



Co-funded by the
European Union

Supporting
Implementation of
Maritime Spatial
Planning
in the
Celtic seas

Newsletter 1
October 2016

Welcome

Co-funded by the EU Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, SIMCelt is a two-year project that aims to enhance cross-border cooperation between Member States on the implementation of the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) directive in the Celtic Seas.

In July 2014 the European Parliament and Council adopted the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (2014/89/EU), mandating the creation of national maritime plans for each coastal Member State by 2021. Using an ecosystem-based approach to management, the MSP Directive aims to mitigate the collective pressures of human activities while promoting the holistic management of marine resources.

Increasing demand for ocean space and resources comes at a time when European Member States have committed to Good Environmental Status in marine waters. New methods are required to balance economic growth and environmental management in Europe's regional seas. Given the dynamic nature of ocean ecosystems, coherent transnational planning will be key to ensuring sustainable development of the maritime economy throughout the Celtic Seas region.



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Who are we? SIMCelt is a practitioner-focused project involving both academic and government partners from France, Ireland and the UK.

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All views expressed are opinions of the editor and do not represent those held by the European Commission or other project partners.*

You can download this newsletter in pdf form from <http://www.simcelt.eu/project-outputs/newsletters/>

Agence des Aires Marines Protégées

AAMP is a public establishment under the governance of the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy in France. Its main responsibilities are:

- ⊙ Supporting public policies for the creation, management and running of marine protected areas (MPA) network
- ⊙ Technical and financial support of natural marine parks
- ⊙ Reinforcing French interests in international negotiations

Marine Institute

The Marine Institute is the national Irish agency responsible for marine research and innovation. It is unique in Europe in that it has three functions, not normally associated with a single agency:

- ⊙ Regulatory Agency
- ⊙ Research Performer
- ⊙ Research Funding Organisation

The Institute will provide technical and scientific support and advice on the implementation of the MSP Directive and the development of maritime spatial plans in the Republic of Ireland.

MAREI @ University College Cork

The university is home to the Marine Renewable Energy Ireland (MaREI) Centre – a multi-disciplinary research cluster. Staff within MaREI are dedicated to solving the main scientific, technical and socio-economic challenges to the sustainable development of the maritime economy. Whilst there is a focus on marine renewables, the wider research agenda includes: coastal and marine governance and planning; climate sciences; marine ecology; marine geomatics and ICT; coastal processes and seabed mapping; and applied remote sensing and GIS.



Marine Scotland

Marine Scotland was created as a Directorate of the Scottish Government in 2009 and is responsible for the integrated management of Scotland's seas. Its purpose is to manage prosperity and environmental sustainability within a framework of actions to achieve the Scottish Government's vision of a clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse marine and coastal environment. Marine Scotland published Scotland's first National Marine Plan in March 2015

Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine

SHOM is responsible for nautical charts which are the official and enforceable reference for maritime delimitations, e.g. traffic separation schemes, navigation safety information. SHOM collects and disseminates the best available marine physical and geomorphological data which is useful to inform French Marine Plans. SHOM has a particular specialism in marine data management and operates a data portal <http://data.shom.fr/>

The University of Liverpool

The University is home to the oldest centre of planning education in the world and is now taking a leading role in education and research into MSP.

The School's team has a strong record in EU-funded projects, recent initiatives including Options for Delivering Ecosystem-Based Marine Management (ODEMM) (FP7), Transboundary Planning in the European Atlantic (TPEA) (DG MARE) and Celtic Seas Partnership (LIFE+). The team leads two international networks relating to MSP, the Irish Sea Maritime Forum and Marine Spatial Planning Research Network.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

DAERA is responsible for preparing and adopting marine plans for the Northern Ireland marine area. It is responsible for implementing international, EU and national legislation along with promoting, protecting and sustaining Northern Ireland's coastal waters. DAERA grants marine licenses for marine developments within the Northern Ireland inshore region i.e. from the High Water Spring Tide to at most 12 nautical miles.

MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.simcelt.eu/about/project-partners/>

Contact the project co-ordinator
Email: simcelt@ucc.ie

Celtic Seas area

The SIMCelt project is aimed specifically at the Celtic Seas area – OSPAR Region iii shown in blue on the map below – which is an administrative boundary used to manage the OSPAR convention. Somewhat confusingly, there is also a geographical area known as the Celtic Sea off the south coast of Ireland and south-west coast of England.

SIMCelt involves partners from 5 of the 6 countries bordering the Celtic Seas area and will consult and engage with Wales as well as the Isle of Mann to ensure coherence and inclusivity across the region.



Map copyright OSPAR



SIMCelt project area

SIMCelt Launches

Our work so far



SIMCelt was officially launched and introduced to delegates at the Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth event in Galway in June 2016. Recent outreach events have allowed the project to engage with key MSP stakeholders (more on page 4).

Project coordinator **UCC established a management framework** through the use of collaborative tools allowing partners to cooperate on project outputs. The SIMCelt team then met at the start of July to discuss how best to approach each work area.

'**Developing an overview**' is the first technical component to be delivered which analyses the baseline situation in the Celtic Seas in terms of economy, ecology and current approaches to MSP. This document summarises outputs from other recent MSP initiatives allowing SIMCelt to build on their momentum without duplicating effort. '**Spatial demands and scenarios for maritime sectors**' analyses future trends for the area and examines potential conflicts and synchronicities which may arise.

AAMP have focused on marine conservation aspects of the 'Scenarios' work looking at national conservation strategies and marine protected areas (MPAs) involving the main authorities in each Celtic Seas Member State.

The **Marine Institute** and **DAERA** have collaborated on developing case studies on '**Assessment of Cumulative Impacts**' and '**Ecosystem services**' identifying data needs, existing information and ways of working.

Marine Scotland have been developing and testing the **MSP Challenge board game** – a unique hands-on way of engaging people with MSP concepts and approaches. The Solway Firth Partnership has been sub-contracted to coordinate and lead on the delivery of the **Planning Across Borders case study** in the Solway Firth region.

SHOM have completed an initial analysis of data needs and gaps and **establishment of an inventory of existing data sources** which will be reviewed by the project task group on data. SHOM hosted a workshop with partners and stakeholders focusing on priorities for data and information requirements for transboundary MSP in France in June 2016. They have also promoted SIMCelt and transboundary MSP at a national strategy meeting for marine areas in France.

University of Liverpool has established the project website and produced publicity **materials to support SIMCelt's outreach** work. Work on the 'Scenarios' component has focused on preparing **briefing notes for different maritime sectors** – e.g. fishing, renewables, oil and gas with a view to engaging with them in workshops to identify future spatial demands.

MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about each project component

<http://www.simcelt.eu/about>

MSP Challenge game



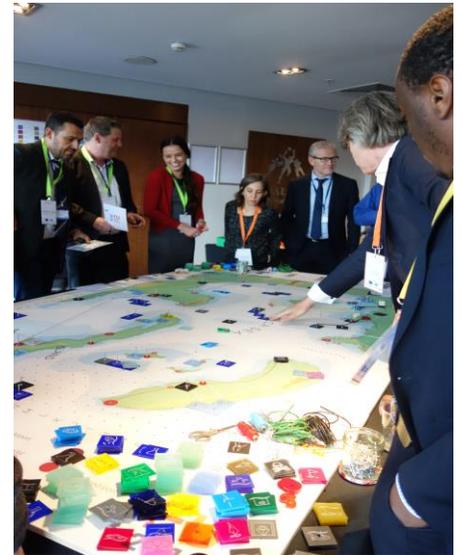
Comm. Vella learning about the game

On 27th September, at the Atlantic Stakeholders Platform event in Dublin, the European Commissioner of Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella was introduced to our board game. Rhona Fairgrieve of Scottish Coastal Forum explained how the game, developed in collaboration with NHTV Breda University, would be used as a tool to engage stakeholders with the concepts and process involved in Maritime Spatial Planning.

Later on a workshop led by SIMCelt partners invited delegates to play a transboundary or regional version of the game. Participants assumed roles representing different sectoral interests and negotiated space for their sector – e.g. shipping, off-shore energy, nature conservation. Planners acting on behalf of each country or region fostered negotiation between sectors and geographic regions. Coloured tiles depicting the different activities are used to claim blocks of space and players are asked to consider conflicts and synergies in their negotiating. Feedback from delegates revealed how illuminating people had found the game and suggested ways to make the process reflect a 'real life' planning situation.

Scottish Coastal Forum will now use the game to engage Scottish marine stakeholders in the Clyde region. The use of such engagement techniques forms part of the case study examining

approaches to transboundary planning, which other member states can draw on during their own MSP consultation exercises.



Delegates playing the international game

Irish Sea Maritime Forum

The Biennial ISMF conference took place in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin on September 28th with delegates from across Ireland and the UK taking part. The themes Maritime Spatial Planning and Managing Dynamic Coasts gave plenty of scope to promote the SIMCelt project.

Linda O'Higgins, UCC project coordinator gave a presentation introducing our aims and objectives, explaining how networks such as the ISMF would help us to engage with key stakeholders.

The conference provided an update on how each country was progressing with MSP legislation and what stage Marine Plans had reached. Delegates were also able to view the MSP challenge board game and find out about how it would be used to engage people in stakeholder consultation processes.



Linda O'Higgins at ISMF

KEEP IN TOUCH!



JOIN THE MAILING LIST
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www.simcelt.eu

Our website is being populated with new information all the time. Have any feedback about what you'd like to see?

