



Permanent Representation of Finland  
to the European Union



EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

EUROPEAN UNION

## VASAB Stakeholder Workshop 2018

### Achieving coherent and sustainable development of macro-region Unique team-work of the countries around the Baltic Sea

#### Agenda

15 May 2018

**Venue:** Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU  
Avenue de Cortenbergh, 80, Brussels, Belgium

Many know that Baltic Sea Region had the first macro-regional strategy in the European Union. But not so many realize that macro-regional cooperation in the Baltics takes place for many decades.

What is the added-value of macro-regional cooperation? What are the benefits of common actions and mutual knowledge as the main pillars fostering coherent and sustainable regional development in three themes: **urban networking** and **urban-rural cooperation**, **internal** and **external accessibility** and **maritime spatial planning**? What are the future challenges and opportunities for macro-regional cooperation after 2020? These will be the main topics for discussion of the VASAB workshop on 15 May 2018.

**VASAB** (“Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea”) is intergovernmental multilateral cooperation of 11 countries of the Baltic Sea Region in spatial planning and development, both EU and non-EU countries guided by the Conference of Ministers responsible for spatial planning and development, steered by the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) composed of representatives of respective ministries and regional authorities (Germany, Russia).

VASAB cooperation is the first macro-regional collaboration in Europe dealing with territorial development, common vision and joint actions of the region. It was founded in 1992. On 2009 it agreed on Long-Term Perspective for Territorial Development of the Region.

**Policy makers** and **stakeholders** involved in macro-regional development and cooperation concerning urban planning, accessibility and maritime spatial planning at EU, macro-regional and national level are invited to participate in this workshop. It also addresses the **practioners** and **researchers** interested in macro-regional topicalities.

Workshop moderator: *Janne Antikainen, MDI*

13:00-13:25	<i>Registration &amp; welcome coffee with light lunch</i>
	<b>Welcome addresses:</b>
13:25-13:40	<i>Olov Schultz, VASAB Chairman</i> <i>Odd Godal, DG Regio</i>
13:40-13:50	The role of spatial planning and regional cooperation <i>Jacek Szlachta, Warsaw School of Economics</i>
13:50-14:00	VASAB at the glance <i>Tālis Linkaits, Head of VASAB Secretariat</i>
<b>Part I</b>	<b>Urban networking and urban – rural cooperation</b>
	Keynote speeches for inspiration:
14:00-14:20	Cities and Urban Revitalization in the Baltic Sea Region <i>Jacek Zaucha, University of Gdańsk</i>
	German concept of Smart Cities <i>Eva Schweitzer, Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning</i>
	Moderated discussion with keynote speakers & panellists:
14:20-14:40	<i>Elena Belova, ICSEER "Leontief Centre"</i> <i>Emīls Rode, Live Baltic Campus project</i> <i>Olov Schultz, VASAB Chairman</i>
14:40-15:00	<i>Coffee-break</i>
<b>Part II</b>	<b>Improving internal and external accessibility</b>
	Keynote speeches for inspiration:
15:00-15:20	VASAB Study on Accessibility in the Baltic Sea Region <i>Klaus Spiekermann, Spiekermann &amp; Wegener (S&amp;W) Urban and Regional Research</i> Towards common vision for the North Sea-Baltic Corridor <i>Liene Stikāne, NSB Core project</i>
	Moderated discussion with keynote speakers & panellists:
15:20-15:40	<i>Kaarel Kose (Association of Local Authorities of Harju County)</i> <i>Christina Suomi, Helsinki City</i> <i>Thomas Erlandson, EUSBSR PA Transport</i>
<b>Part III</b>	<b>Maritime spatial planning</b>
	Keynote speeches for inspiration:
15:40-16:10	Regional cooperation on MSP <i>Katarzyna Krzywda, the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group</i> Towards coherent MSP and long-lasting macro-regional cooperation <i>Ingela Isaksson, Pan Baltic Scope project</i> Linking practice with science – benefit for MSP <i>Henning Sten Hansen, Aalborg University, BONUS BASMATI, Baltic LINes, Baltic RIM projects</i>
	Moderated discussion with keynote speakers & panellists:
16:10-16:30	<i>Felix Leinemann, DG MARE, Head of Unit A2 -Blue Economy Sectors, Aquaculture and Maritime Spatial Planning</i> <i>Andris Andrušaitis, BONUS Secretariat (EEIG)</i> <i>Inguna Urtāne, Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development</i> <i>Steven Vandenborre, Belgian Maritime Spatial Planning Unit</i>
	<b>Wrap-up session:</b>
16:30-17:00	Discussion on what are the main benefits and future challenges of macro-regional cooperation Endnote by <i>Jörg Mirtl, Interract Programme</i>
17:00-18:00	<b>Closing &amp; Mingling event</b>