



## Maritime Spatial Planning Country Information

### Romania

# Contact

## MSP in general

### **Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration (MPWDA)**

Directorate General for Regional Development and Infrastructure  
Liviu BĂILEȘTEANU. Director  
Phone: +40372 114 525  
E-mail: liviu.bailesteanu@mdrap.ro  
Contact person: Bogdan Andrei GHINEA. Head of unit  
Phone: +40372 114 518  
E-mail: bogdan.ghinea@mdrap.ro  
Street: Libertății Bd., no. 16, North Wing, Sector 5, Bucharest, postal code 050706  
Web: <https://www.mlpsda.ro/>

### **Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests (MEWF)**

National Committee of Coastal Zone  
Department for Water, Resources Management (DWRM)  
Director: Gheorghe CONSTANTIN  
Street: Calea Plevnei, 46-48, Bucharest  
Phone: +4 021.316.61.56.  
E-mail: gheorghe.constantin@map.gov.ro  
Web: <http://www.mmediu.ro/>  
<http://apepaduri.gov.ro/>

### **Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Communications (MTIC)**

Commission of Integrated Maritime Policy  
Inter-ministerial committee for coordination of EU's Integrated Maritime Policy  
Secretariat - DGSMAR and DN (Memorandum nr.20/9709/2009) Contact person: [Violanda Alayan](#)  
Street: Dinicu Golescu Bd no. 38, 010873, Sector 1, Bucharest, Romania  
Web: <http://www.mt.ro/>  
Phone: +4021.319.61.24, fax - +4021.313.88.69

### **National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigore Antipa"**

Dr.ing. Mihaela Laurenta ALEXANDROV  
Bul.Mamaia 300  
Constanta 900581  
Web: <http://www.rmri.ro/>  
Phone +40 241 543288

### **National Institute for Research and Development on Marine Geology and Geo-ecology – GeoEcoMar**

Dr. Dan-Lucian VASILIU  
Director of the Constanța branch  
23-25 Dimitrie Onciul Street, Sector 2, Bucharest Romania  
Web: <https://www.geoecomar.ro/>  
Phone: +4 0724 051 880  
email: dan.vasilu@geoecomar.ro

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# Background Information

## Basic facts on Marine Waters

Romania has 245 km of coastline and its territorial sea (baseline to 12 nm) covers 3 202 km<sup>2</sup>. Romania's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is approximately 22 485 km<sup>2</sup>. The EEZ and Territorial Sea between Romania and Ukraine was agreed upon in 2009 after being referred to the International Court of Justice. The EEZ between Romania and Bulgaria has not been agreed upon yet <sup>1</sup>.

## Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) authorities and legislation

### General

Romania transposed into national legislation Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and the Council of 23 July 2014 regarding Maritime Spatial Planning, and began to implement MSP through:

- a) Government Ordinance no. 18/2016 on the maritime spatial planning;
- b) Law no. 88/2017 related to the approval of Government Ordinance no. 18/2016 on maritime spatial planning;
- c) Government Decision no. 406/2017 for the approval of the Regulation on the organisation, functioning and nominal composition of the Maritime Spatial Planning Committee;
- d) Government Decision no. 436/2018 for the approval of the Methodology for elaborating the Maritime Spatial Plans.

#### Planning at national level

Romania transposed Directive 2014/89/EU, establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, into national legislation through Government Ordinance no. 18/2016 on the maritime spatial planning, approved by Law no. 88/2017. The MSP Romanian National Authority started to prepare an MSP data base and the first draft of the national maritime plan under the MARSPLAN BS Project. The MSP developed in partnership with Bulgaria in the scope of the project, served as an exercise with a transboundary approach for Mangalia-Shabla area. The MARSPLAN BS II project proposed continuing with the development of the MSP database and the elaboration of the draft maritime spatial plan in cooperation with Bulgaria.

#### National MSP authority

Since 2015, the Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration has been responsible for preparing the MSP national legislation and rules, the nomination of MSP authorities and the implementation of the MSP Directive. The National MSP Authority – the Maritime Spatial Planning Committee- an inter-ministerial body, without legal personality, was nominated as the national competent authority on the matter.

Many public authorities, as well as the partners of the MARSPLAN-BS projects, have been involved in the MSP process, in order to provide support to the transposition process of the MSP Directive and its implementation.

#### Planning at regional and local level

Maritime spatial plans contribute to strengthening cooperation between central public authorities and local public authorities, by developing a strategic vision and integrated management. Although there is no regional MSP authority, local public authorities are involved in the process of elaboration and implementation of the plan, within the scope of their respective competences.

#### Regional MSP authority

Not applicable.

#### Local MSP authority

Not applicable. Local authorities, responsible for territorial planning, are responsible for general and zonal plans.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/ROM\\_1986\\_Decree.pdf](https://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/ROM_1986_Decree.pdf)

## Progress

The main advances in terms of MSP have been achieved through several European and regional projects with which Romania has been involved. Major progress has been made through the implementation of the MARSPLAN I and II projects. The second project is ongoing and should lead to compelling inputs for the Romanian maritime spatial planning.

## Overview of MSP-related uses and issues

The Black Sea is one of the main EU gateways with the East gates, a junction between Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East. It is an important transport and energy hub, a crossroads of different cultures, and a region with political, social and economic fragmentation. The Romanian coast is under pressure from seasonal increasing population density, urbanisation, marine transport, coastal erosion, and pollution. The tourism industry and unplanned urbanisation have resulted in negative effects such as the depreciation of the natural landscape, water quality, sandy dunes, natural reserves, vegetation and marine ecosystem.

In accordance with national legislation, the maritime spatial plan has a guiding and regulatory character, integrating, without being limited to, the following activities, uses and fields: aquaculture areas; fishing areas; installations and infrastructures for the exploration of crude oil, gas and other energy sources, mineral resources, as well as for the production of energy from renewable sources; maritime transport routes and traffic flows; military exercise and training areas; protected natural areas from the national network; raw material extraction areas; scientific research, including installations and infrastructures for scientific research and monitoring of the marine environment; routes of submarine cables and pipes, as well as their safety and protection areas; tourist activities; underwater cultural heritage; coastal protection measures against erosion; intervention plans in case of accidental pollution or in case of a natural marine hazard presenting a risk to the coastal area; areas where there are port and hydrotechnical infrastructures.

### **Industry**

Romania has a strong shipbuilding industry, with shipbuilding and respective repair representing 98% of exports and 35,250 jobs in 2017.

The main maritime activities include: port operations and shipping; port and underwater construction; mining industry - sand extraction.

### **Oil and gas**

In 2017, this sector employed 3,781 people and it remains the fastest-growing sector. A [report](#) produced by Deloitte Central Europe forecasts that investment and development of large-scale projects in the Black Sea between 2018 and 2040 will lead to sustainable economic growth, with subsequent effects on jobs. In Romania, on average 705 jobs will be created and maintained annually in direct relation with offshore projects<sup>2</sup>.

Currently, around 8% of crude and condensate oil is produced offshore, whereas the rest comes from onshore. In 2016 crude oil production was around 27 million barrels, while total consumption exceeded 82 million barrels.

### **Fisheries**

The fisheries sector is mainly composed of artisanal and local fishers, and in 2017 it employed around 6,440 people. The crisis experienced by the Romanian fisheries sector due to ecological changes such as pollution, invasive species or overfishing, has meant that small boats and angling techniques are still widely used. The main ports are Manglia, Olimp, Costinesti, Mamaia, Cape Midia and Sulina. In the Romanian marine waters, the fishing activity is mainly carried out during the first four/seven months of the fishing season (March-October), when the main commercial fish species reach the coastal area for spawning and feeding.

### **Tourism**

Coastal tourism is one of the most successful activities in Romania, with the sector employing 47,730 people in 2017. The country has a wide range of natural areas including ecosystem-based tourism in the Danube Delta. Seasonality significantly influences the pattern of tourism activities: during peak demand periods in summertime, tourism activities place great pressure on the coastal ecosystems. Approximately 120,000 places provide accommodation on the Romanian coast and since 2006 a series of tourist resorts on the Romanian seaside have been classified as resorts of national interest: Mamaia, Eforie, Costinesti, Jupiter, Mangalia, Neptun-Olimp, Saturn, Techirghiol and Venus.

### **Protection of the marine environment**

The area of the Black Sea region is confronted with several issues, in particular achieving the right balance between nature conservation objectives, under the Habitats Directive, and developmental objectives. Annexes I and II of the Habitats

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/ro/Documents/ImpRepOffshoreProjects\\_ENG.PDF](https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/ro/Documents/ImpRepOffshoreProjects_ENG.PDF)

Directive list 58 habitat types, 79 animals and 6 plants<sup>3</sup> found in the Black Sea, some of these being marine species, such as the Black Sea bottlenose dolphin. There are also 40 coastal Sites of Community Importance (SCIs). One of the major problems is that the Black Sea is among the most endangered basin in Europe, considered as a 'closed' water basin with unique, dynamic and sensitive ecosystems under threat from continental pressures and conflicting coastal and maritime activities.

To address possible conflicts between the aforementioned maritime uses and to prevent costly trade-offs, it is necessary to develop an integrated and ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Plan.

## Maritime Spatial Plans

### Existing Maritime Spatial Plans

There is no current National Maritime Spatial Plan in Romania. The pilot MSP elaborated in the scope of the MARSPLAN BS project for the Mangalia – Shabla area is available at: [marsplan.ro](http://marsplan.ro).

### Pilot plans or projects

Some projects related to marine research, including maritime spatial planning, have been performed in Romania.

- [MARSPLAN – BS II \(2019-2021\)](#), whose main activities are related to the elaboration of maritime spatial plans in Bulgaria and Romania with an updated GIS model and database. Based on the results of the first MARSPLAN-BS Project it aims to: develop the MSP common strategy for the cross-border area of Bulgaria and Romania, addressing Land-Sea Interactions (LSI) and the Multi-Use (MU) concept as well; provide effective stakeholder participation in the design of national and cross-border MSP processes and sharing of good practices for the Black Sea from Bulgaria and Romania.
- [MARSPLAN BS](#) (2015-2018) was the first project on MSP in the Black Sea and as such it prepared an initial assessment and a cross-border cooperation in MSP between Bulgaria and Romania. In the initial assessment of maritime sectors in Romania and Bulgaria, the following main topics were considered: geographical boundaries, physicochemical characteristics, biological characteristics, underwater archaeology, coastal geomorphology, infrastructures, transport and energy exploitation, natural conservation, anthropogenic pressures on the coast, and existing and potential conflicts between sectors. Five [case studies](#)<sup>4</sup> and one [Maritime Spatial Plan for the marine area Mangalia-Shabla](#)<sup>5</sup> were elaborated. The MARSPLAN BS project prepared support for the national MSP legislation, MSP Methodology, MSP database and indicators, and the transboundary experimental plan between Romania and Bulgaria, in parallel with MSP Directive transposition and implementation.
- [The MARSEA Project](#) (2016-2017) involved the development of an integrated framework for marine spatial planning in Romania. The project focused on an integrated approach towards the social, economic, and ecological factors affecting the Romanian Black Sea coast via the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach to marine management. The activities of this project were structured around three components:
  - (1) Setting up the scene for MSP in Romania
  - (2) Mapping and demonstrating MSP in the pilot area - between Mamaia and Eforie Nord (wildlife distribution and human uses, current and future)
  - (3) Create an enabling environment for participatory marine and coastal resource management and capacity building.
- [The ECOAST Project](#) (2016-2018) - New methodologies for an ecosystem approach to spatial and temporal management of fisheries and aquaculture in coastal areas. This project was funded by the Cooperation in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Sea food Processing (COFASP). The overall approach assessed the impact of fisheries and aquaculture on coastal ecosystems, as well as synergies and conflicts between human activities.
- Relevant experience in cross-border planning was gained thanks to the strategic project, the [Common territorial strategy for the cross-border area Romania-Bulgaria](#), which was implemented between 2012 and 2015.
- National Programme CEMAR-NUCLEU (2014-2016) – *Conservation of the marine ecosystem and its sustainable use promotion*, was developed between 2010 and 2014, under the Ministry of Education and Science Fund (Project PN 09-320302/2010-2014, “Preparation of the information support and database updating to sustain an Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning Strategy”, Contract 32N/ 27.02.2009). In the scope of this project, habitats inventory and mapping were conducted. Some local plans were developed as case studies for the project:

<sup>3</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/biogeos/Black%20Sea.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://marsplan.ro/en/results/case-study.html>

<sup>5</sup> Maritime Spatial Plan for the Cross-Border Area Mangalia–Shabla: <http://www.marsplan.ro/en/results/maritime-spatial-plan-for-the-cross-border-area-mangalia-shabla.html>.

- Musura Bay – Sulina (land-sea interaction)
- Sinoe Lagoon (transitional waters and fisheries communities)
- Tasaul Lake - Navodari City - petrochemical Plant - navigation channel Poarta Alba – Midia (co-existence of uses)
- Techirghiol Lake – Eforie (tourism and harbour activities, measures for coast consolidation)
- Vama Veche – 2 Mai – (MPA).

It should be noted that Romania has been highly active in the field of ICZM. The development of MSP will consider the previous ICZM experiences:

- [The PlanCoast project](#) in Romania (2005-2008) implemented pilot projects to show the usefulness and strength of spatial planning instruments for effective ICZM and maritime management. The aim of the PlanCoast project was to provide best practice examples and tools for effective integrated planning in coastal zones and marine areas.
  - Sulina Study Case – the gate of Danube – Middle Branch
  - Constanta Study Case – Harbor Area
  - EEZ maritime spatial planning

PlanCoast was the first project introducing the field of Maritime Spatial Planning in Romania. Based on its first maritime map (12 nm), all subsequent maps and plans have been made possible. It contributed to the first GIS infrastructure, specialisation, and database, of the Romanian Black Sea coast.

The results of the Romanian pilot projects contributed to the [PlanCoast Handbook](#), featuring guidelines and tools for producing an integrated spatial management plan for marine areas. The most important document produced by the Romanian partners is the National Report on spatial planning in coastal and maritime areas, which highlights the implementation process of ICZM and its tools. The PlanCoast project has supported this process. The Romanian PlanCoast experience and its results provided valuable insight into the spatial planning and ICZM processes in the Romanian Black Sea coastal and marine zone. The Handbook on Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning was also translated into Romanian. The main conclusion of the PlanCoast project, which translated the Adriatic basin experience in Maritime Spatial Planning to the Black Sea, including Romania, was that the success of IMSP depends on co-operation across sectors and spatial scales.

- The National Plan for Integrated Coastal Management was developed between 2006 and 2007. The Master Plan for the Protection and Rehabilitation of the Romanian Black Sea Coast was then published in 2011. This second document sets a strategic vision for the management of Romanian coasts.
- [The PEGASO Project](#) (2010-2014) aimed to develop common approaches and tools to support integrated policies for the coastal, marine and maritime realms of the Mediterranean and Black Sea basins. PEGASO specifically referred to the Protocol for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention on ICZM, which represents a common action framework for the Contracting Parties to promote integrated coastal zone management.

## Aspects of the MSP process

### Sustainable development and growth in the maritime sector

Between 2015 and 2018 alone, the European Union has supported the region's blue economy, which represents all economic activities related to our oceans, seas or coastal areas, with more than 13 million euro. In May 2019, ministers from seven Black Sea countries – Bulgaria, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine – met in Bucharest to endorse the Common Maritime Agenda ([CMA](#)) for the Black Sea. With this, the Black Sea region joined the rest of the sea basins bordering the EU in setting a basin-wide initiative for more sustainable, economic growth.

Romania is also a member of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC/OCEMN), founded in 1992, which promotes the development and diversification of bilateral and multilateral cooperation on the basis of the principles and rules of international law, and aims to improve the business environment and promote individual and collective initiatives of the organisations and companies directly involved in the process of economic cooperation.



### Ecosystem-based approach (EBA)

Romania is interested in all aspects linked with risks, vulnerabilities, and concerns of good management for natural resources and measures for improving coastal protection and environmental conditions (consolidating the coast against strong winds and currents; diminishing impact of pollution, etc.).

The legislation in the field of nature conservation reflects the commitment to fully implement the Birds and Habitat Directives. In this context, the Romanian nature conservation legislation includes the Emergency Ordinance no. 57/2007, on the regime of natural protected areas, the conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna (Official Gazette no. 442 of 29 June 2007), which was approved by Law no. 49/2011, as well as the provisions of European Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC. Several MPAs have been established<sup>6</sup>. Pursuant to the provisions of the Environment and Climate Change Minister's Order no. 1470/2013, the administrators must draw-up annual State *Reports of the natural protected area* they manage.

A decision has been made (Order nr. 46/2016) by the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests, concerning the nomination of the protected area regime and the declaration of sites of community importance as an integrated part of the Natura 2000 network in Romania. Two new sites were designated: Viteaz Canyon and the south part of Zernov Phyllophora field (the Zernov Phyllophora field is mainly situated in Ukrainian waters).

In addition, Government Ordinance no. 18/2016 on maritime spatial planning fully recognises the importance of the ecosystem-based approach, aiming to pinpoint a balance between development needs and preservation of natural resources based on a precautionary principle.



### Resilience to climate change impacts

In Romania, the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, elaborated the National Strategy for climate change<sup>7</sup>. The strategy explains and illustrates the two key components of the climate effort: that of preventing and combating the effects of climate change and that of appropriate adaptation and minimal damage in the context of climatic changes that are already under way. In addition, the strategy provides essential data and information on climate changes that have affected, and will affect, Romania and presents data and information relevant to the contribution of each sector to GHG emissions and the way in which human activity (through production or consumption/use), together with natural processes, lead to these emissions. The strategy further proposes the types of key measures to be implemented in each sector to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change, briefly describing the global situation, which calls for consistent policies to prevent and combat climate change and its effect. Finally, it provides indicative support for the measures and policies to be adopted, using the European Structural and Investment Funds (2014-2020).

According to national legislation, the Maritime Spatial Plan will present an integrated vision of the spatial aspects of sectoral policies in the fields of economic development, maritime transport, protection of the environment and cultural heritage, energy and mineral resources, fisheries, research, and tourism.



### Land-sea interactions

According to Government Ordinance no. 18/2016, *"In the elaboration of the Maritime Spatial Plan, the competent authority will take into account the particularities of the marine regions, the current and future relevant activities and uses and their impact on the environment and natural resources as well as on land-sea interactions."* Within the MARSPLAN-BS II project the LSI concept will be detailed in a specific activity dedicated to this topic.



### Stakeholder Involvement

According to national legislation, in the process of the elaboration and implementation of the maritime spatial plan, the consultation and involvement of interested parties, competent public authorities and other interested stakeholders is ensured, by maintaining them informed from the development of the maritime spatial plan project. Furthermore, during the elaboration and implementation process the competent authorities should cooperate, as far as possible, with the competent authorities of third countries on their actions concerning maritime spatial planning in the relevant marine regions, in compliance with the national law, international conventions and agreements in force.

<sup>6</sup> For more information: <http://www.mpatlas.org/region/country/ROU/>

<sup>7</sup> Document in Romanian available here: <http://www.mmediu.ro/categorie/strategia-nationala-privind-schimbarile-climatice-rezumat/171>

The MARSPLAN-BS I, MARSPLAN-BS II and PlanCoast projects are the main references with respect to stakeholder involvement in the field of MSP. Officially, no information is available about MSP participation efforts fostered by the government and/or administration.

Within the MARSPLAN-BS II project, a questionnaire on the analysis of the tourism situation in the coastal area was developed and applied by "Ovidius" University of Constanța. One of the target groups of the questionnaire was, among others, local public authorities and economic agents that carry out activities in the coastal area. The result of this analysis will be presented within the activity regarding the tourism component of the MARSPLAN-BS II project<sup>8</sup>.

In the scope of the many international projects related to EU Directives regarding maritime space (MFSD, ICZM, Fisheries Policy, etc.), meetings on the coast and marine space have been organised with stakeholders of the main marine professional and social groups.

One of the most important methods for stakeholder involvement in the [PEGASO Project](#) (NIRD Danube Delta) is the Sketch Match Method<sup>9</sup>. This method was applied during the MARSPLAN BS stakeholder meetings under the cases study frameworks. A special case study, dedicated to stakeholders, was developed in Sfântu Gheorghe and focused on ecological aspects, mainly consulting the local communities in the field of marine fisheries, tourism, and urban development, adding conflicts evaluation between fisheries and Natura 2000.



## Co-existence of uses

The normative act transposing Directive 2014/89/EU establishes the normative framework for maritime spatial planning and aims to promote the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources.

At the same time, according to Government Decision no. 436/2018, the development of the plan will consider the following stages (among others): identification of possible conflicts and elements of compatibility between existing uses; assessment of possible conflicts and compatibility between existing uses of the maritime space; assessment of possible conflicts and the elements of compatibility between the existing uses of the maritime space and the environment; forecasting the effects determined by the current trends of the spatial and temporal needs of the existing human uses; estimating the spatial and temporal requirements for the new uses of the maritime space; selecting the optimal scenario for using the maritime space; alternative scenarios for the use of maritime space to illustrate the evolution of maritime space following planned activities based on new goals and objectives; proposals on the use of maritime space, measures identified for the implementation of the plan, conclusions and recommendations.



## Transboundary cooperation

The MARSPLAN-BS and MARSPLAN-BS II projects are the latest examples of cooperation between the competent authorities in Romania and Bulgaria in the field of maritime spatial planning.

Sustainable coastal development requires cooperation of all Black Sea bordering countries. In this respect, the Strategic Plan of Action for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea was elaborated, amended on 22-26 June 2002 (Sofia, Bulgaria). Its general objectives include: ensuring a healthy environment for the people of the Black Sea region, both from urban and rural areas; achieving marine ecosystem diversity, from a biological point of view, containing populations based on organisms with higher natural variability and viability, including marine mammals and sturgeons; and sustaining livelihoods reliant on sustainable activities such as fishing, aquaculture and tourism in all Black Sea countries.

The Romania-Bulgaria Cross-Border Cooperation Operational Programme (2007-2013), with present and future opened perspective within the new programming period (2021-2027), permitted the transboundary approach on all fields, including maritime activities. Also, the MARSPLAN I and II projects aimed to develop the MSP common strategy for the cross-border area of Bulgaria and Romania.

Communication is traditional between Black Sea countries. The Black Sea Commission is also a link concerning marine fields, including the working group of ICZM experts, currently focused on MSP. Romania is a member of the Organisation for the Economic Cooperation of the Black Sea (OCEMN), founded in 1992, which promotes the sustainable development of the Blue

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<sup>8</sup> [www.marsplan.ro](http://www.marsplan.ro)

<sup>9</sup> Sketch Match Method is an interactive planning method, conceived as a series of design sessions in which several participants (such as citizen, policy makers, and other stakeholders) analyse the spatial problem in a specific region. This way, the participants draft together plans for a specific well-defined area.

Economy and the intensification of marine and maritime cooperation. The endorsement of the [Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea](#) in May 2019 is another example of concrete transboundary cooperation in the Black Sea.



### Use of best available data

According to national legislation, in developing and implementing the maritime spatial plan, the competent authorities shall use all available official environmental data, social and economic data collected and managed by the competent authorities, as well as other relevant data and information on marine waters.

As part of data study, the best MSP data started to be compiled in the frame of the MARSPLAN BS Project. A [common database](#)<sup>10</sup> has been elaborated between Bulgaria and Romania. The datasets are structured according to a set of fields, domains, location (coast, water, air and seafloor, marine surface and underwater), sources of information, and data availability. The Marine Hydrographic Direction has participated in providing and collecting data. As part of the MARSPLAN BS II project, the database is being updated with the latest available data related to maritime activities.

Prior to that, MSP data portals were created within transboundary projects, such as the [PEGASO Spatial Data Infrastructure](#) (SDI), which provides a wide range of spatial information on the Mediterranean and Black sea, covering a wide range of topics addressing ICZM issues at different geographical scales. The [PlanCoast project](#) also aimed to promote the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS), in order to facilitate the spatial planning processes in coastal and maritime zones.

With a focus on environmental aspects, thematic maps were prepared between 2007 and 2016 for different international and national projects dedicated to the Romanian marine space by NIMRD "G.Antipa". The integrated maps were published up to 2015 in the [Environmental Status Report of marine space](#), and in the [Marine Research Journal](#) of NIMRD Grigore Antipa, Constanta 2014/2015.

Finally, the [ANEMONE Project](#) (2014-2020), through collaborative efforts among partners, intends to elaborate a common strategy related to the Joint Monitoring of the Black Sea, using the most adequate common agreed assessment criteria and indicators, in order to assess the status of the Black Sea, as a basis for further actions. The specific project results will contribute to an increased level of availability of environmental data and information, being related to:

- Improved understanding of the knowledge gap and further needs.
- Common agreed methodologies for monitoring, new tools and indicators for integrative assessment of the ecological status, based on Harmonized Black Sea Monitoring and Assessment Guidance (BSMAG).
- Quality controlled and comparable data sets for the Black Sea environmental status assessment, collected in the framework of specific pilot monitoring studies in selected study areas.
- Collected new data on chemical contamination of aquatic organisms and potential risks, thus filling knowledge gaps identified for Black Sea region.
- Case studies on beach litter and dolphins will represent the ground of the educational and awareness raising campaigns.

<sup>10</sup> For more information: <http://www.marsplan.ro/en/>

## Coherence with other processes

### Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC has been transposed into Romanian national legislation by the Regulation on the protection of the environment in marine waters, through the Emergency Governmental Ordinance 71/2010. It has been adopted as Law 6/2011. In 2012 there was an initial assessment on the state of the marine environment, including a socio-economic analysis. The definition of the GES and the establishment of environmental targets in the BNS was possible in line with the Commission Decision on the common criteria and methodological standards (2010/477/EU).

In 2017, a [Romanian report](#) set a series of measures that were proposed in the framework of the MSFD. One of the new measures proposed was to harmonise the Marine Spatial Planning and the Zonal Urban Plan to support the protection and preservation measures of species and habitats.

### Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)

Romania is the only Black Sea country, and one of the few worldwide, which has a special legal and institutional framework for ICZM, and was involved in several ICZM projects, some of which included transboundary countries (e.g. [PlanCoast Project](#), [PEGASO Project](#)).

Until 2014, MSP was considered a part of ICZM approaches. National legislation on ICZM and dedicated institutional framework exist since 2002, first as Emergency Ordinance 202 in December 2002, later modified and changed to ICZM Law 280/2003. The legislation stipulates the tasks and responsibilities of the relevant central and local authorities and institutions, and clarifies ICZM aims and requirements<sup>11</sup>.

A National Committee of the Coastal Zone (NCCZ), under the responsibility of the Romanian Ministry of Environment, was established in 2004. Since its creation all coastal and marine initiatives (private or official/authorities) for development and infrastructures are discussed and approved by the National Committee of the Coastal Zone. The Technical Secretariat of NCCZ is based on the National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa”, headquartered in Constanta, and operates via its 6 thematic working groups, focused on: delineation of the coastal zone, urbanism and spatial planning; coastal protection; technical and legal assistance; ICZM policies, strategies and action plans; monitoring and surveillance; information and communication.

Members of NCCZ represent key stakeholder groups such as the relevant ministries, coastal municipalities, the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration, research institutes, NGOs, and other significant stakeholders. The main task of the NCCZ is to endorse plans and studies regarding integrated coastal zone management and local and regional spatial planning, as well as assess the environmental impact of activities in the coastal zone. Besides implementing the EU ICZM recommendation, it also aims to facilitate the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, MSFD, NATURA 2000 and other water related marine directives (e.g. fisheries and MSP).

A preliminary ICZM strategy was elaborated in 2007, at the request of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, but have been in the process of stakeholder consultation, along with action plans, since 2014 (MEWF - Romanian Water National Administration – Dobrogea Littoral Branch and NCCZ).

## Cooperation with third countries

The Ministry of Public Works, Development and Administration of Romania argued for the strengthening of cooperation with the Black Sea third countries both within the MARSPLAN-BS II project and within the process of elaboration and implementation of the Maritime Spatial Plan.

At the same time, Romania is cooperating on the topic of MSP with third countries in the Black Sea region, through the Black Sea Basin Directorate, the Organisation of Black Sea Economic Cooperation and the [Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution](#). Romania’s Plan could be developed as part of a cross-border Maritime Spatial Plan of the Black Sea. Romania is also part of the Bucharest Convention, or the Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution, which was signed in Bucharest in April 1992 between 6 countries of the Black Sea: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.

The Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Programme 2017-2013 allowed for collaboration between Black Sea countries. A programme was launched between 2014 and 2020 through [the ANEMONE Project](#), a Black Sea cross border cooperation project involving Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Ukraine. The project aims to deliver, through collaborative efforts among

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<sup>11</sup> Claudia Coman (Black Sea Coastal Centre): Integrated coastal zone management in Romania, (Climate of Coastal Cooperation, EUCC, 2011) <http://www.coastalcooperation.net/part-1/l-3-1.pdf>, accessed on 04/09/2014

partners, a common strategy related to the Joint Monitoring of the Black Sea, using the most adequate common agreed assessment criteria and indicators, in order to assess the status of the Black Sea, as a basis for further actions.

The endorsement of the [Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea](#) in May 2019 is the latest example of concrete transboundary cooperation in the Black Sea.

# Sources

## References

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Common strategic framework for MSP - <http://marsplan.ro/en/results/common-strategic-framework-for-msp.html>;

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Deloitte (2018), The contribution of Black Sea oil & gas projects to the development of the Romanian economy, online at [https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/ro/Documents/ImpRepOffshoreProjects\\_ENG.PDF](https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/ro/Documents/ImpRepOffshoreProjects_ENG.PDF)

## Relevant legislative acts

- Government Ordinance no. 18/2016 on Maritime Spatial Planning, approved by Law no. 88/2017;
- Government Decision no. 406/2017 for the approval of the Regulation on the organization, functioning and nominal composition of the Maritime Spatial Planning Committee;
- Government Decision no. 436/2018 for the approval of the Methodology for elaborating the Maritime Spatial Plan;
- Water Law no. 107/1996, amended and supplemented with followed rules;
- Government Decision No. 188/2002 for the approval of some norms regarding the conditions for discharging wastewater into the aquatic environment;
- Minister's Order No. 1618/2000 for the Approval of representative sections in the frame of National System for water quality survey;
- Government Decision No. 201/2002, amended by GD 467/2006 concerning the Technical quality of shellfish waters;
- Law no. 280/2003, approving The Emergency Order of the Government no. 202/2002 for ICZM;
- Government Decision No. 459/2002 regarding the Technical standards for water quality from natural areas nominated as bathing waters;
- Law No. 292/2018 on assessing the impact of certain public and private projects on the environment;
- Government Decision no.1015/2004 regarding the approval of The organization and functioning regulation for the National Coastal Zone Management Committee;
- Government Decision no. 898/2004 for the approving of the Instructions for the groundwater exploitation and of the areas between fresh and salty waters interface;
- Government Decision no. 317/2004 regarding the use of coastal wetlands known as anchorage areas;
- Common Order no. 1/217/182/2004 of the Minister of Environment and Water, Minister of Transport, Constructions and Tourism and Minister of Administration and Internship, for the approval and functioning of the Operative Committee of Marine Remediation;
- Order no.374/2004 of Minister of Environment and Water for the approval of The Action Plan for the Romanian Black Sea Cetaceans Conservation;
- Government Decision no. 546/2004 to be approve of the methodology for the delimitation of the state public domain in the coastal zone;
- Common Order no.38/1044/671/2004 of the Minister of Environment and Water, Minister of Transport, Constructions and Tourism and Minister for Health for the approving of the Code of conduct for recreational activities in the coastal area;
- Emergency Ordinance no.196/2005 on the Environment Fund;

- Government Decision no.893/2006 amending the Government Decision no. 1593/2002 on approving the National Plan for preparing, response and cooperation in case of marine pollution by hydrocarbons;
- Emergency Ordinance no. 195/2005 on environmental protection;
- Order No. 1888/27.11.2007 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development for the organohalogenated and heavy metals list of substances approving and also for their maximum allowable limits in water and sediment substrate;
- Order no. 1964/2007 on the establishment of the protected natural area regime of sites of Community importance, as an integral part of the European ecological network Natura 2000 in Romania;
- Emergency ordinance no 51/08.06.2011, regarding the juridical regime of internal maritime waters, of territorial sea, of contiguous and Economic Exclusive Zone of Romania, up dated after Law no Legea no 17/1990, republished in M.Of no 765/21 October 2002;
- Order no. 46/2016 regarding the creation of the protected areas regime and the establishment of sites of Community importance as part of the Natura 2000 ecological EU network in Romania;