Dear VASAB Friends,

Happy New Year! We wish you an amazing year filled with new achievements and success! With this first newsletter of 2019 we are glad to inform you about our latest news and upcoming activities as well as invite you to follow and join our events.

VASAB has initiated the Young Planners’ Contest 'Liveable Places and Spaces of Tomorrow' to bring together young professionals to an International Summer Camp in Poznan, Poland, give them a chance to create a network of next generation planners, and provide them with an opportunity to express their expectations and perspective of the future of the Baltic Sea Region. Are you willing to participate or know someone who could take up this challenge? Share the news and send the application by 17th January. [Read more](#).
JOIN THE UNIQUE CONFERENCE - CONNECTING SEAS
On 13-14 February the NorthSEE and Baltic LINes projects invite to come along and explore shipping, energy and environment in the first joint North Sea and Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning Conference in Hamburg, Germany. Find out more about the programme, interactive workshops and register for the conference by 16th January - www.connectingseas.eu.

GUIDELINES FOR MSP OUTPUT DATA INFRASTRUCTURE
After intensive and fruitful collaboration BSR countries agreed on coherent approach for MSP output data structure. The BSR MSP Data Expert subgroup had elaborated “The Guidelines on transboundary MSP output data structure” that were agreed by the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group in November 2018. Download the guidelines HERE.

NEW ESPON PROJECT - TERRITORIAL SCENARIOS FOR THE BSR
 Initiated by VASAB countries, project BT2050 started in November 2018 and will last until October 2019. The objective is to develop territorial scenarios for the BSR to contribute to cooperation between BSR countries on territorial development, increase evidence based on the territorial dimension of the EU Strategy for the BSR, as well as be beneficial to EU Member States’ policy making. Read more.

LET'S COMMUNICATE EUSBSR!
The VASAB secretariat is taking an active role in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). Besides co-coordinating the EUSBSR Horizontal Action Spatial planning it also took an active part in the communicating the EUSBSR being the partner in the project “Let’s Communicate!”, producing the videos explaining the EUSBSR and its objectives and coordinating the social media campaign during the autumn of 2018. This month the project will come to its end, but the results are available online and we believe they will be useful further on to promote the EUSBSR and its results.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Schwerin, Germany
22 January BT2050 Steering group meeting and workshop
22 January VASAB workshop 'Urban dimension in spatial policies in the Baltic Sea Region. Trends and prospects of urbanization'
23 January 80th VASAB CSPD meeting
13 - 14 February, Hamburg, Germany  
**Connecting seas – NorthSEE and Baltic LINes MSP conference**  
Explore shipping, energy and environment in the first joint North Sea and Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning Conference. Register for the conference and read more [www.connectingseas.eu](http://www.connectingseas.eu).

5-6 March, Brussels, Belgium  
**NSB CoRe, Scandria®2Act and TENTacle Joint Final Project Conference**  
Regions, Corridors and Urban Nodes – Competences, Capitalisation and Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. [Read more.](#)

27-28 March, Hamburg, Germany  
**18th Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG meeting**

1-2 April, Tallinn, Estonia  
**NSB CoRe project Final Conference**

tbc May/June, Riga, Latvia  
**VASAB Conference and VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting**

20 - 21 November, Riga, Latvia  
**SAVE THE DATE! 3rd Baltic MSP Forum**

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