Ecosystem-based MSP Assessment tool

EB-MSP knowledge and guidance

MarinePlan

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Funded by
the European Union

UKRI

MarinePlan – Final Event

29-30th September 2025

Online

Alignment of MSP process with EBA principles

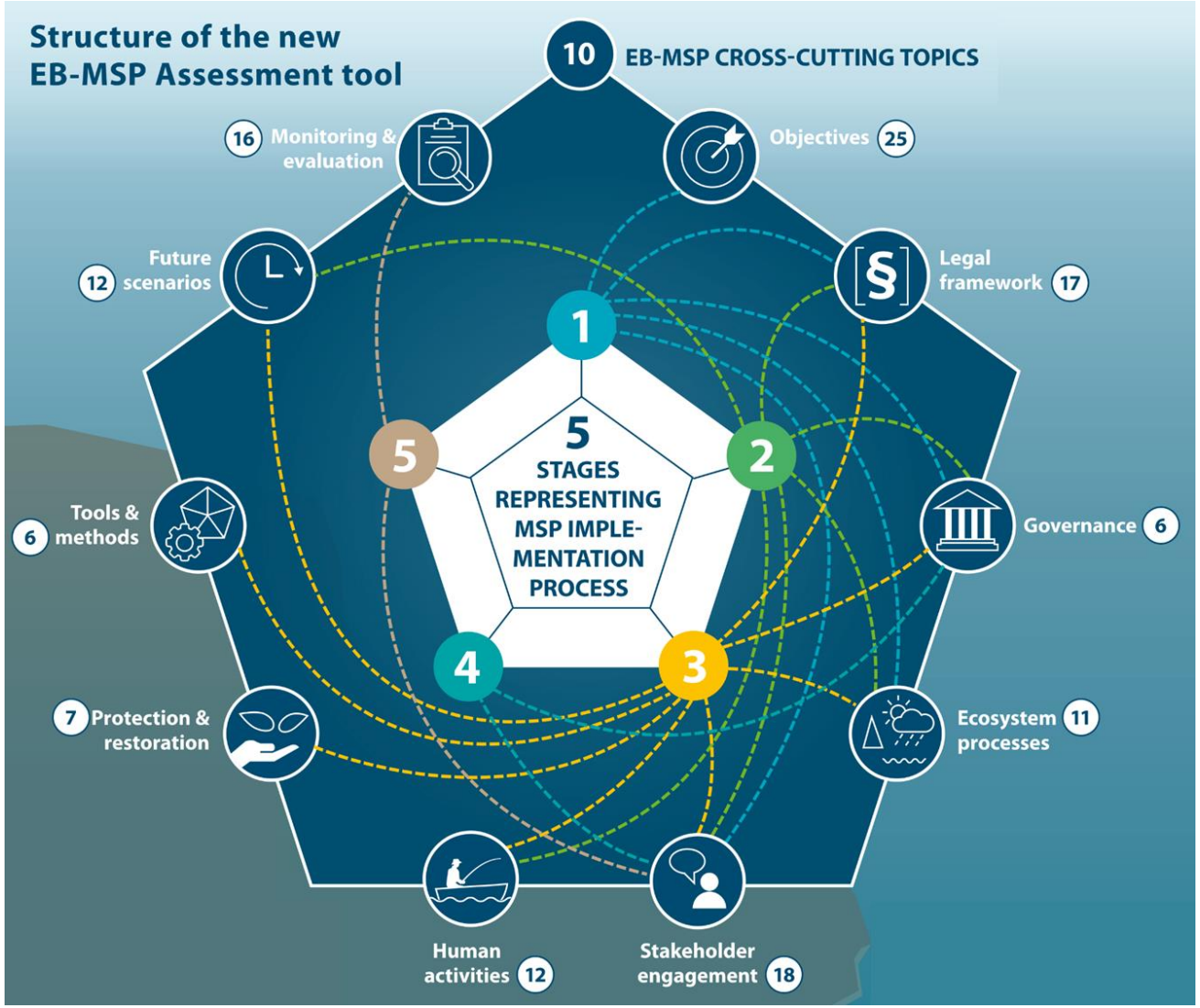
Ecosystem-based marine spatial planning (EB-MSP) is a holistic approach to MSP

Despite the recognition of its benefits, **EB-MSP is generally not fully implemented** in management plans

Current national MSP processes tend to emphasize specific issues and planning objectives, driving **context-specific approaches**

Aiming at promoting the capacity building of competent authorities and consultants, **a novel framework and tool is proposed** for assessing the alignment of MSP processes with EBA principles and to guide its operationalization

EB-MSP assessment tool structure



130 tasks/actions to be addressed during MSP implementation process covering 10 cross-cutting topics

Six fields of information for each task/action (benchmarking):

- Implementation degree
- Relevance of each task/action
- Knowledge base (monitoring, expert knowledge…)
- Respondent confidence
- Implemented approaches, methods and tools
- Justification and additional comments

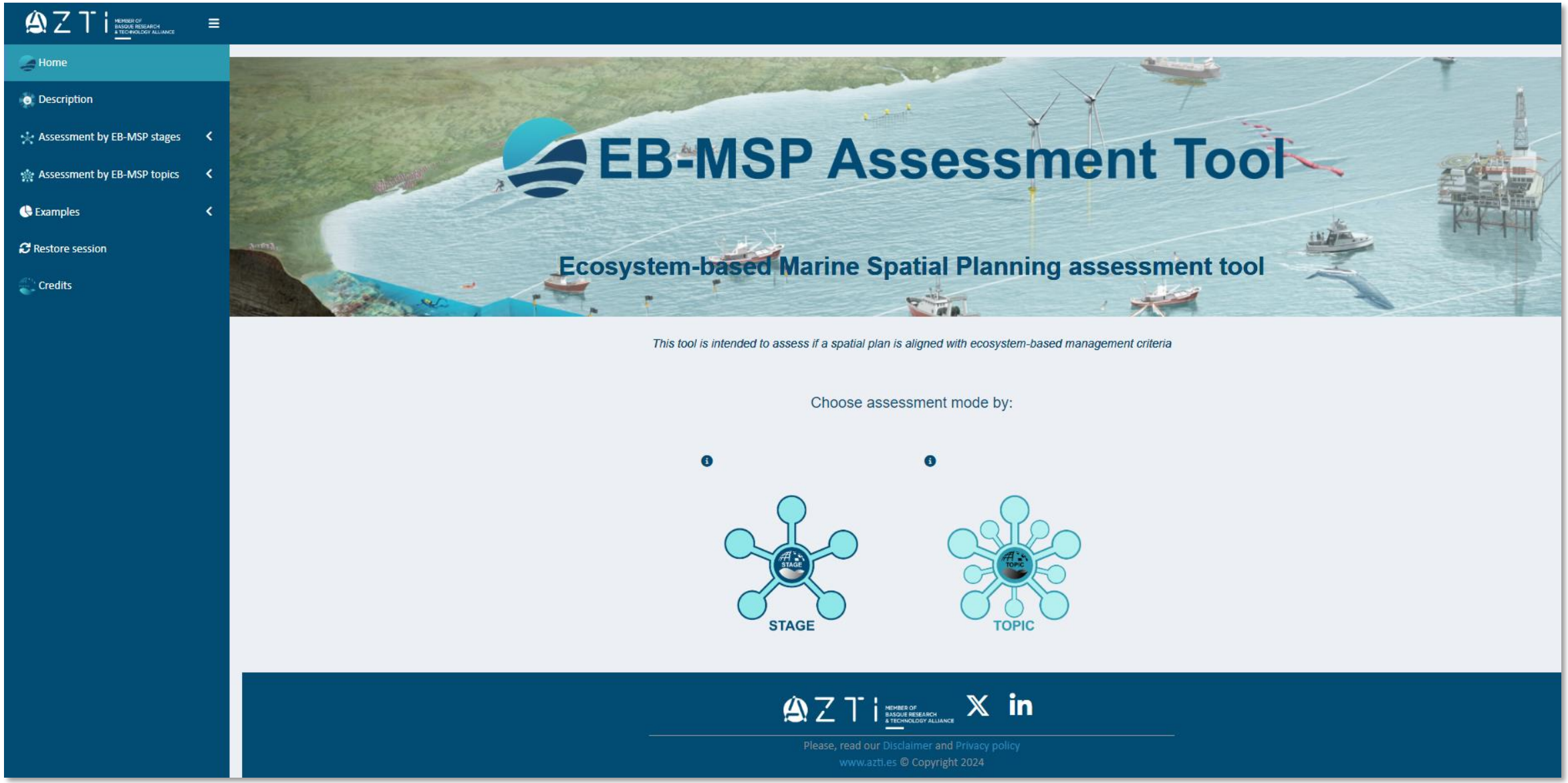
Consideration of high-level stakeholders' needs

Based on **experiences in EB-MSP implementation and their needs**

Country	N° attendees
Spain	9
France	2
United Kingdom	5
Germany	5
Belgium	1
The Netherlands	2
Denmark	1
Ireland	3
Greece	2
Italy	4
EU representatives	2
TOTAL	36

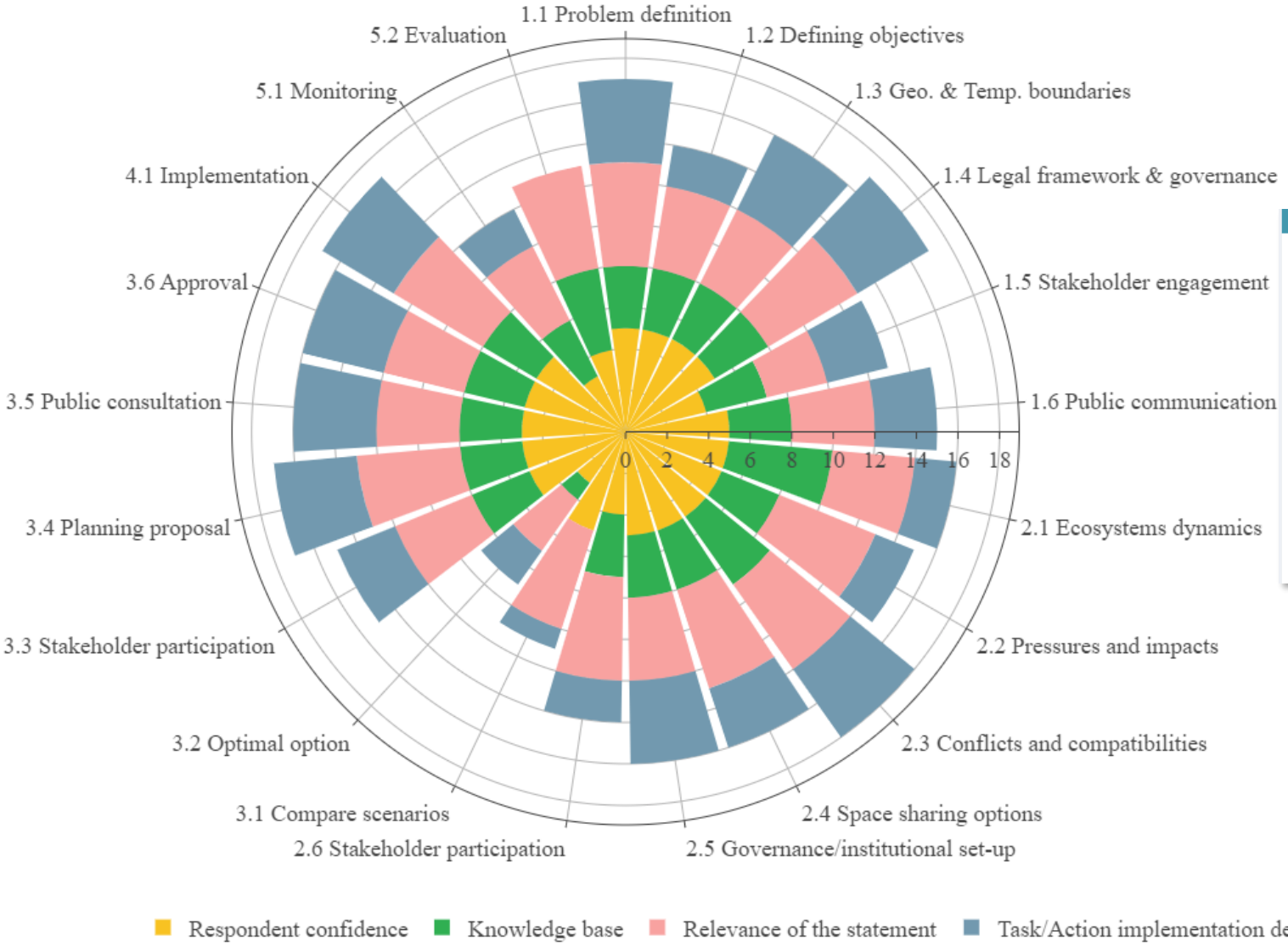
Workshop with high-level stakeholders (December 2023)

https://aztidata.es/EB-MSP



Assessment results by planning process stages

Example of assessment results for Stage 1 of the planning process



Responses table

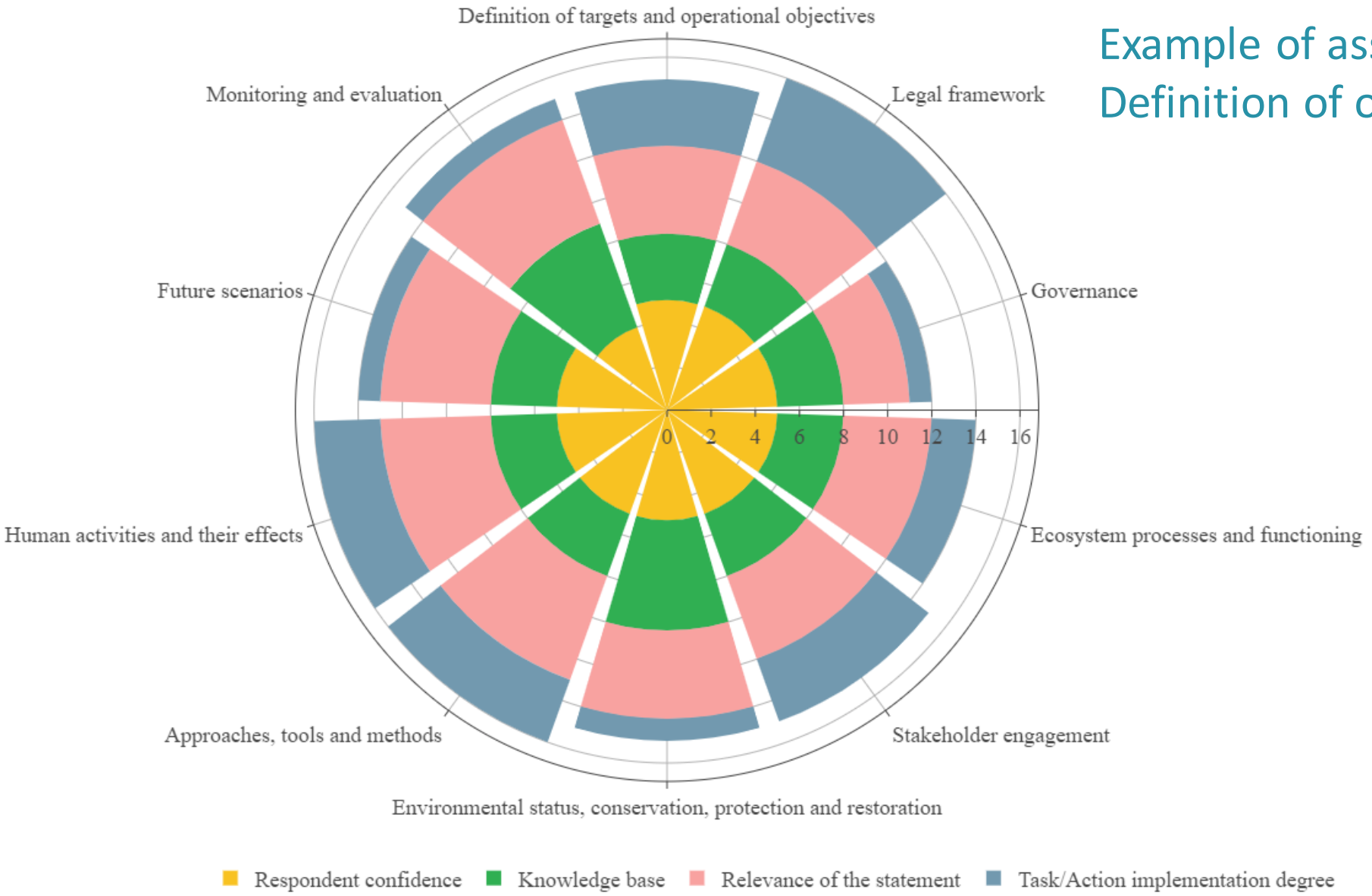
Topic 1

XLSX

Nº	MSP Stage	MSP SubStage	EB-MSP topic	Task/Action	Implementation degree	Respondent confidence	Task/Action relevance	Knowledge base
1 Go	Defining	1.1 Identification of the problem(s) that MSP can solve (problem definition)	Definition of targets and operational objectives	MSP vision is built on clear narratives which are confined by spatial and temporal boundaries	3: Partially addressed. It could be acknowledged that it is not properly addressed and that it could be improved in subsequent revisions of the Plan	4: Fairly confident: Based on consultation with competent authority	4: Very relevant	4: Monitoring data, measures and/or empirical data
2 Go	Defining	1.1 Identification of the problem(s) that MSP can solve (problem definition)	Definition of targets and operational objectives	The need to maintain the balance between ecosystem protection and long-term sustainable use of marine areas, resources and services is acknowledged	3: Partially addressed. It could be acknowledged that it is not properly addressed and that it could be improved in subsequent revisions of the Plan	4: Fairly confident: Based on consultation with competent authority	4: Very relevant	4: Monitoring data, measures and/or empirical data
3 Go	Defining	1.1 Identification of the problem(s) that MSP can solve (problem definition)	Definition of targets and operational objectives	Sustainable development is prioritised	2: Partially addressed. It could be acknowledged	5: Completely confident: The response is extracted from official documents and I am confident	3: Moderately relevant	3: Based on consensus of expert groups and/or agreements
4 Go	Defining	1.1 Identification of the problem(s) that MSP can solve (problem definition)	Definition of targets and operational objectives	The need to implement an ecosystem approach to management is clearly specified	3: Partially addressed. It could be acknowledged that it is not properly addressed and that it could be improved in subsequent revisions of the Plan	4: Fairly confident: Based on consultation with competent authority	4: Very relevant	4: Monitoring data, measures and/or empirical data

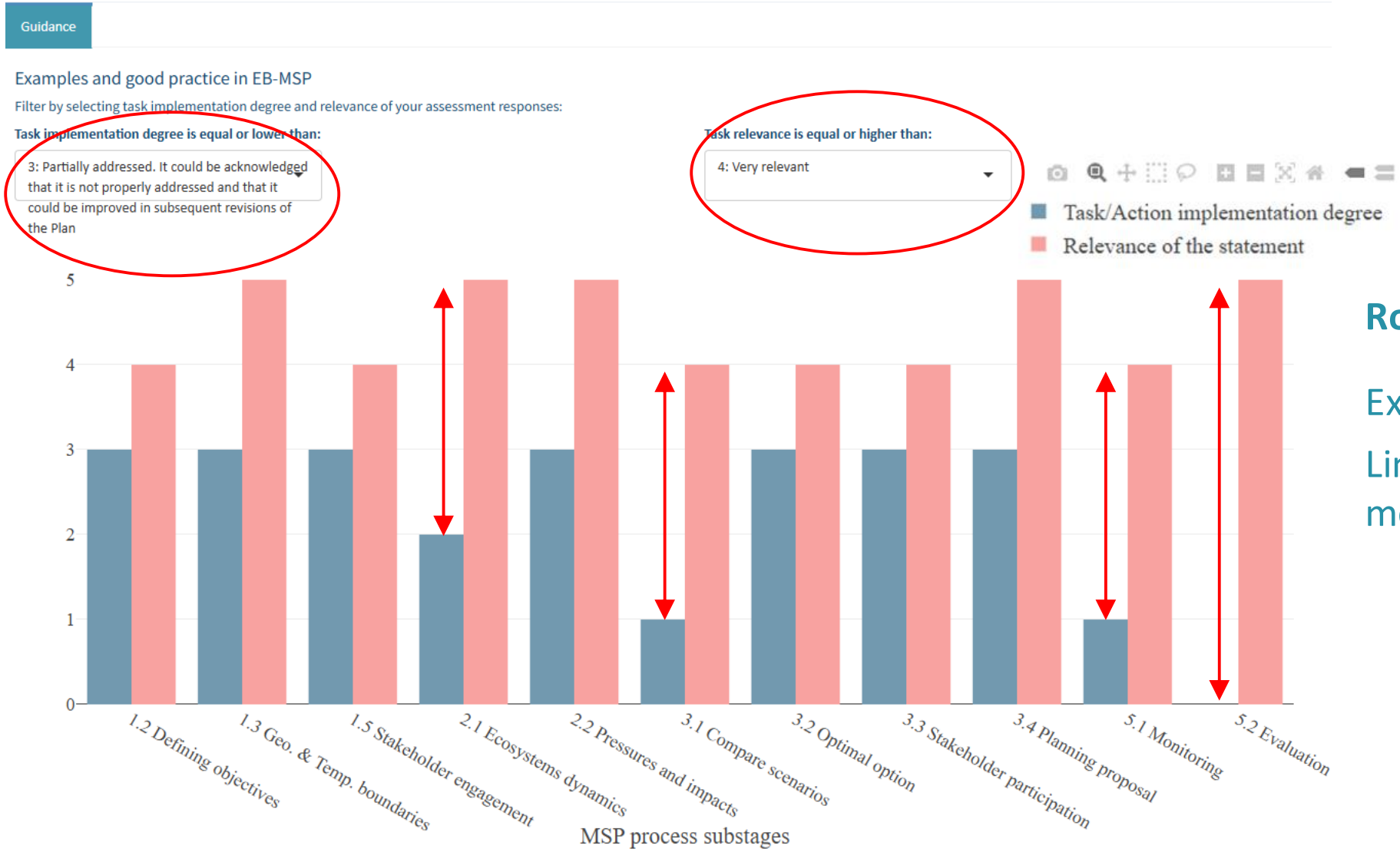
Interactive graph
Downloadable (image file, Excel)

Assessment results by cross-cutting topics



Example of assessment results for the Definition of objectives and targets

Strategic guidance and technical solutions

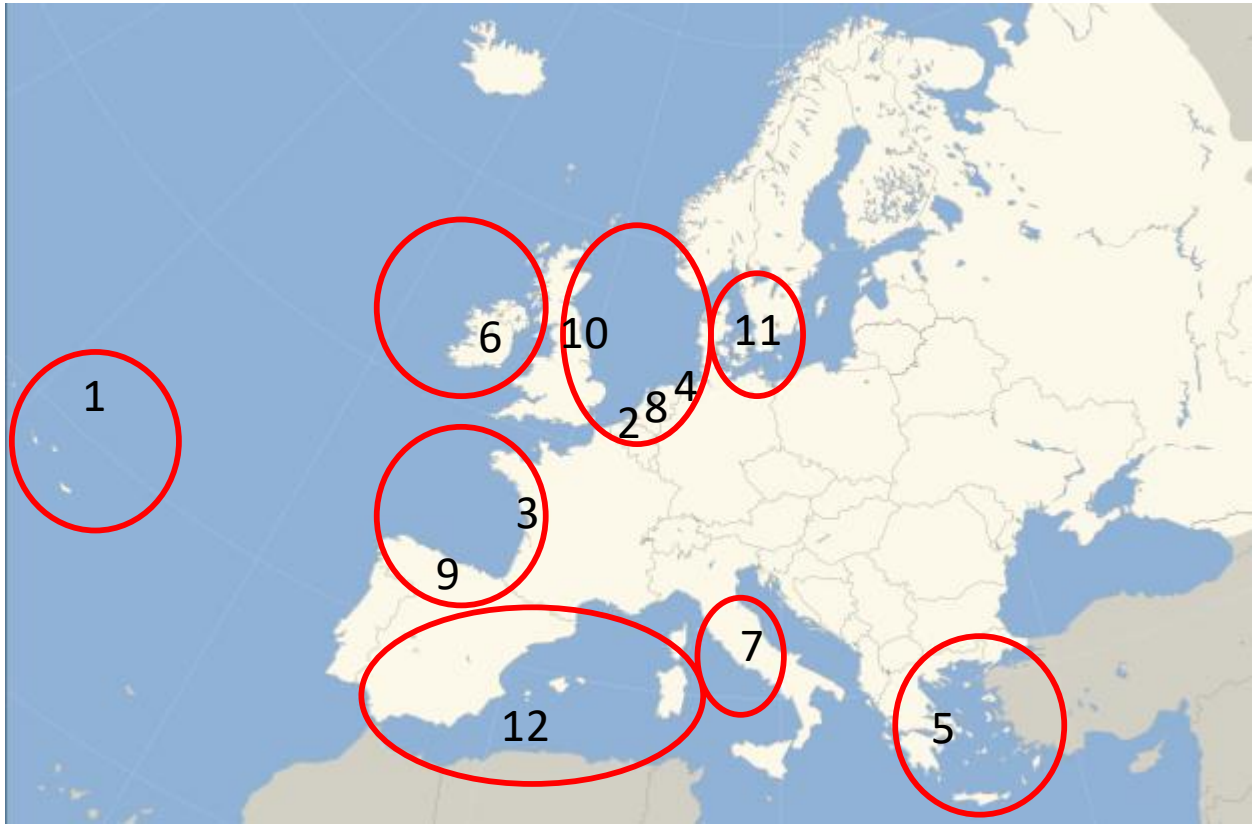


Room for improvement:

Examples of good practices

Links to approaches and methods

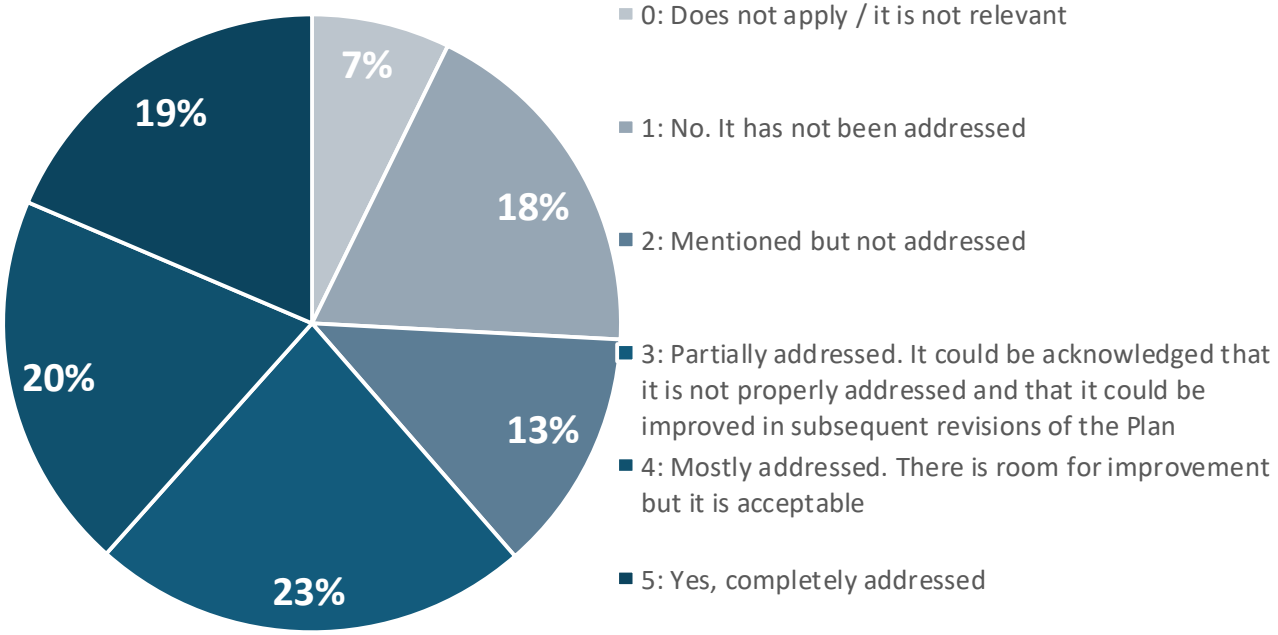
Assessment of the EB-MSP process across EU countries



1. Azores
2. Belgium
3. France
4. Germany
5. Greece
6. Ireland
7. Italy
8. Netherlands
9. Spain
10. UK
11. Western Baltic Sea
12. Western Mediterranean Sea

EB-MSP in EU countries: Synthesis of the assessment results

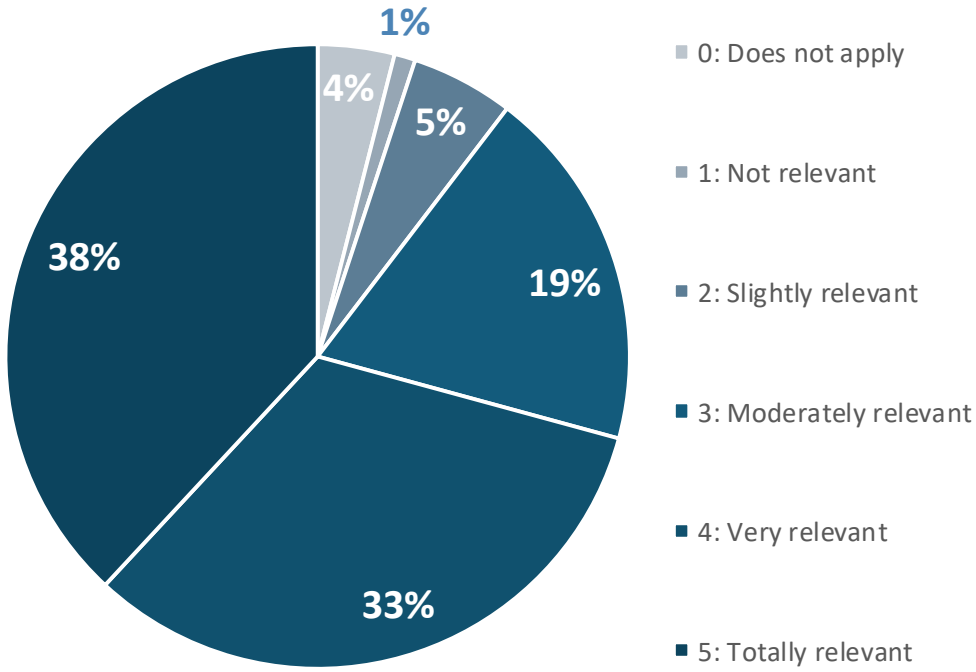
Implementation degree of actions and tasks related to EB-MSP



62% of the tasks were completely, mostly or partially addressed

31% have not been addressed

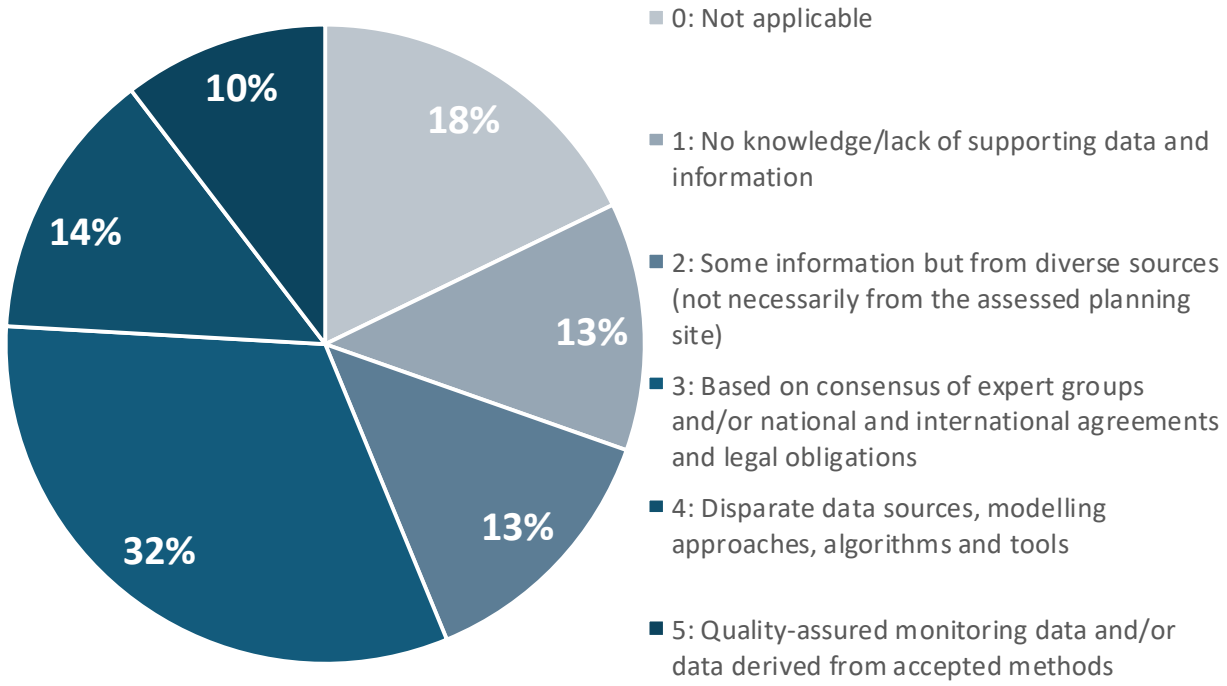
Relevance of the actions and tasks for the planning area



71% of the tasks are reported to be very or totally relevant for the planning site

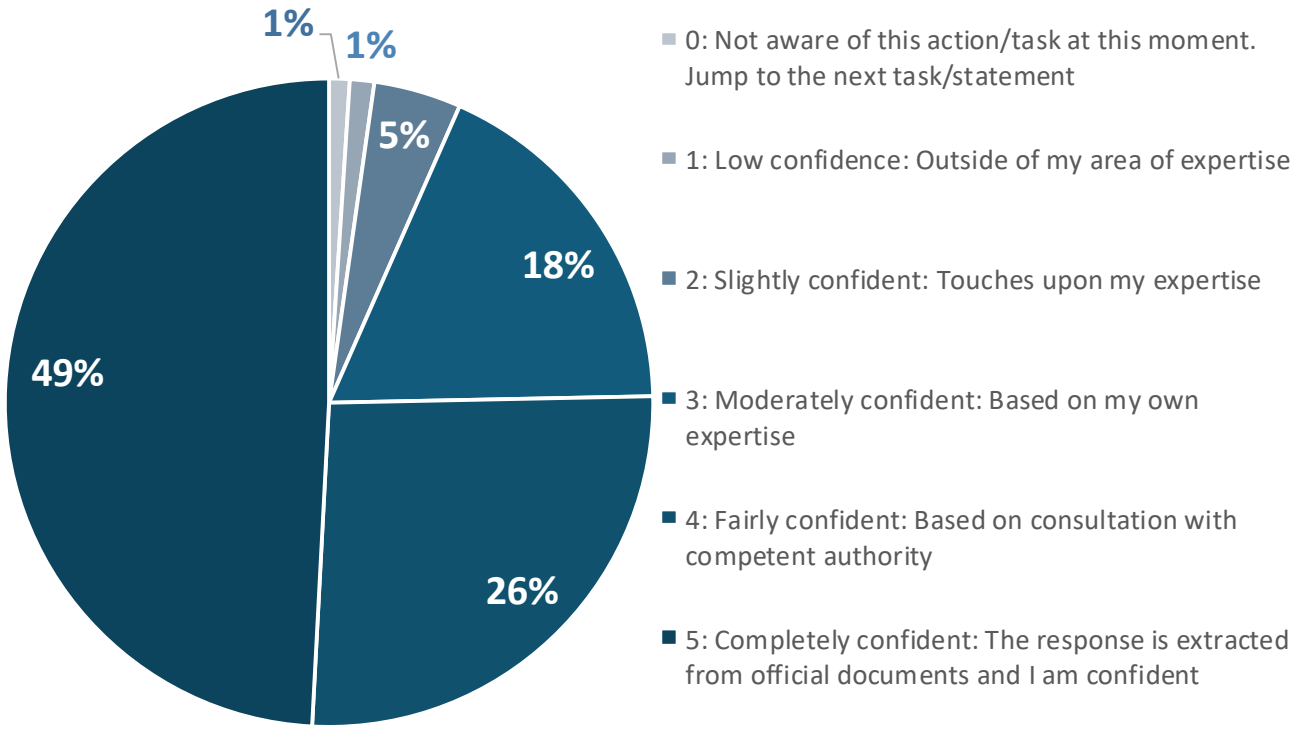
EB-MSP in EU countries: Synthesis of the assessment results

Knowledge base. Type of information used during the planning processes



Diverse data and information sources were used during the planning processes

Respondent confidence



Respondents were fairly or completely confident in 75% of the responses given

Assessment of the EB-MSP process across EU countries

Task/action implementation degree

0: Does not apply / it is not relevant

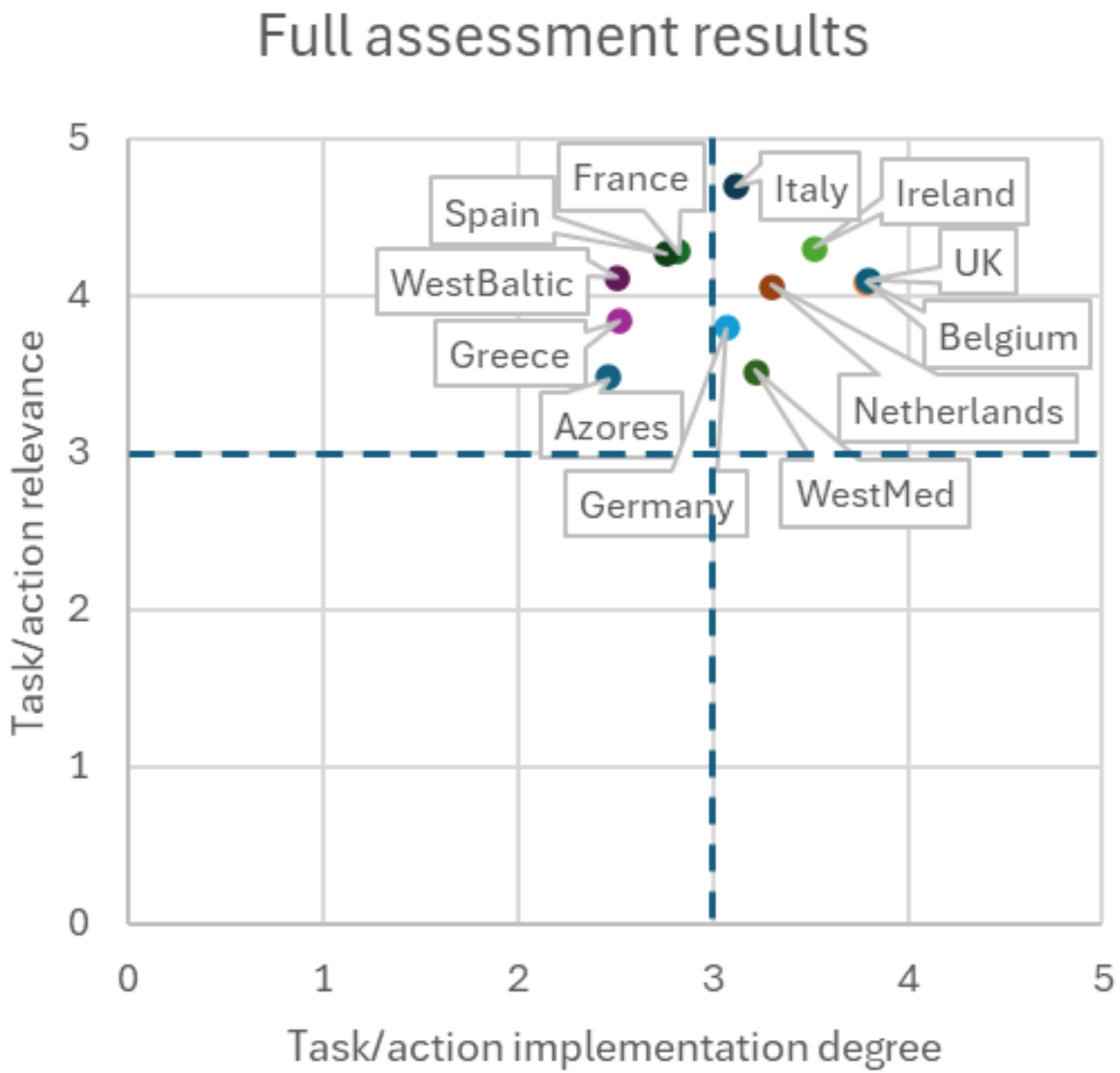
1: It has not been addressed

2: Mentioned but not addressed

3: Partially addressed. It could be acknowledged that it is not properly addressed and that it could be improved in subsequent revisions of the Plan

4: Mostly addressed. There is room for improvement but it is acceptable

5: Completely addressed



Task/action relevance

0: Does not apply

1: Not relevant

2: Slightly relevant

3: Moderately relevant

4: Very relevant

5: Totally relevant

Conclusions

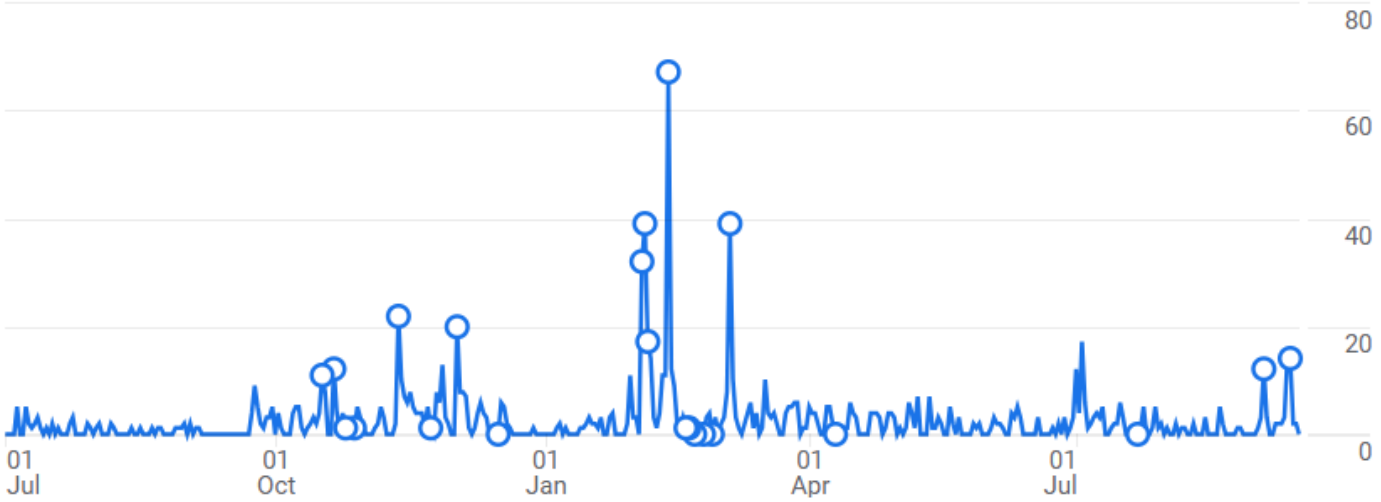
The EB-MSP assessment tool enables the assessment of national spatial plans:

Evaluation the overall **coherence with EB-MSP** in the context of management

Identification of gaps for future revision of the plans and adaptive management

The assessment framework and tool enable **strategic guidance and technical solutions** based on best practices to deliver a comprehensive EB-MSP

Who is using the assessment tool?



761 users

58 countries

Video tutorial

https://youtu.be/VIM0jrqoe4g

Access to the tool:

https://aztidata.es/EB-MSP

Further information at:

communications earth & environment

Article

https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-024-01975-7

Assessment tool addresses implementation challenges of ecosystem-based management principles in marine spatial planning processes

Check for updates

Ibon Galparsoro[1] ✉, Natalia Montero[1], Gotzon Mandiola[1], Iratxe Menchaca[1], Ángel Borja[1], Wesley Flannery[2], Stelios Katsanevakis[3], Simonetta Fraschetti[4,5], Erika Fabbrizzi[4,5], Michael Elliott[6,7], Maria Bas[8], Steve Barnard[6], GerJan Piet[9], Sylvaine Giakoumi[10], Maren Kruse[11], Ben McAteer[2], Robert Mzungu Runya[12], Olga Lukyanova[1], Telmo Morato[13,14], Annaïk Van Gerven[15], Steven Degraer[15], Stefan Neuenfeldt[16] & Vanessa Stelzenmüller[11]

https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-024-01975-7

Thank you!

A framework and tool for assessing ecosystem-based marine spatial planning

Ibon Galparsoro (igalparsoro@azti.es)
N. Montero, G. Mandiola, I. Menchaca, Á. Borja, E. Fabbrizzi, M. Bas, W. Flannery, R. Mzungu Runya, S. Giakoumi, M. Kruse, B. McAteer, G. Piet, S. Fraschetti, T. Morato, S. Degraer, M. Elliott, S. Barnard, S. Katsanevakis, S. Neuenfeldt, O. Lukyanova, and V. Stelzenmüler

@IbonGalparsoro
@MarinePlanEBMSP

Improved transdisciplinary science for effective ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning and conservation in European Seas

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https://aztidata.es/EB-MSP

Funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme HORIZON- CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-12 under grant agreement No 101059407 and by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under the UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee grant numbers 10038951 & 10050537. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the authors only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or UK Research and Innovation. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.