



Experiences with Collaborative Map Use Interface in Remote Courses of Maritime Spatial Planning

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Abstract:

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) is an essentially collaborative and interactive process of managing human actions at seas and ensuring protection of the marine environment (Morf et al., 2019). Education of MSP often takes place in interactive university courses that employ physical elements for facilitation of spatial communication in negotiative group work, such as large table-top board games or large paper maps, and thus necessitate gathering of students in classrooms. Due to the widespread propagation of the corona virus in 2020, such courses became mostly impossible and alternative arrangements had to be sought for. One alternative was our recently created collaborative GIS (CGIS; Balram et al., 2003) for MSP workshops, Baltic Explorer (<http://balticexplorer.eu>; Koski et al., 2021), which was taken into action as a replacement of earlier methods in two university courses. We wish to present the use experiences of students with Baltic Explorer in the workshop.

The Master's and PhD students of two courses conducted MSP planning exercises by negotiating in groups using the Baltic Explorer remotely. Lecturers and researchers observed the work and after the exercises, the students' use experiences were collected with a web questionnaire. In the proposed presentation, we wish to share and discuss responses to the following questions that relate particularly to the viewpoint of remote use and collaboration:

- What capacities and skills are needed to use the Baltic Explorer effectively when participating?
- Based on your experience of using Baltic Explorer in the course, if you were a planner: For which activities of a planning process (knowledge sharing, scenario making, deciding on alternatives, informing on plans and implementation) would you: a) use SDSS tools in general, b) use Baltic Explorer specifically
- Working with maps online: How well did it work to do a role play with maps online?
- Playing your role: How much do you think you behaved like real planners/stakeholders?
- How well did the combination of Zoom meetings and BE as a platform work to do interactive planning with maps?
- What are the 3 most important things you learned by participating in the online role play that you could not have experienced by lectures or exercises and other types of interactions so far in the course?

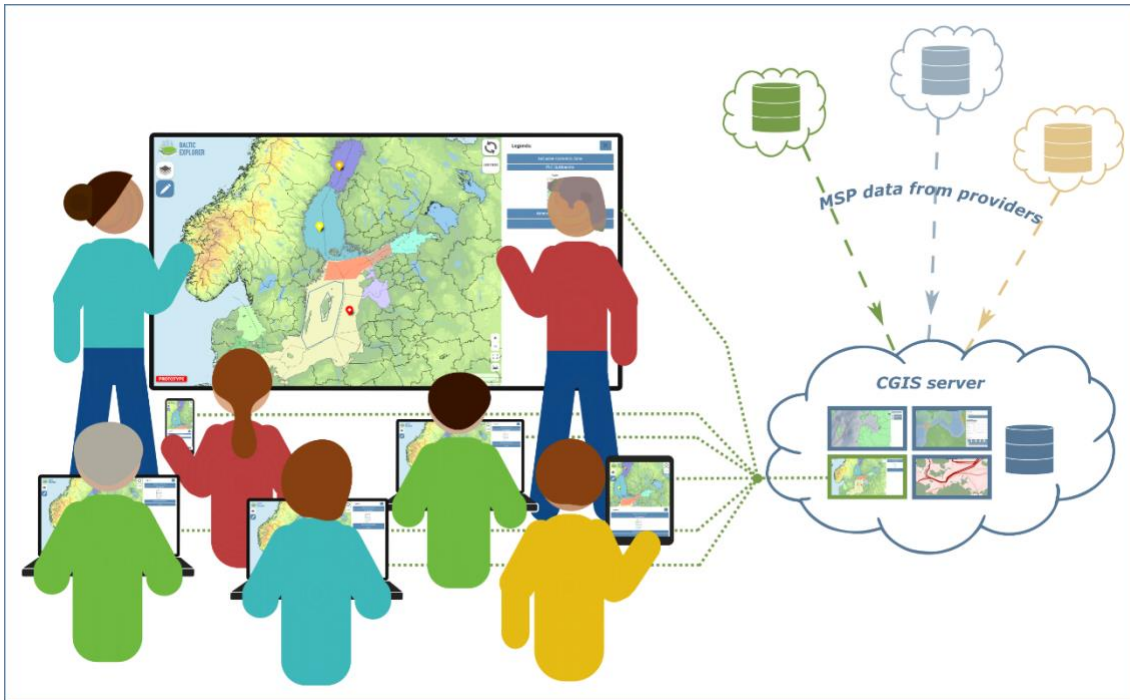


Figure 1: The collaborative GIS “Baltic Explorer” has offered a platform for teaching maritime spatial planning remotely in the university courses during the corona pandemia.

References

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