, distribution of human activities and their impacts.
- Absence of **harmonized international methodological framework** for cumulative impact assessment.
- Accounting for **linkages between sea and land** in MSP solutions at national and local scale.
- **Limited integration of Marine Protected Areas** into MSP planning and implementation, resulting in inadequate protection of important marine habitats and species.
- **Difficulties to communicate** scientific evidence base with general public and broad stakeholders' community.

# Prioritization of challenges for application EBA in MSP



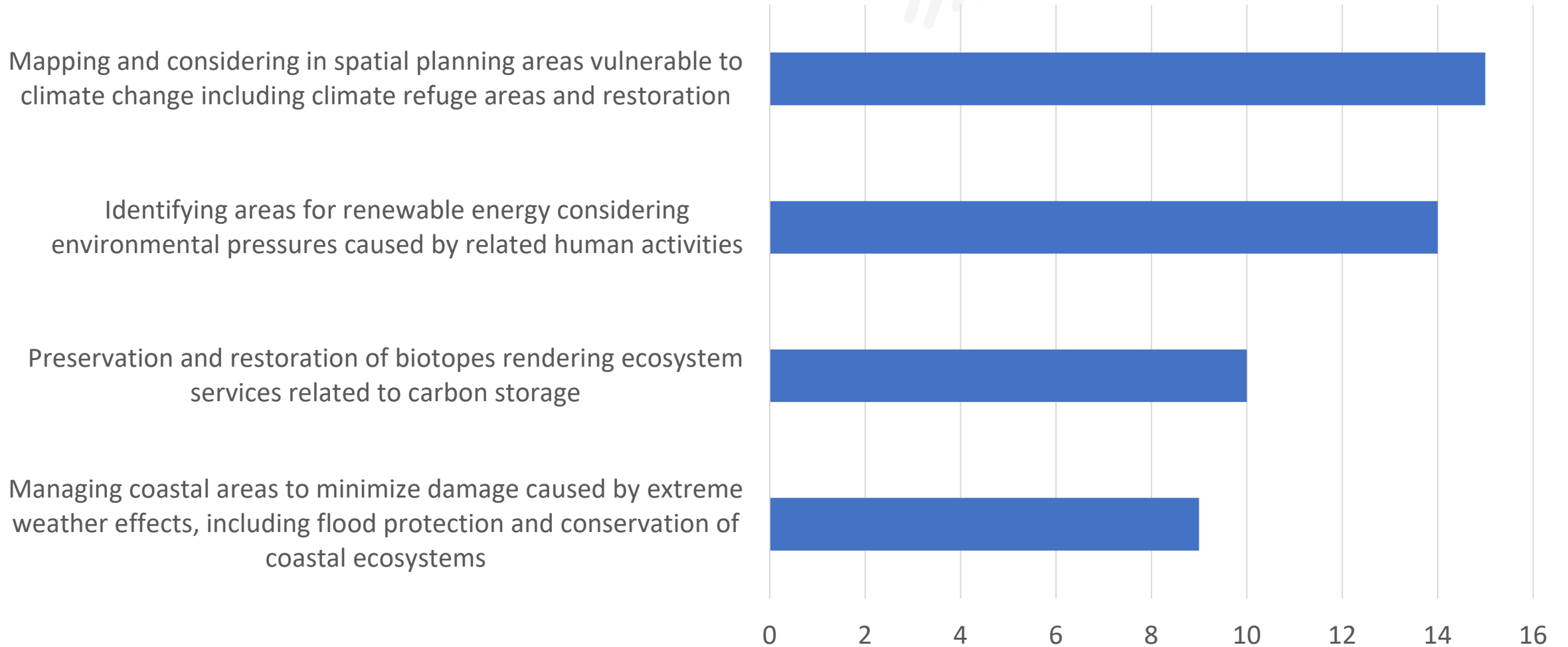


## What are the challenges in relation to climate change?

- Understanding **changes in the marine environment** caused by climate change,
- Understanding of **environmental pressures** and their **changes** due to climate changes,
- Development of MSP **solutions/practices** to increase climate change resilience,
- Keeping up with the **accelerated implementation of renewable energy targets.**



# The role of MSP in increasing climate change resilience





# North Sea and Baltic Sea EBA framework

North Sea

Baltic Sea

## Commonalities

CBD Definitions of the ecosystem-based approach

Malawi principles

EU Policies (for the EU member states in NS and BS) and EU Guideline for EBA in MSP

OSPAR Convention and Helsinki Convention

Joint HELCOM and OSPAR definition of ecosystem-based approach (2003)

## Differences

The North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (NEAES) 2030 does not address MSP as a tool contributing to GES of the North Sea.

The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) 2030 in the segment dedicated to cross-cutting issues specifically considers MSP as a tool contributing the effort to achieve GES.

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Baltic Sea broad-scale MSP principles (2010)

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The Regional Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2030

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Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea area (2016)

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Policy area Spatial Planning of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region





## Policy context of the BS Guideline for EBA in MSP

Addressed	To be addressed
Global framework	No revision
Joint HELCOM and OSPAR definition of EBA (2003)	No revision
Helsinki Convention	No revision
Joint HELCOM–VASAB MSP Principles	No revision
Marine Strategy Framework Directive	No revision
HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan 2021	Revision required, since new BSAP 2030 was adopted in 2021
EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	Revision required, since new Action plan was adopted in 2021
	Relevant aspects from the NS policy framework (OSPAR)
	Regional MSP Roadmap 2030
	Water Framework Directive
	Birds and Habitats Directives
	SEA Directive
	Biodiversity strategy for 2030 -EU GD
	Proposal for a Nature Restoration Law – EU GD
	European Climate Law – EU GD
	Common Fisheries Policy???

Addressed	To be addressed
Declares general need for knowledge.	no revision
Regional framework related to data, monitoring and assessment.	no revision
Gives example of HELCOM HOLASII (2018)	An indicative list of knowledge areas to be addressed. Recommendations, based on knowledge compiled for (HOLAS III). Study cases: MSP for GES, MSP & MPAs
	Address recent developments of MSP data (results MSP DATA ECG and other).
	Provide recommendations on reference list of EBA data (LS on DATA).
	Exemplify good practices of obtaining scientific knowledge from national MSP processes (EBA overview).

Addressed	To be addressed
Issues to be considered in addition to Baltic Sea broad-scale MSP Principles	No revision
Such elements like environmental accounting, strategic environmental assessment, public participation and communication, precautionary principle are mentioned in the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Inclusion of nature:</b> nature protection and cumulative pressure within ecosystem capacity limits.</li> <li>b. <b>Social and economic considerations:</b> utilization of ecosystem services and incorporating relevant human activities.</li> <li>c. <b>Comprehensiveness and coherence:</b> cross-border and cross-sectoral consideration.</li> <li>b. <b>Ocean governance:</b> institutional structure and aligning strategic policy objectives and targets.</li> <li>d. <b>Adaptive management:</b> forward looking approach including monitoring and evaluation.</li> </ul>



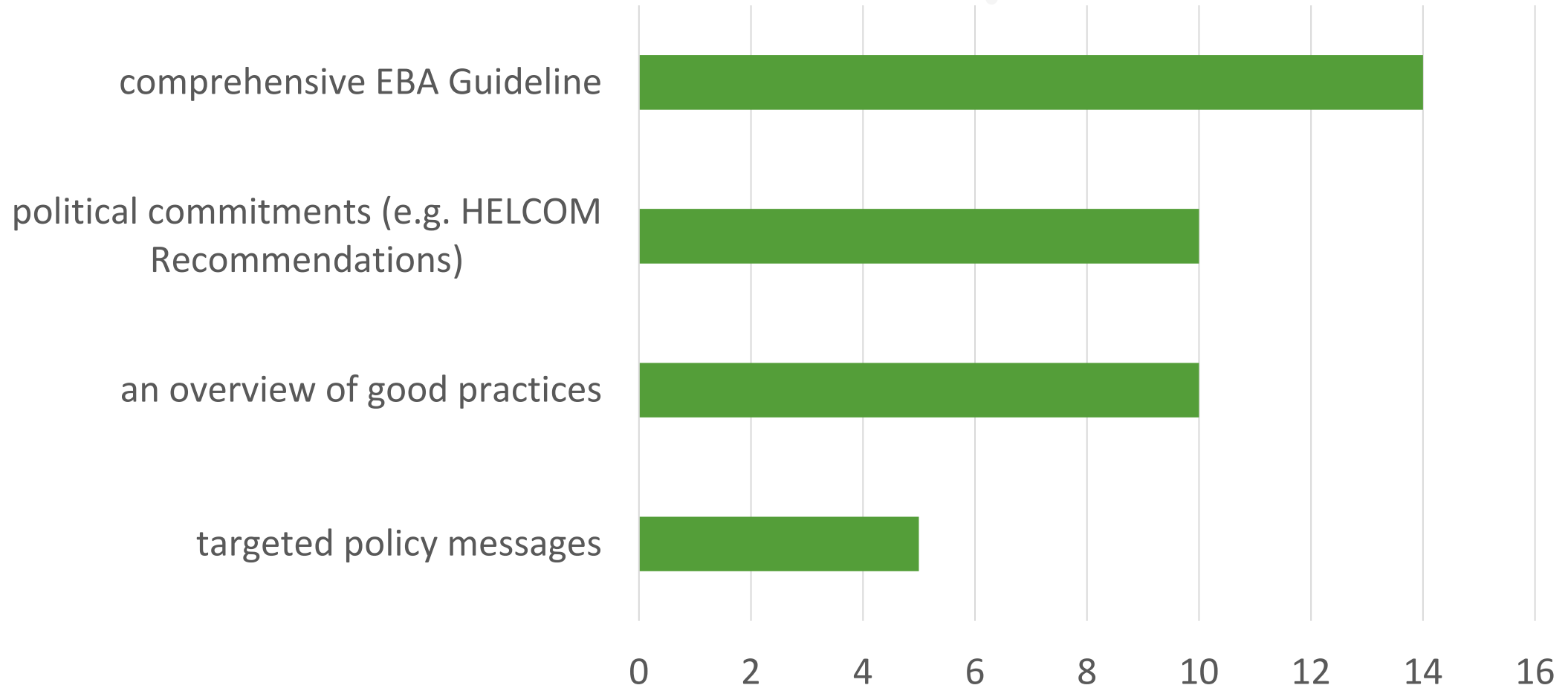
# Recommendations from PanBaltic Scope

EBA-recommendation from Pan Baltic Scope	Target groups	Still a GAP in 2023?
Develop tools and mechanisms for <b>enhancing cooperation between different national administrative levels</b> in marine planning and marine management.	Planning authorities, Local and regional authorities, Sector authorities, Sector representatives, NGOs	<b>Yes.</b> Vertical national cooperation linking planning at different levels may be developed.
Integrate the ecosystem-based approach into <b>sectoral planning initiatives</b> to facilitate its implementation in MSP.	Planning authorities, Local authorities, Sector authorities, Sector representatives, NGO	<b>Yes.</b> EBA in MSP may be strengthened through the integration of EBA in the sectoral planning taking place before or parallel to MSP.
Link <b>MSP closer to the implementation of the MSFD</b> at national, transnational and HELCOM levels. Develop spatially related Good Environmental Status objective.	Planning authorities, Policy makers, Sector authorities, HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, Researchers	<b>Yes.</b> Spatializing MSFD-targets for GES is still a potential
Integrate <b>cumulative impact assessment</b> as a key component of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.	Planning authorities, Sector authorities, Researchers	<b>Yes.</b> There is a need to harmonize application of cumulative assessments as part of SEA.
Produce up to date pan-Baltic <b>maps on key components of the ecosystem. Apply the green infrastructure concept</b> in the MSP process and develop it further, including mapping methods.	Planning authorities	<b>Yes.</b>
Develop a common understanding of the precautionary principle as part of adaptive management, as a part of handling uncertainties in planning in a similar way.	HELCOM, National governments, Planning authorities, Licensing authorities	<b>Yes.</b> Active management of uncertainty including adaptive management and clear application of the precautionary principle still needs attention to strengthen EBA.
Foresee future alterations of key habitats as <b>a result of climate change</b> to support adaptive MSP.	Planning authorities	<b>Yes.</b>

## WWF indicators which demonstrate zero values in the BS

WWF indicator name	Zero score in BS (9 max)
<b>Areas for nature restoration included.</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Aligns with EU policies for reduction of noise pollution</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Are there measures to connect and manage MPAs in a coherent network within the planning area, across countries and in regional sea basins?</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Blue Carbon ecosystems protected</b>	<b>5</b>
Industry employment and income generation forecasted	4
Adaptive management framework applied	4
Tools for monitoring progress and aligning with key policies included	4
When data is missing/ insufficient, Precautionary Principle applied	3
Are MPA management provisions included as priorities in the maritime spatial plan?	3
Sustainable blue economy objectives and finance principles defined	3
Aligns with EU policies for seafloor and habitat protection	3
Strategic environmental assessments (SEA) conducted	2
Consideration for Ecologically sensitive areas	2
Land-sea interactions identified and analysed	2
Essential marine habitats connected via blue corridors/green infrastructure	2
Essential marine habitats connected via blue corridors/green infrastructure	2

# What is the most suitable tool to strengthen EBA in MSP?





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# Thank you



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