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Background

The current [Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap](#) was prepared for the period 2013-2020. The Roadmap and the needs to update it were discussed in the 19th meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group. The [outcome](#) (para 7.2) of the 19th Meeting mentions the update of MSP Roadmap as a topic for the 20th meeting of the Working Group. The update of the MSP Roadmap is also a task 3.2 in the Working Group's Work plan for the years 2020-2021 (Annex 2 of the [outcome](#) of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 19-2019).

The update of the MSP Roadmap is one of the main topics for the 20th Meeting of the Working Group. The Secretariats of VASAB and HELCOM have prepared this document as an input to the discussion. It includes a suggestion for a timeline for the update and presents some key points regarding regional MSP collaboration as presented in recent documents. The documents are the recommendations by Pan Baltic Scope and Baltic LINes projects, an assessment of the current regional MSP framework conducted within the Pan Baltic Scope project and the Workplan 2020-2021.

The document suggest that in the meeting 20-2020 the Working Group will discuss and agree on the general need and scope of 'new Roadmap', on the timing of the process towards the update and gives a clear guidance for the actions to be taken before the 21st meeting of the Working Group. In order to have a fruitful and productive discussion at the 20th meeting of the Working Group, it would be important that the countries have an initial, internal discussion about the expectations and objectives for the updated MSP Roadmap. Key questions to be discussed at the meeting are:

- What will be different and/or important after 2021 in relation to the current MSP Roadmap?
- What type of new Roadmap would be needed?
- What should be the overall goal of the new Roadmap?
- What should be the KEY elements/topics for the "new Roadmap"?

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider the document and:

- conclude on the achievement of the goals of the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020;
- discuss the updates needed to the Roadmap and agree on its focus and scope;
- discuss and propose provisional timespan for the updated Roadmap;
- agree on the timeline for the update of the Roadmap.

Input paper for the MSP Roadmap update

Background

The current [MSP Roadmap](#) was prepared for the period 2013-2020. It was created to fulfill the goal of drawing up and applying maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach. The Roadmap was adopted at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting held in Copenhagen on 3 October 2013 and the VASAB Ministerial Conference on 26 September 2014. The Roadmap outlines the anticipated Baltic Sea regional work on MSP to be done by the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention and VASAB member states. The Roadmap is structured into seven themes:

1. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP
2. Public participation
3. Ecosystem approach in MSP
4. Information and data for MSP
5. Education for MSP
6. National and Baltic Sea regional frameworks for MSP in place
7. Evaluation and follow-up

The current Roadmap with comments on the implementation status is presented at the end of this document.

The Pan Baltic Scope project assessed the common regional MSP framework. The objective of the Assessment was to analyse the application, implementation, achievements and possible future adjustments to update the joint regional framework. [The assessment](#) scrutinized the MSP Principles, the HELCOM-VASAB MSP guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation as well as the MSP Roadmap.

Regarding the MSP Roadmap the assessment concludes that the BSR countries see an added value of jointly discussing and developing several MSP challenging issues in future and that HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group plays an important role in ensuring intergovernmental cooperation. The assessment found out also that data and information sharing are important preconditions to ensure coherent planning. Therefore, the work on the enhancement of data collection, storage and exchange shall be also strengthened in coming years. As for the future directions the assessment points out that the involvement of stakeholders in MSP in transboundary context still needs encouragement. Similar recommendation has been given recently by several Interreg and BONUS projects.

VASAB's work is guided by the **Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region** where MSP is defined as one of the strategic directions to achieve territorial development coherence. HELCOM's strategic tool to achieve good environmental status of the Baltic Sea is the **Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)**. By establishing a joint Roadmap, both organizations join forces to fulfil the aims set in their strategic documents. The key documents of VASAB and HELCOM are being updated. MSP's relation to the update of BSAP will be also discussed in the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020 Meeting (agenda item 3). Since MSP is considered as a tool for integrated management of human activities at sea, the updated Roadmap among the other priorities can serve for achieving objectives of the updated BSAP where it's applicable.

Discussion topics for the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020 Meeting

There are two main topics for the discussions: timeline of the update as well as the scope and focus of the update. Below is an indicative timeline for the update process to be further developed in the meeting. Below we suggest possible questions for the discussion. In order to have a fruitful and productive discussion at the

HELCOM-VASAB 20-2020, it would be important that the countries have an initial, internal discussion about the expectations and objectives for the updated MSP Roadmap along the questions below.

We also collected recommendations and suggestions points regarding regional MSP collaboration given by Pan Baltic Scope and Baltic LINes projects, an assessment of the current regional MSP framework conducted within the Pan Baltic Scope project and also from the Work plan 2020-2021.

The matter of MSP Roadmap update will be handled in a dedicated session coordinated by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats. The session will include inputs from on-going work in the Capacity4MSP project by Jacek Zaucha and Angela Schultz-Zehden.

Indicative process and timeline for the update

The current Roadmap was adopted at the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting and the VASAB Ministerial Conference. The timeline suggested here assumes that the new Roadmap would be adopted preferably at the same level. This has implications on the timing of the MSP Roadmap update. For instance, the next ministerial meeting of HELCOM is indicatively scheduled for October 2021. This is the meetings where the new updated BSAP is supposed to be adopted, as well. The procedure of preparation of decisions at the ministerial meeting is such that the update of the MSP Roadmap should be finalized by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG preferably in the 2021 spring meeting. VASAB Ministerial Conference is not foreseen in 2021; VASAB CSPD/BSR may have respective decision regarding the new-Roadmap.

An indicative timeline for the update process:

1. H-V 20th meeting in April 1-2 2020: discussion and decision on general scope of 'new Roadmap' and on the timing of the process towards the update; clear guidance on the next steps for the Secretariats;
2. Intersessional work by the Secretariats with input from countries
3. H-V 21st meeting in October 2020: discussion and agreement on the goal; discussion and agreement on the key elements of the new Roadmap (1st draft of new Roadmap)
4. Intersessional work by the Secretariats with input from countries
5. H-V 22nd meeting in spring 2021: discussion and agreement on the final draft of new Roadmap

The on-going Capacity4MSP platform project that runs until September 2021 can be utilised as a platform and resource for the update process. Such activities are included in the project plan of Capacity4MSP.

Scope and focus of the new MSP Roadmap

The meeting is invited to discuss the scope and focus of the new MSP Roadmap. The meeting should also come to a joint view on them and agree on the next concrete steps. These steps will be implemented in intersessional work by the Secretariats. Inputs from the countries are needed to support that.

Key questions to discuss the scope and focus:

- What will be different and/or important for the time period after 2021 in relation to the current MSP Roadmap and the time when it was written?
 - o Taking into account that most of the countries will have MSP plans ready by early 2021. What are the needs from regional sea collaboration after that?
 - o Other developments in the region (update of the EUSBSR Action Plan, developments in maritime sectors and related policies, MPA network development towards 30% by 2030, etc.)
- What type of new Roadmap would be needed and what would be its role?
 - o Should the new Roadmap be more specific and oriented towards actions or should be a strategic document?
- What should be the overall goal of the new Roadmap?

- Current goal: to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem-based approach.
- Should it be the same – coherence and EBA?
- What should be the KEY elements for the “new Roadmap”?
 - Should we keep the seven original themes or update them as well?
 - New elements?

Suggestions regarding regional MSP cooperation from recent projects and documents

Recommendations and ideas for future development of the Baltic Sea level MSP collaboration have been recently presented by [Pan Baltic Scope](#) and [Baltic LINes](#) projects. An [assessment](#) of the current regional MSP framework was conducted within the Pan Baltic Scope project. The current HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG workplan 2020-2021 includes also several actions towards updating the MSP Roadmap ([Outcome](#) of 20-2020, annex 2).

Below the key points from these recent activities/projects are summarised. The last point lists emerging knowledge needs and new perspectives that could be considered for the contents of the new Roadmap. The purpose of this listing is to remind what points have been recently identified to give ideas and food for thought for the meeting discussions.

Continue with Baltic Sea regional MSP collaboration

- Continuation of collaboration between countries within the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group
 - Share good practices between countries such as during Planning Forums (e.g. data, mapping, planning criteria, etc.) or other long-term mechanisms
 - Continue sharing developments in countries
 - Move the focus to support of implementation of MSP
- Develop a system for follow up of achieving the common goals
 - Links to HELCOM and VASAB strategies, e.g. HELCOM BSAP objectives and their follow up, VASAB Long- Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region policy guidelines and specific actions
 - Develop national evaluation frameworks and share experiences on those
- Check the relevance of the existing guidelines and consider the need of new ones
 - Update of the EBA guideline has been suggested
 - New guidelines could focus, for instance some of the emerging knowledge needs and new perspectives (see below)
- Participate in relevant processes outside of the BSR even globally
- Support education and professional development of MSP practitioners

Continue with and develop information and data exchange

- Continue the work of the BSR MSP Data ESG
- On development and implementation of MSP (status, licensing, projects, contact persons, other relevant info / MSP country fiches) – this work is continuous.
- MSP relevant data via BASEMAPS, HELCOM, EMODNET: Develop utilisations of public information resources – the optimum way of coordination and data sharing is still one of the key challenges (technical and legal challenges)

Enhance collaboration with maritime sectors and broader policy frameworks

- Link MSP strategies closer to related policy developments in all Baltic Sea countries (e.g. marine protection, blue growth) and follow new emerging priorities (e.g. climate change)
- Link MSP work better with marine management to support application of the ecosystem-based approach, including in sectoral planning
- Work closer with other HELCOM Working Groups such as MARITIME, SAFE-NAV and STATE & CONSERVATION.
- Try to establish linkages to sectoral regional and international networks
- Improved stakeholder engagement, ensure transparency of MSP processes, enhance stakeholder dialogue also in pan-Baltic level
- Continue working within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region as the coordinator of the Horizontal Action Spatial Planning and to act as its Steering Committee concerning the MSP part.

Emerging knowledge needs and new perspectives (not in any order)

- Land-Sea interaction, capacity to implement it
- Further development of ecosystem-based approach in MSP, e.g. MPAs in MSP, Green Infrastructure concept and mapping method, etc.
- Develop methods of socio-economic analysis, mapping and indicators to support MSP
- Develop methods to evaluate environmental, including cumulative, impacts as well as social and economic effects of spatial plans
- Precautionary principle in MSP
- Cultural and social aspects of coast and seas – how to include them into MSP
- Climate change and MSP
- Multi-use of the sea
- Social-ecological systems thinking

The Roadmap	Status
1. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP	
1.1 Cooperate in the field of MSP using inter alia the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG framework and thus facilitate reaching the target of drawing up and implementing transnationally coherent Maritime Spatial Plans applying the ecosystem approach throughout the region by 2020.	On-going collaboration MSP plans getting ready
1.2 Take into consideration and cooperate upon global and European policy and regulatory developments related to MSP.	On-going
1.3 Draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP”. These guidelines could address the initiation of the process, consultations, cooperation, institutional arrangements and time schedules as well as possibilities for preparing joint transboundary MSPs.	Done (combined with 2.1)
1.4 Coordinate the MSP related actions and projects, including those implemented within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its Action Plan, noting the role of HELCOM and VASAB as the Horizontal Action Coordinators for MSP.	On-going
2. Public participation	
2.1 Draft and adopt by 2015 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions”. These guidelines should address means of public consultation and transparency of information.	Done (combined with 1.3)
3. Ecosystem approach in MSP	
3.1 Draft and adopt by 2015 procedurally oriented Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP”.	Done
4. Information and data for MSP	
4.1 Identify by 2013 competent contact points for MSP for the purpose of transboundary consultation and joint planning.	Done (list is being regularly updated)
4.2 Share basic, relevant and available MSP related information as soon as possible.	On-going (WG meetings)
4.3 Promote the creation and sharing of MSP relevant Baltic Sea regional datasets.	On-going (Data ESG)
4.4 While creating and sharing MSP related information and datasets utilize existing processes for sharing of spatial information including, for those Baltic Sea States who are EU member states, the implementation of the EU INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC).	On-going (Data ESG)
4.5. Prepare a future oriented report by 2015 on marine and maritime activities and developments of Baltic Sea regional importance.	Done
5. Education for MSP	
5.1 Promote the education and professional development of MSP planners.	On-going
5.2 Initiate and draw lessons from practical sub-regional experiences of coherent MSP to try out guidelines and joint regional working practices.	Done (recommendations from projects, including assessment of regional framework by Pan Baltic Scope)

6. National and Baltic Sea regional frameworks for MSP in place	
6.1 National frameworks for coherent MSP are in place in all Baltic Sea countries by 2017.	All except Russia
6.2 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP”.	On-going (note: 6.2 and 6.3 refer to combined guidelines)
6.3 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions”.	On-going (note: 6.2 and 6.3 refer to combined guidelines)
6.4 Apply by 2018 Baltic Sea regional “Guidelines on the application of Ecosystem Approach in transnationally coherent MSP”.	On-going (updates to the guideline suggested)
7. Evaluation and follow-up	
7.1 Take further steps related to regular monitoring and evaluation needs of MSP.	Not done
7.2 Update the Roadmap, if necessary, in 2014 after HELCOM and VASAB ministerial meetings and assess the implementation of this Roadmap 2016, 2018 and 2020.	Done