

Seminar of the Thematic Working Group on Maritime Spatial Planning

Minutes

- Anika Niolaas Ponder (KME, PL) presented the Baltic InteGrid (BIG) project scope and goal. Discussion afterwards focused on target groups (who is already consider, national administration, international bodies, DG Mare) and on how much project outcomes will be tailored to the need of these. Cooperation with Baltic LINes project was also discussed as well as consultation process of the German offshore grid draft plan.
- Nicolaos Cutululis (DTU) presented an overview of different scenarios of the offshore wind farms development in the BSR, including the location of planned farms and aspects of technological developments (e.g. size/power of turbines). Examples from the North Sea grid development were presented. ENTSO-y plans, outcome of the FP7th TWENTIES project were presented.
- Joanna Pardus (MIG) presented the status quo on GIS data collection in the BIG project, stressing a difference between information and GIS data.
- Magdalena Matczak (MIG) presented the status quo of MSP development in the BSR with special attention to the linear infrastructures.

Afterwards an interactive exercise of planning the grid on the Baltic Sea was carried out. Participants of the seminar were working in 3 groups, their task was to draw a proposed grid route on a BSR map (presenting existing and planned wind farms). Three “plans” were confronted with a map of sea uses in the BS (nature protection areas (MPA, Natura 2000 areas), fishery bottom trawling, chemical weapon’s dumpling sites, traffic lines). Participants were asked to explain why they have decided to ‘draw the line’ like they did. Possible spatial conflicts were analyzed by MSP experts and discussed with PPs.

The goal of the exercise was to open a dialogue between MSP experts and PPs on how and why the grid route(s) could look like. The aim was also to initiate internal BIG discussion on defining the grid concept variations/scenarios to be selected for further analysis (spatial conflicts, technological challenges, cost optimization etc).

General remarks

There was a question whether this form of workshop is appropriate - working in groups, drawing a proposed grid route – and it seems that it is a good way to activate the participants. To increase the number of stakeholders, experts and decision-makers participating in the workshop it is suggested to organize TWG as the accompanying event to a major conference . It will be also more efficient.

MIG will send out the maps to the PPs so that each partner can practice this kind of exercise in its in own country.

It is necessary to organize the meeting of representatives – project leader and WP leaders - of two projects Baltic Lines and Baltic InteGrid.