

VASAB – vision and strategies around the Baltic Sea

Gunārs Anšīņš
Chairman of VASAB CSPD/BSR



Ministry of Environmental
Protection and Regional
Development
Republic of Latvia



Nordic Council of Ministers'
Office in Latvia

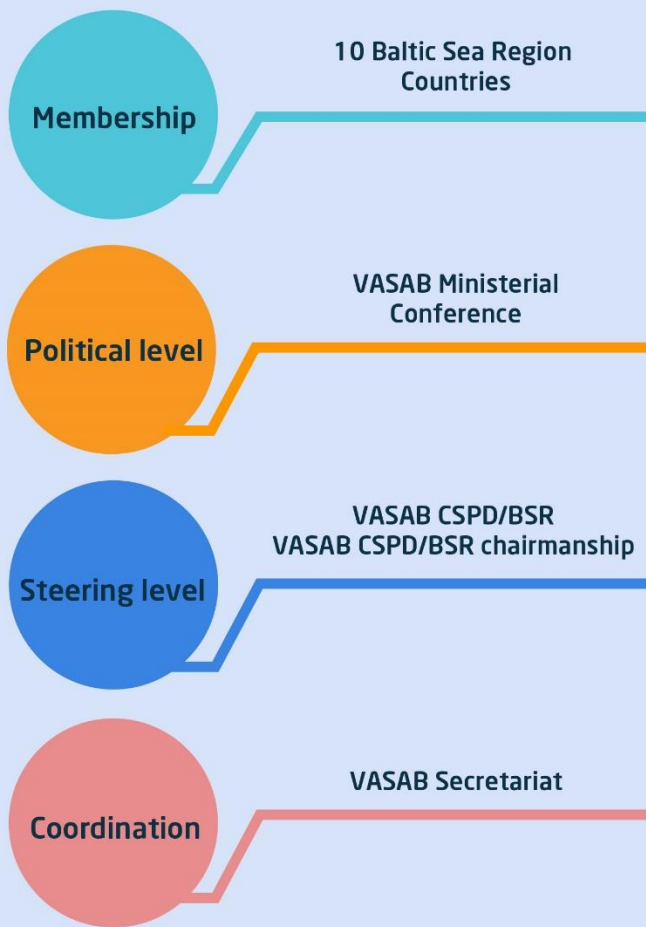


Latvijas
vides
aizsardzības
fonds

4 JUNE | RIGA, LATVIA

First macro-regional collaboration in Europe with common vision
and joint actions among ministries on
spatial planning & development

VASAB since 1992



Cities on VASAB Agenda:

Long Term Perspective 2030:

- Potential of the small and medium-sized cities and towns should be better exploited to connect the Baltic Sea Region with the global networks more efficiently

Tallinn Ministerial Declaration 2014:

- To contribute to better adaptation of strategies to different types of areas, e.g., small and medium-sized towns and their functional areas...
- To apply place-based approaches to development policies at national, regional and local levels, and share knowledge and best practices on such approaches



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

Main characteristics

VASAB report: Development of Cities

- Depopulation through ageing & outmigration
- Urbanization towards development cities



Development of Cities in the Baltic Sea Region



Latvian VASAB Presidency: focus on Small & Medium-Sized Cities

July 2018 – June 2019

2 thematic workshops:

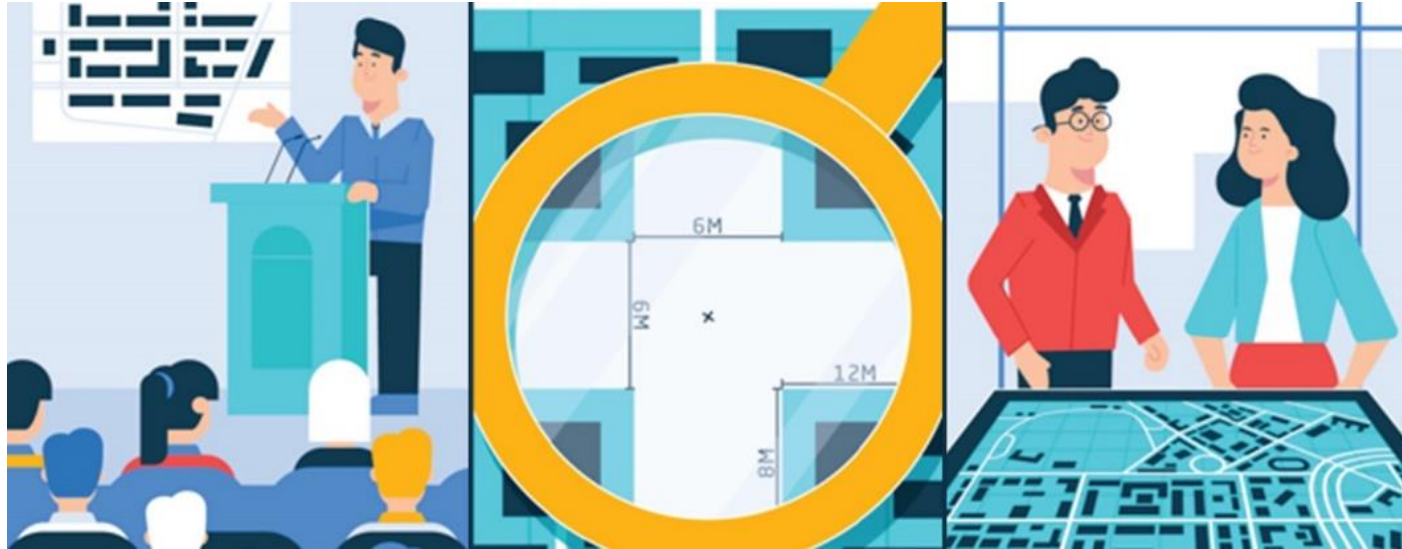
- Smart urban governance and resilience of small & medium cities (Liepāja)
- Urban dimension in spatial policies - trends and prospects of urbanization (Schwerin)



Why are small & medium cities important?

- National and regional centres of development:
 - Most population lives in 'smaller' urban settlements
 - Higher economic activity rate in Small & Medium cities
- Strong identity, specific territorial capital, employment profiles and territorial potentials
- Stabilising role for coherent territorial development
- Greater potential for resilient governance
 - >> Substantial support to the joint competitiveness and cohesion of the BSR & Europe

Let`s talk about competitiveness!



- What is exactly working for small & medium cities?
- Which tools are functioning well for them?
- What can be improved, enhanced and should be supported more?



For thriving region!