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Deliverable D4.3 – Establishment of Stakeholder Engagement Groups

WP4 – Learning and testing in Living Labs: Optimizing blueprint generator to deliver conservation results and socio-economic benefits

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Document History

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Brief Description	The document outlines the establishment of stakeholder engagement groups within the Living labs of the BLUE4ALL project. In Work Package 4, efforts were directed towards conducting detailed stakeholder analysis, identifying key stakeholders, and presenting them with the project's objectives and the purpose of the stakeholder engagement groups. Presentations were organized for the identified stakeholders in each Living lab. Stakeholder engagement strategies, planned processes, and activities were discussed with stakeholders to determine the most effective means of interactions for the ongoing collaboration within the Living labs.
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Glossary

Bottom-up approach is a strategy that emphasizes the crucial role of local communities and stakeholders in decision-making processes regarding management of natural areas and resources. A part of the bottom-up approach is empowering local communities and organizations to take the lead in identifying needs, setting priorities, and implementing projects. It recognizes the importance of local knowledge, participation, and a sense of ownership.

Co-creation is a collaborative process of creating effective, efficient and resilient MPAs, networks of MPAs, and OECMs. The co-creation processes in BLUE4ALL will happen between the scientific community and the stakeholders in the project Living labs (stakeholder engagement groups).

Contact points (CPs) are the contact persons for each of the Living labs that were assigned among the partners in the first year of the project implementation. Each contact point is responsible for the interactions with their respective Living lab and its stakeholders. They will coordinate and organize the stakeholder engagement activities within their Living labs in all BLUE4ALL interactions.

Living labs are MPAs and MPA networks that the project has involved in a co-creation process with the end goal of producing solutions for effective, efficient and resilient MPAs.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are clearly defined areas, designated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. The essential criterion for MPAs, or protected areas in general, is that nature conservation is the primary objective.

MPA networks are collections of single MPAs working in synergy to fulfil ecological aims more efficiently.

Stakeholder engagement groups are the in-situ working groups established in each Living lab that will take part in the project activities. They consist of the representatives of the main identified stakeholder groups who take part in the project activities on a voluntary basis. Stakeholder engagement groups will participate in the co-creation process, starting from the needs assessment, to testing and validation of tools and solutions recognized as important for their respective Living labs. They will also be included in testing and validation of the Blueprint platform, the final project result.



Executive Summary

This document describes the processes of establishment of stakeholder engagement groups in the BLUE4ALL project Living labs. Stakeholder engagement groups are the in-situ bodies in each Living lab that will be actively included in the activities of the project to enable co-creation processes with the relevant stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement groups consist of the representatives of the main identified stakeholder groups in each Living lab who are motivated to take part in the project activities on a voluntary basis. In a major part of the Living labs, the stakeholder engagement groups are established as a part of the BLUE4ALL project, while in the minor part of the Living labs, the existing expert groups of stakeholders agreed to take part in the project and take on the role of the stakeholder engagement group. This way we want to ensure that all relevant stakeholders participate in the needs assessment, testing and validation of tools and solutions for the key processes in their Living lab. Stakeholders will also be included in testing and validation of the Blueprint platform, co-creating the final project result.

Introduction

Living labs

This deliverable describes the step of the establishment of stakeholder engagement groups in the project Living labs. Living labs are marine protected areas (MPAs) and MPA networks across three European sea basins – Mediterranean, Baltic and North-east Atlantic. The processes of establishment of stakeholder engagement groups have been organized in the following Living labs:

A) In the Mediterranean:

1. Platamuni, Katič and Stari Ulcinj (MNE)
2. Capo Carbonara (IT)
3. Torre Guaceto (IT)
4. Otranto Leuca (IT)

B) In the North-east Atlantic:

5. Irish MPA network extension (IRL)
6. Danish Wadden Sea (DK)
7. Vlaamse Banken and SBZ 1-3 (BE)
8. French Natura 2000 network - Channel North Sea (FR)

C) In the Baltic:

9. Baltic Sea MPA network (transboundary)
10. Finland national MPA network (FIN)
11. Vainameri and Väike väin (EST)

Among the sites, there are 8 singular MPAs and 5 MPA networks. The singular MPAs include Capo Carbonara, Torre Guaceto, Otranto Leuca (pending MPA designation), Danish Wadden Sea, Vlaamse Banken, SBZ 1-3, Vainameri, and Väike väin. The MPA networks comprise the



Baltic Sea MPA network, Finland national MPA network (under development), Irish MPA network extension, French Natura 2000 network - Channel North Sea, and Platamuni, Katič, and Stari Ulcinj that comprise of three singular MPAs in Montenegro under the same governance body. Further information on each Living lab (type and stage of the site, initially identified expectations from the project) can be found in the table. The Belgian Living labs Vlaamse Banken and SBZ 1-3 will function as one group, as well as the Estonian Living labs Vainameri and Väike väin, that were initially planned as two Living labs.

Table 1. Initial information of the Living labs

	Single/network	Type of site	Stage: Planned - Proposed/Committed - Designated - Implemented	Initially identified expectations from BLUE4ALL
Baltic sea MPA network	MPA network	HELCOM MPAs and Natura 2000 sites	Designated, but not fully implemented	Exchange of experiences and improving the knowledge base. Focus on reaching 30% of protection and 10% strict protection in the Baltic Sea. Improving MPA quality, viewing, and managing the sites with the view of the network.
Capo Carbonara	Single MPA	Natura 2000 + national MPA	Implemented	Stakeholder involvement in various MPA processes: changing the zoning, expanding the perimeter, drafting the new regulation and establishing a new management body for the purpose of increasing the perimeter of MPA to the surrounding areas.
Danish Wadden Sea	Single MPA	Natura 2000 + National MPA + World Heritage Site + Ramsar Site (a part of the transboundary MPA)	Implemented	Balance between protection and sustainable use, achieving good ecological conditions, awareness rising of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including marine connectivity in the protection plans and MSP, local stakeholder engagement.
Finland National MPA network	MPA network	Natura 2000 + national MPA	Proposed/Committed	Exchange experiences with other national and large-scale MPA network processes, regional collaboration and exchange of ideas with the authorities in other Baltic states.

French Natura 2000 network - Channel North Sea	MPA network	Natura 2000	Implemented	Stakeholder engagement across the MPA network, achieving efficacy of governance and conservation.
Irish MPA network expansion	MPA network	Natura 2000 sites	Proposed/Committed	Being informed by and contributing to international best practices during the implementation of MPA network expansion, engaging with key international organisations, sharing experience of stakeholder participation and co-creation.
Platamuni, Katič and Stari Ulcin	MPA network	National MPAs	Implemented MPAs	Capacity building and training of management staff, networking and exchange of experience with other MPA managers.
Otranto-Leuca	Single MPA	Natura 2000 + national MPA	Proposed/Committed	Stakeholders' engagement in the institutive process and in the design of the MPA, to ensure the future management effectiveness.
Torre Guaceto	Single MPA	Natura 2000 + national MPA	Implemented	Supporting the stakeholders' involvement in the enlargement process of the MPA, through a participatory process for identifying the no-take zones and regulated uses.
Väinameri & Väike väin MPAs	Single MPAs	Natura 2000 + national MPAs	Implemented	Improve management and stakeholder engagement, increase competence of decision makers and exchange experience with other MPA managers.
Vlaamse Banken & SBZ 1-3	Single MPAs	Natura 2000	Implemented	<p>Vlaamse Banken: Due to the overlapping of multiple activities in the area, it is crucial to get insights into the development of human activities in adequation with nature conservation objectives</p> <p>SBZ 1-3: In these three Belgian MPAs, the most important challenge is to co-define and implement effective conservation measures within each site.</p>



Description of the process

The establishment of stakeholder engagement groups follows the methodologies that guide and standardize tool testing and validation in the project Living labs, described in the deliverable D4.2 Living lab testing package.

In November 2023, a detailed stakeholder analysis was conducted in each Living lab to select the key stakeholders to be invited to the stakeholder engagement group. The analysis was conducted using the [Stakeholder Analysis Table1.xlsx](#) (see link or Annex I). The contact points (CPs) filled in the table in consultation with the management teams to identify all existing stakeholder groups, their characteristics and connections to the Living lab and other stakeholders. Based on the relevant expertise of each stakeholder group, the CPs completed the list of the key stakeholders to be invited to join the stakeholder engagement group and the others who will be kept informed. These results of the stakeholder analysis are kept in the project SharePoint.

After having completed the stakeholder analysis, the contact points had a task to prepare the BLUE4ALL presentation in their Living lab. The aim was to gather the main recognized stakeholders and invite them to join the stakeholder engagement group and the project. The role of the BLUE4ALL project in co-creating more effective, efficient and resilient MPAs and MPA networks in Europe was presented. The CP specifically related the project to their Living lab's setting and announced the planned work and obligations of the stakeholder engagement group. Meeting minutes were collected from each presentation to report on the process of establishment of stakeholder engagement groups in each Living lab. The meeting minutes are used as reporting material in this deliverable. They include information about the place and date, goal of the meeting, main agenda points, the list of attendees and feedback of their interest to join the stakeholder engagement group.

WP4 offered support for the BLUE4ALL presentations by preparing and distributing the following documentation:

1. Invitation form (Annex II)
2. Invitation leaflet (Annex III)
3. Draft slides for the BLUE4ALL presentation to the Living lab stakeholders (Annex IV)
4. Guiding table for the meeting minutes (Annex V)

All CPs were encouraged to use the provided documentation and adapt it to their Living lab's context.

The contacting and inviting the stakeholders happened during December 2023 and January 2024. The presentations themselves happened in February and March 2024.

As a parallel process, the Letter of Intent for the establishment of stakeholder engagement groups has been prepared and distributed among the Living labs for the purpose of internal processes monitoring. As the processes in the Living labs vary among each other, it was not possible to summon all stakeholders in time for signing of the Letters of Intent. Therefore, this process was organized independently from the development of this



deliverable to ensure enough time that all stakeholders sign the Letter of Intent. The stakeholders will have two options – either to sign the Letter of Intent or confirm it by email.

Two versions of the Letter of Intent were prepared: one for the newly established stakeholder engagement groups and the other for the existing groups that will take on this role for a duration of BLUE4ALL and participate in the project activities. The Letters are available in Annex VI. and Annex VII. of this document.

Due to dependence on internal stakeholder engagement processes, in Finland National MPA network, Danish Wadden Sea MPA, Belgian MPAs (Vlaamse Banken and SBZ 1-3) and Montenegrin MPAs (Platamuni, Katič and Stari Ulcinj), the project has not yet been presented in front of the recognized stakeholders. In those areas, the CPs made additional efforts to meet with the Living lab management teams, plan stakeholder engagement and schedule the presentation. CPs together with Living lab managers collected a list of participants to be invited, clearly defined roles for the meeting and prepared the agenda.

Establishment of Stakeholder Engagement Groups

Platamuni, Katič and Stari Ulcinj Living lab

This Living lab consists of three singular MPAs Platamuni, Katič and Stari Ulcinj designated in 2021 that are under management of the Public Enterprise for Coastal Zone Management (PECZM) of Montenegro. The contact point (CP) of this Living lab is WWF Adria (also a WP4 lead), in tight collaboration with PECZM - the management body.

The establishment of the stakeholder engagement group is tightly connected to the current management and stakeholder engagement processes. PECZM is dedicated to establishing the advisory body for each of these MPAs, meaning the three separate working groups will take on the role of stakeholder engagement groups as a part of BLUE4ALL. PECZM committed to establish the advisory bodies in these three MPAs in the beginning of 2024 and the invitations were sent to the recognized stakeholders. Once established, the advisory bodies will gradually be included in the BLUE4ALL activities. PECZM agreed to present BLUE4ALL to the advisory bodies and include the upcoming activities in their agenda.

In consultation with the colleagues from PECZM, a detailed plan for the upcoming BLUE4ALL presentations to the advisory bodies has been made. The presentations will take place in the city of Petrovac, Municipality of Budva during April 2024 during the establishment of the advisory bodies. The representatives from PECZM will coordinate the meeting with assistance of WWF Adria in presenting the BLUE4ALL project activities. Identified stakeholders that will be invited are listed below.

The main institutions and organizations invited to join the advisory bodies are:

- Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro



- Ministry of Tourism, Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
- Ministry of Transport and Maritime Affairs – Port Authority
- Administration for Inspection Affairs
- Administration for Protection of Cultural Property
- Administration for Maritime Safety and Port Management
- Police administration
- Municipalities of Kotor, Budva, Bar and Ulcinj
- Utility companies of Kotor, Budva, Bar and Ulcinj
- Tourist organizations of Kotor, Budva, Bar and Ulcinj
- Local communities: Savina, Glavatičići, Bigova, Spič – Sutomore, Buljarica, Petrovac, Reževići, Kručë, Kunje
- University of Montenegro – Institute for Marine Biology
- Elementary schools: “Nikola Đurković”- Radanovići, “Kekec” - Sutomore, “Mirko Srzentić” – Petrovac, “Mrkojevići” – Bar, “Boško Strugar” – Ulcinj
- Fishers' association
- Divers' association
- Association of farmers
- Association of beach users
- Association of tourist boat-tours service providers
- Non-governmental organizations

PECZM will present the project aims, stakeholder engagement objectives, planned activities and interactions. Upon presentation, the Letter of Intent will be signed.

Capo Carbonara Living lab

In Capo Carbonara Living lab, two separate meetings have been organized to present the BLUE4ALL project and announce establishment of the stakeholder engagement group.

On 6 March 2024 in Villasimius, the Living lab contact point from MEDSEA Foundation, and the MPA Capo Carbonara management team organized a presentation to the identified authorities for this MPA. The aim was to present how the project could address the current goals of the MPA and investigate their interest to participate in the stakeholder engagement group. The presentation was organized in the Municipality Headquarters (MPA managing body) as a hybrid event (in-person and online - Zoom meeting).

The event agenda included an overview of the BLUE4ALL project, the processes in Capo Carbonara MPA and the possible connection with the BLUE4ALL project, the role of the stakeholder engagement group, project's benefits for the stakeholders, foreseen timeline and Letter of Intent.



The representatives of the following institutions attended the event:

- Superior Institute for Environmental Protection (ISPRA) - Area for the Protection of Biodiversity, Marine Protected Habitats and Species – 1 representative
- Autonomous Region of Sardinia (RAS) – Nature Conservation and Forestry Policy Service – 6 representatives
- Municipality of Villasimius - Mayor and MPA President and the Environment Councillor – 2 representatives
- Forestry and Environmental Surveillance Corps of the Sardinia Region – Naval Operational Logistics Base of Villasimius (BLON) – 1 representative
- Institute for the Study of Anthropogenic Impacts and Sustainability in the Marine Environment National Center of Research (IAS – CNR of Torregrande) – 1 representative
- Coast Guard of Cagliari - Commander – 1 representative
- University of Cagliari (UNICA) – 2 representatives (professors)

The meeting was successful, with unanimous agreement among all attendees regarding the necessity to revise the existing MPA regulation - to modify and expand the current zoning, particularly in zone A of integral reserve, and to extend the perimeter to increase the MPA area. Some concerns have been raised regarding the expansion of the perimeter as it would require the extension in the neighbouring municipalities, which poses a political challenge that may be difficult to overcome. Potential synergies were highlighted with two other projects: “TALASSA”, within the Maritime Interreg ITA-FRA 21-27 program, in which the Region of Sardinia is the lead partner, and the Life project “SeaNET” promoted by the Ministry of the Environment.

The director and scientific staff of the MPA agreed to establish the stakeholder engagement group and participate in all BLUE4ALL activities. Three other attendees expressed immediate interest to be a part of the group - the representative of IAS – CNR of Torregrande, Coast Guard of Cagliari, and University of Cagliari.

On a second stakeholder meeting on 18 March 2024, the Living lab contact point from MEDSEA Foundation together with the MPA Capo Carbonara representatives organized another BLUE4ALL presentation with the aim of involvement of the local operators in the Blue4All project and in the establishment of the stakeholder engagement group. The meeting was organized in the Municipality Headquarters (MPA managing body) as a hybrid event (in-person and online - Zoom meeting). The representatives of the following institutions attended the event:

- Municipality of Villasimius (2 representatives)
- University of Cagliari - UNICA (1 representative)
- Scuba Diving Centres (12 representatives from 9 diving centres)
- Recreational Boat Rental and Leasing (16 representatives from 14 companies)



- Professional fishers (2 representatives: one representative of a fisheries cooperation Villasimius, one independent entrepreneur)
- Fishing tourism (1 representative)
- Passenger transport (2 representatives from 2 companies)

The CP from MEDSEA Foundation presented the overview of the BLUE4ALL project, director of Capo Carbonara MPA presented the history and documented criticalities of Capo Carbonara MPA and potential solutions through the BLUE4ALL project and the CP presented the SEG creation, project's benefits on stakeholders, upcoming deadlines, and the Letter of Intent. The meeting was successful, and attendees agreed on the need to revise the current MPA regulation and the actual zonation. The need for collaboration emerged during the meeting, both among stakeholders and between stakeholders and the MPA.

The attendees who expressed immediate interest to be a part of the stakeholder engagement group are three representatives of the scuba diving centres, three representatives of the boat rental and leasing, two fisheries representatives and two representatives of the passenger transport. The representatives of the local operators are the ones elected by their sector (scuba diving, recreational boats, fisheries and passenger transport). The representatives will therefore ensure a continuous exchange of information with the rest of the operators in their sector.

Based on the immediate feedback expressed at the two meetings, the members of Capo Carbonara stakeholder engagement group would be:

- MPA Capo Carbonara (2 representatives)
- Academia - CNR and UNICA (2 representatives)
- Coast Guard (1 representative)
- Scuba Diving Centres (3 representatives)
- Recreational Boat Rental and Leasing (3 representatives)
- Fisheries (2 representatives)
- Passenger transport (2 representatives)
- The coordinators will be 1-2 representatives from the MEDSEA foundation (Capo Carbonara CP).

The attendees who have not yet provided confirmation of their participation will be contacted individually once again by the CP who will put additional efforts to get all recognized stakeholders on board. As a next step, CP will prepare meeting minutes and conclusions of both meetings and distribute them among the attendees, as well as with the stakeholders that could not attend the meeting. The Letter of Intent will be sent alongside for signatures.

Torre Guaceto Living lab

The online meeting took place on March 20, 2024. The meeting was organized by the CP for Torre Guaceto Living Lab from CMCC and representatives from Torre Guaceto MPA and fisheries cooperatives:



- MPA Torre Guaceto (2 representatives - director and manager)
- President of the fisheries cooperative “La Bussola”
- President of the fisheries cooperative “SOCOPES”

The presentation aimed to introduce the objectives of the Blue4All project and plan the MPA’s and stakeholders’ participation in the stakeholder engagement group.

Two representatives from the fishing cooperatives active in the Torre Guaceto MPA participated, while there is also planned future involvement of stakeholders from the tourism sector in this Living lab. The cooperatives present at the meeting represent more than 30 fishing vessels in a coastal area spanning between Brindisi and Fasano.

During the meeting, the manager of Torre Guaceto MPA specified that the current management-related challenges of the Torre Guaceto include the expansion of the MPA’s boundaries in the medium and long term, as well as the implementation of a one-year fishing closure. Currently, the fishing effort is estimated to be approximately 70% of the authorized level (which corresponds to around 300 permits per year). The need for the fishing closure is driven by monitoring results that have identified damages primarily attributed to illegal fishing. Within the marine protected area, four bottom trawling barriers have been installed.

The representatives of the fisheries cooperatives emphasize that there is an existing constructive dialogue between the fisheries cooperatives and the Torre Guaceto MPA. The main fisheries-related issues are identified in the following points:

1. Presence of illegal fishing, often carried out even by non-professional fishers.
2. Lack of landing points and infrastructure, which generally hinders legally permitted fishing activities.
3. Damage to fishing equipment caused by marine mammals.
4. Lack of infrastructure for fisheries sales. Currently, the sales occur in an itinerant or door-to-door manner. The absence of suitable landing points and related infrastructure that could also support retail sales negatively impacts fishing activities.
5. Absence of facilities for fisheries product processing, linked to the aforementioned infrastructure gaps.

The director of the Torre Guaceto MPA specifies that, from a management perspective, the two main challenges are:

1. MPA Expansion Procedure: The expansion of the MPA is also supported by the fishing cooperatives. However, the issue is bureaucratic, as there is no agreement with the relevant ministry regarding the spatial management model.
2. Need for Implementation of a Management Plan: This plan should cover the entire Natura 2000 marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC), totaling approximately 7,000 hectares.



Torre Guaceto MPA already has a functioning co-management table consisting of fisheries representatives, MPA representatives and NGO representatives from WWF Italy. The attendees agreed that the existing co-management table will be involved in the BLUE4ALL project as a stakeholder engagement group.

Otranto Leuca Living lab

The contact point (CP) from CMCC organized an online presentation on 20 February 2024 to the representatives from the Municipality of Otranto. Otranto Leuca MPA is in the process of establishment and in this phase, the Municipality of Otranto has been the only stakeholder invited to join the stakeholder engagement group.

The list of attendees from the Municipality of Otranto were in the following positions:

- Councillor
- Engineer
- Geodesy officer
- Scientific consultant and marine biologist.

At the meeting, the CP discussed the planned processes of the BLUE4ALL project in the Otranto Leuca Living lab and planned participation of the Otranto municipality in the stakeholder engagement group.

The discussion focused on defining the ongoing processes, future challenges, and key issues related to the establishment of the Otranto Leuca MPA. It was clarified that the MPA is currently undergoing approval procedures involving the Italian Ministry of Environment and Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, ISPRA (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale) and all the relevant data regarding the ecological-environmental and socio-economic aspects has been processed and submitted to the authorities.

Otranto Leuca has been identified as a "marine retrieval area", awaiting official establishment as an MPA. The establishment process includes forming a management consortium among the eleven affected municipalities. Challenges include organizational structure, funding scarcity, and ecological accounting for environmental tourism supply chains.

ISPRA requests developing of environmental tourism in the future MPA with the awareness-raising campaigns, stakeholder engagement activities and exchanging experiences with economic operators from other Italian MPAs in plan. The importance of participating in the BLUE4ALL project is emphasized to facilitate the establishment and management of the MPA with focus on setting up stakeholder engagement in the future MPA.

All attendees from the Municipality of Otranto agreed to participate in future BLUE4ALL activities. The aim would be to open up the group to a wider range of stakeholders as the MPA processes progress.



Irish MPA network expansion Living lab

The Irish MPA network expansion process is focused on the implementation of a new National MPA legislation. Irish MPA network expansion refers to the designation of new MPAs under the National MPA legislation, designation of new sites declared under existing EU and national legislation and recognition of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs).

The first presentation to the recognized stakeholders happened on 29 February 2024 online organized by the contact point (CP) from the University College Dublin. At the presentation, only a part of the attendees was present, while the additional efforts are being made by the CP to reach the other stakeholders that were excused from the meeting. The presentation covered the introduction of the BLUE4ALL project, the connection to the Irish MPA network expansion process and the plan of establishing a stakeholder engagement group.

The attendees were:

- Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government (important stakeholder in the process responsible for designation of new national MPAs) (1 representative)
- Fisheries and aquaculture sector (1 representative)
- Coastwatch (1 representative)
- Fair Seas (environmental NGO) (1 representative)
- Wind Energy Ireland (wind energy sector) (1 representative)

All attendees agreed to join the stakeholder engagement group and participate in the BLUE4ALL project. The contact point will continue to engage a broader range of recognized stakeholders in individual meetings to reach a larger number of stakeholders in this process. The representatives of the Irish Government expressed interest to join the stakeholder engagement group but could not attend the first presentation. They have been contacted individually and will be included in the process.

Danish Wadden Sea Living lab

The contact point of the Danish Wadden Sea Living lab, a team of three scientists from the University Southern Denmark (SDU), organized an online meeting on 23 February 2024 with the representatives of the MPA management institution Vadehavet National Park. Due to the MPA's internal processes it was not possible to organize a presentation for the stakeholders before the submission of this deliverable. At this meeting, the future stakeholder engagement was planned in detail.

The meeting started off with a short presentation to agree on the next steps with the Living lab management representatives. The next steps were defined:



- Organize a presentation of the Blue4All project to the relevant stakeholders by the end of March;
- Establish a stakeholder engagement group by the end of March
- Conduct a needs assessment until the 17th of May
- Organize tool testing and the Blueprint platform testing in the coming two years.

The MPA management representatives suggested to focus the efforts of the Blue4All project on the most affected and benefitting parties, i.e., the authorities in the National Park responsible for decision-making and the implementation of the management plan, because of the huge variety and complexity of stakeholders. It was argued that, as the goal of BLUE4ALL was to make marine protected areas more efficient, effective and resilient, the tools are supposed to enable managers to overcome challenges. Therefore, the focus of the need assessment should be on the MPA managers. This should be a very productive process in a well-established MPA context of Danish Wadden Sea where stakeholder engagement is a common practice, and the management is well-aware of the various challenges on the ground.

MPA management representative will share strategic contacts for the listed parties, and it was agreed that an invitation will be send out by SDU for a SEG presentation with the project leaflet attached. The leaflet of the Danish Wadden Sea served as a draft for other Living labs to use for their invitations (see Annex III).

The list of the invitees to the BLUE4ALL presentation:

- Naturstyrelsen (Danish Nature Conservation agency), MPA managers, public entity
- Miljøstyrelsen (Environmental Protection Agency), MPA managers, public entity
- Søfartsstyrelsen (Danish Maritime Authorities), MSP managers, public entity
- Kystdirektoratet (Coastal Authorities), Coast managers, public entity
- Esbjerg Kommune (Municipality), local legislation, no/little authority on sea territory
- Varde Kommune (Municipality), local legislation, no/little authority on sea territory
- Tønder Kommune (Municipality), local legislation, no/little authority on sea territory
- Ribe Kommune (Municipality), local legislation, no/little authority on sea territory
- Fanø Kommune (Municipality), local legislation, no/little authority on sea territory
- Nationalpark Vadehavet (National park), public entity under the Ministry of Environment

The coordinator will collect a final list of the members of the stakeholder engagement group and organize signing of the Letter of Intent after the presentation by the end of March 2024.



Vlaamse Banken and SBZ 1-3 Living lab

The contact point (CP) of the Vlaamse Banken and SBZ 1-3 Living lab, the representative of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) organized an online meeting with the MPA manager from the Federal Public Service Environment on 29 February 2024. As a management body, the Federal Public Service Environment coordinates stakeholder engagement processes in the Vlaamse Banken and SBZ 1-3 MPAs.

At the meeting, the CP presented the BLUE4ALL project and the planned stakeholder engagement processes and discussed the best ways to engage with the stakeholders involved in the two Belgian Living labs. The stakeholders - representatives of the industry, fisheries, academia and environmental NGOs are a part of the existing stakeholder group that is being coordinated by the Federal Public Service Environment. The list of stakeholders has been provided by the MPA manager and CP will together with the MPA manager and WP4 lead choose the most relevant stakeholders to join the stakeholder engagement group of the BLUE4ALL and discuss their further involvement.

The manager Federal Public Service Environment signed the Letter of Intent and is committed to organize a presentation of the BLUE4ALL project to the recognized stakeholders in the Belgian Living lab.

French Natura 2000 network - Channel North Sea Living lab

The contact point (CP) of the French Natura 2000 network - Channel North Sea Living lab – a representative of the French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) organised several live meetings in 2023 with the State Service and the representative of the MPA managers. The aim was to discuss how to integrate BLUE4ALL into the MPA network, what are the main needs and which stakeholders to involve.

The first official meeting happened online on 12 February 2024 with the stakeholders identified in the stakeholder analysis. As the French Natura 2000 network consists of 38 different MPAs, the number of identified stakeholders was large and the invitation was sent out to 91 institutions. Finally, 37 representatives attended the meeting. The list of attendees can be found in Annex VIII. French Natura 2000 network - Channel North Sea Living lab.

At the meeting, the CP presented the BLUE4ALL project, introduced the upcoming processes of need assessment, tool testing and validation and conducted a discussion with the stakeholders. The foreseen interactions between the project and the Living lab were explained, the first reflections have been made and the possible connections with the current processes in the MPA network were identified. The timeframe and a clear role of the stakeholder engagement group was presented.

The attendees were asked to provide feedback on their willingness to take part in the stakeholder engagement group as a part of their Living lab. So far, 20 members confirmed their willingness to participate.



The list of confirmed members of the stakeholder engagement group:

- Syndicat mixte littoral normand / Conservatoire du littoral Délégation Normandie – MPA manager
- URCPIE Normandie – NGO
- Apam le senequet - Recreational fishing NGO
- DREAL Hauts-de-France - State service (MPA)
- Communauté d'agglomération Le Cotentin - Local authority
- DDTM de la Manche - State Service (fisheries, activities on maritime space)
- Communauté de communes Falaises du Talou - Local authority
- GECC - Groupe d'Etude des Cétacés du Cotentin – NGO / Expertise on Cetaceans
- Communauté de Communes Normandie Cabourg Pays d'Auge - Local authority
- Syndicat mixte Eden62 – MPA management
- DRAJES Hauts-de-France - State Service (recreation activities)
- Département 62 - OGS Les Deux Caps - Tourism actors
- DREAL Normandie - State service (MPA)
- Maison de l'Estuaire - MPA management
- GONm - NGO / expertise on marine birds / MPA manager
- Parc Naturel Régional Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin - MPA manager
- Coordination Mammalogique Nord de France - NGO / Expertise on Cetaceans
- French Biodiversity Agency (OFB) - MPA management /Contact Point – 3 representatives

This list is subject to change as the group is still open for stakeholders to join.



Baltic Sea MPA network Living lab

The contact points the Baltic Sea MPA network from HELCOM engaged with the two existing working groups of this MPA network. The working groups were involved in the MPA processes to ensure stakeholder engagement across such a large network covering 188 MPAs and 8 countries. The working groups are HELCOM Working Group on Biodiversity, Protection and Restoration (WG BioDiv) and HELCOM Expert Group on economic and social analyses (ESA). The presentations of the BLUE4ALL project and the foreseen stakeholder engagement processes took place during the official meetings of these groups.

On 9 October 2023, the contact point organized a presentation to the WG BioDiv in Helsinki. There were 33 attendees, representatives of high-level institutions across the countries of the MPA network. The WG BioDiv Session took note of the recent activities of the BLUE4ALL project. All attendees agreed to be in the stakeholder engagement group and take part in the BLUE4ALL project as a part of the group's meetings.

The list of the members of the WG BioDiv group:

- HELCOM Secretariat – 13 representatives
- Finland Ministry of Environment – 1 representative
- Denmark Ministry of Environment – 1 representative
- Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development – 1 representative
- Poland Fisheries Department Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – 1 representative
- Swedish Agency for Water and Marine Management – 3 representatives
- German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation – 1 representative
- Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) – 2 representatives
- Coalition Clean Baltic – 2 representatives (observer)
- The Government of Åland (Finland) – 2 representatives
- Poland Chief Inspectorate for Environmental Protection – 1 representative
- Poland General Directorate for Environmental Protection – 2 representatives
- Finland Metsähallitus Parks and Wildlife – 1 representative
- Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology – 1 representative
- European Commission – 1 representative
- The Pew Charitable Trusts – 1 representative (observer)
- WWF Poland – 1 representative (observer)

On 11 December 2023 in Helsinki, the contact point organized a presentation to another group of this Living lab - the ESA Expert Group. There were 10 participants, representatives of the institutions across the countries involved in the network.



The ESA Expert Group Session took note of the plans for the BLUE4ALL project and the invitation that EG ESA collaborates with the project as part of commenting and validating MPA relating tools, as well as potentially testing selected tools starting from autumn 2024. The Session took note that the plan is to consider existing and suggest new tools for this Living lab. The Session invited the project to present the testing plan for EG ESA when it is ready for commenting. All attendees of the meeting agreed that the EG ESA will obtain a function of the stakeholder engagement group and take part in the upcoming activities of the BLUE4ALL project as a part of group's meetings.

The list of the members of the EG ESA group:

- HELCOM Secretariat – 4 representatives
- Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) – 1 representative
- Estonia Ministry of Climate – 1 representative
- AKTiiVS Ltd. Latvia – 1 representative
- AAPC Lithuania – 1 representative
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences – 1 representative
- Finnish Natural Resources Institute, Luke – 1 representative

Finland National MPA network Living lab

The expert group that prepares Finland's roadmap to develop a national MPA network has been established by the Finnish Ministry of Environment. To discuss engagement of the expert group in BLUE4ALL project, on 22 February 2024, the Living lab contact point (CP) from the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) organized an online meeting with the representatives from the Finnish Ministry of Environment. The Ministry officers had a positive view on BLUE4ALL collaborating with the expert group that prepares Finland's roadmap to develop a national MPA network and agreed that the expert group will function as the stakeholder engagement group in BLUE4ALL.

At the meeting, the CP and Ministry of Environment representatives discussed practical aspects of collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and with the expert group. They planned how to strengthen stakeholder engagement within this Living lab and engage stakeholders beyond the scope of the expert group. The Ministry of Environment included BLUE4ALL in the agenda of the next expert group's internal meeting in March when the members of the group will be presented the collaboration with the BLUE4ALL, discuss the next steps, plan for the upcoming need assessment process in April and May and sign the Letter of Intent.

List of the institutions included in the expert group who will be included in the stakeholder engagement group:

- Finnish Ministry of the Environment
- Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)
- Parks & Wildlife Finland (MPA authority)
- Geological Survey Finland



- Natural Resources Institute
- Turku University of Applied Sciences
- Government of Åland
- Baltic Sea Action Group (a NGO that promotes nature conservation on private water areas)

The next meeting with the expert group, the Ministry of Environment and the CP was planned for late April to address the upcoming process of need assessment. The attendees are from the institutions indicated in the list above and the foreseen agenda is:

- Presentation of BLUE4ALL
- Introduction to the needs assessment (why and how?)
- Structured, collaborative elaboration of needs for information and tools
 - What are the expected critical gaps in knowledge and methods?
 - What knowledge and methods are available?
 - Planning how to fill in the gaps in knowledge and methods
- The next steps

Väinameri & Väike väin Living lab

The two Estonian MPAs Väinameri & Väike väin will function as a Living lab with a common stakeholder engagement group as these two MPAs share management and stakeholders. An online meeting was organized on 1 March 2024 coordinated by the contact point and another representative from the MPA management institution Keskkonnaamet (Estonian Environmental Board). The presentation consisted of a description of the Blue4All project, the introduction of the project activities and an overview of the activities completed by now, the benefits of joining the stakeholder engagement group and planning of the next steps.

Invitations were sent to 94 different stakeholders – the representatives of the sectors and organizations involved in these areas as well as the private landowners within the MPAs. Finally, the meeting was attended by 18 participants.

Attendees were the representatives from the following organizations or sectors:

- MPA management: Keskkonnaamet (Estonian Environmental Board, 3 representatives)
- Ministry of Climate (4 representatives)
- Local Municipalities (1 representative from Lääne-Nigula county, 1 representative from Saaremaa County)
- Estonian Fund for Nature (1 representative)
- The Environmental Agency (2 representatives)
- Enefit Green (Wind turbine parks development company, 2 representatives)
- Transport administration (1 representative)
- The fisheries association Läänemaa Rannakalanduse Selts (1 representative)
- The Marine Institute of the University of Tartu (1 representative)
- Manager of semi-natural habitats (1 representative)



The meeting was recorded, and shared with the stakeholders who could not participate. The interest to participate in the stakeholder engagement group was expressed by three more representatives - the fisheries association Hiiu kala representative, Muhu county representative and the manager of semi-natural habitats. The stakeholders who attended the presentation will be further contacted with the Letter of Intent to confirm their participation by email.



Annex I. Stakeholder analysis table

MPA CONTACT FILLS IN						
Specify MPA/MPA network (fill in)						
Stakeholder group (name of stakeholders) (fill in)	Selection criteria for stakeholders to join stakeholder					
	Type	Frequency of involvement with the MPA/network	Form of involvement	Role in the MPA/network	Area of knowledge/ experience	Holds the rights to the MPA's resources

Specify country (fill in)				
engagement group (SEG) - choose among provided answers				
Historical/ cultural connection to the MPA and its resources	Degree of economic and social reliance on MPA and its resources	Previous involvement in the projects about MPA establishment and/or management	Relationship with the other stakeholders	Connection to other stakeholder groups present in the area (fill in)

Possible factors that could prevent stakeholders from joining the SEG - <u>choose "yes", "partially", or "no"</u>							
Limited time	Limited/non-existing financial resources to attend meetings	Limited human resources to attend the meetings	Conflict with the other stakeholder groups	Unavailable in certain seasons	Non-existing previous collaboration with the MPA	Conflict with the MPA	Other (fill in)

PROJECT CONTACT POINT FILLS IN			
Comments	SEG member	Keep informed	Comments



Annex II. Invitation form

Dear [Stakeholder name],

I hope this message finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am reaching out to you on behalf of [MPA name] as we recognized you as an important stakeholder of our MPA. We invite you to join with us the Blue4All project on which we are partners.

Blue4All aims to enhance the design and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) across Europe, and support protection and restoration of marine habitats and biodiversity. We aim to produce a user-friendly and publicly available Blueprint Platform with tools for effective, efficient, and resilient MPAs and networks of MPAs.

To do this, we involved [MPA name], as one of the 14 recognized MPAs and MPA networks across Europe as project's Living labs to provide experiential value to the project and engage their management teams and stakeholders. In order to align user-friendly and publicly available Blueprint Platform with the needs of the people involved in [MPA name], it is crucial for us to cooperate and gather inputs from you and other recognized stakeholders. To do that, we will form a Stakeholder Engagement Group (SEG) of stakeholder representatives of our [MPA/MPA network].

SEG will be involved in the application, co-creation and testing of the tools that address socio-economic, governance, ecological and environmental aspects of [MPA name] and create solutions for it to be effective, efficient and resilient for the years to come. SEG will consist of relevant representatives of the national and local authorities, representatives of the civil sector, local community leaders, representatives of stakeholders, and if possible, other key sectoral and interest groups (e.g. scientists, fishers, industries and non-governmental organizations).

We warmly invite you to join us for the Blue4All presentation to learn about what SEG will do and how you can participate.

Presentation Details:

- **Date:** [Insert Date]
- **Time:** [Insert Time]
- **Location:** [Insert Location, if on-line, insert meeting link]
- **Speaker:** [Name of Contact Person], [Organization]
- **Other Details:** [Any additional information]

During the presentation, we will address key questions such as:

- How you can actively contribute to [MPA Name]
- What to expect from the project and details of your involvement in Blue4All
- The anticipated outcomes of the project and the benefits to stakeholders

Your participation is crucial in helping us understand and respond to the unique needs of [MPA Name]. As a stakeholder, you will have the opportunity to actively participate in the co-creation, testing, and validation of tools tailored to our local/regional setting. We highly value your engagement and look forward to your participation. If you want to know more, check the project website [here](#).

Kindly confirm your attendance by [RSVP Deadline], and feel free to contact me for any further inquiries. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your valuable contribution to the Blue4All project.

Kind regards,

[Your Name]

[Your Title/Position]

[Your Organization]



Annex III. Invitation leaflet

The draft leaflet is made for Danish Wadden Sea Living lab and could be adapted by for other Living labs.



Blue4All

Vision - to address the challenges in marine protected area (MPA) processes, including designation, management, and monitoring. **Stakeholders are placed at the steering wheel!**

Approach - The project collects, co-creates and tests innovative, science-based tools to address identified challenges engaging 14 MPAs across the EU, involving its management teams and all relevant stakeholders.

Toolbox - The collected tools will be available on a user-friendly, interactive website, the "Blueprint Platform".

Specifics - The project runs from Jan 2023 to Dec 2026 with a total budget of 8.4 million. There are 22 Partners from 13 EU member states. The project is funded by HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-02.



Vadehavet National park delineation (red line). © DWSNP 2012; Taken from Walsh, C. (2021) Protected area management in a post natural world: negotiated governance at the Danish Wadden Sea. Maritime Studies 20: 255 - 266

Involvement of Vadehavet's stakeholders

Needs Assessment

April / May 24

Needs for a more efficient, effective and resilient Vadehavet National Park will be identified with the help of relevant stakeholders that become part of a stakeholder engagement group (SEG).

Testing of tools

Oct 25 – Oct 26

Based on the outcome of the Needs Assessment, the Blue4All project team will identify or develop a set of tools. **Potentially**, relevant tools will be tested in an iterative process in the Vadehavet MPA with the help of the SEG.

Testing of toolbox

Nov 25 – Sept 26

The collected and developed tools will be available on an online platform that will help managers and stakeholders identify the right tools for their challenges. The SEGs will be involved in the testing of this interactive platform.

Benefits?

- 1) **Potential solutions for burning issues of the MPA**
- 2) **Your voice is heard through structured engagement**
- 3) **Knowledge exchange and collective learning with and from other MPAs in the EU**
- 4) **The Needs of the MPAs are transported to EU level**



<https://www.blue4all.eu/>



@BLUE4ALLproject

@BLUE4ALL



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Annex IV. Draft slides for the BLUE4ALL presentation to the Living lab stakeholders

The slides were shared with the Contact Points to be adapted for each Living lab. To be easier to understand, the slides were drafted on the example of the Telašćica MPA.



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BLUE4ALL: KEY INFORMATION

<p>DURATION</p> <p>January 2023 – December 2026</p>	<p>BUDGET</p> <p>8,4 million EURO</p>	<p>PARTNERS</p> <p>22 partners from 13 EU Member States and 4 EU Sea Basins</p>
<p>FUNDING</p> <p>HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-02</p>	<p>CASE STUDIES</p> <p>25: 13 Living labs and 12 Information sites</p>	<p>SISTER PROJECT</p> <p>Ocean Citizen</p>



BLUE4ALL: VISION AND OBJECTIVES

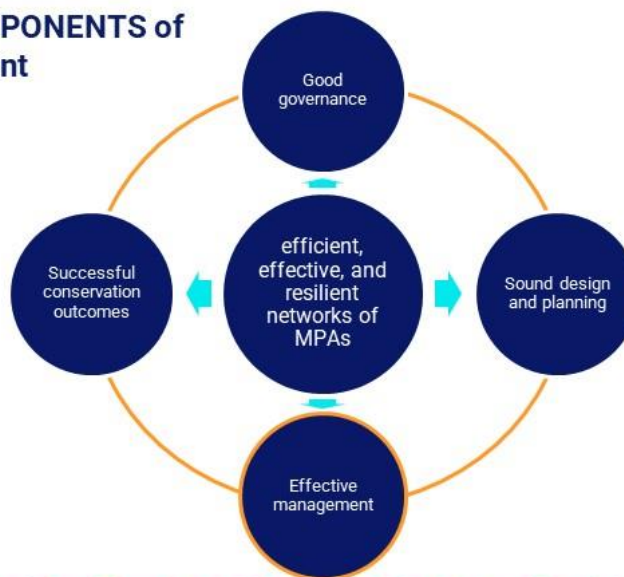
- To address the challenges in the MPA process, including designation, management, and monitoring
- To promote a **bottom-up approach towards MPAs with stakeholders at the steering wheel**, while aligning with regulatory expectations defined by the EU Biodiversity Strategy and national initiatives
- To develop and document **new tools and strategies** for dealing with challenges in marine conservation efforts, including the applicability of the concept of Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)
- To co-create and test a **Blueprint Platform** for effective, efficient, and resilient marine protected areas (MPAs) and networks of MPAs
- To achieve the **EU Mission to restore our oceans and waters** by creating a firm basis for a European-wide rollout of the BLUE4ALL legacy.



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BLUE4ALL: COMPONENTS of MPA management

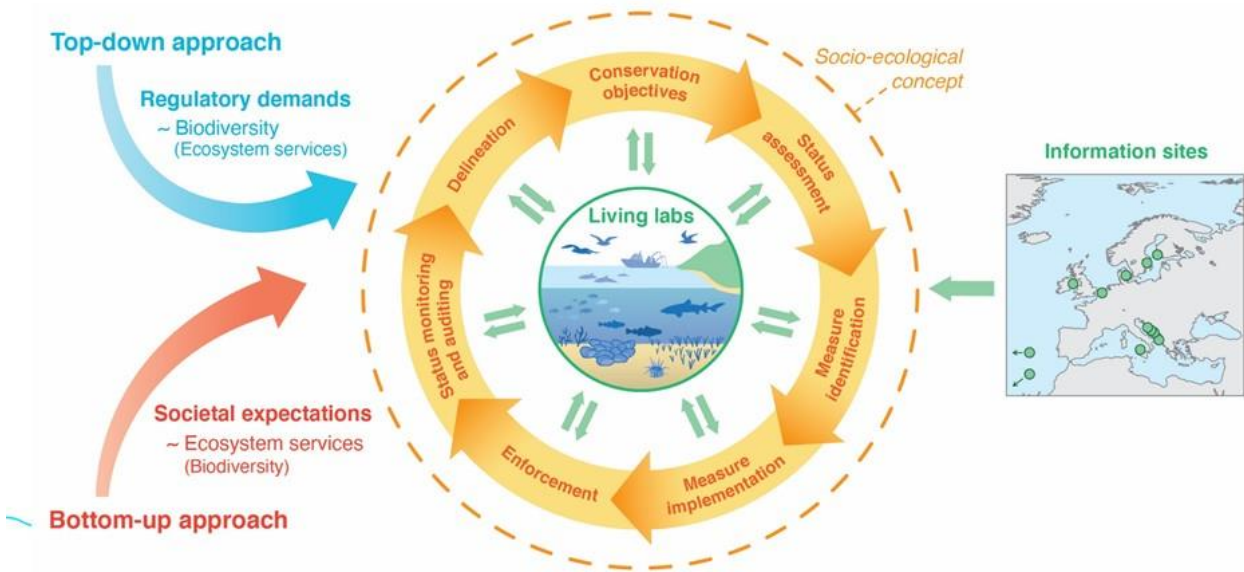


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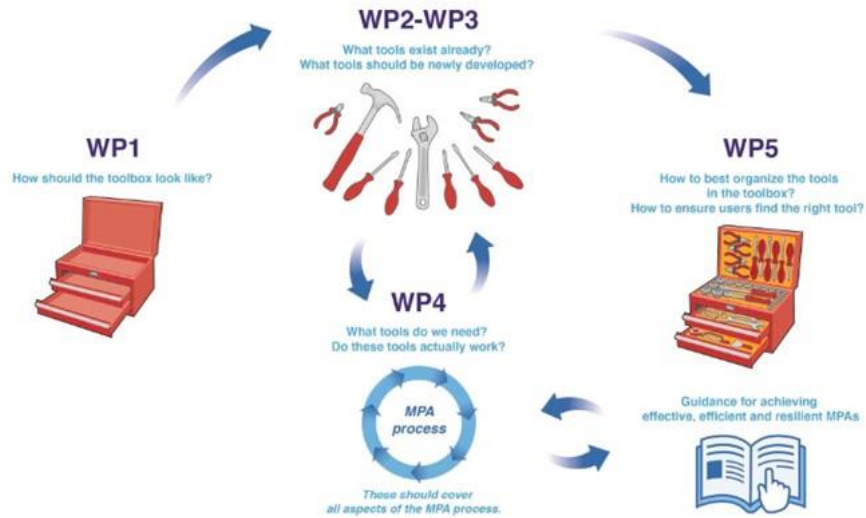
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How will Blue4All support different MPA processes across Europe?



BLUE4ALL: CREATION OF THE BLUEPRINT PLATFORM

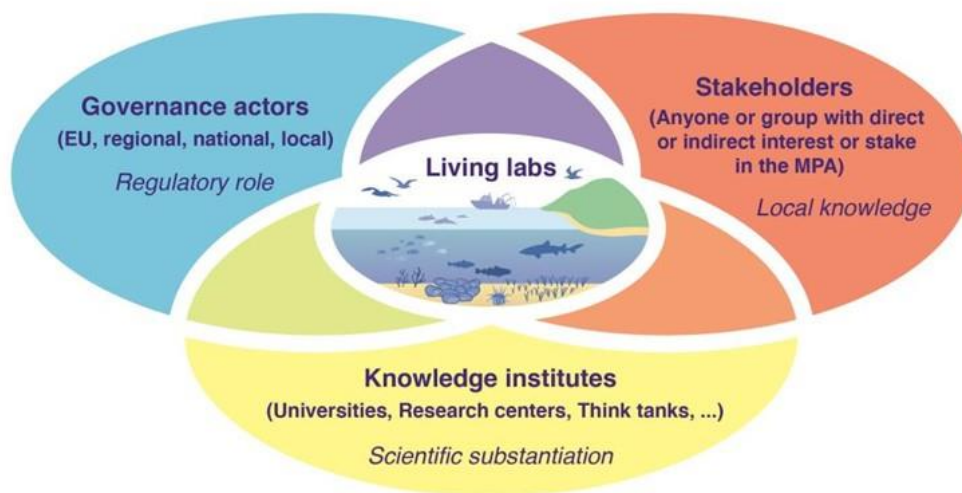




Telaščica MPA as a Living lab

- Blue4All supports the **existing processes** in the MPAs and MPA networks across three European sea basins
- The project co-creates innovative MPA tools and solutions with the 14 Living labs, involving its management teams and all relevant stakeholders in form of Stakeholder engagement groups
- **Optional: list existing MPA (network) processes, challenges and issues**

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT



Stakeholder engagement group (SEG)

In-situ body for the co-creation processes in _____ Living lab that will participate in following activities:

1. Need assessment
2. Testing and validation of tools
3. Testing and validation of a Blueprint platform

Optional: connect these processes to existing MPA challenges and issues – slide 8



Co-creation processes



Potential benefits for the MPA and its stakeholders

- **Issue Focus and Solutions:** The group helps identify and address key MPA issues and in collaboration with Blue4All search for innovative solutions.
- **Structured Engagement:** Establishing a group provides a systematic approach to engaging stakeholders, ensuring their voices are heard in MPA management
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Engaging stakeholders from various MPAs across Europe enables valuable knowledge sharing and learning opportunities.
- **Promotes Transparency:** Engaging stakeholders in testing tools and solutions to address MPA processes gets them more familiar with the MPA processes, fostering trust, transparency and a sense of ownership.
- ...



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Potential benefits for the Blue4All project

- **Diverse Insights:** The group brings together diverse perspectives, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of MPA needs.
- **Wide-ranging Expertise:** Involvement of stakeholders from various sectors provides broad knowledge and expertise for informed decision-making.
- **Dialogue and Innovation:** Promotion of dialogue fosters the exchange of new ideas and innovative approaches to MPA management.
- **Tool Co-creation:** Collaboration facilitates the creation of new tools and adaptation of existing solutions for MPA issues to local contexts.
- ...



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Next steps

- **Next meeting: ... - TBA**
 - Need assessment workshop
- Signing the Letter of intent
 - Stating you will take part in the stakeholder engagement group
 - Used for project administration purposes
 - Non legally binding document
 - Voluntary signatures



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BLUE4ALL PARTNERS



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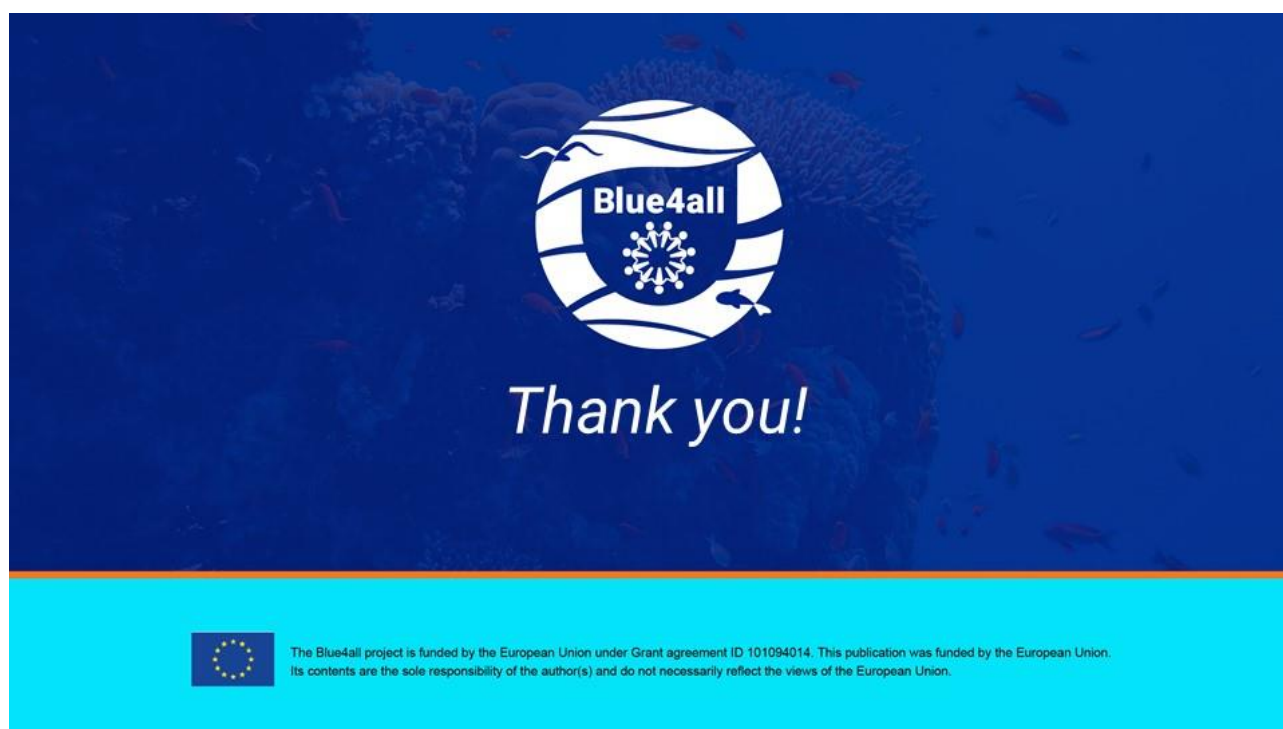
@BLUE4ALLproject

BLUE4ALL

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Any questions?



Annex V. Guiding table for the meeting minutes

Meeting details	
Place and date	
Meeting goal	
Meeting coordinator	
List of attendees	
Agenda for the meeting/main points	
Questions, comments, remarks	



Annex VI. Draft Letter of Intent for a new stakeholder engagement group

Letter of Intent: Participation in the [Name of MPA/MPA network] stakeholder engagement group as a part of the Blue4All project

I. NAME:

[Name of MPA/MPA network] establishes, on a voluntary basis, the stakeholder engagement group as a part of the BLUE4ALL project. The members of the stakeholder engagement group, referred here as “the parties”, are the representatives of the main stakeholder groups recognized for the BLUE4ALL project who agree to take part in the stakeholder engagement group for a duration of the project.

This document, in and of itself, does not represent an enforceable legal contract.

II. ABOUT THE BLUE4ALL PROJECT:

BLUE4ALL is a HORIZON Europe Ocean Mission project working towards addressing marine conservation and restoration challenges across Europe. It proposes a new approach to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that aligns with EU Biodiversity Strategy and national initiatives. The project places stakeholders at the centre of the MPA process, ensuring their needs and concerns are addressed from the start. This way project strives to align bottom-up and top-down approaches in the process of co-creation of tools and solutions for achieving effective, efficient and resilient MPAs and MPA networks. BLUE4ALL involves in the stakeholder engagement groups with the stakeholders from the project Living labs – 14 MPAs and MPA networks in the Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea, and North-East Atlantic regions to co-create tools for preserving and restoring the marine environment in a socially sustainable and acceptable way. The project will ultimately result in a user-friendly Blueprint Platform for creating effective, efficient, and resilient MPAs and MPA networks. The Blue4All project runs from January 2023 to December 2026.

III. OBJECTIVES OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT GROUP:

Stakeholder engagement groups are established in each Living lab to participate in the co-creation of tools and solutions for achieving effective, efficient and resilient MPAs and MPA networks. The project recognizes the importance of knowledge, participation, and ownership of stakeholders in driving development of MPAs and MPA networks. Establishing the stakeholder engagement group will ensure that a wide range of stakeholders participates in the co-creation processes.



IV. SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:

Stakeholder engagement group will participate in supporting, planning and implementation of surveys and activities that enable need assessment, co-creation, testing and validation of tools and solutions recognized important for the [Name of MPA/MPA network] and finally testing and validation of the Blueprint platform.

The main interactions will be:

- I. Needs Assessment
- II. Tools Testing
- III. Tools Validation
- IV. Blueprint platform testing
- V. Blueprint platform validation

The interactions will be organized respecting the local reality of each MPA and in line with the organization's capacities. However, respecting the project timeline is necessary for timely and effectively producing the project results and the final output – the Blueprint platform. Having this in mind, the foreseen timeline of interactions is:

- Interaction I. Needs assessment: **April – May 2024**
- Interactions II and III (Tools testing and validation): **October 2024 – October 2025**
- Interactions IV and V (Blueprint platform testing and validation): **November 2025 – September 2026**

Participation in the stakeholder engagement group provides an opportunity to connect and closely collaborate with the other MPAs and MPA networks across Europe, as well as with the scientists and experts on MPA topics. For this purpose, the on-line BLUE4ALL networking platform will be launched to enable a more direct communication between the Living labs and the project partners, to share knowledge and experience on common processes.

V. GROUP COORDINATOR:

The stakeholder engagement group coordinator as a part of the BLUE4ALL project will be [the name and the institution of the contact point]. The coordinator will ensure good collaboration of the stakeholder engagement group with the BLUE4ALL project consortium to foster mutual understanding and effective implementation of the interactions listed in chapter IV. Scope of activities. The coordinator will either obtain a neutral role, or alternatively make sure to engage a neutral facilitator for the group discussions.

VI. GROUP CODE OF CONDUCT:

Each party is responsible for presenting the views of their sector.



Each party is committed to upholding the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and accountability throughout the participation in the stakeholder engagement group and working collaboratively towards the successful realization of the Blue4All project goals. Each party complies with the principles of open communication and peaceful conflict resolution, respecting diverse viewpoints.

By accepting this Letter of Intent, the party confirms to agree with all the above stated.

If the party wants to leave the group, it is sufficient to notify the group coordinator.

Annex I. Signature list

Meeting related to stakeholder engagement group establishment, [place], [date]

Hereby the parties agree to take part in the stakeholder engagement group established by [Name of MPA/MPA network] as a part of the Blue4All project.

Name	Surname	Institution or sector	E-mail	Signature



Annex VII. Draft Letter of Intent for the existing stakeholder group

Letter of Intent: Participating in the Blue4All project as a [Name of MPA/MPA network] stakeholder engagement group

I. NAME:

As the members of the [Name of the **existing** group], we agree to participate in the BLUE4ALL project on a voluntary basis as the stakeholder engagement group of [Name of MPA/MPA network]. The members of the stakeholder engagement group, referred here as “the parties”, are the representatives of the main stakeholder groups recognized for the BLUE4ALL project. The parties agree to include the BLUE4ALL activities as a part of their group’s meetings for a duration of the BLUE4ALL project.

This document, in and of itself, does not represent an enforceable legal contract.

II. ABOUT THE BLUE4ALL PROJECT:

BLUE4ALL is a HORIZON Europe Ocean Mission project working towards addressing marine conservation and restoration challenges across Europe. It proposes a new approach to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) that aligns with EU Biodiversity Strategy and national initiatives. The project places stakeholders at the centre of the MPA process, ensuring their needs and concerns are addressed from the start. This way project strives to align bottom-up and top-down approaches in the process of co-creation of tools and solutions for achieving effective, efficient and resilient MPAs and MPA networks. BLUE4ALL involves in the stakeholder engagement groups with the stakeholders from the project Living labs – 14 MPAs and MPA networks in the Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea, and North-East Atlantic regions to co-create tools for preserving and restoring the marine environment in a socially sustainable and acceptable way. The project will ultimately result in a user-friendly Blueprint Platform for creating effective, efficient, and resilient MPAs and MPA networks. The Blue4All project runs from January 2023 to December 2026.

III. OBJECTIVES OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT GROUP:

Stakeholder engagement groups are established in each Living lab to participate in the co-creation of tools and solutions for achieving effective, efficient and resilient MPAs and MPA networks. The project recognizes the importance of knowledge, participation, and ownership of stakeholders in driving development of MPAs and MPA networks. Establishing the stakeholder engagement group will ensure that a wide range of stakeholders participates in the co-creation processes.



IV. SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:

Stakeholder engagement group will participate in supporting, planning and implementation of surveys and activities that enable need assessment, co-creation, testing and validation of tools and solutions recognized important for the [Name of MPA/MPA network] and finally testing and validation of the Blueprint platform.

The main interactions will be:

- I. Needs Assessment
- II. Tools Testing
- III. Tool Validation
- IV. Blueprint platform testing
- V. Blueprint platform validation

The interactions will be organized respecting the capacities of each working group. However, respecting the project timeline is necessary for timely and effectively producing the project results and the final output – the Blueprint platform. Having this in mind, the foreseen timeline of interactions is:

- Interaction I. Needs assessment: **April – May 2024**
- Interactions II and III (Tools testing and validation): **October 2024 – October 2025**
- Interactions IV and V (Blueprint platform testing and validation): **November 2025 – September 2026**

Participation in the stakeholder engagement group provides an opportunity to connect and closely collaborate with the other MPAs and MPA networks across Europe, as well as with the scientists and experts on MPA topics. For this purpose, the on-line BLUE4ALL networking platform will be launched to enable a more direct communication between the Living labs and the project partners, to share knowledge and experience on common processes.

V. GROUP COORDINATOR:

The stakeholder engagement group coordinator as a part of the BLUE4ALL project will be [the name and the institution of the contact point]. The coordinator will ensure good collaboration of the stakeholder engagement group with the BLUE4ALL project consortium to foster mutual understanding and effective implementation of the interactions listed in chapter IV. Scope of activities. The coordinator will either obtain a neutral role, or alternatively make sure to engage a neutral facilitator for the group discussions.

VI. GROUP CODE OF CONDUCT:

Each party is responsible for presenting the views of their sector.



Each party is committed to upholding the principles of transparency, inclusivity, and accountability throughout the participation in the stakeholder engagement group and working collaboratively towards the successful realization of the Blue4All project goals. Each party complies with the principles of open communication and peaceful conflict resolution, respecting diverse viewpoints.

VII. FINAL NOTES:

By accepting this Letter of Intent, the party confirms to agree with all the above stated. If the party wants to leave the group, it is sufficient to notify the group coordinator.

Annex 1 – Signature list

Meeting related to stakeholder engagement group establishment, [place], [date]

Hereby the signed members agree to take part in the [Name of MPA/MPA network] stakeholder engagement group as a part of the Blue4All project.

Name	Surname	Institution sector	or	E-mail	Signature



Annex VIII. French Natura 2000 network - Channel North Sea Living lab

List of attendees

1. Eden 62 – 1 representative
2. Regional Natural Park of Caps et Marais d'Opale (Parc Naturel Régional des Caps et Marais d'Opale) – 1 representative
3. Regional Committee for Sea Fisheries and Marine Farming - Haut de France (CRPMEM Hauts de France) – 1 representative
4. Normandy Coastal Joint Syndicate (Syndicat Mixte Littoral Normand)/Normandy Coastal Conservatory (Conservatoire du littoral de Normandie) – 1 representative
5. Estuary House (Maison de l'Estuaire) – 1 representative
6. Normandy Ornithological Group (GONm) – 1 representative
7. Regional Nature Park of the Cotentin and Bessin Marshes (Parc Naturel Régional Marais du Cotentin et du Bessin) – 1 representative
8. Regional Directorate for the Environment, Planning and Housing - Normandie (Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement) – 1 representative
9. Regional Directorate for the Environment, Planning and Housing – Hauts de France (Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement) – 1 representative
10. Departmental Directorate for the Territories and the Sea Pas-de-Calais (Direction Départementale des Territoires et de la Mer du Pas de Calais) – 1 representative
11. Departmental Directorate for the Territories and the Sea Manche (Direction Départementale des Territoires et de la Mer – Manche) – 1 representative
12. Water Agency Artois Picardie (Agence de l'eau – Artois Picardie) – 1 representative



13. Water Agency – Seine Normandie (Agence de l'eau - Seine Normandie) – 1 representative
14. Region Hauts-de-France (Région Haut-de-France) – 1 representative
15. Le Havre Seine Métropole Urban Community (Communauté Urbaines Le Havre Seine Métropole) – 1 representative
16. Community of Cities Normandie-Cabourg-Pays d'Auge (Communauté de Communes Normandie-Cabourg-Pays d'Auge) – 1 representative
17. Community of Cities Coeur du Nacre (Communauté de Communes Coeur du Nacre) – 1 representative
18. Cotentin Conurbation Community (Communauté d'Agglomération du Cotentin) – 1 representative
19. Community of Cities Côte Ouest Centre Manche (Communauté de Communes Côte Ouest Centre Manche) – 1 representative
20. Operation Great Site - The Two Capes Blanc-Nez, Gris- Nez (Opération Grand Site - Les Deux-Caps Blanc-Nez, Gris-Nez) - 2 representatives
21. National Union of Aggregate Producers (Union nationale des producteurs de granulats) – 1 representative
22. Fishing Association of La Manche and Cotentin (Association des pêcheurs armateurs de la Manche et du Cotentin) – 1 representative
23. Naturalist Divers of Normandy (Les Plongeurs Naturalistes de Normandie)
24. UICN France– 1 representative
25. Permanent Centre for Environmental Initiatives - Normandy Regional Union (Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement – Union régionale de Normandie) – 1 representative
26. Permanent Centre for Environmental Initiatives – Hauts-de-France Regional Union (Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement – Union régionale de Hauts-de-France) – 1 representative



27. Permanent Centre for Environmental Initiatives – Authie and Canche Valley (Centre Permanent d'Initiatives pour l'Environnement – Vallée de l'Authie et de la Canche)
28. North Ornithological Group (GON) – 2 representatives
29. Northern France Mammalogy Coordination (CMNF) – 1 representative
30. Cotentin Cetacean Study Group (GECC) – 2 representatives
31. Normandy Coastal Monitoring Unit – 2 representatives

