VASAB – vision and strategies around the Baltic Sea

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Chairman of VASAB CSPD/BSR
First macro-regional collaboration in Europe with common vision and joint actions among ministries on spatial planning & development.
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
Main characteristics

VASAB report: Development of Cities

• Depopulation through ageing & outmigration
• Urbanization towards development cities
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!