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

Talis Linkaits
Head of VASAB Secretariat

26 September 2014
VASAB Ministerial Conference
Ministers encourage all members to implement the LTP by allocating adequate resources and establishing appropriate structures.

Instruct the Committee to monitor territorial development of the Region.

A progress report to be prepared for the next Ministerial Conference.
Territorial cohesion perspective of the Baltic Sea Region in 2030

- Well integrated and coherent macro-region with overcome divides
- Well balanced setup of metropolitan centres, 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
Territorial development perspective of the Baltic Sea Region in 2030
Long Term Perspective

• 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)

• LTP a combination of policy and 22 actions (involving stakeholders)
Assessment

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
Key achievements

1. Recognised frontrunner in maritime spatial planning
MSP in Baltics

Projects

EU


BaltCoast  PlanCoast  East West Window  BaltSeaPlan  PartiSEApate

EU Directive

Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap

Pan-Baltic

National

Maritime Planning


National

Maritime Plan M-A

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

Maritime Pan Gulf of Gdansk
Maritime Pan German EEZ
First cross-border plans in BSR
Maritime Plans in LV and EE

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Joint Efforts in MSP

- Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG established in October 2010
- Baltic Sea Broad-Scale MSP principles adopted in 2010
- Knowledge exchange on good practices in MSP
- Minimum requirements for MSP in the Region
- Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020

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• VASAB teamed up with the Baltic University Programme to develop capacity building activities for MSP professionals

• A fast track course on MSP for professionals was organized in September-October 2013, aiming to convey basic information on MSP and the ’state of the art’ to the MSP planners
MSP Projects

BaltSeaPlan: January 2009 – January 2012

Plan Bothnia: December 2010 – June 2012

PartiSEApate: September 2012 – September 2014
Pilot plans
BaltSeaPlan Spatial Vision 2030

• A healthy marine environment
• A coherent pan-Baltic energy policy
• Safe, clean & efficient maritime transport
• Sustainable fisheries & aquaculture
Pan-Baltic Dialogues

Sea Use Sectors
1. Shipping/ports
2. Fisheries
3. Offshore wind energy
4. Aquaculture

Sectors setting conditions for MSP
5. Underwater Cultural Heritage
6. Nature/ Environment

Sectors supporting MSP process
7. Climate change
8. Research
9. Data network building

Traditional Users
New Users

Single-stakeholder workshops
Follow-up cross-sectoral workshops
• Data Network
• Research needs
• Stakeholder Perspectives on MSP
• Pan-Baltic cooperation and consultation on MSP
• MSP case studies in the Region and in other sea basins
• Multi-level public participation and stakeholder involvement
• MSP in the Baltic Sea Region until 2020 – Expectations and challenges, national versus transnational MSP
2. Prominent role in the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
VASAB and HELCOM are Horizontal Action Leaders

Intergovernmental multilateral co-operation of 11 countries of the Baltic Sea Region in spatial planning and development

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - intergovernmental organisation of the 9 Baltic Sea coastal countries and the EU working to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution and to ensure safety of navigation in the region
Links to EUSBSR PAs and HAs

- PA Bio
- HA Sustainable
- Energy
- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Transportation
- Tourism and recreation
- PA Tourism
- Environment protection, climate change
- Energy
- Spatial Planning
- Tourism and recreation
- PA Agri
- Education
- HA Education
- PA Transport
- PA Safe
- PA Secure
- PA Ship
- HA Neighbours
- PA Energy
- Spatial Data
- Cooperation
- HA Neighbours
Key achievements

3. Pushed forward macro-regional transport development perspective and implementation of crucial transport infrastructure projects
Comparison of TEN-T core network and VASAB LTP transnational transport connections
TEN-T Core Network Corridors

- Rail Baltica Growth Corridor
- North Sea – Baltic Corridor
- Helsinki – Valetta Corridor
- Baltic-Adriatic Corridor
Promoted internal and external accessibility
4. Activated commitment to solving important territorial development issues
ESPON project
Territorial Monitoring for the BSR

Objective:

to support evidence informed territorial development and cohesion in the BSR by developing a territorial monitoring system based on territorial indicators
BSR TeMo Monitoring System

http://bsr.espon.eu
VASAB Expert and Stakeholder meeting on Demographic Trends and Labour Market Development  
8 June 2010, Kaunas, Lithuania

VASAB Expert Workshop  
“Urban-Rural Partnerships in the Baltic Sea Region”  
21 September 2010, Minsk, Belarus
Close cooperation with pan-Baltic organizations

17 November 2010: VASAB given the status of the CBSS intergovernmental network


12 December 2013: VASAB Stakeholder Meeting “Creating Synergies for Well-Integrated and Coherent Baltic Sea Region”, Helsinki, Finland
Progress Report
2009-2014

Thank you for your attention!

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