

COMMITTEE ON SPATIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF
THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Summary of the 86th CSPD/BSR Meeting

Online, 5 November 2021

Chairperson: Mr. Dainius Čergelis (LT)

Participants: CSPD/BSR members: Mr. Daniel Meltzian (DE), Mr. Lukas Kühne (DE), Mr. Jens Kurnol (DE), Ms. Tiina Tihlman (FI), Ms. Algimante Treiniene (LT), Ms. Anita Līvija Rozenvalde (LV), Ms. Patrycja Artymowska (PL), Ms. Irina Karelina (RU), Mr. Sverker Lindblad (SE), *Invited guests:* Ms. Melanie Schade (Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning), Mr. Carsten Beyer (Ministry of Energy, Infrastructure and Digitalization Mecklenburg-Vorpommern), Mr. Viktor Skrickij (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University), Mr. Frederick Bruce (sPro GmbH), Ms. Elżbieta Szymańska (Białystok University of Technology), Mr. Andžejs Stepančuks (Vidzeme Planning Region), Ms. Zofia Koloszko (Petrozavodsk City Administration), Mr. Tobias Heldt (Dalarna University), *VASAB Secretariat:* Ms. Alda Nikodemusa, Ms. Elīna Veidemane, Ms. Jana Patmalniece, Ms. Liene Gaujeniete, Ms. Liene Strazdiņa, Ms. Egija Stapkēviča and Ms. Inga Jēkabsone.

1. Adoption of the report of the 85th CSPD/BSR meeting

The Committee adopted the Report of the 85th CSPD/BSR online meeting on 6 May 2021 without changes.

2. Information on Open Troika meeting

The Committee took note of the Report of the VASAB Open Troika online meeting on 14 October 2021.

3. Political news and major challenges regarding national spatial planning issues

The Committee members informed about political news and major challenges regarding national spatial planning issues in each country.

4. Feedback on VASAB webinar “Coherence across land-sea border – practices and experiences from the Baltic Sea”, 4th November 2021

The Committee took note of the information about the outcomes of VASAB webinar “Coherence across land-sea border – practices and experiences from the Baltic Sea” on 4 November 2021. The main takeaway messages from the webinar - it was emphasized many times that there should be flexible legislation, soft planning, there is a need for capacity building measures and intersectoral coordination groups for coastal issues.

5. Update of VASAB Long-Term Perspective: progress, recent and upcoming events and other activities, next draft report

An overview on past and future developments of Update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective was presented. The update process is still in elaboration phase until February 2022. After that stakeholder consultations will follow from March until July 2022 at national, regional, European

and macro-regional level. Final adjustments will be made during summer and autumn. The aim is to adopt LTP-update by the end of year 2022 or beginning of year 2023. There are envisaged 4 chapters within this document: methodology (adopted by the Committee on 22 April 2021), background synthesis report and draft vision (will be finalised by 10th December 2021), report on results from stakeholder consultations (will be finalised by 1 August 2022). Last week in a co-creation workshop it was agreed that VASAB countries would give critical feedback on climate neutrality in 2040, development in shrinking pattern and level of BSR integration in Vision 2040 text as currently it looks too unrealistic. So far 4 internal workshops and 3 external workshops have been held. Still one internal workshop will be held on 26 November 2021 and two external workshops on 26 November and 2 December 2021. Online stakeholder survey has been launched and is open from 12 October to 9 November 2021. The next delivery '3rd Draft Report of LTP-update' will be submitted on 10 December 2021 and VASAB should prepare the feedback. The Final Draft Report of LTP-update is expected on 20 February 2021. Final Report with results from stakeholders' consultations will be received in autumn 2022. Stakeholder consultations will take place from spring until the middle of the summer. Consultants would prepare a concept for stakeholder consultations but it would be useful to find out from each Committee member what kind of events are planned.

The Committee took note on the current progress, recent and upcoming events and other activities of the update of VASAB Long-Term Perspective.

The Committee agreed to provide feedback on 3rd Draft Report of LTP-update (4th deliverable) until 15 January 2022.

The Committee agreed to consider national or regional events and activities to be organized during the stakeholder consultations of LTP-update, taking place in March - July 2022, and to inform Secretariat accordingly by mid-January.

6. Final results of MARA (Mobility and Accessibility in Rural Areas) project

The Committee took note of the information about final results of flagship project "MARA – Mobility and Accessibility in Rural Areas".

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

PA 'Spatial Planning' news & activities

The latest developments in EUSBSR were presented. EUSBSR Annual Forum 2021 took place in Lithuania from 27 September until 1 October 2021. VASAB and PA 'Spatial Planning' organised the first external stakeholder workshop "Bridging the old with the new: How can we build a better Baltic Sea future for 2040 and beyond?" on the update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region within EUSBSR Annual Forum on 28 September 2021. A lot is ongoing in developing funding programmes for the upcoming period 2021-2027, priorities are now known and they will be approved early next year. First call could be open from February until April 2022.

Let's Communicate! project news

The Committee was informed that 'Let's Communicate! 2' project will end in December 2021 but there might be a project extension until September 2022. The final decision on extension will be made by Interreg Monitoring Committee by mid-November 2021. During the final project phase, the project concentrates on mainstreaming the climate actions within the EUSBSR network. VASAB has two main tasks in the project: to prepare internal newsletters for the EUSBSR stakeholders (the final internal newsletter will be prepared and sent in December 2021) and update the EUSBSR online communication toolkit.

VASAB Cooperation Rules of Procedure (RoP), including coordination of Priority area ‘Spatial Planning’ of the EUSBSR

The Committee was reminded that revised Action Plan of EUSBSR which was approved on February 2021 requires all Policy areas Steering Groups to develop Rules of Procedure. A template with necessary elements has been provided. In the last 85th Committee meeting it was agreed to integrate these Rules of Procedure in VASAB Rules of Procedure. In the last Open Troika meeting it was suggested to separate the Rules of Procedure from one document to two documents: one would be procedural document and the other one would be methodological guidelines. If the Committee would agree on the proposal of having 2 documents, then more thorough discussions can start on procedural document and discussion on methodological guidelines could be agreed when the LTP-update would be approved as it would be one of the main input contents wisely. Issues which need to be considered: separated section for EUSBSR matters, revised Action Plan also requires a work plan which could be integrated with VASAB tasks, cooperation with non-EU countries, whether we address both Steering Groups or just VASAB Committee as the Steering Group for land-based spatial planning. Rules of Procedure should be approved and operational until 1 July 2022. EUSBSR Revised Action Plan requires to prepare an annual substantial report on achievements of Policy area ‘Spatial Planning’ which has to be prepared by Policy area coordinators and endorsed by the Steering Groups. There could be a mid-term evaluation of LTP implementation as part of the monitoring process accompanying LTP but that has to be decided at a later stage when LTP-update would be in its final stage.

The Committee agreed that Secretariat after the CSPD/BSR meeting sends the VASAB Cooperation Rules of Procedure and Methodological guidelines to the Committee for written feedback which has to be given until 22 November 2021.

8. Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) issues

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

The Committee took note of the information about progress of platform project “Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers (Capacity4MSP Platform)” and 4th Baltic MSP Forum which was held online on 1-2 June 2021.

HELCOM Ministerial meeting 20 October 2021

The Committee took note of the information about HELCOM Ministerial meeting on 20 October 2021.

Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2021-2030

The Committee was informed that HELCOM has designed the new Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2021-2030 which is available also in VASAB website <https://vasab.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Regional-Maritime-Spatial-Planning-Roadmap-2021-2030.pdf>.

Main topics of next HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group Meeting (online 16-17 November 2021)

The main topics would be: election of new chairs and co-chairs, discussions towards new HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG work plan, further work on regional MSP coherence report, status of the work on the mechanism for a regular follow-up of MSP on the regional level, information about BSR MSP Data Sub-group, the countries will be invited to share national experience on

the accounting of climate change impacts in MSP and discuss perspectives for practical joint activities to contribute to increasing climate change resilience of the Baltic Sea Region.

eMSP NBSR project – Emerging ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning topics in North and Baltic Seas Regions

The Committee took note of the information about new approved project ‘eMSP NBSR’ (Emerging Ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning Topics in North and Baltic Seas Regions).

9. VASAB Budget

The Committee took note of the information about preliminary VASAB Income and Expenditure 2021.

The Committee took note of the information about draft VASAB budget 2022, draft VASAB budget 2022 versus 2021, VASAB budget cash flow 2022 and VASAB budget cash flow projections 2023.

The Committee agreed to hold a VASAB budget meeting in closest weeks and during that meeting to decide on the date for the next Committee meeting.

10. VASAB Secretariat news

The Committee took note of the information about operations of the VASAB Secretariat.

11. Concluding Lithuanian chairmanship in VASAB, transfer of VASAB chairmanship to Germany, information about the priorities of German VASAB chairmanship

The Committee was informed that German chairmanship will finish the work on the update of the “Long-term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (LTP)” that was successfully started by the Lithuanian chairmanship, and will particularly focus on involving stakeholders in the discussion on application and implementation of the new LTP. A second major element of the German chairmanship is to organise a summer school at the University of Greifswald in August 2022. This project aims to introduce the next generation of planners to Baltic Sea cooperation and provide them with the opportunity to network and formulate their perspectives on the future of the Baltic Sea Region. The German chairmanship will conclude with an international conference on spatial planning in the Baltic Sea Region in spring 2023, at which the LTP will be officially adopted.