

# THE ROLE OF SPATIAL PLANNING AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Jacek Szlachta  
Warsaw School of Economics,  
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# How and why VASAB was established

Changing geography of Europe, unification of Germany, new countries Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Belarus, Russia thanks to Soviet Union falling dawn

Cases of good cooperation concerning especially environment (HELCOM), also cooperation networks (Baltic cities)

Political will of all Baltic Rim countries, strong leadership from Germany and Sweden

Product „Vision and strategies around Baltic 2010” which was unique in 1995, approved by all Baltic Rim countries

Presented to European Commission in 1996, civil servant in Brussels simply did not know what to do with such strategy, but for sure it was inspiration for launching macro-regional dimension of cohesion policy

Key VASAB input - Innovativeness concerning programming of spatial development

# Challenges of future VASAB strategies is light of changing cohesion and other EU policies

- How cohesion policy will be addressed in next MFF for 2021-2027?
- How international co-operation within macro-regions will be funded and placed after 2020?
- How important will be shared management versus central management of European Structural and Investment Funds?
- What will be proposals concerning blue economy?
- Will spatial planning for maritime areas be addressed on EU level?
- How important will be co-operation with neighbouring countries not expected to join EU like Russia and Belarus

# Key challenges for European spatial patterns of development to be taken into consideration also by VASAB

## 1. Fragmentation and disintegration

- The economic geography of Europe is changing accompanied by an increasing fragmentation of society and territories

## 2. Interdependencies and their externalities

- Social and economic developments in one place have major impact (positive and negative externalities) than in other places and vice versa

## 3. Mismatch of functionalities

- There is a mismatch between geographical jurisdictions for decision making and the corresponding geography affected by policy making

# New Territorial Reference Framework for Europe to be approved during German Presidency in 2020

- Why new TRF?
- Last one until 2020 was approved in Godollo in 2011. Was very excellent intellectually, but not successful in implementation
- New megatrends global and European which are changing framework of spatial Europe
- consequences of economic crises after 2007, also changing territorial dimension of socio-economic development
- From 2009 territorial cohesion was added to economic and social cohesion (Lisbon Treaty)

# What could be expected from VASAB

- European Union Strategy for Baltic Sea Region is from 2009, new generation is also necessary (Tallinn June 2018)
- To stay as a leader of macro-regional programming, and best example of international regional co-operation between different actors (fresh ideas and new approaches)
- To address successfully territorial dimension of new challenges for Europe
- To find a role in next multiannual programming period of cohesion policy

Thank you for your attention  
[jacek.szlachta@sgh.waw.pl](mailto:jacek.szlachta@sgh.waw.pl)