

Law and wind farms in the Baltic Sea and North Sea

Cross-border maritime spatial planning and transnational partnerships of hybrid offshore wind energy projects in the Baltic Sea and North Sea –
CROSS-HOWE-BANO

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Background and motivation

Leila Neimane holds a Ph.D. degree from the University of Latvia, Faculty of Law in 2019. She participated in several local and international projects as a researcher at the University of Latvia, the University of Basel (Switzerland), the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and currently – at the University of Bergen. Her principal academic interests are maritime spatial planning, blue growth and sustainable regional development, as well as environmental rights, environmental democracy, environmental justice, environmental impact assessment, and strategic environmental assessment.

Project description

Using wind to generate energy at sea represents the future of our planet in tackling climate change and the growing societal needs for electricity, especially in light of the current geopolitical tensions. A maritime spatial planning framework can be used to facilitate cross-border cooperation between countries for the purpose of deployment of offshore wind farms.

Main questions

In terms of the deployment of **hybrid offshore wind farms in the Baltic Sea and North Sea**, the principal issues are:

- The main legal and regulatory hurdles
- The role of diverse institutional contexts and their interaction
- How can the rights of communities be protected?
- What adjustments are needed in legislative frameworks and practice?



Aims

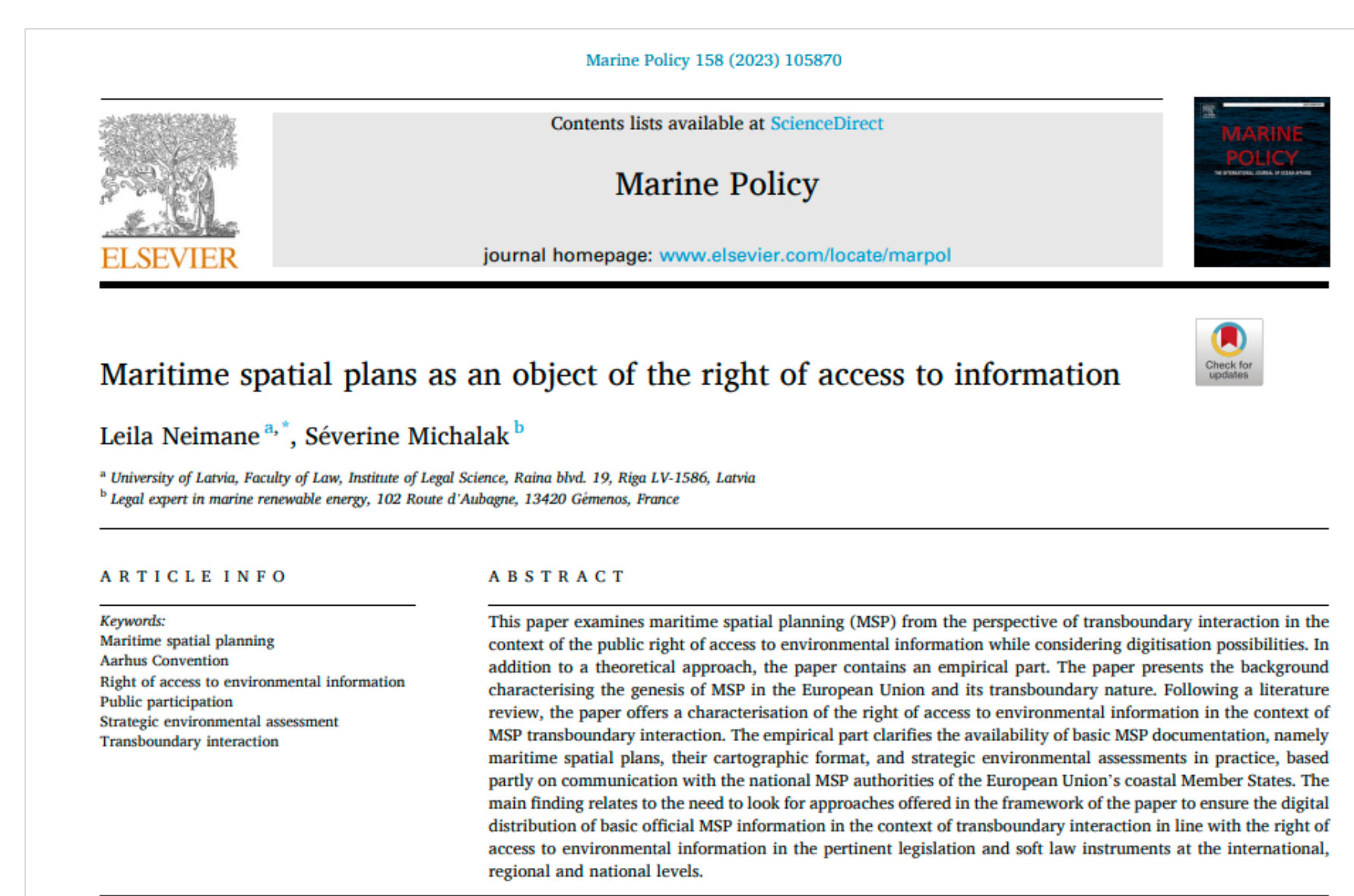
- Theoretical and empirical research and practice studies (in-depth semi-structured interviews and case studies)
- Extrapolation of research results:
 - Compendium of methodologies of guidance and best practice
 - Framework for protecting the rights of communities

Marine sustainability

The project has a direct effect on the overall effectiveness of marine governance, and, therefore, it will affect marine sustainability in a positive way by contributing to the global and European Union goals of reducing pollution, promoting the circular economy, and restoring biodiversity by 2050.

Highlighted results

- The latest publication: Neimane L., Michalak S. **Maritime spatial plans as an object of the right of access to information.** *Marine Policy*, 158 (2023), 105870, temporary open access: <https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1hxtf,714MqzY5>
- Presentation ‘Challenges of Maritime Spatial Planning Regulation in the Baltic Sea’ at the Research Group for Natural Resource Law, Environmental Law and Development Law (UiB)
- Moderation of the session ‘Research Trends in Nordics IV’ and participation at **2023 Bergen Energy Climate Law Days** and various activities of the Research Group for Climate, Energy and Environmental Law (UiB)
- Participation with the report at the 9th International Scientific Conference ‘Revisiting the Limits of Freedom while Living under Threat’ (University of Latvia, Faculty of Law)
- Two guest lectures on environmental law (general part) and maritime spatial planning for the students of the interdisciplinary study program ‘Spatial Planning’ at the master level (University of Latvia, Faculty of Geography and Earth Sciences)



Supervisor

Prof. Sigrid Eskeland Schütz,
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