

Presentation of the Common Implementation Strategy for the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive at the EU level

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Working areas and priorities for the Common Implementation Strategy

- Assessment and Monitoring of the marine environment (Good Environmental Status)
- Data, Information and Knowledge Exchange on the marine environment (WISE-Marine)
- Management, measures, economic and social analysis of human activities affecting the marine environment

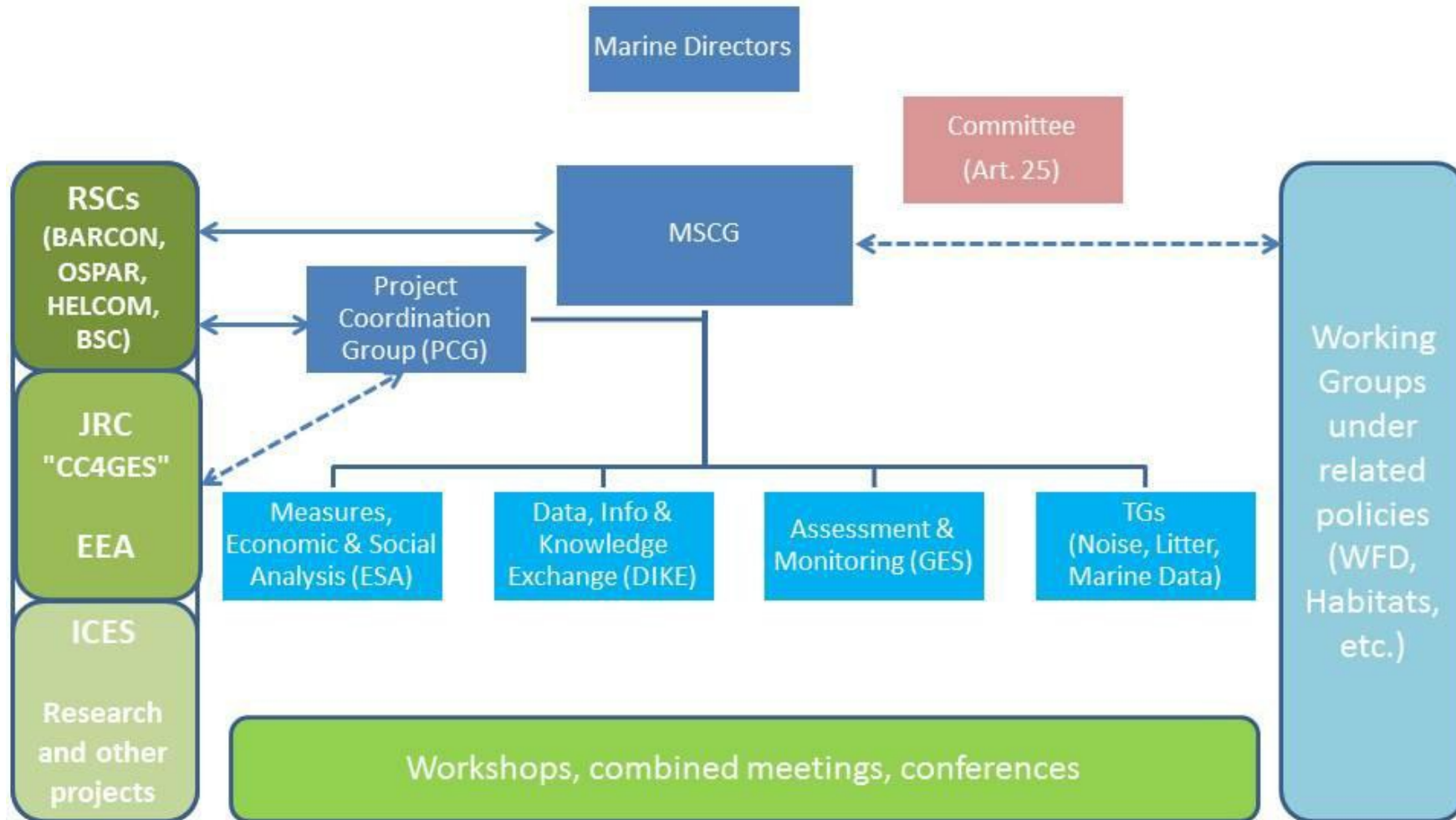
Mission and objectives of the CIS

- Ensure the best possible implementation of the MSFD and the 2020 objective to achieve GES
- Maintain or ameliorate the status of the marine environment through conservation and, where practicable, restoration of its ecosystems
- Improve the marine knowledge base for assessing and managing the marine environment
- Strengthen the regional capacities and coordination to implement the MSFD, in cooperation with the Regional Sea Conventions
- Enhance investments and (co-)financing for marine protection and management, where and when required or necessary

Working arrangements and structures

- **Marine Directors**
- **Marine Strategy Coordination Group**
- **Working Groups**
- **Regional Sea Conventions**
- **Member States**
- **Stakeholders, NGOs, other interest groups or public and private organisations**

MSFD Common Implementation Strategy
Organisational structure – 2014 and beyond



Role of Marine Strategy Coordination Group

- Coordinate and monitor the different working groups and activities under the Common Implementation Strategy, evaluates and agrees the outcome of the different working groups. It gives guidance on key activities and addresses cross-cutting issues. Moreover, it is in charge of preparing, agreeing and further developing the CIS work programme and reviewing its functioning.
- Advise and assist the Commission in the preparation of the Article 25 Committee and delegated acts.
- Assist in the preparation of meetings of the Marine Directors and, as appropriate, call on the Marine Directors to resolve open issues.

Role of Working Groups

- preparing the work of the MSCG
- find technical and scientific solutions
- prepare concise documents summarising work done so far
- indicating clearly when input is needed from the MSCG
- advise the MSCG if new activities would be useful

Activities of WG GES

- Focus in future on overall conceptual and cross-cutting questions related to assessment and monitoring
- Develop a common understanding of GES (mid-2014), clarifying and simplifying the terminology,
- Develop an assessment framework and methodology for GES,
- Advise the Committee on the possible revision of the GES Decision
- Ensuring coherence of the objectives and targets for MSFD with related EU policies,
- Apply the precautionary principle and launch necessary initiatives to develop tools and mechanisms including needed research

Activities of WG DIKE

- Focus on the practical arrangements for reporting under the MSFD as well as for data sharing and/or making data available.
- Explore the links to other relevant initiatives where the MSFD can benefit from, in particular, Marine Knowledge, EMODnet, Copernicus (ex-GMES), INSPIRE and others.
- Develop the reporting system further, in particular on the programme of measures
- Develop and implement a concept for shared data and information management
- Launch of WISE-Marine portal as a platform to share data and information under the MSFD

Activities of WG ESA

- Focuses on overall conceptual and cross-cutting questions related to cost-effectiveness of measures, introduction of new measures including associated impact assessment
- Develop a common understanding on cost-effectiveness of measures, building on WFD methodologies and experience
- Sharing information on cost-effective measures in particular those specific to the MSFD
- Analyse effectiveness of existing measures to improve the status of marine ecosystems jointly and in close cooperation with WG GES.
- Share information on the identification of specific MSFD measures
- Develop a common understanding on ecosystem services and the costs for inaction building on WFD methodologies and experience

Regional Seas Conventions

- Establish a joint coordinated regional monitoring programmes and, as appropriate, joint monitoring programmes to address all or selected parts of MSFD requirements
- Agreement a set of common GES criteria and characteristics, environmental targets and associated indicators
- Revise initial assessment and a review of GES and target requirements
- Develop a concept for sharing data and information between EU/EEA, ICES and RSCs and translate it in a formal arrangement (e.g. MoU)
- Align data flows and data needs for next round of initial assessment
- Establish a coordinated programmes of measures and, as appropriate, a joint programme of measures

River Protection Conventions

Key issues for landlocked Member States

1. Abundance/distribution of key trophic groups/species, including, where appropriate, long-distance anadromous and catadromous migrating species (Descriptor 4.3);
2. Minimizing human-induced eutrophication (Descriptor 5);
3. Concentration of contaminants (Descriptor 8);
4. Marine litter (Descriptor 10).

Achievements and lessons learnt

- Supported the preparation of the Decision on Good Environmental Status and developed a number of other useful products
- Created a considerable network of experts and expertise on the MSFD at EU level and contributed to build trust and understanding on its implementation.
- Worked transparently and attracted attention from numerous stakeholders.
- Contributed to help MS meeting important implementation deadlines.
- Jointly actions that directly contribute to the concrete implementation of the Directive, and to reaching its objectives (Project Preparation Group).

The next challenges of MSFD implementation

- Improving and made more user friendly the reporting system in order to allow in time reporting
- Improve the coordination within the Regional Sea Conventions in order to ensure a sufficient level of coherence and comparability.
- Updating the information reported, assessments and methodologies as they existed (well) before 2012.

Cross-cutting activities

- Sectoral dialogues / workshops (e.g. shipping, offshore energy, tourism or plastic industry)
- Cooperation with MSP Directive implementation (starting with "MSP and Environment" workshop)
- Licensing, authorisation and permitting – exchange of good practices

Activities for WG GES

- Supporting work for review of GES Decision and Annex III, in particular common understanding guidance document (amending the document from 2011).
- Follow up technical work on GES and assessments identified per descriptor at the last WG GES.
- Discussion on priority setting, risk assessment and precautionary principle in the context of MSFD

Activities for WG DIKE, WG ESA and for other groups

- Development of coordinated marine assessment for 2019 (Art. 20.2b) (including EEA report, RSC "roof reports" and indicator and data flows contributing to WISE-Marine)
- Revision of ESA guidance document (amending the document from 2011)
- Initiative and advisory Group on marine knowledge base

Thank You for Your attention!