



OUTCOME OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015)

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OUTCOME OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015)

Introduction

0.1 The Tenth Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 10-2015) was held on 29-30 January 2015 in Gothenburg, Sweden, upon invitation by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM).

0.2 The Meeting was attended by nominated experts from all HELCOM and VASAB Contracting Parties/Member States, except for Belarus, Lithuania and Norway. The Meeting was also attended by the Coastal and Marine Union (EUCC) as Observer. The List of Participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Co-chair Mr. Andrzej Cieslak, Poland, and the Vice-co-chair Mr. Joacim Johannesson, Sweden.

0.4 Mr. Tomas Andersson from the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM), welcomed the participants to the Meeting.

0.5 Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Executive Secretary of HELCOM, Mr. Hermanni Backer, Professional Secretary of HELCOM, Ms. Laura Meski, Assisting Professional Secretary of HELCOM, acted as Secretaries of the Meeting.

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Documents: 1-1, 1-2

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda (document 1-1) elaborated by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats in consultation with the Chairs.

Agenda Item 2 MSP developments and regional coordination

Documents: 2-1, 2-2, 2-2-WP.1, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-7-Add.1, 2-8, 2-8-Add.1, 2-9, 4-4, 4-4-Add.1

2.1 The Meeting took note of the Tallinn Declaration of the VASAB Ministerial Conference, which was held on 26 September 2014 in Tallinn as part of the Estonian chairmanship, and specifically that the ministers committed to the implementation of the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 (document 2-1).

2.2 The Meeting further took note that a meeting of the VASAB CSPD/BSR will be held in February/March 2016 under the Polish chairmanship to discuss the overall implementation of the Roadmap and further steps and that the next VASAB ministerial conference might be held in 2019 under the Danish chairmanship.

2.3 The Meeting took note of the presentation by the HELCOM Executive Secretary on the results of the HELCOM streamlining process, specifically the new working structure and aims (**Presentation 1**). The Executive Secretary also pointed out the parallels between the coordinating role and the work within the HELCOM framework being done concerning the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the work of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in contributing to the implementation of the MSP Directive.

2.4 The Meeting took note of the information by the European Union on the Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, which was adopted on 23 July 2014 as well as on the objectives of the Implementation Support Strategy, which has been developed within the Member State Expert Group (MSEG) on MSP and is expected to be adopted in February 2015 through a silent procedure (document 2-9).

2.5 The Meeting further took note of the following information by the European Union:

- VASAB has been given observer status for the MSEG on MSP and HELCOM could also be considered as an observer,
- the decision to award the grant to the project Baltic SCOPE was approved on 28 January 2015, that a new round of calls will be in summer 2016 for implementation in 2017-2018 and that the European Union welcomes feedback on the contents of the calls,
- a comprehensive web site on MSP is to be developed,
- conferences on MSP and different sectors have been held in the past years, a workshop on MSP and energy is taking place this week in Edinburgh and that a workshop on MSP and environment will be held in autumn 2015,
- the 6th Annual Forum on EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) will be held in Jurmala, Latvia, on 15-16 June 2015. A revised Action Plan of the EUSBSR will be presented at the Annual Forum. MSP will be one of the topics at the Forum,
- DG Environment has a support mechanism on integrated coastal management and there are good opportunities for cooperation concerning the ecosystem approach.

2.6 The Meeting took note of the following information by the EU Member States on national MSP developments in relation to implementation of the Directive:

- Denmark: Preparation of legislation has started under the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with other ministries. In the autumn 2015 a proposal is ready and will be open for public hearing. The legislation is expected to be ready in spring 2016. A MSP data base is being built.
- Estonia: On 28 January 2015 a new planning act went through in the Parliament. Some details will still need to be checked. Two pilot projects are ongoing in the Estonian waters.
- Finland: Implementation of the MSP Directive has started and the first meeting will be held on 30 January 2015. Finland will update the country fiche as soon as possible.
- Germany: Legislation is being checked for coherence with the MSP Directive. Amendments are under preparation.
- Latvia: Latvia has contracted consultants for MSP in the beginning of January 2015. Definition of content and consultations with national institutions involved are ongoing. Within a month Latvia will send notifications about national MSP to all affected parties.
- Poland: MSP legislation and authorities have been in place already for long. The legislation is now being amended slightly to be in line with the MSP Directive and expected to be finalized by autumn 2015. The first draft on maritime spatial plans is expected to be ready in three years. Stocktaking has been finished.
- Sweden: Legislation on MSP is in place and in force since September 2014. Government ordinance is at the moment under preparation detailing rules for implementation. Planning work is ongoing.

2.7 The Meeting also took note of the following developments of MSP in Russia: A law on MSP was developed in 2013-2014 under the guidance of the Ministry of Regional Development. The concept of the law was approved by the interdepartmental working group in August 2014. In early September 2014 the Ministry of Regional Development was disbanded. It finished its operation and transferred its competences in late November. Some of the functions of Regional Development were moved to the Ministry of Economic Development forming the Department of Strategic and Spatial Planning. It is however unclear if MSP will be added to its tasks. Currently, under the leadership of the Marine Board of the Russian Federation a law on "State management of marine activities of the Russian Federation" is being developed and the concept of the law is ready. Completion of the development is expected in 2015. This law is not directly related to MSP but it contains some provisions on management on sea areas under jurisdiction of the Russian Federation. Russian Federation will update the country fiches as soon as possible.

2.8 The Meeting agreed that the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG can play an important role in facilitating the national processes/contribution to the Implementation Support Strategy of the EU MSP Directive as well as in sharing regional experiences on the European level. The Meeting underlined that synergies should be sought for in the work on the regional and European level and for instance the guidelines under the preparation by the Working Group could feed into the EU process. The Meeting agreed to discuss the implementation of the MSP Directive also during future meetings of the Working Group as a stand-alone agenda item.

2.9 The European Union encouraged the countries to look into the interlinkages/synergies between MSP and MSFD.

2.10 The Meeting took note of the information by the VASAB Secretariat, as the lead applicant, on the HELCOM and VASAB application to the 1st call of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 for PAC/HAL support under the objective 4.2 Coordination of macro-regional cooperation” - Support to the Priority Area Coordinators (PACs) and the Horizontal Action Leaders (HALs). The Meeting welcomed that some funding is earmarked in the application to support participation of experts in the proposed data expert group. HELCOM and VASAB act as the co-HALs of Horizontal Action Spatial Planning of the EUSBSR.

2.11 The Meeting took note that a review process of the EUSBSR Action Plan was launched in 2014 by the European Commission and the Member States, which is expected to be finalized by the 6th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR in June 2015.

2.12 The Meeting also took note that a joint session on increasing synergies between EUSBSR and HELCOM was held as part of the HELCOM Heads of Delegation meeting in December 2014 and HELCOM will provide a consolidated input to the EUSBSR revision proposing ways to formalize the cooperation as well as updates of the descriptions of the Priority Areas and Horizontal Actions.

2.13 The Meeting reviewed the description on Horizontal Action Spatial Planning (document 2-2) based on a proposal by the Secretariats (document 2-2-WP.1) and agreed on the updated HA Spatial Planning description as contained in **Annex 2**. The land based spatial planning part of the HA Spatial Planning description will be reviewed by VASAB CSPD/BSR.

2.14 The Meeting took note of the following MSP projects to be launched or applications to be submitted shortly:

- BONUS BaltSpace-Towards Sustainable Governance of Baltic Marine Space project by Ms. Andrea Morf, Swedish Institute of the Marine Environment (**Presentation 2**, document 2-6). The project shall be launched in April 2015 and shall go on until March 2018. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG contacts will be contacted for interviews on challenges of integration. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG could work as a review group to achieve synergies with other projects.
- Baltic SCOPE-Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Plans project by Mr. Thomas Johansson, SwAM (document 2-3). The project application was approved on 28 January 2015. The duration of the project is March 2015-March 2017. The first partner meeting will take place on 18-19 March 2015 in Gothenburg, Sweden.
- Baltwise Seed Money project proposal: Planning for Sustainable Blue Growth in Gulf of Finland (name to be confirmed), to be submitted to Interreg Central Baltic programme (Southern Finland – Estonia) in February 2015 (document 2-4). The estimated duration of the project is 3 years,
- Baltic LINes-Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans project by Germany, (document 2-5). The project concept note will be submitted in February 2015 to Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020. The estimated duration of the project is 36 months. A sister project in the North Sea will be submitted under the North Sea Region Programme, which would allow a transregional alignment of linear infrastructures.

2.15 The Meeting 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. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 6-2013, paragraph 2.10):

- The HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats serve as contact points for the requests;
- The requests are circulated to the Co-Chairs and Vice-Co-Chairs of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, to consider the relevance of a project against HA Spatial Planning;
- A letter of support is issued by the Chairs;
- The HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG is informed of the letter.

2.16 The Meeting decided to support the Baltic SCOPE and Baltic LINES projects as flagship projects under HA Spatial Planning and requested the Co-chairs of the meeting to sign the letters of commitment/support for Baltic LINES and the Baltwise Seed Money project proposal.

2.17 The Meeting requested the Secretariats to add the needed references to the Baltic SCOPE and Baltic LINES projects under flagship projects in the HA Spatial Planning description.

2.18 The Meeting underlined the need for coordination between the MSP projects in the Baltic Sea as well as in other sea areas.

2.19 The Meeting took note of the heads-up request to establish a Baltic LINES based sub-group under HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and decided to come back to this issue when the project has been established.

2.20 The Meeting welcomed the filled in/reviewed and updated country fiches by Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Norway, Poland and Sweden as a reliable source of information on the MSP status in the Baltic Sea countries (documents 2-7, 2-7-Add.1).

2.21 The Meeting took note of the updates made to the national MSP developments table (documents 2-8, 2-8-Add.1) and reiterated the decision by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 9-2014 to merge the information in the table into the country fiches of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG.

2.22 The Meeting considered it important to also have information from the European Union in the similar manner as for the Contracting Parties/Member Countries.

2.23 The Meeting recalled the decision by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 9-2014 (paragraph 2.18) on the procedure on updating the fiches.

2.24 The Meeting further took note of the list of national MSP contact points for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning (document 4-4 and 4-4-Add.1) and decided that this information will be included in the country fiches but that a separate list will be maintain until all country fiches are available.

2.25 The Meeting approved the country fiches for publishing on the HELCOM and VASAB web page, requested the Contracting Parties/Member Countries to consider if any of the information found in documents 2-7, 2-7-Add.1, 4-4 or 4-4-Add.1 should be add to the country fiches as the tables will not be updated any longer and to provide the Secretariats (alda.nikodemusa@vasab.org and laura.meski@helcom.fi) with such updated country fiches no later than **by 6 February 2015**.

2.26 The Meeting requested the Contracting Parties/Member Countries, which have not yet sent their filled in/reviewed and updated country fiche to send them as soon as possible to the Secretariats.

Agenda Item 3

Implementation of the Regional Baltic Roadmap 2013-2020

Documents: 3-1, 3-1-WP.2, 3-2, 3-3

3.1 The Meeting took note of the report "Preparatory Work for Establishing an Expert Subgroup to the HELCOM/VASAB MSP WG on MSP Data, Spatial Data Infrastructure and an MSP Data Network in the Baltic Sea Region" by the University of Liverpool contracted by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) in the framework of the PartiSEApate project (attachment 2 of document 3-1).

3.2 The Meeting recalled that HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 9-2014 welcomed the proposal by Germany for establishing a sub-group on MSP data under the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and that the 66th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting (25-26 June 2014) and HELCOM HOD 46-2014 (16-17 September 2014) requested

development of the proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) further before the establishment of the sub-group can be decided.

3.3 The Meeting took note of the outcome of the exploratory meeting for a Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Group, held in Riga, Latvia, on 20 November 2014, considered the ToR and draft Work Plan proposed by Germany (attachment 1 of document 3-1), further amended the ToR (document 3-1-WP.2) and endorsed the ToR as contained in **Annex 3**.

3.4 The Meeting took note that as far as administrative and technical support for the expert group is concerned, the HELCOM Secretariat can offer its GIS expertise for the work of the group.

3.5 The Meeting decided to submit the proposal for the new expert group on data and its ToR to HELCOM 36-2015 on 3-4 March 2015 and VASAB CSPD/BSR with a recommendation for adoption.

3.6 The Meeting took note that a spatial data inventory was conducted within the MSP theme of the Gulf of Finland Year 2014 as presented in document 3-3 and welcomed the valuable summary.

3.7 The Meeting took note of the information by Russia that a lot of data of importance for MSP was collected within the Gulf of Finland Year 2014 but that it is not publicly available (special decision of Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment needed).

3.8 The Meeting took note of and appreciated the information by Finland on the [Sambah project](#), which has estimate densities, produced distribution maps and estimate abundances of harbour porpoises in the Baltic Sea as well as identified possible hotspots, habitat preferences, and areas with higher risk of conflicts with anthropogenic activities (**Presentation 3**). The Meeting noted that harbour porpoises are covered by e.g. the Habitat Directive and distribution information has to be considered in MSP.

3.9 The Meeting recalled that according to the Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 guidelines on the ecosystem approach, transboundary consultations and cooperation, and public participation are to be drafted and adopted by 2015 and applied by 2018.

3.10 The European Union informed that a series of technical papers are being produced that might lead to non-binding guidance documents on 1) land-sea interactions, 2) ecosystem based approach, and 3) public participation.

3.11 The European Union pointed out that the MSP Directive gives the Member States the freedom to decide on the format of their cooperation and that the sea basin approach is important and learning from each other is supported.

3.12 The Meeting took note of the final version of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG document on the ecosystem based approach and MSP, which was accepted by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Online intersessional meeting on ecosystem based approach an MSP on 4 July 2014 as a support paper for development of the ecosystem approach guidelines (document 3-2).

3.13 The Meeting noted that the workshop on ecosystem approach included in the Work Plan of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 2014-2016 (document 5-1) planned to be held in St. Petersburg will not take place in June 2015 partly due to ongoing discussions on MSP in the Russian Federation. Other options for organizing the workshop could be considered to be able to organize such a workshop during 2015.

3.14 The Meeting welcomed the renewed offer by Poland to lead the work on the guidelines on transboundary consultation and cooperation and took note of the presentation by Poland (**Presentation 4**).

3.15 The Meeting agreed to work on the guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation, and public participation as one document.

3.16 The Meeting agreed on the following general principles for the guidelines:

- the guidelines are to be developed for the planners/planning authorities and policy makers responsible for MSP,
- the guidelines should be as short and concise as possible and include practical and concrete guidance on how to carry out the processes concerned,

- a checklist or table could be one way to present such practical guidance in the guidelines,
- planning practice/culture in the Baltic Sea should be reflected in the guidelines.

3.17 The Meeting decided to split into two working groups to further consider the scope, purpose, content, timing and resources for developing the guidelines.

3.18 The Meeting took note of the following conclusions on the discussions in the working group on the ecosystem approach guidelines:

- document 3-2, and particularly the table starting on page 11, is acceptable as the Baltic Sea regional guidelines on the application of ecosystem approach in transnationally coherent MSP,
- some editorial changes are needed and updates to references on the MSP Directive and Russian policies including relevant Russian literature are to be added,
- after finalization of the guidelines a seminar could be arranged by HELCOM, VASAB and if so decided the participation of the Nordic Council of Ministers as well as the regional working group in the ESPOO Convention could be sought for. Such an event could possibly be organised back-to-back with the EU MSP and environment event in autumn 2015 to emphasize the transboundary aspects.

3.19 The Meeting agreed to use the document 3-2 as the regional guidelines on the application of ecosystem approach in transnationally coherent MSP, after applying editorial changes according to the following procedure:

- consultation period for editorial comments to be submitted to the HELCOM Secretariat (hermanni.backer@helcom.fi) **by 28 February 2015**,
- the final guidelines should be circulated and endorsed by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG contacts via tacit approval within two weeks after circulation,
- the proposed seminar would consider the implementation of the guidelines.

3.20 The Meeting took note of the following conclusions on the discussions in the working group on the guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation, and public participation: the PartiSEApate report on MSP governance will be the basis for the guidelines, a checklist will be added to the end of the guidelines and there is no need to discuss the guidelines at a workshop/seminar.

3.21 The Meeting agreed on the following procedure for preparation of the guidelines under the lead of Poland:

- a first draft of the guidelines will be circulated to the contacts of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG,
- comments are to be provided according to the indicated deadline,
- a further elaborated version of the guidelines to be presented and discussed by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 11-2015.

Agenda Item 4

Any other business

Documents: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3

4.1 The Meeting checked and updated the list of nominated experts for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG (document 4-1) as contained in **Annex 4**.

4.2 The Meeting took note of the articles on MSP published in the BONUS in Brief from November 2014 by the Co-Chairs of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and Professor Jacek Zaucha, University of Gdańsk and Maritime Institute in Gdańsk (document 4-2).

4.3 The Meeting took note of the list of MSP events to take place in 2015 (document 4-3) and requested the Contracting Parties/Member States to provide any updates to the list to the Secretariats (laura.meski@helcom.fi and info@vasab.org) as soon as information is available.

4.4 The Meeting took note that the OSPAR group on MSP (ICGMSP) tries to connect with discussions on MSP in other networks and to take stock of existing guidance in other relevant international organizations such as PIANC and IMO (discussion on MSP and shipping), ICES (building a more profound and applicable knowledge base), HELCOM and VASAB, the EU Member State Expert Group on MSP and the EU North Sea Grid Initiative. Regarding HELCOM and VASAB, ICGMSP suggested to contact the Baltic MSP Working Group to evaluate the possibility of a co-operation and to send observers to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meetings.

4.5 The Meeting welcomed the initiative for cooperation and exchange of information.

Agenda Item 5 **Future work and meetings**

Documents: 5-1

5.1 The Meeting took note that the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Work Plan 2014-2016 was adopted by the 66th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting on 25-26 June 2014 (previously adopted by HELCOM 35-2014 on 5-6 March 2014) (document 5-1).

5.2 The Meeting decided that the next meeting (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 11-2015) will be held on 30 September-1 October 2015 in Riga, Latvia, back-to-back with the Baltic SCOPE project conference tentatively to be held on 29 September 2015.

5.3 The Meeting decided that issues to be discussed at the next meeting will be the Implementation Support Strategy of the EU MSP Directive, the further developed guidelines, the work of the MSP data sub-group and tentatively also the workshop on the ecosystem approach.

5.4 The Meeting thanked SwAM for hosting the meeting and for the great hospitality.

Agenda Item 6 **Outcome of the Meeting**

Documents: 6-1

6.1 The Meeting adopted the draft Outcome of the Meeting as contained in document 6-1.

6.2 The final Outcome of the Meeting has been finalized by the Secretariats of HELCOM and VASAB in consultation with the Co-chairs of the Meeting and made available in the [HELCOM Meeting Portal](#) as well as on the [VASAB website](#), together with meeting documents and the presentations considered during the Meeting.

Annex 1 List of Participants

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
Co-chair	Andrzej Cieślak	Maritime Office in Gdynia	cieslak@umgdy.gov.pl
Co-chair	Joacim Johannesson	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)	joacim.johannesson@havochvatten.se
Contracting Parties			
Denmark	Annette Klysner	Ministry of Environment, Nature Agency	ankly@nst.dk
Estonia	Anni Konsap	Estonian Ministry of the Interior	anni.konsap@siseministeerium.ee
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European Union	Sylvain Gambert	European Commission Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	sylvain.gambert@ec.europa.eu
European Union	Odd Godal	European Commission Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy	odd.godal@ec.europa.eu
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Sweden	Jan Schmidtbauer Crona	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)	jan.schmidtbauer.crona@havochvatten.se
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Observer			
EUCC	Holger Janßen	The Coastal and Marine Union	holger.janssen@eucc-d.de
Invited guest			
BaltSpace project	Andrea Morf	Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment	andrea.morf@havsmiljoinstitutet.se
HELCOM Secretariat			
Executive Secretary	Monika Stankiewicz	HELCOM	monika.stankiewicz@helcom.fi
Professional Secretary	Hermann Backer	HELCOM	hermanni.backer@helcom.fi
Assisting Professional Secretary	Laura Meski	HELCOM	laura.meski@helcom.fi
VASAB Secretariat			
Head of Secretariat	Talis Linkaits	VASAB	talis.linkaits@vasab.org
Deputy Head of Secretariat	Alda Nikodemusa	VASAB	alda.nikodemusa@vasab.org

Annex 2 Reviewed and updated chapter on Horizontal Action Spatial Planning of the EUSBSR Action Plan

HA Spatial Planning – 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

Coordinated by: VASAB and HELCOM

<http://www.helcom.fi/helcom-at-work/groups/helcom-vasab-maritime-spatial-planning-working-group/>

<http://www.vasab.org/index.php/maritime-spatial-planning/msp-wg>

This horizontal action is of key importance in ensuring consistency between actions and in maintaining an integrated approach. Without a clear picture of the region, and an awareness of sensitive areas, populations, economic pressures and other factors, sustainable development is not feasible. This is true both for the situation at sea and for that on land.

Increased activities in the Baltic Sea have led to competition for limited marine space between sectoral interests, such as shipping and maritime transport, extraction of gravel and minerals, offshore energy, ports development, tourism, fisheries and aquaculture in addition to environmental concerns.¹ Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) are an important tool and process for improved decision making. It helps users to balance sectoral interests that compete for marine space, and contributes to achieving sustainable use of marine areas to the benefit of economic and social development as well as the marine environment. The development of maritime planning, by applying the ecosystem approach is required by the EU MSP Directive. Other regulatory frameworks and policy initiatives in the Baltic Sea, addressing both MSP and ICM, can be facilitated by common cross border cooperation for the implementation of MSP in the Baltic Sea according to the regional set of MSP principles adopted by all Baltic Sea countries within VASAB and HELCOM.

The EU and the HELCOM Contracting States have agreed in the context of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan to develop an integrated MSP process. VASAB Tallinn Declaration sets out future tasks in MSP for the ministries responsible for spatial planning and development of the Baltic Sea Region countries.

The joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group, which was established in 2010 and consisting of the nine coastal countries, Norway and the EU, is the regional platform for cooperation between BSR countries to ensure coherent MSP processes in the cross-border context and pro-active implementation of the EU MSP Directive as far as EU countries are concerned. An EU assistance mechanisms is launched and financing made available to support the countries in the implementation of the Directive (e.g. Baltic Scope project) Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap, adopted by the 2013 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and endorsed by the VASAB Ministerial Conference in 2014, includes the necessary steps to achieve a goal to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach.

Land-based spatial planning has been carried out by all BSR countries at national, regional and local level. VASAB² has established a common platform to allow partners to meet, network, exchange knowledge and experiences and sketched a first common spatial vision for the Baltic Sea region – ‘Vision and Strategies

¹ See e.g. WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme, *Future Trends in the Baltic Sea*, WWF 2010.

² VASAB – Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea – is an intergovernmental network of 11 countries of the Baltic Sea region promoting cooperation on spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea region.

around the Baltic Sea 2010’ – (VASAB 2010) that was adopted by ministers responsible for spatial planning in Tallinn in 1994. The VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region³ (LTP) is the latest contribution to these efforts and should be taken into account by the coordinators of other priority areas when they address spatial objectives, conditions and impacts of their actions. The LTP concentrates on issues which require transnational solutions such as urban networking and urban-rural cooperation, improving external and internal accessibility and the development of maritime spatial planning.

As part of the implementation process of the EUSBSR, the LTP is being implemented through a number of short-to-medium and long-term actions together with stakeholders of the region. In particular, attention has to be paid to the territorial disparities in the BSR: 1) the East-West divide, 2) the North-South divide (especially the better integration of the northernmost territories to the Baltic Sea region networks). The implementation of LTP should be continued through further actions in different priority fields and through transnational projects.

An example is the ESPON project BSR-TeMo, which will provide evidence on territorial development and cohesion in the BSR by developing an indicator-based monitoring system. This monitoring system shall comprise a policy dimension, related to the promotion of territorial cohesion in the BSR, and a methodological dimension aimed at developing an indicator-based to monitor territorial development in the BSR.

The VASAB Committee for Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region should continue acting as a coordination platform for territorial development activities in the region, in close cooperation with the Council of Baltic Sea States.

Targets and indicators

Implementation of this horizontal action is directly linked to indicators and targets at a strategic level for the EUSBSR under the objective ‘Save the Sea’.

The understanding of the indicator is such that the Baltic Sea countries should aim at developing national maritime spatial plans by applying an ecosystem approach, and that the planning should be coherent across borders, which entails close cross-border cooperation.

Indicator	Baseline	Target/deadline	Data sources
Drawing up and application of trans boundary, ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Plans.	None in 2011.	Pilot plans in 2013. Drawing up and application throughout the region in 2020.	European Commission, DG MARE, national ministries, HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group, European Territorial Cooperation programmes’ reports where relevant: Plan Bothnia, BaltSeaPlan projects.

This indicator is also linked to indicators and targets at a strategic level for the EUSBSR under several objectives, including sub-objective ‘Good transport conditions’ (improved internal and external connectivity) and sub-objective ‘Improved global competitiveness of the Baltic Sea region’ (positive influence on reducing differences in the average GDP and Human Development Index between the best and worst performing Member States in the region).

³ Adopted by the Ministers responsible for spatial, planning and development of Baltic Sea region countries in October 2009 in Vilnius.

The overall goal of this horizontal action is to achieve territorial cohesion perspective in the BSR by 2030, i.e. the region is a well-integrated and coherent macro-region, and it has overcome the socio-economic development divides between its individual parts and turned the global challenges into assets.

Actions and flagship projects

Flagship project

- **BalticLINES** (text to be added)
- **Baltic SCOPE** (text to be added)

Annex 3 Draft Terms of Reference for the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Group

DRAFT Terms of Reference for the Baltic Sea Region MSP Data Expert Group (BSR MSP Data EG)

Objective

The BSR MSP Data Expert Group

- supports data, information and evidence exchange for MSP processes with regard to cross-border / trans-boundary planning issues,
- facilitates the work of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and helps with implementation of the WG's work-plan incl. the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020.

Status

The BSR MSP Data Expert Group

- is a sub-group to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG which it reports to,
- develops recommendations & proposals to responsible authorities (MSP, MSP data),
- aims at avoiding duplication of work with regard to activities of further (regional) initiatives and working groups on the issue of MSP data, in particular with regard to outputs and products, and thus establishes links to e.g. the IHO WG in BSR and other relevant groups e.g. through representation (membership) in these groups (or vice-versa),
- is established for a period of two years with a possibility of extension.

Membership

Core members of the BSR MSP Data Expert Group

- are MSP experts / planners representatives from all BSR countries (in general: 1/country + deputy),
- are Data / GIS / SDI (Spatial Data Infrastructure) experts from relevant authorities/agencies in BSR countries (1 – 2/country + deputy),
- are appointed by competent national authorities (coordination on national level).

Additional members/experts

- may participate in meetings by invitation by the chair of the group depending on issues to be dealt with such as representatives of other organizations, technical experts, etc.

The Chair

- is elected by core members of the BSR MSP Data Expert Group for a defined period of time to be decided by the expert group
- is supported by a co-chair, who is a representative of the meeting's host (in turn: national MSP / MSP data agency/authority: "rotating "co-chair")

Modus Operandi

Meetings

- are called up to 4 times / year (face-to-face meetings, as needed: entire core group / planners sub-group / data experts sub-group / EG + additional participants as seen fit),

- are being hosted by national MSP / MSP data authorities and may also be hosted by the VASAB and HELCOM Secretariats, taking turns,
- may be set up as general meetings, workshops, conferences (e.g. contribute to BSR MSP Forum, Nov. 2016 in the framework of BalticSCOPE),
- may be held as face-to-face meetings, online conferences, e.g. in between face-to-face meetings or as follow-ups,
- may preferably being held back-to-back other relevant meetings / conferences / WGs if possible, e.g. DG Mare project BalticSCOPE incl. BS MSP Forum (Nov. 2016), BaltSpace project or any other future MSP project, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, European Maritime Day (2016: Turku) etc.

Communication

- is maintained by e-mail (internal, between members), and possibly by making use of HELCOM (discussion boards, etc.) or VASAB websites (to be explored)
- and links shall be established between the EG and other existing and forthcoming relevant forums and activities, including:
 - o BalticSCOPE project
 - o BaltSpace project
 - o SEA GIS project
 - o BaltWise
 - o BSMSDIWG
 - o ICES WKCMSP
 - o under MSFD (e.g. indicators, measures)
 - o under HELCOM (e.g. common indicators, incl. Baltic wide information on pressures)
 - o INSPIRE

Technical/administrative support:

- is being given by VASAB (application for funding for meetings to Interreg VB BSR Programme)
- GIS support is provided by HELCOM data centre

Tasks (to be amended as necessary)

The BSR MSP Data Expert Group will

- a. prepare a list of BSR National MSP Data Contact Points, incl. contact persons/details (in addition to List of National MSP Contact Points by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, Country Fiches)
- b. prepare an additional list (to be extended as needed) of further contact persons, data experts etc. (compilation by national authorities/agencies)
- c. follow up and compile identified main trans-boundary / cross-border issues in MSP in the BSR in relation to data and information
- d. initially prepare a general overview on national state of play of “MSP Data” with regard to trans-boundary / cross-border issues in BSR States (availability), incl. an overview on
 - o available (relevant) data (incl. metadata, problems with ownership, legal issues, licenses, cost etc.)
 - o data services (accessibility etc.)
- e. compile minimum requirements / criteria etc. for trans-boundary / cross-border MSP “Output Data” (Maritime Spatial Plans)

- f. compile minimum data/information/evidence requirements for trans-boundary / cross-border MSP: scope, metadata, standards, formats etc. for “Input Data”, and “Sharing” of these data
- g. prepare an overview on gaps in relevant data / information / evidence, problems e.g. with ownership, licensing, cost, legal aspects in general
- h. agree on roadmap; the group should consider developing existing infrastructure further for MSP, if possible, before considering new platforms for data infrastructure
- i. establish links to BSR MSP projects, WGs etc. and support “implementation of the way of thinking” with regard to MSP data

Outputs (to be amended as necessary)

Deliverables of the group shall be (among others)

- a. List of National MSP Data Contact Points and contact persons
- b. List of additional relevant institutions, contact persons / data experts
- c. List of main / most relevant MSP issues in a cross-border / trans-boundary context in relation to data and information
- d. Compilation of minimum requirements for Maritime Spatial Plan Data: “Output Data” and sharing of this data
- e. Compilation of minimum requirements for “Input Data” and sharing of this data which has relevance for trans-boundary / cross-border planning issues
- f. Overview on (national / regional) situation of MSP Data which has been identified as being relevant with regard to cross-border/trans-boundary (planning) issues in BSR
- g. Terms of Reference for a Baltic Sea Region Spatial Data Infrastructure for MSP
- h. Regular reports to HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

Resources needed:

The Contracting Parties/Member Countries are to nominate their representatives to the group, and the work will rely on expert participation and contribution of the Contracting Parties/Member Countries. Additional resources will be sought for through various projects. HELCOM Secretariat will provide GIS expertise.

Draft Work Plan (to be extended and further developed by the Expert Group)

Year 1

Date/Time	Occasion / Place /	Task	Intended Output
29/30.01.2015	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG / Gothenburg	Presentation of proposal for TOR of BSR MSP Data Expert Group to WG – ask for approval for setting up the MSP Data Expert Group as a subgroup to the WG – and proposal for endorsement to HELCOM HOD and VASAB CSPD BSR	Approval of proposal for TOR – recommendation for endorsement by HELCOM HOD and VASAB CSPD BSR
		Ask WG members for appointment of members (from relev. Authorities: MS planners and MSP data experts) – (e.g. March 2015)	List of initial members for core MSP data Expert Group
		Ask WG members for naming of national contact point(s) for MSP data (e.g. March 2015)	National MSP data contact point list ➔ contact person details
2 nd quarter 2015	BalticSCOPE Project – first case study meetings (Case study assessments: Identification of cross-border / trans-boundary relevant MSP issues	List of cross-border / transboundary relevant MSP issues
March 2015	HELCOM Meeting	Endorsement of (TOR of) subgroup to MSP WG	

May/June 2015	VASAB CSPD BSR Meeting	Endorsement of (TOR of) of subgroup to MSP WG	
September 2015	Meeting of BSR MSP Data EG (all appointed members), Riga (back to back to official Kick-Off BalticSCOPE – and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG)	Agree on general formalities, procedures and (necessary) rules	List of agreed formalities, procedures, rules
		Elect a chair	Chair appointed
		Decide on dates and hosts for 1 – 2 next meetings	Time schedule amended, co-chair(s) appointed
		Develop extended work plan	Work plan
		Discussion of list of main / most relevant MSP issues in a cross-border / trans-boundary context (BalticSCOPE)	
Late 2015	Workshop (host/co-chair to be chosen during September meeting)	Agree on list of cross-border issues to solve with regard to objectives of MSPs	List of issues to be solved with regard to “output data”, the Maritime Spatial Plans ...
		Analyse information and data needed (regarding issues to be solved), discussion on scope, formats, features, harmonization needs (based on some examples) etc.; list detailed final MSP layers to share (future output layers in (shared) MSP maps)	Agreement on minimum requirements for “input data” (issues to share) List of final MSP layers to share with formats etc. agreed

Annex 4 List of nominated experts for the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group

Contact addresses of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in the Contracting Parties/Member Countries

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