TERRITORIAL MONITORING

One of the HA aims is to observe the territorial development processes in the BSR. The Territorial Monitoring Platform (BalticSeaTerritorialMonitoring.org) provides data on territorial development in the region and allows for cross-border comparisons. The project seeks to enhance the collaboration between the stakeholder groups of maritime and terrestrial stakeholders and integrate different maritime and terrestrial policies and plans with the development of MSP. It also provides an indicator-based monitoring system to measure the progress in achieving territorial cohesion in the BSR. An operational indicator-based monitoring system feeds into the territorial monitoring platform for the whole Europe, existing ESPON tools, in particular the European Territorial Monitoring System (ETMS) and the Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring System (BSR TeMo). Based on it two following studies were conducted – Development of Cities in BSR 2016 and Accessibility in BSR and its macro-regions to be developed within the ESPON project ‘European Spatial Development Report 2017’.

HORIZONTAL ACTION ‘SPATIAL PLANNING’

TOPIK – Building Lasting Macro-Region Mechanisms for Cross-Border Governance

EUROPEAN UNION

One of the key objectives of the TOPIK project is to develop a lasting cross-border Governance mechanism in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and thereby enhance the collaboration between different stakeholders. The project aims to develop a BSR Level Governance Model that can be used by regional actors to promote cross-border cooperation and coordination within the BSR. The project seeks to enhance the collaboration between the stakeholder groups of maritime and terrestrial stakeholders, and integrate different maritime and terrestrial policies and plans with the development of MSP. It also provides an indicator-based monitoring system to measure the progress in achieving territorial cohesion in the BSR.
Spatial planning is an integrative process to influence the future spatial development and achieve coherent territorial development processes in the BSR; contribute to better adaptation of strategies to different types of areas and encourage improving accessibility and connectivity of the BSR using maritime spatial planning. It also calls to overcome territorial disparities and socioeconomic divides between parts of the Baltic Sea Region. The LTP concentrates on issues which require transnational solutions such as climate change and protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution through integrated environmental policies.

In order to implement LTP within the EUSBSR and achieve coherent development of the BSR, territorial actions are required:

- to contribute to the better implementation of different types of areas and sectors across national and cross-border boundaries;
- to apply place-based approaches to territorial development policies as well as effective use of functional areas and territorial impact assessment tools;
- to consider the territorial development processes in the BSR;
- to improve accessibility and conformity of the BSR using the potential of TEN-T regional development.

The EUSBSR is the institutional body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (1992). Its main objective is to promote sustainable use of the marine environment.

HA “SPATIAL PLANNING” GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HELCOM</th>
<th>Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOAL:</td>
<td>Baltic Sea Strategy 2030 - HELCOM Agenda 2030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISSION:</td>
<td>Administrative body of the BSR Convention, prepares and submits the Baltic Sea Strategy to the Conference of the Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEERING LEVEL:</td>
<td>10 Baltic Sea Region countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBERSHIP:</td>
<td>Representatives of respective ministries and regional authorities of the Baltic Sea Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COORDINATION:</td>
<td>VASAB Secretariat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (MSP WG) was established in 2015 to support the regional platform for cooperation between EUSBSR countries to ensure coherent MSP processes in the cross-border context and promote implementation of the EUSBSR Framework Action Plan on MSP. The establishment of the MSP WG follows the OECD’s recommendations, which call for establishing national and transboundary MSP frameworks in the Baltic Sea Region to ensure coherence of national MSP processes and contribute to a more sustainable economic and social development of the region.

Strategy: to prepare, implement, and engage in a regional platform for cooperation between EUSBSR countries to ensure coherent MSP processes in the cross-border context and promotes implementation of the EUSBSR Framework Action Plan on MSP within the joint HELCOM-VASAB Working Group on MSP.

In 2015 the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group was established as an expert group under the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group. The aim of the sub-group is to support data, information and evidence availability for MSP processes with respect to cross-border/multi-level knowledge issues.