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**Project partners:**

Netherlands Enterprise Agency  
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands  
Blue Cluster  
Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency of Germany  
Cerema  
Seascape Belgium  
Maritime Institute of Maritime University in Gdynia  
International Marine and Dredging Consultants  
Mantis Consulting  
ORG Urbanism & Architecture BV  
French Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service  
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management  
Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment/ University of Gothenburg  
University of Groningen  
SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth

Nordregio

HELCOM

VASAB

Associated organisations:  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature of Netherlands  
Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building of Germany



Netherlands Enterprise Agency



ORG  
Swedish Agency for  
Marine and  
Water Management



Ministry of Infrastructure  
and Water Management  
of the Netherlands



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The NESB project

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THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN SEA BASINS project supports the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI) in fostering international cooperation for Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the North Sea basin, with close ties to the Baltic Sea region. It aims to strengthen collaboration among North Sea countries and between the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions.

By linking GNSBI with HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, the project promotes knowledge sharing and networking across sea basins to enable strategic, efficient MSP, building on insights from the eMSP NBSR project and other projects and initiatives related to European Green Deal.

## PROJECT KEY THEMES

### OCEAN GOVERNANCE

- Enhance multi-level governance across sea basins
- Support development of an integrated and ecosystem-based governance in the Greater North Sea Basin
- Review current mechanisms for cooperation and collaboration on MSP related to governance and explore their further development

### ENERGY TRANSITION AND BIODIVERSITY IN MSP

- Provide methodological recommendations for addressing cumulative effects in relation to the transition in maritime economic sectors
- Methods for sustainable energy transition and protection of biodiversity in MSP
- Facilitate the application of ecosystem-based approach in MSP

### MULTI-USE IN PRACTICE

- Utilizing specific findings to propose how existing policy frameworks can be effectively utilized and revised to facilitate the sustainable development of multi-use at sea
- The Maripark concept helps identify limitations in governance and policy systems, guiding establishment of sustainable multi-use area

### KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER & SHARING

- Provide significant advances on the Data-Information-Knowledge-Wisdom pyramid to support decision-making for a sea basin and digital MSP approach, linking the North Sea and the Baltic Sea in the context of regional MSP cooperation

## PROJECT KEY OBJECTIVES

- Ensure coherent MSP implementation and maritime policy alignment across borders in the North Sea basin
- Evaluate cross-border cooperative interactions among authorities and inter-ministerial bodies
- Establish a structure for cross-border collaboration and learning with North and Baltic Sea countries

Promote integrated, ecosystem-based governance in the Greater North Sea Basin

- Facilitate the application of ecosystem-based MSP approaches
- Provide practical solutions to enhance multi-use of marine areas
- Support sea basin-level decision-making through a knowledge and data-sharing platform



Greater North  
Sea Basin Initiative

WHAT IS GREATER NORTH SEA BASIN INITIATIVE? Established in November 2023, the GNSBI fosters collaboration among 9 North Sea countries to strengthen MSP, promote MSP alignment, and address spatial and ecological challenges across the Greater North Sea Basin.