



MESMA NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 | FEB 2012

Two years under way

Started in November 2009, MESMA is now halfway.

In this second newsletter we inform you on the progress of this EU 7th framework program. In the past year, the basic building blocks for the project have been established, and which are explained in this issue.

In the coming year, 2012, we will further develop and test the MESMA method. With over 20 institutes we will work on the future of marine spatial management in Europe.

Luc van Hoof, project leader



Case Studies as laboratories

In 2010 we carefully selected and described 9 case studies that represent 6 EU marine regions, and a range of national and international aspects of marine spatial planning. The case studies serve as laboratories for testing the MESMA framework.

In 2011 the case studies performed the first 'test run' with the MESMA framework. A lot of useful feedback and recommendations were generated based on diverse range of issues and contexts encompassed by the case studies. These recommendations will be incorporated through adaptations to the framework.

Shaping the future

Being halfway the project, we are starting to shape the final product. The MESMA method will become accessible via a user friendly website, where the MESMA framework can be followed step by step, and relevant tools can be accessed as well as the MESMA geoportal containing well organized spatial data. By the end of 2012 we should have a prototype working, which then can be further developed in the final year of the project.

E-manual makes life easier

In 2012, MESMA will develop an e-manual, to make the process of going through the MESMA framework easier. The e-manual will be an online tool, that guides the user step by step through the MESMA framework and helps the user fill in the fields. The e-manual will have pre-printed fields, where the user can pick from different options. Also it will duplicate previously entered information where necessary so the user does not have to type in the same information twice. The e-manual will be tested by the case studies in the second 'test run' of the framework in 2012. Feedback from this 'test run' will help to improve the e-manual.

AGENDA

16 April 2012

Workshop on Biological Valuation as a tool for Marine Spatial Planning

June 2012

Workshop E-manual and Tools

Summer 2012

Workshop on Governance

In 2012, the case studies will focus on a second 'test run' to see whether the feedback has helped to further improve the framework. Also, in this run the e-manual will be tested for the first time.

Later on in the project we will produce a position paper and a comparison paper based on the lessons learned.

Stay connected

MESMA can also be found as a group on LinkedIn. Join us and be informed about all the big MESMA news.





MESMA General Assembly, October 2011, Athens

Tools make it work

Over 70 tools that can be used in combination with the MESMA framework have been collected over the last two years. They are available at our website. Case studies have worked with tools and provided information on tool use and tool evaluation. 🇳🇱

MESMA the movie!

“Coming soon, in a cinema near you!” Maybe this is a bit too ambitious, but MESMA has indeed been working on different short videos to inform the public and interested parties about the project. We have held interviews with different work package leaders and case study leaders during the General Assembly in Athens in November 2011, and in IJmuiden. The 15 min MESMA introduction video can be watched [online](#) on the MESMA website. 🇳🇱

First test run of MESMA framework completed!

The MESMA framework, developed in 2010, is a step wise approach to systematically evaluate management plans in different (European) marine areas.

The framework provides a clear analysis of the management situation in areas where spatial planning is in place, is desired, or where conflicts in spatial use occur. It is expected that the framework should also prove to be a useful instrument for spatial planners, policy makers and other stakeholders.

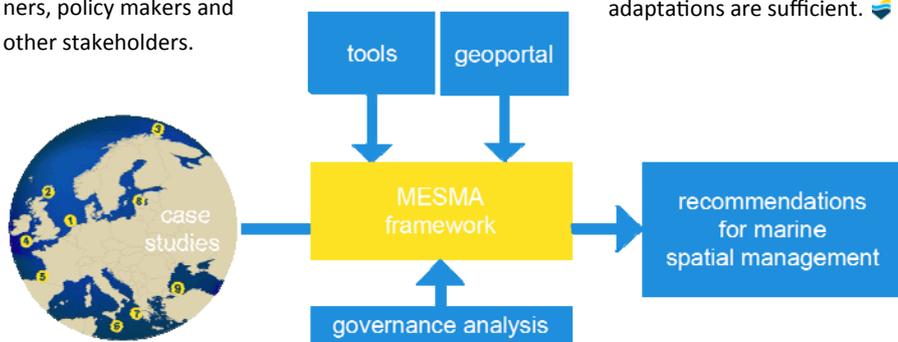
Nine case studies serve as laboratories for testing the framework, each with their own specific setting of human uses, nature conservation targets and policies. The first 'test run' in 2011 resulted in a huge amount of information, experiences and recommendations.

In 2012, adaptations will be made to the framework based on the feedback. A second 'test run' will take place to see whether the adaptations are sufficient. 🇳🇱

Governance on full speed

Last year, the work package responsible for governance visited the case studies in their respective countries to explain and discuss the governance analysis. The governance analysis runs parallel to the MESMA framework and complements it by providing in-depth analysis of the socio-economic and geo-political realities. Based on the experiences of the case studies, the guidelines for the analysis were revised. The revision has received positive feedback from the case studies.

Next to that we have written a working paper on the EU policy landscape. This working paper provides an overview of the emerging policy landscape for marine spatial planning in Europe, which consists of various policies, directives and regulations related to MSP in the EU, and their interactions. The working paper can be found on the MESMA website. 🇳🇱



MESMA framework, showing how all the pieces work together

MESMA and science

MESMA has produced two peer reviewed papers in 2011:

Katsanevakis et al. (2011) *Ecosystem-based marine spatial management: review of concepts, policies, approaches, and critical issues*. Ocean and Coastal Management, 54: [807-820](#)

Salomidi et al. (in press) *Assessment of goods and services, vulnerability, and conservation status of European seabed biotopes: a stepping stone towards ecosystem-based marine spatial management*. Mediterranean Marine Science

MESMA was also present at several conferences in the form of presentations or posters.

Furthermore, the following MESMA deliverables are now available online:

D1.1: review of marine spatial management

D1.2: catalogue of EU seabed biotopes, providing information for the majority of EU seabed biotopes following the EUNIS system.

Working paper on the emerging policy landscape for Marine Spatial Planning in Europe: overview of key policies, directives and regulations.

Go for the [full list](#) of outreach to our website. 🇳🇱

AIM

With the help of its stakeholders, MESMA is aiming to develop integrated management tools such as guidelines, concepts, models and tools for monitoring, evaluating and implementing Spatially Managed Areas (SMAs).

Produced by Anneke Pajmans, Oscar Bos & the MESMA Executive Board / Photos: Oscar Bos / MESMA design: www.totenmetontwerpen.nl / The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement n° 226661.

WWW.MESMA.ORG