Connecting Seas

NorthSEE – Baltic LINes MSP conference

How a seed became a tree

Or how we built a system based on an MSDI to access MSP data

Manuel Frias- HELCOM Secretariat

North SEE

Interreg North Sea Region

Baltic LINes

Interreg Baltic Sea Region







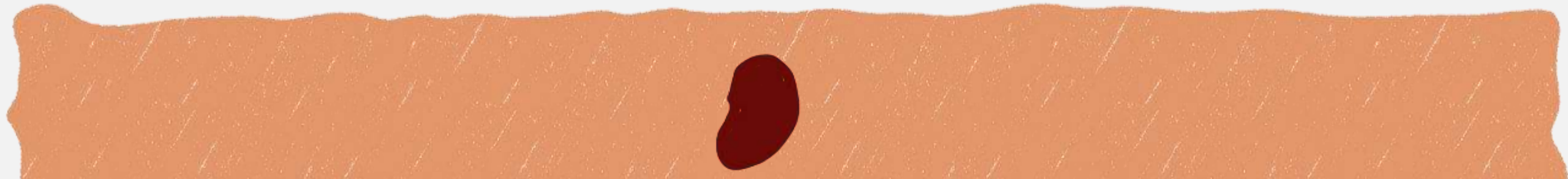
You have seen maps about a lot of uses: wind farms, shipping, environment... Now, what do we need to make all those maps?

Data, of course.

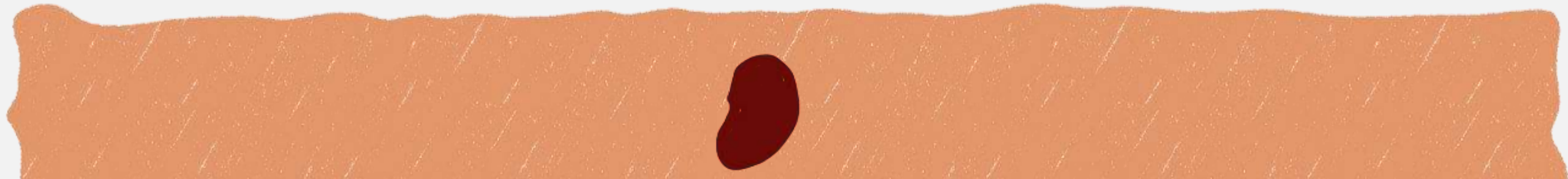
The problem is...

...data is always
very difficult to get.

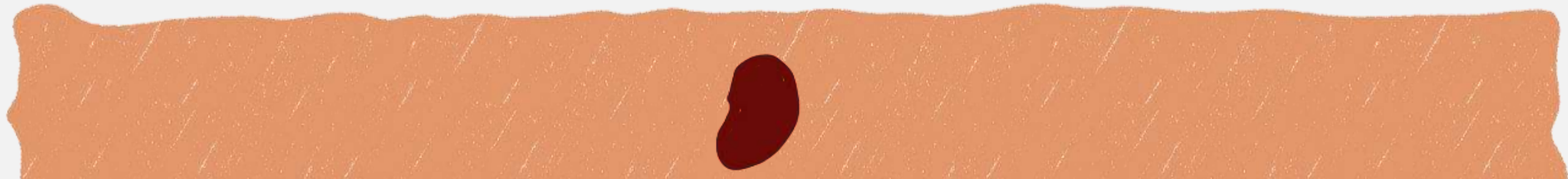
That’s why the Maritime Spatial Planning community in the Baltic Sea planted a seed seven years ago.



Seven years ago, a project called BaltSeaPlan acknowledged the problem and recommended to build a...



...hold on tight to your seats...



...system to access Maritime Spatial Planning data based on a Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) from which users can view and download data and metadata in Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards.

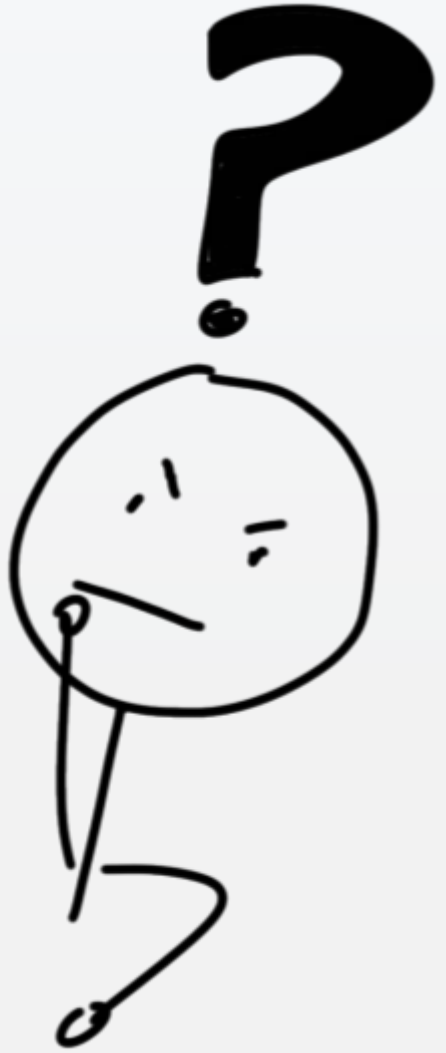
A system to access Maritime Spatial Planning data based on a Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure which users can download data and metadata in Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) standards.

...and this is exactly what we have developed in BalticLINes.

I guess some of you, are thinking “wow, that sounds so exciting”.



But I am afraid many of you are thinking “what the hell is this guy talking about?”



Let me explain

in plain English...

We have developed a system (think of Google Maps for MSP) that potentially:

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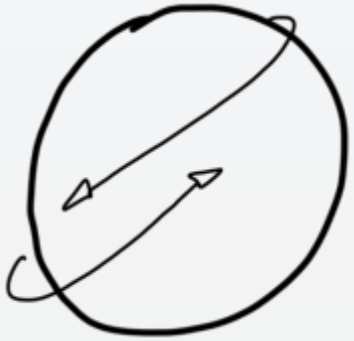


Can make the work of MSP planers more effective

We have developed a system (think of Google Maps for MSP) that potentially:



Can make the work of MSP planers more effective

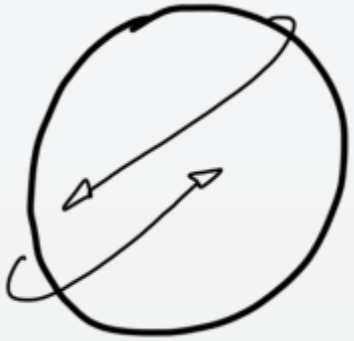


Will help make coherent plans across borders

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Can make the work of MSP planers more effective



Will help make coherent plans across borders

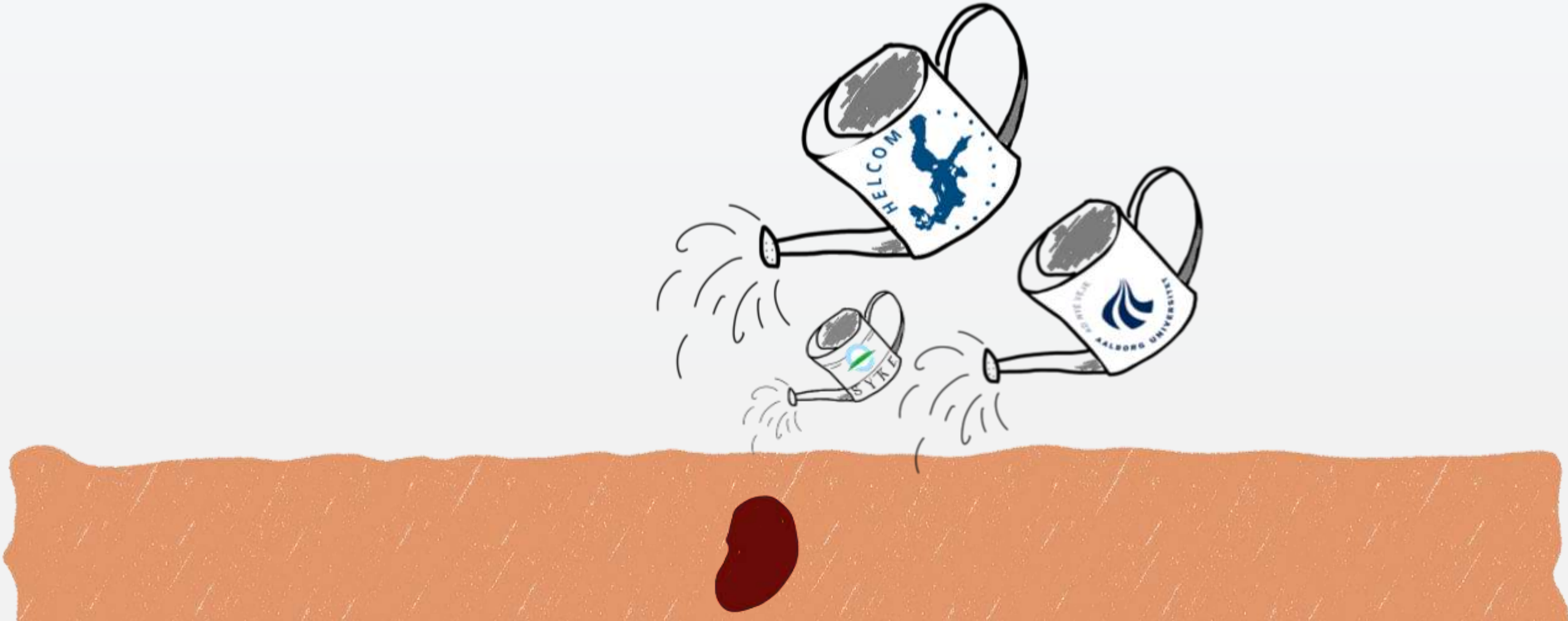


Will contribute to a better environment and blue growth

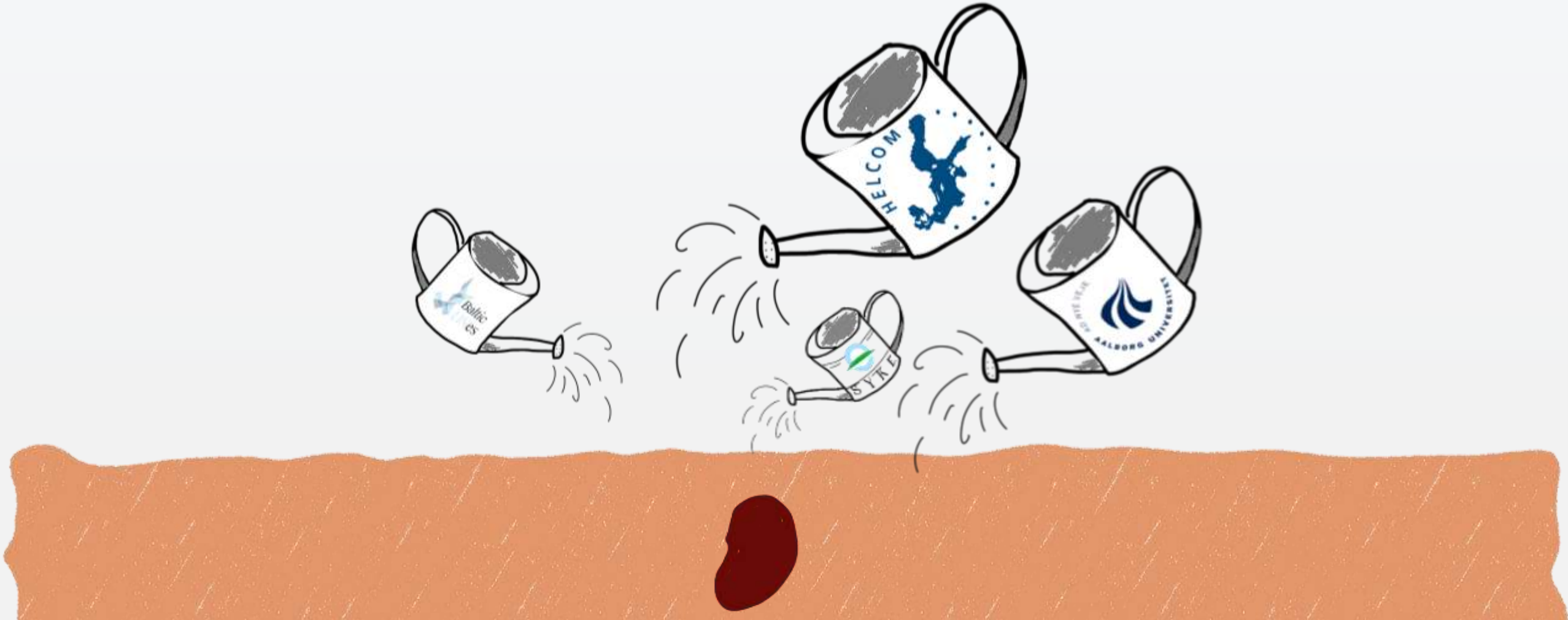
It all started with this seed. HELCOM have been watering the seed for three years with much love and care.



We were not alone. We had the support of the Aalborg University and the Finnish Environment Institute.



And this would have not been possible without the support of all the wonderful people in the BalticLINes project.



Do you want to see the result?

Before that, let me explain WHY we did it.

As I said, it’s very difficult to get data. But it’s even more difficult to get up-to-date data from your neighbours.

Why is it important to work with up-to-date data from your neighbours? Let me give you an example.

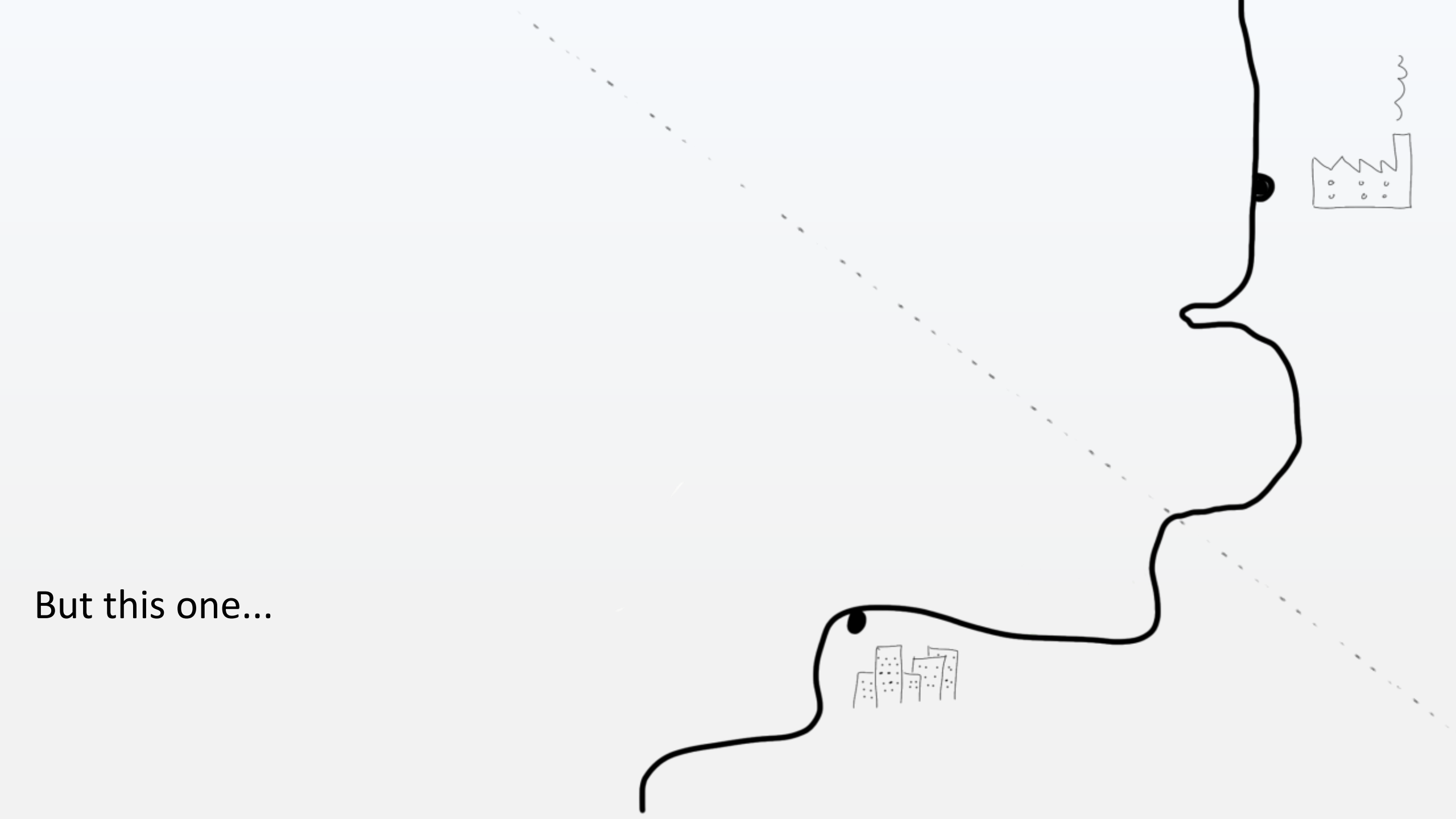
Imagine you are an MSP planner in this country.



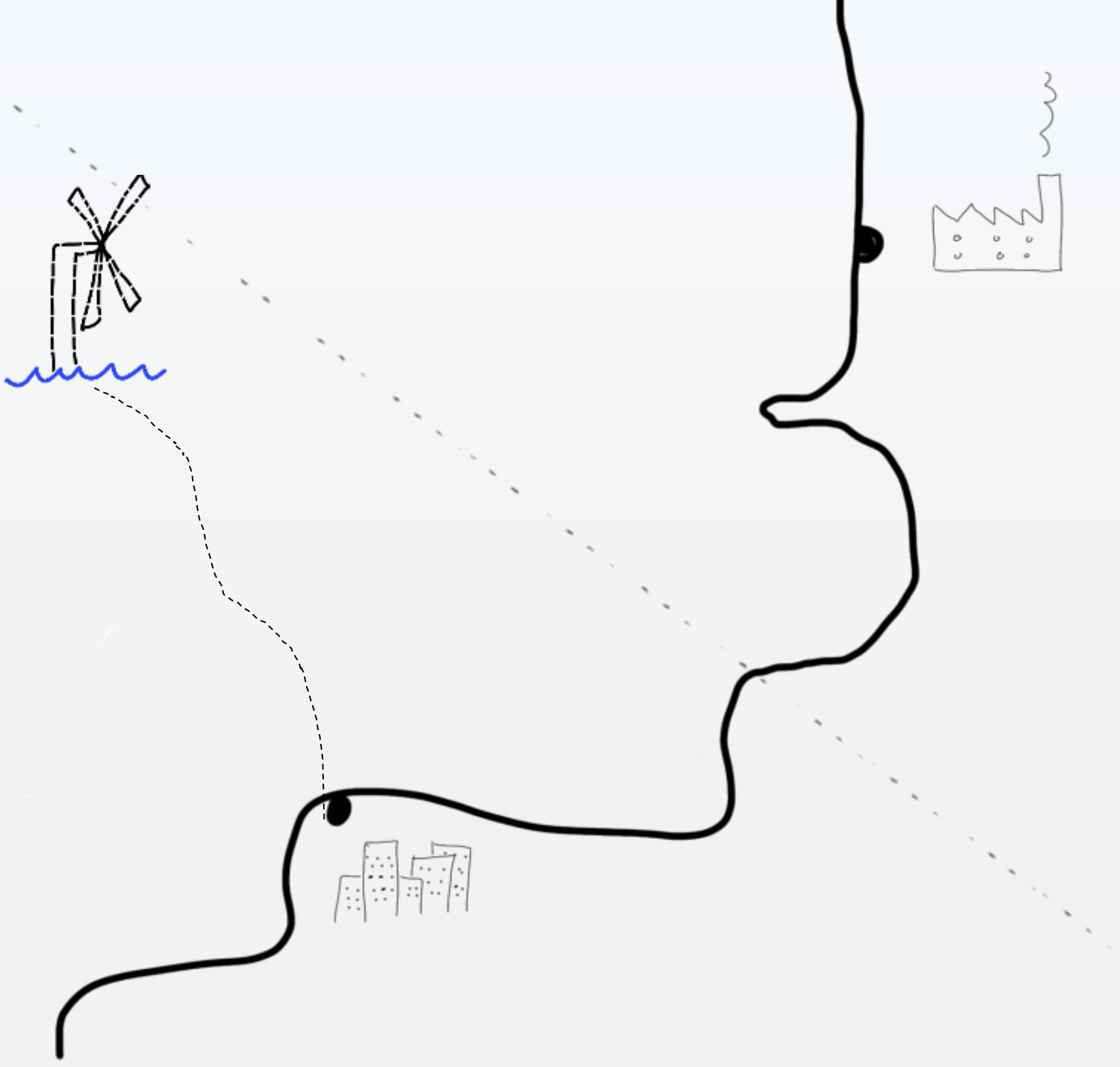
Not this one!



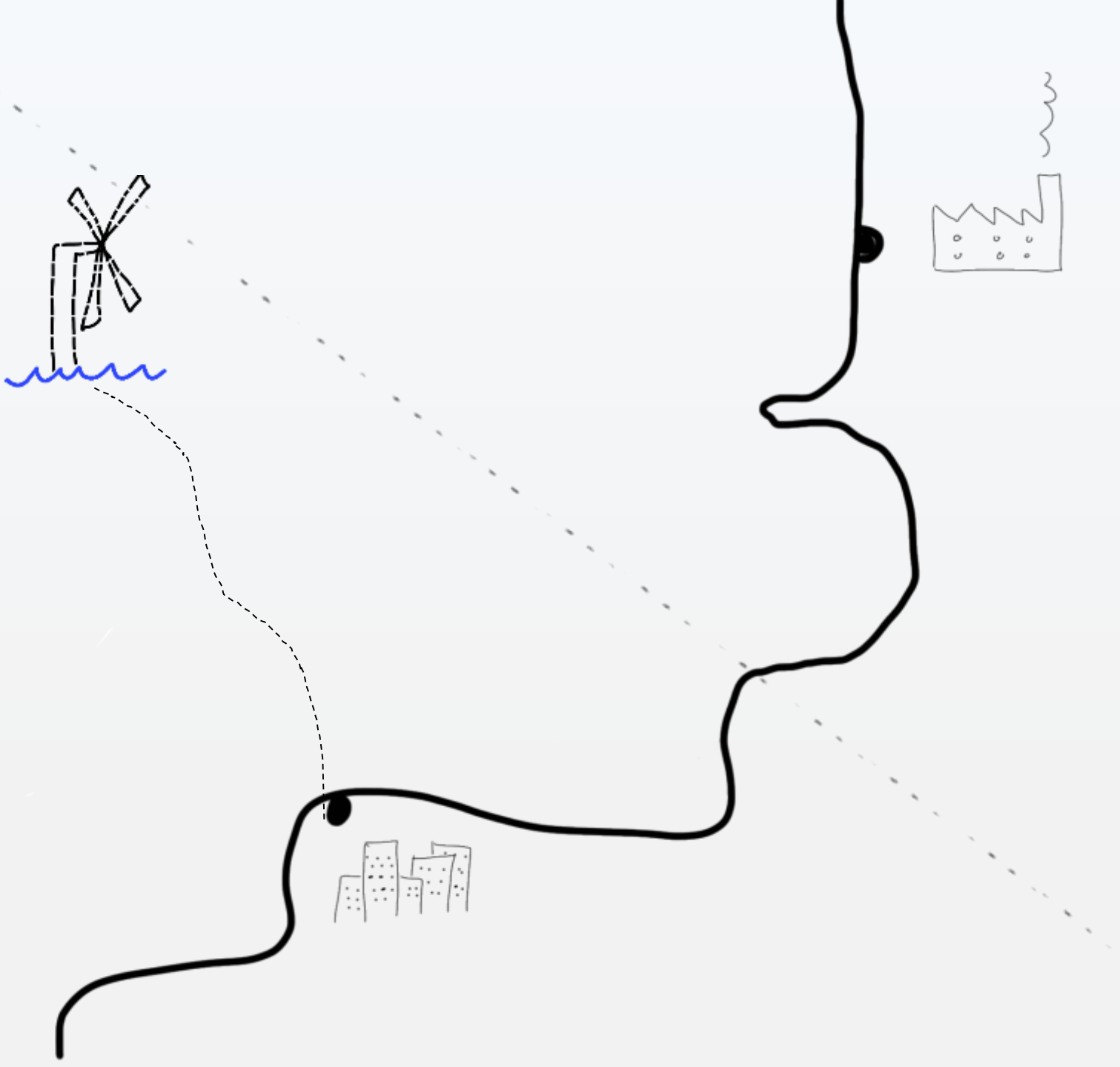
But this one...



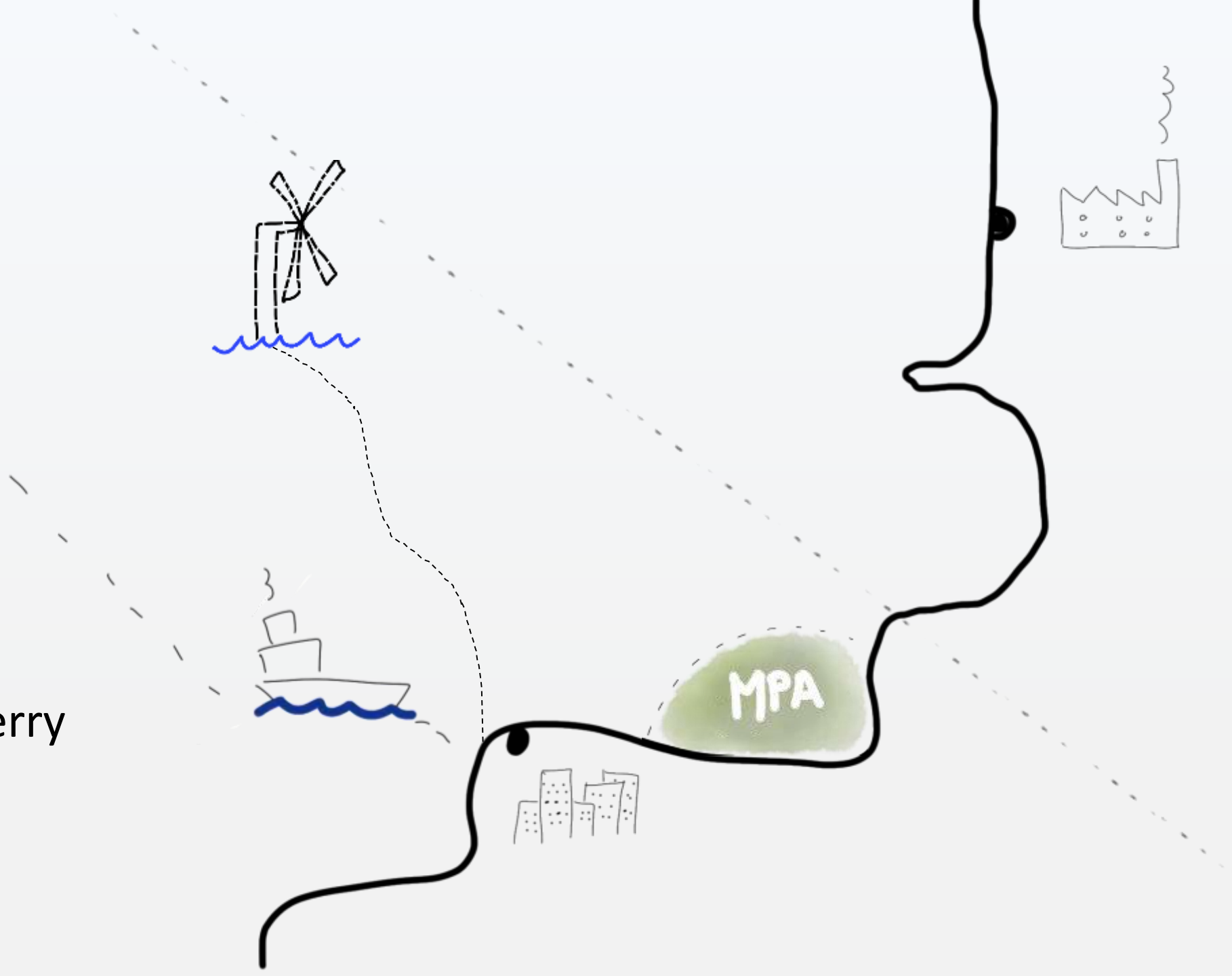
Imagine you are planning an offshore wind farm here.



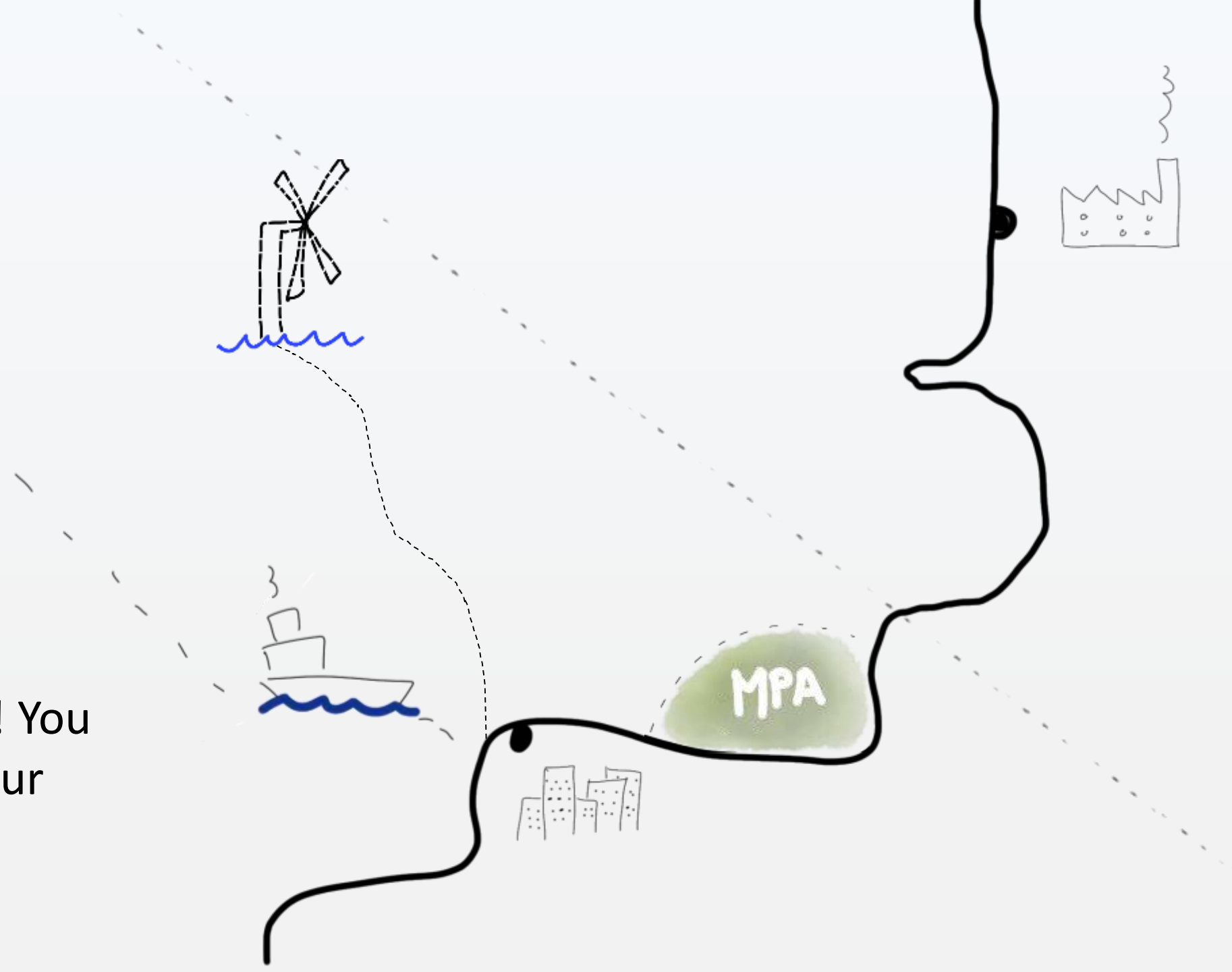
Getting data from your country is relatively easy.



You know where the ferry lines and the Marine Protected Areas are.



But that’s not enough! You need to know what your neighbour is planning.



Where do you get data from your neighbour?

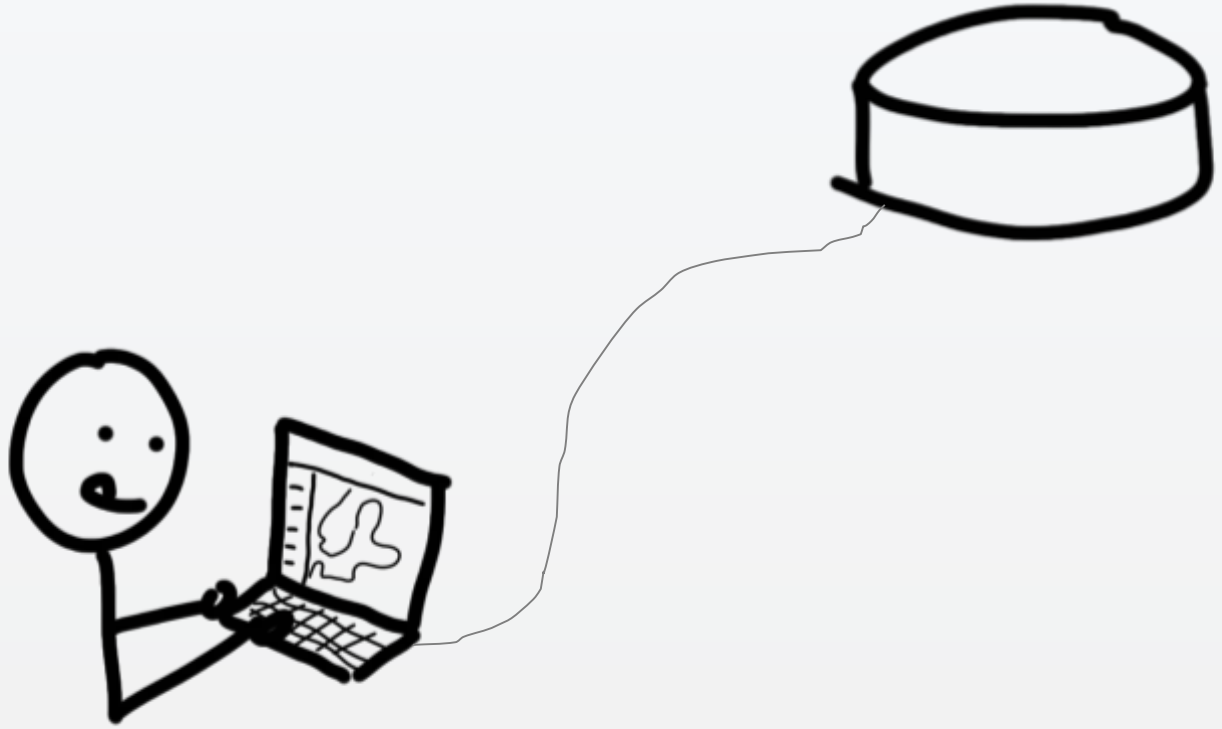


Before the BaltcLINes project planners had

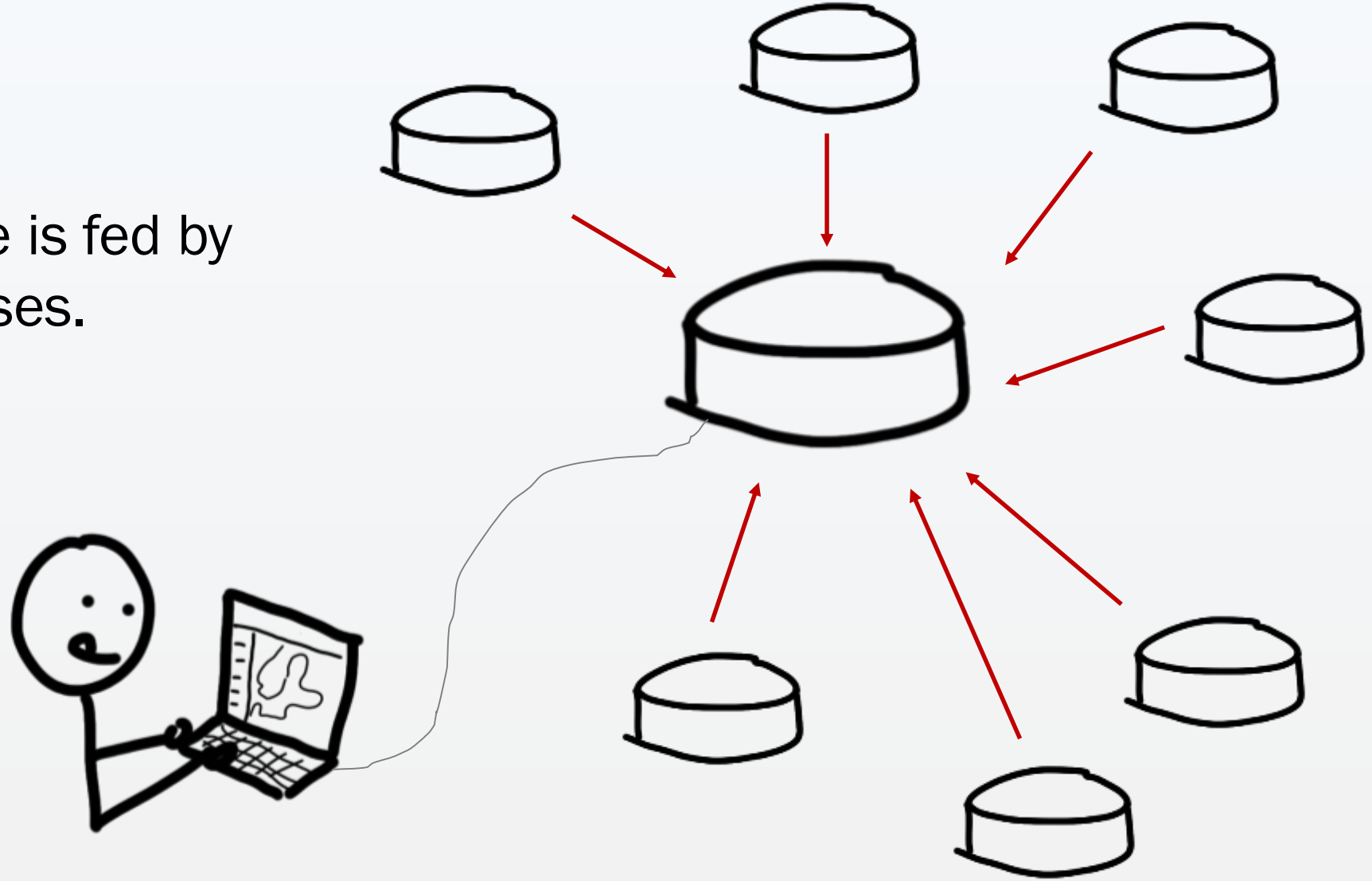
1 option

A centralized database.
How does it work?

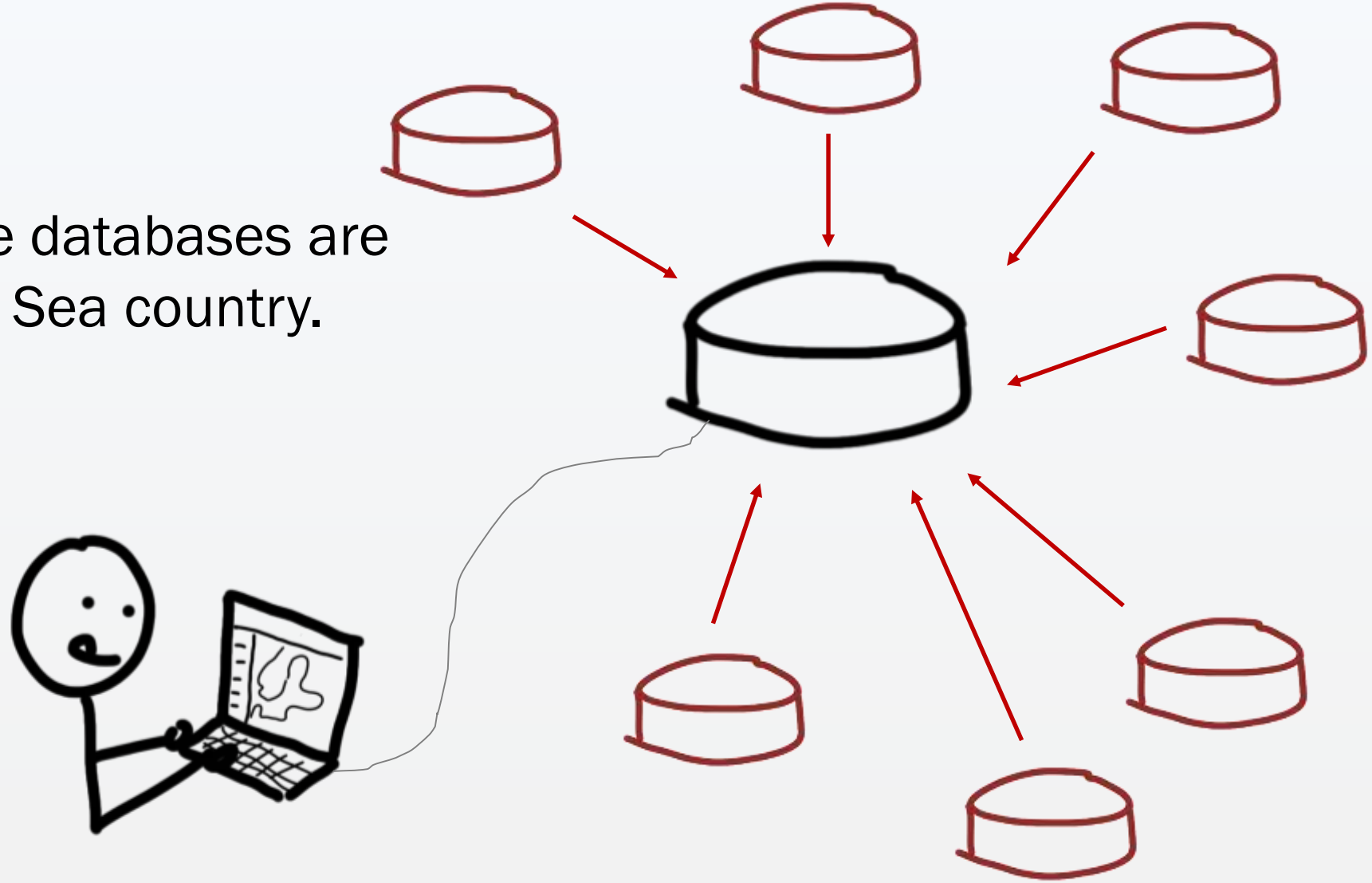
You connect to a database.



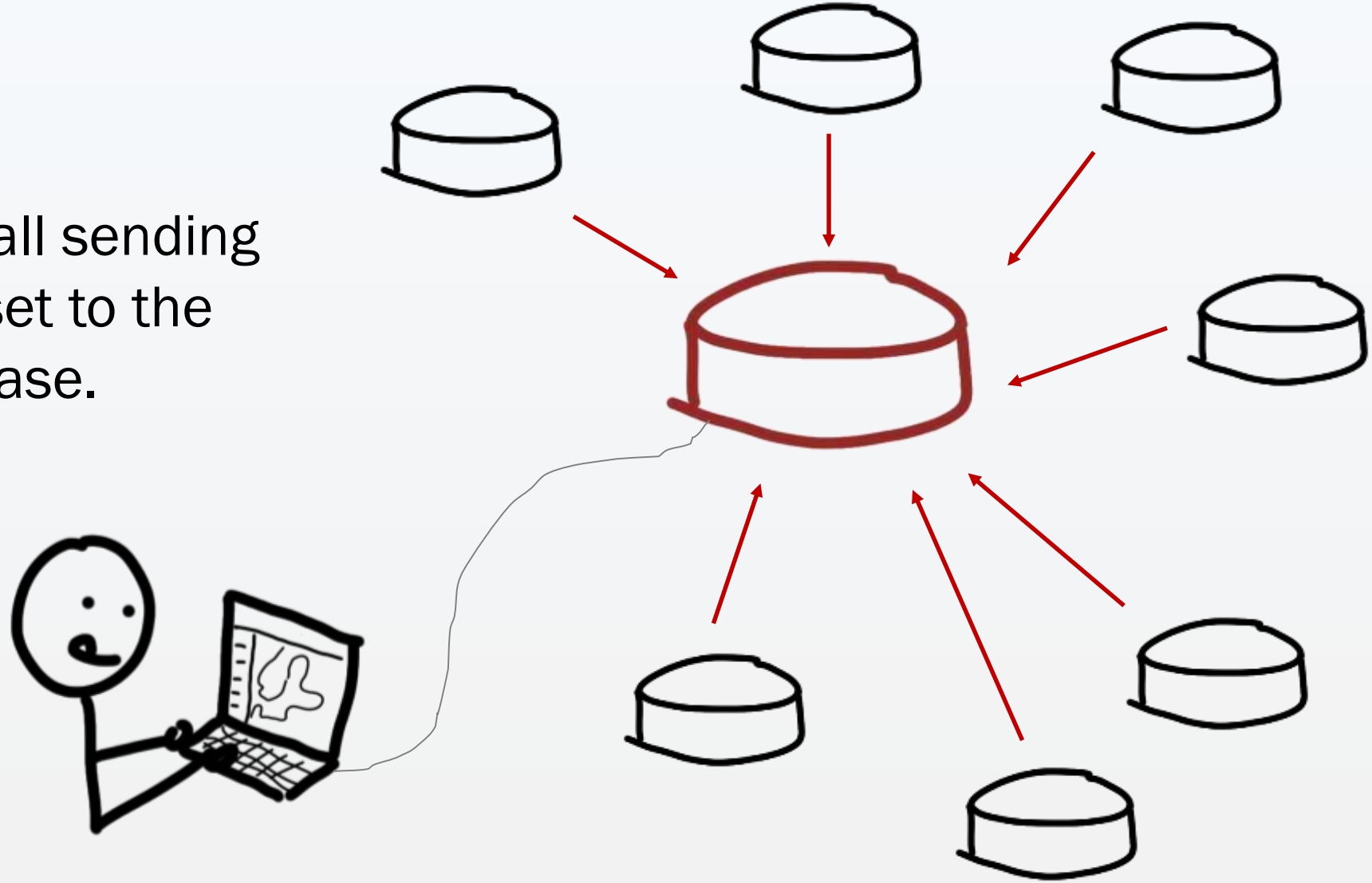
This database is fed by many databases.



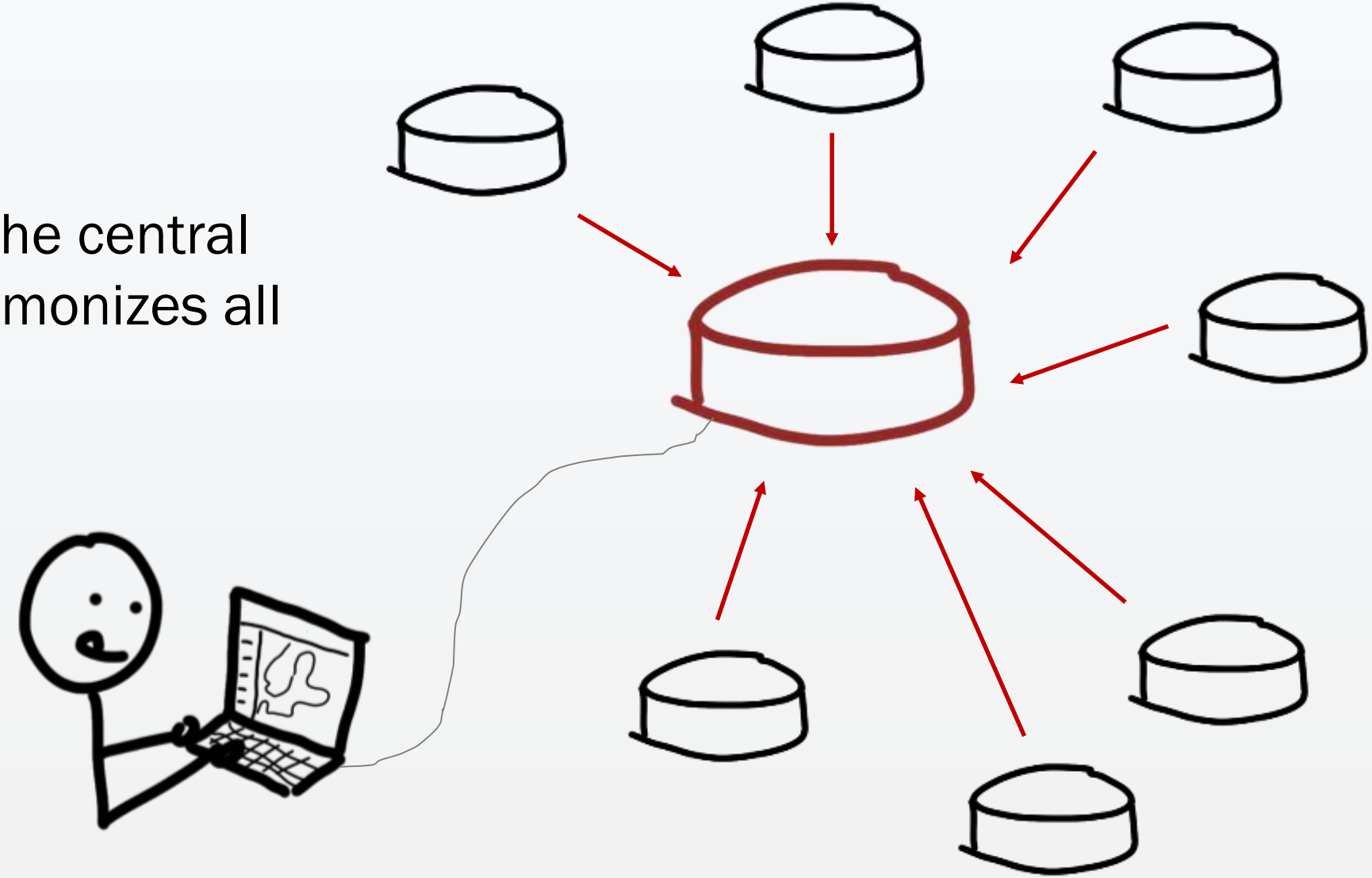
Imagine those databases are in each Baltic Sea country.



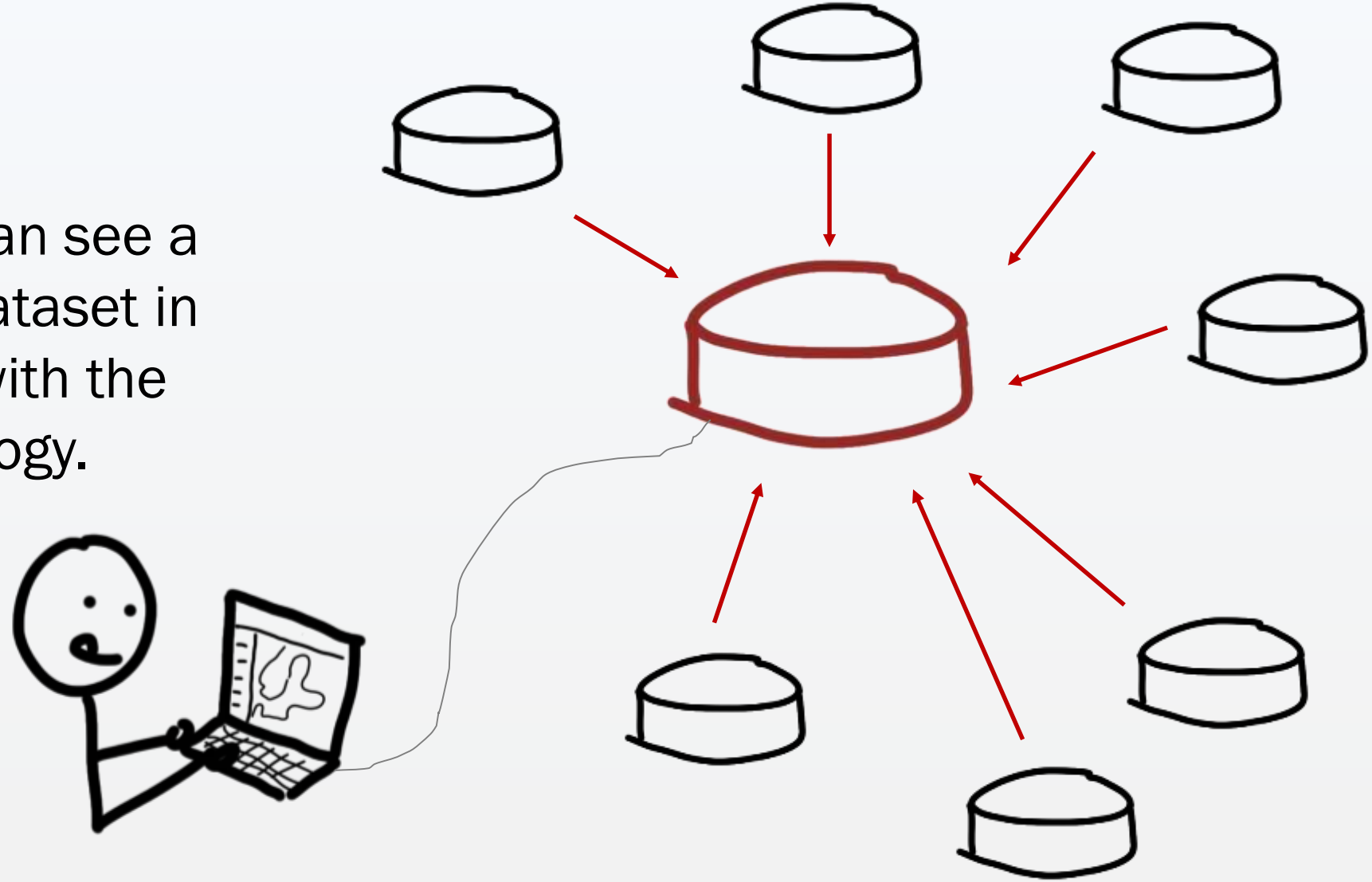
And they are all sending an MPA dataset to the central database.



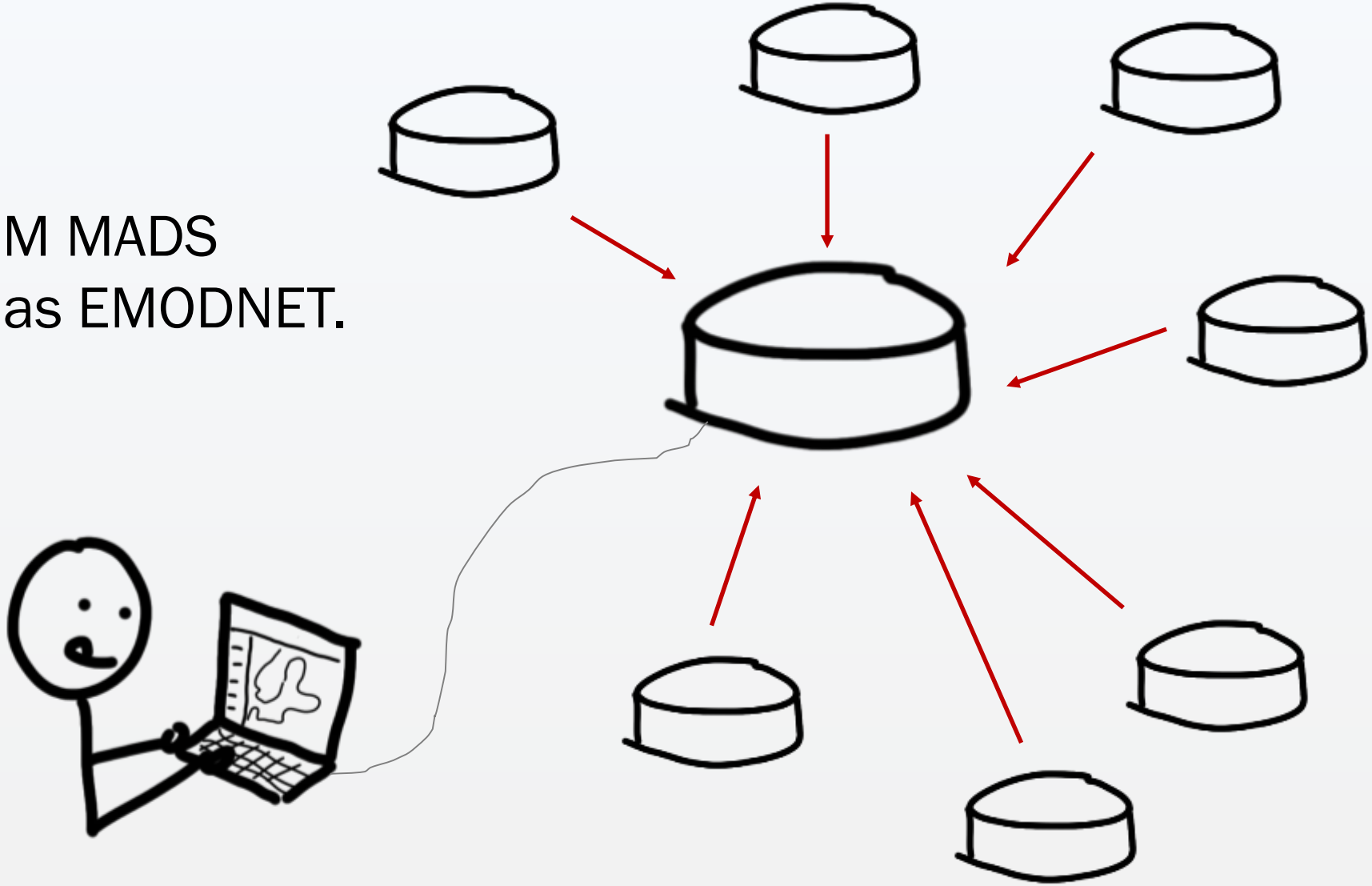
Someone in the central database harmonizes all datasets.



So that you can see a single MPA dataset in English and with the same symbology.

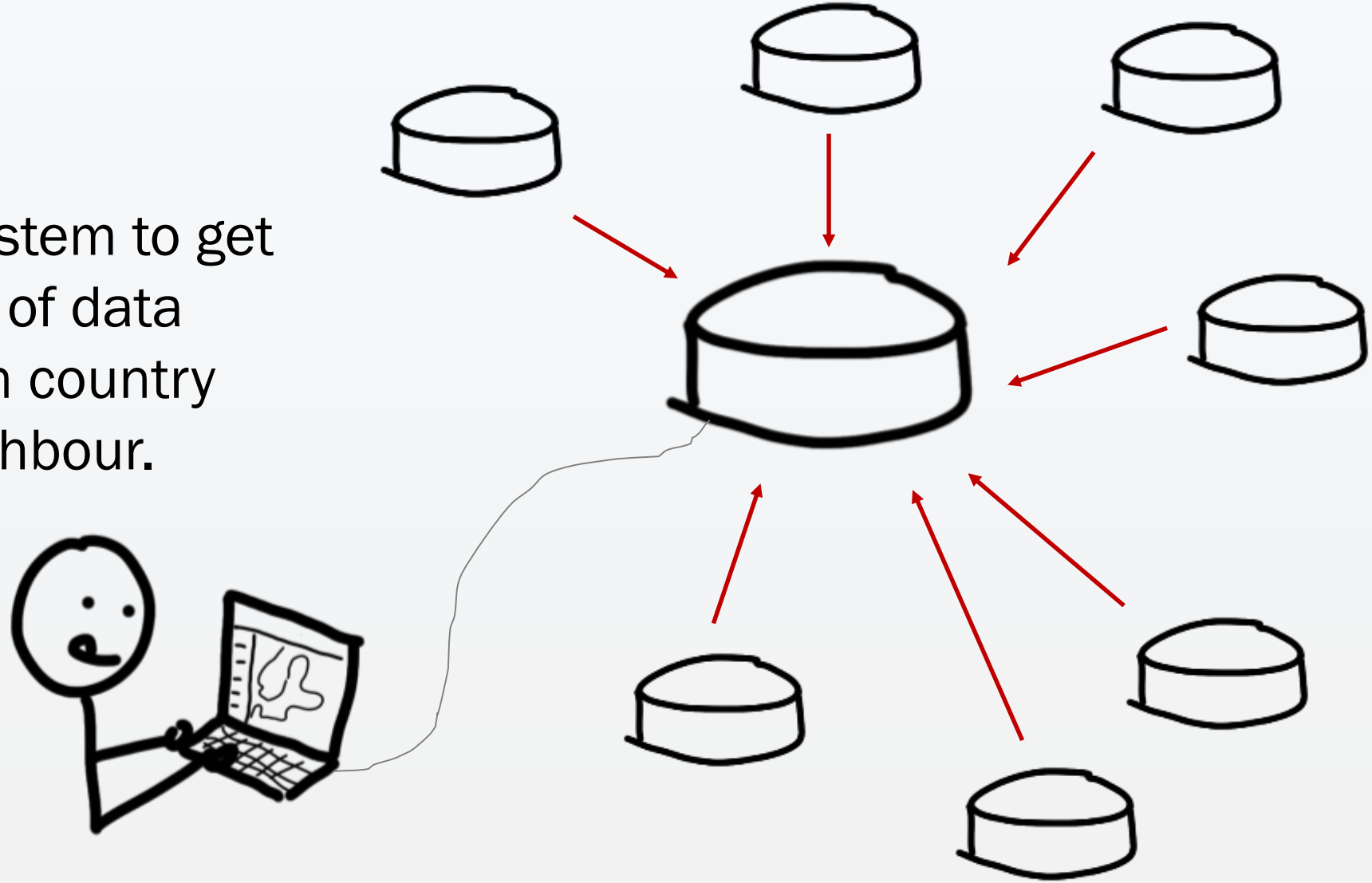


So the HELCOM MADS works as well as EMODNET.



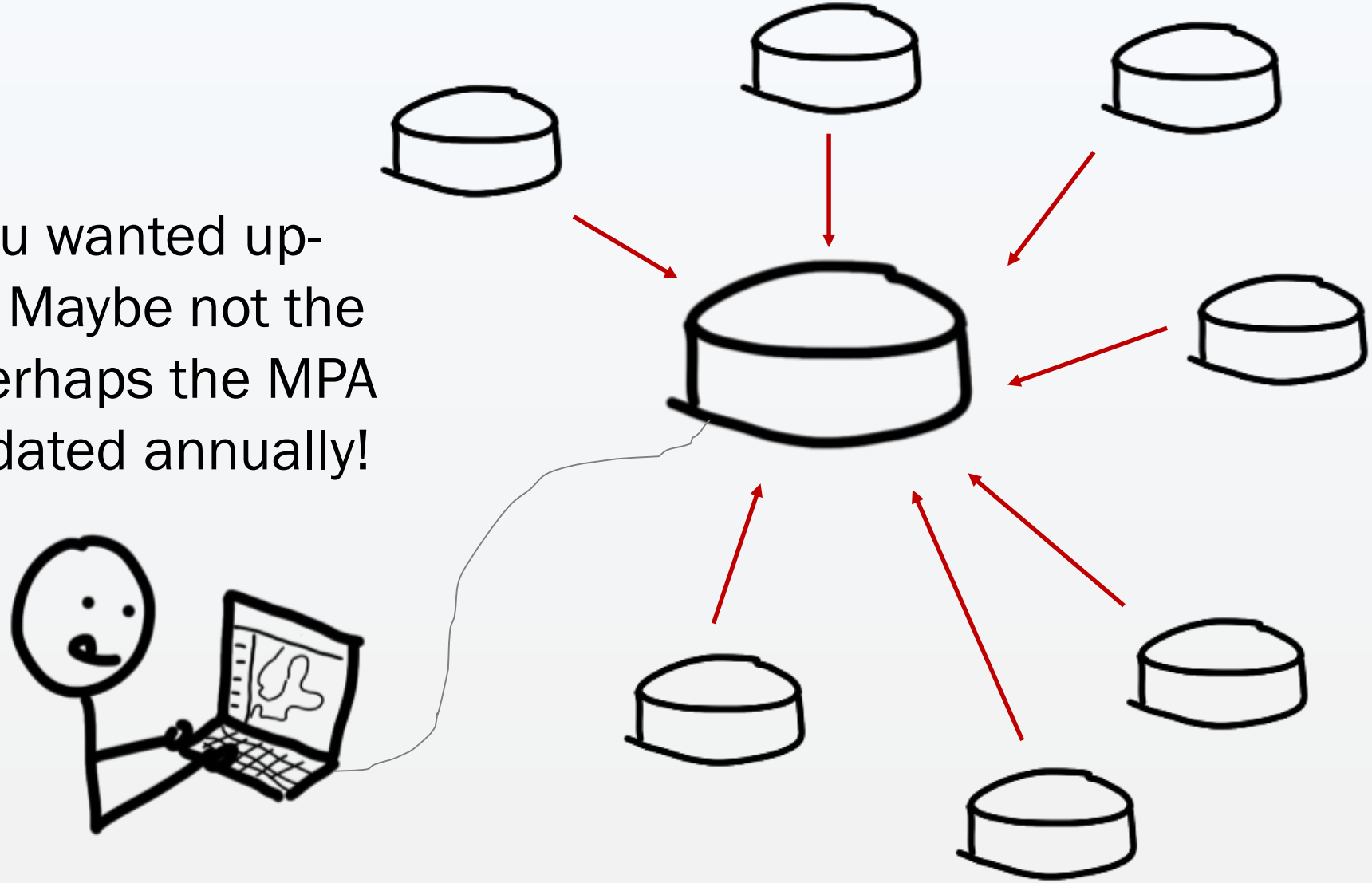
HELCOM Map and Data Service

It’s a great system to get huge amount of data from your own country and your neighbour.



HELCOM Map and Data Service

But what if you wanted up-to-date data? Maybe not the best place. Perhaps the MPA dataset is updated annually!



And that’s why now MSP planners have a...

2nd option

Use a tool to access
decentralized data.
How does that work?

There is no
central database.



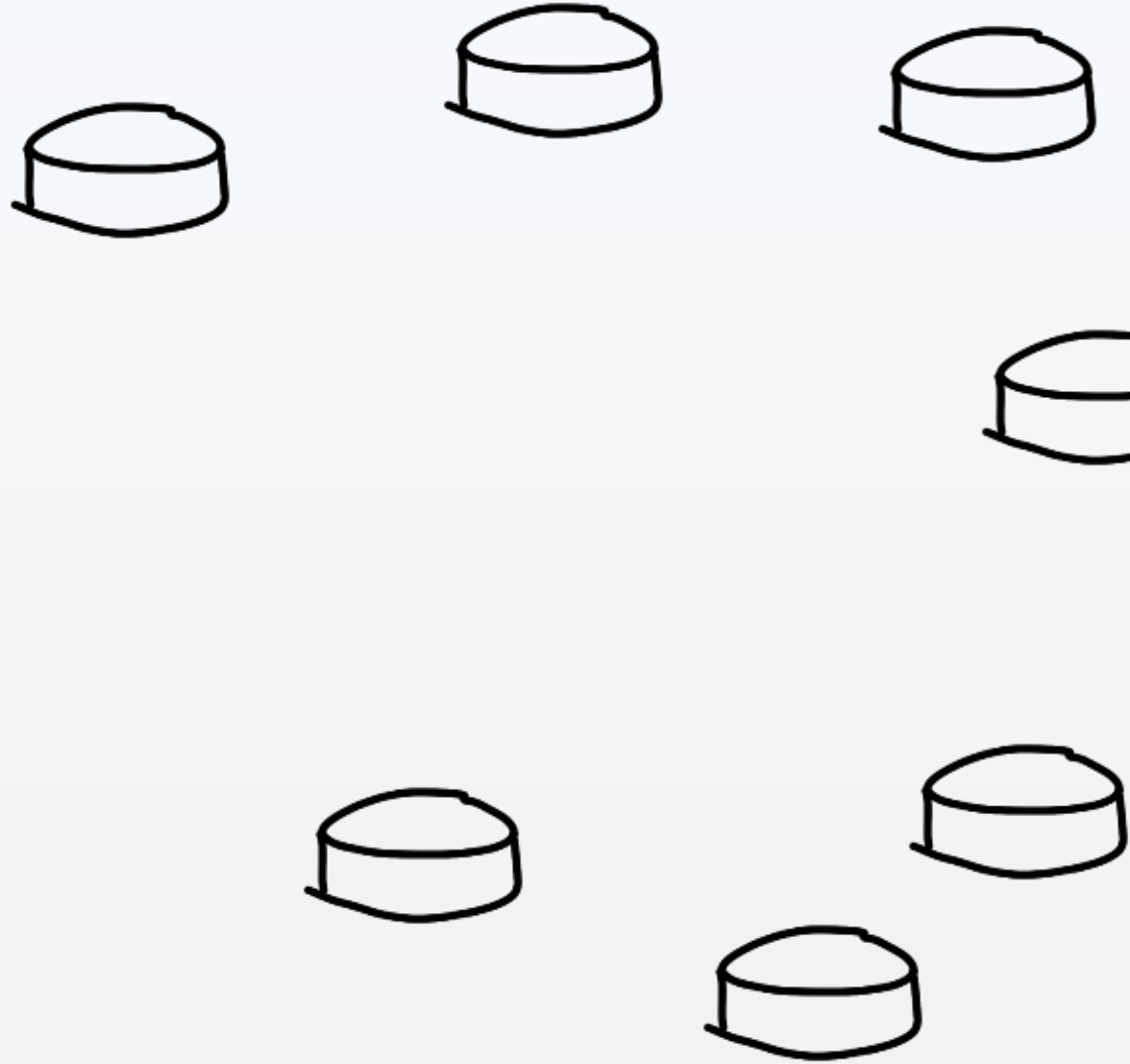






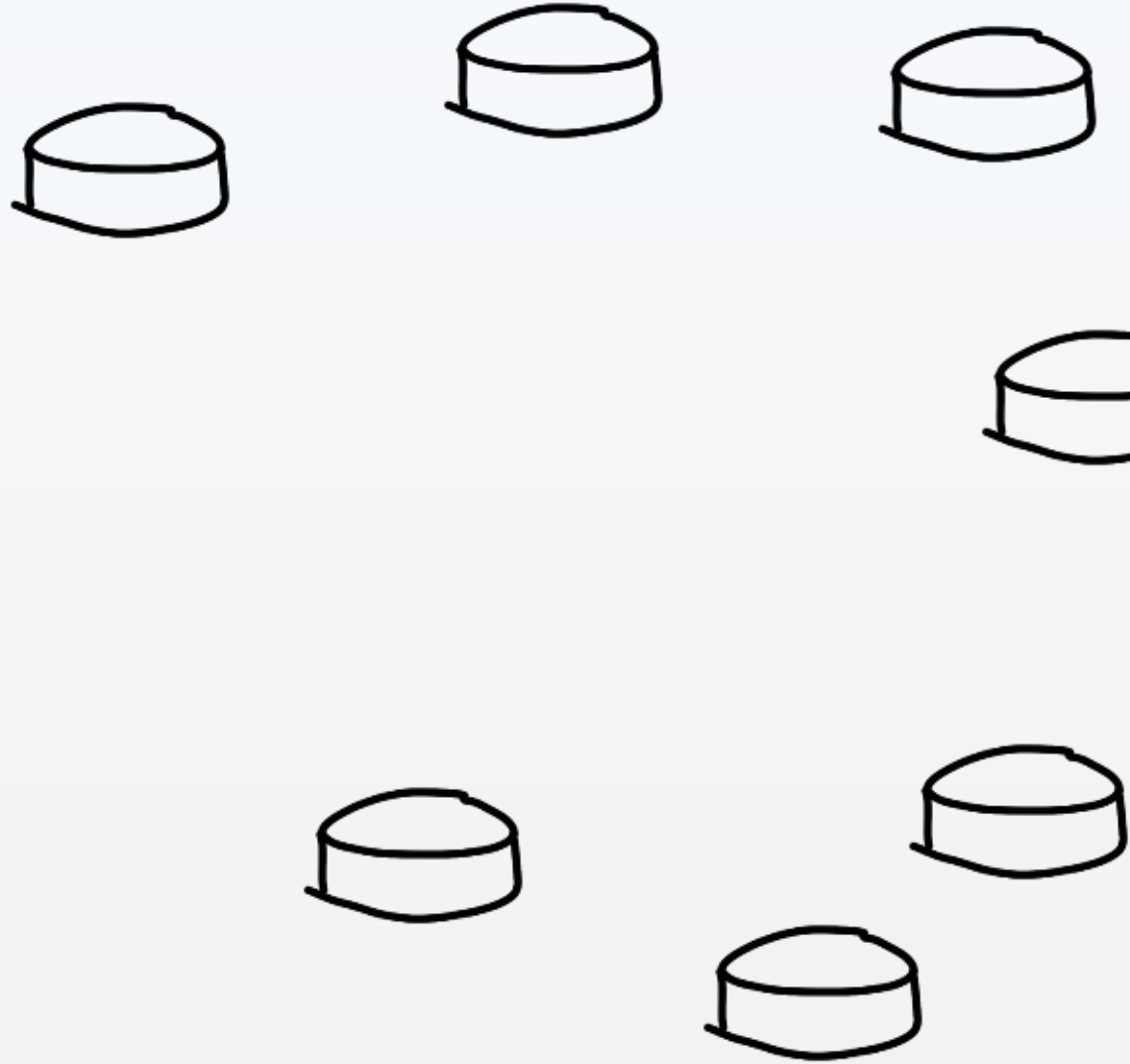
So how do you access those databases?





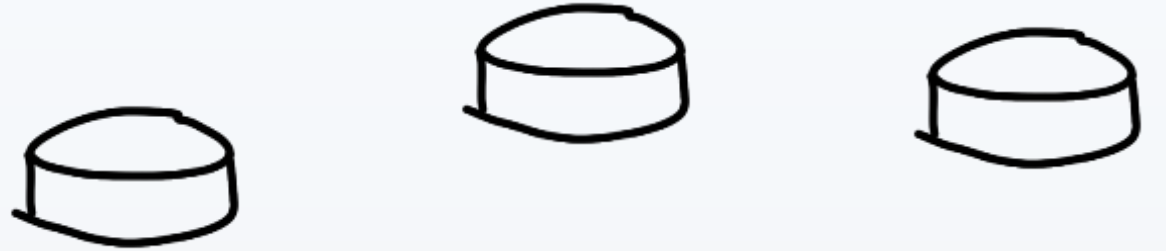
Shall we build another one? Shall we merge all?





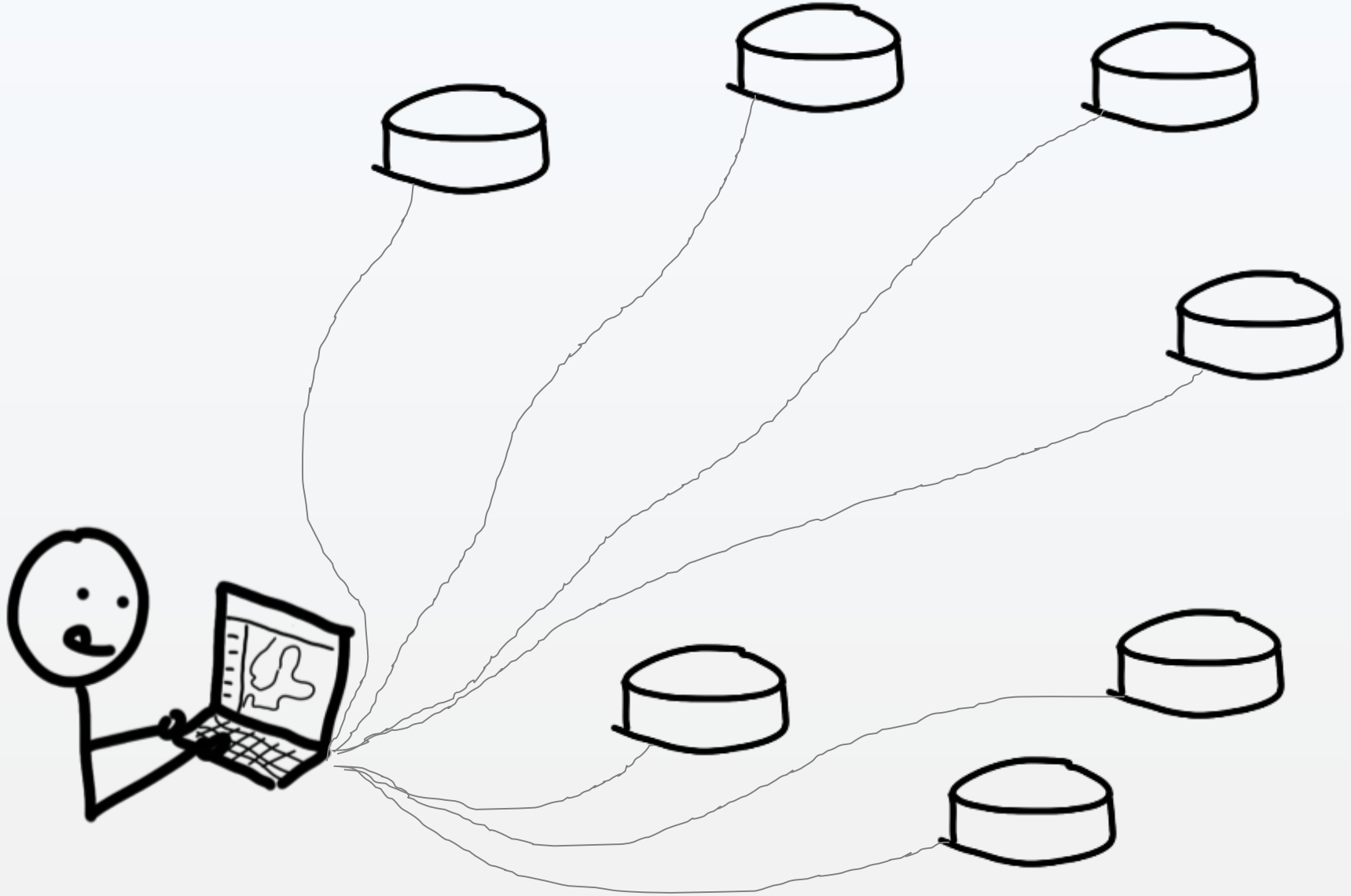
No! The answer is simpler than that!



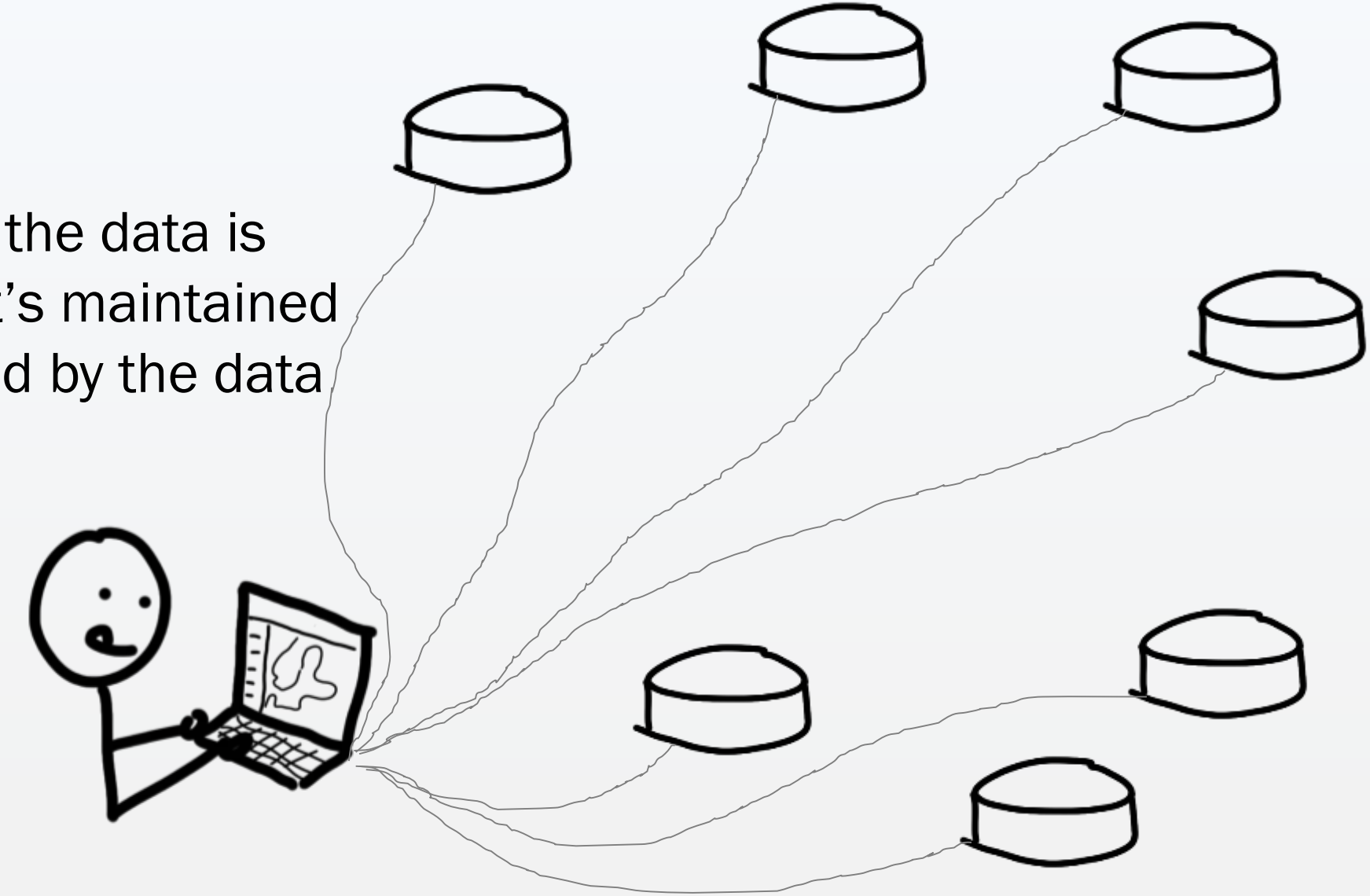




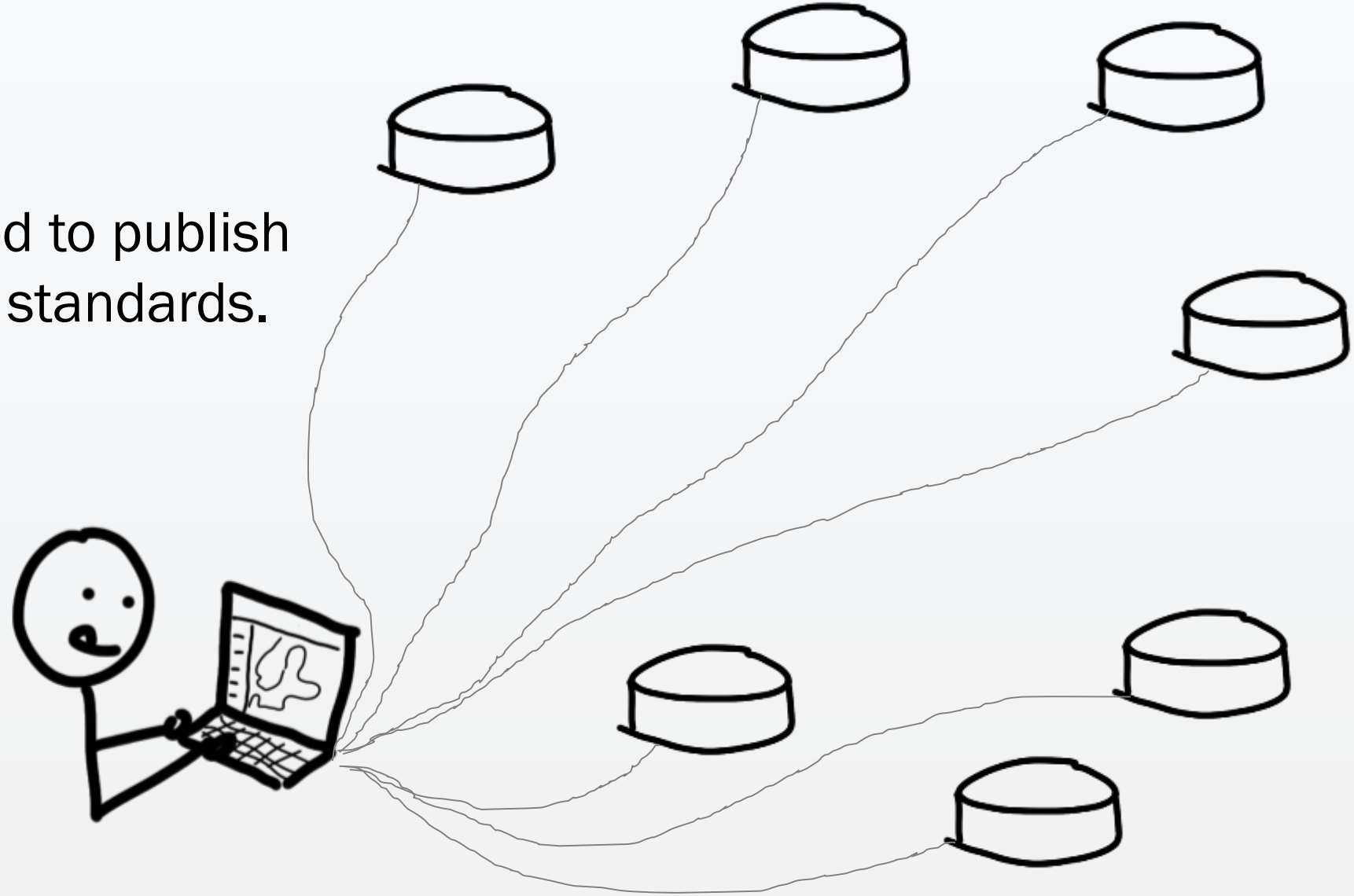
You access
them directly!



You are sure the data is up to date—it's maintained and published by the data providers.



They only need to publish them in open standards.

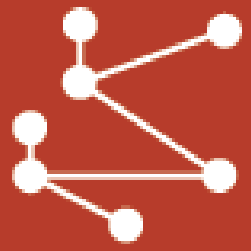


This is what HELCOM has built...

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The first time MSP planners can search data from the original source...

...and it’s called...



BASEMAPS

Baltic Sea Map Service

BASEMAPS

Interreg Baltic Sea Region

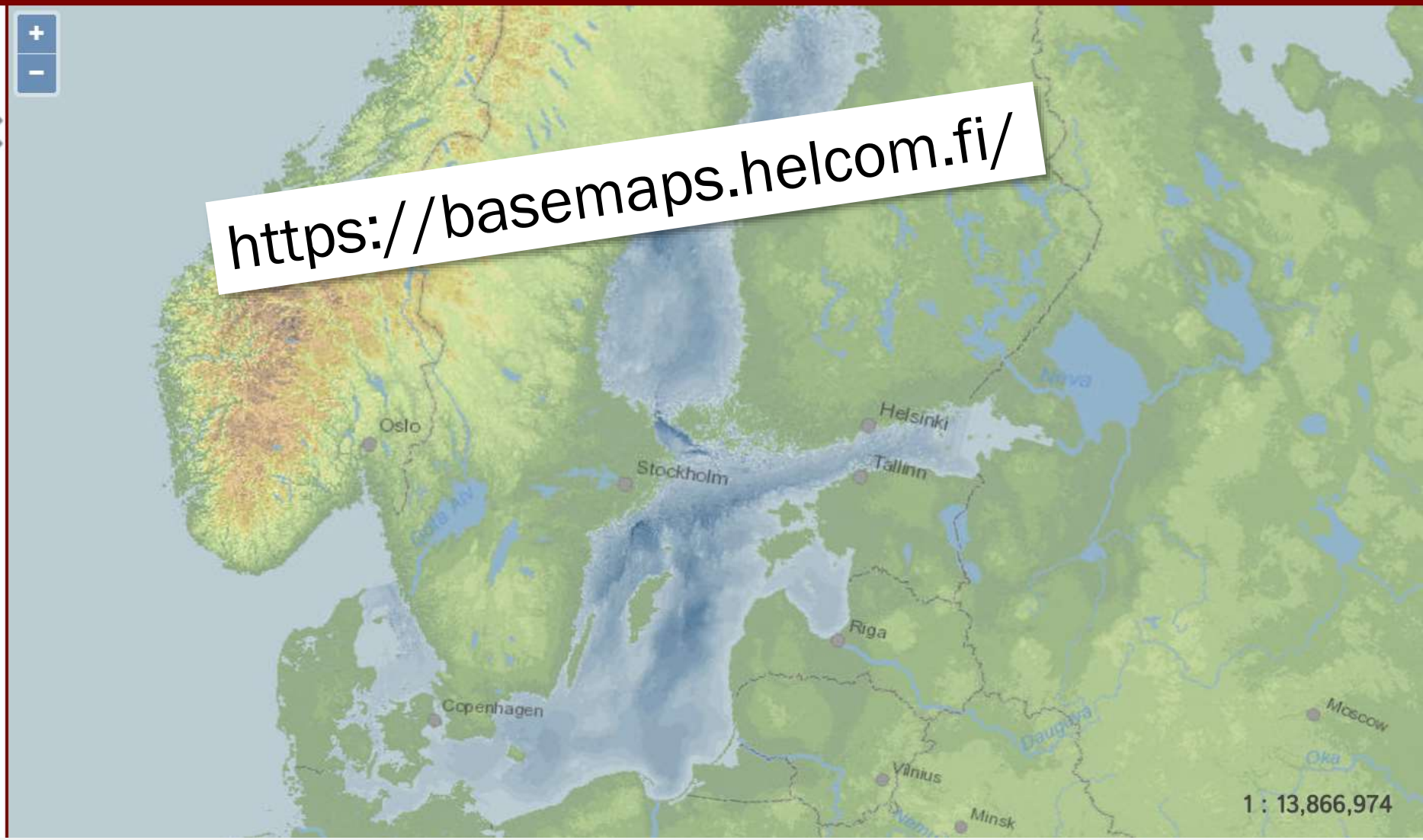
HELCOM

Admin

MSP input data | MSP output data

Collapse layer list | Hide all layers

- Administrative borders
- Aquaculture
- Fishing areas
- Installations and infrastructures
- Maritime transport
- Nature protection
- Military training
- Raw material extraction
- Scientific research
- Cables and pipelines
- Tourism and recreation
- Underwater cultural heritage



Let me finish with the seed.



We have been nurturing it for three years.



And we got a nice tree.



Now it’s the turn of the MSP community to take care of it.



How? By publishing data in open standards



Please, don't
let the tree die!



Data providers: publish data in open standards!




HELCOM