

An aerial photograph of a harbor scene. A large, multi-decked ship with a yellow and red hull is docked at a long wooden pier. The pier is populated with many small figures of people. To the right of the pier, there's a rocky breakwater. The water is a deep, vibrant green. The text 'POLICY AREA SPATIAL PLANNING' is overlaid on the left side of the image in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below it, a smaller block of text describes the policy area's goals, and at the bottom right, the role of 'Policy area coordinators' is mentioned.

# POLICY AREA SPATIAL PLANNING

ENCOURAGING THE USE OF MARITIME AND  
LAND-BASED SPATIAL PLANNING IN ALL MEMBER  
STATES AROUND THE BALTIC SEA AND DEVELOP  
A COMMON APPROACH FOR CROSS-BORDER  
COOPERATION

Policy area coordinators



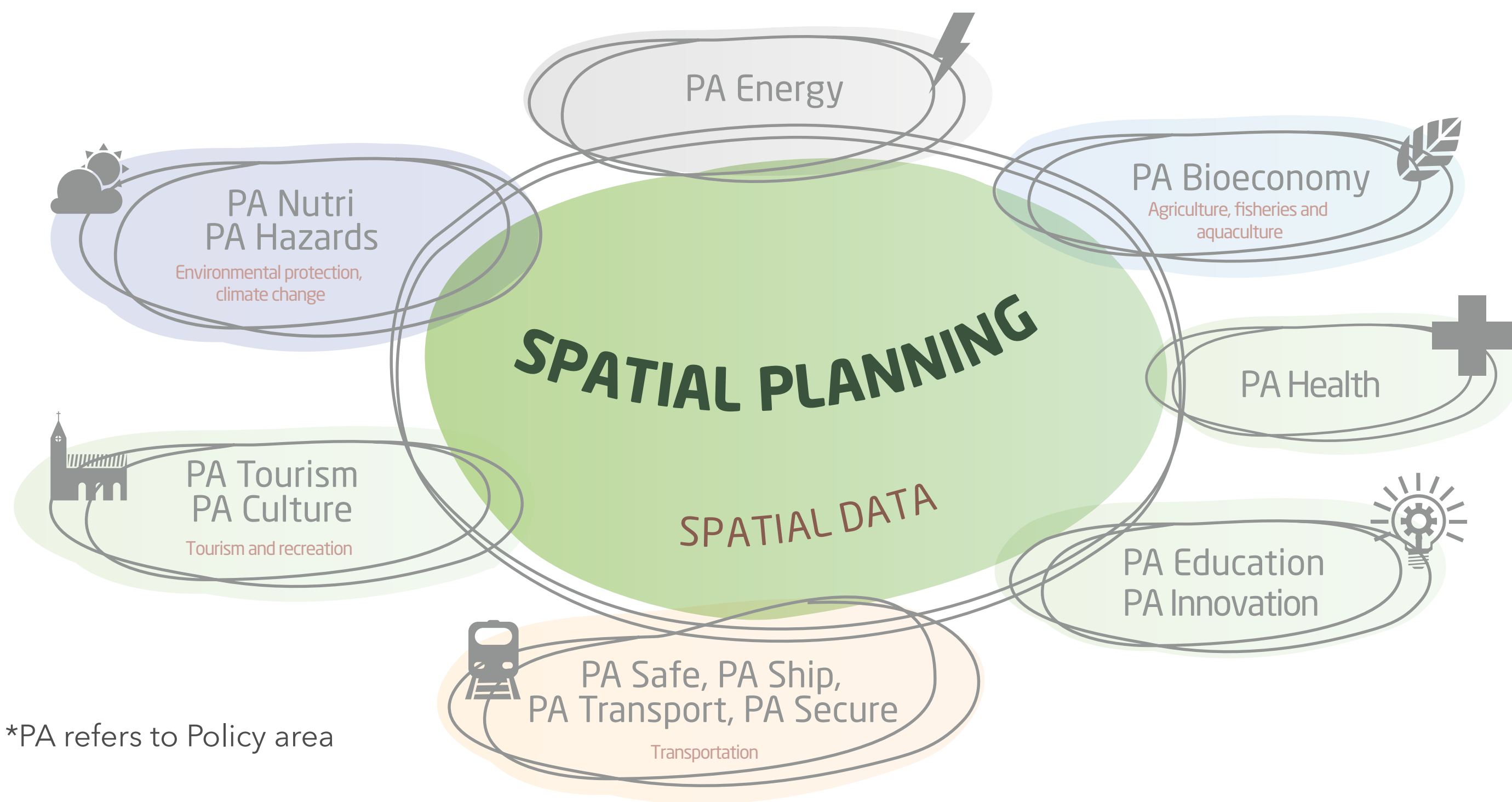
# CONTENT



This brochure is developed by VASAB Secretariat with financial support from the Interreg BSR Programme project "Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" Support 3" (HASPS 3).



# POLICY AREA 'SPATIAL PLANNING' IN \_\_\_\_\_



**Spatial planning** is an integrative process to influence the future spatial distribution of human activities. It aims to ensure functional integration across multiple scales (macro-regional, national, regional, local levels) and different sectors of public policy in order to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment, and to achieve social and economic objectives. Spatial planning is therefore an important tool for promoting sustainable development, improving the quality of life and reducing inequalities.

The **overall goal of Policy area '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.

## Contribution to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:





# WHAT POLICY AREA 'SPATIAL PLANNING' DOES

- ensures transnational approach in spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region
- facilitates coherent maritime spatial planning accross the borders
- observes the territorial development processes
- recommends transnational policy measures
- promotes methodology development
- provides a forum for regional, trans-boundary and cross-sectoral dialogue
- promotes co-operation projects
- co-operates with other initiatives and macro-regions
- promotes a dialogue with different sectors
- assists the Baltic Sea Region in profiling itself as a global and European forerunner in spatial planning
- facilitates resources alignment for territorial development in different funding programmes
- ensures communication and visibility of the Policy area
- monitors progress within the Policy area and reports on it
- cooperates with other relevant Policy areas of the EUSBSR



# WHO IS WHO IN POLICY AREA 'SPATIAL PLANNING'

**VASAB** (Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea) is regional intergovernmental multilateral co-operation in spatial planning and development and it is integrated into the network of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) organizations. VASAB member states are: Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

VASAB prepares policy options for the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region and provides a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the Baltic Sea countries.

VASAB is guided by the Conference of Ministers responsible for spatial planning and development, steered by the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) composed of representatives of respective ministries and regional authorities.

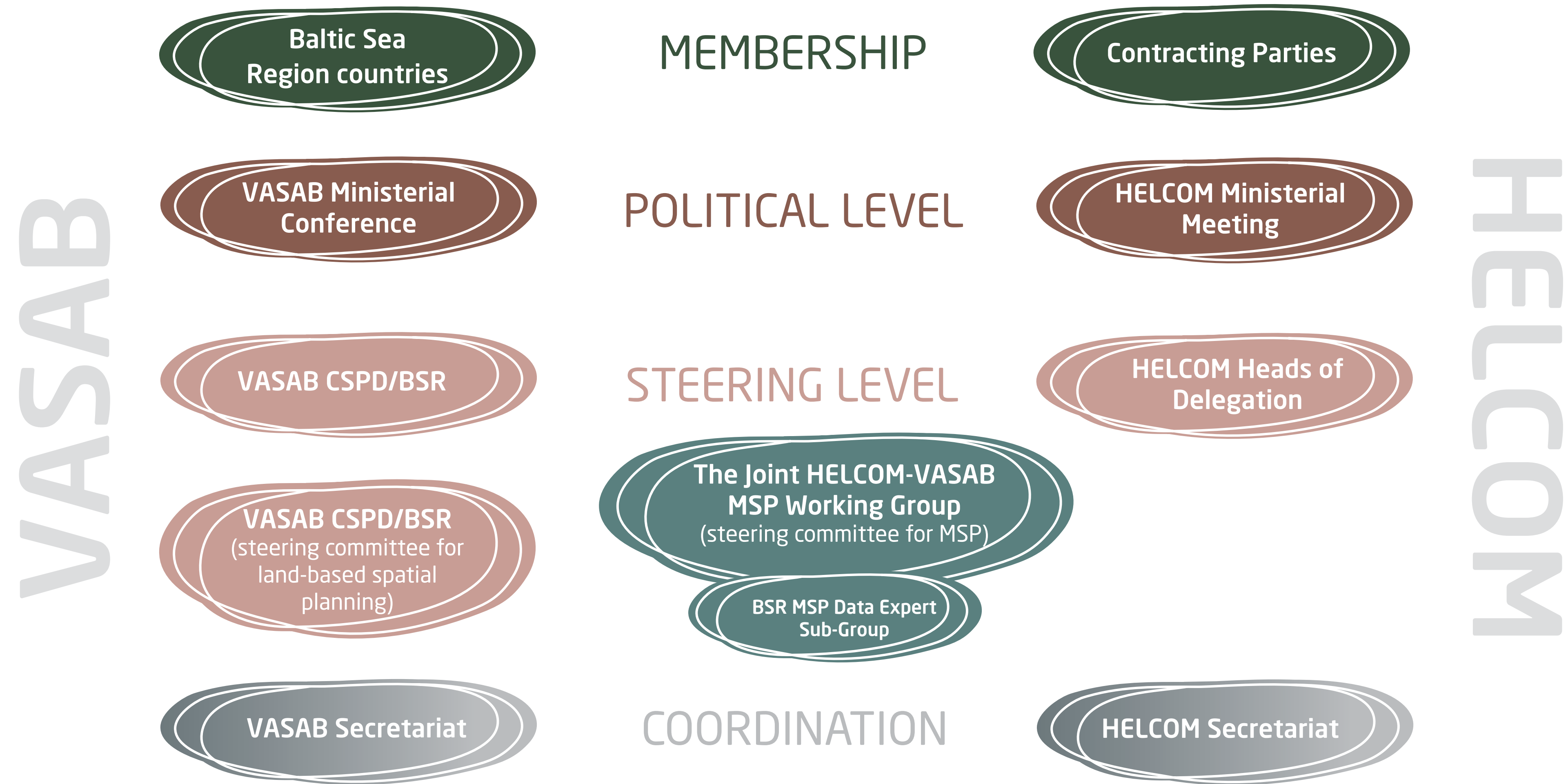
**HELCOM** (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission) is the governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, known as the Helsinki Convention. The Contracting Parties are Denmark, Estonia, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

HELCOM is an environmental policy maker for the Baltic Sea area. It develops common management solutions and actions to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution through intergovernmental cooperation.

The working structure of HELCOM consists of the meetings of the Helsinki Commission, the Heads of Delegation, and eight main groups. The HELCOM groups implement policies and strategies and propose issues for discussion at the meetings of the Heads of Delegations, where decisions are made.



# POLICY AREA 'SPATIAL PLANNING' GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE





# LAND-BASED SPATIAL PLANNING

## STRENGTHENING TERRITORIAL COHESION IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION THROUGH LAND-BASED SPATIAL PLANNING

*Strategic target is to increase the knowledge on land-based spatial planning in BSR by organizing regular thematic events and other activities.*

Land-based spatial planning has been carried out by all Baltic Sea Region countries at national, regional and local level. PA ensures a joint framework to follow up territorial development trends and challenges, to build a territorial cohesion perspective for the BSR in the 2030, as well as to propose concrete actions to stimulate territorial development potentials to overcome existing gaps. VASAB has established a common platform, which allows partners to meet, network, exchange knowledge and experiences.

VASAB sketched a first common spatial vision for the Baltic Sea Region – ‘[Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010](#)’ – (VASAB 2010) that was adopted by ministers responsible for spatial planning in Tallinn in 1994. **The VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (LTP)** is the latest contribution to these efforts. Currently, LTP is being [updated](#). The coordinators of policy areas should consider the LTP when addressing spatial objectives, conditions and impacts of their actions.

VASAB Committee for Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (VASAB CSPD/BSR) provides a coordination platform for the territorial development in the BSR and acts as a Steering Group for PA ‘Spatial Planning’.

## VASAB LTP THEMES



# VASAB LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE AND EUSBSR

In order **to implement Long-Term Perspective within the EUSBSR** and achieve coherent development of the BSR, Policy area aims to:

- contribute to better adaptation of strategies to different types of areas and propose specific approaches for a diverse urban pattern by ensuring pan-Baltic dialogue;
- apply place-based approaches to territorial development policies as well as effective use of functional area's concept and territorial impact assessment tools thereby contributing to the implementation of the **Territorial Agenda for the EU**;
- observe the territorial development processes in the Region by using and advancing territorial development monitoring solutions;
- encourage transnational actions improving accessibility and connectivity of the Region using potential of **TEN-T** for regional development;
- contribute to adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change in land-based spatial planning process.



# MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING

## ENSURING COHERENT MARITIME SPATIAL PLANS THROUGHOUT THE BALTIC SEA

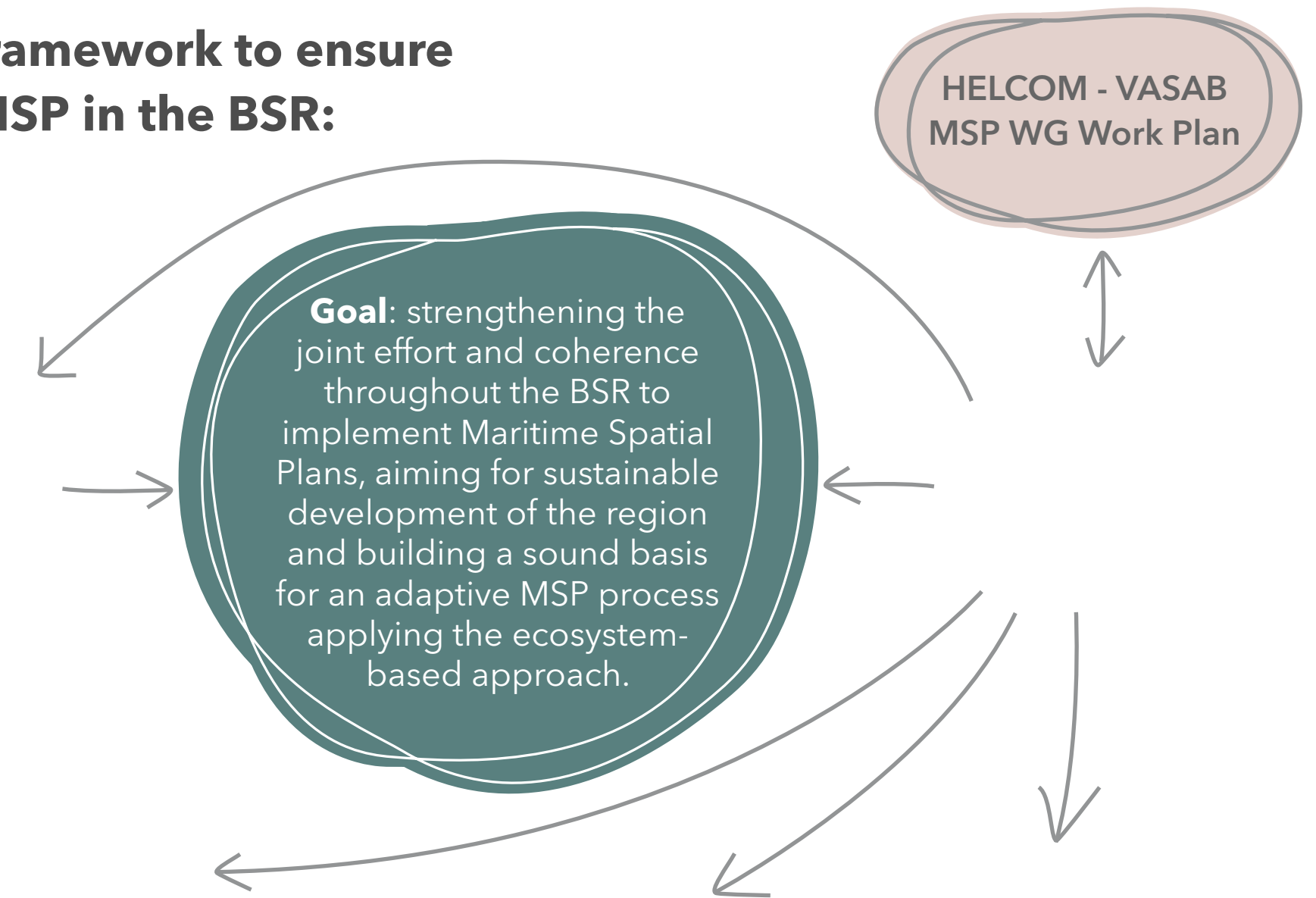
*Strategic target is to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the BSR which are coherent across the borders and apply ecosystem-based approach.*

Maritime spatial planning (MSP) helps various users to balance sectoral interests that compete for marine space, and contribute to achieving sustainable use of marine areas to the benefit of economic and social development as well as the marine environment. MSP has to be aligned with terrestrial planning to ensure land-sea interactions (LSI).

The establishment and implementation of MSP by applying the ecosystem approach is required by the EU MSP Directive. Other regulatory frameworks and policy initiatives in the Baltic Sea, addressing both MSP and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM), can be further facilitated by common cross-border cooperation for the implementation of MSP in the Baltic Sea according to the regional set of MSP principles adopted by all BSR countries within VASAB and HELCOM.

The joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group, established in 2010, is the regional platform for cooperation between BSR countries to ensure coherent MSP processes in the cross-border context and pro-active implementation of the EU MSP Directive as far as EU countries are concerned. Widely recognized BSR collaboration on MSP within the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group has turned the Baltic Sea region a global forerunner in regional cooperation and governance on MSP applying ecosystem-based approach.

## Strategic framework to ensure coherent MSP in the BSR:



In 2015 the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group was established as an expert group under the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group. The aim of the sub-group is to support data, information and evidence availability for MSP processes with regard to cross-border / trans-boundary planning issues. Work of the group has resulted in BASEMAPS – map service to access relevant Baltic Sea MSP data.



# FLAGSHIPS OF POLICY AREA 'SPATIAL PLANNING'

## LAND-BASED

### **MARA - Mobility and Accessibility in Rural Areas**

Project aims to improve the accessibility and mobility in remote touristic areas of the Baltic Sea Region. By developing and testing innovative sustainable mobility solutions for remote areas and integrating them into spatial development plans, the project aims to increase the capacity of regional and local transport actors to address the multifaceted mobility needs.

**Project's lifetime:** January 2019 – September 2021

**Budget:** € 2 366 652

**Financed from:** Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020

## MARITIME

### **Capacity4MSP - Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers**

Project platform aims to strengthen the capacity of maritime spatial planning stakeholders, policy- and decision-makers through intensified dialogue activities and amplifying gained knowledge in maritime spatial planning. Capacity4MSP builds on the results of the current and recently completed MSP projects and ongoing MSP processes in the Baltic Sea Region.

**Project's lifetime:** August 2019 – March 2022

**Budget:** € 1 089 272

**Financed from:** Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 & the European Neighbourhood Instrument



# OTHER RELEVANT PROJECTS

## **LAND-SEA-ACT - Land-sea interactions advancing Blue Growth in Baltic Sea coastal areas**

Project explores governance practices to balance local communities' interests with large scale development in MSP. It will propose spatial and entrepreneurship tailored solutions to be applicable on each governance level in all BSR countries to foster Blue Growth.

**Project's lifetime:** January 2019 - December 2021

**Budget:** € 2 209 691

**Financed from:** Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020

## **SEAPLANSPACE - Marine spatial planning instruments for sustainable marine governance**

Project aims to increase the share of skilled labour force working in blue and green economy sectors of the South Baltic area through joint cross-border actions. This will be achieved by cross-border training and networking.

**Project's lifetime:** January 2018 - December 2021

**Budget:** € 1 684 657

**Financed from:** Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020

## **BSR Access - Fostering an access to clean, efficient and multimodal transport corridors in the Baltic Sea Region**

Project platform facilitates innovative and sustainable transport by creating linkages between traditional infrastructure nodes and smart transport solutions to further develop the TEN-T Core Network Corridors, and contribute to sustainable growth in the region.

**Flagship of PA Transport**

**Project's lifetime:** October 2018 - September 2021

**Budget:** € 1 000 000

**Financed from:** Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020

## **MAREA - From marine ecosystem accounting to integrated governance for sustainable planning of marine and coastal areas**

Project develops and tests novel concepts of ecosystem services mapping, environmental accounting and sustainability assessment as well as embed these elements into the synthetic decision-support geoportal capable of developing sustainable planning solutions.

**Project's lifetime:** June 2020 - December 2022

**Budget:** € 1 515 601

**Financed from:** Interreg Central Baltic Programme 2014-2020



# PAST PROJECTS



A map of the Baltic Sea region, showing the sea and surrounding land areas. The map includes labels for various countries and cities. The Baltic Sea is labeled in the center. Surrounding countries include Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Finland, and parts of Norway, Russia, and Belarus. Major cities like Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius are marked. The map also shows the North Sea to the west and the Gulf of Bothnia between Sweden and Finland.

## TERRITORIAL MONITORING

One of the Policy area aims is to observe the territorial development processes in the BSR. The territorial monitoring provides evidence of the development trends of the taken initiatives and actions. It also offers opportunity to flag the necessary changes towards achieving the territorial cohesion perspective of the Baltic Sea Region in 2030. This task is being done based on well- tailored indicators measuring the state of territorial cohesion in the BSR.

An operational indicator-based territorial monitoring system was created within an [ESPON](#) project 'The Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring (BSR TeMo)'. Based on it two following studies were conducted - [Development of Cities in BSR 2016](#) and [Accessibility in BSR 2019](#). Additionally, BSR TeMo's indicator system feeds into the territorial monitoring platform for the whole Europe and its macro-regions to be developed within the ESPON project 'European and Macro-regional Territorial Monitoring Tool'.

## RELEVANT PROJECTS

**[BT2050](#) - Territorial Scenarios for the Baltc Sea Region** aimed to develop territorial scenarios for the BSR in order to increase evidence based on the territorial dimension of the EUSBSR. The territorial scenarios show synergies and trade-offs between spatial goals and priorities set in the strategic documents of the BSR.

**Project's lifetime:** November 2018 - October 2019

**[European and Macro-regional Territorial Monitoring Tool](#)** will provide territorial evidence to stakeholders and policymakers in Europe and in particular on the Baltic Sea, Danube, Alpine and Adriatic-Ionian macro-regions on key development trends over time. The project builds up and capitalizes on existing ESPON tools, in particular the European Territorial Monitoring System (ETMS) and the Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring System (BSR-TeMo).

**Project's lifetime:** December 2017 - February 2020

**[BSR TeMo](#) - The Baltic Sea Region Territorial Monitoring System** developed an indicator-based monitoring system to measure the progress in achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion in the BSR by a set of territorial indicators in five domains: economic performance and competitiveness, access to services, markets and jobs, innovative territories, social inclusion and quality of life and environmental quality.

**Project's lifetime:** February 2012 - January 2014



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