Urban Revitalization in the Baltic Sea Region

“Achieving Good Living Environment: Territory Matters. What’s beyond 2030 for Macro-Region?”

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The aim of the Polish chairmanship in VASAB is to support an integrated territorially oriented approach (*place-based approach*) in the programming and implementation of public policies at different spatial scales and thematic areas.

PRIORITIES:

- Urban issues,
- Maritime spatial planning,
- Territorial monitoring.
QUESTIONS:

1. Who is responsible (leadership)?

2. Are there policy documents available? Strategic docs?

3. What is the scope and content of revitalisation

4. What are the key financial sources

5. Under which policies revitalisation is pursued
First findings

- BSR countries use a wide variety of methods, focus on various aspects, emphasise various needs.
- But, the goal is common – bringing deprived and neglected parts of the cities back to life and vitality.
- There is no commonly agreed name: revitalisation, regeneration, rehabilitation
- This is not a solely local task
This is not a solely local task since it addressed important emerging problems and challenges in all BSR countries related to:

- demographic change (planning for cities with a shrinking population),
- ensuring polycentricity,
- smoothing social tension related to the inflow of migrants.

Thus revitalisation will gain importance as a key element of territorially sensitive development policies in the BSR and in the EU.
Conclusions

Need for a broader macro-regional debate on revitalisation based on the following:

• revitalisation requires a multi-governance approach and broad participation;

• spatial planners may have an important role as facilitators and specialists on stakeholders’ engagement

• the Baltic Sea Region is of a right geographical scale to exchange experience on revitalisation
Conclusions

EU and macroregional policies should be asked to consider their impact on proper development of the cities, their networks and urban regions.

For instance EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region can be asked to prepare an overview of the impact on its actions on the Baltic cities and adjust its strategy implementation in line with the findings.
Example of revitalisation as a multi-governance effort

Europe 2020
- Making better use of EU funds to support social inclusion
- National Programme for the revitalisation of cities

Traditional response
- Traditionally segregation is handled by municipalities
- Often not by integrating different sectors (labour market, housing, education) but only as planning issue

Needs
- Urban structure and development in the region lead to concentration of social problems in specific city quarters

Changed response
- 1. New way to identify and negotiate projects
- 2. New way how to prepare and implement revitalisation projects
- 3. Changed implementation routines
  - ERDF / MA
  - Pomorskie region
  - City
  - Cases of Gdańsk & Slupsk
  - Local partnerships / people

Implementation activities
- Broad local partnerships supporting social activation
- Fighting social segregation
- Expected reduction of number of people at risk of poverty

Change in policy
- Local authorities will continue approach after EU funding
- Better empowered stakeholders
- New negotiation “culture”

Europe 2020
Multi-level Governance
Social Inclusion

Pomorskie case:
New approach to incubation and implementation of urban revitalisation
Thanks for your patience
Get involved:

- Contribute to the workshop
- Organize a back-to-back meeting
- Take part in an exhibition

Get in contact via forum@vasab.org

23-24 November 2016
Riga, Latvia

Save the date!