

# **MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE (MSFD) Regional Training**

18 - 20 May 2015

ECRAN

## **Contents and requirements**



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# **!!!!Structure of the presentation**

- MSFD essentials, aims, conceptual framework, key concepts, requirements and timetable**
- Marine strategies**
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- Marine spatial planning principles, steps and benefits**
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- Other useful information**



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# MSFD: Essentials

- The MSFD (2008/56/EC), adopted on 17 June 2008, is the **environmental pillar of Europe's maritime policy** designed to create a framework for sustainable use of Europe's marine waters.
- It provides a legislative framework to sustainably manage human activities at all scales - from local to national to regional seas.
- The MSFD promotes an **Ecosystem Approach** (EA) to reach Good Environmental Status (GEnS) by 2020.
- It establishes an **integrated approach** to maritime activities and provides a **long-term policy vision** for Europe's marine environment.
- It is an European Response to An Urgent Situation (SEAS FOR LIFE, EU 2011)
- The MSFD **complements the WFD**, extending environmental protection into EU marine waters beyond the coastal waters.

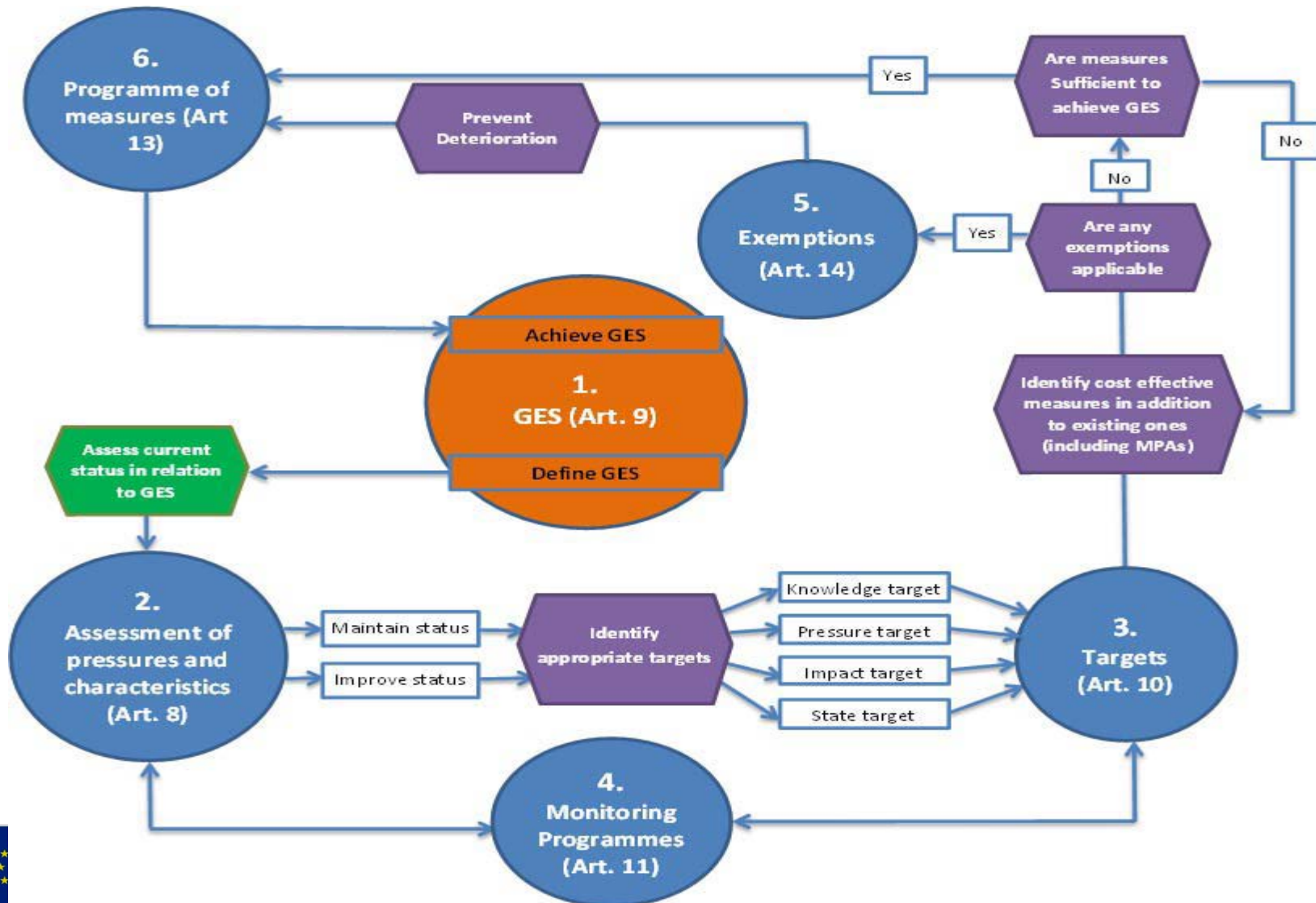


# MSFD aims

- to protect the marine environment across Europe.
- To reach the target of "Good Environmental Status" which must be achieved in EU marine waters by 2020.
- Following the first cycle of management which ends in 2020, new programmes of measures will be set on a six yearly basis.
- Each Member State must draw up a programme of cost-effective measures to attain good environmental status.



# MSFD: EC conceptual framework



# Key concepts of the Marine directive

## PROTECTED ECOSYSTEMS

The overall objective is to achieve or maintain **Good Environmental Status** (GES) of the EU's marine waters by 2020

## SUSTAINABLE USE

The Directive foresees an **ecosystem-based approach** to the management of all human activities that have an impact on the marine environment.

## COMMON APPROACHES

The Directive foresees a **regional approach to implementation**, and establishes European Marine Regions on the basis of geographical and environmental criteria.

Member States must adopt common approaches by:

- working to a common and ambitious timeline to meet GES by 2020
- developing Marine Strategies in cooperation with neighbouring countries
- adopting an adaptive management approach so that strategies are up-to-date and reviewed every six years.



# Requirements of the Directive

The Directive requires Member States to carry out an Initial Assessment of their marine waters covering three key elements:

- An analysis of the essential features and characteristics and current environmental status of their waters;
- An analysis of the predominant pressures and impacts (including human activity) on their waters;
- An economic and social analysis of the use of their waters and the cost of degradation of the marine environment

The Initial Assessment must be based on existing data, taking into account other relevant assessments such as those carried out for the WFD and Habitats Directive, or those carried out in OSPAR (e.g. the OSPAR Quality Status Report 2010).



# MSFD Requirements

The Directive requires MS to determine a **set of characteristics for GES**, by reference to the Initial Assessment, and on the basis of the 11 GES Descriptors set out in Annex 1 of the Directive.

The characteristics of GES should also take into account the elements and pressures set out in Annex III of the Directive,

The MSFD also requires MS to establish a **comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators** for their marine waters in order to guide progress towards achieving GES.

These should be based on the Initial Assessment and should also take into account the list of elements and pressures set out in Annex III of the Directive  
In developing the characteristics of GES and the associated targets

MS must also **follow the criteria and indicators** for each of the 11 GES Descriptors set out in the Commission Decision on GES 2010.





# MSFD Requirements: Regional context

A key requirement of the Directive is that MS must take a **coordinated approach to implementation**, cooperating with other MS in the relevant Marine Region or Subregion to ensure each element of their marine strategies is coherent and coordinated.

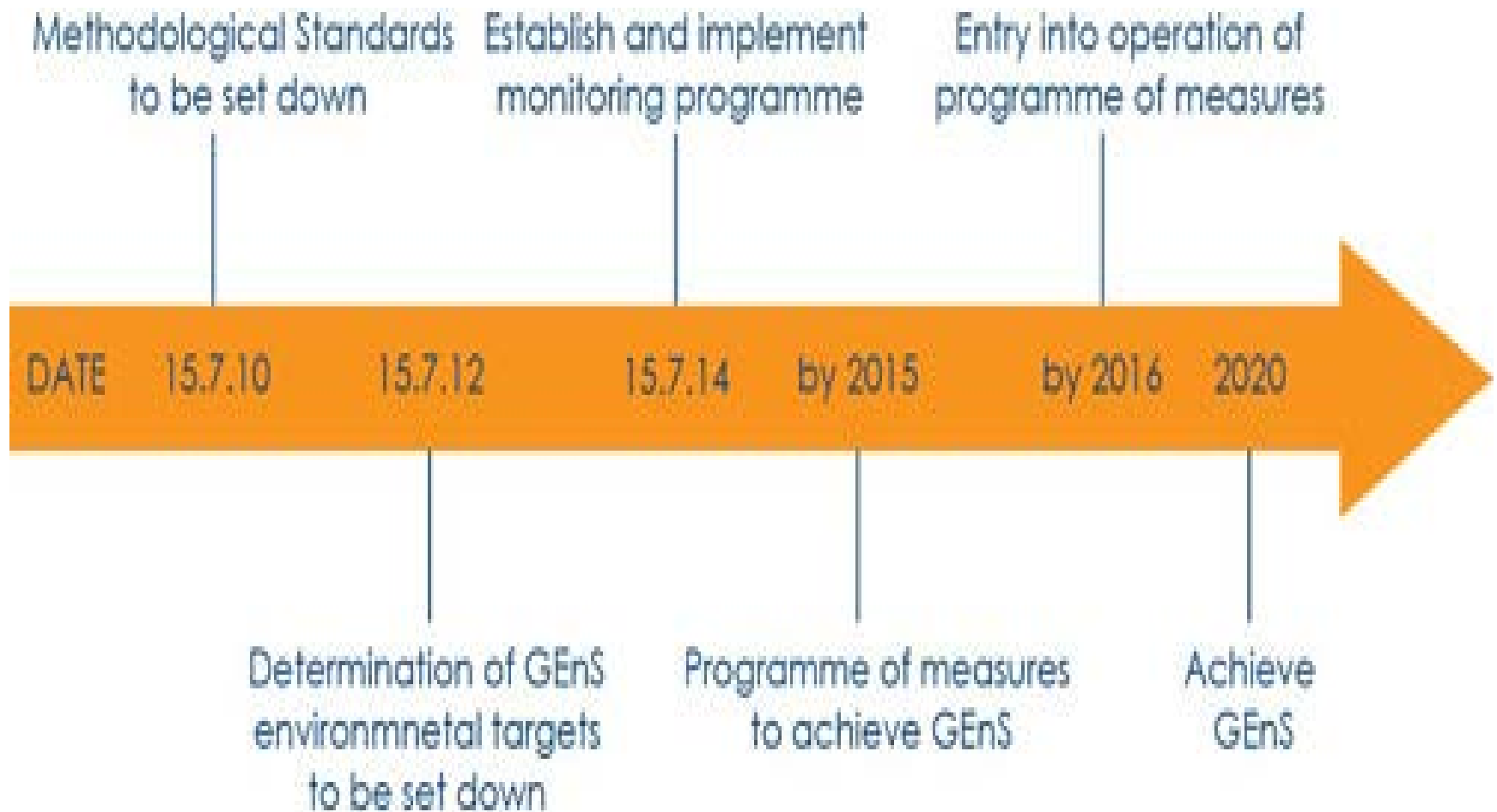


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# MSFD Timeline



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# The marine strategies

Each Member State must develop marine strategies which should contain:

- a detailed assessment of the state of the environment,
- a definition of "good environmental status" at regional level and
- the establishment of clear environmental targets and monitoring programmes.



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# The marine strategies steps

## **Initial assessment** (analysis of characteristics (Annex III)

Pressures and impacts (Annex III)

Economic and social analysis of their use and cost of degradation

Determine GES (Annex I and Annex III)

Establishment of environmental targets and indicators

## **Monitoring programs**

## **Program of Measures**

Program of measures operational

## **Achieve GES by 2020**

Adaptive management – 6 years cycle



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# GES Criteria

The criteria for good environmental status build on existing obligations and EU developments, including:

- **Water Framework Directive** (2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, which applies to coastal waters,
- Council **Directive** 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural **habitats** and of wild fauna and flora,
- Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the **conservation of wild birds**, and
- a number of instruments developed in the framework of the common **fisheries policy**, taking also into account, where appropriate,
- the information and knowledge gathered and approaches developed in the framework of **regional conventions**.



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# GES requirements

Good environmental status **requires that all relevant human activities are carried out in coherence with the requirement of protecting and preserving the marine environment and the concept of sustainable use of marine goods and services** by present and future generations referred to in Article 1 of Directive 2008/56/EC.

The application of criteria for good environmental status needs to be carried out keeping in mind the **need to target assessment and monitoring and to prioritize action in relation to the importance of impacts** and threats to marine ecosystems and its components.



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# Ecosystem Approach

The MSFD mandates an Ecosystem Approach to management of human activities that affect the marine environment

This approach cuts across sectors, organisations and policies. Building capacity of stakeholders and policy makers is essential to implementing the MSFD.



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# Marine spatial planning principles

- Ecosystem-based, balancing ecological, economic, and social goals and objectives toward sustainable development.
- Integrated implementation, across sectors and agencies, and among levels of government.
- Place-based or area-based.
- Adaptive, capable of learning from experience.
- Strategic and anticipatory, focused on the long-term.
- Participatory, stakeholders actively involved in the process.
- MSP does not lead to a one-time plan. It is a continuing, iterative process that learns and adapts over time.



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# Marine spatial planning steps

The development and implementation of MSP involves a number of steps, including:

- Step 1 Defining need and establishing **authority**
- Step 2 Obtaining **financial support**
- Step 3 Organizing the process (**pre-planning**)
- Step 4 Organizing **stakeholder participation**
- Step 5 Defining and analyzing **existing conditions**
- Step 6 Defining and analyzing **future conditions**
- Step 7 **Developing and approving** the spatial **management plan**
- Step 8 **Implementing and enforcing** the spatial management plan
- Step 9 **Monitoring and evaluating** performance
- Step 10 **Adapting** the marine spatial management process



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# Marine spatial planning benefits (1)

MSP has significant economic, social, and environmental benefits.

**Ecological** - Identification of biological and ecological important areas

**Environmental**

**Biodiversity objectives** incorporated into planned decision-making

Identification and **conflicts between human use and nature**

Allocation of space for biodiversity reduction and nature conservation

Establish context for planning a network of marine protected areas

Identification and **reduction of the cumulative effects of human activities** on marine ecosystems



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# Marine spatial planning benefits (2)

## Economics

Promotion of the **efficient use** of resources and space

Greater certainty of access to desirable areas for new private sector investments

Identification of compatible uses within the same area of development

**Reduction of conflicts** between incompatible uses

**Improved capacity to plan** for new and changing human activities, including emerging technologies and their associated effects

**Better safety** during operation of human activities

Streamlining and **transparency in permit and licensing procedures**

## Social

Improved opportunities for community and **citizen participation**



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# European level coordination (1)

Coordination **between countries** is taking place both at a European-wide scale (for generic issues) and **within the specific marine regions**.

At a European level, coordination is being carried out through a series of informal **Working Groups** led by the European Commission.

## The **Working Group on GES**

– this Working Group has been set up to support MS in developing their **characteristics of GES and the associated targets and indicators**, with the aim of ensuring a comparability of approaches across the EU. This Working Group also has two technical sub-groups, one on litter (Descriptor 10) and one on noise (Descriptor 11).

The group has led the development of two key documents:

### 1) The Commission Decision on GES

- this is a **formal document** which sets out specific criteria and indicators for each of the 11 GES Descriptors which Member States must follow when developing their national GES targets and indicators.

### 2) The Common Understanding of Articles 8, 9 and 10

- this is an **informal document** jointly drafted by the EC and Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Romania, Sweden and the UK. The document provides a common understanding of the development of the initial requirements of the MSFD in a comparable and assessment and GES characteristics and associated targets and indicators (Articles 8, 9 and 10) to aid Member States in implementing the consistent way.



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# European level coordination (2)

The **Working Group on Economic and Social Analysis** – support MS in meeting the economic and social assessment requirements of the Directive, with the aim of ensuring comparability of approaches across the EU.

It has led the development of an informal guidance document on Economic and Social Analysis for the Initial Assessment which sets out informal guidance for MS on possible approaches for this assessment.

The **Working Group on Data, Information and Knowledge Exchange** - to develop a coordinated approach to MSFD information and data exchange.

It developed reporting sheets associated with the initial assessment, characteristics of GES and associated targets and indicators.



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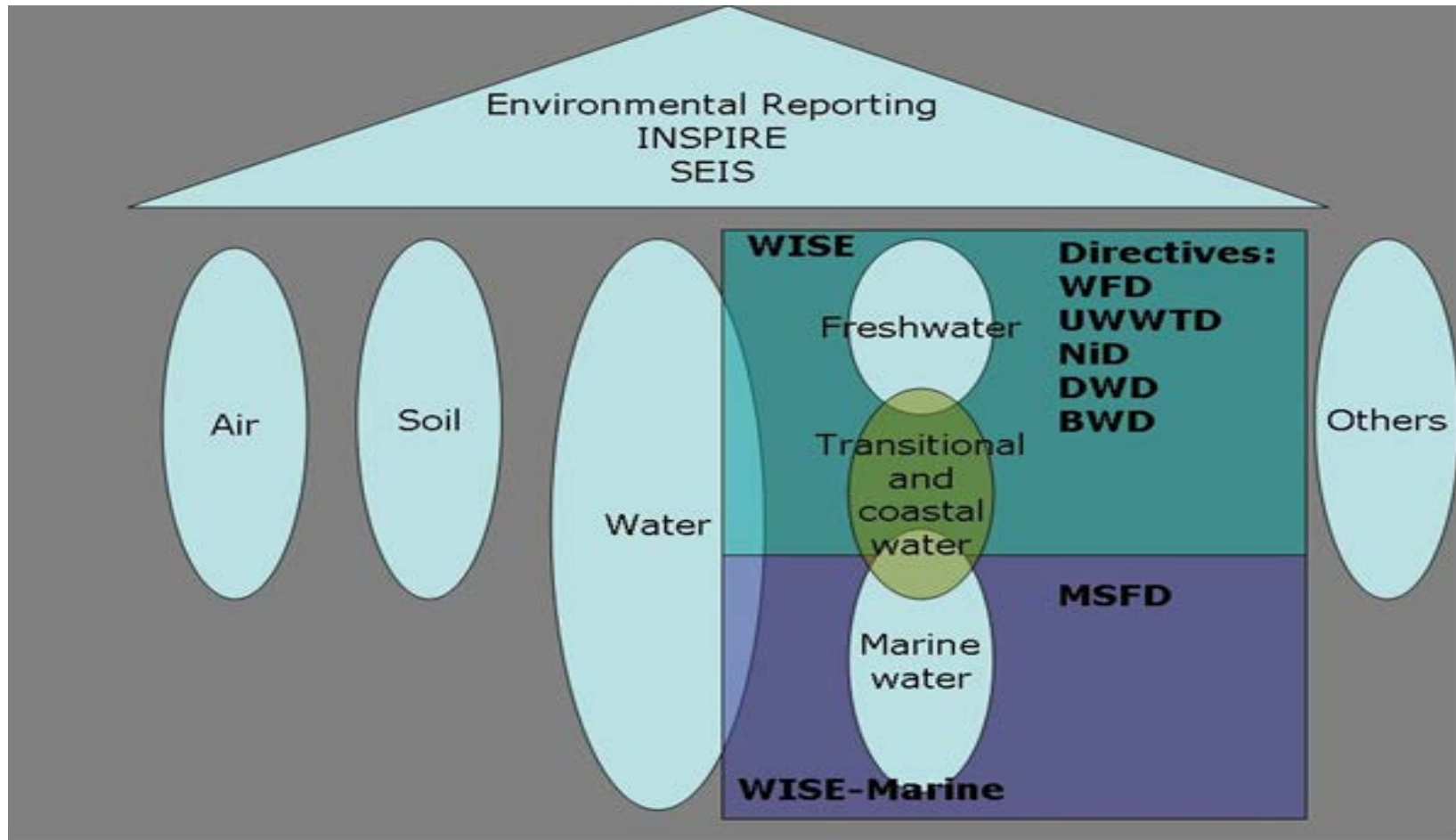
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# WISE context

- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive requires reporting by MS on each of the steps to establish marine strategies
- Wise-Marine was already foreseen in 2005 as the marine module of Water Information System for Europe (WISE) as both the tool that allows this reporting to take place, and as a platform for informing the public about marine environmental issues.
- WISE and WISE-Marine are a part of the wider Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS). Eventually, INSPIRE principles will allow WISE to become a decentralised system managed at EU-level with capabilities to interoperate with existing national and European data systems.



# Wise Environmental reporting



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# Meeting of EU Water and Marine Directors

The Informal Meeting of EU Water and Marine Directors is organised every six months by the MS holding the EU Presidency. The Meeting brings together the Water and Marine Directors of the European Union, Member States, Candidate Countries and EFTA Countries, as well as representatives of the European Commission.

The primary objective is to formulate and guide the Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC), as well as to discuss various European and International issues related to water and marine strategy.



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# The Manila Declaration



Adopted by **65 countries** in Jan 2012 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-3) on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), hosted by the Government of the Philippines and organized by the UNEP.

The agreement contains a total of **16 provisions** focusing on actions to be taken between 2012 and 2016 at international, regional and local levels.

Signatories expressed their commitment to develop **policies to reduce and control wastewater, marine litter and pollution from fertilizers**, and “to improve cooperation and coordination at all levels to deal with issues related to **oceans, coasts, islands and their associated watersheds, by applying integrated management**, involving stakeholders and developing innovative solutions to improve or resolve identified problems”.



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## 2020 deadline for GES is getting closer

- The timeline of MSFD implementation is ambitious, especially as it must integrate the need for regional cooperation and coherence across borders.
- The MSFD addresses a complex, multi-dimensional and changing topic – the the marine environment
- The interlinkages with other policies and legislations should be assessed to avoid duplication.
- The monitoring programmes and the programme of measures are very important.
- There are limited resources available for implementation,



# Thank you!



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