BONUS
SCIENCE FOR A BETTER FUTURE OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION

BONUS BASMATI

Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Ecosystem Services

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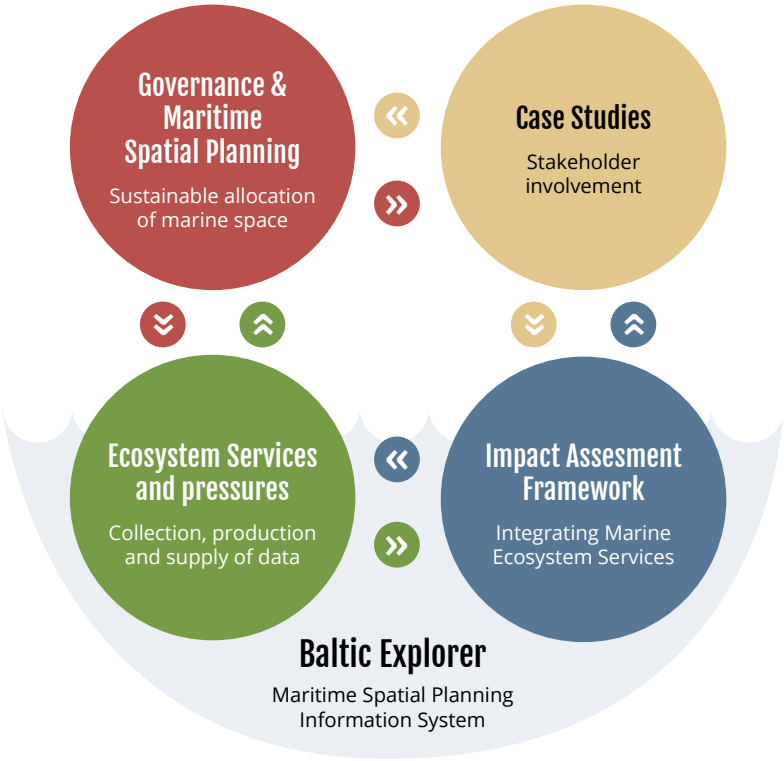
About the BONUS BASMATI project

The BONUS BASMATI project focuses on Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and marine and coastal ecosystem services. It analyses governance systems in the Baltic Sea region in order to develop a transnational model for MSP. A major outcome will be a MSP tool called Baltic Explorer - a spatial support system designed to support MSP processes around the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Explorer facilitates broad access to information. It helps planners and stakeholders to overcome some of the challenges of cross-border MSP, especially related to mapping and management of ecosystem services. The tool will be developed with the help of its end-users and it will be tested in three BONUS BASMATI case studies. Cross-border collaboration and stakeholder involvement play a crucial role in the project.



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BONUS BASMATI background

The seas are heavily exploited by human activities. New ways to utilise the seas are emerging, at the same time as some of the traditional ones are expected to increase in density. In addition, there is a need to develop an ecologically and socio-economically sound network of marine protected areas. MSP considers these issues and aims at sustainable allocation of marine space.

The BONUS BASMATI project relies on the concept of ecosystem services. New data on these services will be produced and tested during the project. The ecosystem services in sustainable planning can be approached through the ecosystem service cascade model. The cascade model addresses the ecosystem services as a chain from biophysical structures and natural processes to the potential benefits and value for human well-being. The actual ecosystem services include provisioning, regulating and cultural services.

Expected outcomes of BONUS BASMATI

- Increased knowledge and data on coastal and marine ecosystem services.
- Improved access to data and spatial scenario assessment frameworks.
- Assessment frameworks for sustainability issues and indicators.
- A decision support system for developing and assessing alternative planning scenarios.
- Improved understanding about the benefits of interactive planning tools for stakeholders.
- More inclusive planning processes sensitive to sectoral and society needs.

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BONUS BASMATI
Case studies

The Pan-Baltic case study evaluates transboundary and cross-border aspects of MSP. The case examples are international: maritime tourism and commercial shipping. Conceptions on MSP, stakeholder involvement, and ecosystem services are investigated among the stakeholders around the Baltic Sea.




The Danish-German case study investigates opportunities for mussel farming in the south-western Baltic Sea. The focus will be on finding suitable sites and evaluating these sites based on ecosystem services. The study relies on high-quality data sets and extensive spatial analyses on environmental conditions and human activities.

The Latvian case study focuses on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Identifying suitable locations for adequately protecting benthic habitats is important for ensuring wide range of ecosystem services. The case study creates a tool for assessing the impact and value of alternative sea use options.


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Contact information

Project coordinator
Henning Sten Hansen
Professor, Aalborg University Copenhagen
A.C. Meyers Vænge 15, DK-2450 Copenhagen
hsh@plan.aau.dk

@bonusbasmati

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BONUS BASMATI partners

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