

# MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING TRANSBOUNDARY PILOT PROJECTS AND THEIR IMPLICATION IN THE NATIONAL PROCESS IN SPAIN

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## INTRODUCTION

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes are already being implemented in many parts of the world being Europe a hot spot due to the approval of the Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for MSP, which obliged every coastal Member State (MS) to have approved plans by March 2021. To facilitate this, specific European funds are allocated to support development of MSP transboundary projects among neighbouring countries. These projects have mainly two objectives:

- To provide states with knowledge, capacity and methodologies to apply in MSP national processes
- To facilitate the coherence among plans of countries sharing the same sea basin

As biological and ecological processes in the marine environment are not limited by administrative borders, the transboundary component of MSP is of extremely importance to manage marine resources in a sustainable way. MSP provides then the framework to manage social-ecological systems (SES) in the marine domain throughout an adaptive management model that should be able to accommodate both, social and ecological changes. In this sense, pilot transboundary projects aim to develop and test these characteristics of MSP (among others) in order for the MS to apply them in their MSP national processes as well as to incorporate issues whose scope go beyond national borders. This work presents an overview of the Spanish MSP process, and how some of the outputs that emerged from these pilot projects may be incorporated in the national process.

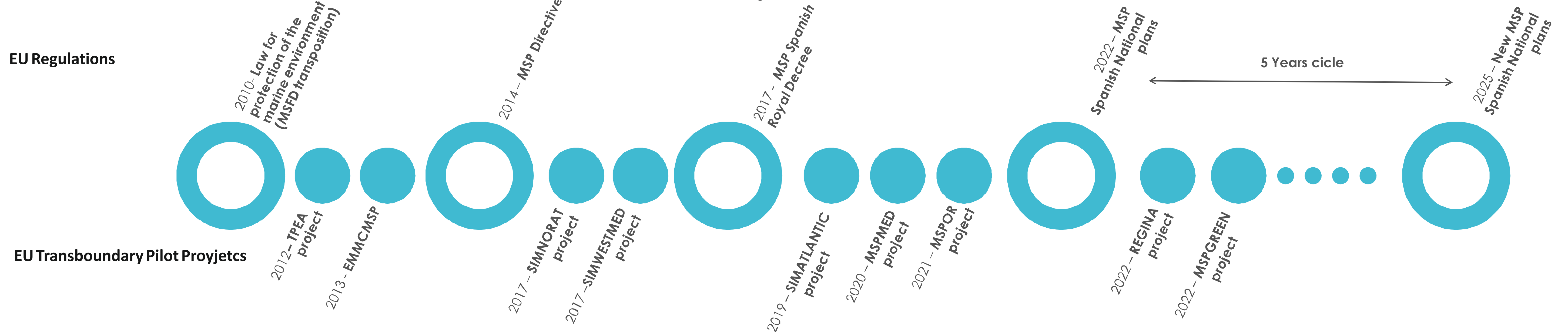
## MSP PILOT PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Boosting knowledge and methodology sharing to complete an updated view of ecological stakes in each case study;
- Highlighting important knowledge gaps to be bridged, and perspectives or solutions;
- Informing on how the evaluation and MPA designations mobilize existing knowledge, in order to support MSP processes in Spain and other countries;
- Encourage transboundary cooperation, knowledge and experience sharing;
- Involve experts from different research fields, encouraging scientific collaborations supporting public policies;

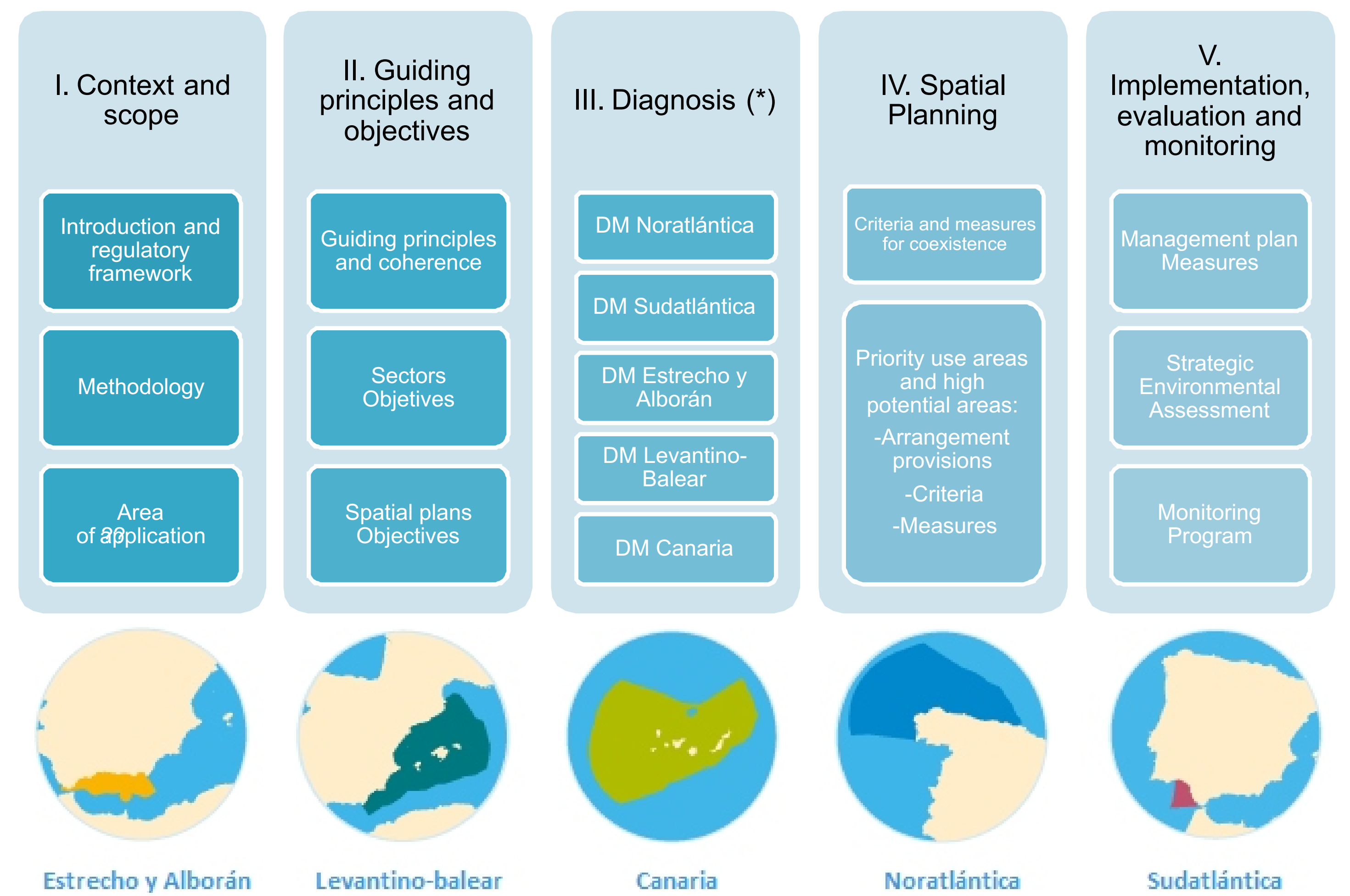
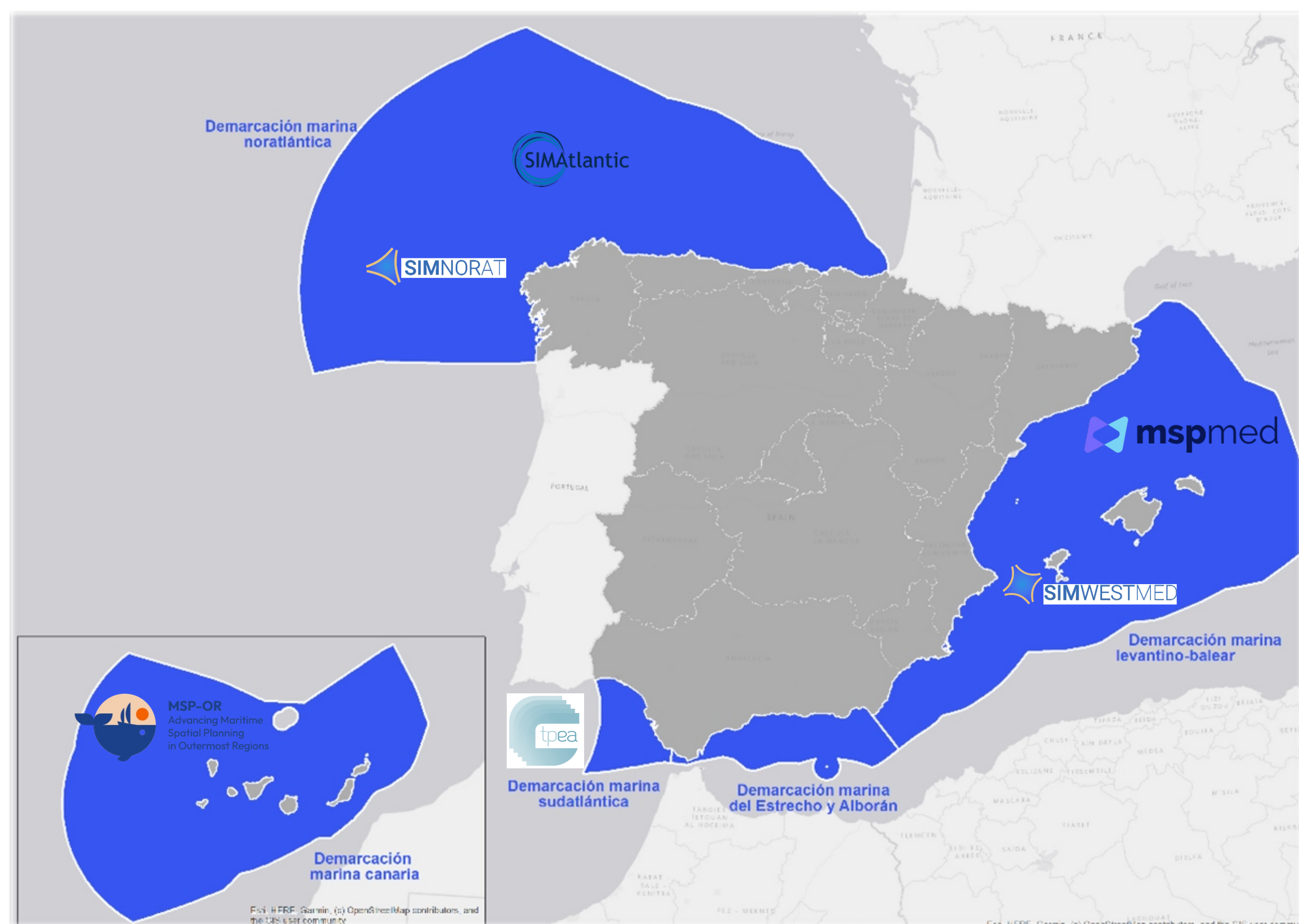


- Implement the first steps of a methodology to analyse the impact of cumulative effects at sea
- Identify and characterise the existing interactions between activities, pressures and ecological receptors;
- Fostering the stakeholders engagement;
- Data gaps identification ;
- Knowledge synthesis and design of different scenario to test the interactions between activities and ecosystems

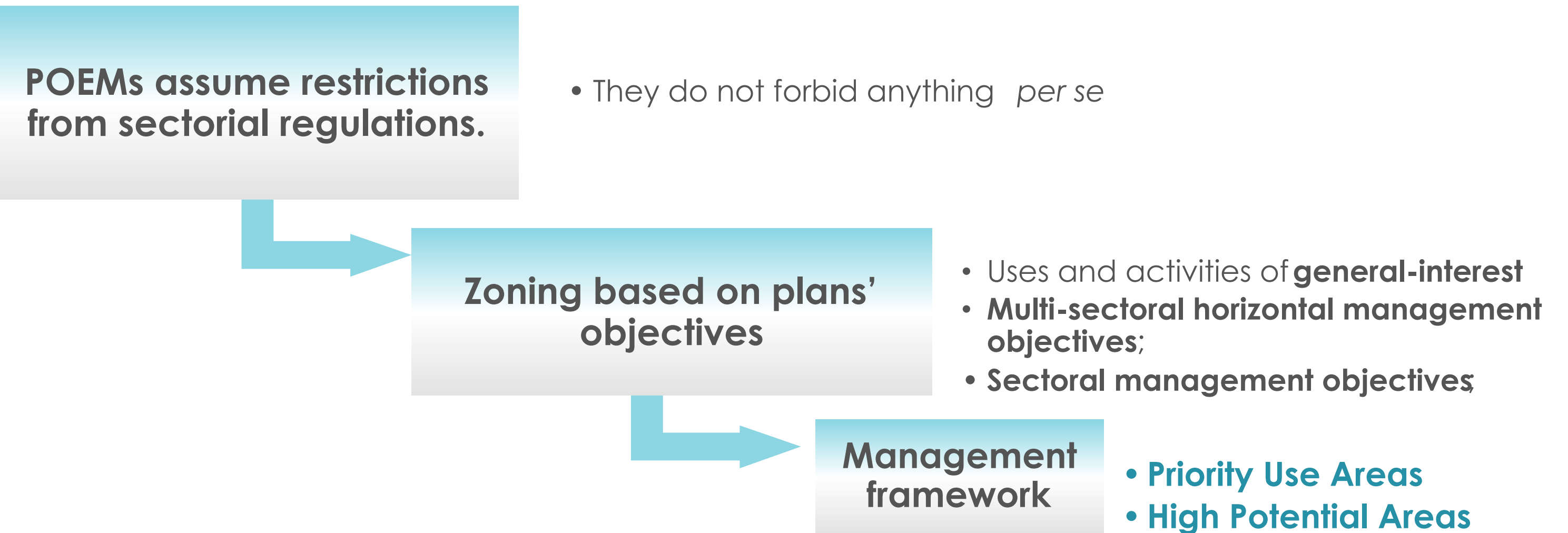
## Temporal Context



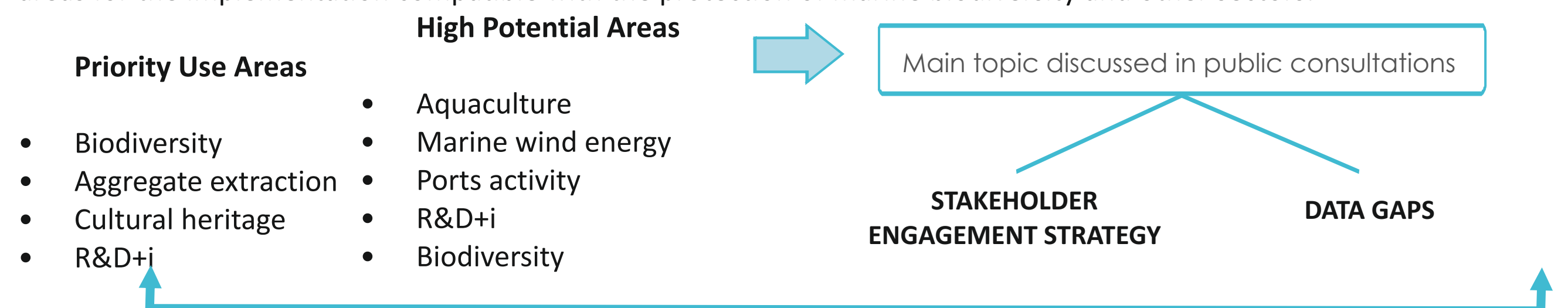
## SPANISH NATIONAL MSP PROCESS



In Spain there will be 5 plans "Planes de Ordenación del Espacio Marítimo" POEM, one for each marine



In the process of drafting the POEM, a series of criteria have been defined to ensure that the identification of priority and/or high potential areas for the implementation compatible with the protection of marine biodiversity and other sectors:



## MSP PILOT PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION

## CONCLUSIONS

The POEMs identify as outputs measures some aspects that the MSP literature would see at the beginning of the process. The reason is simple, they respond to gaps in the diagnosis phase of the process, therefore these output measures of the first cycle will serve as input for the second cycle. For instance, although the diagnosis phase comprised the collection of socioeconomic data regarding the blue economy sector in Spain, it does not give the enough detail to characterise the sectors, therefore the POEM foresees a **Foresight study and socio-economic characterization of the different sectors of the Spanish blue economy**. On the other hand, for this first cycle there was a gap regarding methodologies to conduct some analysis needed, therefore other measure of the POEMs is to conduct a **Spatial analysis of cumulative pressures resulting from the spatial concentration of certain uses and activities**. The POEMs help to advance in the **elaboration of a marine/blue growth strategy at the national level**. Also another aspect to highlight from the POEMs is the inclusion of the Marine Green infrastructure in the planning which supports the EBA to MSP. Finally, the POEMs also foresee the elaboration of the **National Strategic Plan for the protection of the Spanish Coast considering the effects of Climate Change**. Currently, final corrections are being integrated **after public consultations** POEMs will be approved hopefully in the coming months, by Royal Decree, so they will be **binding**. And they will be **reviewed and updated in 5 years** to align with MSFD cycle. Although with all the challenges, this first cycle of the POEMs are the basis *The basis for strategic coordination, data fluxes, and inter-departmental (and event international) collaboration, creating a common language to talk about an integrated management of the Spanish marine waters for a blue future.* The results of the pilot projects will help implement the MSP based on the lessons learned in the national and transboundary case studies.