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Agenda Item	2 - Matters arising from other HELCOM and VASAB work
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Background

The document contains information on matters arising from VASAB work.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Matters arising from VASAB work:

- Concerning the arise of new challenges and trends, the VASAB Committee has decided to update the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (adopted in 2009). It is expected that update will take place for next 2 years (till the end of 2022) and will address current and potential trends and challenges in the spatial development in the BSR for 2040.

Having MSP as one of the pillars, the intervention with H-V will be foreseen. It means that VASAB Secretariat will regularly inform the Working Group on the progress of the update, as well as Working Group might be asked to contribute to the content of updated document or to have a thematic sessions within the Meetings with external experts to support drafting the policy guidelines and action agendas for MSP.

Currently, Secretariat carries out necessary procurement procedures. It is expected that in the first month after contract is signed the external experts will present intended methodology and work plan to the VASAB Committee.

- From the beginning of 2021 Denmark has terminated its participation in VASAB cooperation, however Denmark is looking forward to the cooperation within EUSBSR.

- VASAB Secretariat as lead partner of Capacity4MSP project platform is preparing for the next project partner meeting (scheduled on 16th March); 3rd Planners Forum will be held next day – on 17th March. Meanwhile, we are currently hosting project check-ups with all project partners, as well as together with Latvian Ministry preparing for the Baltic 4th MSP Forum, to be held online on 1-2 June jointly organized by Capacity4MSP project platform and Land Sea Act project. Registrations will be open in March.

- VASAB Secretariat is a partner in the Let's Communicate project which activities have been enlarged and it has been prolonged by the end of 2021, due to the revised EUSBSR Action Plan coming into force in February 2021. Project is enlarged with the former Horizontal Actions 'Neighbours', 'Capacity' and 'Climate' activities, therefore, serving as an interim solution for the Baltic Sea Strategy Point that is not yet up and running.

- European Commission is organizing the Week of Macro-regional strategies from 1-5th March, which for the most will be "by invitation only". HELCOM and VASAB has been given a prominent role to jointly coordinate Policy Area 'Spatial Planning' within EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

HELCOM-VASAB Working Group members as Steering group for PA 'Spatial Planning' on MSP will receive e-mail invitations to this event. We encourage you to consider your participation in this event to learn more about benefits of macroregional cooperation in other areas and share BSR experience as well.

- Reminder: if any additions to the national MSP country fiches occur, please, do not hesitate to inform us. Additionally, please, inform us about MSP-related events or activities to be put on regional MSP calendar. Calendar is regularly updated and recent information can be found at VASAB website.