

Summary of the 88th CSPD/BSR Meeting

Online, 13 December 2022

Chairperson: Mr. Daniel Meltzian (DE)

Participants: CSPD/BSR members: Mr. Lukas Kühne (DE), Mr. Jens Kurnol (DE), Mr. Taivo Tali (EE), Ms. Tiina Tihlman (FI), Ms. Algimante Treiniene (LT), Ms. Anita Līvija Rozenvalde (LV), Ms. Patrycja Artymowska (PL), Mr. Sverker Lindblad (SE), *invited guests:* Mr. Uģis Zanders (Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat), Mr. Kai Böhme (Spatial Foresight), Mr. Daniel Urey (LABLAB), *VASAB Secretariat:* Ms. Alda Nikodemusa, Ms. Elīna Veidemane, Ms. Jana Patmalniece, Ms. Liene Gaujeniete, Ms. Egija Stapkēviča and Ms. Margarita Vološina.

1. Adoption of the report of 87th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting

The Committee adopted the Report of 87th CSPD/BSR meeting in Berlin on 24-25 May 2022 with one amendment in point about news and major challenges regarding national spatial planning issues.

2. Adoption of the summary of 87th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting

The Committee adopted the Summary of 87th CSPD/BSR meeting in Berlin on 24-25 May 2022 with one amendment in point about news and major challenges regarding national spatial planning issues.

3. Information on Open Troika meeting

The Committee took note of the Report of the VASAB Open Troika online meeting on 25 November 2022.

4. Final draft of VASAB Vision 2040

Finalization of VASAB Vision 2040

Work on the VASAB Vision 2040 has been a long and interesting process which started in 2019 when VASAB Committee after long internal discussions decided to initiate work towards the update of VASAB Long-Term Perspective. This extensive work has resulted in three substantial documents: VASAB Vision 2040, background synthesis report and report on stakeholder involvement. Final versions of all documents have been circulated to the Committee. The new VASAB Vision 2040 would be endorsed at VASAB Ministerial Conference on 1-2 June 2023. The Committee is encouraged to consider the implementation of the Vision.

The Committee approved the VASAB Vision for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region in 2040.

Concept of Vision 2040 implementation

The Committee agreed that a document ‘Guidance for VASAB and stakeholders for the implementation of the VASAB Vision 2040’ is needed and content could be modified in the development process.

Designing and printing of VASAB Vision 2040; Designing of Background Report

The Committee was informed that Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (Germany) will outsource a company who will design and print VASAB Vision 2040 and Background Report. It was suggested to change the title for Background Report to something more attractive, for example, State of Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region.

The Committee agreed that VASAB Vision 2040 and Background Report should be designed and printed for the Ministerial Conference in June 2023, as well as digital versions should be prepared for VASAB website and agreed that Background Report could have a more speaking title to attract the readers.

5. Towards VASAB Ministerial Conference and Expert Conference on 1-2 June 2023, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany

Development of Ministerial Declaration

The Committee took information on preparations for the VASAB Ministerial Conference and Expert Conference on 1-2 June 2023 in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany and took note that Ministerial Declaration will be drafted in upcoming months. The Committee took note of the possibility to organise VASAB Ministerial Conference jointly with Foreign Ministers of the BSR countries to ensure the visibility of VASAB and its Vision and to demonstrate its role in the EU Strategy for the BSR.

Results of Young Planners Summer School 2022 and winners' participation in VASAB Ministerial Conference

The Committee took note of the results of Young Planners Summer School organised on 22-26 August in Greifswald, Germany and winners' team participation in VASAB Ministerial Conference in June 2023.

Stakeholder workshop in Germany 15 November 2022

The Committee took note of the stakeholder workshop on VASAB Vision 2040 held in Germany on 15 November 2022 during which potential project ideas were discussed to support the implementation of the VASAB Vision 2040.

6. News and major challenges regarding national spatial planning issues

Germany: The Federal Spatial Planning Law has been recently amended and overarching goal is to speed up the planning procedures, inter alia through digitalisation, bundling of environmental assessments and participation rights, as well as fastening contracting procedures. The amendments were part of a larger package to accelerate planning and approval procedures for expanded targets in the areas of renewable wind energy. For example, 2% of the total space in Germany is reserved for onshore renewable energy and there are also targets on transport infrastructure and digital infrastructure.

Estonia: news in spatial planning:

- The biggest effort in 2022 was that *Estonian Maritime Spatial Plan* was finally approved by the Government (on May 12th 2022). Now this document is really active and different actors have started to implement it. Nonetheless the plan has been taken to Court by some local people/fishermen living by the Baltic Sea.
- National Planning Act is being re-evaluated and will be changed. The goal is to make planning process shorter and easier. It is possible also that the county level of spatial planning

may disappear. There is also a lot of pressure to speed up the planning process or even cancel the detailed planning process for the construction of wind farms in Estonia.

- Several national designated special plans have been initiated last year (special plan of mineral resources of some counties, Tallinn Circular Railway, Rail Baltica replanning (there is a conflict with Natura areas), Saaremaa Bridge).
- The making of a new National Spatial Plan has started. Same time we are dealing with an analysis of the spatial impact of trends in Estonia. As part of the nationwide planning trend study, we have organized regional seminars with local experts.
- The organization of the Ministry's spatial planning department's structure has changed. One spatial planning department was created (altogether about 30 people) instead of two. Four different sections were founded inside the department (state supervision on Local Governments, digital development, national designated special plans and policy and analysis section).
- Like in Finland, there will be new Parliament elections in March 2022 so it will also affect our activities in spatial planning in Estonia.

Poland: news in spatial planning:

- Along with the reform of the spatial planning system, changes are being made in the country's development management system. From the beginning of 2021, the local government units (municipalities and their functional networks) began to enact development strategies which have an extensive spatial part in a form of a new functional-spatial structure model. From 2025, a similar document - a development strategy with a functional-spatial model will be a mandatory document for each of the 16 regions in Poland.
- With regard to national planning - methodological assumptions for the development of the functional-spatial structure model for the medium-term national development strategy are also under research and development. The assumptions will be ready in 2023, and the medium-term strategy with the model - in 2024.

The functional-spatial structure model includes:

- Structure of the settlement network with the role and hierarchy of settlement units;
- Areas with key functions for development (areas of functional links and secondarily areas of strategic intervention as a choice made in the process of planning specific activities);
- System of natural links;
- Main corridors and elements of transport networks.

The model shows directions of spatial development of analysed area. It should also indicate the changes that need to be made in the future in order to achieve the goals contained in the strategy of which the model is a part. In addition, the model is to focus on protection and enhancement of values that are important for sustainable development in the long term (in terms of space and environment). It is equally important that the model clearly defines public interest, and maintains the continuity and consistency of economic, social and spatial processes in the given territory.

Sweden: news in spatial planning:

- From 1 January 2023 a new ministry, Ministry for Rural Development and Infrastructure will start. The new ministry will comprise almost all issues which have a territorial bases; regional and rural development, including agriculture and forestry under one minister and transport infrastructure, spatial planning, housing and urban development under another minister.
- From 1 January 2023 a third region, Region Halland will take on the formal task managing Regional Spatial Planning under the Planning and Building Act. Earlier, only Region Stockholm and Region Malmö had this formal task. In the other 18 regions, initiative in the field of Spatial Planning as a voluntary task seems to increase. Cooperation with the municipalities in functional geographies is an essential part of this work.

- From the 1 January 2023 Sweden will take over the EU-presidency. Sweden will thereby continue the process and work aiming for an updated Territorial Agenda during the Polish presidency 2025. A certain focus during the Swedish presidency will be on Green Industrialisation, both the potentials and challenges that follows, e.g. land conflicts and need for good spatial planning. ESPON will put together underlying documentation and analyses for discussions during presidency meetings.

Lithuania: news in spatial planning:

Comprehensive Plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania:

- Lithuania prepared the Comprehensive plan of the Territory of the Republic of Lithuania, the national level spatial planning document that is one of strategic level planning documents as well. The Concept of this Plan was adopted by the Parliament on 4th of July 2020 and Plan itself was approved by the Government in 2021.
- The program on implementation of the Comprehensive plan until 2030 has been prepared. It was presented at social partners' events and discussed with different stakeholders. This program is being linked with National Progress Program, regional planning documents as well as financing to promote more integrated approach in national planning system.

The Law on Municipal Infrastructure Development (entered in force 2021-01-01):

- The main target of this Law is to solve infrastructure development problems in municipalities seeking to prevent the urban sprawl, especially the development of pre-urban areas, creating favorable conditions for investment.
- According to this Law, municipalities shall identify a priority development area in which municipalities shall undertake to develop the necessary social and engineering infrastructure, and a non-priority development area, where there is no obligation for municipalities to do so. The municipality council shall establish the procedure on the payment of the municipal infrastructure development fee, the amount of this fee, as well as the exemption from this payment.

Reform of Land Management:

- The changes of state land management in cities and towns have been initiated and continues. Amendments to the Land Law related to the management of state land in cities and towns have been adopted on 30th of June 2022.
- According to this Law, the state land of cities and towns located in the territory of the municipality will be transferred to the municipality for management in trust from 1st of January 2024. Until then, the land management process will be reviewed, clarifying the competencies and responsibilities of the institutions involved in this process.
- It is expected that better conditions for more efficient state land management, for creation of benefits for society, for more rational management of state property will be developed. Also, because of this change, there will be less bureaucratic procedures, the administrative burden will be reduced, and the territorial planning and construction processes will become more efficient.

Latvia: news in spatial planning:

- In October 2022 there were Parliament elections in Latvia and currently there is not yet a new minister for the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development.
- There are ongoing discussions on creating a new ministry on climate and energy, therefore some functions of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development could be transferred to the new ministry.

Finland: news in spatial planning:

- There will be Parliament elections in Finland in March 2023.

- Renewal of land use and planning law has started. Some years ago, the building part of the law was enforced but not the spatial planning part. Currently the new spatial planning law is prepared too.

The Committee took note of the information about political news and major challenges regarding national spatial planning issues.

The Committee agreed that each country submits a short paragraph about recent news (from ‘tour de table’) on spatial planning and development issues to be included in the Committee Report and Summary.

7. Terrestrial spatial planning country fiches

The Committee agreed that all VASAB member countries should regularly update the Country fiche on terrestrial spatial planning and send to Secretariat to publish on VASAB website.

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

EUSBSR Annual Forum, 28-29 September 2022, Lappeenranta, Finland

The Committee took note of the information about the EUSBSR Annual Forum held on 28-29 September 2022 in Lappeenranta, Finland and VASAB’s active participation in the event.

Rules of Procedure of PA ‘Spatial Planning’ Steering Group

The Committee took note of the information about Rules of Procedure of PA ‘Spatial Planning’ Steering Group.

PA ‘Spatial Planning’ activities, PASPS work plan

The Committee took note of the information about EUSBSR Policy area ‘Spatial Planning’ activities and PASPS project work plan.

Conclusion of Let’s Communicate! Project & cooperation with Baltic Sea Strategy Point

The Committee took note of the conclusion of “Let’s Communicate!” project and future cooperation possibilities with Baltic Sea Strategy Point.

VASAB engagement in organisation of EUSBSR Annual Forum, 4-5 October 2023, Riga, Latvia

The Committee agreed that VASAB and the Secretariat should be involved in organisation of the 14th EUSBSR Annual Forum which will be held on 4-5 October 2023 in Riga, Latvia.

Information about upcoming project calls and VASAB’s role

The Committee agreed that VASAB should participate in new project calls and noted the importance of VASAB’s participation in projects to support implementation of VASAB Vision 2040, to increase the visibility and impact of VASAB. However, capacity of VASAB Secretariat should be taken into account.

9. Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) issues

VASAB webinar on offshore wind energy on 9 June 2022

The Committee took note of the outcomes of VASAB German chairmanship workshop „Offshore wind energy: Challenges and opportunities emerging from new European expansion targets” which was held on 9 June 2022 and concluded that the webinar was very well attended, fruitful and useful.

Information on prolonged suspension of all HELCOM working groups meetings due to invasion of Ukraine by Russian Federation

The Committee took note of the information on prolonged suspension of all HELCOM working groups meetings due to invasion of Ukraine by Russian Federation and informal consultation meetings among EU member states in the Baltic Sea Region have been introduced as an interim solution.

Informal consultation session of Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group Meeting 5-7 October 2022 in Hamburg, Germany

The Committee took note of the outcomes of the 1st informal consultation session of the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (IC HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 1-2022).

The Committee gave its approval to the nomination of Ms. Tiina Tihlman from Finnish Ministry of Environment to act as Vice-Chair of the HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group.

The Committee approved HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group’s Work plan for 2022-2024.

The Committee approved the updated template of the national MSP country fiches.

BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group

The Committee took note of the information about the outcomes of Informal consultation session of the BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-Group online meeting held on 22 September 2022 and the next meeting in March 2023.

Planners’ Forum

The Committee took note of the information about the outcomes of the first Planners’ Forum within ‘PASPS’ project held on 4 November 2022.

Progress of eMSP NBSR project

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

Update on Baltic Sea2Land project’ submitted to the Baltic Sea Region Interreg Programme

The Committee took note of the information about the ‘Baltic Sea2Land’ project and VASAB’s activities in the project.

10. New Energy Landscapes (NEL) project

The Committee took note of the information about the project “New Energy Landscapes (NEL)”.

11. Long-term solution for VASAB Secretariat after 2024

The Committee decided to prolong the hosting of VASAB Secretariat in Riga by the end of year 2029.

12. VASAB Budget 2023

Proposed VASAB Budget 2023, explanatory remarks regarding VASAB Budget 2023, comparison of VASAB Budget 2023 and amended VASAB Budget 2022, information about VASAB Budget 2022 Income and Expenditure, VASAB Budget 2023-2024 Cash Flow Prospects

The Committee accepts the VASAB budget for 2023 as proposed by the Secretariat with 293 464 EUR in revenues, 136 994 EUR Secretariat office expenses, 40 000 EUR additional expenses to be decided by CSPD/BSR, as well as 49 000 EUR – PASPS project, 90 000 EUR – eMSP NBSR project, 48 876 EUR – Baltic Sea2Land project and project reserve – 40 000 EUR.

13. VASAB Secretariat news

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