

The Action is of key importance in ensuring coherence between EUSBSR actions and maintaining an integrated approach. Without a clear picture of the Region, and an awareness of sensitive areas, population and economic pressures and other factors, sustainable development is not feasible. This relates both to the situation on land and at sea.

TASK AND TARGETS

The overall task of the Horizontal Action is to achieve territorial cohesion perspective of the BSR by 2030, i.e. the Region is a well-integrated and coherent macro-region, and it has overcome the socio-economic development divides between its individual parts and turned the global challenges into assets.

Strategic target of the Horizontal Action is to **draw up and apply of trans-boundary, ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Plans throughout the Region in 2020**. It means the Baltic Sea countries should aim at developing national maritime spatial plans by applying an ecosystem-approach, and that the planning should be coherent across the borders which calls for close trans-boundary cooperation.



EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION

HORIZONTAL ACTION SPATIAL PLANNING

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ENCOURAGING THE USE OF MARITIME AND
LAND-BASED SPATIAL PLANNING IN ALL
MEMBER STATES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA
AND DEVELOP A COMMON APPROACH FOR
CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION



Part-financed by the European Union

HORIZONTAL ACTION
LEADERS:



LAND-BASED SPATIAL PLANNING

Land-based spatial planning has been carried out by all BSR states at national, regional and local level. VASAB has established a common platform for meeting, networking, exchange of knowledge and experience and sketched a first common spatial vision for the Baltic Sea Region – "Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010" – (VASAB 2010) that was adopted by ministers responsible for spatial planning in Tallinn in 1994. The VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (LTP), prepared for the period till 2030, is the latest contribution to that and should be taken into account by Priority Area Coordinators of the EUSBSR with regard to spatial objectives, conditions and impacts of their actions. The LTP concentrates on issues which require transnational solutions such as urban networking and urban-rural cooperation, improving external and internal accessibility as well as development of maritime spatial planning.

As part of the implementation process of the EUSBSR, the LTP is being implemented through a number of short-medium and long-term actions together with stakeholders of the Region. In particular, attention has to be paid to address the territorial disparities in the BSR: 1) the East-West divide, 2) the North-South divide (especially better integration of the northernmost territories in the Baltic Sea Region networks) and 3) urban-rural divide.

VASAB Committee for Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (VASAB CSPD/BSR) acts as a coordination platform for the territorial development in the Region, in close cooperation with the Council of Baltic Sea States.

FLAGSHIP PROJECT



level MSP processes across concrete pilot cases.

Project's lifetime: June 2012 - September 2014

Budget: € 1 043 015

Multi-level Governance in MSP (Maritime Spatial Planning) throughout the Baltic Sea Region - PartiSEApate will develop and test methodologies for how to carry out multi-

national boundaries via three

OTHER PROJECT EXAMPLES



The monitoring system will measure the progress in achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion in the BSR by using indicators at different scales. This will contribute to increased knowledge and understanding of territorial cohesion processes in the BSR.

Project's lifetime: February 2012 - January 2014

Budget: € 340 000

BSR - TeMo - Territorial Monitoring for the Baltic Sea Region promotes territorial development and cohesion in the BSR by developing an indicator based monitoring system.



study of Baltic transboundary MSP. The project was a Baltic Sea MSP "preparatory action" funded by EU Commission DG MARE under the EU Integrated Maritime Policy.

Project's lifetime: December 2010 - June 2012

Budget: € 500 000

The **PLAN BOTHNIA** project has tested transboundary MSP in the Baltic Sea. The project used the Bothnian Sea area between Sweden and Finland as a case



It accompanied the EU Integrated Maritime Policy by supporting the introduction of MSP and preparation of National Maritime Strategies within the BSR. The first transnational and particularly national cases with involvement of stakeholders were carried out within the project.

Project's lifetime: October 2008 - January 2012

Budget: € 3 700 000

The transnational Baltic Sea Programme project **BaltSeaPlan** was jointly carried out by 14 partners from seven BSR countries.

MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

Increased economic activities in the Baltic Sea lead to competition for limited marine space among sectoral interests, such as shipping and maritime transport, extraction of gravel and minerals, offshore wind energy, ports development, tourism, fisheries and aquaculture. MSP and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) are a key tool and process for improved decision-making that balances competing interests and contributes to achieving sustainable use of marine areas to benefit economic and social development as well as the marine environment.

Several Baltic Sea states have already implemented a regime for MSP at national level and some others are in the process of doing so. In order to have a fully functioning planning system at regional (Baltic Sea) level, it is important that all coastal states have national activities for planning in place, and will work together on key transnational topics.

In 2010 VASAB and HELCOM have agreed on Baltic Sea Broad-scale MSP Principles that call for the ecosystem approach as well as transnational cooperation for the implementation of MSP in the Baltic Sea.

The **joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group** established in 2010 acts as the regional platform to ensure cooperation among the BSR countries for coherent MSP processes.

The HELCOM-VASAB Working Group will develop a Road Map to guide the regional activities to achieve the EUSBSR objective to implement MSP in all coastal states by 2020.