

**Dear VASAB friends,**

With Summer Solstice Greetings, when days are the longest and nights the shortest, we would like to share with you the latest developments and events within the VASAB community.

Enjoy the reading and we wish you joyful summer holidays!

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## **9<sup>th</sup> VASAB Ministerial Conference endorsed VASAB Vision 2040 and adopted Wismar Declaration 2023**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 2023, the VASAB Ministers responsible for spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region countries met for the 9<sup>th</sup> time to jointly discuss the complex challenges related to the geopolitical and energy policy changes in the Region and beyond.

The main focus of the **VASAB Ministerial Conference** was the endorsement of the **VASAB Vision 2040** and the **adoption of the Wismar Declaration 2023**, which underlined the commitment of participating countries to implement the VASAB Vision 2040.



### **VASAB Expert's Conference "Vibrant, Resilient, Well-connected - The Baltic Sea Region in 2040"**

Conference was hosted on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2023 by Germany – VASAB Chairing country in period 2022-2023. The Conference was organised by the Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building of Germany jointly with the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development with support of the VASAB Secretariat.

The Conference brought together the experts and enthusiasts of spatial planning and regional development to celebrate the finalization of the VASAB Vision 2040 – the broad and extensive co-creation of joint views on how the Baltic Sea Region would develop and look like in 2040.





## 14<sup>th</sup> EUSBSR Annual Forum will take place on 4 - 5 October 2023 in Riga

During this year's Forum, keeping in mind the main objectives of the EUSBSR – save the sea, connect the region, and increase prosperity – and the Action Plan 2021, special attention with the aim to encourage debate will be paid to the **climate affairs** and **green energy**. And since the main agents of change and progress are young people, a strong focus will be placed on the importance of **youth** engagement in decision making and to have a strong youth representation.

The event is organised jointly by the **Riga City Council**, **Union of the Baltic Cities** and **VASAB**, in close cooperation with **the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia** and **the Baltic Sea Strategy Point**.

[Read more about the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2023](#)

[Register for the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2023 here](#)

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## Baltic Sea Region Maritime Spatial planners continue the dialogue in Planners' Forum



With various emerging topics in maritime spatial planning (MSP) and with dedicated efforts to implement the new European policies in fields like renewable energy production and environmental protection, many states around the Baltic Sea are revisiting their maritime spatial plans to monitor and evaluate as well as to update the plans.

Therefore, MSP practitioners continue to meet in Planners' Forum for more practical, hands-on exchange on pressing MSP issues.

[Read more](#)

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## VASAB actively participated in the European Maritime Days 2023 and European Blue Forum launch

Brest, France became the center of Sustainable Blue Economy and Maritime Spatial Planning at the end of May. More than 1500 people joined the European Maritime Days 2023 (EMD 2023).

See how VASAB Secretariat and eMSP NBSR project was doing there!



[Read more](#)

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## eMSP NBSR project final conference will be held on 31 January - 1 February 2024 in Poland



[Read more about eMSP NBSR project here](#)



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