

Fact Sheet

Summer School “Sustainable Futures in the Baltic Sea Region” at the University of Greifswald, Germany

General issues – context

1. This fact sheet contains information on the selection process for participants of the international Summer School on “Sustainable Futures in the Baltic Sea Region” that will be held in Greifswald (Germany), August 22-26, 2022.
2. The Summer School has been made possible by the Project “Spatial development in the Baltic Sea Region: Organisation of a Summer School for young planners” funded by the Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (hereinafter – Project). The project partnership consists of the **Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development** (BBSR, Germany), **VASAB** (Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea), and the **Institute of Geography and Geology of the University of Greifswald** (Germany).

The aim

1. The aim of the Summer School is to bring together young professionals and students in the fields of geography, spatial planning, and regional studies to network and jointly discuss a framework addressing future challenges of sustainable spatial development in the Baltic Sea Region in the context of the VASAB-coordinated long-term perspective on territorial development. Participants will focus on developing potential strategies addressing a specific challenge, with particular consideration for place-based and participative strategies of transformation.
2. The best ideas will be presented at a high-level VASAB conference in spring 2023 and could serve as an input to VASAB’s future strategic documents.

What ideas are looked for

1. The theme of the Summer School is “Sustainable Futures in the Baltic Sea Region” and is completed by a methodological focus on the potential of reflexive spatial planning. By connecting topics of regional transformation with place-based and bottom-up perspectives, participants are encouraged to not only consider the relevance of challenges for the Baltic Sea Region but to also think creatively about solutions that involve society in a fundamental (and novel) way.
2. In their application to the Summer School, young professionals and students are invited to describe a specific challenge for spatial development in the Baltic Sea Region and reflect on how relevant actors could be involved in potential solutions.

Who can apply?

Selection requirements for participants:

- young professionals or current students at Master’s, Doctoral and other post-graduate levels from a wide variety of disciplines related to geography, spatial planning, and regional studies in a broad sense;
- no older than 35 years, but have not worked in the same field for more than 5 years;

- are studying or working in one of the Baltic Sea countries¹ (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Norway);
- have an interest in regional development and/or spatial and/or strategic planning;
- participants of the *Baltic Sea Region Young Planners Contest, Poznan 2019* are not allowed to apply again;
- participants have to be willing to participate in the Summer School in Greifswald from 22nd to 26th August 2022.

Application submission (procedure)

1. The submission of applications is announced on the VASAB website, www.vasab.org.
2. **An application must be submitted** by completing the application form (Annex 1) and **sending it via e-mail** bsr-summer-school@uni-greifswald.de **no later than** April 30th, 2022.

Procedure of selecting participants for the Summer School

The evaluation of applications takes place in three stages:

1. Organisation committee verifies whether the formal requirements of the applications are met by the applicant. If the application does not match the administrative criteria, it is excluded from further participation;
2. Applications are evaluated according to the criteria (Annex 2) by the project partners. In the process of evaluating applications, experts might be involved;
3. The final decision on the participants of the Summer School is made by the organisation committee.

The decision on the approval or rejection of the applicant shall be sent to the applicant by e-mail no later than May 21st, 2022.

Proceedings of the Summer School

The Summer School starts in early 2022 with the selection process of participants. Until April 30th, 2022 participants meeting the selection criteria are invited to fill the application form and apply for the Summer School.

After the application process, we aim to invite 3 participants from each of the VASAB countries to participate in the Summer School.

The Summer School will take place in Greifswald (Germany) from 22nd to 26th of August 2022. International, multi-disciplinary teams will be formed for the Summer School. The teams will be provided with introductory workshops. At the end of the Summer School, the teams will have to present their results and a jury will evaluate the presented ideas. Best team(s) will be publicly announced and invited to present their work at a high-level VASAB conference in spring 2023.

After the Summer School, participants will get a certificate of participation and can apply for reimbursement of their travel costs to and from Greifswald, Germany (2nd class train, economy class airfare, or equivalent) through a reimbursement form and by submitting all relevant receipts for their travel costs. During the Summer School, participants will be provided with accommodation and meals.

Contact information

Baltic Sea Region Summer School coordinator: Ms. Lisann Schmidt, lisann.schmidt@uni-greifswald.de

¹ Participants from institutions located in Belarus and Russia are suspended due to the current events.

Summer School application form

Participants have to fulfil all the tasks within the application form:

1. Name, Surname
2. E-mail
3. BSR Country you work or study in
4. Why would you like to participate in the Summer School and what is your interest in spatial development and/or planning? (Maximum of one page)
5. What can you contribute to the Summer School? (Maximum of one page)
Application form includes 2 attachments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum Vitae• Statement (maximum of two pages):<ul style="list-style-type: none">i) Choose and describe one major challenge that the Baltic Sea Region faces today and that is of particular importance for its future spatial development. ii) Who would need to be involved in addressing this issue, and how would you involve them? <p>The statement can be provided in any form and may include other media (essay, infographic, speech, map etc.). It should clearly illustrate the relevance of the described challenge and present your thoughts and creative ideas on potential involvement.</p>

By submitting this application, I confirm that the data I have provided is accurate and I have fulfilled the tasks myself. By applying, I confirm that I am willing to participate in the Summer School if I am chosen among the candidates.

Application Evaluation Criteria

Participants have fulfilled all tasks of the application form (Annex 1):

- Participants have clearly shown their interest in spatial development and/or planning;
- Participants have named advantages that make them appropriate candidates to join the Summer School.
- CV (Attachment 1) complements the motivation described in tasks 4 and 5 and complies with the formal requirements;
- The statement (Attachment 2) encloses the following components:
 - Clear description of a challenge for spatial development the BSR might face in the future. The description has to give an impression that this challenge is relevant for BSR;
 - Reflection on the role of involvement of relevant actors in solutions and how this may be achieved.
 - The statement needs to show:
 - Creative and independent thought,
 - Concrete challenges and approaches for involvement of actors,
 - Feasible approaches,
 - Spatial relevance.

The statement will have a large weight in evaluating the application.

As the Summer School will be organized in teams, the overall composition of the group will be considered as a selection criterion if a sufficiently high number of similarly qualified participants applies.