



## Visions and strategies in new reality: adaptive spatial measures for European regions and cities

Today Europe faces a significant crisis brought about by the Russian invasion of Ukraine – how can regions and cities adapt to this unprecedented situation? How can spatial planning and territorial approaches help to react to and prepare for the unknown, without hindering the long-term goals for a green, just and digital transition?

Now more than ever Europe needs to work together and find ways out of this crisis. Spatial visions and plans give guidance to cities and regions to tackle future challenges and uncertainties, mobilising communities to prepare for the unknown and set off on the path forward.

Spatial planning is a continuous process that adapts to changing conditions and new knowledge. The current situation requires solidarity and collaboration on alignment to strategies, actions and patterns across various governance levels, sectors and borders to overcome the consequences and foster resilience and self-sufficiency.

Daniel Meltzian, Chair of VASAB CSPD/BSR in his welcoming speech addressed the new reality that multiple crises have induced, and the new spatial challenges have merged: necessity to decrease energy dependency, stimulate networked societies, mitigate the risks with globalised production and consumption and to foster the resilience of the European regions, cities and towns. Meanwhile, such major challenges remain as climate change, ageing, recovery from pandemic.

Five thematic insight pitches were given on various territorial initiatives - namely, ESPON, TA2030 Pilot Action “Understanding how sector policies shape spatial (im)balances”, Interreg BSR Programme 2021-2027, VASAB Vision 2040 and French-German cross-border spatial planning simulation. They demonstrated how adaptive spatial planning and territorial cooperation measures could be taken on board responding to the new geopolitical dynamics, while ensuring the successful transition towards a green, just, more digital and resilient Europe, for all its regions and cities. The results of the discussions serve as an inspiration for future cooperation and spatial policies.

Spatial planning is an important tool how to balance various competitive demands. Consistent and continuous strategic and flexible planning approaches and territorial cooperation tools can help coping and adapting to shocks and benefit policy decision processes. In context of different crises we face today and might face in the future, it is foreseen that role of spatial planning will grow.

Long term strategies and territorial intelligence are needed for better understanding how to detect, how to mitigate, how to extrapolate, how to foresee the different types of crises and be prepared for them with a good capacity of administration, cooperation spirit and collaboration culture. From transnational perspective it is crucial to bring regional and local peculiarities to transnational cooperation and in building regional resilience involving all levels of governance to cooperation.

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