



VASAB WORK PLAN 2025-2026

(as of 2 June 2026)

VASAB CSPD/BSR (VASAB Committee) with support of the VASAB Secretariat continues valuable work in facilitating international cooperation in spatial planning according to the [VASAB Ministerial Declaration](#), [VASAB Vision 2040](#), VASAB Chairmanship priorities and VASAB Work Plan.

Priorities set by the VASAB CSPD/BSR Chairmanships:

Polish Chairmanship (July 2025 – December 2026):

- Build up on the topics of previous chairmanships of Finland and Estonia: resilience, territorial resilience, and spatial resilience;
- Prepare a proposal (Baltic ReSeaLand) for and support the implementation of an ESPON targeted analysis on measuring resilience in the Baltic Sea Region.
- Organise a Directors General meeting to present VASAB's work (27-28 October 2026);
- Hold 3rd VASAB Young Planners' Summer School (23-29 August 2026).

Estonian Chairmanship (July 2024 – June 2025):

- Explore the links between the emerging topic of spatial resilience and VASAB Vision 2040;
- Highlight the importance of resilient spatial structures and communities;
- Strengthen collaboration between land-based spatial planners to fully utilize VASAB as informal knowledge and best practice hub for practitioners in spatial planning;
- Hold an international webinar to support regional equity, high quality, and sustainable spatial decision across governance levels, by sharing best practices and experiences of national level spatial policies across the BSR.

Priority Actions of VASAB Vision 2040, proposed by the VASAB CSPD/BSR (January 2024):

1. Good quality of life and adaptation policies in carbon neutral and resilient cities
 - Carbon neutral and resilient cities; Quality of life and public services in small towns and rural areas; Adaptation (policies) of settlements to crisis conditions; Capitalization of local values and assets to improve competitiveness and attractiveness of territories.
2. Multimodal and integrated mobility and transport connections
 - Intermodal mobility hubs on suburban/peri-urban environments; Sustainable & multimodal transport; Planning green transport solutions, involving energy provider; Bundling of freight transport flows, esp. in Nordics; Safety of maritime transport vs development of offshore wind turbines farms.
3. Secure, climate proofing and decentralized energy systems
 - Offshore energy development; Transformation from centralized to decentralized energy systems; Energy communities in the heating sector.
4. Sustainable blue economy and environmental protection in coastal areas and at the sea
 - Further development of multi-use concept for the Baltic Sea; Coastal & local communities – balancing pressures and vulnerability, traditions and innovation; Data availability; Awareness, communication, knowledge share.

No	Activity / Task	Outputs	Timeframe	Status	Notes
Intergovernmental Multilateral Co-operation of the Baltic Sea Region in Spatial Planning and Development					
1.	VASAB Ministerial Conferences and Declarations (VASAB Member states initiative)	VASAB Ministerial Conferences VASAB Ministerial Declarations			9 th VASAB Ministerial Conference in Wismar, 2 June 2023 Wismar Declaration 2023 VASAB Ministerial Tallinn Declaration on Spatial Resilience 2025
2.	VASAB CSPD/BSR				
2.1.	VASAB CSPD/BSR	VASAB CSPD/BSR meetings Open Trio meetings Agendas, documents, presentations, reports Committee reports and summaries Open Trio reports	Up to 3 times per year	4 March 2025 19-20 March 2025 2 June 2025 16 June 2025 4 September 2025 16-18 September 2025 4 February 2026 18-19 February 2026 19 May 2026 2 June 2026	Decisions and summaries of CSPD/BSR meetings All documents from CSPD/BSR and Trio meetings
2.2.	Strengthen cooperation among BSR countries in spatial planning and development	All BSR countries are represented in VASAB CSPD/BSR (incl. Denmark and Norway)	Continuous	Active in VASAB: EE, LV, LT, PL, DE, SE, FI Suspended from 4 March 2022: RU, BY	Norway as observer
2.3.	Activities as part of the Estonian Chairmanship	Webinar on national level spatial planning during Estonian Chairmanship	Spring 2025	11 February 2025	Video, Presentations

		Land-based Planners' Forum project interaction with Estonian spatial planners (face-to-face event in Tallinn)	May 2025	Postponed and implemented as a broader stakeholders' event - as the project's final conference, hosted by EASP in February 2026	Please see point 4 of this Work Plan on the Land-based Planners' Forum project
2.4.	Activities as part of the Polish Chairmanship	<p>Directors General meeting to present VASAB's work</p> <p>Proposal for ESPON targeted analysis on measuring resilience in Baltic Sea Region (November 2025) Support the implementation of ESPON targeted analysis 'Baltic ReSeaLand'.</p> <p>3rd VASAB Young Planners' Summer School</p>	<p>27-28 October 2026</p> <p>November 2025</p> <p>Q4 2026–Q4 2027</p> <p>23-29 August 2026</p>	The project has been selected for funding	Baltic ReSeaLand
2.5.	Cooperate with other Pan-Baltic organizations (CBSS, UBC, etc.)	<p>Pan-Baltic organisations represented in VASAB events and vice versa</p> <p>CBSS Expert Group of Sustainable Maritime Economy</p>	Continuous	<p>BSSSC Annual Conference 28 October 2025</p> <p>BSSSC Day of Cities and Regions 11 May 2026</p> <p>UBC General Conference 4-6 November 2025</p> <p>CBSS EGSME Meeting 9 December 2025</p>	VASAB as observer

				2nd CBSS EGSME Expert Seminar 8-9 June 2026	
2.6.	Recommend transnational policy measures	Statements, policy briefs, recommendations Recommendations for coastal development & planning 2 nd Online seminar to discuss Recommendations on Coastal Planning and Development in BSR Report on Multi-level Dialogue on Land-Sea Interactions and Coastal Governance incl. report Towards updated Coastal Planning and Development Recommendations	Continuous 2025 June 2025	17 June 2025	Baltic Sea2Land project Information about event, presentations and summary available in Secretariat Report
2.7.	Cooperation with other cross-BSR initiatives (relevant projects)	Projects represented in VASAB events	Continuous		ESPON, PA Spatial Planning relevant
2.8.	Promote a dialogue with sector institutions	The dialogue takes place	Continuous		Mainly through the EUSBSR Framework 5th Baltic MSP Forum
2.9.	Terrestrial Country Fiches	Publicly available on VASAB website, up to date information about terrestrial spatial planning (land-use planning) in the Baltic Sea Region countries	Continuous		Terrestrial Country Fiches at VASAB website
VASAB Vision for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region in 2040					
3.	VASAB Vision 2040				
3.1.	Preparation for update of VASAB Vision 2040	Analytical background paper: VASAB Vision 2040 and spatial resilience. How is the whole-of-government all-of-hazards logic represented in the long-term spatial strategy?	2025-2026	Prepared and coordinated by the VASAB chairing organisations 2024-2026 (The Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture of Estonia and the	Link to the document

				Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland)	
3.2.	VASAB Vision 2040 Implementation	Assessment of VASAB Work Plan 2025-2026 VASAB Work Plan 2027-2028	Continuous	Survey of relevant EUSBSR Policy Areas on implementation of VASAB Vision 2040 actions	
3.3.	Promotion of VASAB Vision 2040 to increase awareness	Through various events and social media VASAB area vision passport*	Continuous		* Short document which includes key elements from the vision
4.	Land-based Planners' Forum	1 A Brief Comparison Of Seven Spatial Planning Systems In The Baltic Sea Region 2 Feasibility Study: Land-based Planners' Forum In The Baltic Sea Region 3 Informative material Webinar (comparison of country planning systems, cooperation practices for planners) Stakeholder conference in Tallinn BSR cooperation mechanism proposal	March 2026	End of 2025 18 September 2025 11-12 February 2026	Comparison Of Spatial Planning Systems Feasibility Study Informative material Information about event Information about event Project , co-funded by Swedish Institute
5.	Young Planners' Academy	Third Young Planners' Summer School (Poland)	23-29 August 2026		Project application in 2025 and 2026
6.	VASAB Knowledge Hub to Shape Cooperating Planning Systems (Transfer of knowledge contributing to cohesion of spatial planning in the region)	VASAB planners' forum Multi-level governance enhanced Integrated land and sea observations and assessments Digital planning sharing platform Communication and dissemination	2025-2026	Baltic Sea2Land Navigator:	Supported by Interreg BSR Project Platforms: Baltic PlaNet SEABAS BSR Urban Mobility Future Cities Platform

				Baltic MSP forum 11-12 November 2025	
				Workshop at EMD2026 - Making the Sea- Basin approach work through MSP	
7.4.	MSP Country Fiches	Publicly available on VASAB and HELCOM websites, up to date information about MSP in the Baltic Sea Region countries New structure and demo design proposed by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Continuous 2026	Work continues on the development of the new demo version (ongoing)	MSP Country Fiches regularly updated with relevant information and published at VASAB and HELCOM websites
8.	BSR MSP Data Expert Sub- group	BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group meetings (update on VASAB activities) Steering the use and developments of HELCOM Basemaps service	Up to two meetings per year	18 February 2025 13 October 2025 4 March 2026	Policy Area “Spatial Planning” Support (PASPS)
9.	MSP Planners’ Forum	MSP Planners’ Forum online/physical meetings, agendas, reports	Up to two meetings per year	25 March 2025 12 November 2025 , Riga 26 March 2026	Policy Area “Spatial Planning” Support (PASPS) MSP Planners' Forum meeting Notes
10.	5th Baltic MSP Forum	5th Baltic MSP Forum in Riga (Content: main thematic focus, speakers, moderator, parallel sessions/workshops — including cooperation with the Forum Task Force composed of Baltic Sea2Land project partners. Operational: logistics, procurement, social programme, communication, etc., with support from the Forum Task Force.)	11-12 November 2025		www.BalticMSPforum.eu Baltic Sea2Land project final conference Summary report of the 5th Baltic MSP Forum S Video recordings of all sessions Summary video of all 5 Baltic MSP Forums

		Session 1 – Resilient and Liveable Coastal Communities			Video
11.	EU Member States MSP Expert Group	EU Member States MSP Expert Group meetings (physical/online)	At least twice a year	24 March 2025 22-24 October 2025 16-17 March 2026 1 June 2026	VASAB as observer
EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Plannin’ - a forum and cooperation platform for regional, trans-boundary and cross-sectoral dialogue towards more coherent planning					
12.	Coordination of EUSBSR PA ‘Spatial Planning’ jointly with HELCOM	Evaluation of PASPS Work Plan 2025-2026 PASPS Work Plan 2027-2028 Monthly meetings Updated EUSBSR Action Plan, PA Spatial Planning description	2025-2026	May 2026 21 January 2025 26 February 2025 18 March 2025 13 May 2025 25 June 2025 21 October 2025 25 November 2025 16 December 2025 27 January 2026 23 February 2026 17 March 2026 19 May 2026 31 January 2025 31 August 2025 31 October 2025	Drafting the new Work Plan 2027-2028 First SG-approved draft submissions to BSP and NCG Final draft submitted to BSP on 26 August 2025.

		<p>Reports on main outcomes and PA relevant projects to VASAB CSPD/BSR and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG</p> <p>Feedbacks of VASAB CSPD/BSR and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG</p> <p>Reports to Interreg BSR, EUSBSR, DG MARE</p>		<p>19-20 March 2025</p> <p>16 June 2025</p> <p>16-18 September 2025</p> <p>18-19 February 2026</p> <p>2 June 2026</p> <p>7-9 April 2025</p> <p>15-17 October 2025</p> <p>21-23 April 2026</p> <p>28 January 2025</p> <p>12 March 2026</p> <p>January 2025</p> <p>January 2026</p>	<p>SG-approved final drafts submission</p> <p>94th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting</p> <p>95th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting</p> <p>96th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting</p> <p>97th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting</p> <p>98th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting</p> <p>HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meetings</p> <p>Annual reports submitted to Interreg BSR and BSP</p>
12.1.	PAC presence in EUSBSR and PA relevant events	<p>Regular exchange with Baltic Sea Strategy Point</p> <p>PA workshops and networking within EUSBSR Annual Forums, Blue Mission BANOS, European</p>	Continuous	<p>2025</p> <p>1-2 April 2025</p> <p>11 September 2025</p> <p>20-22 May 2025</p> <p>26-27 June 2025</p>	<p>Work on Action Plan update</p> <p>Live meeting in Turku</p> <p>EUSBSR Estonian Presidency kick-off meeting</p> <p>Interreg BSR Programme Conference in Tampere, Finland</p> <p>ESPON Seminar</p>

		<p>Maritime Day, EU Macro-regional and Sea Basin Strategies Days, EUSBSR Presidency, Funding Programmes, European MSP Week, ESPON Seminars</p>		<p>24-25 September 2025</p> <p>13-17 October 2025</p> <p>4-7 November 2025</p> <p>19-20 November 2025</p> <p>May – September 2025</p> <p>29-30 October 2025</p> <p>January – May 2026</p>	<p>EU Macro-Regional and Sea Basin Strategies Days</p> <p>European MSP Data Week</p> <p>XVIII UBC General Conference</p> <p>ESPON Seminar</p> <p>Work on PA Spatial Planning session (together with PA Energy and Secure) for EUSBSR Annual Forum 2025</p> <p>EUSBSR Annual Forum 2025, PA SP organized session "Towards a Climate-Resilient BSR" together with PA Secure, Energy and Baltic PlaNet project platform</p> <p>Work on PA Spatial Planning breakout sessions (for one – together with PA Transport) for EUSBSR Annual Forum 2026</p>
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				12-13 May 2026	EUSBSR Annual Forum 2025, PA SP organized two sessions
				21-22 May 2026	EMD 2026
12.2.	Follow-up, Communication and exchange with key relevant projects (incl. ESPON)	PA news prepared and updated to EUSBSR and VASAB Newsletters	Continuous	February 2025 March 2025 April 2025 May 2025 September 2025 October 2025 November 2025 December 2025 January 2026 February 2026 March 2026 April 2026 May 2026 June 2025	EUSBSR Newsletter February 2025 EUSBSR Newsletter March 2025 EUSBSR Newsletter April 2025 EUSBSR Newsletter May 2025 EUSBSR Newsletter September 2025 EUSBSR Newsletter October 2025 EUSBSR Newsletter November 2025 EUSBSR Newsletter December 2025 EUSBSR Newsletter January 2026 EUSBSR Newsletter February 2026 EUSBSR Newsletter March 2026 EUSBSR Newsletter April 2026 EUSBSR Newsletter May 2026 VASAB Newsletter June 2025

				December 2025	VASAB Newsletter – December 2025
				17 February 2025	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				24 March 2025	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				28 April 2025	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				27 May 2025	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				9 July 2025	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				22 September 2025	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				1 December 2025	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				17 December 2025	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				10 March 2026	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				12 March 2026	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				15 May 2026	Article on EUSBSR webpage
				19 May 2026	Article on EUSBSR webpage

[PA Spatial Planning page on EUSBSR website up to date](#)

		Presentations from key projects		12-13 May 2026	Key projects at PA SP stand at EUSBSR AF 2026
		Promotion material on PASPS project		July 2026	Updating PASPS brochure info
12.3.	PA relevant project idea generation and development	An overview of project ideas generated, and organizations involved in the development of those ideas Targeted events to facilitate the development of perspective project ideas	2026		Policy Area Spatial Planning Support (PASPS)
VASAB Communication and Visibility					
13.	Visibility, promotion of VASAB, VASAB projects and regional policy impact of the outcomes	Regular information and update of VASAB website Regular information and update of EUSBSR, HELCOM websites Regular information on VASAB social media (X, Bluesky, LinkedIn, Facebook, Youtube channel) Thematic publications VASAB Newsletter Brochures, leaflets, etc. Video Representation materials	Continuous Twice per year	June and December 2025	www.vasab.org Communication on X (formerly Twitter) has been stopped since March 2025. A new additional social media platform has been established on Bluesky Video: More than 30 years of collaboration around the Baltic Sea region Newsletter – June 2025 Newsletter – December 2025
13.1.	Participation in different events representing VASAB cooperation, VASAB Vision 2040, PA Spatial Planning, respective projects	Exhibition booth in relevant Pan-Baltic and EU Stakeholders networking events Presentations Project partners meetings	29-30 Oct, Sopot, PL, EUSBSR Annual Forum 11-12 Nov, Riga, LV, Baltic MSP Forum	18-29 April 2025, Sopot, PL, 4th Mission Arena of Blue Mission Banos	Insights from the MSP Foresight Workshop

				<p>22-23 May 2025, Cork, Ireland</p> <p>12-13 May 2026, Tallinn, Estonia</p> <p>21-22 May 2026, Limassol, Cyprus</p>	<p>European Maritime Day 2025</p> <p>EUSBSR AF 2026</p> <p>European Maritime Day 2026</p>
13.2.	Develop a new VASAB website	Procurement procedure New VASAB website in operation end of February 2026	2025-2026	<p>Procurement concluded May, 2025</p> <p>Test version received in November 2025</p> <p>New website launched March 2026</p>	<p>Website content development and tests of functions.</p> <p>Website in force, continuous update of content</p>