



VASAB NEWSLETTER | MAY 2021

Dear VASAB friends,

Before the summer season has started, we are glad to share with you the latest VASAB activities. Let us guide you through the news of updating the **VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region** and inform you about the upcoming workshop during the 19<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities this autumn.

We also invite to join the **4<sup>th</sup> Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Forum 'Delivering MSP - Interactions and Capacities Across All Levels'** - the largest MSP related event in the Baltic Sea Region taking place on 1 - 2 June 2021.

---

The banner features the text 'BALTIC 4<sup>th</sup> FORUM MSP' in blue and black, with a stylized wave graphic below it. To the right, it says '1 - 2 JUNE 2021, ONLINE'. Below the text is the slogan 'Delivering MSP Interactions and Capacities Across All Levels' and the website 'www.balticmspforum.eu'. The right side of the banner is a colorful illustration of a coastal town with a harbor, a boat, wind turbines, and marine life like fish and a crab.

Join the 4<sup>th</sup> Baltic MSP Forum 1-2 June 2021 online!

Already for the 4<sup>th</sup> time the Baltic MSP Forum is organised to bring together maritime spatial planning (MSP) community from the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and beyond to discuss, share, learn and develop new ideas to enhance MSP in the region.

'Delivering MSP - Interactions and Capacities Across All Levels' is the slogan of the 4<sup>th</sup> Baltic MSP Forum. It comes with a message that in year 2021, when all

countries in the BSR are on track with maritime spatial plans and are stepping into plan implementation phase, consequent question arises – what’s next?

## Agenda at a glance!

The agenda of the Forum is built to cover MSP aspects from different levels of governance. On 1 June Forum will host the policy debate on **how MSP can address many ambitions and challenges**. The speakers will represent policy level by **European Commission**, industry developments by **WindEurope** association as well as research and climate change aspects by **Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde**.

**POLICY DEBATE 1 JUNE**  
9:30 – 10:20 CET

**How can MSP address many ambitions, challenges?**

**BALTIC 4<sup>th</sup> FORUM MSP**  
1 - 2 JUNE 2021, ONLINE

**MODERATOR:**  
**RHONA FAIRGRIEVE**  
Principal Environmental Consultant,  
Atkins on behalf of EU MSP Assistance  
Mechanism

**SPEAKERS:**

**FELIX LEINEMANN**  
Head of Unit Maritime Spatial  
Planning, European Commission

**IVÁN PINEDA**  
Director of Public Affairs,  
WindEurope

**MARKUS MEIER**  
Professor/ Head of Physical  
Oceanography and Instrumentation  
Department, Leibniz Institute for  
Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde

[www.balticmspforum.eu](http://www.balticmspforum.eu)

Interreg Baltic Sea Region, EUROPEAN UNION, EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, VASAB

**Panel discussion on day 1** will spotlight the changes that have emerged in the regional frameworks lately and what it means for the upcoming decade. What are the novelties for MSP in the actions of the **EUSBSR new Action Plan, Baltic Sea Action Plan, Regional MSP Roadmap** and **IOC-UNESCO MSPglobal** initiative?

Workshop sessions will highlight the activities, progress and results of **Capacity4MSP** and **Land-Sea-Act** projects. In total 9 workshops will be organised in 3 parallel sessions on these topics:

- stakeholder involvement in MSP,
- blue economy aspects in planning,
- marine cultural heritage,
- good environmental status of the Baltic Sea,
- multi-use,
- land-sea interactions,
- multi-level governance,
- data-driven decision making,
- climate change and MSP.

**On 2 June plenaries will focus on how MSP can address all levels** – what does it mean in practice? A keynote speaker will dwell on the shortcomings and benefits of working with and across different levels in the MSP process. It will be followed by panel discussion on challenges in the implementation of MSP across all levels.

The speakers will present national, regional and local level authorities from Lithuania, Finland, Sweden and Poland.

**KEYNOTE SPEECH 2 JUNE**  
12:20 – 12:50 CET

**BALTIC 4<sup>th</sup> FORUM MSP**  
1 - 2 JUNE 2021, ONLINE

## Addressing all levels – what does it mean in practise?

What exactly does it mean to work with and across different levels in the MSP process? What are the shortcomings and benefits of doing so? How are these shortcomings and benefits related to the overlap or mismatch of various jurisdictions or their absence? What opportunities have we already discovered and embraced while addressing different levels in MSP in the Baltic Sea Region?



**JACEK ZAUCHA**  
Researcher at Maritime Institute of Maritime University in Gdynia

[www.balticmforum.eu](http://www.balticmforum.eu)



As Forum will be held in digital platform it will allow all participants to communicate among each other freely. MSP pitch session, networking and digital exhibition will provide even more information on MSP processes, plans, even new ideas and initiatives.

*The Forum is jointly organised by VASAB Secretariat and the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia as lead partners of Interreg BSR projects Capacity4MSP and Land-Sea-Act.*

Explore full agenda [HERE](#).

Registration is open! Join the Forum [HERE](#).

[www.balticmforum.eu](http://www.balticmforum.eu)





VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region has launched the update of its strategic document – Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region and has agreed on the **Methodology** of the whole update process.

In the beginning of May the first internal workshop between VASAB Committee, the commissioned consultants from Spatial Foresight and Nordregio was held to discuss the overall approach to the VASAB Long-Term Perspective, the direction to the vision, as well as the value base to build upon, key challenges, trends and changes in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond.

The workshop concluded with shared reflections and common understanding of the core set of ideas and principles for the update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective. The results of the workshop will serve as the cornerstone for developing a vision, its overall direction and ambition, as well as future actions.

### Stay tuned and get involved!

Stay tuned! Wider stakeholder involvement is envisaged this autumn when first stakeholder events and activities will be organized. If you would like to be informed about the update of VASAB Long-Term Perspective, please, sign up to **our stakeholder list**.



### SAVE THE DATE! VASAB workshop 'Baltic Sea Region vision and strategies for thriving regions and cities'

It is our pleasure to inform that VASAB workshop “Baltic Sea Region vision and strategies for thriving regions and cities” will be part of the official programme of this year's **#EURegionsWeek** that will take place from 11 to 14 October 2021.

VASAB workshop will discuss the usefulness of spatial visions and forward-looking planning approaches at macro-regional scale:

- How can macro-regional planning be beneficial for European regions and cities?
- What can be transferred to other areas beyond the existing practice in the Baltic Sea Region?
- How visions and territorial perspectives can help tackling global challenges (e.g. pandemic reality effects, climate resilience, digital transformation) in macro-regional/cross-border scale, especially in the context of recently

launched update of VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the BSR?

[Read more about the LTP update](#)

---

## Upcoming Events

1-2 June, online  
**4<sup>th</sup> Baltic MSP Forum**  
[Read more >>>](#)

---

27 September - 1 October  
**12<sup>th</sup> EUSBSR Annual Forum**  
[Read more >>>](#)

---

11 - 14 October  
**19<sup>th</sup> European Week of Regions and Cities**  
**VASAB Workshop 'Baltic Sea Region vision and strategies for thriving regions and cities'**  
[Read more >>>](#)

---

25-26 October, St.Petersburg  
**Strategic Planning Leaders Forum 2020-2021**  
[Read more >>>](#)

---

Autumn 2021  
**Capacity4MSP 4<sup>th</sup> Project Partner meeting & 4<sup>th</sup> BSR Planners' Forum**

---

Autumn 2021  
**VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting**

---

*NB! All event dates are subject to change.*

## Follow our activities:



Copyright © VASAB Secretariat 2021. All rights reserved.  
[www.vasab.org](http://www.vasab.org)      [info@vasab.org](mailto:info@vasab.org)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

[View this email in your browser](#)