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<b>Document title</b>	Developments and activities related to the EUSBSR and HA Spatial Planning
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## Background

This document contains information on developments and activities related to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region ([EUSBSR](#)) and Horizontal Action (HA) Spatial Planning (full name: Encouraging the use of Maritime and Land-based Spatial Planning in all Member States around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation) for which HELCOM and VASAB act as the Horizontal Action Coordinators and the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG acts as the Steering Committee concerning the MSP part.

Roles and responsibilities for the implementing stakeholders of the EUSBSR can be found [here](#).



## Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

## Developments and activities related to the EUSBSR and HA Spatial Planning

### Annual Forum of the EUSBSR

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), 'Achieving e-Quality by Connecting the Region', was held in Jūrmala, Latvia, on 15-16 June 2015. Both HELCOM and VASAB were present at the event. During the Forum a Workshop 'Implementing Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea' was held moderated by Anita Mäkinen, Finnish Transport Safety Agency (Trafi) and Co-chair of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG. The workshop focused on projects that aim to implement the MSP Directive: Baltic Scope, BaltSpace and Baltic LINes.

Both HELCOM and VASAB had stands in the Networking Village exhibiting MSP related activities.

Other MSP-related events included:

- Workshop "Promoting the Maritime Dimension in the Baltic Sea Cooperation" organized by HA Neighbours.
- BONUS Forum Policy Day of Baltic Sea Science Congress 2015

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the EUSBSR will be held in autumn 2016 in Sweden.

### Revised Action Plan of the EUSBSR

A revised Action Plan of the EUSBSR was presented at the Annual Forum. The review process of the Action Plan was launched in 2014 by the European Commission and the Member States with the objectives to re-align the ongoing work towards the three objectives 'Save the Sea', 'Connect the Region' and 'Increase Prosperity' as well as on making the Action Plan more streamlined and better focused on areas/actions of transboundary importance and the ones which bring clear added value from the macro-regional point of view. In addition, it aimed at re-examining and updating the content of the thematic areas (e.g. actions, targets and indicators). 13 Policy Areas and 4 Horizontal Actions of macro-regional significance are now addressed by the Action Plan, HA Spatial Planning being one of them. As part of the process HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015 reviewed and agreed on the updated HA Spatial Planning description for the MSP part.

### New flagship projects

As a new feature, ongoing and completed flagship projects are now listed in an Annex to Action Plan. The following two projects were supported by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015 as flagship projects under HA Spatial Planning and were approved by the EUSBSR National Contacts meeting in June 2015:

1. [Baltic SCOPE](#) - Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Plans,
2. [Baltic LINes](#) - Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial (if approved in the first call for applications in the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020).

A completed flagship project under HA Spatial Planning is [PartiSEApate](#) - Multi-level Governance in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) throughout the Baltic Sea region.

### HASPS project

The VASAB and HELCOM one year project application (HASPS) to the 1<sup>st</sup> call of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 under the objective 4.2 'Coordination of macro-regional cooperation - Support to the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) and the Horizontal Action Coordinators (HACs)' was approved in April 2015 by the Monitoring Committee. The following persons have been hired to carry out the projects' tasks:

Leena Laamanen ([leena.laamanen@helcom.fi](mailto:leena.laamanen@helcom.fi)), HASPS project coordinator (HELCOM Secretariat)  
 Elīna Veidemane ([elina.veidemane@vasab.org](mailto:elina.veidemane@vasab.org)), HASPS project manager (VASAB Secretariat)  
 Zane Seipule ([zane.seipule@vasab.org](mailto:zane.seipule@vasab.org)) HASPS project coordinator (VASAB Secretariat)

Inter alia, HASPS will support the work of the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-Group and improve coordination and visibility of HA Spatial Planning.

## Funding opportunities

### Seed money

A new call of the EUSBSR Seed Money Facility opened on 6 July 2015 with the following timeline:

- 30 September 2015: recommended deadline for project application submission to Policy Area Coordinators/Horizontal Action Coordinators for strategic assessment and issuing of letter of support
- 30 October 2015: Submission deadline for project applications to the Seed Money Secretariat ([applications@eusbsr.eu](mailto:applications@eusbsr.eu)).
- January 2016: decision on project approvals by the Seed Money Committee

For additional information please visit <http://seed.eusbsr.eu/>.

### Interreg Central Baltic Programme

The Interreg Central Baltic Programme has opened 2<sup>nd</sup> call for project applications until 23 October 2015. All applications must be submitted electronically by 15:00 (Finnish time, CET +1) on the closing date of the call. The call is open for applications in all four priorities and all specific objectives. According to the outcome of the first call of applications, however, the applicants are encouraged to develop projects especially under:

- Archipelago and Islands Sub-programme
- Priority 3 "Well-connected region"
- Specific Objective 1.3 "More exports by the Central Baltic companies to new markets"
- Specific Objective 2.2 "Sustainably planned and managed marine and coastal areas"

More information: <http://newsite.centralbaltic.eu/>

HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015 agreed to use the same procedure for issuing letters of commitment/support for Interreg 2014-2020 projects as previously agreed on for EUSBSR Seed Money projects (cf. Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015, paragraph 2.15).

### Upcoming meetings related to EUSBSR

HELCOM and VASAB, as the HACs for HA Spatial Planning, have been invited by the Polish EUSBSR Chair to a meeting of the EUSBSR National Coordinators, EC representatives, Policy Area and Horizontal Action Coordinators of the EUSBSR on 11 December 2015 in Warsaw, Poland to present new ambitions by PACs/HACs; exchange of information; identification of challenges; mutual support and cooperation.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the EUSBS will be held in autumn 2016 in Sweden.

