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## VASAB Annual Conference

“Integrated Approach to Spatial Development of Europe – Meaning of Territorial Cohesion”

7-8 February 2011, Warsaw, Poland

7.02.2011

### INTRODUCTION:

#### Rationale

Hungary is preparing an update of the Territorial Agenda for EU: *Towards a More Competitive and Sustainable Europe of Diverse Regions* (TA2020) in which territorial cohesion should be defined, specified and made operational.

The EU BSR Strategy is going to be updated during the EU Polish presidency.

The adoption of the Long-Term Territorial Perspective (LTP) by the VASAB 7<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in 2009 in Vilnius has also been significant input to the EU BSR Strategy and thinking of the territorial dimension of the national and EU policies. VASAB LTP visionary describes territorial cohesion perspective of the Baltic Sea Region in 2030. It sees the Baltic sea region as well-integrated and coherent macroregion that has overcome socio-economic development divides between its individual parts and has turned the global challenges into assets. The VASAB LTP suggests specific mid-term and short-term actions to achieve the envisaged perspective.

The intention of the Interreg BSR program EcoRegion project is to enable actors of sustainable development to systematically collect information on existing good practices generated in former projects, to promote active implementation of the good practices identified and to build on the experience from the model regions. Within the project, the University of Gdansk has collected good practices on sustainable spatial planning and supported model regions with sustainability issues in this field.

Collecting evidences on implementation of the Territorial Cohesion, TA2020 and its impact on sustainable development would be beneficial. Baltic Sea Region can become a frontrunner as a region surveying and analysing this issue. Territorial Cohesion also calls for integrated approach to policy making in particular territorialisation of EU and national policies.

#### Tasks and aims

The essence of the conference is to take a closer look on ways of implementation of the concept of Territorial Cohesion in the BSR at different geographical scales: local, subregional, national, macro - regional and European to make a policy making decisions more territorial oriented.

The main aim is to collect good practices and experience in order to facilitate better understanding of the VASAB role and tasks in encouraging the process of transformation of development policies of different scales into more cohesive, place based ones, taking into consideration spatial circumstances and specificities.

Secondary aims are related to the ongoing political events in 2011:

- Influencing meaning and implementation mechanisms of TC in Territorial Agenda 2020
- Strengthening spatial dimension and implementation of EU strategy for the BSR

## DRAFT AGENDA

### First Day: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011

#### First Session, Concepts of Territorial Cohesion, Chaired by Poland

12:00 – 14:00 Opening by **Waldemar Ślugocki**, Undersecretary of State, Polish Ministry of Regional Development, **Arve Skjerpen**, VASAB CSPD/BSR Chairman and **Jan Lundin**, Director General, Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States

Origin and the essence of the concept of Territorial Cohesion – **Danuta Huebner**, Chairwoman of the Committee on Regional Development, Member of European Parliament

Territorial Cohesion and EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region: perspective of European Commission - **Michael Ralph**, Advisor to Director General, DG REGIO, European Commission

Building the Territorial Cohesion within Baltic Sea Region supported by ESPON analyses – **Peter Mehlbye**, Director of ESPON Coordination Unit

Immediate questions

14:00 – 15:00 *Lunch break*

#### Second session, Strategic documents on Territorial Cohesion, Chaired by Arve Skjerpen, VASAB CSPD/BSR Chairman

15:00 – 18:00 Territorial Agenda 2020 and Territorial State and Perspectives as a guiding documents for future of the Territorial Cohesion – **Geza Salamin**, Head of Department, VATI Hungarian Public Nonprofit Company for Regional Development and Town Planning

National Spatial Development Concept as an example of coordination tool for public policies – **Piotr Żuber**, Director of Department, Polish Ministry of Regional Development

Implementation of the Territorial Cohesion on macroregional level – the EU Baltic Sea Regions Strategy - **Radomir Matczak**, Marshal Office of Pomorskie Voivodship, Poland

Discussion

19:00 *Dinner*

### Second Day: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011

#### First Session, Good Practices from VASAB Regions, Chaired by Mia Crawford, CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development Baltic 21 (each intervention ~ 15 min)

9:00 – 11:00 Lessons learned from the survey on implementation of the Territorial Cohesion in the BSR – **Jacek Zaucha**, University of Gdansk, Poland

Good example of implementation of the Territorial Cohesion at national level – **Sverker Lindblad**, Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, Sweden

Good example of implementation of the Territorial Cohesion at subregional level – **Radomir Matczak**, *Marshal Office of Pomorskie Voivodship, Poland*

Towards territorial cohesion in the North-Eastern part of Europe, the EU-FI-RU border – **Heikki Eskelinen**, *University of Eastern Finland*

Good example of territorialisation of the sectoral policy – **Wilhelm Steingrube**, *University of Greifswald, Germany*

Discussion

11:00 - 11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30 – 12:30 **Panel Discussion, Role of VASAB in Territorial Cohesion implementation in Future**, *Chaired by Jacek Zaucha*

Panelists: *Dr Piotr Żuber, Dr Wilfried Görmar, Sverker Lindblad, Arve Cato Skjerpen*

At this panel discussion following topics will be discussed:

- How Territorial Cohesion guide allocation of structural funds and the Cohesion fund in the new programming period. What instruments should be used?
- How can we facilitate territorialisation of national and regional policies in order to strengthen simultaneously place based approach in BSR?
- What is the BSR role in implementation of Territorial Cohesion in future? How EU Strategy for the BSR should be strengthened?

The panel is open for the interventions from the floor.

12:30 – 13:30 **CLOSING SESSION**

Summing up by representative of VASAB and Polish MRD.

Written conclusions of the Conference are prepared in advance and reviewed during the Closing Session.

13:30 – 14:30 *Lunch*

**ORGANIZATION:**

**Language:** English (Polish / English simultaneously translation)

**Venue:** Mercure Warszawa Grand Hotel, Krucza Str. 28, Warsaw