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<b>Document title</b>	Revised project platform concept
<b>Code</b>	6-2-Rev.1
<b>Category</b>	DEC
<b>Agenda Item</b>	6 - MSP-related projects and events
<b>Submission date</b>	9.11.2018
<b>Submitted by</b>	VASAB Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

This revised document contains the updated version of the project platform concept and a draft letter of support for the application. The lead partner, HA Spatial Planning coordinator VASAB, will submit the application to the 2nd Call for Project Platform applications of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Project Platforms is open from 2 October 2018 till 31 January 2019.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to:

- discuss proposed project idea, objectives and activities, as well as identify regional policies which project can contribute to and processes which could be supported by project results;
- support the project platform concept and agree that HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG will serve as an Reference group to the Platform (draft letter of support is in the Annex 1);
- consider and express an interest to be involved into the project as associated partners by providing supporting letters to the project and contribute in the Platform`s dialogue activities. (A template will be provided).

## “Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers”

Interreg BSR Programme 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Applications on Project Platforms  
Timeline: 2 October 2018 - 31 January 2019

Activities at the sea have been taken place for centuries. However, new sea uses, such as renewable energy development, aquaculture and protection of the underwater heritage have brought to the competition for maritime space, and management of human activities at the sea has become more complex, requiring better coordination and planning. Maritime spatial planning (MSP) is a process that brings together multiple maritime users to ensure that human activities at the sea take place in an efficient, safe and sustainable way. VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region, HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and EUSBSR Action Plan provides a basis for common regional work on implementation of MSP in a coherent way and applying ecosystem based approach. This goal should be achieved by 2020/2021.

Since 2010 when the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group was established, significant progress has been achieved in building cooperation network and creating policy background for MSP in the BSR. Currently nearly all BSR countries are engaged in MSP process and are in the various stages of preparation their maritime plans.

The current regional goals and tasks for MSP are set for 2020/2021. A number of actions have already been initiated or are to be initiated to enrich the existing policy and cooperation framework and to consider the future macro-regional MSP cooperation after 2020/21. For instance, the assessment of the regional MSP framework within the Pan Baltic Scope project recently has been launched and its results (expected in fall 2019) will be used for the following update of the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap after 2020 and for adjustment of the VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Baltic Sea Region. The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, including MSP commitments, will be updated by 2021. Revision process of the EUSBSR Action Plan will be carried out in 2019 indicating future tasks for thematic coordinators post 2020. The Platform will contribute to these policy processes, building on and utilizing the results of the current and recently completed MSP projects.

The Platform will create practically oriented, interactive collaboration platform for MSP stakeholders and decision makers that will inform, support and enhance the ongoing MSP efforts by making use of the outcomes of various transnational MSP projects. It will deepen and widen the gained knowledge from the projects by synthesizing, amplifying and transferring the projects outcomes to the new practical solutions, as well as intensify the dialogue with MSP stakeholders (MSP practitioners, institutions responsible for MSP, blue-economy representatives, environmentalists etc.) and decision makers (e.g. EU COM, relevant ministries, HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, etc.).

It will increase the **visibility and impact** of single projects, build up potential **synergies** seeking the ways for **successful alignment of new sea-uses** and **addressing horizontal issues** in the MSP, support the practical **implementation and application** of the maritime spatial plans around the BSR after their adoption, intensify the **dialogue** with stakeholders, as well as consider **additional focus areas** for the regional collaboration and cooperation for future MSP cooperation agenda, and indicate possible MSP cooperation **themes** for the next EU financial perspective 2021-2027. Moreover, the Platform will encompass gained knowledge in order to ensure **know-how transition** within and outside the BSR across various sectors and governance levels. In comparison of EU MSP Platform the project will address the specifics of Baltic Sea and strengthen the pan-Baltic cooperation in particular.

The project platform proposal supports the successful implementation of the EU and BSR policies and strengthens the capacity of the MSP practitioners, authorities responsible for MSP, sectoral stakeholders involved in MSP and other players by:

- consolidating and amplifying projects outcomes through the synthesis [process] and applying proven formats of stakeholder involvement from projects;

- ensuring further promotion, visibility and impact of projects outcomes and gained knowledge towards the **MSP stakeholders** (MSP practioners, institutions responsible for MSP, blue-economy representatives, environmentalists etc.) at various governance levels (pan-Baltic, national or regional) within the BSR and outside;
- identification and *know-how* exchange of available practice in MSP implementation, challenges, unforeseen “underwater stones”, potential support tools;
- capitalization of the results from various projects in order to support **MSP decision-makers** (HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, relevant ministries) in relation of revision processes of MSP policy framework and bringing an additional input to the future MSP agenda post 2020;

#### **Main results:**

- Deepened knowledge among MSP stakeholders towards successful alignment of new sea uses (such as renewable energy production, aquaculture, protection of underwater heritage) and their synergies in the MSP and application of horizontal issues - ‘Multi-use’ concept, “land-sea interaction”, “ecosystem based approach” from the perspective of new sea uses;
- Intensified dialogue with MSP stakeholders and decision makers through proven stakeholder involvement and engagement formats (thematic workshops, Planning Forum, BSR MSP Forum);
- Harmonized overview of and lessons learnt from projects` approaches, national MSP processes & Platform activities addressing stakeholder involvement, awareness and engagement at pan-Baltic and national or regional level;
- Identified support mechanisms for the implementation of the MSP in practice and *know-how* transfer from other sea-basins being more advanced in this regard;
- Identified additional focus areas for the regional collaboration and cooperation from the projects for future MSP cooperation agenda after 2020;
- Indicated possible MSP cooperation project themes for the next EU financial perspective 2021-2027.

## **PLATFORM STRUCTURE**

### **WP 1. Platform management and administration**

VASAB Secretariat (lead partner)

Maritime Institute in Gdansk (PL)

Aalborg University (DK)

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SE)

HELCOM Secretariat

Ministry of Environment & Regional Development of Latvia (LV)

### **WP2. Deepened knowledge and “know-how” exchange:**

**Group of Activities 2.1. : Synthesis report** on outcomes of the MSP-related projects (e.g., Baltic LINes, Baltic InteGrid, BalticRIM, Baltic Blue Growth, Baltic SCOPE, Pan Baltic Scope, BONUS BASMATI, MUSES, Land-Sea-Act etc.) in correlation with ongoing MSP process in the BSR countries:

- Identifying common denominators and analyzing main conclusions, interactions and synergies gained from projects;
- Looking at how to successfully align new sea-uses, such as offshore energy development, aquaculture, protection of underwater heritage, in MSP along with traditional activities as shipping, fisheries, nature protection etc.;
- Considering horizontal issues such as ‘Multi-use’ concept, “land-sea interaction” and “ecosystem based approach”, “cumulative impacts” etc. against these new sea-uses;
- Synthesizing main “take-away” messages for further dissemination in various MSP stakeholder networks within and outside the BSR;
- Consideration of potential future topics emerging from the projects outcomes and to be included into future MSP agenda (as additional input to the revision of MSP policy framework for the BSR after 2020);

- Proposing themes and scoping proposals for future MSP cooperation projects for the next EU financial perspective 2021-2027.

Synthesis report to be prepared and adjusted in close collaboration with MSP stakeholders' dialogue within the Platform.

**Group of Activities 2.2.** Identified **support mechanisms for the implementation of the MSP** in practice and *know-how* transfer from other sea-basins being more advanced in this regard. Nearly all BSR countries are involved in the preparation of maritime spatial plans, but only few (e.g., Germany) has experience in practical implementation of these plans. The activity will ensure the available knowledge transfer from existing experience from the Baltic Sea and also from other sea-basins (e.g., Belgium, the Netherlands etc.), discover common challenges and unforeseen obstacles in the practice of MSP implementation, as well as identify potential support mechanisms for implementation and application of the maritime spatial plans after their adoption with regard to the EU MSP Directive and Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap. Activity will also provide an input for the Synthesis report.

### WP 3. Intensified dialogue with MSP stakeholders & decision makers

**Group of Activities 3.1. Thematic multi-level and cross-sectoral workshops** in order to deepen the knowledge of and bring the capacity to the MSP stakeholders by further promotion of the projects outcomes and adjustment of Platform products (e.g., Synthesis report). Workshops will bring forward/apply the best practice and working methods of stakeholder engagement into MSP from sectoral (e.g., renewable energy development (Baltic LINes, InteGrid), aquaculture (Baltic Blue Growth), protection of UCH (BalticRIM), shipping (Baltic LINes) and horizontal perspective (ecosystem based approach (Baltic SCOPE), cumulative impacts (PanBalticScope), 'multi-use' concept (MUSES), land-sea interaction (Land-Sea-Act). Workshops will invite the representatives from respective sectors (national agencies, NGO's, academia, associations etc.).

The activity will be mutually linked with the Synthesis process where the Synthesis will provide the material for workshops, while the outcomes and also lessons learnt will feed into the further elaboration of Synthesis.

**Group of Activities 3.2. Planning Forum** will act as practical dissemination and collaboration platform supporting ongoing national / regional MSP processes and implementation of MSP policy. The cooperation practice initiated by Baltic SCOPE and Pan Baltic Scope projects on informal collaboration among MSP practitioners within the Planning Forum should be continued further. While the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG is the official cooperation platform for considering policy proposals and implications, Planning Forum will be a fora where more detailed and in-depth discussions, practical task-forces and exchange of practices and experiences on MSP, as well as further promotion of the projects results and Platform products among MSP practitioners will take place. It will be complementing the current cooperation within HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group with practical, task-oriented and informal working methods which cannot otherwise be organized at the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meetings itself, thereby building an efficient and more complete and strengthened MSP network.

The Platform will provide the opportunity to continue collaboration among practitioners and add new topics to future MSP agenda – such as an alignment of new sea-uses into MSP, 'multi-use' concept, support mechanisms for implementation and application of MSP etc. It will also further promote and disseminate the single projects results in wider regional context, as well as ensure the practical verification and feedback of the Platform products and activities.

Platform will allow to extend the scope of the Planning Forum participants outside the single projects partnership by involving representatives from all BSR countries (including Russia), as well as other authorities involved in the practical elaboration of maritime spatial plans (e.g., from Germany, Finland, Poland etc.).

Planning Forum will take the form in periodical 3-4 meetings according to the themes deriving from the Platform synthesis process and other Platform's thematic activities.

*The representatives of Planning Forum – **Platform partners** + MSP practioners to be attracted as **Platforms Associated Partners**; their travel & accommodation covered by Platform:*

1. SE: **SwAM**
2. FI: Ministry of Environment + regions
3. EE: Ministry of Interior

4. LV: MoEPRD
5. LT: Ministry of Environment
6. RU: Ermark Institute in St.Petersburg
7. PL: Ministry of Marine Economy and Inland Navigation + Maritime Offices + MIG
8. GE: BSH + states
9. DK: DMA + AaU

**Group of Activities 3.3.** The **Baltic MSP Forum** in 2021 (tentatively in June) as grand-event of the Platform. It will create suitable fora for the discussion, adjustment and dissemination of the Platform results, as well as will provide opportunity to engage, share and build knowledge, exchange best practice and interact with others involved in MSP and marine issues allowing for comprehensive debates reflecting the voices of various stakeholders from different parts of the region and beyond. It will bring together practitioners and researchers interested in MSP, as well as policy makers and stakeholders involved in marine and coastal activities.

**Group of Activities 3.4. Integrated report on MSP stakeholder involvement and engagement** – it will include a harmonized overview and lessons learnt from projects` approaches and national MSP processes addressing stakeholder involvement, awareness-raising and engagement into MSP at pan-Baltic and national or regional level. Lessons learned from the collaboration process and application of stakeholder engagement formats within the Platform will provide an additional adjustment of the report. The activity will also give an overall extraction of main takeaway messages for dissemination to the MSP planners within and outside the BSR, as well as supporting more successful implementation of H-V Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation.

**WP 4. Increasing the visibility of the Platform within and outside the BSR**

**Group of Activities 4.1.: Outreaching other relevant networks**

Contribution to Interreg BSR Programme events and communication, as well as contribution to other relevant events – an active participation and contribution (e.g., stand, seminar, representation etc.) to the events organized by EC, IOC-UNESCO etc. (European Maritime Day, EUSBSR Annual Forums, MSP conferences etc.) within and outside the BSR.

**Group of Activities 4.2.: Platform`s visibility package**

Communication materials (& tools) to support visibility and dissemination efforts. Dissemination and finding appropriate formats for communicating is very much linked with the MSP process and stakeholder involvement format, therefore finding appropriate ways for communicating the Platform results will be part of Platform`s daily communication. Potential outcomes – Platform`s visual identity (logo & common graphic design, flyer, presentation template, roll-up, webpage etc.), unified layout of the main Platform outputs / content documents and their promotional materials, other communication/demonstration tools.

**Composition of the Platform:**

The results of the ongoing (or recently accomplished) projects will be the core essence for the Platform:

<b>Interreg BSR Programme projects:</b>	<b>Other EU-funded projects:</b>	<b>Other relevant activities</b>
Baltic LINES Baltic RIM Baltic InteGrid Baltic Blue Growth Land-Sea-Act	Baltic SCOPE Pan Baltic Scope MUSES BONUS BASMATI BONUS BALTSAP SEAPLANSAP	Update of the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap Adjustment of the VASAB LTP Update of the HELCOM BSAP National/regional MSP processes Revision of EUSBSR Action Plan HELCOM HOLAS

#### Indicative main milestones of Platform

**Start:** Sept/Oct 2019 **End by:** Sept/Oct 2021

**Platform kick off** - together or back-to-back with Pan Baltic Scope final event in Nov2019

**Planning Forum** meetings (3-4), if possible, back-to-back with H-V MSP WG meetings

**Thematic workshops** (3-4-5) = up to proposals

**MSP Forum** in June 2021

#### Budget

The total budget for a project platform can be up to EUR 1,000,000 (or less).

Interreg BSR Programme  
2nd Call for Applications on Project Platforms  
Timeline: 2 October 2018 - 31 January 2019

### ***Draft Letter of Support***

**Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda** and **Mr. Joacim Johannesson**, acting as the Co-chairs of the joint HELCOM-VASAM MSP Working Group as Steering Committee of the EUSBSR Horizontal Action (HA) "Spatial Planning" for MSP, hereby express the support of the Steering Committee to the project "**Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers**", led by HA Spatial Planning coordinator VASAB, to be presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Call for Project Platform applications of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020.

The main goal of the application is to establish practically oriented, interactive collaboration platform for MSP stakeholders and decision makers that will inform, support and enhance the ongoing MSP efforts by making use of the outcomes of various transnational MSP projects. It will increase visibility and impact of single projects, build up potential synergies seeking the ways for successful alignment of new sea-uses (such as renewable energy production, aquaculture, protection of underwater cultural heritage) and addressing horizontal issues in the MSP. It will also ensure *know-how* exchange on practical implementation and application of the maritime spatial plans, intensify the dialogue with MSP stakeholders, as well as consider additional focus areas for the future MSP cooperation agenda. Moreover, due to its comprehensive and cross-cutting nature, the Platform will strengthen the links between PA Energy, PA Culture, PA Nutri and HA Spatial Planning.

In case the platform project is funded by the Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020, Steering Committee of HA Spatial Planning for MSP will actively support the Platform with its role as a Reference Group to the Platform. It will regularly discuss platform results and feed the dialogue with institutions responsible for MSP policies at national level, as well as support the promotion of Platform events and disseminate the Platform results. Additionally the Platform results will support Steering Committee`s efforts in building future MSP agenda.

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