

MarTe: Marine technology excellence hub for sustainable blue economy in Baltics

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HORIZON EUROPE
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Agenda

- **Welcome & Introductions** – Brief introductions of EAB members
- **Project Overview** – Presentation by Environmental Investment Centre (EIC/KIK)
- **Strategic Philosophy & Methodology** – Presented by Association of Estonian Marine Industries (MERLI)
- **Policy Review & Recommendations** – Presentation by Kurzeme Planning Region (KPR)
- **Discussion on Offshore Testbed Concept & Legislation** – Presented by Association of Estonian Marine Industries
- **Open Discussion & EAB Feedback**
- **Workplan Summary & Next Steps**



MarTe at glance

Project name: Marine technology excellence hub for sustainable blue economy in Baltics

Budget: 4 999 822 EUR

Duration: 4 years (1.01.2025 – 31.12.2028)

Coordinator: Estonian Environmental Investment Centre (KIK)

13 partners from academia, industry, public sector and coastal communities



13 Partners



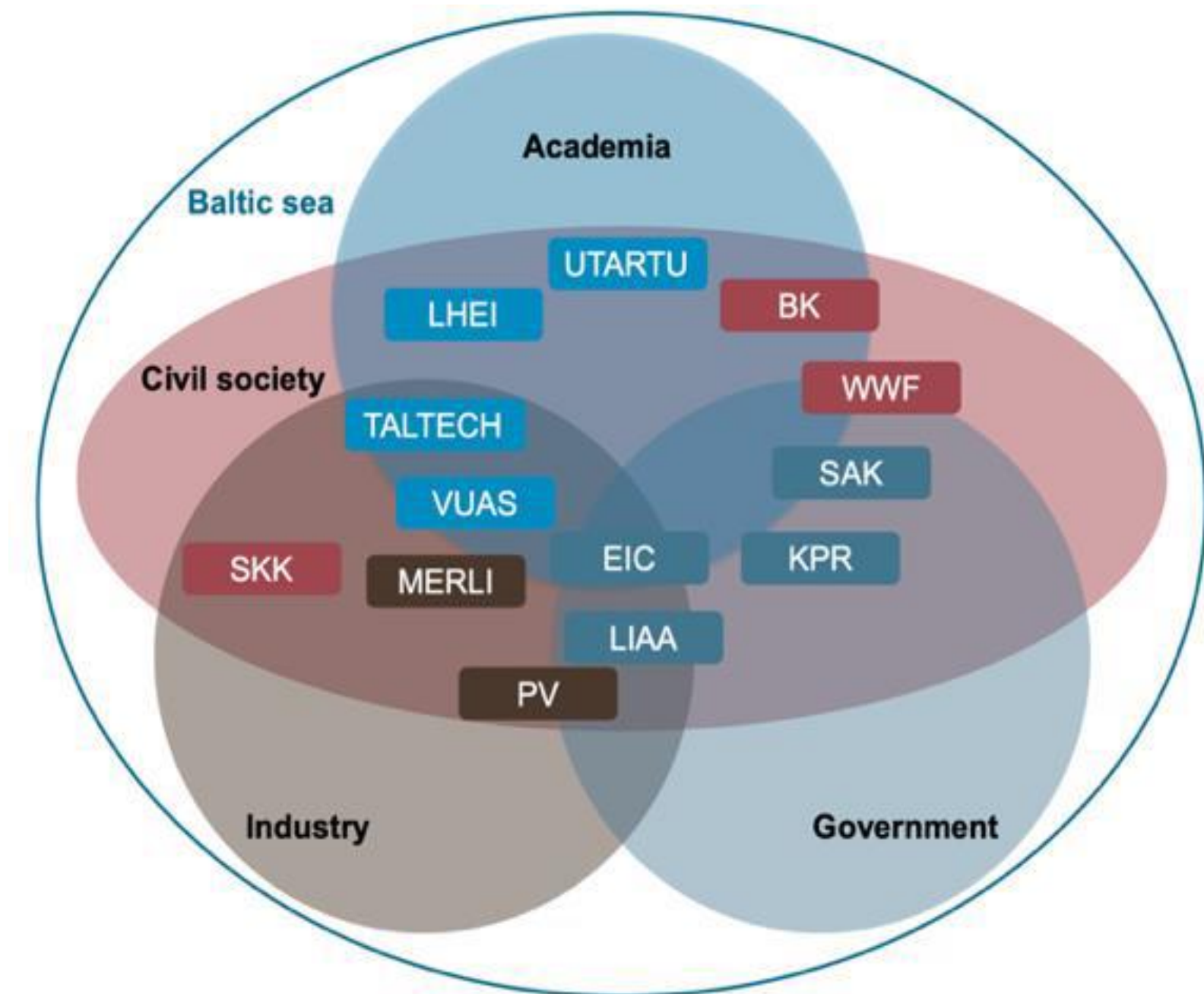
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Academia: Tallinn University of Technology, University of Tartu, Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, Latvian Institute of Aquatic Ecology

Public Sector: Kurzeme Planning Region, Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA), Saare Development Centre

Industry: Association of Estonian Marine Industries, Freeport of Ventspils Authority

Coastal communities: Baltic Coasts Association, World Wide Fund for Nature – Latvia and Saaremaa Leader Action Group



Quintuple innovation Helix framework
with MarTe partners

Advisory Board

EE:

- Lembe Reiman (Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture)
- Teemo Toomsalu (Ministry of Climate Head of Estonian HELCOM delegation)
- Jaak Viilipus (Ministry of Climate, Head of Maritime Department)
- Kai Ginter (Estonian Environmental Board Water Department Senior Specialist)

LV:

- Kristīne Kedo (Ministry of Environmental protection and regional development)
- Baiba Zasa (Senior expert and Head of Delegation at HELCOM)
- Anita Rozenberga (Head of Department, Maritime Department, Ministry of Transport)
- Inese Mjadelēca (Senior expert, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture)



Advisory Board



Role & expectations:

National and International Policy Overviews & integration to (MarTe) strategy: The EAB offers insights into the policy review scope and assesses the feasibility of proposed policy recommendations throughout the project.

Policy Recommendations: The EAB contributes to developing policy recommendations for Research and Innovation Strategies (RIS3), Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and other relevant strategies.

Reviewing Testbed Legislation: A key focus is in evaluating and advising on legislation related to offshore test beds in both countries. This includes reviewing existing regulations and actively consulting, co-working, and guiding project partners in legislative matters.

Engagement & Meetings:

Members of the EAB will be invited to EAB meetings (frequency TBD), including both project internal discussions and study trips with external stakeholders.

MarTe Excellence Hub

MarTe aims to facilitate **sustainable blue growth in the Baltic region** by establishing an **Estonian and Latvian marine innovation Excellence Hub** through cross-border, inter-sectoral collaboration and the development of a **joint R&I strategy**.



Work Packages

1. Management
- 2. R&I Strategy (Baseline study, Identification of Ecosystems)**
- 3. Excellence (Research and Design for Testbeds)**
- 4. Action & Investment Plans for Strategy Implementation**
5. Contest for Pilots: Blue Innovation Open Call
6. Capacity Building (Ecosystem Enforcement)
7. Dissemination



R&I Strategy

Timeline:

- Policy review first draft: **12.2025**
- Strategy first draft: **03.2026**
- **Policy review** (final): **06.2026**
- **Action plans**: **08.2026**
- **Strategy** (final): **12.2026**
- **Testbeds concept**: **12.2026**
- Strategy updates: **04.2027; 04.2028**

MARTE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

MARTE: MARINE TECHNOLOGY EXCELLENCE HUB FOR SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY IN BALTICS
THE MARTE R&I STRATEGY PROVIDES A LONG-TERM ROADMAP FOR TECHNOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE BLUE ECONOMY.

Chapter	Key questions	Source / Method	links to POLICIES
(I) Intro/Blue Economy	What is it?	Desk-research EU Blue Economy Dashboard	
(II) Trends	What is happening around us?	Desk research PEST	Political trends related to marine technology uptake and blue economy
(III) Blue Economy in Baltics	Where we are? What is our position in the system?	EU Blue Economy Dashboard HELCOM reports Policy review Input from 3 Roadmaps and Stakeholder Mapping	GOALS from Baltic Sea related strategy documents
(IV) Ecosystem	Who are there to play with? What are their main interests and needs?	CMDM methodology Stakeholder mapping and interviews (20)	Public sector stakeholders in Baltic Sea Region
(V) Vision and Challenges	(i) Where we want to be (vision) (ii) What battles we must win	Previous analysis Validated with CoPs	SYNERGIES and GAPS between economic and environmental strategic goals
(VI) Core Strategies	How to win the battles? What must be done to achieve the desired vision?	SUMMARY / NUTSHELL FROM 3 ROADMAPS	
(VII) Action Plan	Who should do what to win the battles	Core actions from 3 Roadmaps consolidated SMART, SOFI methodology	Political recommendations (change of legislation, strategies, interventions..)
ANNEXES	How to dig deeper?	(a) Human capital, knowledgebase, and Market Alignment (b) Collaboration, internationalization, and Risk Mitigation (c) Innovation capacity, infrastructure, and Sustainability (i) Policy review + offshore testbed concept	(i) Offshore testbed concept applicability

Policy Review for R&I Strategy

Goal: the critical foundation for the R&I strategy will be
a comprehensive Policy Review and Recommendation Report to RIS3 policy makers
with suggested changes in the regulations
of **the Marine technology application in the sustainable Blue Economy** in Estonia and Latvia



Activities:

1. Define the **Scope & Framework** of BE policy & legislation
2. Choose **the Methodology** for Policy Review analysis
3. Map the **relevant stakeholders** & identify **BE policy makers**
4. Review and analysis of **the existing** international, European, regional and National policies and regulations–**identify gaps & opportunities** within existing in legislation (! with a special emphasis on the reviewing **test-bed legislation in both countries** to facilitate access to marine areas, to boost innovation and test new technologies)
5. Elaborate **Recommendations**
6. Co-operate with **the External Advisory Board** from key EE/LV public sector regulators -> to provide feedback on the Policy Review scope, to assesses the feasibility of proposed recommendations

Policy Review: relevant Blue Economy sectors and areas

To identify the relevant EU defined Blue Economy sectors with a focus on the innovations in Marine technologies

<u>Marine non-living resources</u>	<u>Marine living resources</u>	Maritime trade and Commerce	Marine Environment	Public sector	<u>Research and innovation & RIS3</u>
<u>Marine Renewable Energy</u>	Fishery Aquaculture	Maritime transport <u>Port activities</u> <u>Shipbuilding and repair</u> <u>Coastal tourism</u>	Pollution (marine litter/eutrophication/hazardous waste) Nutrient load Overfishing Noise Invasive Species	MSP (designated use of sea space: specially protected areas offshore, test-beds) Coastal spatial planning (land-use, incl., building, wastewater management, flood protection, coastal defense) Military (Security)	<u>Blue Biotechnology</u> <u>Infrastructure and Robotics</u> EST RIS3 Strategies <u>LAT RIS3 Strategies</u>

EU Blue Economy Sectors - https://blue-economy-observatory.ec.europa.eu/eu-blue-economy-sectors_en

Policy Review Scope



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In the scope of the Policy Review should be included the most important **existing relevant level policy documents & strategies**, their goals that influence or determine the Blue Economy areas:

- **International:** UN Sustainable Development Goals,
- **European:** Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy,
- **Baltic Sea Region:** BSR Strategy, HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, VASAB Vision And Strategies Around The Baltic Sea,
- **Estonia:** Agriculture and Fisheries Development Plan,
- **Latvia:** Maritime Spatial Plan 2030, Maritime Administration and Maritime Safety Law, RIS3 Knowledge-Intensive Bioeconomy strategy,



Source: Blue Mission Banos, Rīga, Latvia, 2024

MarTe Policy Review Scope = different policy levels & multi-sectoral interactions

Expected input from EAB



For R&I Blue Economy Strategy building, related Policy Reviews and Action Plans

- Advice on defining **the scope and longlist** of relevant policy documents (global, EU, national level), that define Blue Economy and Marine environment trends and goals
- Advise on definition of common Blue Economy goals and challenges in Baltics
- Recommendations for the most efficient Policy Review & Analysis Methodology
- Advise on “What could be done?” to better align RIS3 strategies with blue growth strategies (*Policy Review?*)
- Advise on Action and Investment plans and detection/mapping of the relevant Funding Sources

For building Baltic Blue Economy Innovation Ecosystem

- Stakeholders mapping (governmental key and contact persons, institutions)
- Participation in CoPs and related events
- Information and contact sharing, networking and widening the Baltic Blue Economy Innovation Ecosystem

Offshore testbeds concept



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CHALLENGE:



- Emerging offshore industry
- Unknown environmental impacts
- Gap in high TRL technology validation
- Innovation uptake slow (Uni < - > Private)
- Engagement of community
- Embedment to international value chains

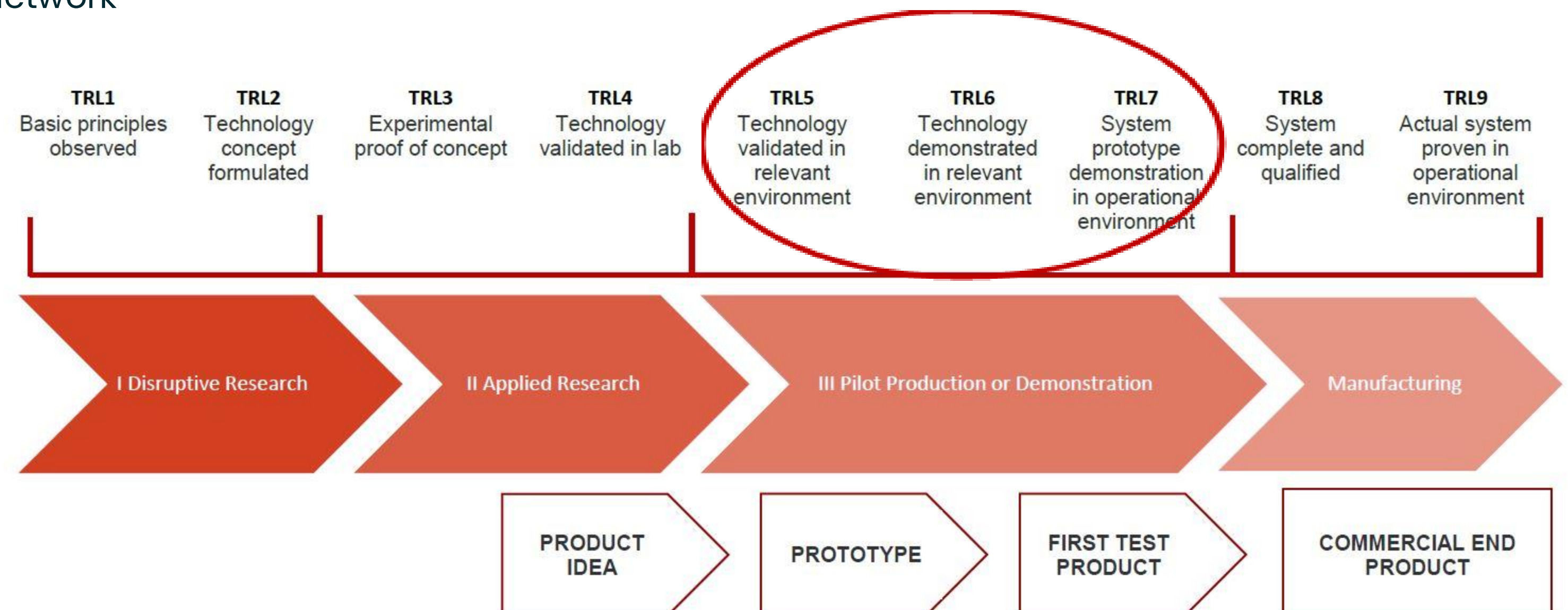
PROJECT AIM:



- Identify the ecosystem
- Identify the applicable technologies
- Design the offshore testbeds
- Accelerate testbed pilot projects
- Build ecosystem capacity
- Link the ecosystem to European Ecosystems network

Advisory Board for offshore test beds implementation

- Regulatory alignment
- Environmental alignment
- Implementation ability



Expected input from EAB



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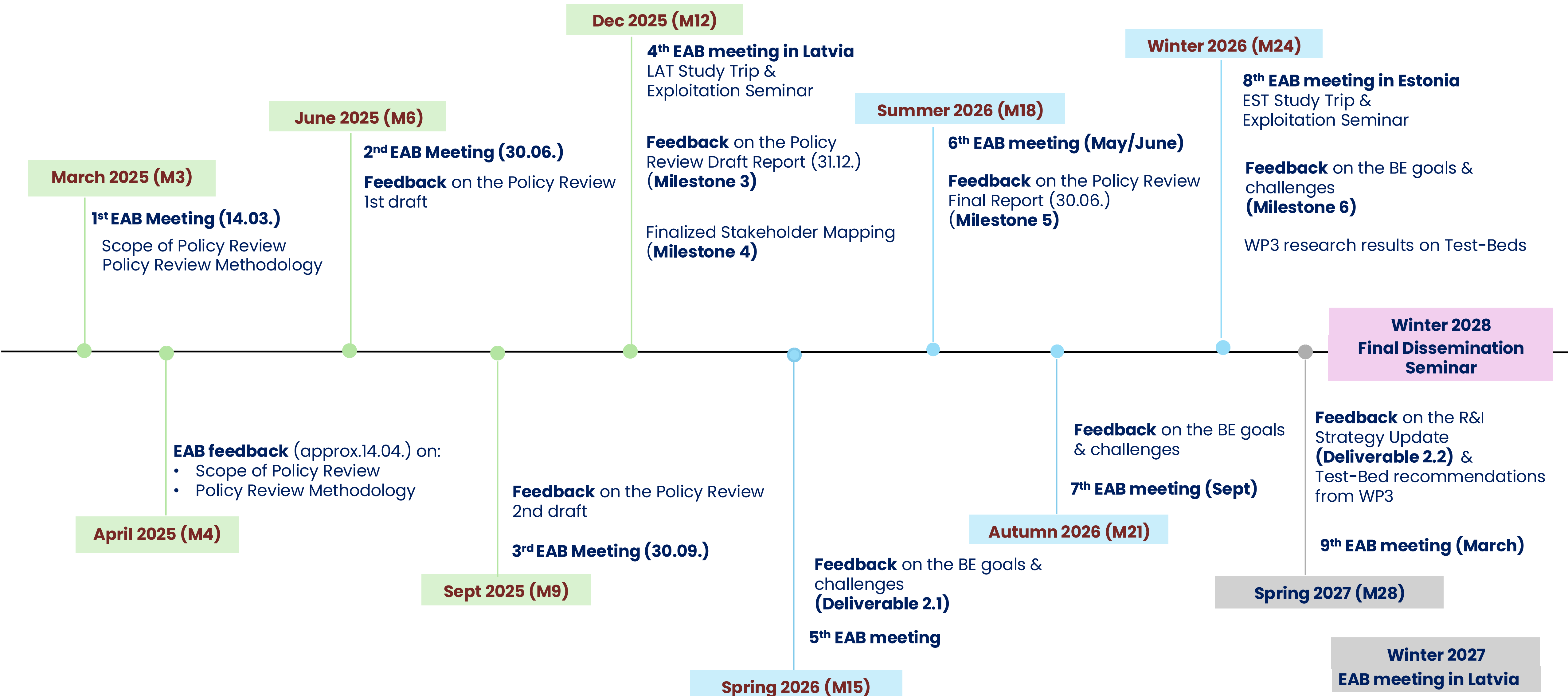
For offshore Test-Bed concept

- Advise from legal perspective -> What can and should be changed to enable offshore testing?
- Advise from processes perspective -> How to apply the offshore testing for what, what period, from whom, etc.?
- Advise from applicability perspective -> Feasibility, time frame for preparation, stakeholders, etc.?

EAB Workplan 2025 – 2028



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Thank you!

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