
Document title	Developments and activities related to the EUSBSR and PA Spatial Planning
Code	5-1 Rev.1
Category	INF
Agenda Item	5 - Coordination of the EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial planning, MSP related projects and initiatives
Submission date	22.2.2023
Submitted by	VASAB and HELCOM Secretariats (PAC Spatial Planning)



Co-funded by
the European Union

Please note that this is a revised version of the document 5-1. The amendment is presented in red color.

Background

HELCOM and VASAB are co-coordinators of the Policy Area (PA) Spatial Planning of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). VASAB CSPD/BSR acts as the Steering Group for the PA Spatial Planning concerning land-based spatial planning issues. VASAB Secretariat assists the VASAB CSPD/BSR in this role. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG acts as the Steering Group for the PA Spatial Planning concerning maritime spatial planning related matters, and both secretariats of HELCOM and VASAB support the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in this role.

Action requested

The SG is invited to take note of the information on the activities related to the Policy Area (PA) Spatial Planning of the EUSBSR and organizational matters.

Developments and activities related to the EUSBSR and PA Spatial Planning

February 2023

HELCOM and VASAB are co-coordinators of Policy Area (PA) Spatial Planning of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). The Steering Group of PA Spatial Planning meets in two formations: VASAB CSPD/BSR for land-based issues and joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group for MSP issues. Both Secretariats assist the WG in this role, by e.g., keeping the group informed of activities related to the EUSBSR and PA Spatial Planning (such as funding opportunities and meetings) and representing the PA in various meetings and processes as needed.

Activities concerning the EUSBSR Action Plan and PA Spatial Planning

The updated EUSBSR Action Plan has been adopted by the European Commission on 15 February 2021.

The overall goal of the PA “Spatial Planning” is to increase territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea Region. In 2030, the Region shall be a better-integrated and more coherent macro-region that has reduced socio-economic development divides between its individual parts and has turned global challenges into assets. The current version of the revised EUSBSR Action plan for PA Spatial Planning has two actions:

- Action 1: Strengthening territorial cohesion in the BSR through land-based spatial planning
- Action 2: Ensuring coherent maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea

Following the requirements of the revised Action Plan of the EUSBSR, PA Spatial Planning has developed a [Work Plan 2022-2024](#). VASAB has been assigned the lead PAC. Each Steering Group is requested to develop [Rules of Procedure](#) (RoP) defining the operational framework and a document describing the Steering Groups` work in two formations has been developed. National Coordinators Group has endorsed the RoP of the PA with a request to specify Article 7 on 6 September 2022 (Annex 1), which has been integrated into the RoP.

Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP) has started its work. Two partners are involved – Centrum Balticum (Finland) and Senate Chancellery of the city of Hamburg (Germany). Currently, BSP is developing their work plan. The main task of BSP is to support the NCG, however they will also provide support to PACs in following areas:

- Administrative, technical and management support, including maintaining the institutional memory of EUSBSR,
- Internal and external communication support, including assistance to PACs,
- Enabling capacity building and ensuring more efficient cross-sectoral cooperation among PACs,
- Development support, including monitoring and evaluation framework.

Report from the EU Commission on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies was published on 9 December 2022. More information [here](#).

Follow-up on funding activities

CINEA /EMFAF (The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency/European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund) – No information on further MSP calls is currently available. Under the last call EMFAF 2021 a project **MSP GREEN** (Maritime Spatial Planning as enabler of the European Green Deal) with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia and the Regional Council of Southwest Finland participate as partners, BSH and VASAB as associated partners and project **ReMAP** (Reviewing and Evaluating the Monitoring and Assessment of Maritime Spatial Planning) with HELCOM Secretariat as project partner have been approved and have started.

Interreg BSR Programme – 2nd call for core projects is opened until 14 March 2023, so far 129 project idea forms have been submitted. 2nd call for small projects closed on 26 January 2023. Calls are open in 3 priorities – Innovative societies, Water-smart societies, Climate-neutral societies.

As part of the 1st call of Interreg BSR project multiple new projects relevant for PA ‘Spatial Planning’ have been approved: Baltic Sea2Land (VASAB Secretariat as project partner, led by Latvian MoEPRD), BaltSusBoating 2030, Blue Supply

Chains, Blue-Green Bio Lab, BOWE2H, BalMaGrav. In the earlier separate call for Policy Area coordinators, the PASPS project providing technical assistance to the implementation of PA Spatial Planning was approved by the Monitoring Committee on 14-15 June 2022.

Interreg Central Baltic Programme (EE, LV, SE, FI, Åland) – Second call is opened from 21 February to 10 March 2023. Second step application phase will conclude on 25 September for small projects and on 16 October for regular projects. 3rd call for small projects will be opened between 25 September and 16 October 2023. Priorities of the programme include innovative business development, improved environment and resource use, improved employment opportunities and improved public services with seven objectives under these.

Interreg South Baltic Programme (DE, DK, LT, PL, SE) – the 2021-2027 programme was approved by the EC on 4 October 2022. The overarching target of programme is to improve the quality of life of its residents through the blue and green growth of the area. The programme focus is on economic, environmental, and social development, natural and cultural heritage, and cooperation of different actors in the area. The first call for regular projects was opened between 20 December 2022 and 15 February 2023. Approval of the projects is expected in June 2023.

Interreg Europe – The 2nd call will be open from 15 March to 9 June 2023. Pre-application activities are taking place. Call launch event will take place on 15 March 2023 in Stockholm.

EURO ACCESS tool can be used to identify further funding programmes.

VASAB Secretariat has registered to matchmaking platforms of Interreg BSR and Interreg Europe.

Ongoing relevant projects for Policy area 'Spatial Planning':

Title	Role of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<p>eMSP NBSR Emerging ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning topics in North and Baltic Sea Regions</p> <p>https://www.emspproject.eu/</p> <p>Project lead: Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), 17 partners from NL, BE, DE, PL, DK, FI, SE, FR, Åland representing national and regional authorities, research organisations and intergovernmental cooperations. 2 associated organisations.</p>	<p>VASAB & HELCOM Secretariats, SWaM, DMA – project partners</p>	<p>CINEA, EMFF-MSP-2020 call</p> <p>2,5 years [Sept 2021 – Feb 2024]</p>	<p>Recent activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sustainable Blue Economy CoP meeting – 30 Nov 2022, Den Haag, NL & 23 Feb 2023, online -EBA CoP meeting – 3 Oct & 2 Dec, online -project participated in the International MSP conference and forum in Barcelona, ES on 22-23 Nov -Data Sharing CoP meeting on 18 Jan in Paris, FR -project meeting 19-20 Jan in Paris, FR -M&E CoP – 15 Nov & 7 Feb <p>Upcoming activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Data Sharing CoP meeting on 23 May, Brest, FR -EBA & SBE CoP meeting on 13-15 June, Helsinki -eMSP project day, 20 June, online -Ocean Governance & SBE CoP meeting, 18-19 Sept, Copenhagen (tbc) - eMSP product meeting, 20-21 Sept, Stockholm - Final Conference 31 Jan-1 Feb 2024 (tbc) <p><i>The aim of the eMSP NBSR project is to enable Maritime Spatial Planners of managing authorities and policymakers from the North and Baltic Sea Regions to reflect on current MSP practices, to learn effectively from each other, and to collectively identify problems and solutions.</i></p>

<p>Baltic Sea2Land Fostering integrated governance for the joint sustainable use of human and natural capital in the near shore zone</p> <p>Project lead: MoEPRD, LV 13 partners from LV, EE, FI, DE, LT, PL</p>	<p>VASAB & HELCOM Secretariats - project partners</p>	<p>Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021-2027</p>	<p>Upcoming activities: -Internal kick-off, 27-28 Feb 2023, Riga</p> <p><i>The guiding and decision making platform Sea2Land Navigator will be developed and help balance interests to aid viable coastal development and sustainable use of human and natural capital in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) and foster integrated governance via multi-dimensional collaborations.</i></p>
<p>MSP Green Maritime Spatial Planning as enabler of the European Green Deal</p> <p>Coordinator: CORILA (IT) 10 partners from IT, ES, FR, LV, FI, BG, DE, 2 associated organisations</p>	<p>VASAB Secretariat, BSH and Ministry of Environment (FI) – associated organisations, MoEPRD (LV) – project partner</p>	<p>CINEA, EMFAF-2021-PIA-MSP</p> <p>2 years [Nov 2022 – Oct 2024]</p>	<p>Recent activities: -Kick-off meeting, 17 Jan 2023, Venice (IT)</p> <p>Upcoming activities: -setting up work & communication channels</p> <p><i>MSP-GREEN aims to support MSP plans to become real “marine enablers” of the European Green Deal. The project will provide suggestions to better link the EU Green Deal and the MSP Directive, and to contribute to the review of MSP plans. The consortium will collect practical examples (from participant countries’ experience) and will prepare a set of recommendations on how to strengthen the EU Green Deal component of MSP plans.</i></p>
<p>ReMAP Reviewing and Evaluating the Monitoring and Assessment of Maritime Spatial Planning</p> <p>Coordinator: ULPGC 4 partners from ES, FR, IT, FI</p>	<p>HELCOM Secretariat – project partner</p>	<p>CINEA, EMFAF-2021-PIA-MSP</p> <p>3 years</p>	<p>Recent activities: -kick-off meeting, 13 Dec 2022, Las Palmas (ES)</p> <p>Upcoming activities: Inception report & setting up work.</p> <p><i>ReMAP aims at setting up strategies to revise maritime spatial plans. The project will focus in particular on the development of data tools, models and reuse of operational infrastructures, allowing interoperability and enabling Member States to share MSP data.</i></p>
<p>MSP4BIO Improved Science-Based Maritime Spatial Planning to Safeguard and Restore Biodiversity in a coherent European MPA network</p> <p>https://msp4bio.eu/</p> <p>Project Lead: s.Pro 18 partners from BE, BG, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, HR, IT, LT, PL, PT, RO, UK</p>	<p>HELCOM Secretariat – project partner</p>	<p>Horizon Europe</p> <p>3,5 years [Aug 2022-Feb 2026]</p>	<p>Recent activities: -project participated in 3rd International MSP conference and forum in Barcelona (ES) 22-23 Nov 2022</p> <p>Upcoming activities: - analysis of ecological criteria in MPAs and highlighting good practices - investigation of socio-ecological perspectives and policy issues - GA meeting 20-21 March in Ostend, Belgium</p> <p><i>The main objective of MSP4BIO is to develop an integrated and modular Ecological-Socio-Economic (ESE) management framework for the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems, within its more general objectives of promoting sustainable blue growth and integrating maritime policies. The ESE looks at the compatibility between maritime/coastal uses and protection measures. Baltic Sea is one out of six test cases.</i></p>

Interreg BSR Programme 4th Priority projects

<p>PASPS Policy Area “Spatial Planning” Support</p> <p>Project lead: VASAB Secretariat Project partner: HELCOM Secretariat</p>	<p>VASAB & HELCOM Secretariats – project partners</p>	<p>Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2021-2027</p> <p>3 years [January 2022-December 2024]</p>	<p>Recent activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planners` Forum - 4 November 2022, online <p>Upcoming activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BSR Data ESG informal consultation – 7 March, Helsinki - Planners` Forum – 8 March, Helsinki - eMSP project EBA + SBE CoP meeting with HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and HELCOM Biodiv WG experts – 13-15 June, Helsinki - Participation in the 14th EUSBSR Annual Forum on 4-5 Oct, Riga <p><i>PASPS aims to support objectives assigned in the PA “Spatial Planning” of the EUSBSR, co-led by VASAB and HELCOM and it builds on the coordination activities started within the previous HASPS (2015/16), HASPS 2 (2016/18) and HASPS 3 (2018/21). PASPS supports the work of the Steering Group of PA Spatial Planning.</i></p>
---	---	---	---

Further recently approved Interreg BSR 2021-2027 projects relevant for PA Spatial Planning & regional framework implementation

Theme	Project title	Lead partner	Overall aim
Blue Economy	BalMarGrav Homogenized marine gravity maps of southern and eastern Baltic Sea for modern 3D applications in marine geodesy, geology and navigation	Institute of Geodesy and Cartography (PL)	The project aims to increase the potential of national sectoral agencies and the Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC) to realize their tasks. BalMarGrav will build up a transnational network of the relevant experts in the region, save and reprocess the fragmented historical data and provide harmonized and validated open data products to the target groups.
	BaltSusBoating 2030 Baltic Sustainable Boating 2030 - Making leisure boating in the Baltic Sea fit for the post-pandemic boating tourism market	The Association of Sea Cities and Municipalities (PL)	BaltSusBoating 2030 initiates a strategic cooperation at BSR level for developing the Baltic Sea into a single & sustainable boating destination, and to jointly promoting it at international markets. Supported by CBSS, the main umbrella organisations & boating tourism actors' team up to define goals & steps for a collaborative destination development and joint marketing until 2030.
	BSC Blue Supply Chains	Port of Hamburg Marketing Reg. Assoc. (DE)	BSC will provide a three-pillar approach on how Port authorities can support greening process in port operation (electrification of handling equipment), by providing alternative fuels (bunkering & charging strategy) and by pushing to set-up green transport chains (combined transport).
Circular economy	Blue-Green Bio Lab Blue-Green Bio Lab across the BSR	Skive Municipality (DK)	This project targets the urgent challenge to reduce nutrients to BSR waters, limit GHG emissions, and quickly enhance European self-supply with food, feed and energy.
Energy Transition	BOWE2H Baltic Offshore Wind Energy to Hydrogen	Greifswald University (DE)	BOWE2H answers the need to have joint regional knowledge on offshore wind and hydrogen production with a stakeholder network that hosts six regional expert events, and co-creatively produces a Strategic Roadmap for Regional Offshore Wind and Hydrogen Development.

Events related to EUSBSR

EUSBSR National Coordinators' group is currently chaired by Sweden who took over from Lithuania. Last meetings took place on 10 November, 19 December and 14 February, online.

Coffee with EUSBSR Presidency meetings are organised regularly. The latest meetings were on 17 November and 17 February.

5th International MSP forum took place on 21 November 2022 in Barcelona, Spain. *3rd International Conference on MSP* was organised back-to-back on 22-23 November 2022. An e-poster about VASAB's work on MSP and Vision 2040 was part of the conference.

Baltic Stakeholder Conference 2023 takes place on 9 March 2023 online.

The 4th MRS Week will be organized on 24-28 April 2023 in Brussels and hybrid. The topics are *Skills, Energy and Funding*. Application process for stakeholders' sessions is open until 10 March 2023.

European Maritime Days 2023 will take place in Brest, France on 24-25 May. It is planned to apply for an exhibition stand for eMSP project to promote project results, final conference and MSP in North and Baltic seas.

VASAB Ministerial Conference will be held on 1-2 June 2023 in Wismar, Germany. *VASAB Experts Conference* to celebrate the completion of VASAB Vision 2040 will take place on 1 June. More information and registration [here](#).

5th Community of Practice meeting of eMSP NBSR project learning strand on EBA "Maritime Spatial Planning for strengthening spatial conservation measures and supporting sustainable blue economy" will be organized on 13-15 June in Helsinki and aimed to also support the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG in establishing cooperation with the HELCOM State and Conservation WG's successor, Working Group on Biodiversity, Protection and Restoration (MSP Roadmap task 3.3).

14th EUSBSR Annual Forum will take place on 4-5 October 2023 in Riga, Latvia. VASAB will be involved in the organization of the Forum. Main organizer will be the Riga City Council with assistance from the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UBC. VASAB Secretariat has been invited to support registration process, development of visual materials and post-event survey, organize networking village with a pitch corner and contribute to the development of the agenda.

Information prepared with support of the Interreg BSR Programme project "Policy area "Spatial Planning" Support" (PASPS).



Communication from the National Coordinators Group to the Policy Area Spatial Planning on the Steering Group Rules of Procedure

The NCG discussed the PA Spatial Planning SG RoP 10 June 2022 (Item 3.b Annex 2 and commented version Item 3.b Annex 3) in their meeting on 6 Sep 2022.

The NCG notes the structural specificities of the PA Spatial Planning and efforts of the PA to re-draft a RoP inline with the Action Plan in accordance with the Communication from the National Coordinators Group to the Policy Area Spatial Planning on the Steering Group Rules of Procedure dated 26 May 2022 (3.b Annex 1). The NCG endorses the PA Spatial Planning SG RoP dated 10 Jun 2022, provided that the following changes are made to the document as soon as possible and communicated to the NCG.

Changes made listed below.

1. To maintain the order of articles as in the Common Structure.

NCG approves the clarifications made to the order of articles.

2. To add missing articles:

- a. For the Field-lands based spatial planning RoP articles 9 "Meeting participants", 10 "Frequency and format of the meetings", 11 "Reporting".
- b. For the maritime spatial planning RoP: articles 2 "Composition of the Steering Group", 9 "Meeting participants", 10 "Frequency and format of meetings", 11 "Reporting".

NCG approves the clarifications and notes Article 11.2 on reporting ensures that reporting is ensured even though Article 11.1 refers to external rules as requested in the NCG Communication of May 26.

3. Fields-land based spatial planning:

- a. To clarify the organisation of the meetings (*The PAC/Lead PAC, after approval by the SG Presidency, shall submit the draft agenda for the SG meeting to all SG members at least 10 working days before the meeting for consultation. Documents for discussion shall be submitted to all SG members at least 10 working days prior to the SG meeting, unless duly justified circumstances require circulating documents later. The final agenda is adopted at the SG meeting as first agenda item.*)
- b. To consider the inclusion of the written-procedure as an alternative decision making.

NCG approves the clarifications made in Article 8.2.

NCG approves the clarifications made in Article 4 but requests that in Article 7, in relation to written procedure the referred to procedures (*“Written procedure can be initiated in accordance with the rules of procedure of the respective group.”*) are included to the RoP of PA Spatial Planning as requested in the NCG Communication of May 26.

4. Maritime spatial planning:

a. To clarify the organisation of the meetings (The PAC/Lead PAC, after approval by the SG Presidency, shall submit the draft agenda for the SG meeting to all SG members at least 10 working days before the meeting for consultation. Documents for discussion shall be submitted to all SG members at least 10 working days prior to the SG meeting, unless duly justified circumstances require circulating documents later. The final agenda is adopted at the SG meeting as first agenda item.)

NCG approves the clarifications made in Article 8.2.

b. To clarify the composition of the SG (The SG consists of representatives of the national or regional governments of EUSBSR Member States. SG members should come from key ministries or authorities in the relevant field).

NCG approves the clarifications made in Article 5.1.

c. To consider the inclusion of the written-procedure as an alternative decision making.

NCG approves the clarifications made in Article 4.