

COMMITTEE ON SPATIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF
THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Summary of the 85th CSPD/BSR Meeting

Online, 6 May 2021

Chairperson: Mr. Dainius Čergelis (LT)

Participants: CSPD/BSR members: Mr. Lukas Kühne (DE), Mr. Jens Kurnol (DE), Mr. Tiit Oidjärv (EE), Ms. Tiina Tihlman (FI), Ms. Algimante Treiniene (LT), Ms. Kristīne Kedo (LV), Ms. Anita Līvija Rozenvalde (LV), Ms. Patrycja Artymowska (PL), Ms. Irina Karelina (RU), *Invited guests:* Mr. Joacim Johannesson (SwAM), Ms. Elin Celik (SwAM), *VASAB Secretariat:* Ms. Alda Nikodemusa, Ms. Elīna Veidemane, Ms. Jana Patmalniece, Ms. Liene Gaujeniete, Ms. Liene Strazdiņa and Ms. Inga Jēkabsone.

1. Adoption of the report of the 84th CSPD/BSR meeting

The CSPD/BSR (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) adopted the Report of the 84th CSPD/BSR online meeting on 7 September 2020 without changes.

2. Information on Open Troika meeting

The Committee took note of the Report of the VASAB Open Troika online meeting on 15 April 2021.

3. Update of VASAB Long-Term Perspective

Progress, stakeholder's groups and involvement

The Methodology for the update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective was adopted on 22 April 2021 by VASAB Committee via written procedure. The first external workshops (targeted to stakeholders) are scheduled in October 2021 and first internal workshop among VASAB Committee will be held on 7 May 2021.

Proposal on VASAB LTP-update stakeholders' groups were presented as follows:

- VASAB Committee acts as main decision body regarding the update of the LTP;
- Steering Group (consisting of VASAB Committee and additional 1-2 colleagues of each VASAB Committee member) steers the overall update process and takes part in internal and other LTP-update activities;
- Advisory group (external stakeholders, including academic community) provides advice and feedback to LTP-update, takes part in external workshops and other activities;
- Other stakeholders – more general group that provides feedback for LTP-update, takes part in external workshops and other activities

Stakeholder mapping for proposed stakeholder groups will take place during the summer 2021.

The Committee agreed on the structure of stakeholder groups and their roles throughout LTP-Update process, and agreed to have maximum 5 people from each country in Advisory group.

The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat sends out a reminder to the Committee members until which date the names for Steering group and Advisory group should be given.

Involvement of non-active and former VASAB countries

The Committee agreed that Germany will informally contact Denmark and Norway to invite to take part in LTP-update process and VASAB Secretariat will follow up the communication with Sweden. In parallel, official letters will be prepared and sent to Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

Social media summer campaign 2021 for the VASAB LTP-update

In order to keep the interest and engagement of stakeholders to the update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective, an interactive social media summer campaign will be launched during the summer 2021. The campaign is intended as short quiz-type questions with explanatory background information about VASAB work afterwards.

The Committee agreed on the strategy for summer campaign on VASAB social media to promote LTP-update process.

4. Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) issues

Progress of Capacity4MSP project platform; 4th Baltic MSP Forum (online) 1-2 June 2021

Progress of platform project “Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers (Capacity4MSP Platform)” and 4th Baltic MSP Forum which will be held online on 1-2 June 2021 was introduced.

The Committee took note of the information.

Outcomes of 21st Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group meeting (online 12-13 November 2020), 21A Intersessional Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group meeting (online on 3 February 2021) and 22nd Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group meeting (online 20-21 April 2020)

The main topics during these meetings were the update of Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2021-2030 and ongoing work to update HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP) and how to reflect MSP in BSAP.

Draft Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2021-2030

Current Regional MSP Roadmap will terminate by the end of this year and it focused on drawing up MSP plans. New roadmap for 2021-2030 will focus on implementation of MSP plans as well as on establishing a sound basis for an adaptive new MSP cycle. This document was finalized during the last HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group meeting on 20-21 April 2021.

The Committee adopted the new draft Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2021-2030.

Draft HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group Mandate

The current HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group mandate terminates by the end of this year.

The Committee approved the prolongation of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group Mandate until 2030 in line with the timespan of the new Regional MSP Roadmap.

Planners' Forum concept

The Concept of Planners' Forum was presented and discussed among the Committee members.

The Committee took note of the information about Planners' Forum concept and draft Terms of Reference and discussed VASAB views towards the concept.

Results of DG MARE call on coherent MSP in the Baltic and North Seas

New project e-MSP NBSR has been approved for funding and the project will be led by the Netherlands and project application was prepared by partners from the North and Baltic Seas. Kick-off event of the eMSP NBSR is envisaged in the beginning of 2022. VASAB Secretariat will be responsible for project communication activities.

5. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

Revised EUSBSR Action Plan and related tasks of PAC 'Spatial Planning'

Changes in the EUSBSR Action Plan and operational framework were introduced. From now on each Steering Group (SG) has to develop rules of procedure, for which both a template is provided as well as integration with existing rules of procedure is possible. Rules of Procedure should describe modus operandi of the SG, it also requires the decisions of the SG to be public.

The Committee took note of the information about changes in the EUSBSR Action Plan and operational framework, as well as other EUSBSR related news.

The Committee agreed to integrate PA 'Spatial Planning' rules of procedure into VASAB rules of procedure and keep them as simple as possible.

The Committee decided to make decisions of the Committee meeting public and to prepare a short summary of the meeting outcomes without mentioning names and surnames but replacing them with country name which also should be published. An annex should be made for discussion part with names and surnames, and this part would be available only for the Committee members and VASAB Secretariat.

Other EUSBSR related activities

Further issues discussed within the EUSBSR Framework:

- MARA project representatives have contacted VASAB Secretariat and have proposed to present the final results of the project to the Committee.
- EUSBSR Annual Forum 2021 would be held in the end of September and streamlined from Lithuania and each PAC will have one workshop that has to be agreed upon.

It was suggested by Germany to use EUSBSR Annual Forum as a platform where to promote VASAB work and LTP-Update to reach out to a lot of people but this is also up to Lithuanian chairmanship.

VASAB Secretariat has also applied for a workshop at The European Week of Regions and Cities and the answer will be on 20th of May whether workshop has been selected. Workshop topic is LTP-update.

The Committee agreed to decide on workshop topic for EUSBSR Annual Forum 2021 via written procedure in May, June 2021 when more information will be available on Forum concept.

The Committee agreed to invite MARA project representatives to the next Committee meeting to present the final results of the project.

6. VASAB Budget

Audit Report of VASAB Budget 2020

The Committee acknowledged the execution of VASAB Budget 2020 and took note of the auditor's Review Report by SIA "Auditorfirma Padoms".

7. Amendments to VASAB Budget 2021

Taking into account the audited VASAB Budget 2020, *the Committee* decided to amend the VASAB Budget 2021, allowed payout of the non-taxed salary bonuses in 2021 for the staff members of the Secretariat.

The Committee agreed to have a discussion on VASAB budget 2022 at the next Committee meeting in autumn 2021.

8. VASAB Secretariat news

The Committee took note of the information about operations of the VASAB Secretariat: 9th VASAB e-newsletter, upcoming 10th VASAB newsletter, VASAB-related events and administrative report.

9. AOB

It was noted that in this meeting agenda 'tour de table' on political news, major or specific challenges and solutions regarding national spatial planning issues was not included due to busy agenda but the Committee members are welcome to share news and send updated country fiches on terrestrial spatial planning to VASAB Secretariat.

The Committee was informed about additional nomination of Latvian committee member *Ms. Anita Līviņa Rozenvalde* and replacement for *Ms. Kristīne Kedo*.

10. Next meetings

The Committee agreed to hold 86th CSPD/BSR meeting in 3rd week of October or in the beginning of November 2021.