

Urban Revitalization in the Baltic Sea Region

“Achieving Good Living Environment: Territory Matters. What`s beyond 2030 for Macro-Region?”



Polish
Presidency
2015-2016



UNIwersYTET GDAŃSKI

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Chairman of the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development in the Baltic Sea Region (VASAB)

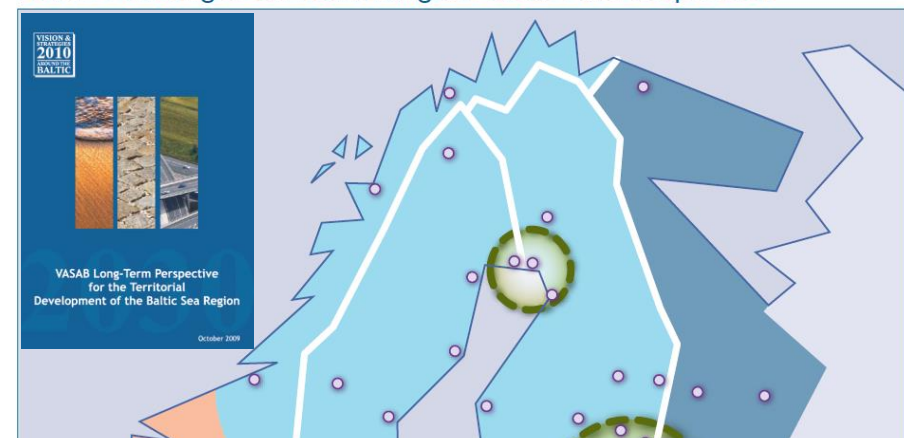


The Origin

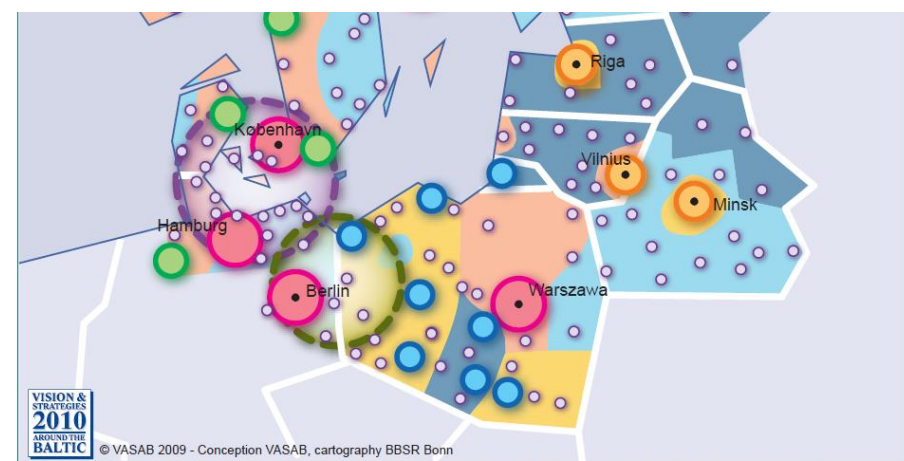
The aim of the Polish chairmanship in VASAB is to support an integrated territorially oriented approach (*place-based approach*) in the programming and implementation of public policies at different spatial scales and thematic areas.

PRIORITIES:

- Urban issues,
- Maritime spatial planning,
- Territorial monitoring.



Need for municipal service adjustments and local revival policies (cities and rural areas in decline)



Functional profile of urban regions and centres *

- Globally integrated metropolitan area with prominent R&D and knowledge intensive business services
- Globally oriented metropolitan area with shortcomings in business services and international functions
- Urban region in process of metropolisation with growing globally linked R&D and knowledge intensive business services
- Urban region in process of metropolisation with shortcomings in quality of business services and international functions
- Regional development centre

Development needs for urban-rural territories

- Need for municipal service adjustments and local revival policies (cities and rural areas in decline)
- Need for enhanced urban-rural partnership (growing mid-sized cities surrounded by rural areas in decline)
- Need of balanced development (Suburbanisation trends around urban centres, shrinking rural areas)
- Need for integration and harmonisation (Growing urban regions and surrounding rural area)

Cross-border cluster cooperation areas

- Existing
- Potential

* Urban regions as defined in the report 'Towards an integrated Baltic Sea Region', Nordregio, Stockholm 2008

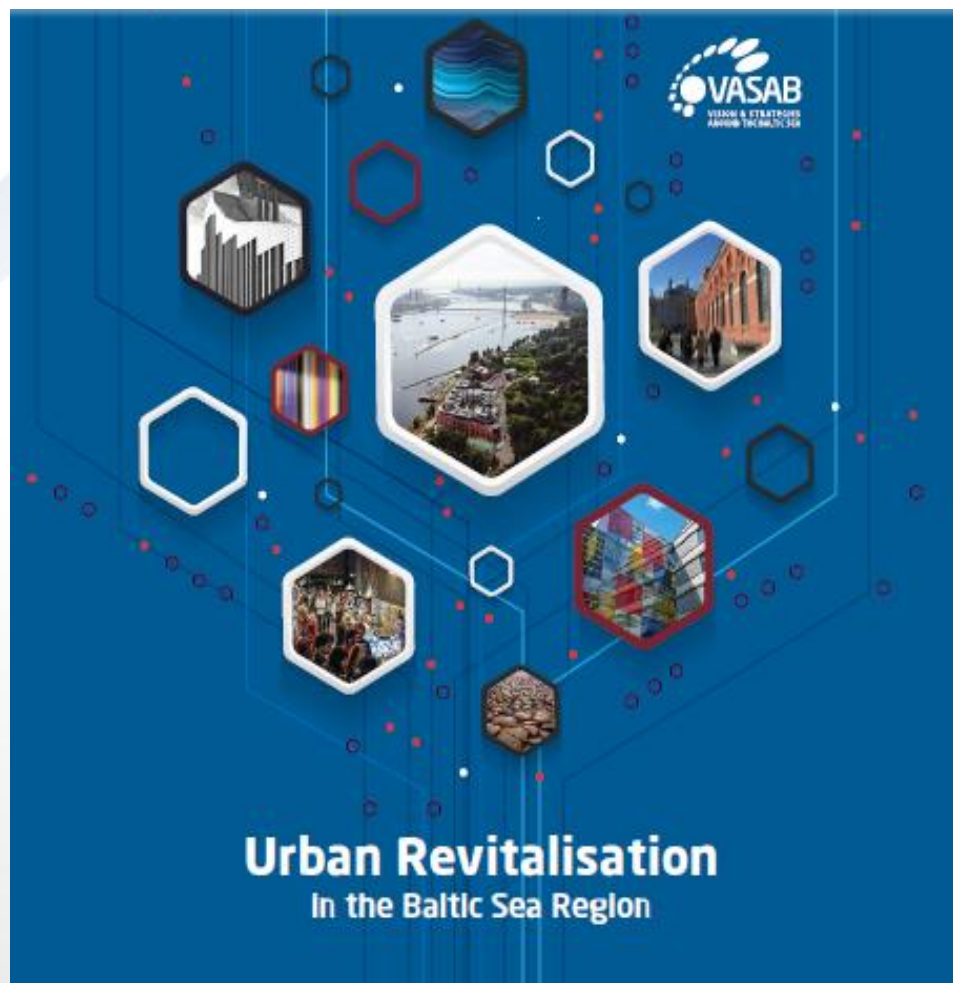
VASAB Workshop on Urban Revitalization

Łódź, Poland

28 October 2015

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is responsible (leadership)?
2. Are there policy documents available? Strategic docs?
3. What is the scope and content of revitalisation
4. What are the key financial sources
5. Under which policies revitalisation is pursued



First findings

- BSR countries use a wide variety of methods, focus on various aspects, emphasise various needs.
- But, the goal is common – bringing deprived and neglected parts of the cities back to life and vitality.
- There is no commonly agreed name: revitalisation, regeneration, rehabilitation
- This is not a solely local task



Conclusions

This is not a solely local task since it addressed important emerging problems and challenges in all BSR countries related to:

- demographic change (planning for cities with a shrinking population),
- ensuring polycentricity,
- smoothing social tension related to the inflow of migrants.

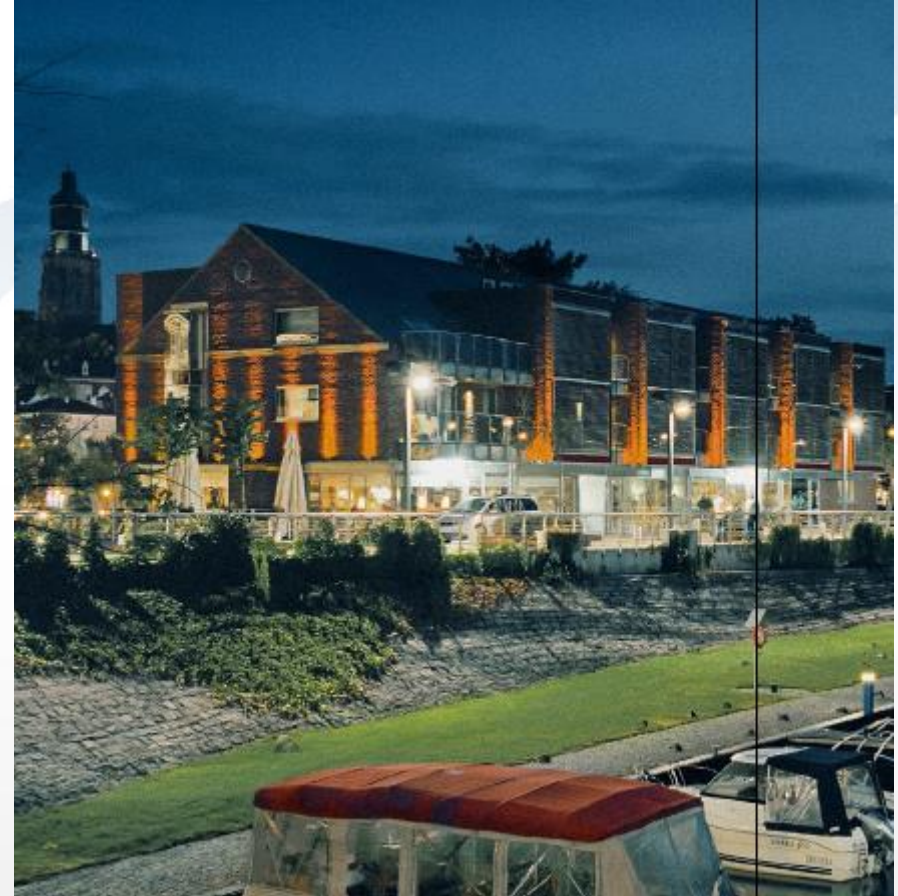


Thus revitalisation will gain importance as a key element of territorially sensitive development policies in the BSR and in the EU.

Conclusions

Need for a broader macro-regional debate on revitalisation based on the following:

- revitalisation requires a multi-governance approach and broad participation;
- spatial planners may have an important role as facilitators and specialists on stakeholders' engagement
- the Baltic Sea Region is of a right geographical scale to exchange experience on revitalisation



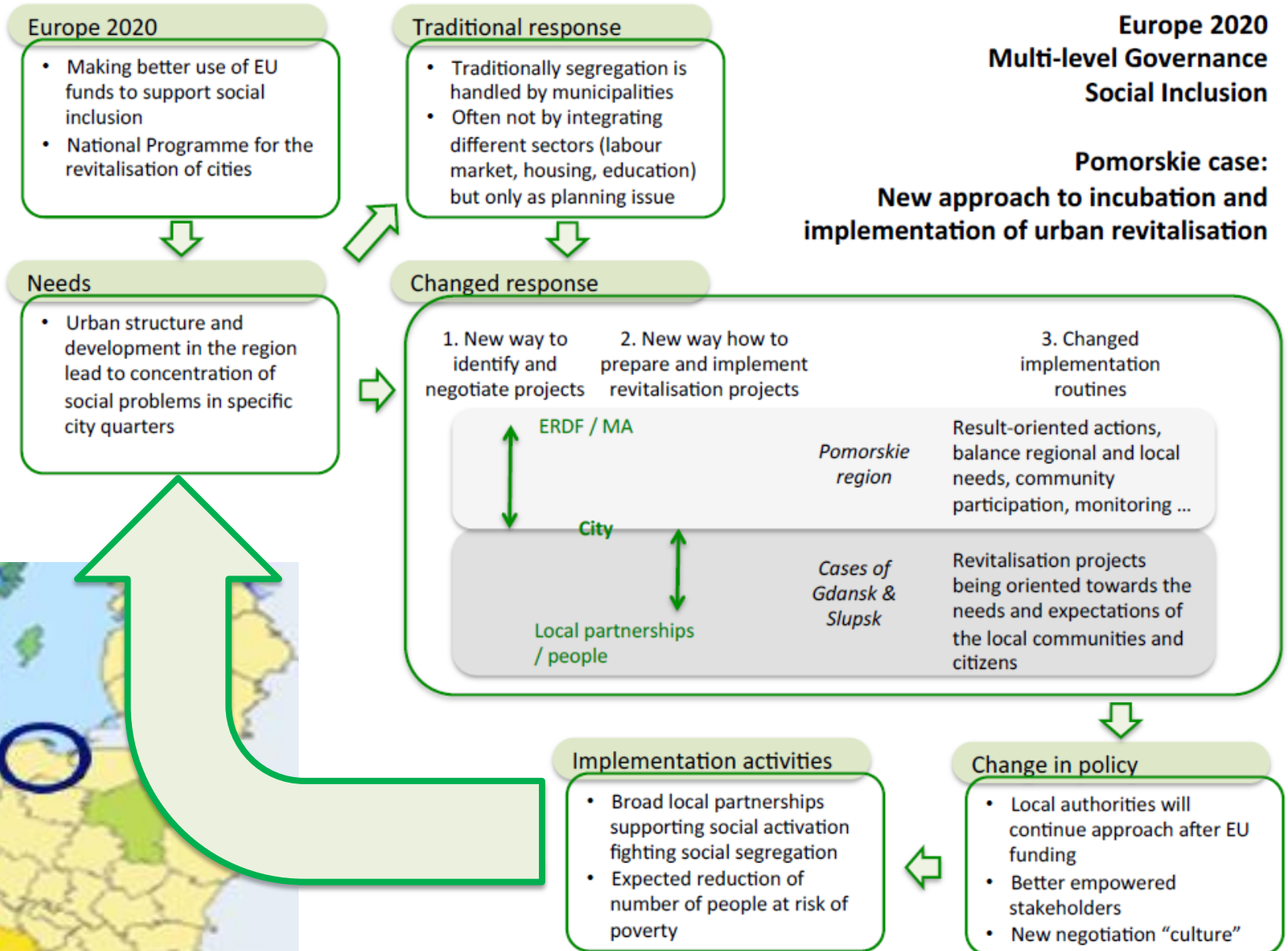
Conclusions

EU and macroregional policies should be asked to consider their impact on proper development of the cities, their networks and urban regions.

For instance EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region can be asked to prepare an overview of the impact on its actions on the Baltic cities and adjust its strategy implementation in line with the findings.



Example of revitalisation as a multi-governance effort





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A large crowd of people is gathered outdoors, likely at a festival or event. In the background, there is a large, dark-colored building with several chimneys. The foreground shows a wooden walkway leading to a water feature with a small waterfall. The text "Thanks for your patience" is overlaid in large white letters.

Thanks for your patience



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-  Contribute to the workshop
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-  Take part in an exhibition

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via forum@vasab.org



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