



Dear VASAB friends,

Year 2021 has started with many great news, benefitting our cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. VASAB has started the work towards **updating the Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the BSR** to identify development trends and challenges affecting the long-term development of the region. Furthermore, read the news about the **approved EUSBSR Action Plan** and tasks for the **policy area Spatial Planning**, as well as find the **list of upcoming events**.

Enjoy!



During the last decade new challenges and trends have arisen at global and BSR level that has brought VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region to a decision to update the Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the BSR (LTP).

"No one can predict the future, however, one can prepare for it. Change is inevitable, but evolution and adjusting to changes is a choice. VASAB has been forward looking and has shown that developing visions and setting goals for the future is a priority for the intergovernmental cooperation."

Kai Böhme, Spatial Foresight

Updated LTP will support different stakeholders in the BSR countries in policy making to cope with challenges with a trans-national relevance for the sustainable territorial development, and to better anticipate and prepare for the future development paths towards territorial cohesion perspective of the BSR till 2040.

Particularly, it will propose necessary recommendations targeted for transnational and cross-border cooperation and synergies in such fields as:

- settlement development,
- accessibility to efficient transport and ICT,
- integrated energy production and supply,
- maritime spatial planning and management.

For the next two years LTP update will be steered by VASAB Committee and led by a partnership of **Spatial Foresight GmbH** and **Nordregio**, both together having a long experience in EU policies, territorial cooperation, visions and scenario development, development and implementation of strategies, a considerable focus on the Baltic Sea Region and a long track record of working together.

Stay tuned and get involved!

Acknowledging that the involvement of diverse knowledge and opinions would additionally contribute to the LTP update, those willing to contribute to the LTP update process or to take part in events, are kindly welcome to sign up to [our stakeholder list](#).

[Read more about the LTP update](#)



EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Planning

With the approval by the European Commission on the 15 February 2021, the **revision process of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Action Plan** has concluded and the implementation can accelerate. **The New Action Plan** will be more focused with **14 Policy areas** and **44 actions**, support closer cooperation among stakeholders and support the achievement of targets set in the EU policies and UN Sustainable Development Agenda. In the new Action Plan, the former Horizontal action Spatial Planning has been transformed into Policy area. **The Policy area Spatial Planning aims to increase territorial coherence in the BSR** by building a region that is better integrated and more coherent. Policy area is coordinated by VASAB and HELCOM.

[Read more >>>](#)

Let's Continue to Communicate the EUSBSR

Let's Communicate! is a project funded by the INTERREG Baltic Sea Region Programme functions as the **EUSBSR communication point**. With the revised EUSBSR Action Plan coming into force, Let's Communicate project activities have been **enlarged and prolonged by the end of 2021**. Current project activities are complemented with the most essential tasks from three former Horizontal actions Capacity, Neighbours and Climate. The project serves as an **interim solution for the Baltic Sea Strategy point** that will be operational in 2022.

VASAB is a partner in the Let's Communicate consortium and is responsible for the development of the **EUSBSR communication tool kit** and newsletters for strategy's stakeholders.

[Read more>>>>](#)



Workshop on Land-Sea Interactions

Project platform **Capacity4MSP** continues to organise workshops to deepen the cross-sectoral dialogue for MSP. Next workshop '**Tackling Land-Sea Interactions on the Way Towards Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea Region**' will take place on 3 March 2021 online. The workshop will present and discuss ideas on multi-level governance potential for managing land-sea interactions with the aim to foster and strengthen blue economy in the coastal areas. [Read more >>>](#)

Are you interested to join? Still few places are available, to register for this workshop write an email to margarita.volosina@varam.gov.lv.

Latest Project Activities

Find out more about recent Capacity4MSP activities:

- Summary: [Workshop about the BASEMAPS data portal](#)
- Report: [Workshop on offshore wind energy and MSP](#)
- Summary: [Thematic workshops for the development of the Russian MSP Roadmap](#)
- Outcomes: [Capacity4MSP 2nd project partner meeting](#)
- Results: [Capacity4MSP 2nd BSR Planners' Forum](#)
- Survey: [Russian stakeholders in maritime spatial planning](#)

www.capacity4msp.eu

BALTIC 4th FORUM MSP



Delivering MSP
Interactions and Capacities
Across All Levels

www.balticmspforum.eu

**1 - 2 JUNE 2021,
LATVIA & ONLINE**



The 4th Baltic MSP Forum '**Delivering MSP - Interactions and Capacities Across All Levels**' will take place on 1 - 2 June 2021 online and will be broadcasted from Latvia. The Forum is organised by two Interreg BSR projects **Capacity4MSP** and **Land-Sea-Act**, and it serves as a final conference for both projects.

The year 2021 is here, when all countries in the BSR are on track with maritime spatial plans and are stepping into plan implementation phase, consequent question arises – what's next? What are we planning for and will we need to implement MSP across scales of governance?

Let's find it out all together at the 4th Baltic MSP Forum!
Registration will be open soon!

www.balticmspforum.eu



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Upcoming Events

1-5 March, online
EU Macro Regional Strategies Week
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3 March, online
**Land-Sea Interactions workshop
within the Capacity4MSP project**
[Read more >>>](#)

16 -17 March, online
**Capacity4MSP 3rd Project Partner
meeting & 3rd BSR Planners' Forum**

23-24 March, St.Petersburg & online
**XXI Anniversary International
Environmental Forum Baltic Sea Day**
[Read more >>>](#)

25-26 March, online
**15th BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-
Group online meeting &
25 March Capacity4MSP BASEMAPS
workshop**

20-21 April, online
**Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP
Working Group meeting**

27 April, online
**MSP and the Blue Bioeconomy
workshop supported by
Capacity4MSP**
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6-7 May, online
VASAB CSPD/BSR online meeting

20-21 May, online
European Maritime Day
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1-2 June, online
4th Baltic MSP Forum
[Read more >>>](#)

NB! All event dates are subject to change.

Follow our activities:



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