

## Spatial Planning in Practice (C004241)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits** 6.0                      **Study time** 150 h

**Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027**

A (semester 2)                      English                      Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

García Vazquez, Eva

OVIED001 lecturer-in-charge

Acuña, José Luís

OVIED001 co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027**

[International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources](#)

crdts	offering
6	A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

spatial planning, biodiversity, marine ecosystems

**Position of the course**

**Contents**

In this course that follows a mixed problem & research-based approach the students will apply the knowledge learnt in the other courses to real case studies. In the region of Asturias there is a diversity of coastal and marine spaces with different protection figures and management, amongst them the first Marine Protected Area of Spain (El Cachucho, 2011), together with disturbed areas such as two international ports (Gijón, Avilés) and heavily polluted estuaries. Students will work individually or in two-person teams and analyse species and space case studies in two separate modules.

Common theory: Key environmental disturbances in coastal and marine ecosystems and their indicators. Statistical tools to identify spatial patterns – an overview. Integrating management units, environmental features, landscape ecology and genetics in marine ecosystems.

Module 1. Species with spatial structuring (3 ECTS). The spatial structuring of a species will be discovered using state of the art methodology, and a management plan will be designed accordingly.

Module 2. Planning the use of marine spaces (3 ECTS). A zone of the coast will be GIS-mapped and its environmental and biodiversity status evaluated. A plan of uses and management will be designed accordingly.

**Initial competences**

Basic knowledge of GIS, Marine Ecology, Marine Genomics, Oceanography.

**Final competences**

Students should be able to integrate and apply their knowledge about marine spaces and analytical tools for planning the use and management of a particular area.

**Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

**Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

**Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture

**Study material**

None

**References****Course content-related study coaching****Assessment moments**

continuous assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period****Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period****Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Module 1 and Module 2: Report in writing and oral presentation with visual support at the end of the module (one per module).

**Calculation of the examination mark**