



Final Project Conclusions

BalticRIM

Project title		Project duration	
Baltic Sea Region Integrated Maritime Cultural Heritage Management		October 2017 - September 2020	
Priority		Specific objective	
Management of natural resources		Resource-efficient blue growth	
Budget	Spent budget	Flagship project	EUSBSR Policy Area/Horizontal Action
2.62 million	2.44 million	x	PA Culture
Link to the project library		Link to the project's website	
https://projects.interreg-baltic.eu/projects/balticrim-133.html		https://www.submariner-network.eu/balticrim	
Lead partner (country)		Countries involved	
State Archaeological Department of Schleswig-Holstein (Germany)		DE, FI, EE, LT, PL, RU, DK	

Project summary

Teaser

The Interreg project BalticRIM contributed to integration of coastal and underwater cultural heritage such as ship wrecks and archaeological sites into maritime spatial planning by bringing heritage managers together with spatial planners and designating maritime cultural heritage.

The opportunity

In the waters of the Baltic Sea there is an impressive cultural heritage such as shipwrecks and archaeological sites. Currently, such heritage sites are not systematically included in maritime spatial plans across the Baltic Sea. The coastal and underwater heritage has the potential in strengthening brands of cities and regions, attracting talents and fostering tourism.

There is a need to standardise tools between Maritime Cultural Heritage (MCH) and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) practitioners to enable exchange and dialogue. Maritime spatial planning processes offer an opportunity for better protection of maritime cultural heritage if it is properly considered in these processes. Closer collaboration between these two areas can generate change in public awareness about Maritime Cultural Heritage and bring tangible economic benefits from properly protected and curated Maritime Cultural Heritage.



Final Project Conclusions

BalticRIM

DE	DK	EE	FI	LT	PL	RU

Project's highlights

The highlights present the project's main achievements and results, e.g. change brought for the target groups, pilots or tests carried out, and exemplary transnational work.

Better integration ensured

The BalticRIM project fostered a new communication format between Maritime Cultural Heritage agencies and Maritime Spatial Planning experts from the municipal to the transnational level. Possible bottlenecks and concrete solutions to better integration of both areas were addressed by engaging planning agencies, municipalities, scientists, policymakers as well as fishermen, and NGOs. Next, tourism boards, diver associations, and entrepreneurs were invited into the collaboration in order to investigate the potential of Maritime Cultural Heritage for the blue economy.

Thanks to the continuous communication efforts with planning authorities, BalticRIM partners succeeded in shaping the national 2021 Maritime Spatial Planning development process, especially in Finland and Poland. The strengthened cooperation between Maritime Spatial Planning authorities and Maritime Cultural Heritage experts led to the development of joint recommendations on the protection of Maritime Cultural Heritage in the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Maritime Spatial Planning.

New recommendations released

Based on case studies the project partners published recommendations that address both groups of experts separately but also jointly. Practical recommendations are provided to improve cooperation during the MSP process. The importance of land-sea interactions is also stressed by insisting that not only underwater cultural heritage be considered in planning but maritime cultural heritage as a whole. In addition, an overview of the legal and administrative issues in integrating Maritime Cultural Heritage and Maritime Spatial Planning was provided. The overview contained a list of practices on the management of Cultural Heritage in the context of Maritime Spatial Planning across the Baltic Sea region countries. This covered the national processes of Maritime Spatial Planning development during 2017-2020 as well as the role of Maritime Cultural Heritage in the current blue economy initiatives, mainly in tourism.



Final Project Conclusions

BalticRIM

BalticRIM Data Portal available

The [BalticRIM Data Portal](#) enables to create new Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) approaches for the integration of Maritime Cultural Heritage (MCH). Established to facilitate collaboration within an MCH-MSP community, the portal supports shared digital geodata infrastructure in identifying cross-border cultural heritage phenomena. It is designed for the transnational exchange of information, experiences, and know-how between Maritime Spatial Planning and Maritime Cultural Heritage practitioners as well as offers access to spatial information on Maritime Cultural Heritage sites in the Baltic Sea region.

Next steps

With new modes of communications, better dialogue among the relevant stakeholders, recommendations to improve planning processes and a new data portal the project has also managed to identify **the HELCOM-VASAB working group on MSP** as a forum for a continued dialogue on the integration of Maritime Cultural Heritage needs in Maritime Spatial Planning processes.

Main Outputs

The main outputs present the project's main deliveries which are tangible and can be used by others outside the project.

Final report: Integrating Cultural Heritage into Maritime Spatial Planning in the BSR

This publication presents recommendations based on the cases studies. They address separately cultural heritage agencies and Maritime Spatial Planning experts. The publication also provides an overview of the legal and administrative situation and of existing practices on the management of Cultural Heritage in the context of Maritime Spatial Planning across the Baltic Sea region countries. In addition, the publication considers the role of MCH in current blue economy initiatives, mainly in tourism.

[balticRIM Final report.pdf \(schleswig-holstein.de\)](#)

BalticRIM DataPortal

The [BalticRIM Data Portal](#) integrates the Maritime Cultural Heritage into the Maritime Spatial Planning. It includes a shared digital geodata infrastructure that enables to identify cross-border cultural heritage phenomena. It is designed for the transnational exchange of information, experiences, and know-how between MSP and MCH practitioners. It also offers access to spatial information on MCH sites in the Baltic Sea region gathered during the project.

[balticRIM Final report.pdf \(schleswig-holstein.de\)](#)



Final Project Conclusions

BalticRIM

Follow-up/spin-off activities

These include specific new activities that have been inspired by or initiated during the project work and will be continued after its implementation.

The way to continued cooperation with Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) authorities was paved by identifying the existing **HELCOM-VASAB working group on MSP** (ensuring coherent regional MSP processes in the Baltic Sea) as a promising forum for a permanent dialogue on the integration of Maritime Cultural Heritage (MCH) needs in MSP processes. It has been agreed that the MCH will be considered more strongly in the working group's work plan and MSP Roadmap, in particular through bi-annual debates on MCH.

Administrative matters

These include specific good practices, financial implications, challenges as well as synergies and cooperation with other projects and the main drivers of the project (core partners).

Several BalticRIM partners were engaged in the Blue Platform and Capacity4MSP platform projects. The main focus of collaboration with Capacity4MSP was on how data infrastructure such as BASEMAPS, developed in the BalticRIM DataPortal, can contribute to decision support and stakeholder involvement in MSP. Agencies or ministries competent in the area of MSP in all 9 Baltic Sea region countries were approached in different meetings. Organisations such as the HELCOM-VASAB working group on MSP, the EUSBSR PA Culture Coordinators and the Council of the Baltic Sea State Secretariat participated in the meetings and events.