



## Session : Questioning and sharing innovation in Higher Education on Marine Spatial Planning

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### **Planning for the Future with Games and Virtual Reality: the Maritime Spatial Planning Challenge.**

In similar areas such as Integrated Water (Resource) Management it has been argued that planning support should take a ‘social learning’ approach. Planning Support Systems (PSS) should gear to facilitate evidence-based, social interaction among stakeholders, planners and experts. A number of innovative PSS in terrestrial planning have found ways to incorporate scientific models and data into multi-player, digital game platforms with an element of playful interaction. Maritime PSS however are still early in their innovation curve, and the use and usefulness of existing approaches and tools still needs to be demonstrated in use cases. The MSP simulation platform is an innovative example of an integrated, interactive planning support system for MSP. It integrates *real* geo- and marine data provided by a great many proprietary institutions with Blue Growth simulation models for shipping, energy and ecology (Ecopath with Ecosim), linked together in a Unity game engine-based interactive platform. This set up allows anyone – experts as well as non-experts - to playfully operate it in multi-player, game sessions, for purposes such as education, stakeholder engagement, scenario exploration and co-design. The current MSP simulation platform hosts a bespoke edition created for the

Clyde Marine area in Scotland and the complete Baltic and North Sea basins. The platform is built in highly modular fashion so that it can host any sea basin in the world.

## Keynote's short bio

Igor Mayer (1965) is a professor (lector) of Applied Games, Innovation & Society at Breda University of Applied Sciences (BU), the Netherlands. One featured project is the MSP Challenge simulation platform ([www.mspchallenge.info](http://www.mspchallenge.info)) with pending EU-Interreg funded projects in the North Sea, Baltic and Clyde Marine region, and invited sessions around the globe.

## References

Full CV on LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/igormayer](http://www.linkedin.com/in/igormayer)

Full publications list: [www.researchgate.net/profile/Igor\\_Mayer](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Igor_Mayer).

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