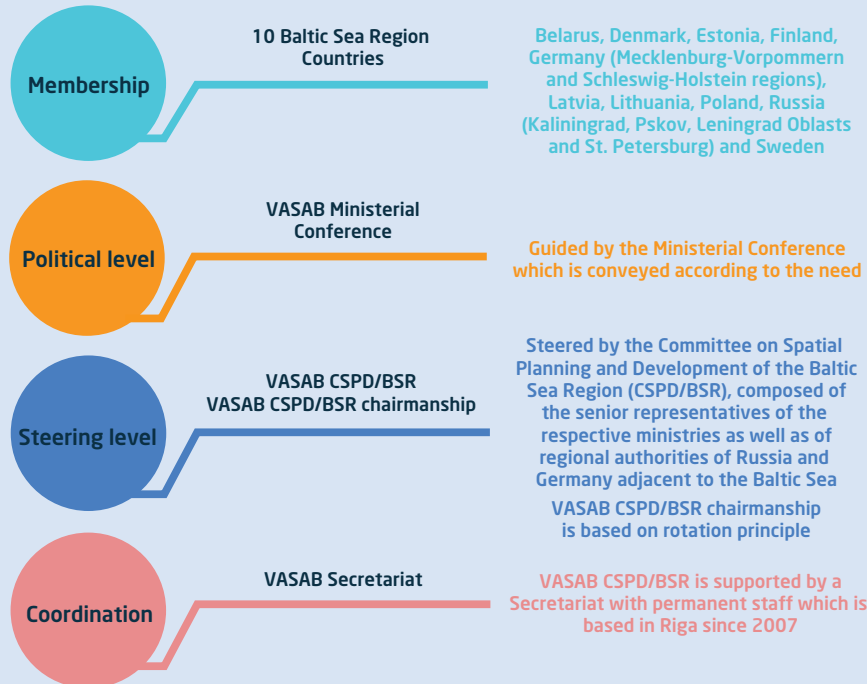


VASAB since 1992

WHAT IS VASAB?

Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB) is the first macro-regional collaboration in Europe with a common vision and joint actions among ministries on spatial planning and territorial development.



VASAB is integrated into the network of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) organisations.

WHAT VASAB DOES?

- Prepares policy options for the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region
- Provides a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the Baltic Sea countries
- Promotes and participates in co-operation projects which provide added value to achieve well-integrated and coherent BSR
- Co-operates with other pan-Baltic, macro-regional, European and international organisations/initiatives
- Promotes a dialogue with sectoral institutions
- Acts as the Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" coordinator within the EUSBSR for land-based spatial planning and co-coordinates maritime spatial planning jointly with HELCOM



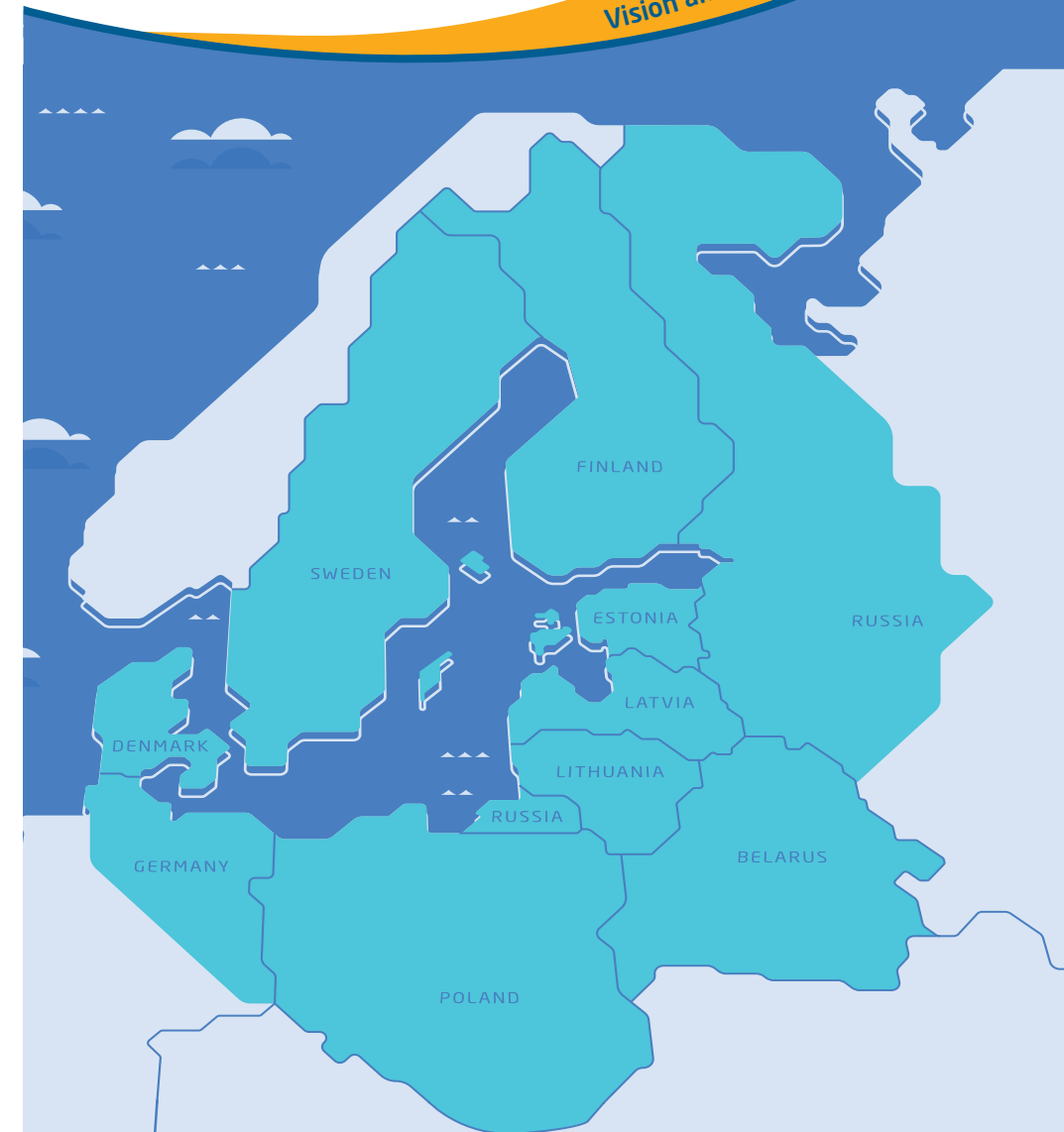
cooperates with



projects contributing to VASAB LTP



Vision and strategies for a thriving region



VASAB CONTACTS:

www.vasab.org
Alberta iela 10, Riga, LV-1010, Latvia
(+371) 67350 630
info@vasab.org
@VASAB_org
@VASAB2030
VASAB Secretariat
VASAB

VASAB develops strategic visions for Baltic Sea Region (BSR):

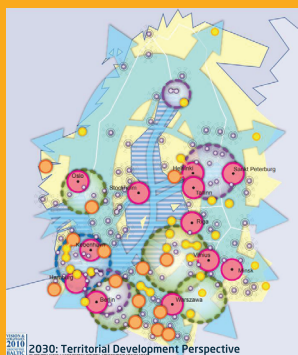
The first common vision sketched in 1994 identified overall spatial structure of the BSR:



- **Pearls:** system of cities and urban settlements
- **Strings:** effective and sustainable interlinking infrastructure networks
- **Patches:** selected types of land uses in non-urban (rural) areas supporting dynamism and quality of life
- **System:** spatial planning in function (planning institutions, rules and procedures)

VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (VASAB LTP) was adopted in 2009:

- Highlights the current territorial development trends and challenges
- Presents a territorial cohesion perspective for the BSR in the year 2030
- Proposes concrete actions to stimulate territorial development potentials to overcome existing gaps



VASAB LTP THEMES:

Urban Networking and Urban-Rural Cooperation



Accessibility



Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)



Urban Networking and Urban-Rural Cooperation

How to enhance a well-balanced settlement structure?

Ensure experience exchange through workshops and conferences



Monitor city development on urban development and challenges



Follow up cooperation projects on urban development and urban-rural linkages



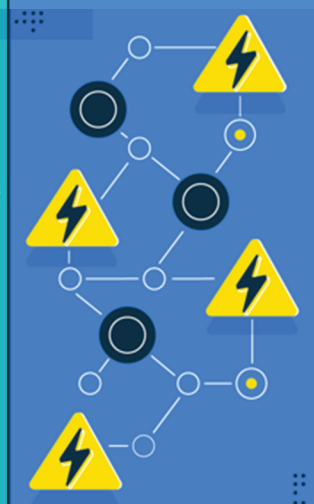
Accessibility

How to ensure better internal and external accessibility?

Cooperate to encourage fast, reliable and environmentally efficient transport connections



Promote sustainable and integrated energy network



Discuss and observe the potential of TEN-T network for regional development



Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)

How to ensure coherent maritime spatial planning across the borders?

Activities at the sea (shipping, fisheries) have been taking place for centuries. However, new sea uses, such as renewable energy development, aquaculture, extraction of mineral and energy resources (hydrocarbons, renewables, aggregates) and ports development have brought competition for marine space in addition to environmental concerns. Management of human activities at the sea has become more complex, requiring better coordination and planning.

Integrated coastal management has been on the agenda of VASAB to ensure maintenance of unique coastal areas.

Around 2001, VASAB generated the first sprouts of expanding spatial planning offshore, now known as maritime spatial planning.

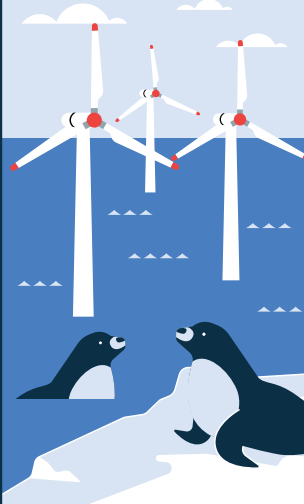
MSP is a process and tool that brings together multiple maritime users to ensure that human activities at the sea take place in an efficient, safe and sustainable way.

To carry out the actions of VASAB LTP, a HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group was established in 2010. It has drafted a common regional framework and agreed on joint principles for coherent MSP. This laid the groundwork for:

Transboundary consultations to conduct open and transparent cross-border dialogue



An ecosystem-based approach as an overarching principle



An MSP data structure to ensure data availability and coherence

