

*The Horizontal 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 divide between its individual parts, and has turned the global challenges into assets.

**The strategic target** of the Horizontal Action is to **draw up and apply 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.

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**EUSBSR**  
EU STRATEGY  
FOR THE BALTIC  
SEA REGION

# HORIZONTAL ACTION SPATIAL PLANNING

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



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HORIZONTAL ACTION  
LEADERS:



## LAND-BASED SPATIAL PLANNING

**Land-based spatial planning** has been carried out by all the 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 the 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 the Baltic Sea States.

## SEED MONEY PROJECT

**Liveable Baltic Cities (LiveBaltic)** aims to understand how the quality of living indicators are included in municipal and regional planning, and what are the best practices in the most 'liveable' cities. It will also look at practical ways how liveability of cities can be improved by using various citizen participation tools, and will assess available good practices. It strives for the establishment of a network of policy makers and planners focused on liveability issues.  
*Budget: € 49 860*

## FLAGSHIP PROJECT



### **Multi-level Governance in MSP (Maritime Spatial Planning) throughout the Baltic Sea Region – PartiSEApate**

PartiSEApate developed methodologies for carrying out multi-level MSP processes across national boundaries in three concrete pilot cases. It brought together stakeholders to foster holistic thinking for integrated MSP, as well as suggested a pan-Baltic MSP governance model.  
*Project's lifetime: June 2012 – September 2014*  
*Budget: € 1 043 015*

## OTHER PROJECT EXAMPLES



### **BSR-TeMo – Territorial Monitoring for the Baltic Sea Region**

promoted territorial development and cohesion in the BSR by developing an indicator-based monitoring system. 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*



### **The PLAN BOTHNIA**

project has tested trans-boundary MSP in the Baltic Sea. The project used the Bothnian Sea area between Sweden and Finland as a case study of Baltic trans-boundary MSP. The project was a Baltic Sea MSP “preparatory action” funded by the EU Commission DG MARE under the EU Integrated Maritime Policy.  
*Project's lifetime: December 2010 – June 2012*  
*Budget: € 500 000*



### **The transnational Baltic Sea Programme project BaltSeaPlan**

was jointly carried out by 14 partners from seven BSR countries. 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*

## 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, port development, tourism, fisheries and aquaculture. MSP and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) are key tools and processes for improved decision-making that balance competing interests and contribute 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 the 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 Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 was developed by the Working Group to fulfil the goal of drawing up and applying maritime spatial plans throughout the BSR in a coherent way across the borders, including exclusive economic zones.

## SEED MONEY PROJECT

**Baltwise MSP seed money project 2014 (Baltwise Seed)** aims to provide added value by engaging in further practical studies involving particularly the Russian Federation. It aims at drawing in-depth conclusions from previous planning at sea, but also on land, as well as it creates new innovative MSP methodology including related international governance, law, as well as future research. The project area is the Gulf of Finland.  
*Budget: € 49 920*