

# **VASAB Long-Term Perspective**

## **The Progress Report**

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VASAB Stakeholder meeting  
Helsinki, 12 December 2013

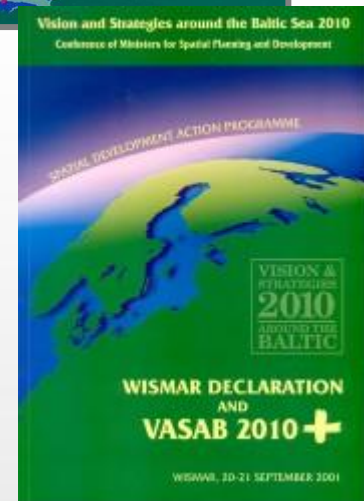
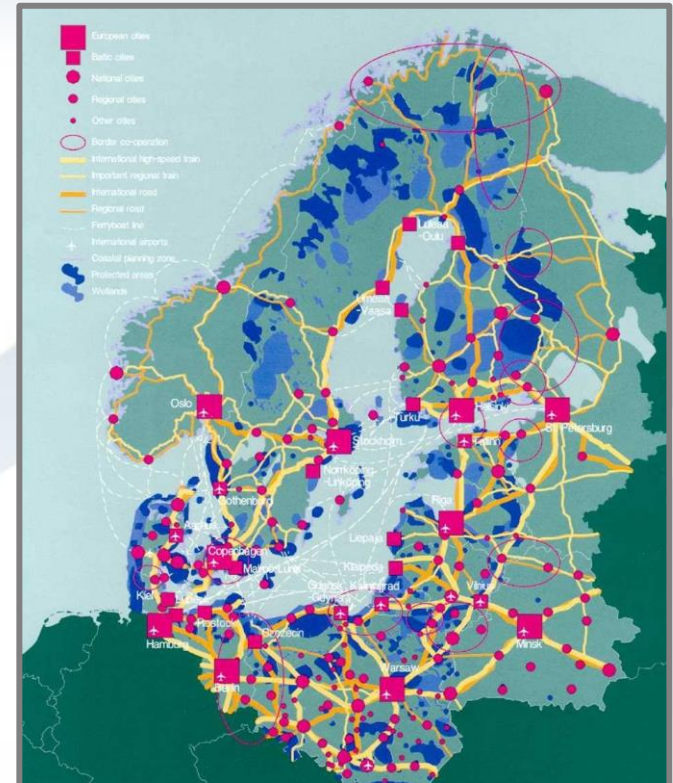
**Intergovernmental network founded in 1992 to promote cooperation on spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region**

**MEMBER COUNTRIES:**

Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden

**MISSION:**

to prepare policy options for the territorial development of the Region and to provide a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the Baltic Sea countries



# Purpose of the LTP

- action-oriented and **rolling** document endorsed by the BSR ministers responsible for spatial planning and development in October 2009
- featuring the 2030 BSR **territorial cohesion perspective** as a result of joint efforts of countries and organisations
- presenting **policy guidelines** and **specific actions** to achieve the perspective
  - urban networking and urban-rural relations (9 actions)
  - accessibility issues (10 actions)
  - maritime spatial planning and management (3 actions)
- providing basis for the monitoring and evaluation of **territorial development processes** in the BSR

VISION &  
STRATEGIES  
**2010**  
AROUND THE  
BALTIC



VASAB Long-Term Perspective  
for the Territorial  
Development of the Baltic Sea Region



Background Synthesis Document

VASAB Long-Term Perspective  
for the Territorial Development  
of the Baltic Sea Region

October 2009

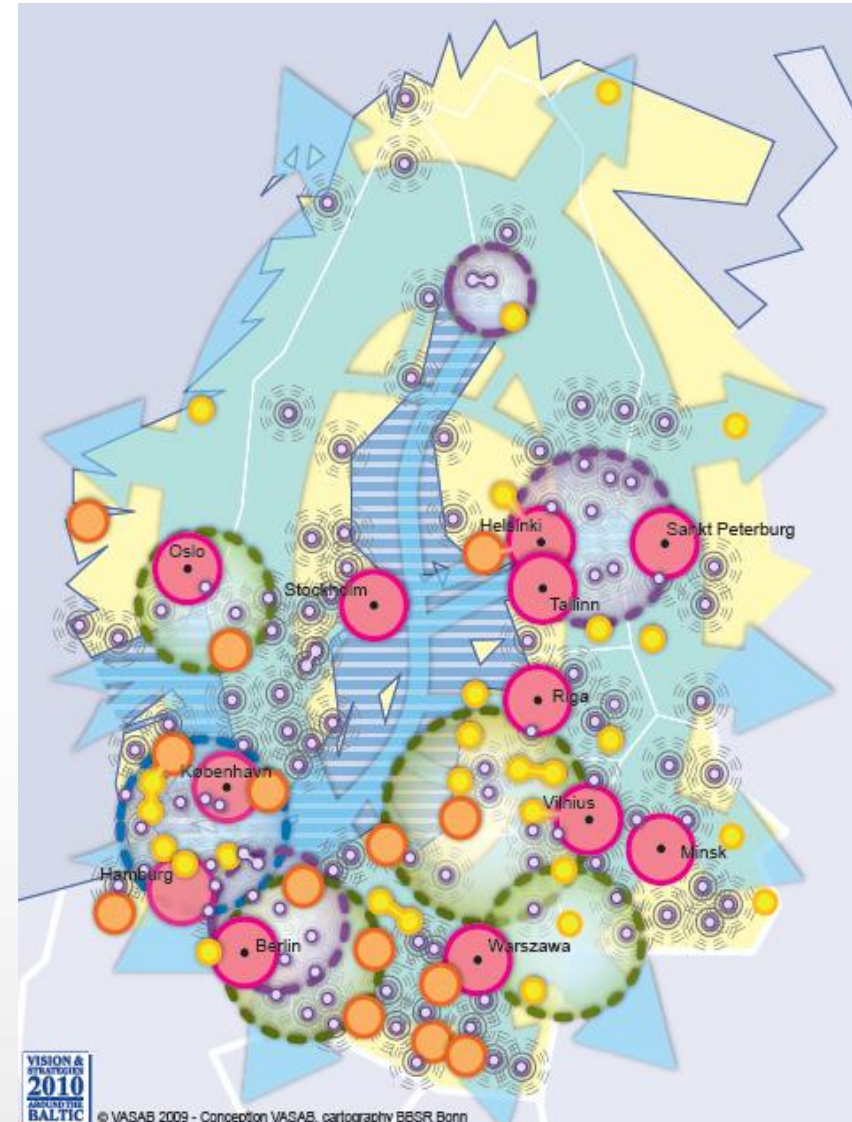
# Profile of the LTP

- LTP concentrates on policy themes, where transnational cooperation in spatial planning provides a **clear added value**: (1) urban networking and urban-rural relations, (2) accessibility, and (3) sea space planning and management
- LTP particularly addresses **territorial disparities** in the field of socio-economic development (east-west, north-south, urban-rural divides)
- LTP is **complementary** to transnational actions of other organisations (no duplication of efforts intended)
- LTP contains a **background synthesis** as an evidence for policy formulation

# Long Term Perspective

## Territorial cohesion perspective of the Baltic Sea Region in 2030

- well integrated and coherent macroregion with overcome divides
- well balanced setup of metropolitan centres, and small and medium size cities and towns
- fast, reliable and environmentally efficient technologies of transport, information and communication
- integrated energy production and supply system with well diversified sources of energy
- integrated land and sea space planning and management
- maritime spatial planning principles alleviating potential sea use conflicts for the present and future generations





# VASAB Vilnius Declaration 2009

- Ministers encourage all members to implement the Declaration and the LTP by allocating **adequate resources** and establishing **appropriate structures**
- The LTP as a contribution to land-based and maritime spatial planning in the **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**
- A **progress report** to be prepared for the next Ministerial Conference

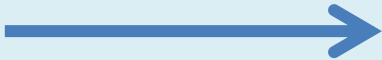


7<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS  
FOR SPATIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
VILNIUS, LITHUANIA, 2009

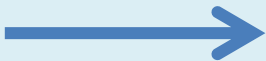
# Implementation depths laid down in the Vilnius Declaration

## How far/ambitious?

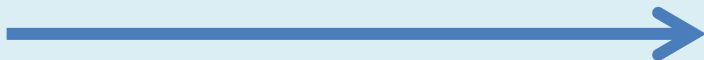
- **urban networks and urban-rural relations:** discuss, disseminate, develop new forms of urban-rural partnership



- **external and internal accessibility:** enter into dialogue with relevant bodies



- **maritime spatial planning:** promote, develop and introduce



# Assignment for the Progress Report

- new policy developments?
- impact of the EUSBSR?
- have the stakeholders been motivated?
- are the LTP actions on a good path?
- has VASAB monitored territorial development and built the knowledge base?
- any changes needed?
- thematic priorities in the 2013+ period?

Progress Report on the Implementation of the

**VASAB Long-Term Perspective  
for the Territorial Development of the  
Baltic Sea Region**

Towards better territorial integration of the Baltic Sea Region and  
its integration with other areas of Europe

Final draft of 6 December 2013



# General review by external observers

- Positive opinions (cf. NORDREGIO) – a transnational strategy with **ambitious agenda** towards territorial cohesion
- 22 actions of varied time perspective and pre-defined stakeholders
- Recognised as a valuable **complement** to the EUSBSR (as the latter lacks the territorial dimension), able to turn diversity into strength
- **Low budget** and **limited organisational capacity** of the VASAB network seen as an implementation challenge
- **Communicative power** of the LTP deemed a be-or-not-to-be factor (all actions need to be negotiated with external stakeholders)
- How far is VASAB able to mobilise the pre-selected stakeholders to work on the proposed actions?
- How to organise financial resources and appropriate executive structures?

VISION &  
STRATEGIES  
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# Stakeholders making note of the LTP

Citations, references, source of  
inspiration...

**PLAN  
BOTHNIA**

**scandria**

**HELCOM**

**ecoregion**  
Developing the Baltic Sea Region  
into the world's first EcoRegion

**BSPC** | Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference



**METREX** The network of  
European Metropolitan Regions and Areas



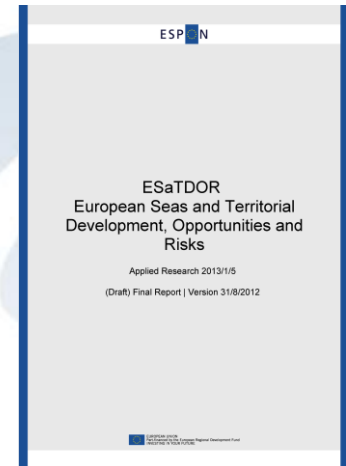
**NORDREGIO**  
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development



**TransBaltic**

**INTERact**  
European Union

**ESPON**  
EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING  
OBSERVATION NETWORK



**Baltic Sea Region**  
Programme 2007–2013



# Visibility of the LTP (CSPD members)

- Yearly action plans
- Focus on 'own' areas – conferences, thematic workshops etc.
- Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG
- Response from the stakeholders felt modest
- Integration with CBSS perceived as helpful (e.g. energy issues)
- 4 years later – reflections on the scope

Answer Choices ▾	Responses ▾	
taking part in the meetings to have a general orientation in the given subject	83.33%	5
making presentations/interventions on the issue at external events	50%	3
joining the group of stakeholders who decided to implement the action	66.67%	4
leading the group of stakeholders who decided to implement the action	16.67%	1
Total Respondents: 6		

# Visibility of the LTP (external stakeholders)

- Almost all have heard of VASAB
- Rather good awareness of the LTP
- General interest (matching pan-Baltic and intergovernmental strategies)
- Problem with local interests/priorities
- None of the stakeholders considered leading the action!
- Insufficient communication?

Answer Choices	Responses
By taking part in the meetings/events organised by VASAB	41.67% 5
By hearing presentations/interventions on the LTP by the VASAB representatives at various events	58.33% 7
By reading the document (in the printed version or on the VASAB website)	91.67% 11
By discussing specific LTP implementation ideas with the VASAB representatives	33.33% 4
By joining the group of stakeholders who decided to implement the specific LTP action(s)	8.33% 1
Total Respondents: 12	

# Action assessment

- Uniform template
- Described processes (implementation space) – desk research, surveys
- Evaluated feasibility

HIGH
MEDIUM
LOW

- Correlation with policy framework
- Recommended steps/changes

ACTION AGENDA 4	
Develop measures to harmonise the investment plans of Saint Petersburg with the macroregional economic integration needs	
Possible leading stakeholder	
Baltic Metropolises Network (BaltMet)	
Time perspective	
Short (2015)	
Implementation space	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 2010 - letter sent to the Baltic Metropolises Network Secretariat (BaltMet) about the Action Agenda 1, 2, 4 and 5. No specific response is deemed to have been received.</li> <li>2011/2012 - promoting city networks and urban-rural co-operation as one of the focal issues for the German Presidency of the CBSS.</li> <li>Baltic Metropolises Network Action Plan for 2011-2012 names the competitiveness and cohesion, accessibility and logistics as well as sustainable development among the activity areas, with the following activities that suit the purpose of Action 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support for events that build the identity of the Baltic Sea Region locally and internationally, as well as promoting city cooperation in the area of marketing, including joint representation at international and global forums;</li> <li>promote cooperation and the exchange of best practices among the city administrators in the development of modern infrastructure;</li> <li>promote cooperation in the sustainable planning of city infrastructure, incorporating environmental concerns.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The BaltMet Info Forum – established in 2007, aims to increase the quality of the information services in the BaltMet cities by seeing and learning, by making use of the technical knowledge and experiences in using different channels in the information work, in partner cities. Meetings have taken place in Oslo, Helsinki, Riga, Tallinn and St. Petersburg, and will continue in 2011-2013 depending on interest in partner cities.</li> </ul>	
Feasibility of the LTP action	
MEDIUM	
Correlation with the policy framework	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EUSBSR HA Promo – action: Boosting joint promotion of the region, feat. annual/bi-annual events to bring together organisations from a broad range of BSR interests (state, region and city actors, NGOs, businesses, BSR networks) in order to discuss BSR issues but also find cooperation possibilities</li> <li>Strategy of social and economic development of the North-West Federal District of Russia until 2020</li> </ul>	
Recommended steps/changes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact the BaltMet Secretariat to discuss results of the BaltMet Info Forum events in terms of information exchange on investment plans between the metropolitan cities in the BSR, incl. St. Petersburg</li> <li>Take dialogue with the city government of St. Petersburg to analyse the harmonisation of the city investment plans (in the context of the Strategy of social and economic development of the North-West Federal District of Russia until 2020) with the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy</li> </ul>	



# Review of LTP actions: urban networking & urban-rural relations

1

Develop and implement a BSR cooperation strategy for the metropolitan areas from the whole Region and involving relevant urban cooperation actors

**Baltic Metropolises Network (BaltMet)**

4

Develop measures to harmonise the investment plans of Saint Petersburg with the macroregional economic integration needs

**Baltic Metropolises Network (BaltMet)**

7

Launch joint transnational and cross-border initiatives to better combine the development of metropolitan areas and their rural surroundings

**Project 'New Bridges'**

2

Implement transnational networking actions to connect research and development potentials of the eastern and western BSR metropolises and thereby to enhance the innovation potential of the Region

**Baltic Metropolises Network (BaltMet)**

5

Create and spread within the BSR a model solution on using a stakeholder approach in enhancing a potential of small and medium size cities and towns within the metropolitan areas as international centres of innovation and specialised services

**BaltMet, Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)**

8

Activate transnational networking initiatives to facilitate FDI into small and medium-sized cities outside the metropolitan areas, based on documented success stories in the BSR and other macroregions

**Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA)**

3

Map territorial cluster potentials of non-metropolitan areas in North-West Russia and Belarus and develop measures facilitating knowledge and technology transfer to these territories

**Nordic Council of Ministers, Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)**

6

Consider launching cross-border cluster cooperation initiatives with North-West Russian entities in the economic branches of high BSR integration potential

**triple helix partnerships from the territories along the Russian border**

9

Organise a pan-Baltic conference to work out measures to counteract impact of the demographic trends and labour market developments on the urban-rural polarisation and social cohesion in the Region

**VASAB in cooperation with relevant stakeholders**

# Review of LTP actions: accessibility (1)

10

Address the obstacle of cross-border deficits in primary (TEN-T) and secondary (interregional connections) transport networks of the BSR countries for developing transborder labour markets in the Region

**Strategic transport leaders, EU Commission**

12

Consider in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its follow-up work the following air transport issues of relevance for the BSR territorial cohesion:

- East-West connections in the northern and eastern parts of the BSR (including the city of Murmansk), the scarcity of which reduces the potential for interaction between peripheral regions
- low connectivity of Hamburg and Berlin to other BSR metropolises
- low frequency of services between metropolises in the eastern part of the BSR, including Kaliningrad

**EU Commission in cooperation with the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL)**

11

Consider during the revision of the EU transport policy and follow-up work on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region the following examples of road and rail links, the current state of which poses the challenge for the integration of transport networks in the BSR from the macroregional perspective:

- The Rail Baltica corridor of the TEN-T network;
- Corridor IA of the TEN-T network connecting seaports of Gdańsk, Kaliningrad and Riga, and its western extension towards Szczecin,
- North-South routes from Scandinavian countries via Central Europe (eastern Germany, Poland) to the Adriatic Sea
- Road connections in some key cross-border areas within the EU territory, e.g. Germany-Poland, Poland-Lithuania
- Road connections and border crossing infrastructure on the external EU borders, as well as between Norway and Russia
- Road and rail links from ports of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland to Russia and Belarus with extension to the Far East, Central Asia and the Black Sea region
- Tallinn-Saint Petersburg and Kaliningrad-Klaipeda rail links
- East-West routes in the Northern Periphery area

**EU Commission in cooperation with the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL)**

13

Monitor trends in airborne connectivity of the BSR metropolises and report prevailing shortcomings on the transnational political agenda together with possible improvement measures

**VASAB**

14

Develop the Motorways of the Sea in the Baltic Sea Region as a systemic solution to enhance cross-border scale integration and a transfer of goods between the EU, the eastern neighbours, Central Asia and the Far East. Consider in the revised EU transport policy the extension of the Baltic Sea Motorways system to include further short-sea links between EU ports as well as connections from the EU ports to Kaliningrad and Saint Petersburg

**EU Commission**

# Review of LTP actions: accessibility (2)

15

Initiate work on the intelligent sea transport corridors in the BSR (separated and electronically monitored traffic routes) by activating at least one pilot project for a corridor with high traffic volumes in an environmentally sensitive area

**Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)**

16

Analyse territorial development implications of more East-West connections to secure a fully integrated BSR transmission grid

**Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation (BASREC)**

17

Consider a BSR Energy Supergrid to interconnect power plants producing renewable energy in the BSR sea areas as a possible component of actions towards a fully integrated BSR transmission grid

**Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation (BASREC)**

18

Analyse and demonstrate solutions for better utilisation of renewable resources in the pan-Baltic scale and thus a higher energy independency of the Region; exemplary topics:

- Possible investments in offshore wind power installations along the Baltic Sea coast, with an emphasis to raise the potential of Poland and the Baltic States in that field
- Possible investments to better use the potential of municipal and industrial wastes to produce energy in the Baltic States
- Territorial development implications for biomass, solar and geothermal energy use in the BSR

**Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation (BASREC)**

19

Map the coverage status for ICT services in the BSR cross-border territories and develop joint initiatives to address the detected disparities

**Local and regional authorities in mapped areas, CBC programme authorities**

# Review of LTP actions: maritime spatial planning

20

Arrange a BSR conference together with relevant stakeholders in order to develop a common approach for Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning

**VASAB and HELCOM**

21

Prepare and implement demonstration projects for some Baltic Sea areas of severe use conflicts (e.g. Gulf of Finland, Gulf of Riga, Norra Kvarken, southern part of the Gulf of Bothnia including the archipelagos, Danish straits, and offshore areas south and east of Öland and Gotland as well as other appropriate Baltic Sea locations)

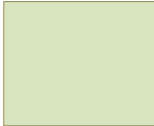
**VASAB and HELCOM**

22

Initiate joint capacity building actions in maritime spatial planning to ensure exchange of experience, promote education availability and to increase competence in that field at the BSR level

**Baltic University Programme (BUP)**

# Review of LTP actions: summary



**6 actions, whereof 3 with VASAB lead/co-lead/direct inspiration**



**12 actions, with certain influence by VASAB**



**4 actions, whereof 1 with VASAB lead**

- low VASAB operational capacity?
- insufficient resources of the stakeholder organisation(s)?
- ineffective communication between VASAB and the stakeholders?
- too broad list of possible leading stakeholders for the given LTP action?
- new policy circumstances influencing the course of the LTP action?
- anything else?



# The LTP: key achievements

## **Recognised frontrunner role (together with HELCOM) in the Baltic Sea Region maritime spatial planning**

- Partnerships with HELCOM, Baltic University Programme, the BONUS research programme, maritime spatial planning projects and pilot actions
- Platform & forum by the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group
- FUTURE: Guidance on ecosystem approach; Meeting place; Access to data: Status monitoring; Road map

## **Installed framework of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region for executing the specific LTP actions**

- Horizontal Action on Spatial Planning – aim and targets obligations and better consistency
- Coherence with actions by other PAs and HAs
- FUTURE: Territorial disparities in other parts of the EUSBSR

## **Pushed forward macroregional transport development perspective and implementation of crucial transport infrastructure projects**

- TEN-T core network corridors
- Rail Baltic/Rail Baltica
- External EU borders
- FUTURE: macroregional transport development perspective in the EUSBSR

## **Activated commitment to solving some urgent development issues in the Baltic Sea Region**

- Political awareness on territorial disparities (urban networking, urban-rural relations or demographic and labour market trends)
- Specific projects for cross-sectoral approaches and policy recommendations
- FUTURE: embedding and communication of results

# The LTP: key challenges

## Policy response to emergent natural and socio-economic opportunities and threats

- Changing divides
- New/intensified global, European and macroregional tendencies
- FUTURE: new and/or modified LTP actions?

## Functional integration of Russia and Belarus

- Low implementation progress of some actions
- Research work feasible but political recognition?
- Ru-By evidence for other actions?
- FUTURE: focus on North-West Russia and Belarus?

## Entering the new sectors world

- Modest impact in certain sectoral areas (ICT, energy, air transport or foreign investment policy)
- Some territorial cooperation projects address the issues
- FUTURE: how to lead discussion on territorial dimension?

# Recommendations to VASAB

## Better communicate the LTP to external stakeholders

- Be more efficient in promoting the LTP within the EUSBSR (Seminar on Russia and Belarus? Input to other PAs and HAs?)
- Dialogue with the NDPTL
- Brochures with success stories (ACTION 5)

## Track the policy and market processes of relevance to the LTP

- Information material on territorial development implications of high level policies (ACTION 11)
- Meeting place for projects (ACTIONS: 5, 10, 11, 14, 21, 22)
- Thematic studies (ACTIONS: 12, 16, 17, 18).

## **IMPLEMENT – COMMUNICATE - MONITOR**

## Stimulate new projects based on the gathered evidence

- Review outcomes of projects (ACTIONS: 1, 2, 7, 12, 15, 19)
- Analyse the 'Strategy of social and economic development of the North-West Federal District of Russia until 2020' to decide on cooperation directions (ACTIONS: 3, 6, 7)
- Initiate/encourage new projects under the auspices of the CBSS and/or Northern Dimension and in cooperation with other relevant pan-Baltic organisations (ACTIONS: 3, 6, 7, 8, 20, 21)

**Thank you for your  
attention!**