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<b>Document title</b>	Developments and activities related to the EUSBSR and HA Spatial Planning – March 2020
<b>Code</b>	6-5
<b>Category</b>	INF
<b>Agenda Item</b>	6 - Coordination of Horizontal Action Spatial Planning and MSP related projects and events
<b>Submission date</b>	16.3.2020
<b>Submitted by</b>	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariat
<b>Reference</b>	

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### Background

HELCOM and VASAB are co-coordinators of Horizontal Action (HA) Spatial Planning of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). The joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group acts as the steering committee for the HA Spatial Planning concerning MSP issues. Both Secretariats assist the WG in this role, by e.g. keeping the group informed of activities related to the (EUSBSR) and HA Spatial Planning (such as funding opportunities and meetings) and representing the HA in various meetings and processes as needed.

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

## Developments and activities related to the EUSBSR and HA Spatial Planning

March 2020

HELCOM and VASAB are co-coordinators of Horizontal Action (HA) Spatial Planning of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). The joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group acts as the steering committee for the HA Spatial Planning concerning MSP issues. Both Secretariats assist the WG in this role, by e.g. keeping the group informed of activities related to the (EUSBSR) and HA Spatial Planning (such as funding opportunities and meetings) and representing the HA in various meetings and processes as needed.

### Revision process of the EUSBSR Action Plan

EC has initiated the [Revision process of the EUSBSR Action Plan](#) in order to consider achievements and challenges for both thematic and governance issues, the relevance of Strategy's objectives, sub-objectives and targets, as well as set the future tasks.

In this regard, joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG emphasised the role of HELCOM VASAB MSP WG group in the EUSBSR framework during its 18th Meeting in Hamburg on 27th of March 2019 and concluded on importance of coordinated role of the group and the need to keep the Horizontal Action in the Strategy.

The revision timetable has been postponed from what was anticipated earlier. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of November HACs/PACs submitted the first drafts of PA/HA descriptions filled into template provided by EC DG Regio and external expert COWI together with EUSBSR National Coordinators. At the Nacional Coordinators meeting in Helsinki, 27-28 November 2019 it was decided to give HACs/PACs a new round for contributions. VASAB and HELCOM Secretariats jointly have prepared a proposition for updated action plan and circulated it for feedback to both steering groups. Another National Coordinators meeting took place on 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February in Riga, after that minor adjustments were required in HA SP description. Secretariats have updated the description and submitted it to the EC DG Regio. Indicative further steps regarding revising the Action Plan are following:

- At this point EC DG Regio jointly with the Presidency (Finland) are preparing a Proposal of the Presidency which will include changes also in the general description of the Strategy not only in the HA and PA descriptions.
- Proposal will have to be approved by the National Coordinators (next NCs Meeting indicatively planned for 30<sup>th</sup> of March).
- After approval from the NCs, proposal will be put forward for the Commission consultation and adoption as a Commission Staff Working Document (SWD) (aim is to adopt the Action Plan until the end of May 2020).

The [overall goal](#) of the HA "Spatial Planning" is to increase territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region. In 2030, the Region shall be a better-integrated and more coherent macro-region that has reduced socio-economic development divides between its individual parts and has turned global challenges into assets. The current version of the revised EUSBSR Action plan for HA Spatial Planning has two actions:

- Action 1: Strengthening territorial cohesion in the BSR through land-based spatial planning
- Action 2: Ensuring coherent maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea:

<b>Action 2: Ensuring coherent maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea</b>				
<b>Description:</b> The Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020, along with VASAB LTP and HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan sets the framework for MSP cooperation and defines the necessary steps to achieve the goal to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the BSR which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach.				
<b>Timing: ongoing</b>				
Indicator title	Value	Baseline	Target/deadline	Data source
<i>Coherent maritime spatial plans applying trans-boundary ecosystem-based approach in the Baltic Sea.</i>	<i>Elaborated and applied maritime spatial plans throughout the BSR.</i>	<i>In 2019 all EU countries in the BSR are engaged into MSP. Maritime spatial plans covering whole national marine waters in the Baltic Sea are adopted in 3 countries.</i>	<i>Elaborated and applied maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea in 2020/2021.</i>	<i>EC DG MARE, national ministries, HELCOM-VASAB MS WG, European Territorial Cooperation programmes' reports.</i>
<b>Flagship on-going or planned within this action:</b> Capacity4MSP (2019-2021), planned				
<b>Project (s) and other action (s) are planned within this action:</b> Current <b>Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap</b> includes an agreed goal: "to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply ecosystem-based approach". According to the Work plan 2020-2021 of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, the elaboration of new Roadmap for 2020+ will be carried out by 2021. In the period after 2020 focus of the activities on MSP will move from preparation of the plans to their implementation and to follow up of effectiveness. There will be important updates for the overall policy frameworks. An update of the <b>HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan</b> is going on and is expected to be adopted by the end of 2021. Also, a possible update of the <b>VASAB LTP</b> is currently being discussed. <b>BSR MSP Data group</b> works on establishing the joint BSR MSP webmap where adopted maritime spatial plans in the Baltic Sea will be available. <b>Capacity4MSP</b> project platform (ongoing till September 2021, funded by Interreg BSR Programme)				
<b>Current and planned funding sources for the PA/HA activities:</b> EU Commission's DG MARE, Interreg BSR Programme, joint Baltic Sea research and development Programme (BONUS), Interreg Central Baltic Programme, VASAB's and HELCOM's own budget				

## Follow-up on funding activities

### Interreg BSR Programme –

- **Regular project calls** - all funds within the current financial framework 2014-2020 are committed. No further calls are planned.
- **Calls for the project platforms** - no further platform project calls are planned.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Call for the extension stage projects** was open from 1 October 2019 until 27 February 2020 for Programme priorities No.1-3. No further calls are planned.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Seed Money Call** is open from 5 November 2019 – 23 March 2020 in order to "bridge" current financial framework 2014-2020 with the next one. In the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of application (submission of the project idea to the relevant HAC/PAC) HA Spatial Planning received and recommended 3 project ideas (project idea [BlueBioSites](#) was MSP related) to the MA/JS for further development. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase pre-selected applications are developed and submitted to the MA/JS.
- **Calls for coordination of EUSBSR** – Request for prolongation of technical assistance projects of HACs/PACs have to be submitted to the MA/JS on 27<sup>th</sup> March. Necessary procedures have been carried out to request prolongation of [HASPS 3](#) project.

[Interreg Central Baltic Programme \(EE, LV, SE, FI, Åland\)](#) – **5<sup>th</sup> Call** was open from 15 August – 15 October 2019 for all Specific Objectives. 20 projects have been approved for funding.

[Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 \(DE, DK, LT, PL, SE\)](#) - Currently, no call of the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 is open. The decision about the schedule and scope for the next call will be announced after the Monitoring Committee meeting in April 2020.

[Interreg Europe](#) – all funds have been allocated to projects. There will be no more calls within current financial framework 2014-2020.

[EASME/EMFF](#) – at this point no information about further calls is available.

## Progress of ongoing Flagship project of MSP relevance:

Title	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<p><b>PanBaltic SCOPE</b>  <a href="http://www.panbalticscope.eu/">http://www.panbalticscope.eu/</a></p> <p><i>Flagship status granted by EUSBSR NC meeting on 26 September 2018.</i></p> <p><b>Flagship lead:</b> Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, SE                      12 partners, 3 associated organizations.</p>	<p>DG MARE (Call EASME/EMFF/2016/1.2.1.6.)</p> <p>2 years [Jan2018-Dec2019]</p>	<p><b>Flagship project has been finalized.</b></p> <p><b>Recent activities:</b> Project has recently concluded. Project's final conference together with 3<sup>rd</sup> Baltic MSP Forum and 4<sup>th</sup> MSP Global Forum was organized in Riga on 19-21 November. All materials are available on the project website <a href="http://www.panbalticscope.eu">www.panbalticscope.eu</a>. Hand-over meeting was organized on 10-11 December, 2019 in Gothenborg.</p> <p><b>Deliverables.</b> The outcomes of the project are available on the project website <a href="http://www.panbalticscope.eu">www.panbalticscope.eu</a>.</p>

## Progress of other ongoing projects of MSP relevance:

Title	Role of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<p><b>Plan4Blue</b>                      Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Blue Economies  <a href="http://www.syke.fi/projects/plan4blue">http://www.syke.fi/projects/plan4blue</a></p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE),                      2 partners from Research institutions, 3 partners from regional organizations and associated with 4 public authorities</p>	<p><b>Letter of Support</b> issued by H-V MSP WG on 25 Feb 2016</p>	<p>INTERREG Central Baltic Programme; 2nd Call</p> <p>3 years [Oct2016-Dec2019]</p>	<p><b>Recent activities:</b> Project has recently concluded.</p> <p><b>Deliverables:</b> Recommendations for maritime spatial planning for sustainable blue economies. Available deliverables: <a href="https://goo.gl/dMgpdJ">https://goo.gl/dMgpdJ</a></p>
<p><b>Baltic RIM</b>                      Integrated maritime cultural heritage management in the BSR  <a href="https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticrim">https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticrim</a></p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> State Archaeological Department of Schleswig-Holstein (DE), total: 13 partners.</p> <p>Project develops commonly agreed spatial planning perspectives for maritime cultural heritage and gains knowledge for the integration of MCH into cross-sectoral planning processes.</p>	<p><b>Letter of Support</b> issued by H-V MSP WG on 1 Jun 2016</p>	<p>Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020, 2<sup>nd</sup> Call</p> <p>3 years [Oct 2017 - Oct 2020]</p>	<p><b>Recent activities:</b> Project was presented in Forum Strategov 2019 on 28-29 October in St. Petersburg and organized a workshop "Integrating Maritime Cultural Heritage in MSP" in Global MSP Forum on 19-21 November in Riga. Currently elaboration on 5 test cases: <a href="https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticrim">https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticrim</a>                      Project will identify potential MCH challenges for MSP, as well as elaborate on future scenarios (undiscovered heritage, climate change, MCH and Blue Growth etc.)  <b>Next project meeting:</b> A stakeholder event will take place on 27-28 May in Kotka, Finland.</p>
<p><b>BONUS BASMATI</b>                      Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Ecosystem Services  <a href="https://bonusbasmati.eu/">https://bonusbasmati.eu/</a></p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> Aalborg University (DK)                      7 partners from Research institutions</p>	<p><i>Follow project activities</i></p>	<p>BONUS Programme 2010-2017</p> <p>3 years [Jul2017-Jun2020]</p>	<p><b>Recent activities:</b> final project meeting on 18-20 March 2020 in Stockholm. Seminars on marine plan of Denmark in March 2020 in Køge and Nexø. Integrated ecosystem services assessment approach in Latvian case and Baltic Explorer was presented on 20 February Riga.</p> <p><b>Next meeting:</b> final seminar on 9 June 2020 in Copenhagen where project results will be presented.</p> <p><b>Planned deliverables:</b> Most outcomes are finalized and are available: <a href="https://bonusbasmati.eu/results-material/deliverables/">https://bonusbasmati.eu/results-material/deliverables/</a></p>
<p><b>SEAPLANSACE –</b></p>	<p><b>Letter of Support</b> issued by VASAB</p>	<p>Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 4th Call</p>	<p><b>Recent activities:</b> SEAPLANSACE Trainings took place on 20<sup>th</sup> of January and 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020. PP Meeting took place on 24-25 October, 2019 in Malmo.</p>

<p>Marine spatial planning instruments for sustainable marine governance  <a href="https://seaplanspace.ug.edu.pl/">https://seaplanspace.ug.edu.pl/</a></p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> University of Gdansk (PL)                  7 partners from Research institutions and 4 associated partners from public authorities.</p>	<p>Secretariat on 28 Jun 2017</p>	<p>3 years                  [Jan2018-Dec2020]</p>	<p><b>Planned deliverables:</b> current work on the SEAPLANSPEACE Manuals. The curricula has been prepared and agreed with all our partners from 5 countries, the list of speakers has been drafted, promotional activities are being performed and the registration for the SEAPLANSPEACE Workshops will be launched soon. Some progress is also being made in the field of preparing the SEAPLANSPEACE Portal.</p> <p><b>Next meetings:</b> PP Meeting will take place on 5-7 May, 2020 in Gudhjem, Denmark.</p>
<p><b>Land-Sea Act</b>                  Land-sea interaction advancing Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea coastal areas  <a href="https://land-sea.eu/">https://land-sea.eu/</a></p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> Latvia's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development                  3 partners from Research institutions, 7 partners from public authorities</p> <p><i>The project Land-Sea-Act aims to bring together stakeholders involved in coastal management and planning, to find solutions to Maritime Spatial Planning and Blue Growth challenges around the Baltic Sea.</i></p>	<p><b>Letter of Support</b> issued by VASAB Secretariat on 6 Apr 2018</p>	<p>Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020, 3rd Call</p> <p>2,5 years [Jan 2019 - Jun 2021]</p>	<p><b>Recent activities:</b> The first international expert panel meeting will be held on 25 March 2020 in Holbaek, Denmark where experts discuss Blue Growth in small ports and provide feedback on draft structure of main output "Multilevel governance agenda for Blue Growth and spatial planning in Baltic Sea Region".                  Project partner meeting on 26-28 March in Holbaek, Denmark</p> <p><i>The project partners are working on 6 case studies. 4 case studies are on spatial planning solutions for addressing development trade-offs in coastal areas. Other 2 case studies address Blue Growth issues and work towards boosting entrepreneurship in coastal areas. The 2 Blue Growth case studies will be assisted by Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI) assessing regional economic statistics, Blue growth options and marketability of innovative business ideas.</i>  <i>Each case study has started involving relevant stakeholders and knowledge exchange across sectors and borders.</i></p>
<p><b>Capacity4MSP</b>                  Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers  <a href="http://www.capacity4msp.eu">www.capacity4msp.eu</a></p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> VASAB Secretariat / State Regional Development Agency,                  4 partners from Research institutions, 2 partners from public authority, 2 international organisations and 16 associated organizations</p>	<p>Project Leader Letter of Support issued by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on 14-15 Nov 2018</p>	<p>Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020, 2nd Call</p> <p>2 years (August 2019 – September 2021)</p>	<p><b>Recent activities:</b> Internal kick-off meeting took place on 21-21 November 2019 in Riga. <b>During the meeting, it was agreed that the project should apply for EUSBSR flagship status.</b>                  2<sup>nd</sup> PP meeting is planned for 30 March 2020 and 1<sup>st</sup> Planners forum on 31 March 2020 in Warsaw.                  Current project activities include development of the synthesis report that sums up ongoing activities in MSP and the results of MSP related projects in the Baltic Sea Region. 1st report will be available spring 2020.                  Procurement procedure to carry out stakeholders' involvement analysis has started. Russian partners have started work on Russian MSP Roadmap. The discussion on themes on possible dates on multi-level and cross-sectoral workshops is ongoing (to be organised Autumn 2019-Spring 2020).</p> <p><b>Deliverables:</b> Detailed guideline for using BASEMAPS has been produced:  <a href="https://maps.helcom.fi/website/docs/BASEMAPS_Instructions_User.pdf">https://maps.helcom.fi/website/docs/BASEMAPS_Instructions_User.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Next meetings:</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Planners' Forum and PP Meeting in October 2020 in Gotheburg (back-to-back).                  Final conference could be organised in Jurmala (LV) in June 2021 jointly with Land-Sea-Act final conference (4th MSP Forum).</p>

## Events related to EUSBSR

*Annual EUSBSR Forum* is planned to be organised in Turku, Finland on 16-17 June, 2020 and will focus on all three priorities of the Strategy. The theme of the forum is "Our Region, Our Future – Towards a Decade of Innovation and Sustainability". Call for workshops was open until 15th of March. Under the umbrella of HA Spatial Planning workshop proposal on spatial planning scenarios on land and in the sea has been prepared by VASAB Secretariat with support from Spatial Foresight, Nordregio and Ministry of Environment (Finland). More information can be obtained in the event webpage: <https://annualforum2020.eu/en>

*6th EUSBSR Support Module* is planned to be organised in Sigtuna, Sweden on 23-24 April, 2020.

*European Maritime Day 2020* is planned to be organised in Cork, Ireland on 14-15 May, 2020. VASAB has applied to have a stand to present MSP achievements of BSR. VASAB jointly with IOC UNESCO/MSP GLOBAL and SIMAtlantic project prepared a workshop proposal on new arising collaboration mechanisms on MSP, which was unfortunately not approved. More information on the event: <https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday/en>

*Information prepared with support of the Interreg BSR Programme project "Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" Support 3" (HASPS3).*

