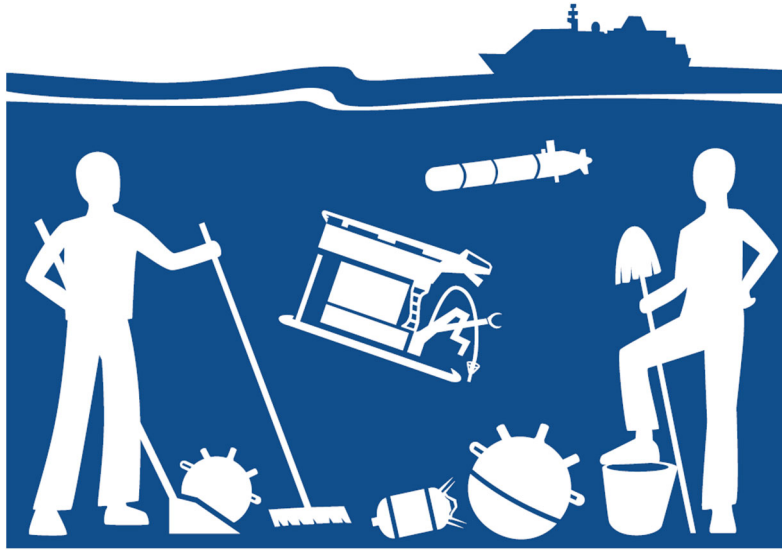




MMinE-SwEEPER

Deliverable Report

Deliverable No. D1.1: Stakeholder community



Funded by
the European Union

Authors | Maria del Rosario Domínguez Carrasco, Katarina Viik, Hans Sanderson, Delove Asiedu, Frank Dugasseh, Tine Missiaen

Contributing organisations:



DOCUMENT TRACKING DETAILS

Project Information

Project acronym	MMinE-SwEEPER
Project title	Marine Munition in Europe - Solutions with Economic and Ecological Profits for Efficient Remediation
Instrument	Horizon Europe
Grant Agreement	No. 101167839
Starting date	1 October 2024
Duration	31 March 2028
Project Coordinator	GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

Deliverable Information

Deliverable Name	Stakeholder community
Deliverable Number	D1.1
Work Package (WP)	WP1
Related Task (s)	Task 1.1 Identification and invitation of relevant stakeholders
Deliverable Beneficiary	Lead: HELCOM Secretariat, Contributors: all
Author(s)	Maria del Rosario Domínguez Carrasco, Katarina Viik, Hans Sanderson, Delove Asiedu, Frank Dugasseh, Tine Missiaen
Due date	31.3.2025
Submission date	
Type of deliverable	R – Document, report
Dissemination level	PU (Public)
Last Update	17.03.2026

Acknowledgements



This report was produced by the HELCOM Secretariat in the scope of the MMinE-SwEEPER project. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101167839.

Disclaimer

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

This document contains information on MMinE-SwEEPER's core activities. Any reference to content in this document should clearly indicate the authors, source, organisation, and publication date.

Copyright

The material in this report may be reused for non-commercial purposes using the recommended citation. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Contact details

Questions, comments, and/or concerns about this document should be emailed to rosario.dominguez@helcom.fi subject line "MMinE-SwEEPER Deliverable 1.1 Stakeholder community".

Contents

1. Introduction	7
2. Methodology.....	8
2.1. Stakeholder community: Groups & Expectations	8
2.2. Stakeholder engagement approach	8
2.3. Stakeholder personal data protection.....	9
3. Results	10
3.1. Current roster of stakeholders, February 2026	10
4. Discussion.....	12
5. Conclusions	13
6. Supplementary material	14

List of Tables

Table 1. Roster of stakeholders enrolled as of February 2026. **12-13**

Table 1s. Stakeholder community and dialogue. **16**

List of Figures

Figure 1. Flow and structure of stakeholder dialogue in work packages WP1 and WP2. **7**

Figure 2. Distribution of stakeholders enrolled as of February 2026. **11**

1. Introduction

Millions of tonnes of chemical and conventional munitions were dumped in European seas after the two World Wars. These old, yet still active, munitions threaten the marine environment and human and marine life, as well as the safety and security of marine activities. However, addressing these risks effectively is very complex and requires coordinated and cross-sectoral collaboration of multidisciplinary experts.

In this context, MMinE-SwEEPER seeks to establish an international and multisectoral **stakeholder community** and engage with them in a continuous stakeholder dialogue to collaboratively develop feasible, secure, and efficient remediation strategies tailored to specific cases across Europe (Figure 1).

The stakeholder dialogue will have three main phases: 1) gather existing knowledge and management practices for marine dumped munitions across Europe; 2) evaluate current procedures with stakeholder input on key concerns and socio-political constraints related to environmental, economic, security, and safety risks; and 3) integrate stakeholder recommendations to improve these procedures and co-design feasible, safe, and efficient remediation strategies tailored to stakeholder needs (see Figure 1).

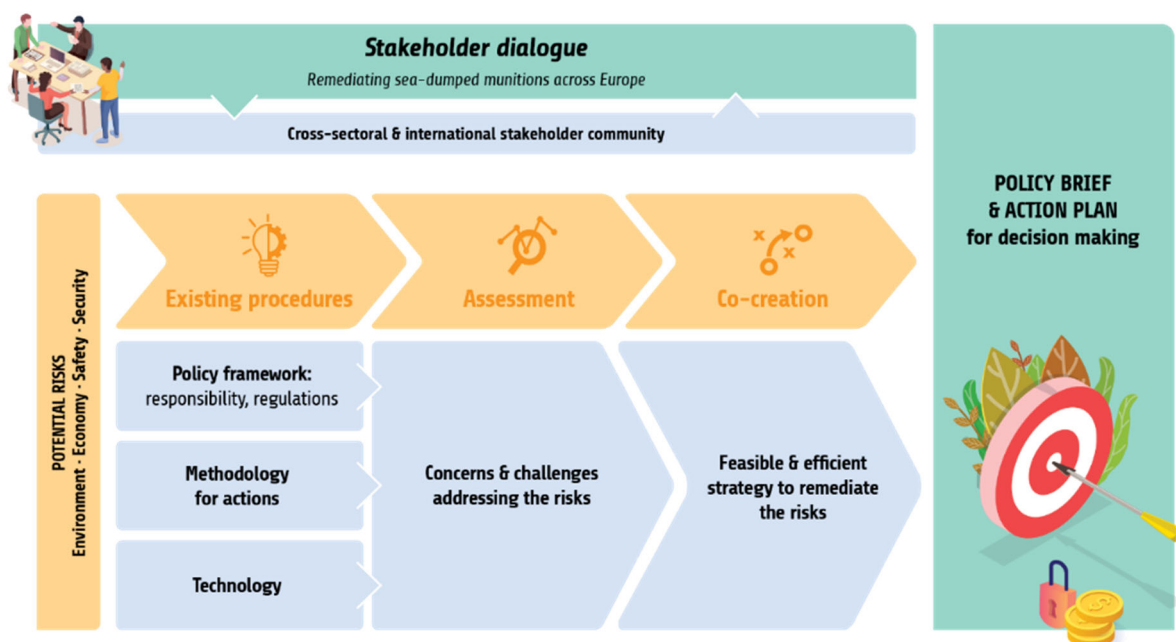


Figure 1. Flow and structure of stakeholder dialogue in work packages WP1 and WP2

The stakeholder community and the dialogue will be established and reported within milestones and deliverables of work packages (WPs) WP1 and WP2. However, both activities will support and collaborate with other WPs — especially WP3 to WP11—and external projects, especially with MUNIMAP and MUNI-RISK, both EU co-funded projects (see Table 1).

This deliverable D1.1. Stakeholder Community will describe the establishment, expectations, and groups of the stakeholders that will be invited to collaborate with us. The following deliverables of WP1 and WP2 will report the outcomes of the stakeholder dialogue (see Table 1s).

The stakeholder community is a measure of **MMinE-SwEEPER objective D1** aimed to *establish a well-connected and diverse community of experts*, a basic pillar to develop the stakeholder dialogue of the objective *A compile existing knowledge and management approaches* (see Table 1s).

In addition, the activities to interact with stakeholders will include hosting and participating in workshops and conferences, circulating questionnaires, and conducting bilateral interviews. These activities relate to **MMinE-SwEEPER objective D2: design and execute webinars and hands-on workshops**). These collaborations with the stakeholders will, in general, benefit the objective D, *strengthen cooperation and capacity building*, and E, *promote European collaboration, management strategies and solutions* (see Table 1s).

2. Methodology

2.1. Stakeholder community: Groups & Expectations

This deliverable contributes to the proposal objective of consulting and collaborating with a diverse network of stakeholders, ensuring a broad range of perspectives for efficiently and safely addressing sea-dumped munitions. To achieve this, we seek to engage a **cross-sectoral and international stakeholder community** that includes governmental institutions from different levels (environmental, security, safety, energy public institutions), research, NGOs, the private sector, and citizens. In addition, we aim to collaborate with different entities across Europe and, where possible, with entities from the Black Sea and international organizations.

In general, there are two main stakeholder groups:

- Governmental institutions: This group includes public administration and agencies working for environmental protection, infrastructure, health and safety issues and national security. Their contribution focuses on providing insights into the current policy framework and identifying the competent authorities for managing sea-dumped munitions in their respective countries. These interactions are closely linked to WP2, while their inputs will also inform WP1 deliverables, particularly D1.3 Synthesis of Findings (see Table 1).
- General roster of stakeholders: This group comprises research institutions, sea based economic and recreational actors, non-profit organizations, and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs). Their role is to contribute to a stakeholder dialogue on current needs, challenges, requirements, and concerns related to submerged munitions and associated remediation activities. These exchanges primarily support Tasks 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 within WP1.

Communication with stakeholders may vary depending on the activity. In some cases, especially with public authorities, tailored engagement methods are required to facilitate participation and prevent collaborations from being declined. To accommodate this, we approach institutions using differentiated methods adapted to their mandates, sensitivities, and capacity to engage.

It is expected that the engagement with stakeholders will increase after interacting with them in other workshops, conferences, or through collaborations with other projects. Thus, the stakeholder roster will be a living list and open to join in, especially during the first half of the project's life.

2.2. Stakeholder engagement approach

In October 2024, we began outreach to collaborators and associated partners from HELCOM, NATO and JPI Oceans, inviting them to become stakeholders in the MMinE-SwEEPER project and to disseminate the invitation within their community. We also consulted all partners' networks and searched the internet for potential stakeholders.

To facilitate data analysis and gather the responses of the stakeholders, we categorized the roster by activity sectors and subsectors directly or indirectly related to environmental and marine munitions management. We also included "Other" subcategories in each group to enable additional administrative or private actors connected to the marine environment to participate as stakeholders.

The sector and subsectors (in brackets) categories used in this document are the following:

- Government (Environment, Security, EOD, and Other)
- Research
- IGO
- Non-profit (Environmental NGO, Occupational association, Recreational associations, Foundations, Other)
- Private (EOD, economic activities).

In February 2025, the enrolment process extended from MMinE-SwEEPER to two sister projects co-funded by the EU —MUNIMAP and MUNI-RISK— with the shared goal of working collaboratively. The three projects pursue the overarching goal of enhancing the legal, technical, and methodological framework for addressing marine munitions. To avoid duplicating efforts and to minimize stakeholder fatigue, the projects agreed to coordinate communications with shared stakeholders. Although this collaboration slowed the process of enrolling new stakeholders, we consider it highly important.

The collaboration among the projects includes jointly organising or participating in events related to stakeholder dialogue within the individual projects. For example, in June 2025, all projects jointly participated in the UNOC 2025 side event “No Time to Waste: Tackling Submerged Munitions in European Seas” together with other EU and nationally funded projects (REMARCO, CONMAR). They also organised a two-day workshop during the Kiel Munitions Clearance Week Conference. The outcomes of both events are described in [Dugasseh et. al \(2026\)](#) and will be presented in D1.3 Synthesis of Findings.

After summer 2025, we initiated the circulation of a survey on regulations and responsibilities, based on a MUNIMAP policy report (unpublished), distributing it to countries outside the Baltic Sea Region, since those were covered by MUNIMAP. During this phase, other munition projects as REMARCO and the newly established CAMMera project became involved, expanding our network particularly towards the North Sea and Black Sea region. From autumn 2025 onwards, MMinE-SwEEPER partners from WP1 and WP2 participated in MUNI-RISK stakeholder workshops, engaging with additional stakeholders.

On 24 February 2026, we organised an online workshop titled “Why and how should we remediate sea-dumped munitions—and how does/should the EU Ocean Pact impact this?” New potential stakeholders were invited to participate in this event.

All these activities increased the visibility of MMinE-SwEEPER and the issue of marine munitions and strengthened our network beyond the already engaged Baltic Sea Region.

2.3. Stakeholder personal data protection.

The stakeholders listed in this deliverable and in the updated annexes are only those who provided written consent to be named towards the outside. Additional collaborations (approximately 10) exist but are not included in the roster. In any case, and in accordance with the [MMinE-SwEEPER Privacy Policy](#), the roster will publish only the following information: the entity name, activity sector, and their national or cross-border operational area. There is no personal data published.

3. Results

By February 2026, MMinE-SwEEPER had **officially enrolled a total of 37 stakeholders**, although it collaborates with more than this number, especially for gathering current national information on methodology, regulation and processes addressing marine submerged munitions. Stakeholders are from both the governmental and non-governmental institutions distributed across European marine regions and beyond (see Figure 2). While 75 % of our stakeholders operate in the Baltic and North Seas, we also engage with entities working in the Mediterranean and Black Seas, as well as at the EU and international levels. Notably, MMinE-SwEEPER has contacted more additional entities for their engagement, especially after the workshop organized and planned for the beginning of 2026.

3.1. Current roster of stakeholders, February 2026

This roster in Table 2 is the current list of enrolled stakeholders by February 2026. This is a living document thus it will grow during the project lifetime. We continue our collaboration with other projects, especially with MUNIMAP, MUNI-RISK, REMARCO, CAMMera and BS2BKs, and organize or participate in different events like the above-mentioned events to enhance our networking.

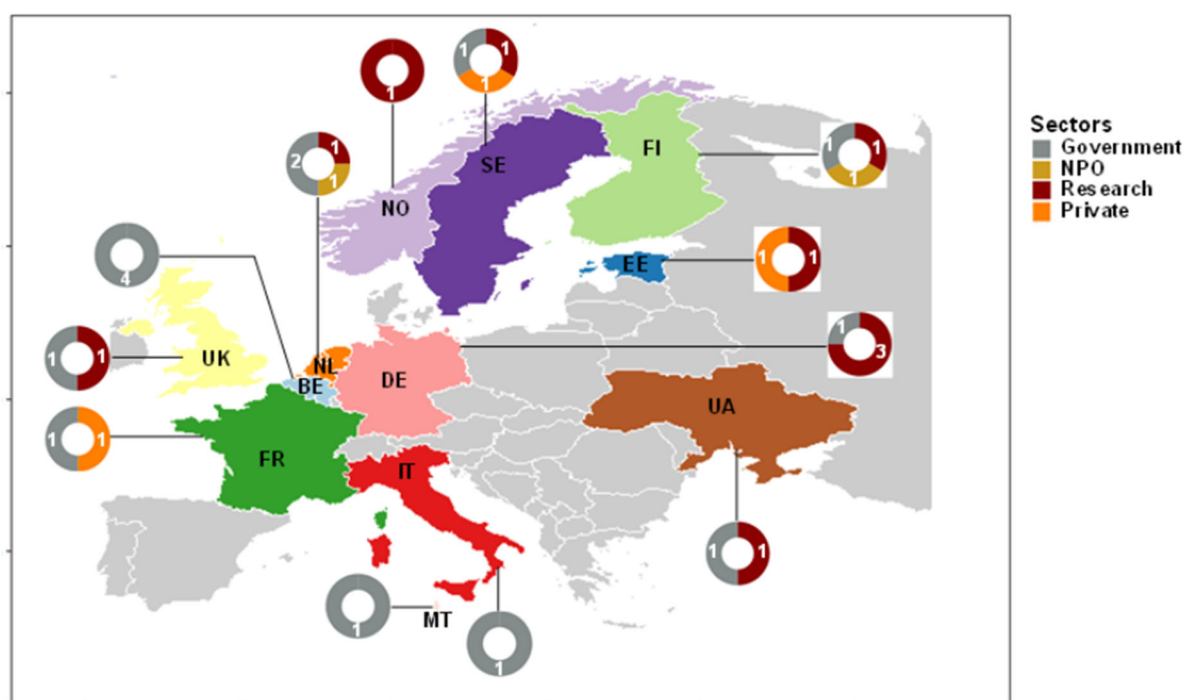


Figure 2. Distribution of stakeholders enrolled as of February 2026. The stakeholders are aggregated by their sector of activity and operational territory. Cross-border organizations operating at the EU level and beyond are not represented in this map. For the complete list of enrolled stakeholders and the country code legend, please refer to Table 2.

Table 1. Roster of stakeholders enrolled as of February 2026. Stakeholders are grouped by their sector and subsector of activity, as well as their operational territory (country code in brackets) and sea regions. The subsector "Other" indicates that the institution's activity is not specifically listed by MMinE-SwEEPER and remains open.

Organization	Sector	Subsector	Operational	
			Territory	Sea
Belgium Navy, EOD unit	Government	Security	(BE) Belgium	North Sea
Former (Belgisch militair)	Government	Security	(BE) Belgium	North Sea
Institute of Natural Sciences, Operational Directorate Natural Environment	Government	Research	(BE) Belgium	North Sea
The FPS Health - Marine environment Department (FOD Volksgezondheid)	Government	Health and marine environment	(BE) Belgium	North Sea
Estonian Maritime Museum	Research	Other	(EE) Estonia	Baltic Sea
KIK Environmental investment centre	Private	Industry	(EE) Estonia	Baltic Sea
John Nurminen Foundation	Non_profit	Foundation	(FI) Finland	Baltic Sea
The Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention	Research	Academia	(FI) Finland	Baltic Sea
Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)	Government	Environment	(FI) Finland	Baltic Sea
EDF Renewable Energy	Private	Economic activity	(FR) France	North Sea
Ministry of Defence / Navy Headquarter / Action of State at Sea	Government	Security	(FR) France	North Sea
Kiel University	Research	Academia	(DE) Germany	Baltic Sea
Mecklenburg Vorpommern, Munition department	Government	Security	(DE) Germany	Baltic Sea
Thünen Institute of Fisheries Ecology	Research	Academia	(DE) Germany	Baltic Sea
University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover	Research	Academia	(DE) Germany	Baltic Sea
Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)	Government	Environmental agency	(IT) Italy	Mediterranean
Xjenza Malta (former Science Council of Malta)	Government	R&I policy & funding & Space	(MT) Malta	Mediterranean
Norwegian University of Science and Technology	Research	Academia	(NO) Norway	Baltic and North Sea
Chalmers University of Technology	Research	Academia	(SE) Sweden	Baltic and North Sea
Greenoffshore Stockholm AB	Private	Industry	(SE) Sweden	Baltic Sea
Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Government	Research	(SE) Sweden	Baltic and North Sea
The North Sea Foundation	Non_profit	Foundation	(NE) The Netherlands	North Sea
NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences	Research	Academia	(NE) The Netherlands	North Sea
Royal Netherlands Navy	Government	Security	(NE) The Netherlands	North Sea
Seabed Experimentation Centre (Seabed)	Government	Security	(NE) The Netherlands	North Sea
Rijkswaterstaat	Government	Safety of navigation	(NE) The Netherlands	North Sea
National Oceanography Centre	Research	Academia	(UK) United Kingdom	North Sea
Ministry of Defense, Salvage and marine operations	Government	Security	(UK) United Kingdom	North Sea
National Marine HUB, Ukraine	Government	Research	(UA) Ukraine	Black Sea
Odessa National University	Research	Academia	(UA) Ukraine	Black Sea
Barcelona Convention, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) - MAP	IGO	Other	International	Mediterranean
Black Sea Commission	IGO	Other	International	Black Sea
EU Military Staff	Government	Security	International	EU marine waters

Organization	Sector	Subsector	Operational	
			Territory	Sea
European boating association	Non-profit	Association	International	International
OSPAR	IGO	Other	International	Baltic Sea
Green Cross International	Non-profit	Environmental NGO	International	International
WWF Baltic	Non-profit	Environmental NGO	International	Baltic Sea

4. Discussion

We identified several challenges in engaging stakeholders. While there is a general willingness to participate in the stakeholder dialogue, some organizations prefer to contribute without being formally listed in the stakeholder roster. Overall, two main challenges stand out:

Limited awareness creates uncertainty in stakeholder self-identification to be involved

The topic and ambition of the dialogue are complex, and the civil and political awareness varies from country to country. As mentioned above, sea-dumped old munitions pose not only security risks but also potential environmental impacts on marine ecosystems. However, it is likely that most of the countries may primarily recognise or be aware of security risks, especially those posed by unexploded ordnance (UXOs) and these risks are mostly addressed exclusively by security authorities (usually the Navy). As a result, some of the potential stakeholders were confused about being relevant stakeholders or did not perceive clear connections between the risks posed by sea-dumped munitions and their institutional mandates.

In addition, most consortium partners are based in the Baltic Sea region, where extensive work on sea-dumped munitions has been carried out for decades. In this respect, HELCOM hosts an [Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Submerged Objects \(EG Submerged\)](#), which focuses on marine dumped munitions. Consequently, public administrations in this region are more familiar with the projects dealing with this topic. The lack of awareness and similarly important, the approach of openly discussing these issues make it more challenging to extend the consortium to countries covering other European sea basins than the Baltic Sea.

Internal difficulties to officially participate within public institutions

Another challenge that most public institutions faced is to make official statements on behalf of their countries or their organizations. Additionally, security authorities deal with sensitive or classified information and procedures. This can make engagement more difficult, as sharing information or participating in open dialogue may be restricted by internal regulations or national security considerations.

To reduce stakeholders' hesitation to join the roster for the above reasons, we implemented the following measures:

- Guaranteed confidentiality of discussions' outcomes unless stakeholders explicitly state otherwise.
- Anonymized the list of the stakeholders following MMinE-SwEEPER [privacy policy document](#) under EU Regulation (2016/679)
- Enhance our communication and collaboration with other projects to raise awareness and subsequently increase the network.

5. Conclusions

This deliverable addresses the objective *D1 Establish a well-connected and diverse community of experts* which serves as the basic pillar for developing other objectives related to the stakeholder dialogue.

To achieve this objective, we proceed as follows:

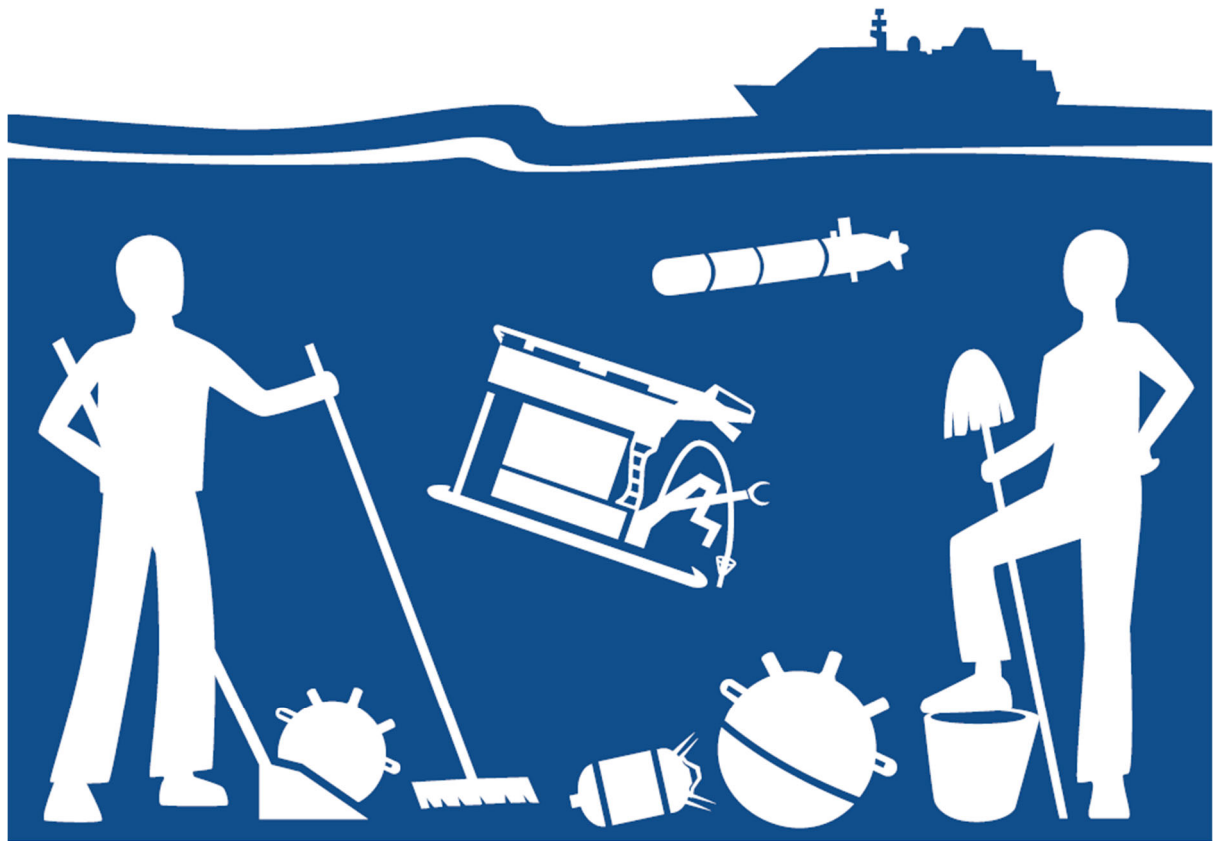
1. We have compiled—and continue compiling—a diverse community of stakeholders to ensure a broad range of perspectives in the dialogue on remediation activities across Europe. This community engages with MMinE-SwEEPER through workshops, surveys, bilateral meetings, and other interactions, the results of which will be reported in subsequent deliverables of WP1 and WP2 (see Table 1.s).
2. Established a roster of 37 stakeholders from 12 countries, covering all European sea basins (see Table 1 and Figure 2).
3. Developed the roster as a living document, open to new stakeholders expected to join throughout the duration of MMinE-SwEEPER and related collaborative project activities.
4. Ensured that MMinE-SwEEPER offers the well-established community the possibility to remain active beyond the project, in full compliance with GDPR regulations.

This deliverable demonstrates that the project has successfully established a community of stakeholders who have been active in various workshop activities in WP1&2 in this reporting period.

6. Supplementary material

Table 1s. Stakeholder community and dialogue. Tasks and outcomes (deliverables and milestones) where the tasks are described, and connections with MMinE-SwEEPER objectives and other work packages and projects.

WP1&2 Tasks	Outcomes	Description	Connections with objectives	Other connections
Establish an international and cross-sectoral stakeholder community.	D1.1. Stakeholder community M1 Roster of Stakeholders	List of stakeholders, location, and their fields of expertise or interest relevant to the stakeholder dialogue.	D1	All WPs, especially WP12
Stakeholder dialogue on the following topics:				
i. Current regulations, responsibilities, methodologies and processes addressing marine munitions across Europe	D2.1. Responsibilities M4 Workshop on “responsibilities and legal framework”	Compilation of country-based information on approaches, policy framework and responsible bodies to manage marine dumped munitions, and discussion with relevant institutions on the efficiency of the current approaches in their corresponding cases.	A1	MUNIMAP
ii. Concerns and needs related to current procedures and key aspects to develop a feasible and efficient remediation strategy.	D1.2. Identified needs M2 & M3 Stakeholder workshops	Outcomes from the first interactions with stakeholders, like surveys or workshops, to identify general views and concerns related to marine-dumped munitions and current management procedures	A2	WP3-WP11 MUNIMAP & MUNI-RISK
	D1.3. Synthesis of findings	Compilation of all feedback from the Stakeholder Dialogue, feedback from technical WPs (3—11), and from the participation in other projects and seminars or conferences.	A1-A4	External conferences, seminars, etc
iii. Coordinated security risk assessments	D2.2. Assessment of security risks M5 Workshop on ‘security risks and mode of operation	Assessment of current response scenario for security risks of marine dumped munitions in collaboration with relevant security-focused stakeholders across Europe. Development and distribution of enhanced response manuals—tested with WP11—and training scenarios for coastguards.	A1, A2	WP11
iv. Co-design safety and environmental assessment for decision-making process	D2.3. Risk assessment and decision-Making M6 Workshop on ‘assessment and decision-Making	Analysis of sea-dumped munitions management and decision-making processes across Europe. Compile response scenarios and determining the reasons to proceed: traffic safety, installations, ecological aspects, terrorism, tourism, fisheries or other reasons. For a long-planned clearance scenarios, we will compile approaches/ action plans about what to do if munition is accidentally encountered. Policy brief will be compiled and distributed via WP12	D2	WP12 (all), MUNIMAP, MUNI-RISK (others, like CAMMera, REMARCO, SAFE-BS2BKS)



MMinE-SwEEPER

www.mminesweeper-munition.eu