

Integrating the European Green Deal into MSP

A holistic approach to spatial needs, compatibility of uses and land-sea interaction

Challenge Many EGD objectives require space to unfold, but European seas are already very busy. Increased compatibility and collaboration are needed to attain sectoral targets and find space for new activities alongside traditional ones. Furthermore, blue economy sectors are dependent on support functions at land, terrestrial and marine ecosystems span over the coastline and climate change impacts multiple flows across the interface. Such land-sea interactions need to be better considered in MSP.

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Trade-offs analysis can help prioritise among competing uses and the environment.

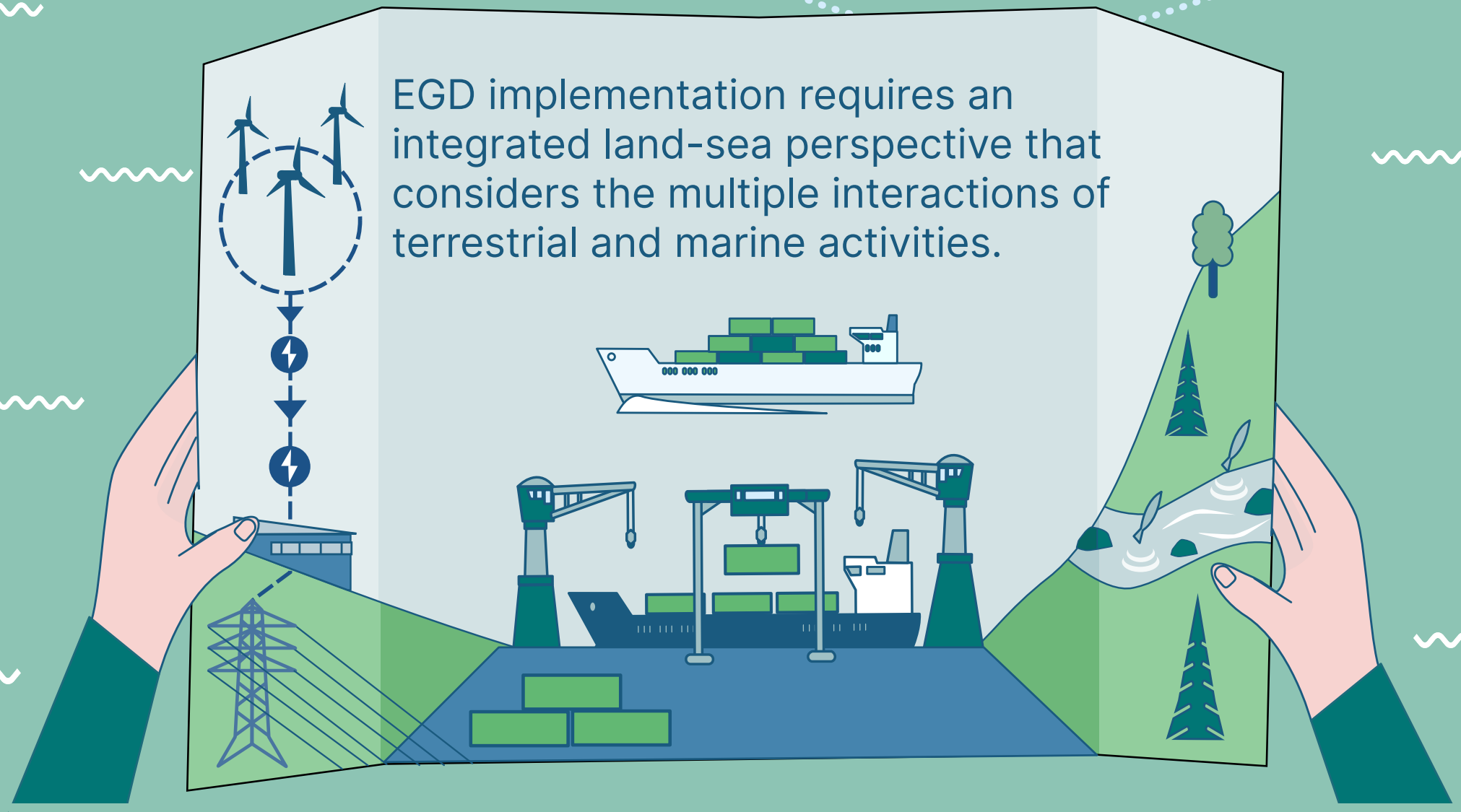
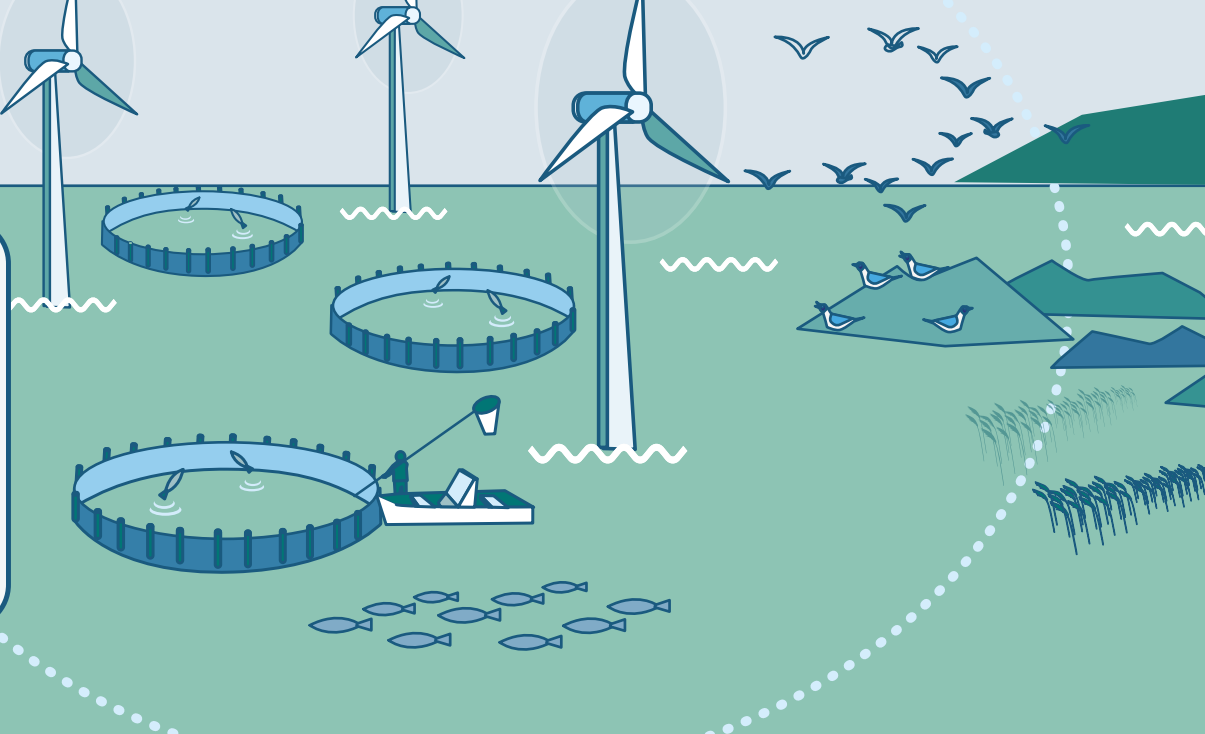
The Bulgarian new action explores the potential of offshore aquaculture areas and their integration in MSP to support sustainable development of shellfish aquaculture. The action addresses spatial needs and compatibility of maritime sectors.

New action!



Cross-sector collaboration and innovative solutions help coordinate new EGD related activities such as offshore wind energy with traditional ones in already busy sea areas.

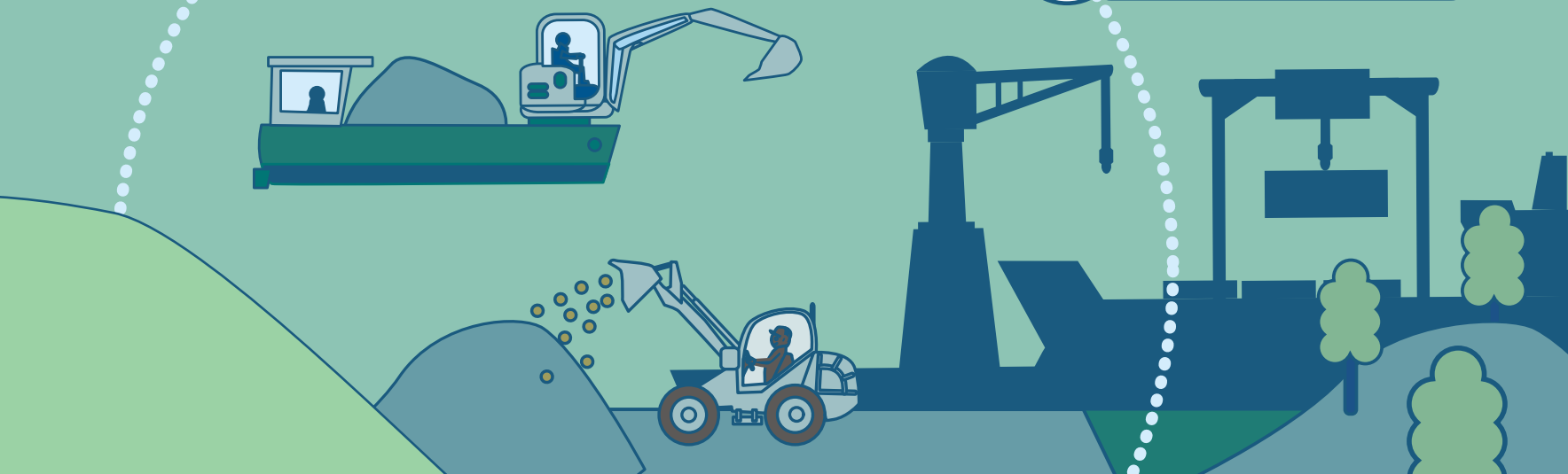
Multi-use of sea areas is a promising approach to address challenges arising from limited space for furthering multiple EGD objectives. Its potential lies in combining different uses and synergies while removing pressure for certain trade-offs.



EGD implementation requires an integrated land-sea perspective that considers the multiple interactions of terrestrial and marine activities.

The French new action supports consideration of land-sea interaction through investigation of opportunities and challenges in reusing dredged material on land and simultaneously advances a circular blue economy perspective in MSP.

New action!



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New data and cross-sectoral knowledge transfer supporting MSP

Challenge Despite the progress made to improve data availability and its use, lack of appropriate and ready-to-use data is still a challenge. In the face of EGD, MSP must be data-driven and gather knowledge on emerging demands. Data gaps relate to, for example, ecosystem services and functioning, the effects of human activities on the environment and assessment of cumulative effects. Data fragmentation and lack of compatibility present issues with data scattered between many actors, administrations, and platforms.

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Gathering knowledge on emerging EGD demands is necessary for MSP to contribute to the Green Deal objectives. New data, information and knowledge are required from different sources, including stakeholders.

The Latvian new action presents management and planning solutions to reach the 30% Biodiversity Strategy's target at sea. It considers new data and knowledge on ecosystem values gained from an ongoing project investigating potential MPA areas.

New action!

Bringing together existing data from different sources and incorporating regional and local data into the national MSP process can contribute to bridging data gaps.

The German new action gathers information on the possibilities of multi-use in the EEZ, particularly on offshore wind energy production, biodiversity protection, fishing and aquaculture. It addresses information gaps on compatibility from the point of view of consequences and maps out further data needs such as cumulative impacts.

New action!

Knowledge-based MSP delivers impactful solutions

More detailed projections and analysis of challenges such as climate change, land-sea interaction and cumulative impacts offer a basis for informed decision-making.

More detailed analysis of the social and economic aspects related to the EGD are needed for its successful incorporation into MSP.

MSP futures: Projecting while managing different types of uncertainties

Challenge The European Green Deal calls for MSP to apply a long-term planning approach, dealing with present and future actions at sea. This is challenged by uncertainties related to changes in the environment, climate, society, economy, and governance. The changes can be hard to predict and affect policies and their future implementation. Integrating different visions for a sustainable future under MSP is likely to be difficult. Uncertainty needs to be tackled in research and modeling of the future, with implications on data and knowledge availability and usage in MSP.

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The Italian new action proposes an operational framework for climate-proofing of MSP plans. The design includes interlinked steps typical to an adaptation policy cycle, such as collaboration with stakeholders to address specific uncertainties.

New action!

Quantitative to qualitative tools are available to explore the future evolutions of sea space and its uses and inform long-term MSP. Better used in combination!

MSP is called to handle various uncertainties and EGD-related ones are better addressed by collaboration with stakeholders.

Data sharing and knowledge co-creation with stakeholders can contribute to filling existing gaps regarding complex features such as fish stocks presence and evolution.

The Finnish new action presents an approach to knowledge sharing and co-creation with experts and stakeholders. Fishers were engaged to evaluate the impacts of climate change on their sector. This information is then integrated into the MSP process.

New action!

Transparent communication of uncertainty to the plan's users is key.

Some sources of uncertainty related to EGD-actions in MSP are outside the scope and remit of MSP, as they depend on other policies' implementation.

MSP as a transversal approach to planning the marine realm

Challenge MSP is expected to bring together sectoral policies, objectives that may diverge and answer swiftly to many political and societal needs. Integration of actors involved at various levels and across sectors and policies is a constant challenge. The scope of MSP, including for example the enforceability of plans and the mandate of the MSP authorities, impacts the ability to deliver on EGD objectives. The challenges are amplified by the lack of resources in the face of urgency to act on issues such as the green energy transition and biodiversity loss.

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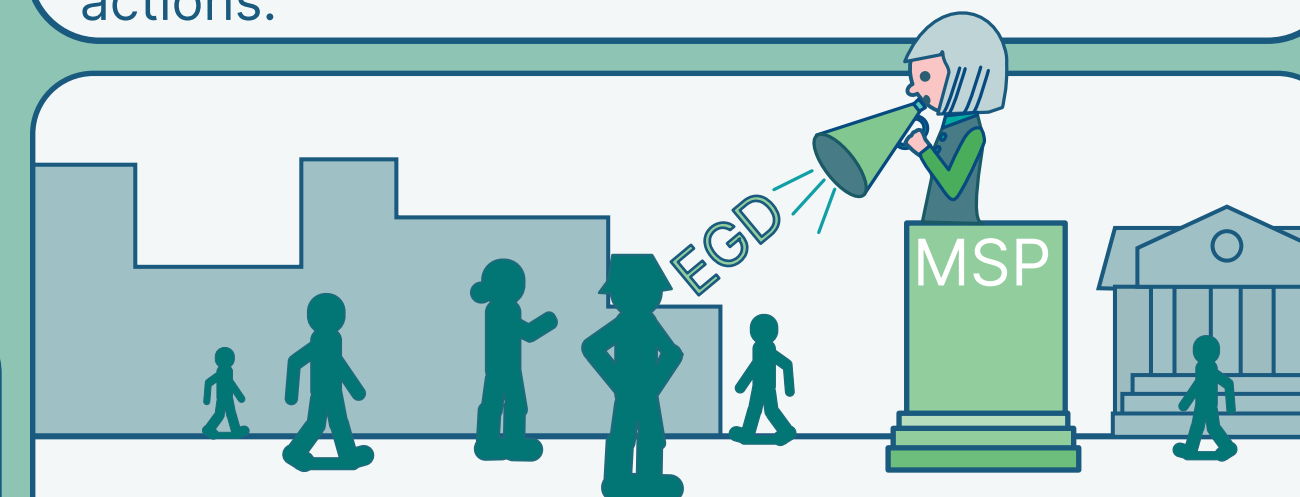
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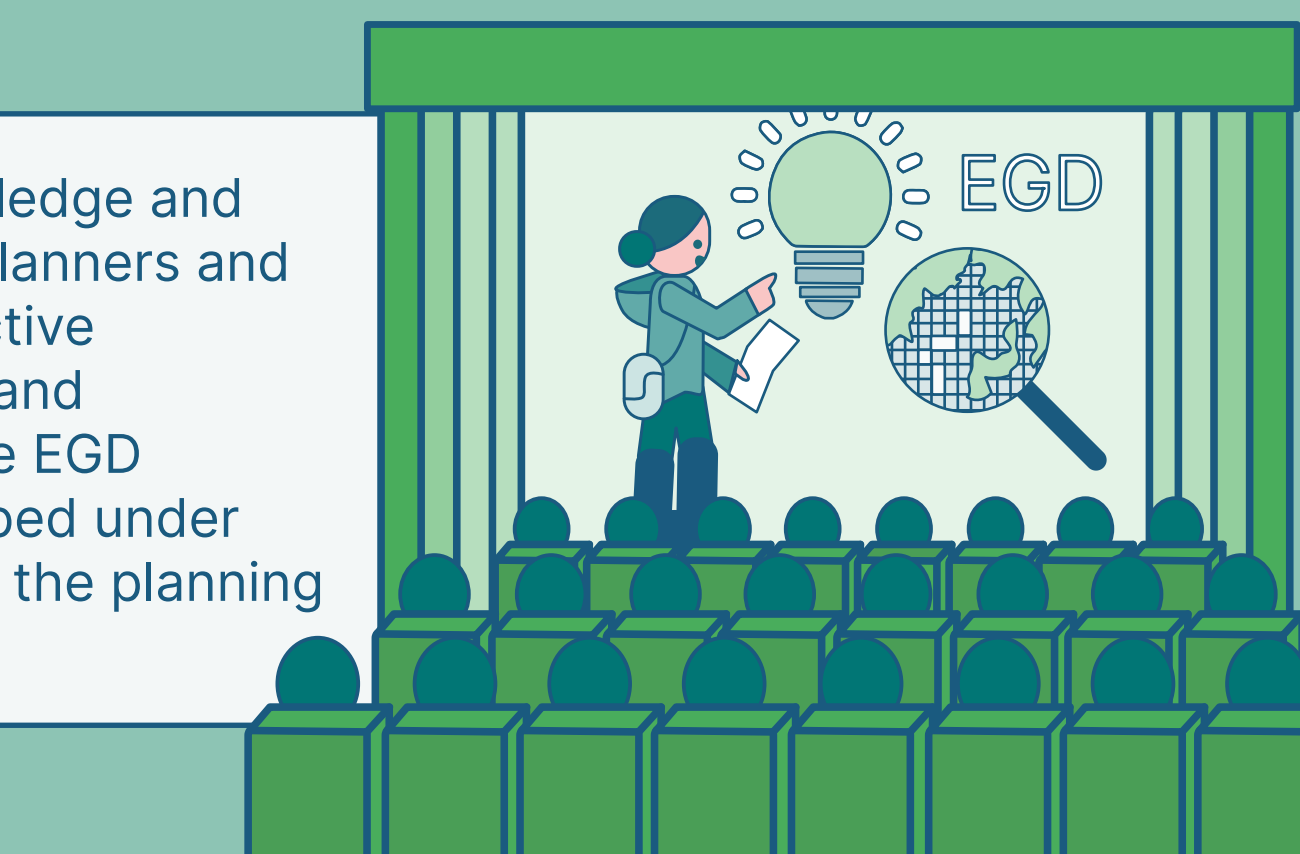
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The strength of MSP lies in its comprehensive and cross-sectoral approach. As many issues are still currently handled in silos, there is a need to provide common ground for the integration of actions.



The role of MSP as a marine enabler of the EGD needs to be made visible in the society. Increasing awareness of decision-makers on the scope and role of MSP could improve its positioning in the political agenda.



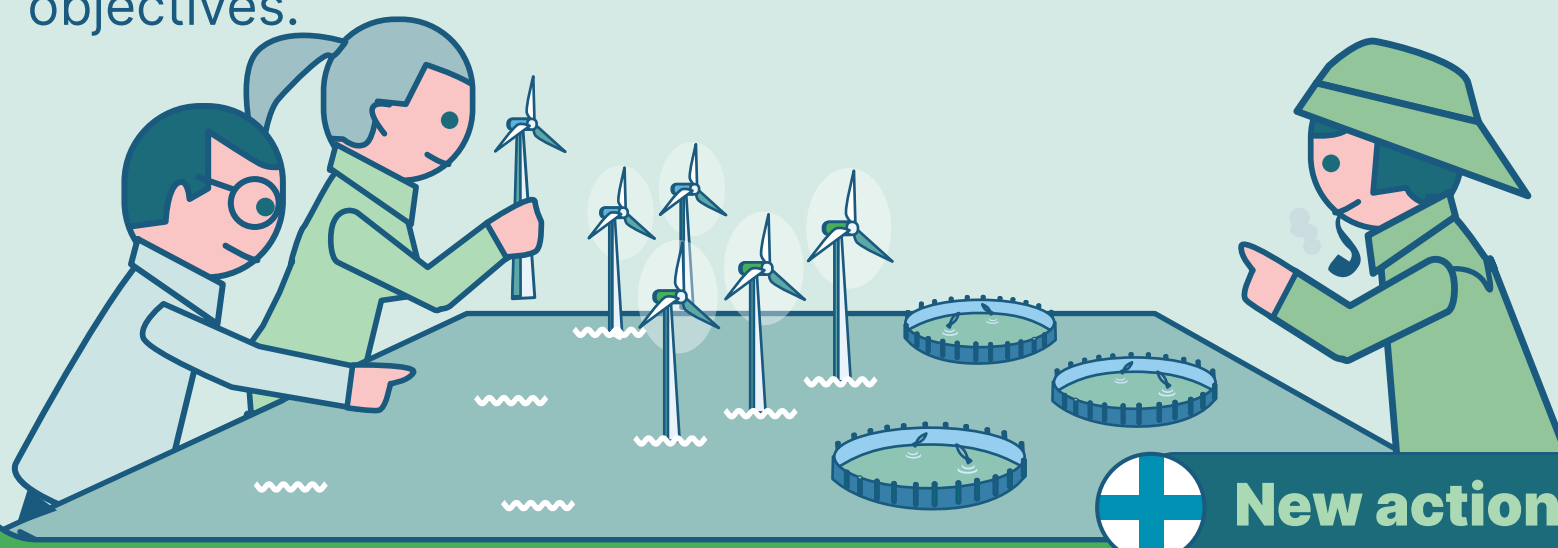
The French new action provides an example on how sectoral policies can be integrated into MSP: the second planning cycle is being used to inform on highly protected area designations, with a specific attention dedicated to their interaction with fisheries activities.



MSP needs continuous funding spanning the whole planning cycle for it to better facilitate the EGD. Project funding is important to build new capacities, share experiences and operationalize new knowledge and concepts.

There is a need to clarify how MSP and sectoral policies could be better integrated. MSP does not necessarily need to have a mandate over sectoral policies to be impactful. Instead, it can enable exchange between the policies themselves.

The Finnish new action shows how project funding has supported the operationalization of the concept of multi-use in MSP. Multi-use can create opportunities for the integration of different sectoral and nature protection objectives.



There can be a lack of knowledge and awareness from both MSP planners and stakeholders on their respective decision-making processes and requirements. To support the EGD objectives, solutions developed under MSP need to spread outside the planning circles.

Integrating the European Green Deal into MSP

MSP as a scanning and aligning tool for relevant policies

Challenge The need to reconcile EGD-related policy objectives constitutes a challenge for MSP. MSP often has no regulatory power over policies and can only propose solutions on a case-by-case basis at the operational level. Some policies also lack guidance on operational aspects. Reconciliation can be especially complex between objectives on nature protection and those calling for the development of new blue economy activities. In some cases, national political priorities can even present overriding interests.

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MSP is considered a good framework to integrate different policy objectives. It can be employed as a “scanner” of policy conflicts at the implementation level of those objectives, facilitating the proposal of operational solutions.



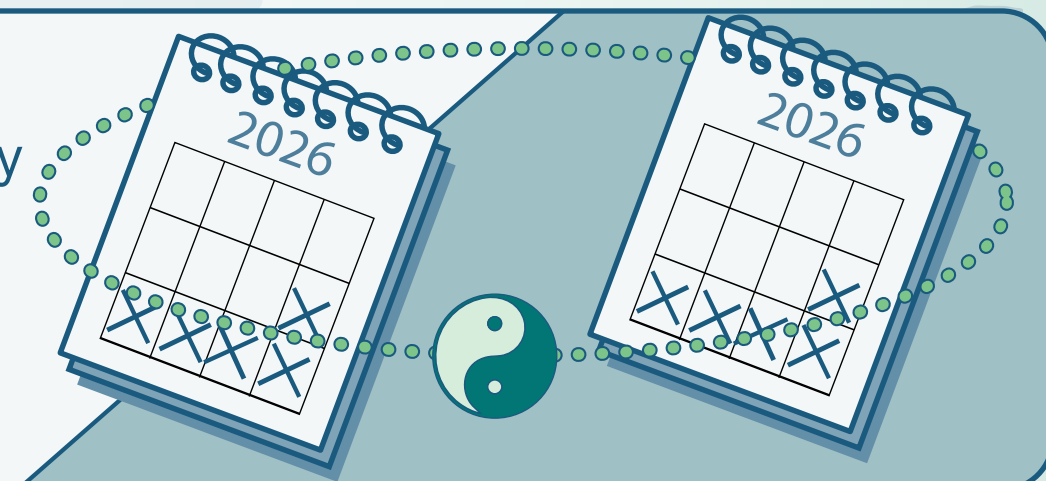
There exists a need to update certain policies to incorporate new elements from more recent ones, to facilitate their coherent application.



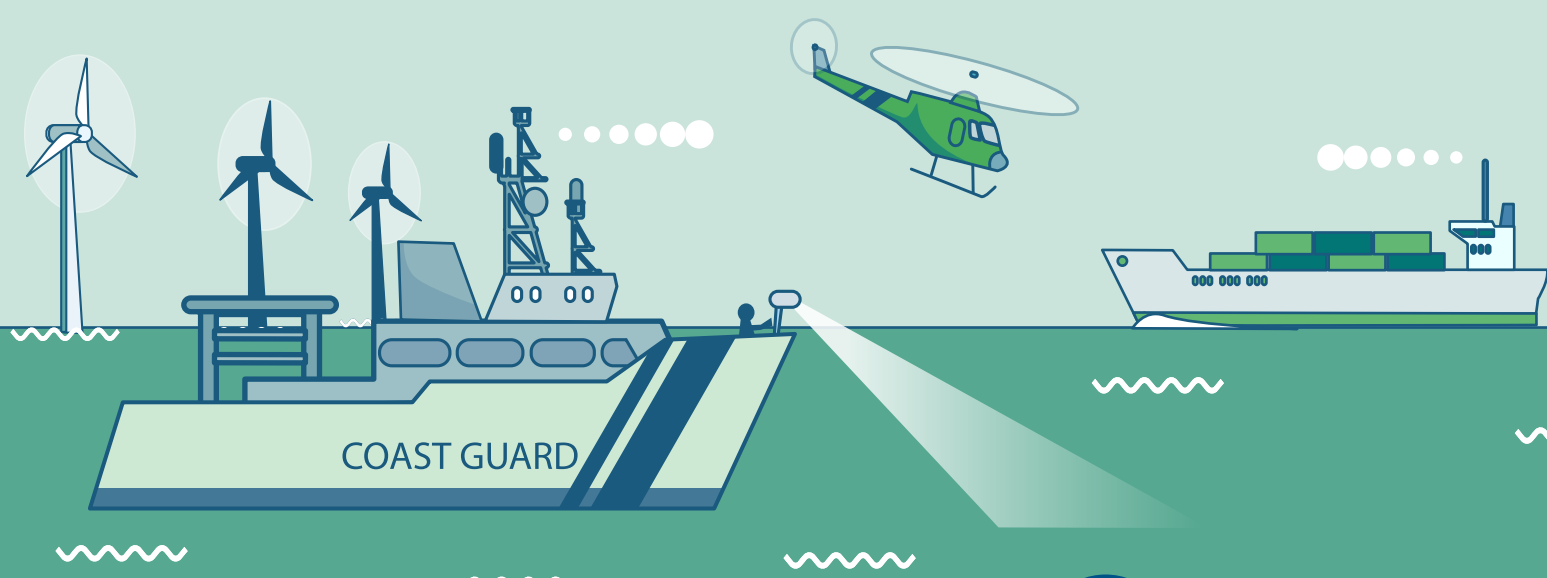
MSP can utilise multi-use areas as an operational mechanism for reconciling objectives on a case-by-case basis.



Aligning mismatched policy calendars facilitates integration and collaboration

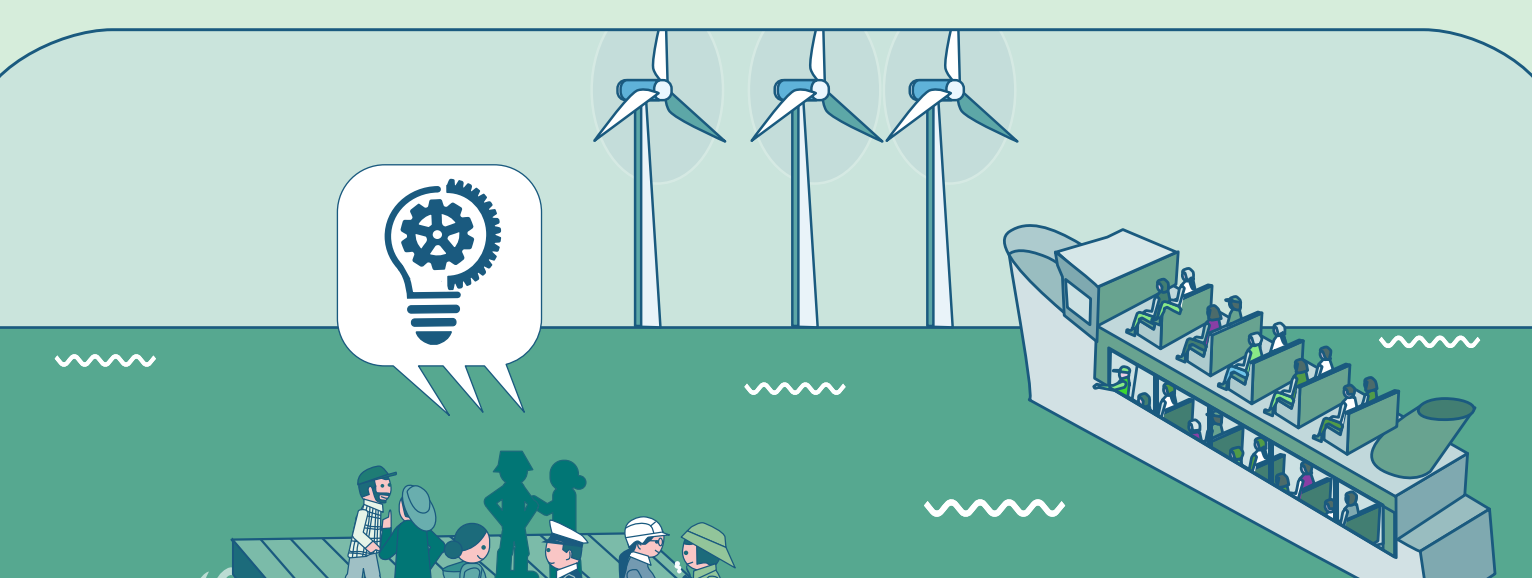


The French new action explores how MSP and maritime safety could be better integrated spatially and strategically. Doing so, it highlights that due consideration to maritime safety can conversely support MSP and the EGD by ensuring the practical compatibility of maritime activities such as shipping and offshore renewable energy or preventing marine pollution.

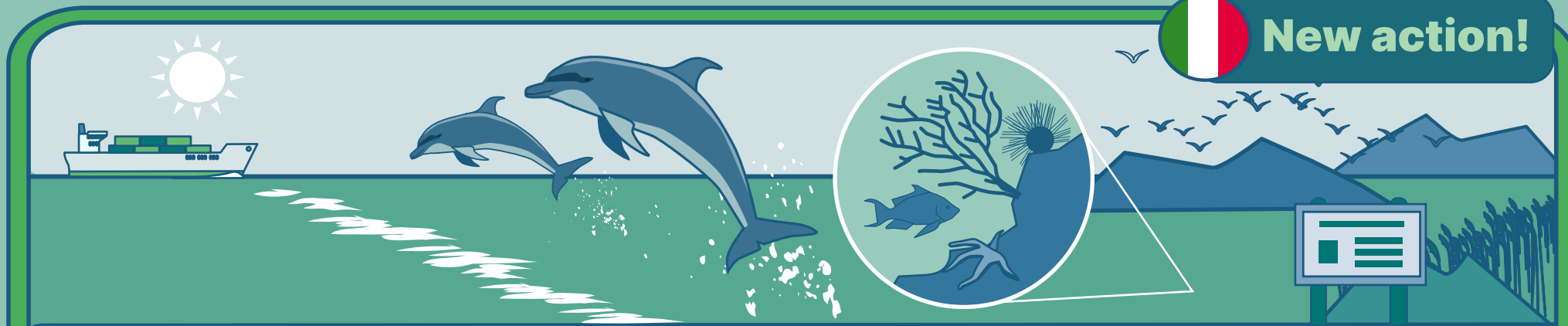


New action!

Countries may allocate zones for innovation as Latvia has considered, in this way, proposing areas available for multiple uses, especially innovation driven, different objectives may be reconciled in shared space. Other objectives could be reconciled in MSP by facilitating stakeholders involvement.



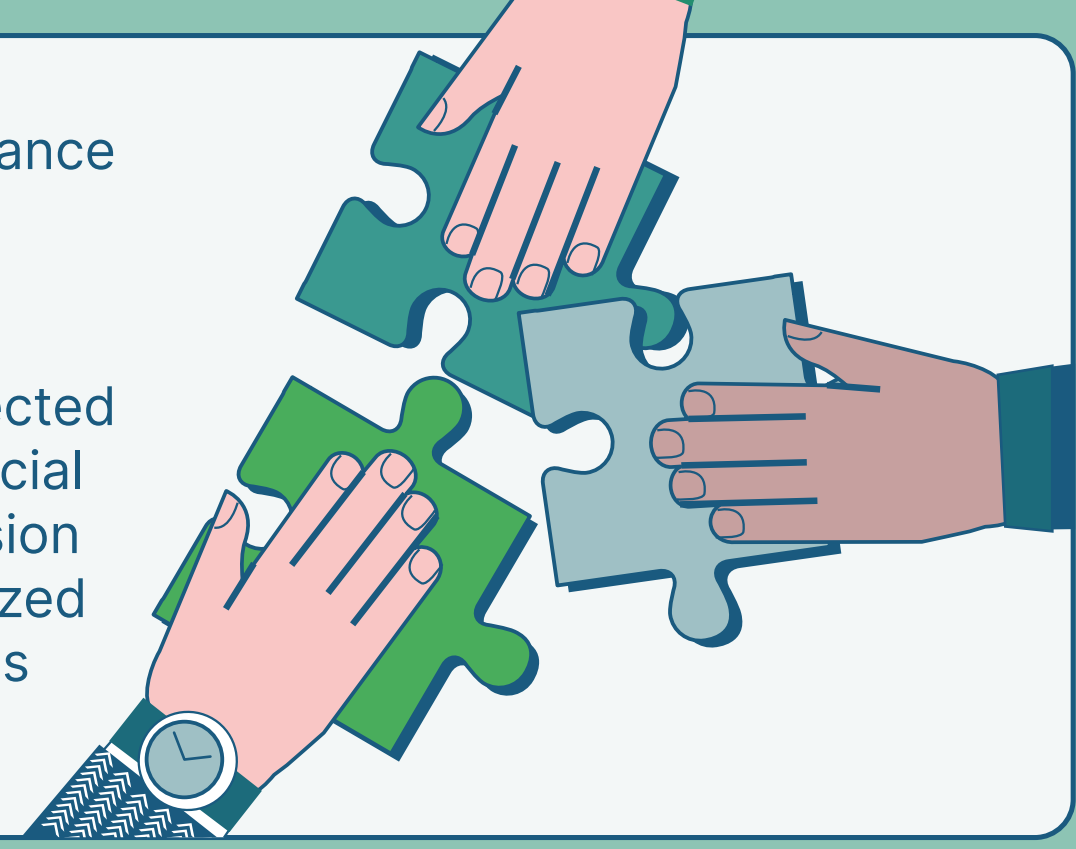
New action!



 **New action!**

The Italian new action presents a strongly stakeholder driven approach to biodiversity conservation considering multiple scales from cross-border to regional. It shows how stakeholder involvement is a fundamental step in the process of identifying new proposals for protected areas.

The role of MSP is to balance power between different sectors and promote the different societal and community values connected to maritime activities. Social objectives such as inclusion of local values, marginalized groups and gender issues should be considered.



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Towards a fair and just green transition at sea

Challenge Stakeholder engagement to ensure fairness and equity constitutes a continuous challenge for MSP. Recognition of stakeholders, diversity of knowledge and collaboration are key aspects of a participatory and just MSP process supporting the EGD objectives. However, reaching out to a large and diverse group of stakeholders and identifying their role in MSP is challenging and resource intensive. Consideration of the cost-benefit distribution of the green transition is also needed.

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The operationalization of EGD creates new pressures at sea forming a need for MSP to reconsider who are the relevant stakeholders and those most impacted. Solutions for promoting a fair distribution of the benefits and impacts are needed.

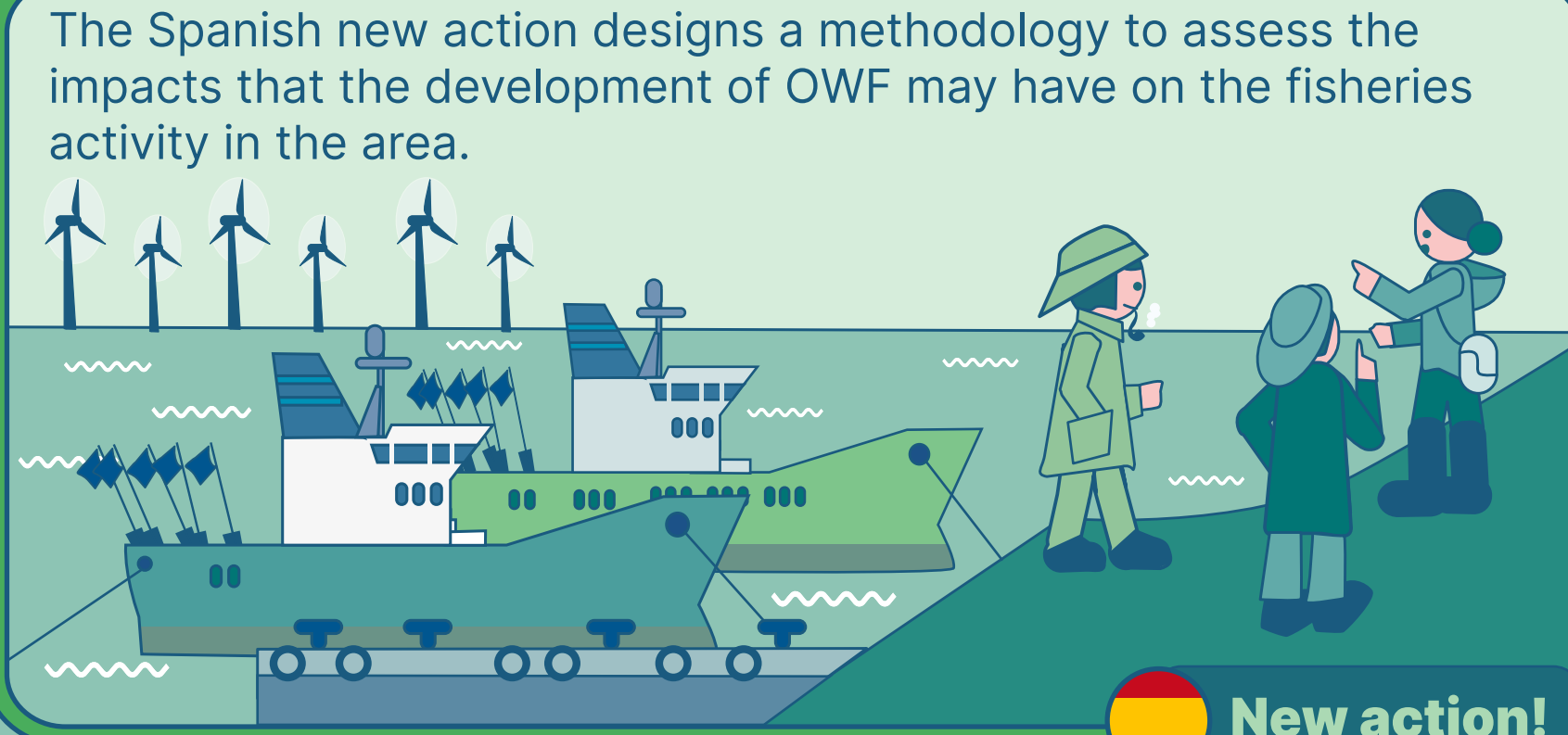




All sea and coastal areas deserve equal consideration in MSP. For a regionally and nationally fair green transition, the spatial distribution of impacts and opportunities related to sustainable blue economy needs to be evaluated.



Defining objectives and choosing the right methods for communication and stakeholder collaboration are important to designing a successful and fair MSP process.

The Spanish new action designs a methodology to assess the impacts that the development of OWF may have on the fisheries activity in the area.



 **New action!**



MSP needs to provide stakeholders a genuine opportunity to impact the contents of the plan to support fairness and equity in practice. To achieve this, processes integrating the stakeholder knowledge into MSP are needed.



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