

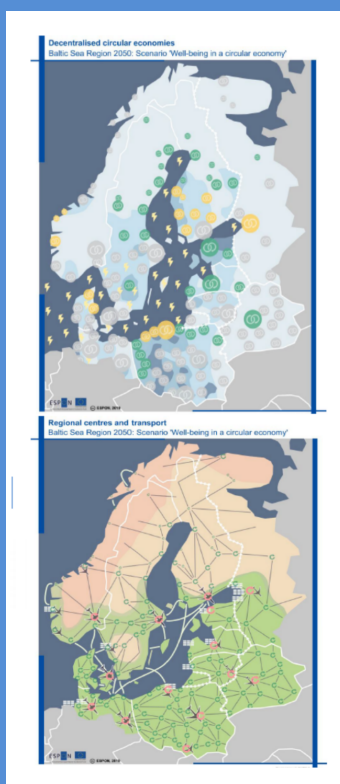


Dear VASAB friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. Despite all the global circumstances that affect us, work at VASAB is moving forward and we are glad to share our latest news with you.

This summer VASAB Chairmanship will be taken over from Denmark to Lithuania. In two weeks an online VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting and webinar will be organised as closing events of the Danish Chairmanship.

Hope you will enjoy this newsletter!



### *Final Report: 'Territorial Scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region 2050' (BT 2050)*

The ESPON project BT2050 developed two territorial scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region in 2050 – 'Well-being in a Circular Economy – a RE-mind for a good life' and 'Growing into tech giants – the ecological footprint clear-up'.

They show two different pathways of how the future of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) could look like and how differently its territories can develop by 2050, ranging from a decentralised region, with small and medium-sized cities in the urban hierarchy backbone and limited importance of transport and logistics, to urban green-tech giants as the key growth poles and global connectivity in increase.

[Read more >>>](#)

# News from HA Spatial Planning



## *New brochure*

To promote and describe activities of Horizontal Action 'Spatial Planning' VASAB Secretariat elaborates an annual brochure. It includes information on the Horizontal Action, its strategic targets in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), governance structure and coordination, contribution to the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 as well as an up-to-date list of ongoing and past flagships and other relevant projects.

[Read more and download the brochure>>>](#)

## HA Spatial Planning Flagship story



## *How MARA supports implementation of the VASAB LTP?*

Project **MARA (Mobility and Accessibility in Rural Areas)** aims to improve the mobility and accessibility in and to remote and rural areas in the countries of the BSR. Many of those areas are also important touristic destinations.

In May 2019 project has received a Flagship status of the EUSBSR under the Horizontal Action Spatial Planning as it contributes to improved internal accessibility of the region and supports implementation of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective (LTP) for Territorial Development of the BSR within the EUSBSR.

## Challenges addressed by MARA project



Population decline/  
demographic change

Seasonal fluctuation of  
population/tourists

Expensive public transport

Car dependent lifestyle

Many stakeholders involved



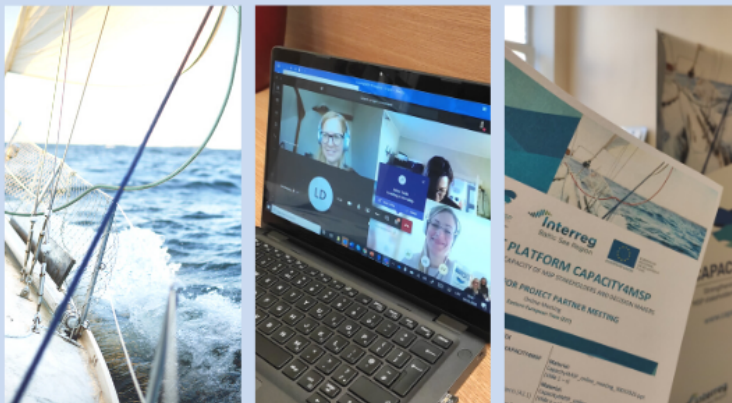
Lack of using digital solution

To address the common challenges that rural areas of the BSR are facing, MARA project aims to **crosscheck the actual mobility demand** of residents and tourists with current mobility offers. Different **analytical tools will be developed** to gain insights into the possibilities of improving the mobility offers in rural areas.

Based on those results, suggestions will be elaborated on **how to improve existing mobility offers** as well as to **develop new mobility solutions**. The project aims to develop solutions addressing **sustainable and climate-friendly mobility**. Developed solutions will be tested in selected case study regions as **pilot cases**. Thereby, the capacity of regional and local transport actors will be increased.

[Read full story >>>](#)

## News from Capacity4MSP project



### *Report on stakeholder involvement in MSP*

Within the **Capacity4MSP project**, VASAB Secretariat has started the work towards developing an integrated report on MSP stakeholder involvement and engagement.

The work with stakeholders has been an important topic for several maritime spatial planning (MSP) projects as well as it is a crucial task for national MSP processes. This report will summarise lessons learnt, knowledge and approaches used in stakeholder involvement and engagement activities from MSP projects and national processes. Furthermore, it will include stakeholder identification and mapping as well

as will describe peculiarities and gaps in communication identified in the national MSP processes and improvements needed.

Results of the report will be targeted to MSP practitioners, MSP policy and decision makers within and outside the BSR to support their daily work dealing with stakeholder involvement and awareness raising.

[Read more >>>](#)

### *Summary of the Capacity4MSP 1st Project Partner meeting*

During these demanding and unpredictable times, the Capacity4MSP 1st project partner meeting was held online on 30th March 2020. As work in all project activities has already successfully begun, this meeting was crucial for all project partners to discuss current project progress and to update the work plan. Follow the link to read a short summary of main messages discussed at the meeting.

[Read more >>>](#)

### *Planners from all around the BSR met at the online Forum*

The 1st Planners' Forum within the Capacity4MSP project took place on 31st March 2020, it continued an already established tradition of successful planners' meetings. Meeting took place online and proved that this format also can ensure the collaboration among MSP practitioners. During the meeting several current topics in MSP in the Baltic Sea Region were discussed.

[Read more >>>](#)



## **EUSBSR COMMUNICATION TOOL KIT:**

### **What it is and how to use it?**

Besides co-coordinating the **EUSBSR Horizontal Action Spatial Planning**, the VASAB Secretariat also takes an active part in communicating the EUSBSR being a partner in **the project 'Let's Communicate!'**.

VASAB Secretariat's one of the role is to develop the EUSBSR Communication tool kit. It is designed to support the communication of three key EUSBSR stakeholder groups that have central positions in communicating the EUSBSR: National Coordinators, Policy Area Coordinators and Horizontal Action Coordinators, and Flagships (and other contributing projects).

Tool kit summarises practical tips that will help you to find the answers on how to better communicate. Some topics cover tips and tricks that can help any organisation to boost their communication efforts. Take a look and find out more!

[Open the EUSBSR Communication tool kit>>>](#)



# Upcoming Events

16 June, Online  
83rd VASAB CSPD/BSR Meeting

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17 June, Online  
VASAB CSPD/BSR webinar on  
sharing the knowledge  
Cases from Finland, Denmark,  
Estonia, Germany  
[Join the webinar>>>](#)

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19-20 October, Turku, Finland  
11th Annual Forum of  
the EUSBSR  
[Read more >>>](#)

26-27 October, St.Petersburg, Russia  
XIX The Russian Strategic  
Planning Leaders Forum  
[Read more>>>](#)

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10-11 November, Gothenburg, Sweden  
Capacity4MSP 2nd Project Partner  
Meeting and 2nd Planners' Forum

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12-13 November, Gothenburg, Sweden  
HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working  
Group Meeting

*NB! All event dates are subject to change.*



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## Follow our activities:



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[www.vasab.org](http://www.vasab.org)  
[info@vasab.org](mailto:info@vasab.org)

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