

## **Information on the Assistance Mechanism for the implementation of MSP**

The objective of the contract is to provide assistance to Member States regarding the implementation of MSP.

To this end the following tasks are foreseen:

- Primarily, the contractors will generate and disseminate useful information on the implementation of MSP via a focal point service in each of the five European sea-basins and one central dedicated MSP website. Information will include samples of practices and tools for implementing requirements of the MSP Directive as well as available funding instruments.
- Additionally, based upon needs identified by Member States and the Commission, the contractors will conduct technical studies to reduce knowledge gaps. The study to be undertaken this year will deal with the evaluation of data and knowledge gaps to implement MSP.
- Furthermore, the contractors will provide support to prepare, facilitate and document MSEG meetings and MSP-related conferences.

We are pleased to inform you that the following contractors were selected to provide support services:

- s.Pro – sustainable projects (Berlin) as the consortium lead, and
- Ecorys (Brussels, Madrid, and Sofia) as consortium partner.
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The following partners will offer expertise and support as subcontractors:

- Seascope Consultants (Southampton),
- University of Liverpool (Liverpool)
- THETIS (Venice), and
- National Institute for Marine Research and Development “Grigore Antipa” (Constanta).

The contract has an initial duration of one year, but the service is expected to run for up to four years in total.

The project consortium has an outstanding track record in assisting Member States and the Commission not only in numerous MSP, but also other “blue / maritime” projects and initiatives. The contractors and their staff working on this contract are therefore most probably already well known by many of you. Thus, we anticipate the contractors will effectively work hand-in-hand with the MSEG and all its members to ensure the best possible support and efficient coordination with Member States.

DG MARE, as well as the contractors themselves will soon be in contact with you bilaterally and during upcoming MSP events, in order to explain, discuss and share more detailed information on the MSP Assistance Mechanism.

If you have additional questions, please be in touch either with us or the main contact person from the contractors’ consortium, Mrs. Angela Schultz-Zehden ([asz@sustainable-projects.eu](mailto:asz@sustainable-projects.eu)).