



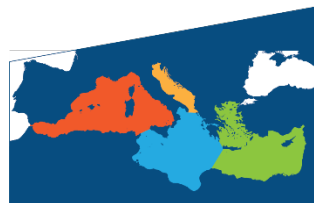
Activity 7

Operational assessment of GES setting at sub-regional level: pilot analyses of processes, alternatives and implications

12th February 2020, Rome

Activity Leader: ISPRA, Dr Saša Raicevich (sasa.raicevich@isprambiente.it)

Participants: IEO; IzVRS; NIB; IZOR; Italian Ministry of Env.; Slovenia Min Env.; Croatia Min Env.; Greek Min Env.; HCMR, NKUA; AZTI; IFREMER; CORILA-OGS-UNIVE; Univ. Salento; INFO/RAC.



MEDREGION

SUPPORT MEDITERRANEAN MEMBER STATES TOWARDS
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
NEW GES DECISION AND PROGRAMMES OF MEASURES
AND CONTRIBUTE TO REGIONAL/SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION

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Activity 7 - objectives

- O7.1: Develop a common framework to ensure coordination and comparability of results from pilot studies.
- O7.2: Develop a pilot study on sub-regional approach to GES in the Adriatic Sea.
- O7.3: Develop a pilot study on sub-regional approach to GES in the Western Mediterranean Sea.
- O7.4: Extract and document lessons learnt from pilots producing a practical implementation guidance to GES assessment at sub-regional level.

Main outcomes of Activity 7

Expected outcomes:

The main outcome of Activity 7 will consist of a **practical implementation guidance based on the transparent documentation and analysis of the implication of various hypothesis to the definition of GES and its assessment** (in a subset of “Biodiversity Cluster” and **Pollution Cluster” related descriptors/indicators**) as carried out at sub-regional scale.

The guidance will build on the experience gained in the pilot activities, and will include both technical- and policy-related issues.

In detail, it will address and document the role and implication of multiple factors including:

- institutional levels and policies objectives;
- indicators, metrics, data availability, sources and flow;
- (spatial) aggregation methods (e.g., NEAT software or others, etc.).

It is expected that **Activity 7 will contribute to facilitating the process of establishing a future consistent sub-regional assessment of GES** (and related thresholds and measures) in relation to the considered indicators and descriptors, as well as potential common PoMs.



- Task 7.1: Common framework for the two pilot studies to ensure coordination and comparability of results (M1-21)

Task Leader: ISPRA

Participants: IEO, HCMR, AZTI, IFREMER, IzVRS, NKUA, Italian Ministry of Env.; Slovenia Min Env.; Croatia Min Env.; Greek Min Env

- Task 7.1 will be aimed at ensuring the coordination and comparability of the pilots along the whole project life, taking into account in particular their coordination with other Activities providing methods, but also disseminating benefits from the outcomes of Activity 7 actions.
- This task will ensure the functional comparability of approaches and methods used to assess the outcomes of the pilots.



- Task 7.2 Adriatic Sea PILOT (M1-21)



Task Leader: ISPRA

Participants: IzVRS; NIB; IZOR; Italian Ministry of Env.; Slovenia Min Env.; Croatia Min Env.; Greek Min Env., HCMR, NKUA; AZTI; CORILA-OGS-UNIVE; Univ. Salento.

- Pilot activities will focus on the “Biodiversity cluster” (i.e. assessment of selected criteria within **D1, and D6 linked/influenced by anthropogenic pressures**) and “Pollution cluster” (selected criteria within **D8 and D10**).

- Task 7.3 Western Mediterranean Sea PILOT (M1-21)

Task Leader: Itziar Álvarez Ellacuría (IEO)

Participants: IFREMER, ICM, AZTI, ISPRA

- Pilot will focus on **D1, D4, and D6 - D5 and selected criteria from D8**.



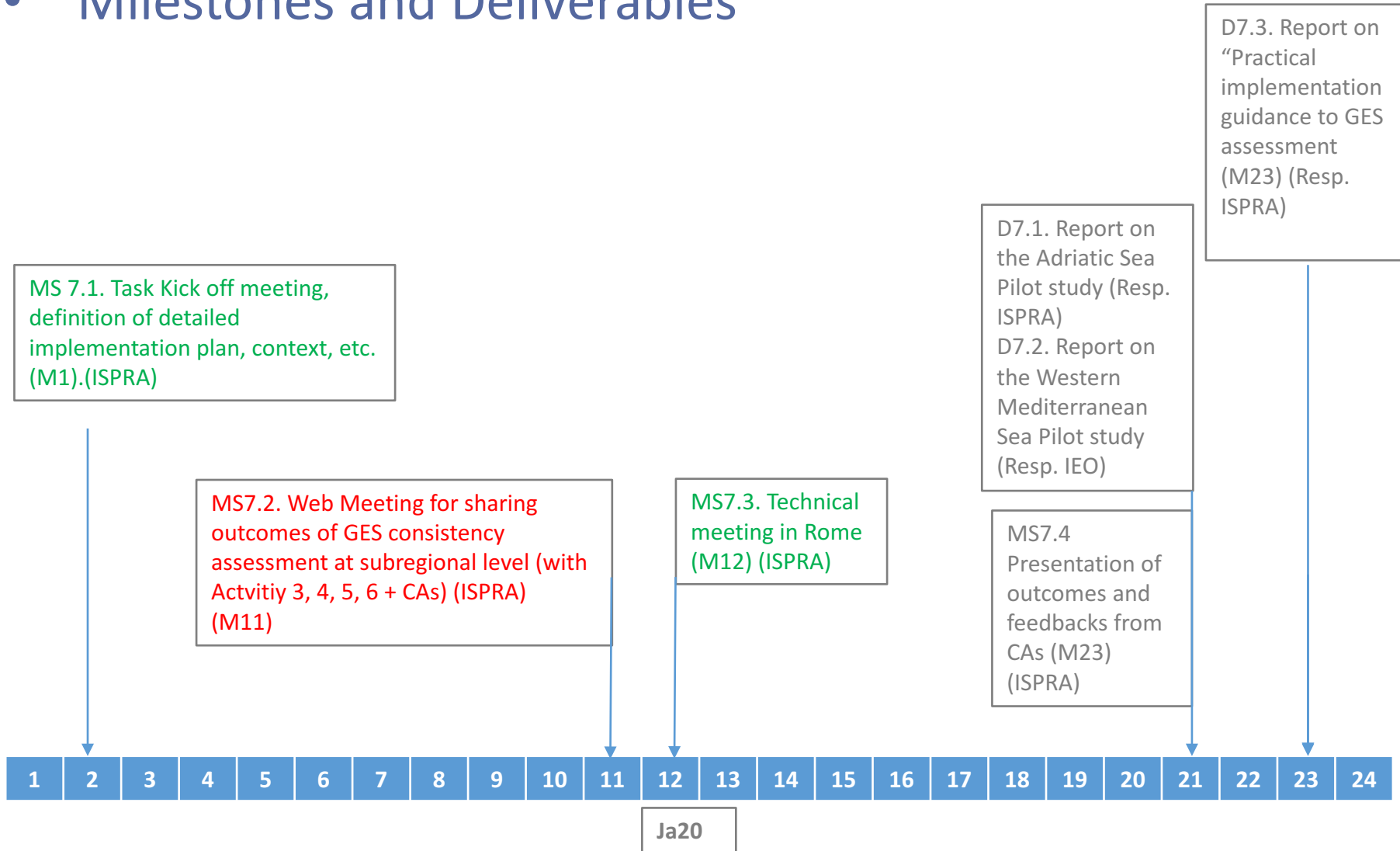
- Task 7.4 Lessons learnt from consistent sub-regional approaches (M18-23).

Task Leader: ISPRA

Participants. ISPRA; IEO; IzVRS; NIB; IZOR; Italian Ministry of Env.; Slovenia Min. Env.; Croatia Min Env.; Greek Min. Env., HCMR, NKUA; AZTI; CORILA-OGS-UNIVE; Univ. Salento; Info-RAC.

- Assess the general implications of lessons learnt from the pilot studies, in terms of their contributions to the overall pragmatic implementation of MSFD from subregional to regional levels.
- Build a synthesis as a practical implementation guidance to GES assessment: lessons learnt from exploring approaches at sub-regional level.

Milestones and Deliverables



Foreseen difficulties (from interim report Activity 7):



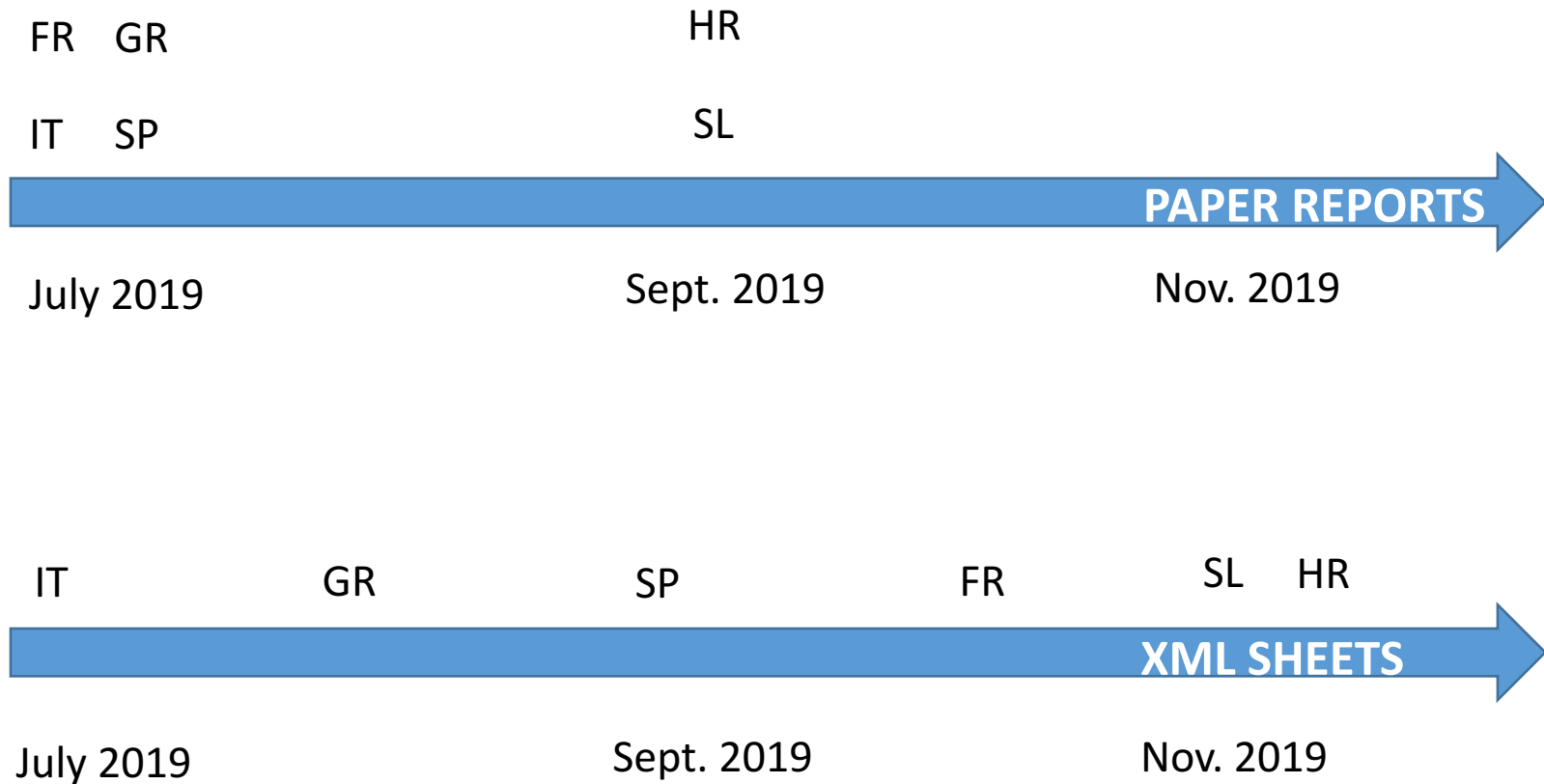
Foreseen difficulties (from interim report Activity 7):

The main risk in the short term is the **potential unavailability of official documentation on GES approach from MS**. A first assessment shows that, potentially, such **documentation could not be available soon**, at least for some countries, **thus slowing down the process of comparison**. This potential drawback could be mitigated by ad hoc agreements within the consortium about the use of MS documentation. In this regard, we foresee to shift the deadline of the new Milestone (7.2) we introduced in the revision of the inception report from M8 to M11, to allow time for sharing/analyzing official MSs documentation on GES.

Another, more subtle risk, is that the **lack of consistency in MS approaches to GES (as well as potential imbalance/unavailability of data) could strongly reduce room for comparison of GES assessment at (sub) regional level**, restricting the elaborations and tests foreseen in Activity 7 to a very small number/typology of criteria/descriptors. Such condition should be identified by M12, so that any it will be possible (if needed) to revise program and approaches.



Foreseen timeline/What happened?



Actual issues (Activity 7):

- lack availability of official datasets for (sub)regional pilots (a part from some datasets in WMS + Italian data);
- lack of formal finalization of MS reporting/postponed availability of documentation;
- language issues in official reporting;
- different approaches to reporting (so that some level of information and definitions are not consistent).

Activities 7 so far:

Three ongoing parallel approaches:

- 1. GES DB construction** (for comparison of national approach to GES and selection of “most promising criteria/indicators) – started on July;
- 2. Coordination with IEO** in relation to the development of **pilots in WMS and Adriatic**, in particular with a **focus on preliminary selection of Biodiversity indicators (D1/D4)**;
- 3. Share information, documentation on approach and info gaps** with Activity 5 and 6 (e.g. documentation on D5/D8; Data issues);

1. GES DATABASE CONSTRUCTION

1. XML official reporting files

- ✓ Croatia (EN), France (FR), Italy (IT), Spain (SP)

2. MS Paper reports

- ✓ Slovenia (SL), France (FR), Italy (IT), Spain (SP), Greece (GR), Cyprus (ENG)

3. Excel table with sub-set of information

- ✓ Greece, Slovenia, Spain

Descriptor/GES - Criteria/Features/Elements/Indicator/Metrics/Unit of measures/Thresholds
Marine Reporting Units/Data/ Aggregation and GES analytical estimation

Descriptor	D1, D3, D4, D6 D5, D8, D10
GES Component	Descriptor, Criteria
GES Description	
GES Features	Species, Habitats, Ecosystems (Pressures)
Marine Reporting Unit	

1. GES DATABASE CONSTRUCTION – Reporting and data availability

MS	Subregion				Documentation/Data availability			
	WMS	Adr	ISCM	LEV	Paper Report_Language	XML GES	GES DB	DATA
Spain	X				Spanish	Spanish	Yes	GSA06 - MED
France	X				French	French	Yes	
Italy	X	X	X		Italian	Italian/ENG	Yes	Different da
Slovenia		X			Slovenian		Yes	
Croatia		X				English	Yes	
Malta			X		Not found		No	
Greece		(?)		X	Greek		Yes	WFD
Cyprus				X	English		No	WFD

1. GES DATABASE CONSTRUCTION – Example of extracted info

D4 – Food web							
	GES component	ES	FR	GR	HR	IT	SL
	D4C1	2			2	1	1
	D4C2	2			4	1	1
	D4C3	2			1		
	D4C4	2			2		
<i>Old</i>	4.1			1			
<i>Old</i>	4.2			1			
<i>Old</i>	4.3			5			
<i>Old</i>	D4	2					

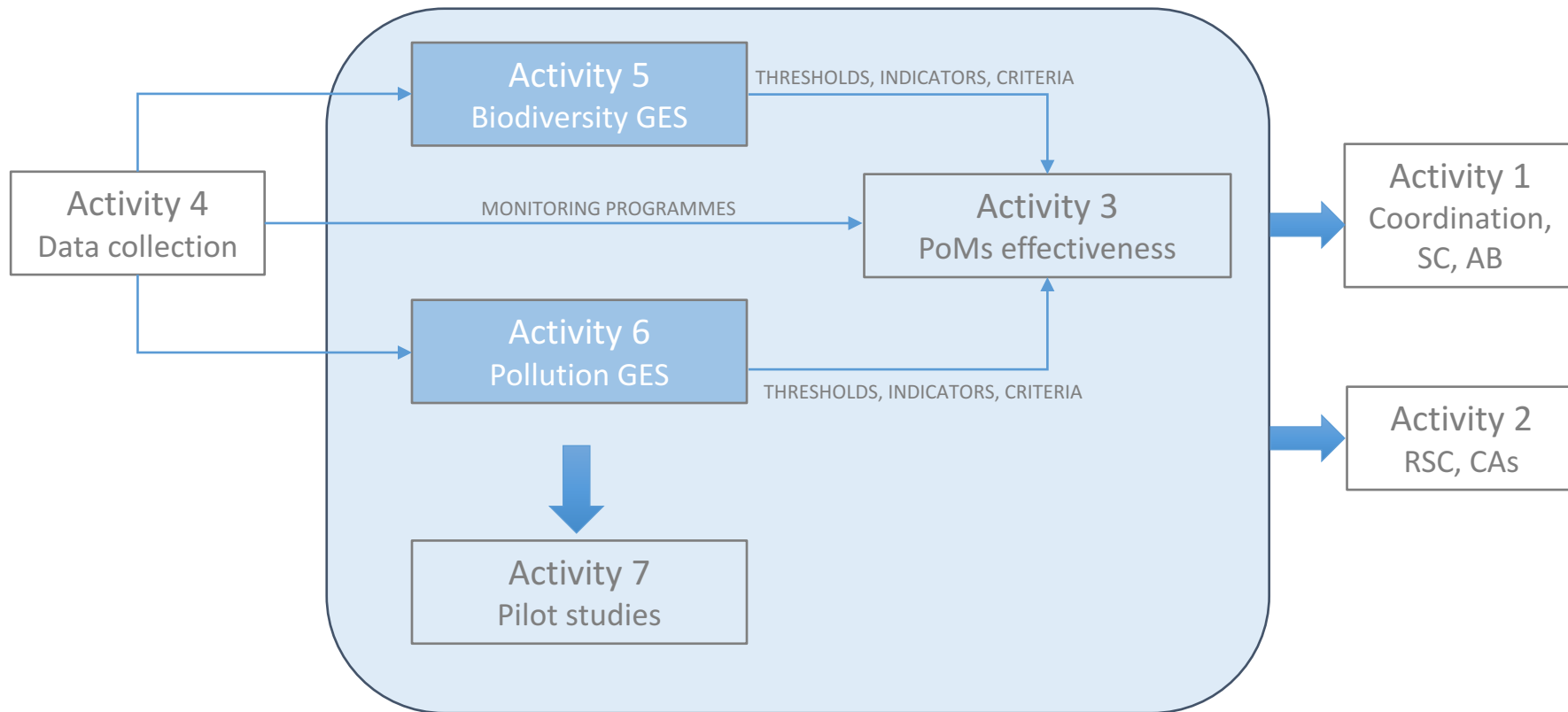
Not cross-validated so far

2. COORDINATION WITH IEO FOR WMS Pilot – (pre) selection of potential indicators (M. Hidalgo et al. presentation - tomorrow)

- Identification of available data set and spatial domain
- Mapping indicators vs. descriptors and criteria for D1 and D4
- Definition of methodological approach
- Hypothesis on indicators to be considered

3. COORDINATION WITH ACTIVITIES 5 and 6

- Sharing documentation and overall approach
- Prevent overlap, this in particular with Activity 6 where GES comparison and pilots are already ongoing, but, rather, foster consistency and synergies.



Some final remarks



- Need to follow a pragmatic approach, working on both the consistency of GES definition and exploring some alternative approach to GES (with quantitative assessment, where possible)
- It is time to finetune the selection of criteria, and the WS of tomorrow will contribute to this (need to adapt to current activities 5/6);
- Need to better clarify data availability, roles and expectations;
- Need to reinforce collaboration with CAs to ensure to deliver something relevant.



WORKSHOP on STREAMLINING PILOT PROJECT ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT COMMON (SUB)REGIONAL GES (MEDREGION Activity 7)

13th February – 14:00-18:00 – Rome, ISPRA (via Vitaliano Brancati 48)

