

MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING PERSPECTIVES IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

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Introduction

Recent increased demand for marine space, driven by a variety of needs, must at the same time be balanced by the necessity to ensure the proper functioning of marine ecosystems. In 2014, Directive 2014/89/EU establishing the framework for **maritime spatial planning (MSP)** came into force, requiring the development of countries' maritime spatial plans by 31 March 2021.

Against this background, the Baltic Sea region countries' cooperation in marine governance can be seen more broadly via the lens of MSP, its practical examples, and the field's topicalities, reflecting the necessary environmental transformation. As a result, this research conducts an in-depth study of the framework and implementation challenges of effective MSP regulation and best practice examples in the Baltic Sea region.

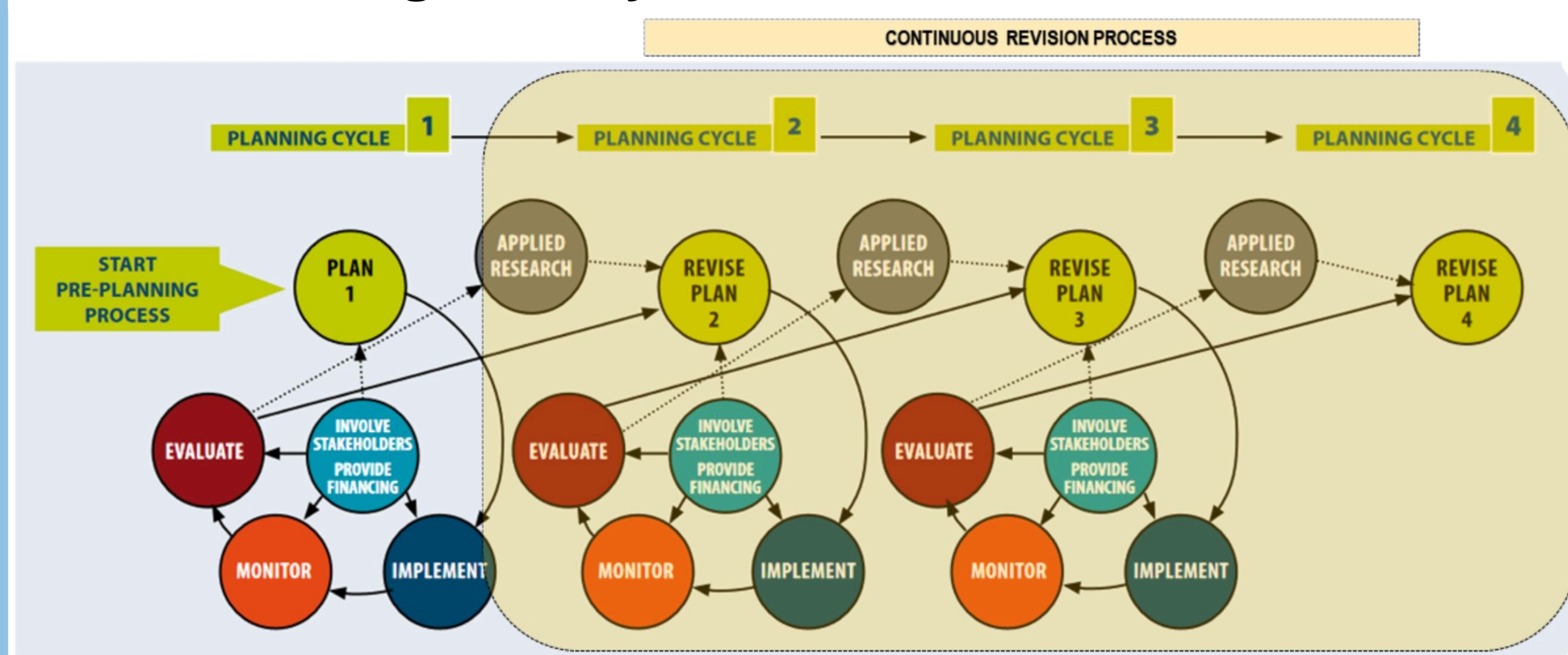
Results & Discussion

Since MSP is currently a new field on a national scale, and there are few practical activities at sea, the possibility of using the experience of other countries is of particular importance, including concerning the planning process, its efficiency and its coherence with the legal framework. Overall, following the development of MSP in the Baltic Sea region, this can be assessed as consistent and of high quality.



Manual available here: <https://www.if.lu.lv/par-mums/juridiskas-zinatnes-instituts/instituta-zinas/>

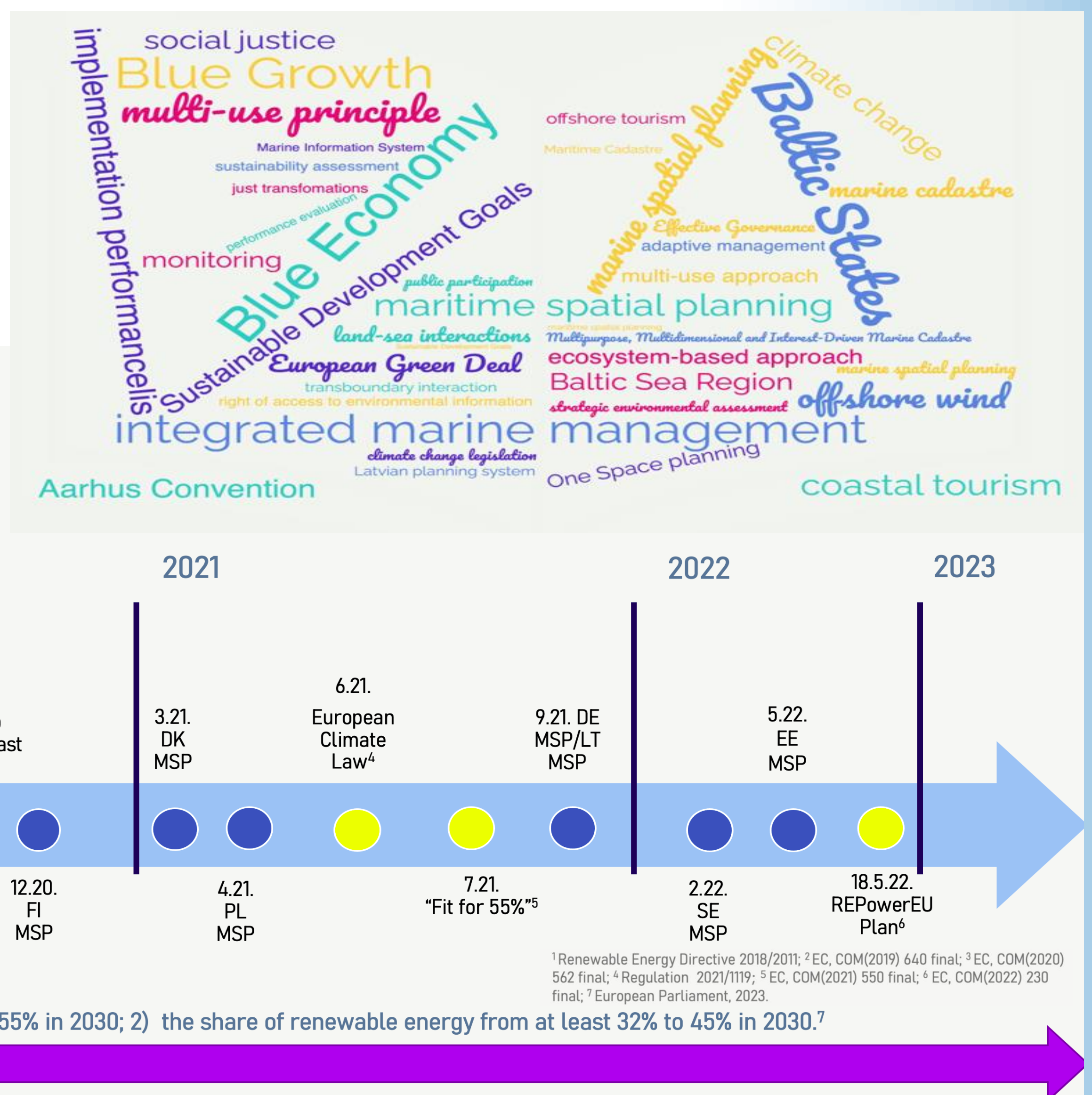
The continuing MSP cycle



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Research Objective

The scientific aim is to ensure transparency of the legal environment, facilitating the implementation of effective MSP in line with the legal framework for those applying legal norms, industry representatives and spatial planning specialists. For this purpose, scientific research methods used are historical, descriptive, analytical, comparative and triangulation, semi-structured in-depth interviews and case studies.



Conclusions

However, major challenges to be addressed by the legal framework are the implementation of MSP, monitoring and evaluation, as well as involvement by the general public and taking social and cultural interests into account in MSP. Issues of increasing energy production capacity in the marine environment and protecting biodiversity are also fundamental in light of ambitious climate goals.