



# ***Event Report***

**EPPA Workshop on the Implementation of the Marine Strategy  
Framework Directive and Marine Protected Areas**

**(Bosnia and Herzegovina)**

**26 – 27 May 2020**

**Live video conference**



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Annex 1: Agenda (provided as a separate document)  
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## 1 Introduction

### The national workshop

The national workshop for Bosnia and Herzegovina on “the Implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Marine Protected Areas” took place on 26-27 May 2020 via live video conference. The workshop was organized in cooperation with TAIEX, and under the EPPA project work programme, activity 3.2 “Capacity building and technical assistance for managing marine litter and support to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive”.

The participants of the workshop came from the relevant authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They represented the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (Republika Srpska), Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology (Republika Srpska), the Public Institution "Vode Srpske" (Republika Srpska), the Republic Institute for Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage, (Republika Srpska), Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Agency for Watershed of the Adriatic Sea Mostar (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Bosnia and Herzegovina civil society was represented by the NGO Center for Environmentally Sustainable Development Sarajevo.

The speakers represented both EU Member States experience and key Bosnia and Herzegovina stakeholders. From the Member States there were water and marine experts from Greece, Romania and Slovenia. From Bosnia and Herzegovina, the speaker was the National Focal Point for the Barcelona Convention. In addition, the workshop was attended by the European Commission and the EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The presentations will be available at both the TAIEX website and the EPPA project website.

### The Marine Strategy Framework Directive

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) - Directive 2008/56/EC - establishes a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy. Within this framework, Member States (MS) shall take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest. For that purpose, marine strategies shall be developed and implemented in order to protect and preserve the marine environment, prevent its deterioration or, where practicable, restore marine ecosystems in areas where they have been adversely affected. In addition, marine strategies shall prevent and reduce inputs into the marine environment, with a view to phasing out pollution (as defined in Art. 3(8) in the MSFD), so as to ensure that there are no significant impacts on or risks to marine biodiversity, marine ecosystems, human health or legitimate uses of the sea. The MSFD aims to contribute to the coherence between the different EU policies, including the EU's maritime policy, Common Fisheries Policy and the existing water and nature directives, such as the Water Framework Directive, WFD (2000/60/EC), Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

One of the key requirements of the MSFD is that Member States must take a coordinated approach to implementation, cooperating with other states within the appropriate marine region or sub-region<sup>1</sup>, ensuring coherent and coordinated strategies. For the Mediterranean Sea, the key forum is the Barcelona Convention, implemented through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention<sup>2</sup> developed a set of ecological objectives, operational objectives, and indicators, which reflect Mediterranean priorities and are coherent with the MSFD.

The MSFD offers also through the Program of Measures the opportunity for the creation and implementation of effective management regimes of human activities within MPAs. Within this context, MPAs play a central role in supporting GES and achieving healthy seas by 2020.

<sup>1</sup> The Mediterranean Sea region includes the Western Mediterranean Sea, the Adriatic Sea, the Ionian Sea and the Central Mediterranean Sea, and the Aegean-Levantine Sea, while for the Black Sea no sub-regions is specified

<sup>2</sup> Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention include as well the maritime EPPA countries: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro and Turkey.



## Marine Protected Areas

European seas are amongst the most productive in the world, offering a wide range of ecosystem goods and services which support the livelihoods of over 5 million people within the EU and generate a gross added value of almost €500 billion a year. Following a scoping document in 2015, a study on the socio-economic benefits of EU marine protected areas was prepared in 2016<sup>3</sup> to help better understand the socio-economic benefits of the marine Natura 2000 network at EU level.

The EU has established a robust and ambitious policy framework to address the multiple challenges facing its marine environment and to ensure a more sustainable ecosystem-based approach to the use of its marine resources. The Habitats and Birds Directives, along with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, are the environmental pillar of the wider Integrated Maritime Policy. The total coverage of EU seas covered by marine protected areas has more than doubled in the last six years, primarily due to the expansion of the Natura 2000 network – the largest coordinated network of conservation areas in the world. The Habitats Directive lists nine marine habitat types and 16 species for which marine site designation is required, whilst the Birds Directive lists a further 60 bird species whose conservation requires marine site protection. To the end of 2018, more than 3150 marine Natura 2000 sites have been designated, which cover almost 10% of the total EU marine area (over 550,000 km<sup>2</sup>).

In the context of candidate and potential candidates for EU Membership, it is expected those countries adopt the same ambitious goals and contribute to the efforts of implementing ecosystem-based approach, preserving marine environments, their biodiversity and ecosystem services contributing to the European economy.

## 2 Objectives and expected results

The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the national capacity of Bosnia and Herzegovina for effectively addressing the large number of implementation challenges of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). In addition, the workshop also sought to provide guidance on 1) the designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and 2) the transboundary management of the Adriatic Sea.

In order to build synergies among project activities, the workshop was organized in a way that it provided a consultation forum in which the EPPA project experts presented and discussed the study<sup>4</sup> being made to provide initial recommendations for the establishment of new marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Adriatic Sea basin (one MPA in Bosnia and Herzegovina).

## 3 Highlights from the workshop

### 3.1 Opening remarks and introductory notes

Ms. Madalina Ivanica welcomed the participants and opened the workshop introducing the MSFD topic, a challenging directive to implement that requires concerted efforts. The workshop aims to provide Bosnia and Herzegovina the best practices of EU Member States in its implementation. Ms. Madalina Ivanica made reference to the opening presentation from the EC, which presented in detail the new developments in MSFD and marine litter policy. She encouraged the participants to engage actively and use the opportunity to voice their needs as a way of guiding further EC technical assistance in the area.

Mr. Mihail Dimovski framed the workshop within the EPPA project work plan. He highlighted the event was contributing to a strategic assignment for the initial recommendation of one MPA in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He expressed his hope that this contribution is matched by the commitment of national authorities as it will be a substantial task and required by the Aichi target 11. He briefly explained the project deliverable (report structure, activities and designation recommendation) and requested

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<sup>3</sup> [Available online](#)

<sup>4</sup> Activity 5.1.2 “Assistance for the identification of marine protected areas and exchange of best practices to achieve and/or to maintain the good ecological status of marine waters and preserve biodiversity”



participants to voice comments on the methodology, MSFD implementation challenges, and the country's priorities for further support.

Mr. Tomasz Łuczyński took the floor to thank Bosnia and Herzegovina for its engagement in the preparation of the workshop, which he expected to yield useful discussions.

Ms. Azra Rogović-Grubić spoke on behalf of Mr. Senad Oprašić, who could not attend for health reasons. She expressed gratitude to EPPA for the efforts made to organize the workshop and noted that MSFD is an important issue for Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Mediterranean country. She expected the workshop to be a valuable venue to learn from Member States, especially from Slovenia, a country with a similar sea profile to that of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She concluded with the importance of approaching the linkages between MSFD and WFD, Birds and Habitats, and the Barcelona convention.

Ms. Hazima Hadžović reinforced Ms. Azra Rogović-Grubić expectations, noting that MSFD is a challenge for the country, together with urban waste and the nutrients directive. In particular, she noted the lessons learnt may assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in the preparation of a new law transposing the MSFD. Although she recognized the difficulty of implementing the MSFD she was optimistic that it can be done when looking at the group involved in the workshop and taking into consideration the support of EPPA.

Mr. Marko Krneta read a statement on behalf of Mr. Milan Gavrić, who could not attend due to other urgent matters. The statement linked the work in MPAs with the importance of improving management of all water resources. Regional cooperation is key to achieve that. The statement concluded with a commitment to the sustainable management of natural resources.

Ms. Mihaela Popovici then led a round of introduction of all participants and explained the objectives and background of each session by laying out the agenda for the coming two days.

### **3.2 EU actions against marine litter and for marine environment protection in the Adriatic and the Mediterranean**

Ms. Marijana Mance gave a presentation on the EU's actions against marine litter and for marine environment protection in the Adriatic and the Mediterranean. The presentation was divided in 3 themes: marine litter, the MSFD implementation report and the pan-Med marine protection forum: the Barcelona Convention.

The EU is addressing marine litter from several angles. Although one of the main, most recognizable tools is the MSFD, other policy sectors have complimentary regulatory capacity. Ms. Marijana Mance mentioned the waste legislation (waste FD, packaging and packaging waste, etc), the fisheries policy (abandoned fish gear is an important part of marine litter), and the strategy for plastics. The EU also has other tools to fight marine litter like international cooperation (for instance, the Barcelona Convention), funding for measures and promotion of adequate port facilities for shipping waste. It is important to note that the fight against marine litter is well framed within several goals of the EU Green Deal.

In 2018, the new waste legislation put forward halting marine litter as one of its objectives. The MS were asked to identify sources of littering and take measures, to establish 6 years National Plans to fight littering and to create mechanisms for producers to financially contribute to reduce littering.

In parallel, a study on marine litter found on European beaches revealed that most of the litter was single use plastics (50%) and fishing gear (27%). Even more revealing, 86% of all single use plastics found were the same 10 items.



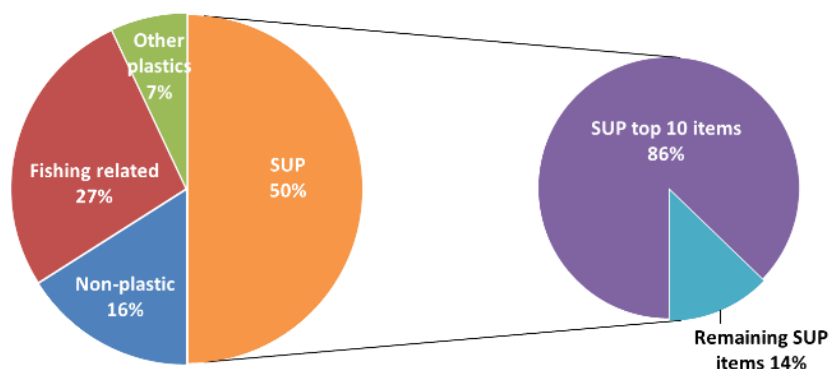


Figure 1 - Marine litter in European beaches

In response, the EU adopted the SUP (Single-use plastics) Directive<sup>5</sup>. The directive banned certain plastics and imposed consumption reduction, capture rates, and product design features. Furthermore, it required labelling on certain products and the establishment of extended producer responsibility.

Bans	Consumption reduction (including MS consumption reduction targets)	Capture rates (separate collection) and product design	Marking	Extended producer responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic cutlery, plates, straws</li> <li>• Cups, food containers in expanded polystyrene</li> <li>• Oxo-degradable plastics</li> <li>• Cotton buds sticks made of plastic, balloon sticks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic Food containers</li> <li>• Plastic cups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plastic bottles</li> <li>• 77% by 2025, 90% by 2029</li> <li>• PET bottles made with 25% (2025) and 30% (2030) recycled content</li> <li>• Tethered caps and lids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wet wipes and sanitary items</li> <li>• Cups</li> <li>• Cigarette filters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costs of waste management, awareness raising, data gathering and clean up (food and beverage containers incl. bottles, cups, packets and wrappers, plastic bags, tobacco products with filters)</li> <li>• Wet wipes and balloons: same, except collection costs</li> <li>• Fishing gears – costs of collection based on National targets (EU later) + EU standards for design</li> </ul>

Figure 2 - SUPs components

The EU is also active in the governance of micro-plastics. Micro-plastics are currently regulated by a variety of tools depending on the source. Some measures being considered are prohibition for uses when release into the environment is inevitable; derogated uses when no microplastic is released; mandatory safe use information through which release of microplastics is minimized with user instructions; and mandatory reporting of producers, plastics function, tonnage and releases.

The EU, internationally, is also pressing its partners to adopt measures against plastics. Some of the EU's fronts are:

- Regional Action Plans against marine litter in all seas around Europe, developed and implemented with EU support
- G7 and G20 Action Plans against marine litter
- IMO (International Maritime Organisation) Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, adopted in October 2018
- UNEA-4 (March 2019) resolutions on
- Plastic litter and microplastics
- Single-use plastic products
- Sustainable consumption and production

<sup>5</sup> Directive (EU) 2019/904 of 5 June 2019 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019L0904>





The second part of Ms. Marijana Mance presentation focused on the goals of the upcoming MSFD implementation report. The report is seeking to contribute to a future review of the Directive, to put the emphasis in lessons learnt from the first implementation cycle, to build on those lessons to make suggestions for improvement, within and beyond MSFD. It is expected the report will also contribute to the second cycle by providing more guidance for the implementation process, for the national marine strategies and their assessments, and for the operationalization of GES.

The third, and final, part of the presentation dwelt on the Barcelona Convention. The policy coherence with the MSFD is noticeable. The 11 descriptors of GES/ecosystem approached are mirrored between the MSFD and the Barcelona Convention. As such, the EU is financially supporting projects that further the Convention's objectives to foster biodiversity, the integrity of seabed habitats and marine food webs.

### 3.3 Overview of the policy response, actions, tools, initiatives - to strengthen the sustainable use of ecosystems and the MSFD implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr. Tarik Kupusović, MAP Focal Point for Bosnia and Herzegovina, presented the key aspects of MSFD implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He spoke in local, Bosnian language upon request of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations. The text below summarizes his translated presentation.

Mr. Tarik Kupusović started by characterizing the country via its river sub-basins and its coast. Despite a short length of coastline (25.6 km of coastline and 17.7 km<sup>2</sup> of maritime area), Bosnia and Herzegovina has a rather large coastal/terrestrial area, belonging to the Adriatic, mostly karst, and with Mediterranean specific terrestrial biodiversity.

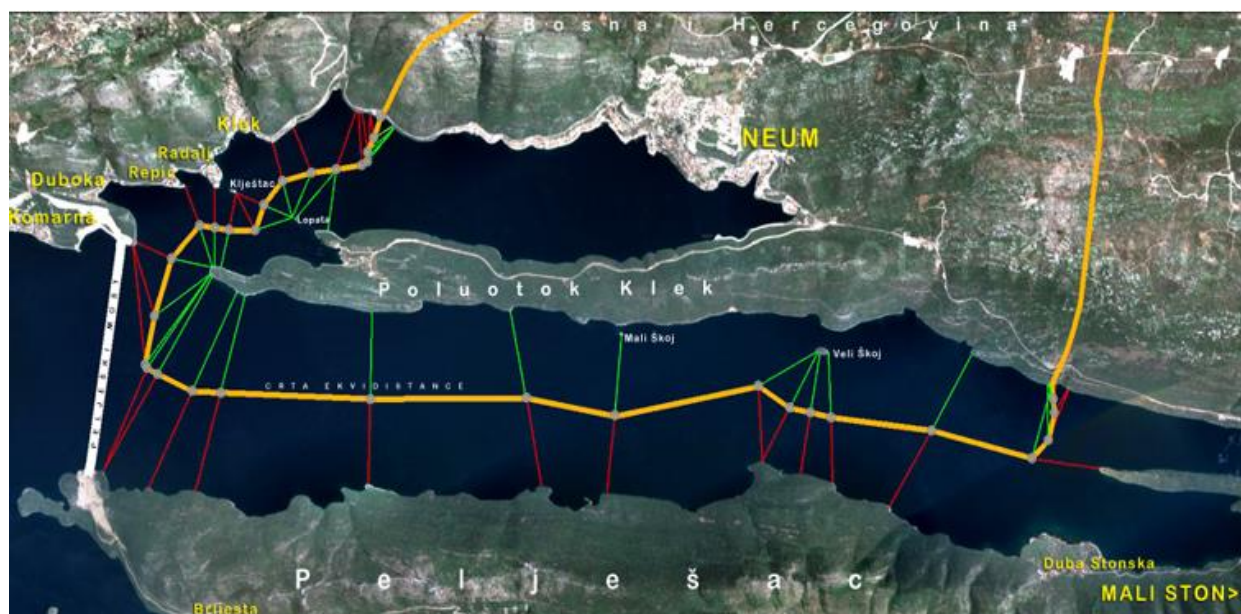


Figure 3 - B&H coast and maritime area

He gave the background to older initiatives to preserve coastal and marine areas (the Mali Ston and Neum-Klek Bay) dating back from the 90's. Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the idea of active participation in MAP and in June 1997 by appointing the National Coordinator of MAP for Bosnia and Herzegovina (Focal point for the Barcelona Convention). Bosnia and Herzegovina experts immediately took part in the preparation and development of SAP, the Strategic Action Plan for 25 years for the sustainable use and protection of Mediterranean resources, adopted at the Ministerial Conference in Tunisia at the end of '97.

Mr. Tarik Kupusović then focused on Neum municipality. It is surrounded by three municipalities from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Čapljina, Stolac and Ravno), one of the municipalities of



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Republika Srpska (Ljubinje), and five municipalities from the Republic of Croatia (Ston, Dubrovačko Primorje, Metković, Slivno and Zračlje). He mentioned the development Strategy of the Municipality Neum (2014-2024), and GIZ current support via a project called “Integrated Waste Management & Marine Litter Prevention in the Western Balkans”(2019-2022). He then discussed at some length current ideas for development of the area, including a marina and mole, and its potential impacts over maritime and coastal preservation efforts.

Transitioning to the pressures over maritime areas, the Adriatic Sea is very enclosed basin and thus under huge impact from land sources and activities at the sea. Moreover, parts of its coastline is heavily populated from ancient times, economic pressures are enormous on exploitation of natural resources (fishery, aquaculture), and for leisure activities (tourism including nautical is one of the most important activities). There are several important ports for cargo around the basin. Due to the increased pressures on the environment, substantial part of EU environmental legislation is devoted to pollution problems in the marine realm such as Water Framework Directive, Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, Nitrates from Agriculture Directive and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Mr. Tarik Kupusović then focused on the outcomes of the MYTIAD project that assessed the chemical contamination (metals, PAHs, PCBs and organochlorine pesticides) in the Adriatic coastal waters by active mussel watching. Its purpose was harmonizing and standardizing strategies and methodologies used to assess the contamination status of the Adriatic Sea, in the framework of the WFD, the MSFD and UNEP/MAP Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme. Data on metals pointed out some hotspots along the eastern and western Adriatic Sea coasts.

The highest values of total PAH concentration were detected in Split, Trieste, and Taranto (Ionian Sea). PCB and endrin contamination was higher in the Adriatic Sea than in the western Mediterranean Sea. This is the first comprehensive overview of contamination in the Adriatic Sea with critical comparisons of related studies over the Mediterranean Sea. It provides a useful harmonised dataset to support a coordinated definition of baselines, targets and thresholds, and further management of chemical contamination.

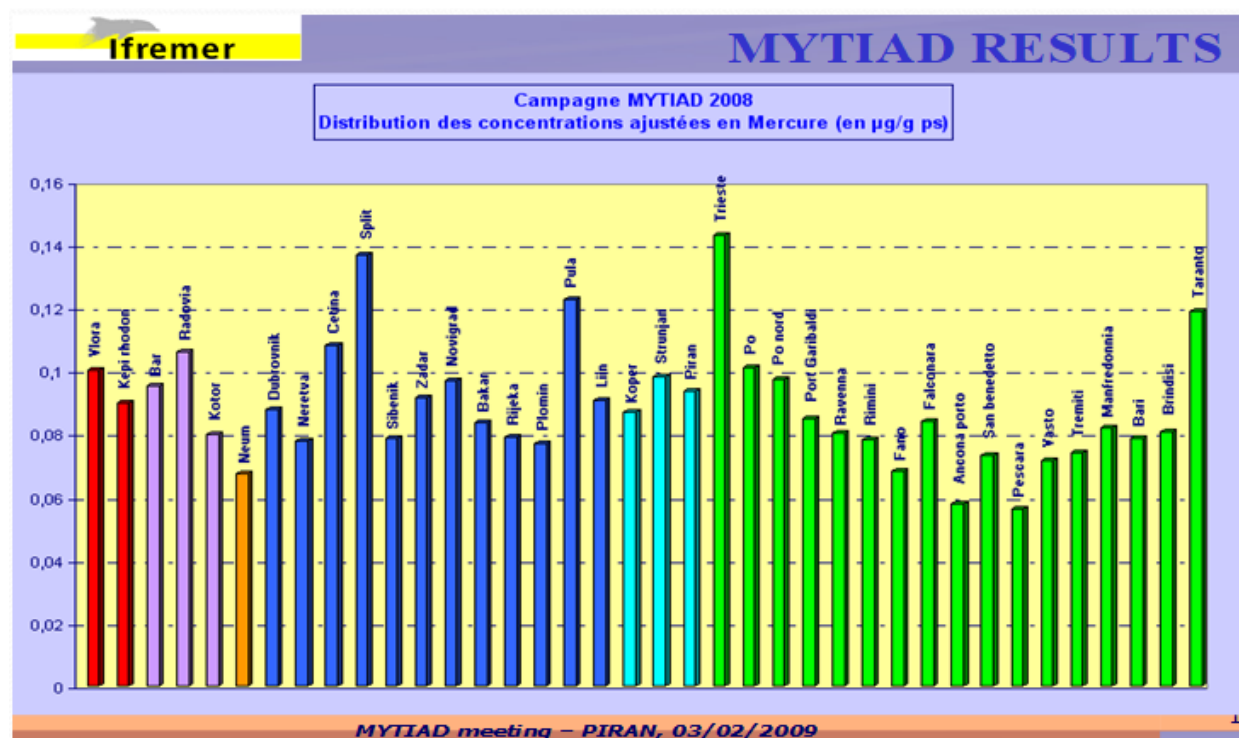


Figure 4 - Neum Bay mercury contamination compared with other spots (2009)

The sea in front of Neum was found to be of better quality and less polluted than in other places on the Adriatic coast, or in some cases, of similar quality to other places where research in the Adriatic Sea was





carried out. Reasons why this is so can be found with a positive impact on the non-populated hinterland, clean water from the sea bottom, and very small load of sea traffic.

The DeFishGear project provided an overview of the presence of fishing waste in the Adriatic-Ionian area. The average beach litter density of 0.67 items/m<sup>2</sup> found in the area is relatively high. Aggregated results on national level showing the abundance of beach litter reveal that the beaches most affected are those surveyed in Croatia (2.91 items/m<sup>2</sup>); followed by beaches in Slovenia (0.50 items/m<sup>2</sup>); Montenegro (0.37 items/m<sup>2</sup>), Italy (0.28 items/m<sup>2</sup>), Greece (0.24 items/m<sup>2</sup>), Albania (0.22 items/m<sup>2</sup>), and Bosnia and Herzegovina (0.17 items/m<sup>2</sup>).

Mr. Tarik Kupusović continued by reporting on the Barcelona Convention work pertinent to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Back in January 2016, at the Ministerial Conference in Athens, Bosnia and Herzegovina requested, and the decision was taken to finally do the "Coastal Area Management Program (CAMP)" for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The financing of CAMP was immediately approved, with local contribution of Bosnia and Herzegovina only "in kinds" (from the Municipality of Neum), the Ministry chose a consultant, who in 2017/'18, with the help of the MAP Center from Split (PAP/RAC), and several public consultations, did the Feasibility Study.

The study was developed through the following main steps: an overview of existing laws, policies, plans and strategies; analysis of institutional arrangements for coastal management; a review of the state of on-going initiatives and projects aimed at contributing to the sustainable development of the Coast of Bosnia and Herzegovina; identification of needs and gaps for integral management of coastal areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina; CAMP area and CAMP activities, with a view to the long-term sustainability. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations requested and, finally in mid-2019, there was agreement on the Study from all involved institutions. The Council of Ministers has been sent an initiative to approve the Contract for the implementation of this project, but unfortunately the decision has not yet come to the agenda.

The National Plan for Interventions in the Case of Incident Pollution of the Sea ("Contingency Plan"), whose development with the help of the MAP Centre from Malta has been waiting for several years, is now envisaged to be done under CAMP. There was promotion of best practices and improvement of the management of marine litter, especially plastic, including cleaning of beaches, sea and seabed, both with the official organs of the Municipality of Neum, as well as the non-governmental sector, the school youth and children. Within MEDPOL project, there have been reports of waste on beaches, seabed and floating waste, for 2016, 2017 and 2018. There have also been reports of a backlog of mercury in long-closed chlor-alkal complexes, as well as a remediation process that is under way (similar to that in Albania, Croatia, Slovenia and some other countries).

As part of the Joint Initiative of several Institutions of the EU and MAP, it was worked on the introduction of an Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean – IMAP. The competent entity institutions are preparing an analysis of the deficiencies in the existing monitoring programmes of the Neretva, Trebišnjica, Cetina and Krka Rivers and Bosnia and Herzegovina parts of the Mali Ston Bay, in relation to IMAP requirements. To be qualified for IMAP, Laboratories of the Federal Institute for Public Health Mostar and of the Institute for Water Bijeljina, activities were launched with MEDPOL and the Environmental Laboratory of the IAEA in Monaco. Representatives of both Bosnia and Herzegovina laboratories were already on training 2-13 September 2019. Activities continue in this year and in the coming years.

Mr. Tarik Kupusović concluded by giving an overview of other ongoing Barcelona Convention activities of which Bosnia and Herzegovina is participating. He also noted the countries problems: the Project CAMP, including the Contingency Plan, could not go on. And although, at the beginning of 2020, both houses of the Parliament ratified the Barcelona Convention changes, it remains to be ratified by at least four more documents, for Bosnia and Herzegovina's total, non-controversial protocols or their changes.

### 3.4 Steps towards MPAs designation: goals, objectives, targets – national/international, implementation steps, funding and financing

Mr. Tarik Kupusović, as MAP Focal Point for Bosnia and Herzegovina, presented status of marine protection and MPA designation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He spoke in local, Bosnian language upon



request of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations. The text below summarizes his translated presentation.

Mali Ston Bay, including Neum Bay, 1981. in ex-Yu, was declared as a "Nature Reserve", primarily for fish and shellfish. The part of the sea, now in Bosnia and Herzegovina should, in ecological terms, be considered as part of the Bay of Mali Ston, which has already been declared a specially protected reserve by the Republic of Croatia, declared as the Special Reserve. According to the legal regulations of the Republic of Croatia, a „Special Reserve" is considered an area of land and/or sea of particular significance for its uniqueness, rarity or representativeness, or is a habitat of endangered wildlife. It does not allow for acts and activities which may impair the properties for which it has been declared and the procedures, operations and activities which maintain or improve conditions relevant for the preservation of the properties for which it has been declared a reserve is permitted.

Unfortunately, Bosnia and Herzegovina has not yet, nor even the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, declared the whole part of the Adriatic Sea in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a specially protected area, in accordance with the applicable Law on Nature Protection in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this case, 100% of Bosnia and Herzegovina's maritime area will be protected, declared as MPA, as it was already the case in former Yugoslavia. Expectations are that it will happen during the implementation of CAMP Neum, within the next two years.

According to the adopted Water Management Plan 2016-2021 for the Adriatic Watershed Area, in the frame of the implementation of the EU Water Frame Directive, out of 211 identified water bodies of surface waters, one is Coastal waters established in the Adriatic seawater district", with the surface of 17,7 km<sup>2</sup>. Total ecological rating was 1.33 (on the WFD scale from 1 – pristine, to 5 heavily modified).

Neum is the only municipality in Bosnia and Herzegovina facing the Adriatic Sea. The main environmental land-sea related issues are (i) management of municipal solid wastes and (ii) management of communal wastewaters (partially constructed sewage and treatment system). The Municipality of Neum is trying to secure grants for building a sanitary landfill to remediate unregulated waste landfilling. The Municipality is also working to improve the wastewater collecting system. The system was put into operation in 1989. The management system is entrusted to Public firm "Mareco Neum" and is regulated by the inter-state agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia on joint financing, maintenance, and operation of the regional sewerage system Komarna (in Croatia) – Neum – Ston and Mali Ston - Mljetski kanal (both again in Croatia).

The bay of Mali Ston, the bay of Neum - Klek and the Neretva Delta form a very sensitive and high-value area, which requires a common cross-border approach to environmental protection. The upper part of the Neretva valley, called Hutovo Blato, is in Bosnia and Herzegovina and depends upon the water regime of the small Krupa River, while its lower part is situated in the Republic of Croatia, where the Neretva River branches create a large delta. Neretva Delta has been recognized as a Ramsar site since 1992, and Hutovo Blato since 2001. Both areas form one integrated Ramsar site that is a natural entity divided by the state border.

Although still limited, pollution in this part of the Adriatic Sea may come from multiple sources: intensive maritime transport (harbor Ploče), which might result in oil spills and noise pollution, pollution from rivers as a result of excessive use of nitrates for agriculture purposes on land, insufficient wastewater treatment and not-properly managed landfills. Neum bay in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mali Ston bay in Croatia are considered "endangered areas" due to intensive aquaculture in the area close to the Neretva River Delta. In addition, touristic pressure in the area is responsible for the impacts on sensitive marine biodiversity.

The main challenges Bosnia and Herzegovina is facing result from a lack of sound and harmonized institutional, legal and policy frameworks for water resource and environment management across borders. Each country (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro) and entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have their own water and environment legislation, water rights, water management practices, and institutions, and these are rarely coordinated. Finally, water pricing, particularly for irrigation, is ineffective, e.g. in the delta Neretva region, charges for irrigation water are essentially ignored.



After the presentation Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou asked the presenter if he believed that Bosnia and Herzegovina has a sufficient pool of knowledge for marine management in its universities and experts. Mr. Tarik Kupusović stated the academic and scientific communities are small. In his view, Bosnia and Herzegovina should cooperate with colleagues from neighbouring countries with higher capacities, for instance Croatia, Slovenia and Italy. Ms. Ajla Dorfer said there is a pool of young experts organized around an NGO. They are already involved in the protection of the Neum coast.

Ms. Andrea Bevanda noted that there are already activities taking place to establish protection zones in Neum bay. The Federation is in the final phase for one of those areas by working with experts to draft an explanation to serve as basis for proclamation.

### 3.5 Management models and measures for effective management of MPAs: sharing knowledge, best practices and challenges

Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou presented the management models and measures for effective management of MPAs. He started with an overview of the pressures to Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean. Among the most noteworthy are industrial and chemical pollution, tourism, habitat and biodiversity loss, urban pollution, maritime activities, marine litter, eutrophication, coastal erosion, overfishing and aquaculture, and invasive alien species. All the pressures are compounded by the expected impacts of climate change. There are management tools, including EU legislation, but synergies, cooperation and a more holistic approach are needed across countries and regions to create meaningful impact.

In this regard, MPAs are recognised and proved to be a powerful tool for biodiversity protection and conservation of marine resources. In addition, public policy needs to rely on a better science and policy linkage to create awareness and promote knowledge-based actions.

Regarding the situation in the Adriatic, there is a loss of habitats due to coastal construction/ coastal defence structures (e.g. urbanisation, tourism), there is physical damage of benthic habitats (e.g. fishing pressure from bottom trawling, hydrocarbons extraction, discharge and dredging areas), and other causes of harm like the introduction of NIS (e.g. ports) and underwater noise (e.g. maritime traffic, military activities). Currently, 26% of existing MPAs in the Adriatic are located in low anthropogenic impact zone, while almost 8% of the existing MPAs are in high to very high anthropogenic impact zones. All in all, the Adriatic Sea has only 5.8% of its area as MPAs, whereas the Aichi Target 11 calls for at least 10%, and the potential new target will call for 30%.

The situation in the Mediterranean isn't much better. The Total MPA and OECM coverage is 6.81% of the Sea, with a majority of countries having areas less than 3% of their sea covered. Only 5 countries are above the 10% target. In addition, most of the MPAs are too small to sustain ecosystem services. EU Member States MPAs are often less than 30km<sup>2</sup>, whereas in the Adriatic 70% of MPAs are 5km<sup>2</sup> or less.

In the future, attention should be placed not only on MPAs but on their connectiveness. A network of MPAs can use the already protected spaces as "nodes" of networks covering coastal, offshore, and deep-sea systems, while the links would be the site of conservation and management measures, under MSFD, to achieve GES. This could create an effective network of marine protected areas instead of "paper parks". The Barcelona Convention can be an important tool in achieving that goal as it sets ambitious policy goals, namely the 1) establishment an ecological network of MPAs which is representative and connected, 2) effective, efficient and sustainable management, 3) integration on a territorial level and with other sectors while promoting the sharing of environmental and socio-economic benefits, and 4) the increase of financial resources to establish and maintain such network.

Another important driver for MPAs is science-based management. Mechanisms are needed to monitor the ecological efficiency of the adopted measures in MSFD. In parallel, an assessment of human pressures (e.g. intensity, frequency and extent) is crucial to improve management measures inside/outside MPAs, and the conservation capacity of the existing MPAs. When associated with social and economic benefits for local communities, protection produces positive conservation outcomes, and has a higher acceptance and support by stakeholders.

Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou concluded with the best practice of Cabo de Palos–Islas Hormigas MPA (CPH-MPA- Spain). Established in 1995 as a reserve of fisheries interest, with a managed no take zone, a



buffer zone, and regions of restricted access, it has been a tool for economic development. Due to the success of the fisheries reserve, the number of dives per year in Cabo de Palos (Spain) increased by 225% between 1998 and 2010, which led to local added value of EUR 870,000 per year and an additional 20 local jobs. He also mentioned the Torre Guaceto MPA, a 22km<sup>2</sup> coastal area where a fishing ban was implemented since 2001, allowing only artisanal fishing catch within the MPA buffer zone and in the external unprotected areas. Since 2008, catches within the buffer zone were always higher, when compared to unprotected areas (in some years with a 5-fold increase).

### **3.6 Links between MSFD and WFD. Interactions, overlaps and potential area for closer coordination. MPAs designation in Romania.**

Mr. Gheorghe Constantin presented on the interactions, overlaps and potential areas for closer coordination between MSFD and the WFD. He also reflected on lessons learnt from MPAs designation in Romania.

The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) replaced traditional management practices predicated upon the command and control paradigm, moving to a holistic approach integrating all parts of the wider environmental system. Regarding the marine environment, the WFD explicitly aims to prevent and eliminate pollution from the marine environment. In its scope it also includes maritime waters to 1 nautical mile for ecological status and to 12 miles for chemical status. The MSFD enlarges governance, through the use of the concept “good environmental status”, to the full extent of Member States territorial waters over which they have or exercise jurisdictional rights.

The WFD aims at protecting and enhancing all waters – groundwater, rivers, lakes, transitional waters (estuaries) and coastal waters – and includes terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly dependent on aquatic systems. The river basin management plans (RBMPs) are the key tools for the implementation of the WFD. The planning process should include an economic analysis of all the water uses in each River Basin District, as well as determining the pressures and impacts on the water environment.

The MSFD aims to protect the marine environment across Europe while allowing the continuation of sustainable uses of the sea. It requires EU Member States to establish national marine strategies to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in their marine waters by 2020. Member States shall, in respect of each marine region or subregion concerned, identify the measures which need to be taken in order to achieve or maintain good environmental status in their marine waters, including spatial protection measures, contributing to coherent and representative networks of marine protected areas and report on the exceptions where environmental targets or good environmental status cannot be achieved by 2020.

The application of the WFD has direct impact on the quality of marine waters. The level of urban waste water treatment, the implementation of measures for reducing the agricultural pollution, the level of treatment for reduction/removing of priority substances, the reduction of pollution with plastic and microplastic and supplementary measures for bathing and shellfish waters are all areas in which the WFD can synergize with the MSFD to achieve good environmental status.

Mr. Gheorghe Constantin showed that the structure of both directives is similar, but the WFD is more prescriptive in terms of approach, baseline and targets. The geographical scale and topic scope are significant differences in the two Directives, but both provide a holistic approach for achieving GES of MS waters. WFD assessments should contribute to MSFD assessments. There is also a need to avoid duplication and ensure coherence on monitoring and reporting. The areas of overlap are: coastal waters, chemical quality, eutrophication and dangerous substances/contaminants.

There are, however, differences. The scope of GES under MSFD is broader, covering a greater range of biodiversity components and pressures which are not included for coastal water bodies. The assessment scales are also different, with MSFD requiring the achievement of GES at the level of the relevant subregions whereas the WFD assesses the chemical and ecological status of each individual coastal water body. MSFD is using an Ecosystem based approach, whereas the WFD is using an integrated approach.



Mr. Gheorghe Constantin listed the potential areas for cooperation between professionals of both fields:

- correlate the monitoring and assessment between MSFD and WFD to identify and quantify land-based pressures for the marine environment
- improve the cooperation between the sea basin level and sea conventions
- Improve knowledge related to the river-delta and sea interaction
- involve landlocked countries in the MSFD implementation

The role of landlocked countries derives from the synergies between the WFD and the MSFD in relation to the conceptual relations between Good Environmental Status (MSFD) and Good Ecological Status (WFD). The existing cooperation structures implicated in the implementation of the WFD at river basin level, especially the international river commissions, should play a crucial role in relation to achieve the common targets of both the MSFD and the WFD.

Landlocked countries should pay particular attention when establishing WFD environmental objectives, MSFD environmental targets and associated indicators according to article 10, as well as the elaboration of the programmes of measures according to article 13. The consideration of the synergies between both directives in relation with the Programme of Measures: the WFD Article 11(6) has a similar goal as the MSFD Article 13 when stipulating that “Member States shall take all appropriate steps not to increase pollution of marine waters” and the respective measures are elements of the River basin management plans (RBMP) according to part A, point 7.11 of Annex VII of the WFD.

Finally, four key issues are of particular relevance to landlocked countries as highlighted in the EC Decision 2010/477/EU (which sets the criteria and methodological standards on GES of marine waters):

- The abundance/distribution of key trophic groups/species (RBMP - river continuity, etc) (Descriptor 4.3)
- Minimising human-induced eutrophication (N, P - UWWTD, ND, Phosphate –free detergents) (Descriptor 5)
- Concentration of contaminants (EQSD, REAC) (Descriptor 8)
- Marine litter (Descriptor 10)

The second part of Mr. Gheorghe Constantin’s presentation was devoted to MPAs designation in Romania. The designation of MPAs has been based on a combination of bio-ecological and socioeconomic criteria, ensuring long-term sustainability, but also considering and mitigating short-term costs. The first site proposals were submitted to the EC in 2007 and, due to shortcomings for certain types of habitats or species, new proposals have been submitted for the extension of the Natura 2000 network in Romania. Most of these sites overlap with the natural protected areas of national interest (national parks, natural parks and nature reserves). The network of MPAs was amended in 2016, by adding new protected sites and extending the area covered by the already existing ones. Over a coastline of 245 km, Romania now has 9 SCIs covering 85% of Romanian territorial sea and 21% of the EEZ and contiguous zone.





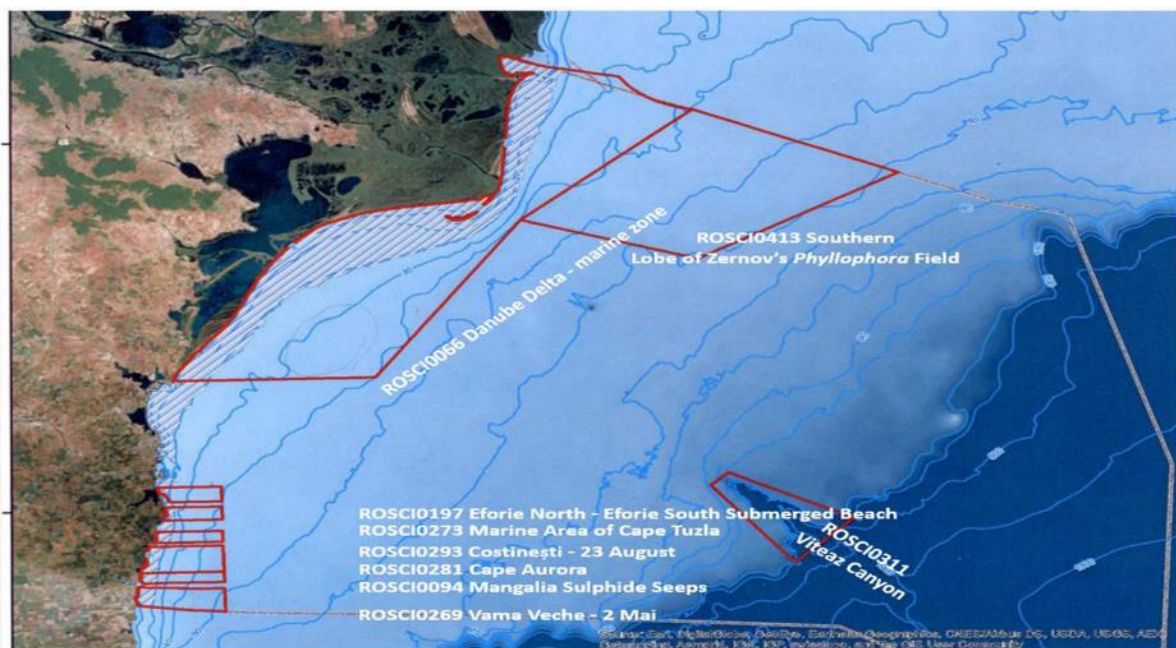


Figure 5 - Special protection areas in the Romanian Black Sea and Coast

The establishment caused some challenges. The new Natura 2000 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) include pelagic trawl fishing areas, turbot gillnets set-up zones and beam trawling areas. Moreover, the extension affected offshore activities, including drilling platforms, oil and gas pipelines and exploration oil fields. Overlapping of MPAs on existing activities has generated limitations and constraints of economic activities, which resulted in conflicts of interest between fishermen communities and environmental protection authorities.

The Romanian approach was characterized by the amiable settlement of economic and conservation interests using compromise solutions. Romania reconciled the conflicts by modifying the shape of the designated protected areas, while maintaining the same surface (thus complying with the European requirements in this respect), to allow the deployment of fishing operations on traditional fishing grounds.

Following the presentation, Mr. Sašo Šantl asked about the process of harmonization of the MPAs conservation goals and the pre-existing uses of the space. Mr. Gheorghe Constantin clarified that there was a negotiation process with the fishing communities (assigned bottom trawling areas, and fishing seasons in certain areas of the MPA), while the offshore gas and oil was already under the requirements of the respective EU directive. For the existing gas fields, the operators transport wastewater to the shoreline for treatment. For new companies, the process is just starting, and it will be based on negotiations. With fisherman they also negotiated. The MPA coverage was also designed to avoid major conflicts with existing users.

### 3.7 Slovenian experiences in the process of MPAs designation

Mr. Sašo Šantl presented the Slovenian experience with MPAs designation. He started with a characterization of Slovenia. The country has a population of 2,094,060 (y. 2019) in an area of 20,273 km<sup>2</sup>. Despite its small area, the country has areas of Alpine (Triglav up to 2864 m), Dinarides (karstic type), Pannonia, and (Sub) Mediterranean types. Slovenia has a 58% coverage of forest area (beech, fir-beech and beech-oak sites). The country's natural richness is reflected in the abundance of NATURA 2000 sites, ecologically important areas, valuable nature features and protected areas.

Slovenia's territorial sea is cca. 213 km<sup>2</sup> with a cca. 45 km coastline. The natural part of Slovenian coast represents 24,6 % of total Slovenian coast, and the artificial coastline represents 75,4 % of total length of Slovenian coast. The most typical artificial structures that changed the natural coastline in Slovenia are: Breakwaters, Seawater/Revetments/Sea dikes, Jetties and Ports/Marinas. There are almost 90 000 inhabitants in four coastal municipalities. The number of tourists in summer period is cca. 130 000.



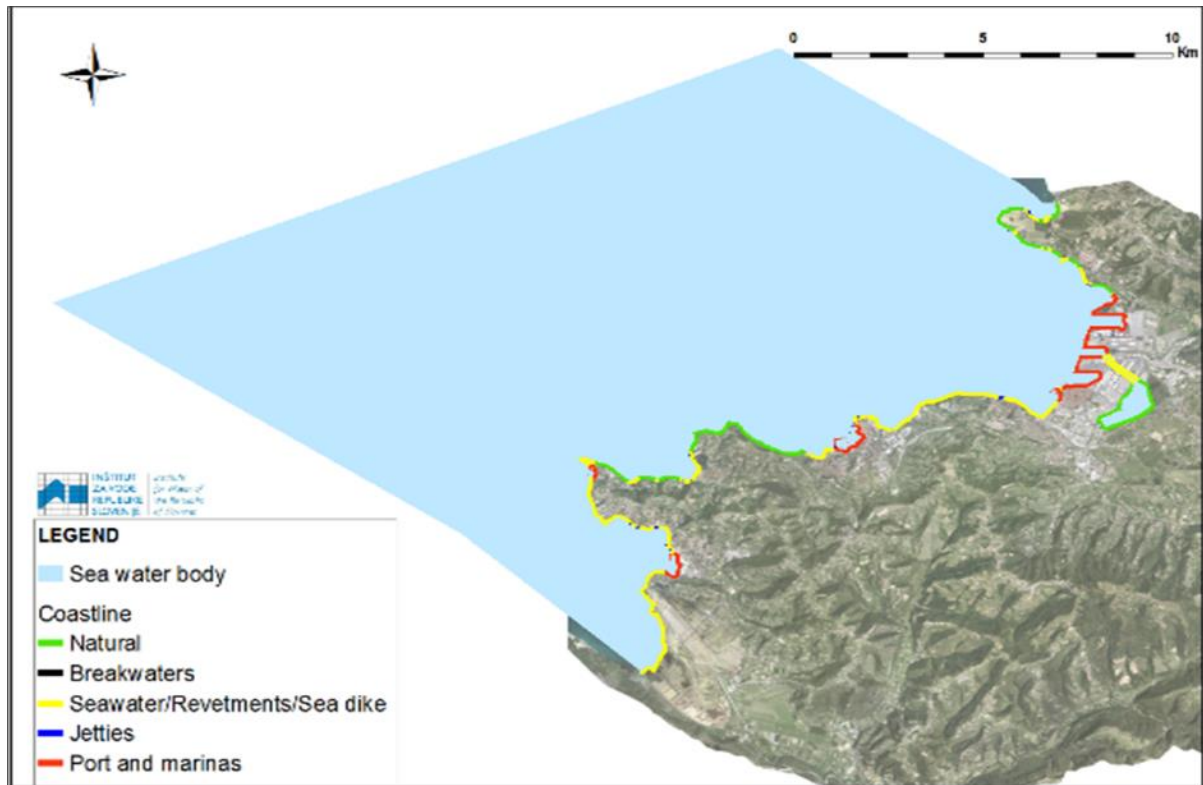


Figure 6 - The Slovenian coast

The coast is marked by constant pressure. There are many interests and little space. Below are some of the main uses and their negative consequences:

- Transport (cargo, cruisers, recreational vessels, ...): underwater noise, collisions with marine animals, air pollution, disturbances of a sea bottom, chemical pollution, exotic species, inter-sectoral conflicts
- Aquaculture (fish, shellfish): exotic species, excessive amount of nutrients, wastewaters, excessive catching of wild fish populations, plastic nets
- Fisheries: excessive catching, fishing nets
- Tourism: urbanization of coastal area, excessive use of fresh water sources, wastewater pollution risks

On the positive side, the coastal area was already rich in valuable nature features providing a good basis for the MPA designation. Nevertheless, the main challenge was to harmonize the MPA conservation goals with other pre-existing sea uses.



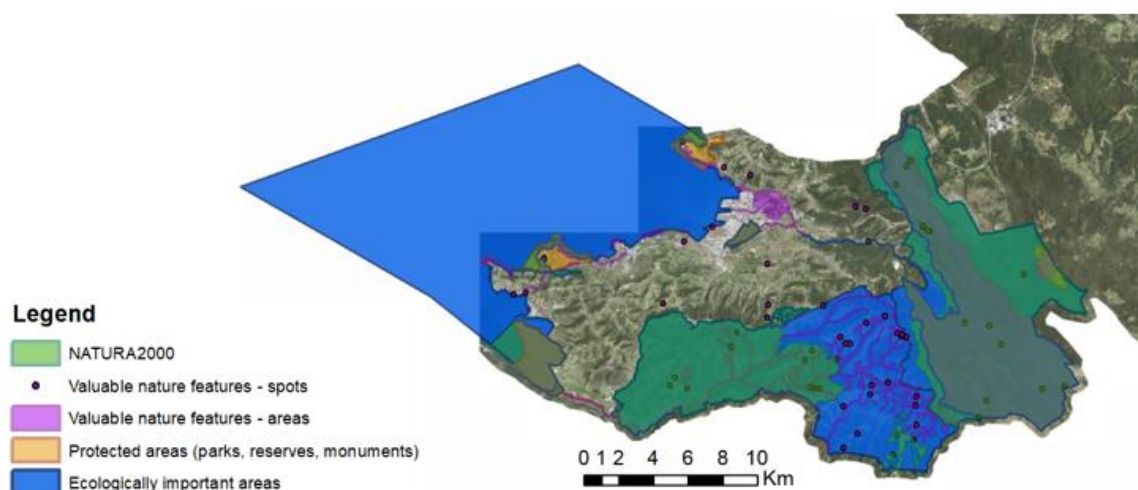


Figure 7 - Network of already protected ecosystems along the coast (pre-MPAs)

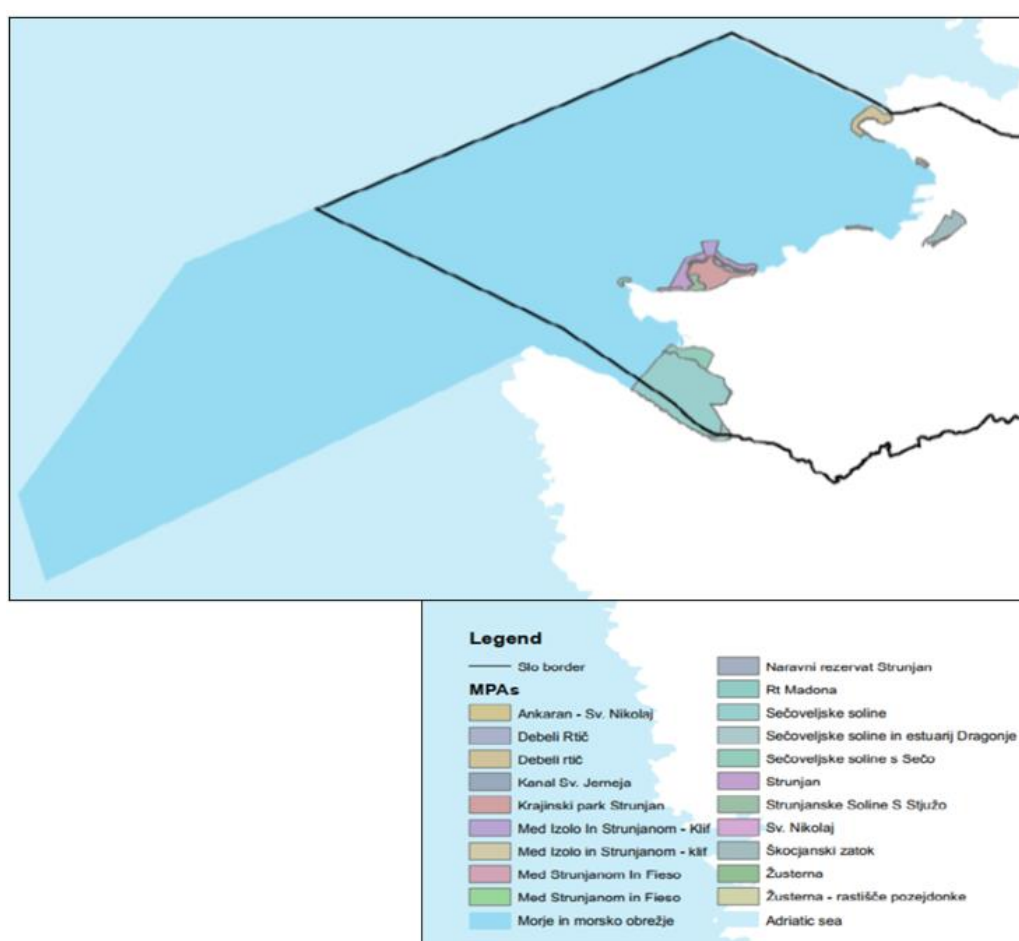


Figure 8 - Slovenian MPAs

Mr. Sašo Šantl then went through the results of the SUPREME project - Supporting maritime spatial Planning in the Eastern Mediterranean, which sought to support the implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning in EU Member States, and to launch and carry out concrete and cross-border MSP initiative between Member States. That project resulted in the definition of different layouts for the Slovenian sea and coast, including marine traffic corridors across Slovenian waters that reduce impact on the coastal MPAs, mapping for fisheries and aquaculture sites, protection areas, both at sea and on the coast, and touristic use of the different coastal zones. Those layouts provided the needed



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harmonization of the main interests present and became the starting point for the elaboration of the National Maritime Spatial Plan.

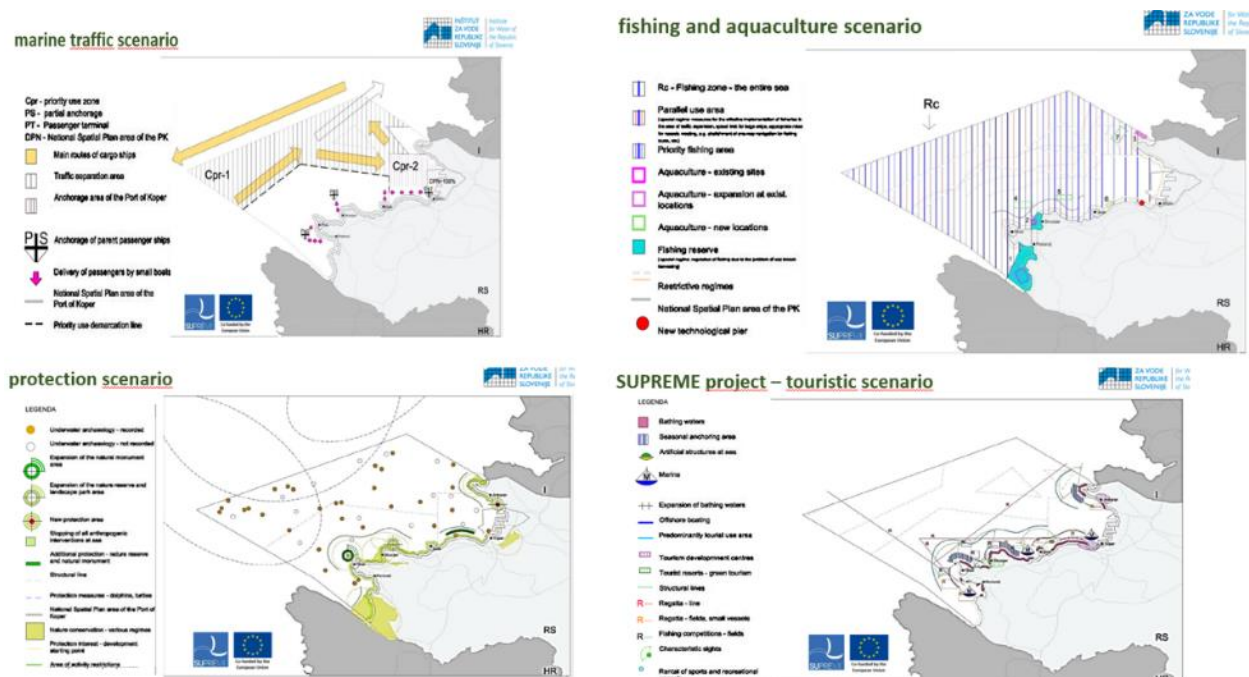
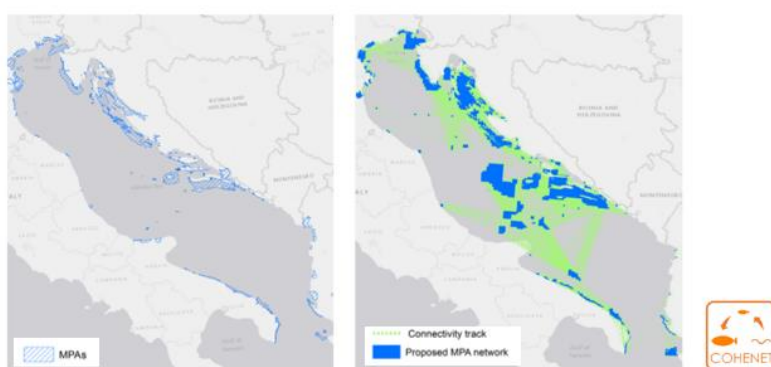


Figure 9 - Multiple scenarios for the maritime spatial planning

The Slovenian MPAs are relatively small due to country's available coastline. Considerations on that led Mr. Sašo Šantl to reflect on the fact that small MPAs can only be sustainable for habitats and species if they are connected by corridors to other MPAs. Such corridors should also fall under some type of protection, for instance, fishery restrictions. In order to strengthen the argument, he showed the map of Adriatic MPAs, a result from the COHENET project, showing the existing MPAs and proposed new MPAs, including connecting corridors.

#### MPAs of Adriatic Sea - result from COHENET project



[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/publications/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/publications/index_en.htm)

Figure 10 - Existing and proposed Adriatic MPAs and connectivity

Among the recommendations of the COHENET project, Mr. Sašo Šantl highlighted some important recommendations for the designation and management of MPAs:

- Improve data collection and its availability on the distribution of marine biodiversity (from surfaces to volumes, including time), because effective management should be based on efficient observation systems
- Include the full range of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning into the analysis and assessment. For this there is a need to define common criteria on MPA categorization and their



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requirements for protection and improving the scientific background of targets and methodology for coherence assessment

- Implement common objectives, targets and measures under Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) to reach ecologically coherent networks. Effective management should contribute to the achievement of good environment status (GES) by tackling the main pressures
- Improve the knowledge on the status of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) and their potential added value towards protection. In parallel, better knowledge of the socio-economic and cultural values, and the potential benefits for and from protection, is also needed
- Enhance 'ownership' by the public through communication and outreach

Once the presentation was concluded, Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou asked what the next steps in Slovenia's marine strategy are now that the first 6 year cycle is over. Mr. Sašo Šantl mentioned the marine spatial plan now being developed. The main challenge is to harmonize use in areas where different interests are present. He foresees a socio-economic process of negotiation.

Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou suggested that Bosnia and Herzegovina cooperates closely with Slovenia given both countries have a similar coastline and they both have borders with Croatia.

### 3.8 Proposed methodology for identification of one possible MPA with high biodiversity values and introduction of the outline of the report containing the methodology and recommendations

Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou presented EPPA activity 5.1.2 – a study that aims to recommend to possible sites for the designation of MPAs. The Study will be based on the available scientific information on the marine biodiversity from national or international sources, and relevant projects/programmes such as:

- The analysis of the MPAs network in the Adriatic of the project "Achieving coherent networks of marine protected areas: analysis of the situation in the Mediterranean Sea - COHENET (EC)
- MedMPAnet (Regional Project for the Development of a Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Network through the boosting of MPAs Creation and Management)
- AdriPan (ADRIatic Ionian maritime spatial PLANning)
- The work already done in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and by IUCN

Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou explained the methodology consists of 3 phases. In the first phase the project team will review existing literature and examine the priority areas for MPA designation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, it will assess the legal and institutional arrangements relevant to the establishment and management of the MPAs. For this purpose, the project engaged a local expert, Mr. Abdulla Dikou.

The second phase will define a clear set of objectives for MPAs management that would cover requirements of marine biodiversity conservation and economic development, and elaborate recommendations regarding legal, institutional, management, socioeconomic, communications and reporting requirements, and stakeholder's involvement. The criteria proposed is as follows:

Factors	Criteria
Naturalness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the extent to which the area has been protected from, or has not been subject to human-induced change</li> </ul>
Biogeographic importance (distribution of species and ecosystems)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• either contains rare biogeographic qualities or is representative of a biogeographic "type" or types</li> <li>• contains unique or unusual geological features</li> </ul>
Ecological importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• contributes to maintenance of essential ecological processes or life-support systems, e.g. source for larvae for downstream areas integrity</li> <li>• the degree to which the area either by itself or in association with</li> </ul>





	<p>other protected areas, encompasses a complete ecosystem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contains a variety of habitats, also for rare or endangered species</li> <li>contains nursery or juvenile areas, and feeding, breeding or rest areas</li> <li>contains rare or unique habitat for any species preserves genetic diversity i.e. is diverse or abundant in species terms.</li> </ul>
Social importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>existing or potential value to the local, national or international communities because of its heritage, historical, cultural, traditional aesthetic, educational or recreational qualities</li> </ul>
Scientific importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>value for research and monitoring</li> </ul>
International or National – significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is or has the potential to be listed on the World or a national Heritage List or declared as a Biosphere Reserve or included on a list of areas of international or national importance or is the subject of an international or national conservation agreement.</li> </ul>
Practicality/ feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degree of insulation from external destructive influences social and political acceptability, degree of community support</li> <li>accessibility for education, tourism, recreation compatibility with existing uses, particularly by locals ease of management, compatibility with existing management regimes</li> </ul>
Network Assessment Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representativity of functions and features of marine biodiversity (depth zones, ecoregions, habitats and species, including aspects of geographic distribution)</li> <li>Replication of sites and features</li> <li>Connectivity between sites and protected features, and</li> <li>Adequacy of individual MPAs as parts of the network (e.g. MPA size, level of protection) – Overall it is the main criterion which describes the qualitative aspect of single MPA</li> </ul>
Adequacy targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Size: Individual MPAs should be large enough to accommodate the large-scale movement of adults and include enough habitat space for ecosystem protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be consistent with MPA conservation objectives;</li> <li>Size of MPAs for conservation of mobile species &gt; than MPAs protecting benthic habitats</li> <li>Generally proposed 30Km<sup>2</sup> (e.g. Baltic) in Adriatic 20Km<sup>2</sup> – (a semi-closed basin- from COHENET)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Shape: Compact shapes are considered most appropriate for establishing conservation efficiency; easier to manage!</li> <li>Threats: MPAs should be designed in a way that minimize the impacts of pressures occurring within their boundaries and in their vicinity; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threats Indicator: assessment of the proportion of areas within the MPA that is not impacted by threats</li> </ul> </li> <li>Level of protection: the protection provided by an MPA should be consistent with both conservation objectives and pressures affecting the MPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e.g. for <i>Pinna nobilis</i> protection: measures should be taken either to forbid or regulate anchoring</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

*Table 1 - MPA identification criteria*

The third phase will recommend one new MPA in Bosnia and Herzegovina, that would be designated under regional or global agreements and would comply with the relevant designation criteria.

The final study shall be submitted for approval to the EC DG ENV and relevant beneficiaries. The study will be followed by a regional workshop on the establishment and management of the proposed marine protected areas for the 3 countries involved (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro) and 5 proposed MPAs.

Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou presented the timetable for the report's completion and delivery.

Months	Deliverables	Tasks
Jan		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data and information collected,</li> <li>Exchange of information with Local expert &amp; consultation with the EPPA team</li> </ul>
Feb		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Data and information for the proposed MPA location &amp; Consultation with the EPPA team</li> </ul>
Mar		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compilation of the results</li> <li>Start writing of the Study report &amp; Consultation with the EPPA team</li> </ul>
Apr		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elaboration of the Study Report &amp; Consultation with the EPPA team</li> </ul>
May		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of the Report</li> <li>Consultation with the EPPA team</li> </ul>
Jun	1st Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> Draft of the Report to EPPA for Comments</li> <li>Comments on the 1st Draft from the EPPA team</li> </ul>
Jul	2nd Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address comments and create the 2nd Draft of the report</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> Draft of the Report to EPPA for comments</li> <li>Incorporate comments on the 2nd Draft from the EPPA team</li> <li>Organisation of the Regional Workshop; communication with EPPA team</li> </ul>
Aug		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address comments</li> <li>Send draft to stakeholders in the countries for comments</li> <li>Preparation of Final Draft</li> </ul>
Sep	Final Draft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisation of the Regional Workshop &amp; Presentation of the Report</li> <li>Address comments and create the Final Draft to be sent to the countries</li> </ul>

Table 2 - Report timetable

Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou concluded his presentation by giving an overview of the COHENET project. The project objectives were to develop a coherence assessment methodology that could be applied in other (sub) regions, take stock of the present situation of the MPAs and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Mediterranean Sea, and provide recommendations for applying an MPA network approach in the region.

Ms. Ana Sudar asked if there are any guidelines to deal with the competing uses of marine space within an MPA. Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou reflected that this is a topic that must be discussed between the scientific and political communities to come to an agreement on feasible control measures for that.

### 3.9 European Green Deal action - implementing the Green Infrastructure concept: Connecting Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

Mr. Sašo Šantl introduced the concepts of green infrastructure and ecosystem services within the EU Green Deal as a way of connecting biodiversity to sustainable development.

Green infrastructure is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation. This network of green (land) and blue (water) spaces can improve environmental conditions and therefore citizens' health and quality of life<sup>6</sup>. It also supports a green economy, creates job opportunities, and enhances biodiversity. The Natura 2000 network constitutes the backbone of the EU green infrastructure.

Mr. Sašo Šantl listed a wide range of ecosystem services within four categories: provisioning (crops, plant resources, drinking water, etc), regulation and maintenance (retention of nutrients, flood risk mitigation, regulating temperature, etc), cultural (education, science, recreation, etc), and abiotic natural capital (hydropower, navigation, sediments). In the case of Slovenia, the marine environment

<sup>6</sup> Watch a Swedish EPA video explaining the concept: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwa5mWotLA>

provides multiple ecosystem services, including salt production, erosion prevention, water purification, tourism, education, fisheries, among others.

Mr. Sašo Šantl explained the diminishing gains of ecosystem services to make a point about stewardship and sustainability. The hypothetical relationships between land use intensity, Mean Species Abundance Index (MSA) and the output of ecosystem services seem to suggest that if the intensity of use of ecosystem services goes up beyond a certain point, what follows is an immediate and rapid deceleration of nature outputs towards human wellbeing – resulting in collapsing ecosystems.

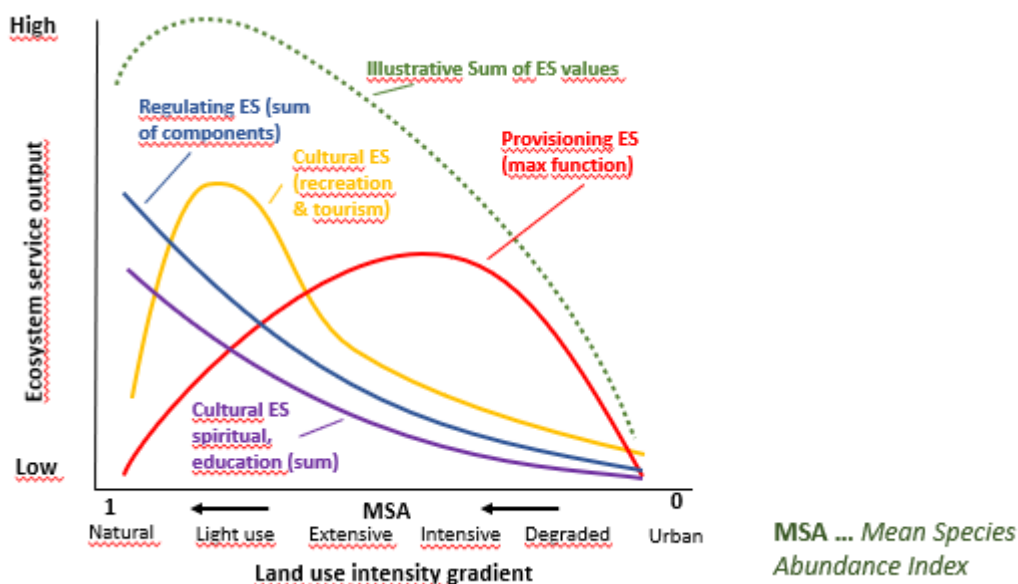


Figure 11 - Ecosystem services

For Green Infrastructure to be recognized and valued, it is important to make sure it is recognized as an area for biodiversity and/or the source of important ecosystem services for the communities relying on it. Policy makers and communities must also recognize that a balance must be achieved between extraction and preservation in order not to tip the scales towards ecosystem collapse. A possible way forward to use both concepts in support of MPAs, and other nature protection, is to include them in multiple scale spatial planning and to harmonize them with developmental objectives, thus promoting sustainable development.

Mr. Sašo Šantl exemplified how Slovenia did its green infrastructure mapping and development. It started by identifying all existing sources of biodiversity and ecosystem services based on existing policy and legislation (Natura2000, protected areas, bathing waters, protection forests, cultural heritage, etc.) and described its current use versus existing use plans. This led to the definition of spatial subunits with different layers according to use, determination of value for each layer and subunit and scoring that into a final analysis that originated a Slovenian Green Infrastructure map and further plans for development.



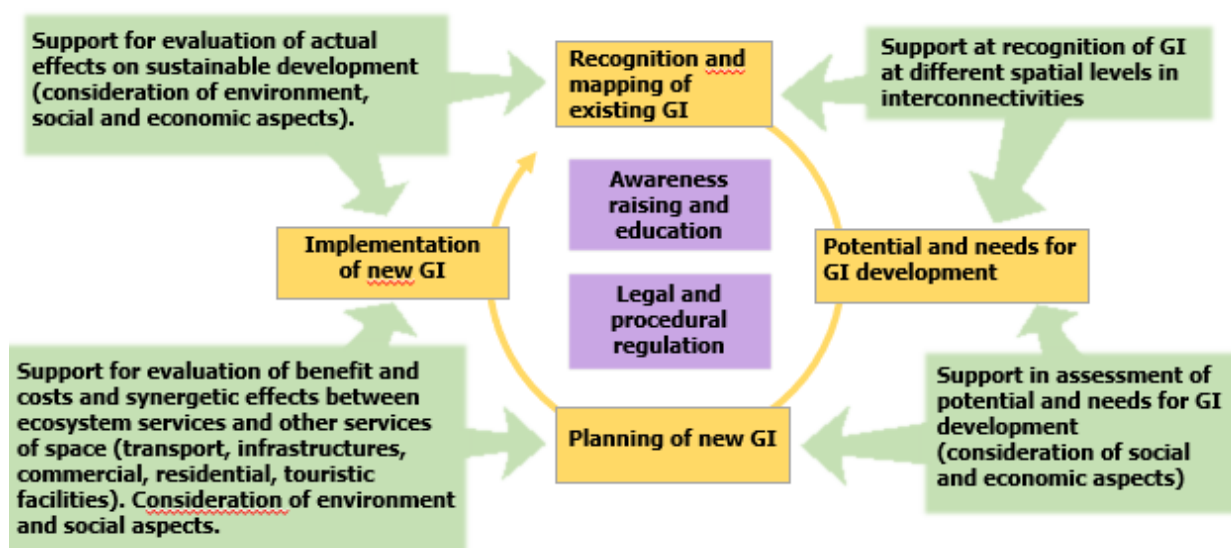
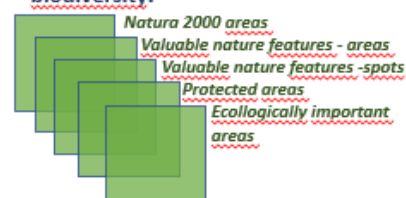


Figure 12 – Green infrastructure mapping and development

#### METHODOLOGICAL SUPPORT– SLOVENIAN & CROSSBORDER CASE:

##### Adopted legislation (protection regimes) for:

###### - biodiversity:



###### - ecosystem services:



##### Actual land and sea use



##### Adopted land use plans



- Determination of spatial sub units by their coverage with all used spatial layers
- Determination of values by each used spatial layer for each spatial sub unit
- Scoring method selection

##### Results analysis

##### Support to GI mapping and development

Communication, discussion and harmonization among experts and stakeholders.

Figure 13 - Green infrastructure mapping and development: the Slovenian case

The planning exercise resulted in the recognition of GI's potential for improved biodiversity, tourism, recreation, low CO2 emission mobility, wind and noise barriers, better microclima, etc. Some important notes to the process were also made. Only official data and existing legal basis was used. An inter sectoral bottom – up approach was taken and a logic of connecting local, national, and regional development permeated the approach.

Mr. Sašo Šantl gave the example of planning a new piece of GI in Slovenia: connecting two MPAs: Škocjan Inlet and Žusterna coastline with a green belt. The green belt required the closure of an old coastal road and the construction of a tunnel for traffic and the capture of land for the corridor where there is already a dense use of space. However, by highlighting that the corridor provides a wind barrier to reduce soil erosion, it improves the microclimate, reduces noise, enhances mobility and recreation values, and improves bathing water quality, the cost/benefit ratio in planning was drastically altered in favour of the green corridor.





Figure 14 - connecting two MPAs: Škocjan Inlet & Žusterna coastline

Mr. Sašo Šantl called attention to the challenges of using a green infrastructure approach, namely the need for extensive spatial data analyses, the need to invest in improving GI development (corridors, systems) within dense urban, commercial areas, the transboundary nature of GI corridors requiring cross border cooperation and potential changes to agricultural changes in certain areas (green belts, semi natural farming etc.). Finally, GI has the potential to become a guarantee for human wellbeing and long-term resilience for the global environment, but changes in social and economic thinking are needed.

In the discussion that followed the presentation Mr. Tarik Kupusović asked about blue infrastructure – what is the role of blue infrastructure and how it can be integrated in green infrastructure? Mr. Sašo Šantl noted that definitions of green infrastructure can be contentious among stakeholders (nature protection, water management, spatial planning, local communities, etc.). Slovenia is currently trying to create an umbrella definition that can be accepted widely in the country. However, in Mr. Sašo Šantl opinion green infrastructure covers all nature services, including waters.

Ms. Ajla Dorfer wanted to know how and who did the green infrastructure mapping in Slovenia. Bosnia and Herzegovina will have to eventually undergo a similar process because of its biodiversity strategy. Mr. Sašo Šantl informed her that Slovenia used the already available spatial planning data, although sometimes the mapping methodologies can differ. However, the main idea is to put together in different layers all the information available for existing legal regimes (land registry, nature protection, urban planning, etc.).

Ms Ana Sudar was curious to what extent green infrastructure is a legally based procedure in Slovenia. Mr. Sašo Šantl informed her that green infrastructure in Slovenia is rather an approach to governance and it has no legal basis as such. Slovenia, as other EU Member States, are not interested in developing another legal mechanism. However, green infrastructure is explicitly mentioned in the Slovenian spatial plan with concrete objectives and rationale. GI is an integration of existing regimes to recognize the values of nature. It puts a new light on existing needs of humans and the ecosystems services that supply them. It is a way of understanding a space and its benefits.

### 3.10 Coordination between MSFD and other EU directives and policies

Mr. Gheorghe Constantin presented the coordination opportunities between MSFD and other directives.

He started by explaining the main features of the MSFD. The MSFD establishes a framework to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment. Its aim is to protect, preserve, prevent deterioration or, where practical, restore Europe's oceans and seas where they have been





adversely affected and to prevent and reduce inputs in the marine environment. It seeks to achieve the aim by applying an ecosystem-based approach to management of human activities whilst ensuring sustainable use of marine goods and services. It addresses all aspects of biodiversity within the marine waters of EU Member States (excluding WFD transitional waters) and takes a regional approach to delivery of the Directive.

Mr. Gheorghe Constantin highlighted the centrality of GES, and its 11 indicators, within the directive. GES is defined as “the environmental status of marine waters where these provide ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive within their intrinsic conditions, and the use of the marine environment is at a level that is sustainable, thus safeguarding the potential for uses and activities by current and future generations”.

In order to clearly point the importance of the directive, Mr. Gheorghe Constantin talked about the main pressures over the marine environment: noise, harmful algal blooms, synthetic substances, ocean acidification, eutrophication, invasive species, decreasing fish sizes, microplastics, habitats destruction, climate change effects on plankton, among others.

Tackling such challenges effectively and consistently requires recognition the intersectoral nature of any environmental policy. The MSFD has links with many other EU Directives. Those links can help create synergies for a better environment.

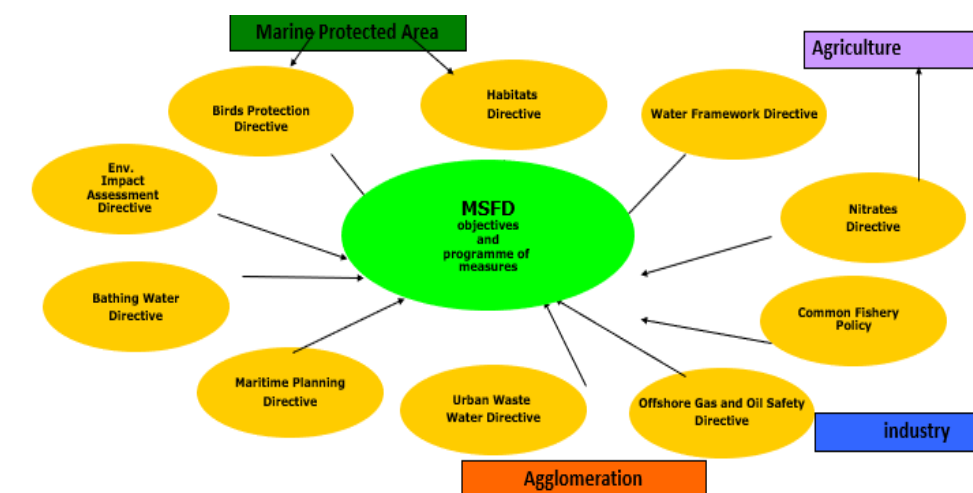


Figure 15 - MSDF connections with other directives

The Habitats directive aims to protect the biodiversity of the EU by taking measures to maintain or restore a favourable conservation status of a selected number of species and habitats of Community interest. It also aims to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity of the EU, including in the marine environment through measures designed to maintain or restore, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora.

The Birds directive requires the protection of all naturally occurring wild bird species in the EU. A number of these habitat types and species occur in the marine environment and should be covered by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). A major measure to help achieving the targets of the HBDs is to designate and protect sites for the species and habitat types by SCI (Site of community importance) and Special Area of Conservation.

The 3 directives are concerned with aspects of biodiversity conservation in the marine environment, including a requirement to achieve good status for the elements of biodiversity covered by each Directive. The concepts of good environmental status (MSFD) and favourable conservation status (HD) or status of population (BD) are not necessarily equivalent but can be mutually supportive. Conservation measures under the Habitats Directive (HD) should be part of any programme of measures to meet the requirements of MSFD and therefore help deliver more integrated policy and planning.



The directives are concerned with protection, maintenance and management of specific elements of biodiversity, but also the restoration and recovery of habitats and species. They require measures which should contribute to the achievement of good environmental status, as well as monitoring and periodic assessment and reporting. There is a need for coordination in order to achieve their objectives by creating synergies between the measures proposed.

Regarding maritime planning, the respective directive sets out policies aimed at contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in the marine area. It sets up plans which will contribute to meeting the objectives of the MSFD, particularly in relation to any measures which have a spatial dimension by applying an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities. It can shape activities within the marine area to support the goals of the MSFD, as well as those of other relevant pieces of EU legislation.

When it comes to the Safety of Offshore Oil and Gas Operations Directive it requires risk assessment and an emergency response plan before operation of the off shore oil and gas facilities can start. It ensures that companies are well financed and have the necessary technical expertise and it requires verification of safety provisions, environmental protection measures, and the emergency preparedness of rigs and platforms. Companies are fully liable for environmental damages caused to protected marine species and natural habitats.

Strategic planning and assessment of a marine development will contribute, at a generic level, towards the achievement and maintenance of GES by avoiding unintentional and irrevocable consequences for the marine environment. Strategic environmental assessment seeks to provide a high level of protection of the environment by integrating environmental considerations into the process of preparing certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Environmental impact assessment applies a procedure for the assessment of the environmental effects of projects which are likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The Common Fishery Policies is the principal legal mechanism for managing fish stocks in EU waters and its implementation will play a critical role in supporting the achievement and maintenance of GES and ensuring consistency across European waters, promoting sustainable stocks and fishing practices. It includes technical measures on gear selectivity, eliminating discards, spatial restrictions and limits on landings. Measures will be focused both on achieving targets for Maximum Sustainable Yield in commercial fisheries and on achieving sustainable use of the marine environment outside the Marine Protected Area network.

The Water Framework Directive's main objective is to achieve good water status/good chemical status/maximum ecological potential for all waters (surface, underground, coastal, transitional). It brings together in a common framework a diversity of previous directives dealing with water issues (Shellfish Waters, Bathing Waters Nitrates, Dangerous Substances, Urban Wastewater Treatment). It requires water management at the River Basin level in the understanding that rivers discharging into the sea/ocean affect its environmental status.

There are strong links between the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the MSFD. They have comparable objectives, with MSFD focused on the achievement of GES in marine waters, and WFD aiming to achieve Good Ecological and Good Chemical Status in all waters including transitional and coastal. There is an overlap between the waters covered by the WFD and the MSFD. Successful implementation of the WFD will essentially contribute to good environmental status in the marine waters. MSFD will define the level of ambition for the WFD.

In the ensuing discussion Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou asked why marine spatial planning is not progressing as fast as it should. Mr. Gheorghe Constantin said, in the case of Romania, marine planning is under a different ministry (regional development) which raises issues with coordination and capacity within the ministry to address the topic. However, he notes positive changes recently. The need to comply with EU directives eventually pushes decision makers and the civil service to tackle the challenges.



### 3.11 Current status of the report

Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou presented the current state of development of the report previously alluded to in “3.8 Proposed methodology for identification of one possible MPAs with high biodiversity values and introduction of the outline of the report containing the methodology and recommendations” of this document.

He highlighted the strategy for addressing the identification of potential conservation areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina is to integrate the scientific information and align the potential political/national decisions and plans. By integrating these different efforts, the candidate conservation areas can be identified and prioritized in order to represent a consensus of the future planning of key areas.

He informed the participants of the data sources being used for the study. In order to perform the analysis of ecologically important areas, biodiversity data from the sources was collected on sensitive habitats, species richness, Presence of species of conservation concern, etc. GIS data are not available thus the criteria to select the sites will be mostly based on this procedure.

Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou recommended that the next steps for the selection of the next MPAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be:

1. Knowledge of existing situation at political level for new MPAs
2. Perform a Comparative Analysis to define the core areas of protection according to the assessment criteria for MPAs, depending on the available information (e.g. presence of sensitive habitats, presence of species of conservation concern, species richness, uniqueness, and important areas for the regeneration of fish stocks).
3. GIS analysis on biodiversity data to identify other micro-reserves with a view to be included in larger marine parks, achieving the Adequacy criterion.

After the presentation Ms. Ana Sudar questioned the expert on what the use restrictions within the Bosnia and Herzegovina MPA could be, including in regard to aquaculture. Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou replied that restrictions are to be defined at a later stage when Bosnia and Herzegovina drafts its MPA management plan. Although the management plan should respect the MPA characteristics and corresponding conservation goals, it will be up to the authorities to define the appropriate zoning and restrictions applicable within the MPA involving all stakeholders.

Ms. Ajla Dorfer mentioned a UNEP project that also sought to support the proclamation of an MPA. A number of issues arose from that project. Cooperation with Croatia is needed to ensure synergies. The local communities and landowners showed resistance to the MPA fearing it would stop development opportunities. Mr. Tarik Kupusović intervened to stress the need of coordinating protection measures with Croatia. Mr. Tarik Kupusović also informed the audience that the Council of Ministers would soon discuss the approval of a project seeking to formulate a Coastal Area Management Plan for Neum. That project will contribute to the discussions in the present workshop and potentially result in positive outcomes.

Ms. Zlata Grabovac expressed concerns about the harmonization of marine protection goals and economic use of the MPA. In her view, a pure restrictive approach will undermine the legitimacy and acceptance of the MPA. In addition, she also reflected that coordination with Croatia should be increased to ensure the desired environmental outcomes of such an MPA. Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou clarified again that establishing an MPA is not an automatic restriction in the use of the space. The management plan will later have to consider all existing uses and regulate them within the MPA.

### 3.12 Discussion on key topics

The workshop agenda foresaw a plenary session to discuss topics related to the creation of MPAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Vangelis Papathanassiou and guided by 5 questions.

#### 1) Does the dense use of the Adriatic Sea pose on a potential threat on existing or new MPAs? What can be done?

Participants thought that the dense use of the Adriatic is not a particular threat for Bosnia and Herzegovina's coast. However, the harmonization between the MPA and other functions of the sea is



seen as a key factor for its success and acceptance. One of the speakers noted that all uses of space in the MPA can be allowed as long as no excesses are allowed. The MPA is there to establish and enforce such limits ensuring a sustainable ecosystem. New development is always possible as long as it is done gradually with monitoring and moderate use.

One other threat mentioned is the potential urbanization of the Klek peninsula and creation of tourism infrastructure.

## **2) What do we lack for effective management of MPAs (considering that MPAs management is weak in most of the Med countries at the moment)?**

Participants considered that more information, through knowledge production and monitoring, are essential. Currently there is a lack of information on the marine environment that requires further scientific research. In parallel, raising awareness for the values of an MPA among stakeholders and the public is needed to gain support and commitment of all involved or affected.

Some participants raised concerns about the lack of definition of protection goals. Establishing clear goals will be key to gain support and understand what kind of management measures will be needed. The measures should strive to harmonize the MPA with existing or projected socio-economic uses of the Bosnia and Herzegovina coast and sea to avoid unnecessary restrictions to development.

Finally, cooperation with Croatia will be necessary in all regards, including management of wastewaters, infrastructure development, harmonized protection measures, etc.

## **3) What actions could be done to reach both the conservation and socio-economic values in MPA**

In order to ensure harmonization of conservation and socio-economic values, the participants agreed that an ecosystem services approach can provide a solution to both. For that, Bosnia and Herzegovina would need to map the coastal and marine ecosystem services and define the value provided by the MPA together with the costs.

## **4) How can we overcome gap in knowledge or of lack of data at national level to decide and declare new MPAs?**

Bosnia and Herzegovina can rely on its partners to partially address its knowledge gaps, namely other marine countries, in particular Croatia as a country with a neighboring coast. In addition, the participants welcomed the development of guidelines and other support tools to MPA management. In general, more human, and financial resources are needed, as well as capacity building.

## **5) From the listed questions/topics which are those that can be further examined as specific topics for tailor-made training for one country or during regional workshops under EPPA?**

Participants suggested the study of other countries MPA management plans, their experiences with MPA designation, and other support to the MPA designation steps in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It will be important to involve other stakeholders in such trainings, like municipalities and local communities.

Another suggestion, under cooperation with Croatia, was to involve Bosnia and Herzegovina experts in Croatian oceanographic boats as both a knowledge transfer method and a potential synergetic monitoring of Croatian and Bosnia and Herzegovina waters.

## **4 Conclusions**

The workshop resulted in an important debate on the *status quo* of designating and managing marine protected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The information shared by the participants, and the accompanying recommendations, will be taken into account while implementing EPPA Activity 5.1.2 “Assistance for the identification of marine protected areas and exchange of best practices to achieve and/or to maintain the good ecological status of marine waters and preserve biodiversity”.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is at the beginning stage of implementing coastal and marine management tools, such as spatial planning, integrated coastal and marine plans and MPAs.



Bosnia and Herzegovina's marine waters are of better quality and less polluted than other places in the Adriatic Sea. Currently, the pressures are not high, but the expected growth of urbanization and tourism might pose future risks. The main environmental issues land-sea related are the management of municipal solid wastes and the management of communal wastewaters.

The bay of Mali Ston, the bay of Neum-Klek and the Neretva Delta form a very sensitive and high-value area, which requires a common cross-border approach to environmental protection. The upper part of the Neretva valley, called Hutovo Blato, is a protected Ramsar area in Bosnia and Herzegovina and depends upon the water regime of the small Krupa River (affected by hydropower projects), while its lower part is situated in the Republic of Croatia, where the Neretva River branches create a large delta – also in the Ramsar area. The interconnectedness of ecosystem will require that Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia work together.

The harmonization between the MPA and other functions of the sea is seen as a key factor for its success and acceptance. Some participants raised concerns about the lack of definition of protection goals. Establishing clear goals will be key to gain support and understand what kind of management measures will be needed. The measures should strive to harmonize the MPA with existing or projected socio-economic uses of the Bosnia and Herzegovina coast and sea to avoid unnecessary restrictions to development. An ecosystem services approach can provide a possible solution.

More information, through knowledge production and monitoring, is essential. Currently there is a lack of information on the marine environment that requires further scientific research. In parallel, raising awareness for the values of an MPA among stakeholders and the public is needed to gain support and commitment of all involved or affected.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is also facing difficulties arising from a lack of sound and harmonized institutional, legal and policy frameworks for water resource and environment management across borders. Each country (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro), and entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, have their own water and environment legislation, water rights, water management practices, and institutions, and these are rarely coordinated.

Finally, cooperation with Croatia will be necessary in all regards, including further management of common wastewaters, infrastructure development, harmonized protection measures, sharing of marine data and knowledge, among others.

In conclusion, the workshop contributed to a discussion on the challenges of setting up and managing a MPA in Bosnia and Herzegovina while also raising the capacities of principal stakeholders.

### Workshop outputs

The workshop's main outputs were:

- Review of existing work and documentation relating the establishment of Marine Protected Areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Enhanced understanding of the challenges and tasks connected with MSFD implementation and the establishment of Marine Protected Areas
- Encouraged dialogue between the multiple stakeholders in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding the establishment and management of MPAs
- Enhanced exchange of experiences between Bosnia and Herzegovina and EU Member states on MSFD and MPAs
- Identified key challenges to the implementation of MPAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Established contacts and information exchanged between the relevant stakeholders in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EPPA project team responsible for the development of a study with initial recommendations for establishment of new marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Adriatic Sea basin (project activity 5.1.2)

## 5 Evaluation

The participants were asked to evaluate the workshop by TAIEX using an online survey after the event. The evaluation results are presented below in a summary table.







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The project implemented by the Consortium of NIRAS (lead) and  
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Evaluation Type	Question / Expert name / Comment	No. Responses	Expert Score	Yes / Excellent	No / Good	Partially / Satisfactory	Do not know / Poor
Workshop - participant - A. Questions	1. Was the workshop carried out according to the agenda	14		13 (93%) Yes	No	1 (7%) Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - A. Questions	2. Was the programme well structured?	14		12 (86%) Yes	No	2 (14%) Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - A. Questions	3. Were the key issues related to the topics addressed?	14		9 (64%) Yes	No	5 (36%) Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - A. Questions	4. Did the workshop enable you to improve your knowledge?	14		12 (86%) Yes	No	2 (14%) Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - A. Questions	5. Was enough time allowed for questions and discussions?	14		14 (100%) Yes	No	Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - A. Questions	7. Do you expect any follow-up based on the results of the workshop (new legislation, new administrative approach, etc.)?	14		13 (93%) Yes	1 (7%) No	Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - A. Questions	8. Do you think that further TAIEX assistance is needed (workshop, expert mission, study visit, assessment mission) on the topic of this workshop?	14		14 (100%) Yes	No	Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - C. Logistic Ratings	1. Conference venue	9		8 (89%) Yes	No	1 (11%) Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - C. Logistic Ratings	2. Interpretation	6		5 (83%) Yes	No	1 (17%) Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - C. Logistic Ratings	3. Hotel	2		2 (100%) Yes	No	Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - C. Logistic Ratings	4. Flight	2		2 (100%) Yes	No	Partially	Do not know
Workshop - participant - C. Logistic Ratings	5. Catering	2		2 (100%) Yes	No	Partially	Do not know



<b>Workshop - participant - D. Comments</b>	The site visit to Neum and further field assessments for additional detail consideration of the proposed MPA borders for Bosnia and Herzegovina, could be an interesting action. Drafting legislation for the responsible ministry Bosnia and Herzegovina for transposition of the MSFD is welcome.					
<b>Workshop - participant - D. Comments</b>	NO COMMENTS					
<b>Workshop - speaker - A. Questions</b>	1. Did you receive all the information necessary for the preparation of your contribution?	5	5 (100%) Yes	No	Partially	Do not know
<b>Workshop - speaker - A. Questions</b>	2. Has the overall aim of the workshop been achieved?	5	4 (80%) Yes	No	1 (20%) Partially	Do not know
<b>Workshop - speaker - A. Questions</b>	3. Was the agenda well structured?	5	4 (80%) Yes	No	1 (20%) Partially	Do not know
<b>Workshop - speaker - A. Questions</b>	4. Were the participants present throughout the scheduled workshop?	5	5 (100%) Yes	No	Partially	Do not know
<b>Workshop - speaker - A. Questions</b>	5. Was the beneficiary represented by the appropriate participants?	5	4 (80%) Yes	No	1 (20%) Partially	Do not know
<b>Workshop - speaker - A. Questions</b>	6. Did the participants actively take part in the discussions?	5	4 (80%) Yes	1 (20%) No	Partially	Do not know
<b>Workshop - speaker - A. Questions</b>	7. Do you expect that the beneficiary will undertake follow-up based on the results of the workshop (new legislation, new administrative approach etc.)	5	4 (80%) Yes	1 (20%) No	Partially	Do not know
<b>Workshop - speaker - A. Questions</b>	8. Do you think that the beneficiary needs further TAIEX assistance (workshop, expert mission, study visit, assessment mission) on the topic of this workshop?	5	5 (100%) Yes	No	Partially	Do not know
<b>Workshop - speaker - A. Questions</b>	9. Would you be ready to participate in future TAIEX workshops?	5	5 (100%) Yes	No	Partially	Do not know
<b>Workshop - speaker - D. Comments</b>	Good Workshop with great participation from the different organisations.					
<b>Workshop - speaker - D. Comments</b>	There is a need from Bosnia and Herzegovina civil servant side for much more practical work for the EU approximation ... and it's up to the political leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina to mobilize, order and control, including award or penalize, this work. EU leaders should send					



	such a clear signals and questions to the Bosnia and Herzegovina leadship! Otherwise, we all will suffer from political, and also all the other kinds of corruption for next years and years ...	
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