

## **Welcome to the fourth MUSES newsletter!**

### **News**

#### **MUSES – Year 2, Q1**

Hello! It's already the start of March and we're a quarter of the way into year 2 of MUSES! After a frantic end to 2017, with the project interim reporting and submission of the case studies under Work Package 3, things have settled down (somewhat) and we are looking ahead to future key deliverables: focussing on the results from the Case Studies and providing an overview and comparison of the sea basins, with the final reports due in April, and commencing work on the draft Action Plan under Work Package 4. In addition to that, we are in the process of outlining the agenda for our 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder workshop – read on to find out more!

While the research is still ongoing, some of the projects deliverables, including *Case Studies* and *Stakeholder Profiles* reports, can be assessed on [MUSES website](#), and once again, we're looking for **your** comments and feedback, this time on the case study implementation. These can be viewed, downloaded from and commented on the website [here](#). Alternatively, if you would like to comment on this, or on any of the work undertaken by MUSES, please send in your feedback to [ms.musesproject@gov.scot](mailto:ms.musesproject@gov.scot)

#### **End of 2017 and Beginning of 2018**

##### Work package 1 – Periodic Reporting

In December 2017, MUSES met with the Project Officer from the European Commission, in order to discuss the work undertaken within the first year of the project. Presentations were given on each of the work packages for MUSES, outlining the achievements in each and our plans for the future. This meeting coincided with the submission of interim reports for the project and we were very pleased to hear that the Project Officer was extremely happy with the work undertaken to date.

##### Work Package 2 – Work Continues Apace on Analysis and the Final Report

The most relevant MU combinations in 5 European Sea basins have been identified and analysed, with regards to aspects important for implementation of the MU concept: natural conditions and economic drivers in the sea basins, consciousness of stakeholders and decision makers, planning culture, relation to key political and social processes and key policies, etc. Based on the examination of theoretical understanding and practical experience in MU, supported by active engagement of stakeholders from different sectors (industry, NGOs, governmental organisations, research organisations and representatives of regional administration and local



communities), outcomes of this analysis enable a full understanding of barriers and drivers associated with combining marine activities, both real and perceived, as well as provide thorough comparison among the sea basins.

These findings are the knowledge pillar for the MUSES Action Plan, by providing insight on the potential sectors and sea areas suitable for promotion of the MU, identification and discussion on potentially inappropriate regulatory, operational, environmental, health and safety, societal and legal basis.

An important observation on drivers, barriers, added values and impacts (DABI) of the MU is that they reflect very much sea basins specifics - governance, legislation and economy. Given the fact that national legislation is based on the EU level laws and policies, there are also common DABIs for all sea basins. Differences are rather related to the 'culture' and attitude towards innovative/new way of thinking (readiness to risk). In terms of the physical conditions of sea basins to accommodate combined activities, common trends important for MU development are identified despite of difference between sea basins - Stronger sectors dominating in the given sea basin seem to rule development of MU, environmental assets tend to have more important role in allocation of the sea space to particular uses, local and regional economic development is a driving force for local MU initiatives.

#### Work Package 3 – Case Study Implementation & Infographic

MUSES includes a variety of case studies - with different thematic, geographic and focus area dimensions – which have been analysed to explore potential synergies for multi-use and challenges (barriers and impacts) and opportunities (drivers and added values). Case study analysis is ultimately aimed at informing the Action Plan to be developed under WP4, with relevant issues for MU promotion emerging from local contexts, existing experiences and opportunities for further potential development. Case studies were developed both through desk activities of review and analysis and a wide stakeholder involvement. The final report on case study implementation is now available, including annexes representing the specific reports of the considered case studies. Summary information on case study implementation has been condensed in an Infographic, illustrating the applied methodology, case studies location and the sectors each case study has analysed in a MU perspective

#### Work Package 4 – Results Achieved so far and Next Workshop

The Multi-Use Analyses and Sea Basin Syntheses reports are underway, with work led by the SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG. Reports are meant to underpin the development of the Action Plan, by providing a clear overview of real multi-use potentials and benefits that could be realized in European sea basins (at a number of scales - local, national, sea basin and European) and draw attention to barriers that can be overcome (considering a number of perspectives i.e. legal, environmental, economic, stakeholder mind-set). These findings will be ground-truth through continuous stakeholder engagement process, including upcoming workshops in Edinburgh and Dundee.

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Moreover, in order to identify the right actions necessary to bring the Multi-Use of Oceans, from concept to life, the MUSES project will one more time gather relevant stakeholders at the EU wide workshop in Venice. The stakeholders from different governance levels, from maritime business community, planning, policy and regulatory agencies, financing bodies, and research institutions will meet in Venice, June 28th 2018, to provide an important input for the MUSES Action Plan.

### **In Other News**

#### **4th Project Steering Group Meeting - Athens**

We will be holding our 4th Project Steering Group meeting this month in Athens on the 19th & 20th. Hosted by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, the main purpose of this meeting is to review the work undertaken to date on the Case Studies and Sea Basins, and to start planning for the Action Plan – MUSES' main deliverable. We will also be discussing our next stakeholder workshop, to be held in Venice in June and (possibly most excitingly) we will be putting together a promotional video for the project, outlining all the work undertaken to date and what will be happening in the future. This will be used on our website, during workshops and at conferences.

#### **University of Dundee Workshop**

MUSES will be supporting the University of Dundee when they hold a workshop entitled "The Potential for Multi-Use of Marine Activities in the UK (North Sea and East Atlantic)", on 20th April. The workshop sets to evaluate the framework for the further development of the MU concept, especially from the viewpoint of developers who are fundamental for investing in and implementing relevant projects. Findings from the workshop will be used for scientific research and potentially aid the formulation of policy plans.

#### **ICES Workshop**

The ICES Working Group Marine Planning and Coastal Zone Management, with support of MUSES and Marine Scotland, will be running a workshop on co-existence and synergies in marine spatial planning, to take place 4th to 6th April 2018 at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, Scotland. This will focus on promoting coexistence and synergistic sea uses, which is a key issue in marine spatial planning.

The second day of the workshop will host the MUSES exercise. The exercise will validate the MUSES project results and advise the MUSES Action Plan by discussing potential actions that can support the multi-use of Oceans transition from concept to life, taking into account national, regional and sea basin dimensions.

- How can multi use concept be further promoted?
- What are the priority actions to be taken and by whom?
- What is the role of research in the further advancement of this concept?

Further information can be viewed on ICES's website [here](#)



### Small Sea Space Workshop in Slovenia

The Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission is organising a two-day workshop on 15-16 March 2018 in Portorož, Slovenia, on the topic of how to apply maritime spatial planning (MSP) in small sea spaces. In countries challenged by a small sea space (e.g. Belgium, Slovenia) and the high concentration of uses, the space efficiency is very relevant topic, and the application of the multi-use concept should be taken into consideration in planning practices. MUSES looks forward to attending this workshop and learning more about challenges and specific elements of maritime spatial planning in small sea spaces. More information about this workshop can be found on the EU MSP Platform website.

### Conferences

#### BLUEMED

Bruce Buchanan (MUSES Project Coordinator) from Marine Scotland, attended the BLUEMED CSA conference in Valletta, Malta, on 11th & 12th January 2018. This event brought together coordinators to initiate discussions on ways in which we can help each other in ensuring the work is coordinated well among the different projects operating in the Mediterranean.

#### COLUMBUS

Also from Marine Scotland, MUSES Project Manager, Timothy Roberts, attended COLUMBUS's final Annual Blue Society Knowledge Transfer Conference in Brussels, on 24th January 2018. Entitled "Making Marine and Maritime Science Count" this was a forum to explore barriers, challenges and possible solutions to increasing the impact potential of marine and maritime research. The conference was an interactive panel-based forum and provided an excellent opportunity to engage with potential stakeholders and discuss concepts surrounding Knowledge Transfer.

Prior to this, Tim also attended the COLUMBUS-run External Capacity Building Training "Creating Impact by Knowledge Transfer for the Research Community" event. This provided an introduction to COLUMBUS's Knowledge Transfer Methodology and covered considerations for research teams and organisations to enable support for the growing impact of funded research projects.



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