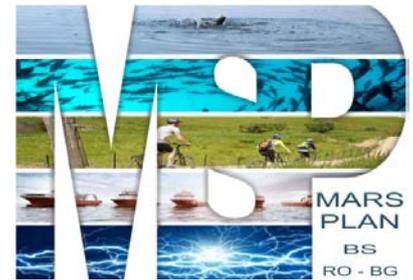


# Cross-border Maritime Spatial Plan for the Black sea - Romania and Bulgaria project



## Mangalia-Shabla Maritime Spatial Plan in Romania and Bulgaria – Plan Presentation –

A first step in the management of the marine areas of Romania and Bulgaria is the elaboration of a MSP in the Mangalia-Shabla cross-border area. To realize the MSP, a methodology was established with the following steps:

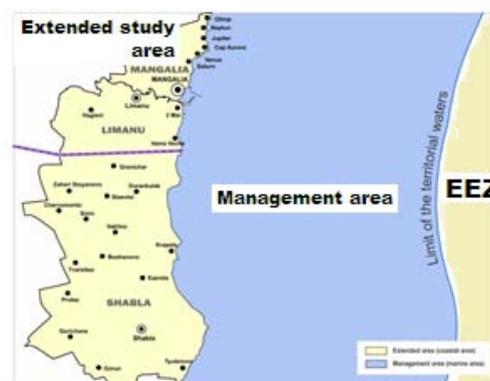
1. Identifying need and establishing authority;
2. Organizing stakeholder participation.
3. Analyzing existing and future conditions.
4. Preparing and approving the plan.
5. Implementing, monitoring and adapting the plan to the new situations.

The area of MSP include the **territorial waters** in the vicinity of the country border (the management area) and also the shore area (the study area) and the EEZ.

The study area was taken into consideration in order to identify the land-sea interactions and the influences from the economic zone.

The plan focuses on marine ecosystems (habitats) and human sea uses, considering also the land-sea interactions which impose the strongest influences on marine areas. It is essential that clear objectives should be formulated by the MSP in order to acquire stakeholders' engagement.

The successful implementation of the Mangalia-Shabla plan can contribute to a better understanding of the marine planning process for further elaboration of MSP in the two countries and increase cooperation in this domain.

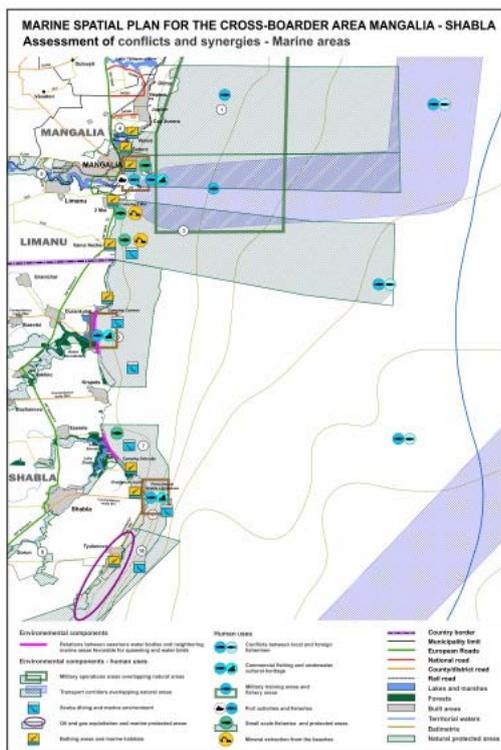




Therefore a large part of the marine continental shelf must be formally protected in order to preserve the biodiversity and the conditions that support its specific processes. The presence of coastal and marine areas, with high and unique biological value, is object of conservation with priority in “Special Protection Zones” and premises to the development of an ecologically coherent network of MPAs in Bulgaria and Romania.

Another challenge of the area is to manage mass tourism and shipping activities which are threatening the integrity of the protected areas.

Uses and activities within the sea and the coast vary and each has particular resource needs. The over-riding issue is that the majority of uses in the area have been developed in a manner that has not considered the implications they may have on natural resources, processes and ultimately, other uses.



### **Mangalia-Shabla Maritime Spatial Plan - overall diagnosis -**

The purpose of the overall diagnosis phase is to develop a set of alternative strategic growth scenarios for the Marine Spatial Plan, to identify a preferred scenario on the basis of a comprehensive evaluation, and to propose a strategic direction for the marine plan. The scenarios developed essentially relate to the levels of economic growth that the Mangalia - Shabla marine area may need to accommodate over the implementation period (2025 – 2030).

The objective of creating and testing alternative scenarios is:

- to ensure that all genuine alternatives for ecosystem and economic growth offered by the local conditions of the marine area are considered;
- to ensure that the impacts of these alternatives are examined prior to making choices as to the most appropriate strategic direction for the MSP.

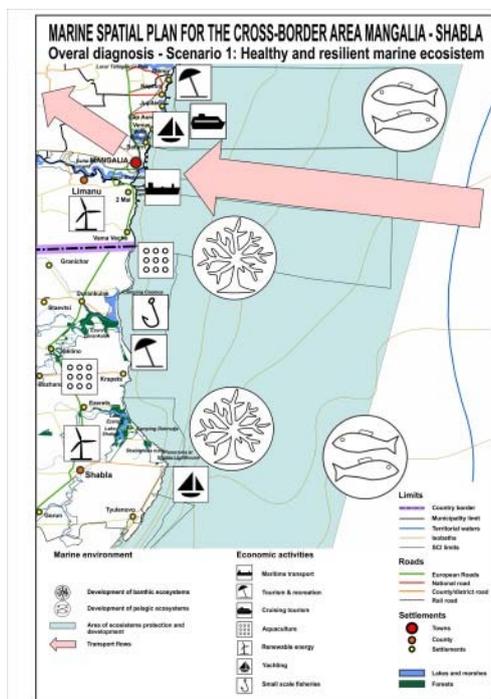
The study developed 4 scenarios: healthy and resilient marine ecosystem, social well-being, Economic growth, and consistent development in the Black Sea basin. All four scenarios were described and assessed by selected criteria and by their spatial implications in the marine area.

Taking into account the assessment carried out on the four scenarios, one can recommend the first scenario to be pursued as a direction for the plan strategic approach.

The main features of this scenario are influenced by the concern of preserving and developing the components of the natural environment and especially the marine environment.

The overall diagnosis selected four main ecological principles for the optimal scenario: maintain native species diversity, maintain habitat diversity and heterogeneity, maintain populations of key species, maintain/improve habitats' connectivity.

As a result of the main principles a set of goals was established, considered for the further development of the processes present in the marine space. The strategic approach, developed in the next phase of the plan, should include the specific objectives in these goals and their directions of action.



### **Mangalia-Shabla Maritime Spatial Plan - analysis of the future evolutions -**

The findings of this study incorporate up to date detailed information based on the analysis of the current situation and previous evolutions. The study provided forecasts for population and activities in the marine and coastal area economy. These were made for the next 25-30 years at an aggregate level and broken down by type of activity.

This was done within the context of identifying the major growth areas of the economy over the coming years, enabling the formulation of plans for the use of sea.

In order to enable the projections a series of assumptions have to be made:

- the labour supply will follow the trends of the actual drivers of the local economy;
- the economic ties with UE, other countries, are broadly stable over time;
- the development of marine living resources will depend mainly on human activities and pressures from land and sea.

The demographic forecast of the coastal area was performed based on the official estimates of the National Institute of Statistics in Romania and demographic projections conducted by the National Statistical Institute in Bulgaria.

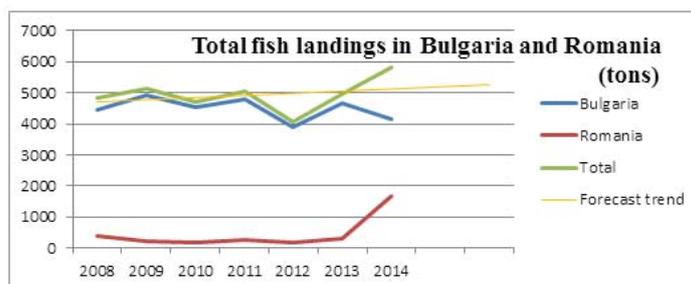
Based on the data from the existing situation, the area has a tendency to diversify the economic activities in each of the component municipalities.

In Mangalia and Shabla there are higher values of economic indicators, but the structure of employees remains the same or in decline.

The factors contributing and supporting the economic development of Mangalia in the future are: naval transport, commercial activities, tourism, services (transport, storage, trade), cultural activities and fisheries.

Living marine resources suffered over the past 50 years major changes in the structure and also in quality and quantity, but also in behaviour, as a result of anthropogenic interventions, direct - fishing pressure - and indirect - the environmental deterioration, (especially in the western part of the sea, where one can find the main sector of reproduction and growth).

Some species were strongly influenced so only representatives of zoological species will thrive.



### Mangalia-Shabla Maritime Spatial Plan - strategy of the marine cross-border area -

The Marine Spatial Plan is a strategic long-term instrument for the Mangalia - Shabla marine area, organizing economic activities and ecosystem protection which, for most purposes, covers more than 10-year period to year 2025-2030. It is concerned with all aspects of natural, economic and physical structure.

The strategic vision of the marine spatial plan is based on the awareness of the sea area as a combined space, where all elements (natural processes, human activities and structures), are interrelated.

The process of strategy formulation for the maritime spatial plan has taken into consideration four categories of principles related to the marine areas development: environment principles, economic principles, social development principles and governance principles. The principles are consistent with the strategic goals formulated in the overall diagnosis phase.

Based on the formulated goals a number of directions of actions were elaborated for each domain, encompassing the specific objectives of the MSP.

The marine spatial development strategy includes an action plan consistent with the analysed domains and their components. The action plan (known also as a program of measures) is a coherent and correlated set of provisions for the spatial development of the plan area, structured in stages and assigning responsibilities for implementation.

