



# VASAB Study on Development of Cities in the Baltic Sea Region

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

Warsaw, Poland, 7 June, 2016





## Baltic Sea Region - Territorial Monitoring

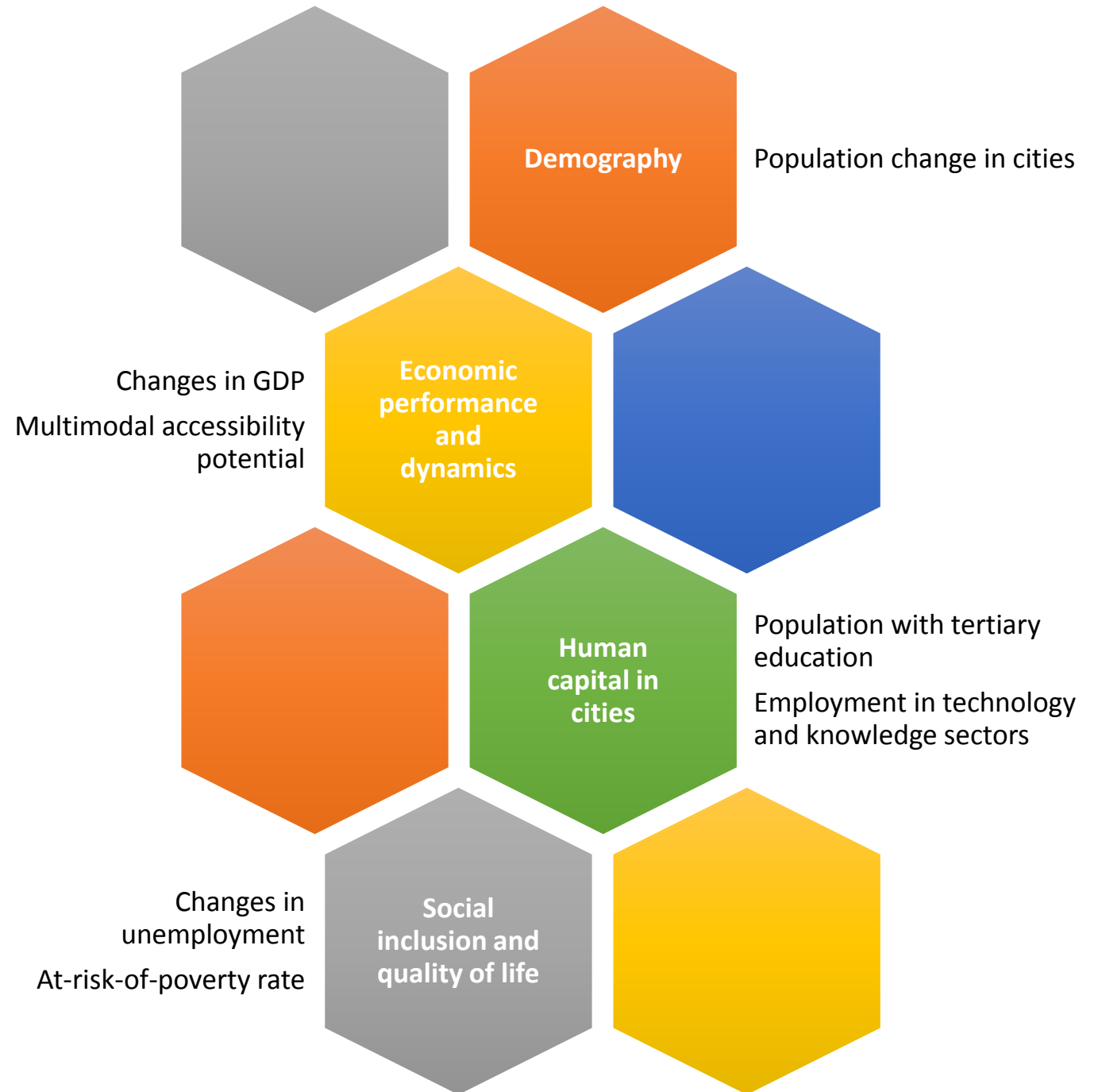
### 7 Indicators

- Based on BSR TeMo

### 127 largest cities

- Population over 100,000 including suburbs (urbanised areas).
- For countries with lower population densities (NO, SE, FI, EE, LV, LT ) cities with a population > 50,000

**Data for 2005-2015** where available



# Cities in BSR

## **Global metropolises**

Saint Petersburg, Berlin

## **European metropolises (1,9-2,8m)**

Warsaw, Hamburg, Katowice, Minsk, Stockholm and Copenhagen

## **Regional metropolises (0,7-1,3m)**

Helsinki, Oslo, Krakow, Gdansk, Bremen, Lodz, Gothenburg, Riga, Poznan and Wroclaw

## **National and regional centres of development**

# Demography

## Significant growth, active suburbanisation

- Bergen, Stavanger, Oslo, Stockholm, Malmö
- Cities in Poland, population around Riga, Vilnius, Tallinn and Tartu.

## Moderate growth

- Warsaw, Berlin, Hamburg, Rostock, Kaliningrad

## Decline

- Cities in Eastern Germany, Poland's former industrial centers



# Pointers for Policy

## **Population**

- Population size is the key variable for many policies, especially for provision and maintenance of public and private services.
- Demographic development patterns are showing depopulation mainly through ageing and outmigration processes especially in the new EU member states of the region.



# Economic Performance and Dynamics

Eastern economies are less developed, but their development is more rapid

Moderate economic development in the Western region, high income levels



# Pointers for Policy

## **Economic performance and dynamics**

- Urban areas with labour-intensive economic sectors and low cost economies are vulnerable in economically turbulent times
- Cities with high unemployment should develop social investment packages

# Multimodal Accessibility Potential

Western region + Poland?

A challenge for the Baltic States

Unrealised potential of Saint Petersburg and Belarus

Development continues across the Southern-Northern dimension





# Pointers for Policy

## **Multimodal accessibility potential**

- Lack of modern transport infrastructure (motorways, high-speed railways) is still a major barrier to economic development in Eastern part of the BSR.
- Cities of Belarus and Western Russia are could be more integrated into international transportation system

# Human Capital

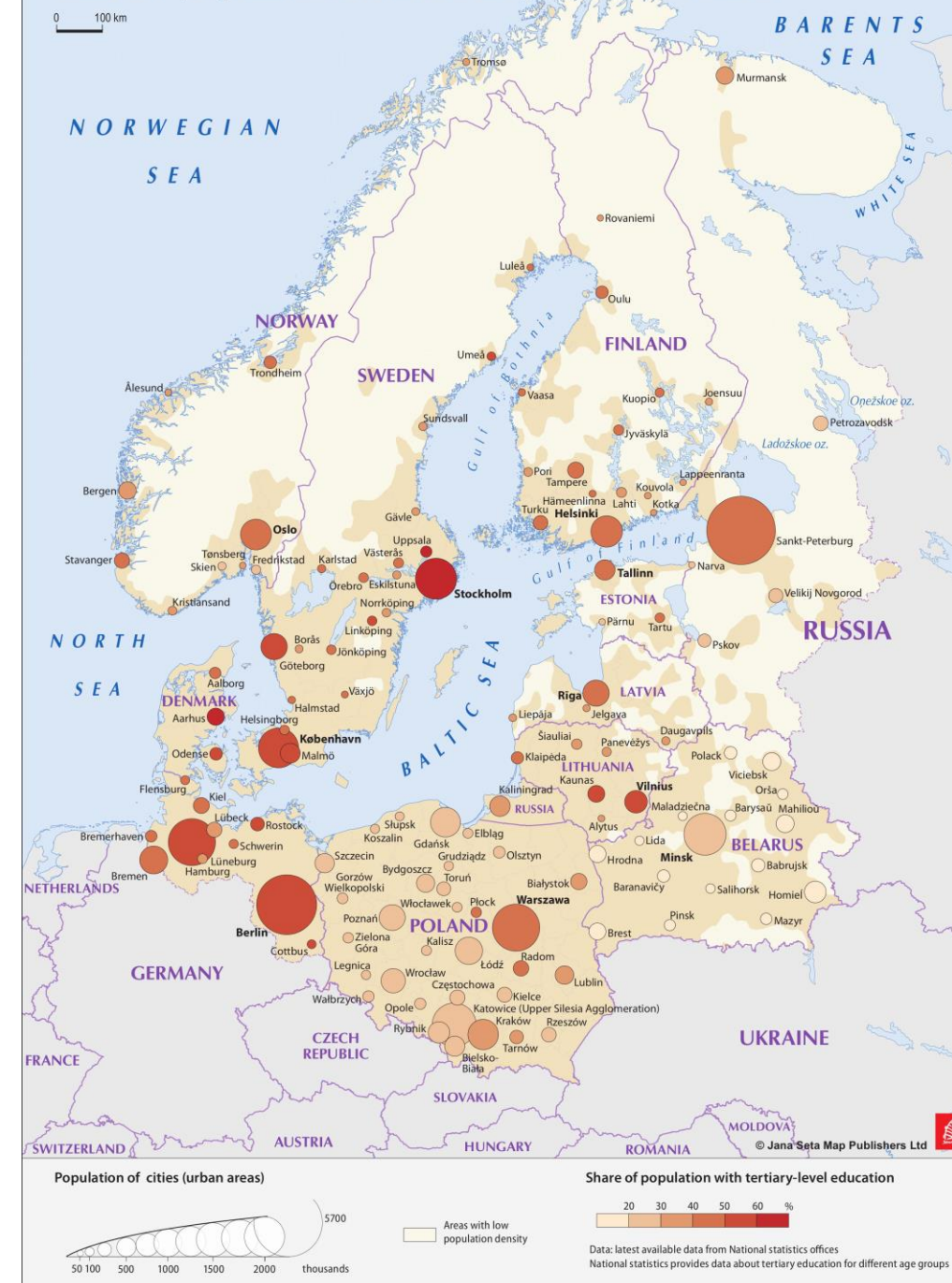
## Population with tertiary education



## Employment in technology and knowledge sectors



## Share of population with tertiary-level education



# Pointers for Policy

## **Human capital**

- Higher education is key driver for stimulating developments in R&D, knowledge intensive and creative industries.
- Although higher education is the foundation of innovation development, knowledge skills and abilities that a person must obtain throughout his/her life are also important.
- New forms of lifelong learning and flexible education have a special importance for the human capital.



# Social Inclusion and Quality of Life

## Unemployment

Unemployment dynamics are strongly influenced by the specific economic processes in each country.



# Social Inclusion and Quality of Life

## Poverty

### Mixed results

The highest poverty risk in the cities of three Baltic States, Finland and certain cities in Poland and Germany (Bremerhaven, Bremen, Berlin), and lower in Norway, Sweden, Belarus and North western Russia.

At-risk-of-poverty level has increased between 2005 and 2013 for 54% the 127 surveyed city regions. The greatest increase: Bialystok, Bremerhaven, Malmö, Poznan, Gorzow Wielkopolski, Zielona Gora and Kalisz. .

The at-risk-of-poverty level declined most significantly in Veliky Novgorod and several cities of Belarus.

The situation regarding poverty has also improved in cities with previously high poverty rates, such as Murmansk, Kaliningrad and Daugavpils.





# Pointers for Policy

## **Social inclusion and quality of life**

- An integrated anti-poverty approach
- Active inclusion strategies targeting employment support, providing resources for those who cannot work, and promoting social
- Recognize the complexity of poverty and adopt place-based strategies
- Efficient and affordable public transport systems



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