

**Coherence across land-sea border – practices
and experiences from the Baltic Sea**

4 November 2021

Report

VASAB webinar '**Coherence across land-sea border – practices and experiences from the Baltic Sea**' took place on 4th November 2021 online and served as a concluding event of Lithuanian Chairmanship in VASAB. Webinar shared existing practice and experience on integrated terrestrial and maritime spatial planning around the Baltic Sea, as well discussed how such approach can be beneficial, what are the main challenges and how to facilitate integration of terrestrial and maritime spatial planning and take into consideration much more land-sea interactions. Four insightful presentations were given by:

- **Mr. Klaus Skytte**, CEO of Nordic Energy Research;
- **Ms. Andrea Morf**, researcher at Nordregio and Swedish Institute for the Marine Environment; Co-chair of ICES Working Group for Marine Planning and Coastal Zone Management;
- **Ms. Kristīna Veidemane**, Baltic Environmental Forum – Latvia, focal point for the Baltic Sea Region at EU MSP Platform;
- **Mr. Donatas Baltrušaitis**, architect, urban planner at Bauland.

Concluding remarks:

- Although on one hand integrity between land and the sea might be considered as a 'simple task', it might become challenging when finding the integrity across the different levels and sectors and establishing a multi-level governance.
- During the webinar different existing approaches in the Baltic Sea Region countries were discussed how to stimulate land-sea integrity:
 - o joint plan for the land and the sea at national or regional level;
 - o joint pilot-projects / initiatives / thematic plans at different levels (also at transboundary/cross-border context);
 - o planning rights at Sea for local municipalities;
 - o platforms and coordination groups between national and local authorities and other relevant stakeholders.
- For better land and sea integrity new solutions, approaches and methodological support how to address land-sea integration should be established. The planning should become more innovative and flexible (so called '*soft planning*'), capacity building measures and process facilitations methods (going beyond administrative boundaries or sectors) should be promoted. International cooperation and mutual knowledge exchange play a great role here and can support these efforts.