

VASAB Workshop on territorial monitoring CONCLUSIONS

22nd September 2016, Poland, Krakow
The Historical Museum of the City of Kraków, Rynek Główny 35, Krakow
Room: "Sala Fontany"

VASAB is a cooperation of the ministers responsible for spatial planning and development of the Baltic Sea region countries including both EU and non-EU countries. It also acts as Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" coordinator within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region (EUSBSR). In this capacity the following conclusions of the VASAB Workshop on Territorial Monitoring have been proposed:

- 1) The monitoring system should support the cooperation of the Baltic Sea states (VASAB), as well as offer added value for various BSR stakeholders i.e. regional and local authorities, businesses and civil society. Its role is beyond the monitoring of the EUSBSR. It should facilitate "coordination through processing and releasing information."
- 2) It is crucial how the monitoring system will integrate ESPON BSR-TeMo. Therefore VASAB would like to have a role in discussing this issue. We would like to be informed about the process and content of the Terms of Reference for the Monitoring System.
- 3) One of the key preconditions for the success of the new Monitoring system is maintaining its territorial / spatial dimension as it was the case in the TeMo system. This means paying attention to data for different types of regions and even for cities. The territorial approach should also guide monitoring of the development of the maritime part of the BSR as well.
- 4) The Monitoring system should help examination of cross-sectoral issues and problems such as interplay of spatial structures, demography, Blue Growth, digitalization, vulnerability to globalization impacts etc.
- 5) Data about different flows should be an important part of a new Monitoring system.
- 6) The Monitoring system should cover the whole Baltic Sea Region territory including countries outside EU (Russia, Belarus, Norway).
- 7) VASAB intends to be an active user of the Monitoring system and we see our role among others in assessing the spatial consequences of the various BSR processes, trends and phenomena. We also hope that the system will allow proactive thinking e.g. identification and examination of what will happen, and what might change existing routines and development patterns in the BSR including the spatial ones.
- 8) The TeMo experience shows that the Monitoring system must be carefully maintained, updated and re-designed. This requires that the system is constantly used for designing policies and programming development. For that reason the ownership of the Monitoring system should include regional actors and other stakeholders. This is a key precondition for keeping the system alive in a long run. Therefore a bigger group of system "owners" is necessary. VASAB is ready to lead such a group.
- 9) Monitoring of the performance of the EUSBSR might be difficult for methodological reasons therefore the starting point should be in monitoring the development of the BSR that might help evaluation of the strategy. VASAB can contribute on all spatial planning related issues basing and acting on subsidiarity principle.