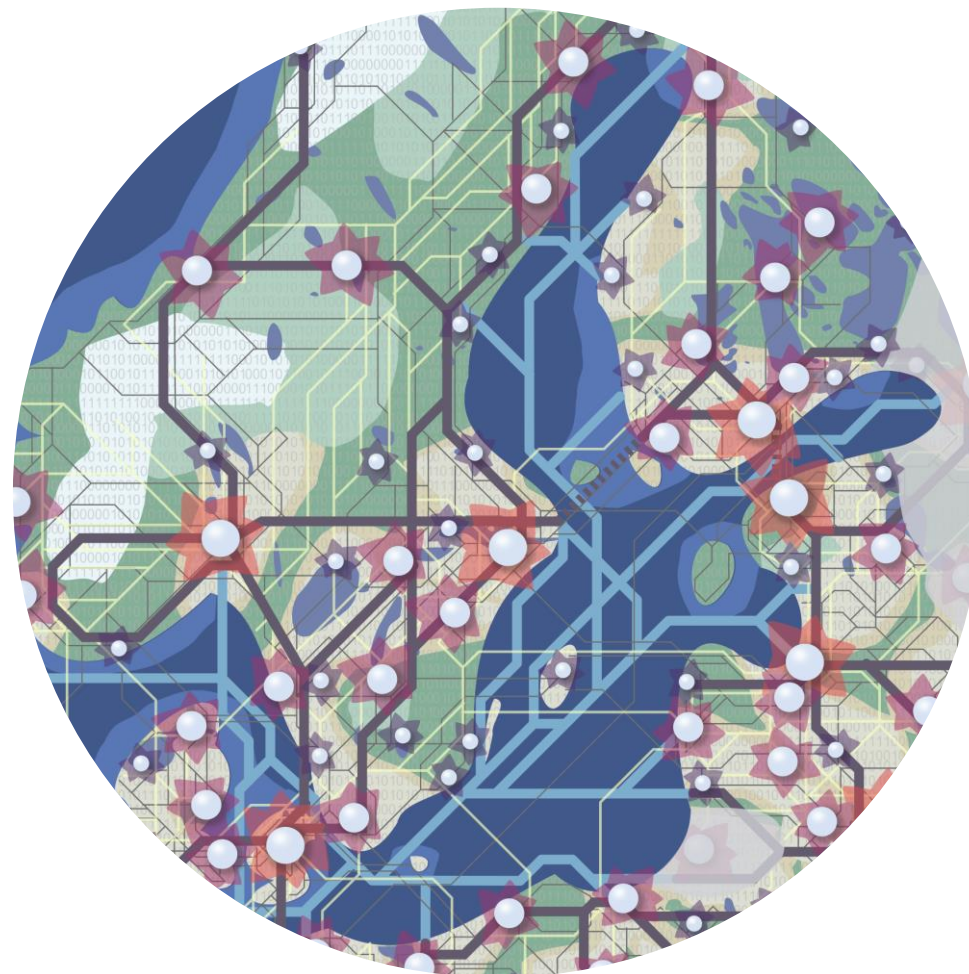


Urban Areas of the Baltic Sea Region

VASAB Vision 2040

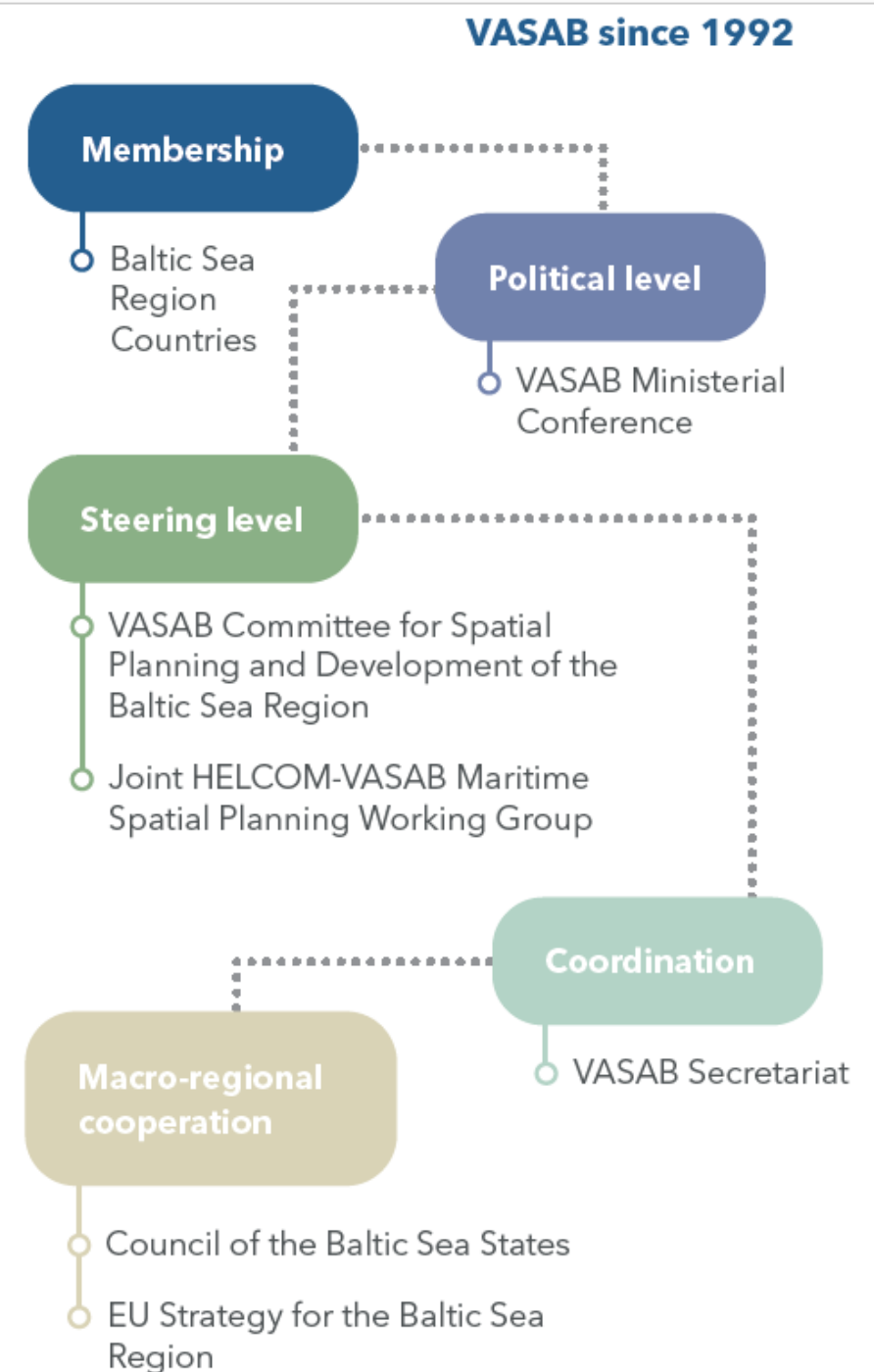
Egija Stapkevica, VASAB Secretariat

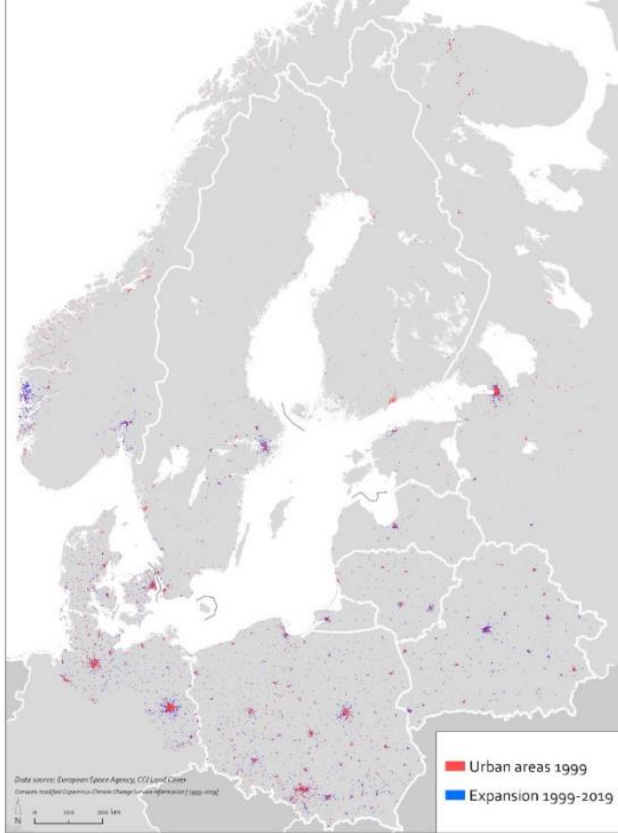


30 years of first strategical document,
Vision and Strategies around the BSR,
Ministers adopted in 2004

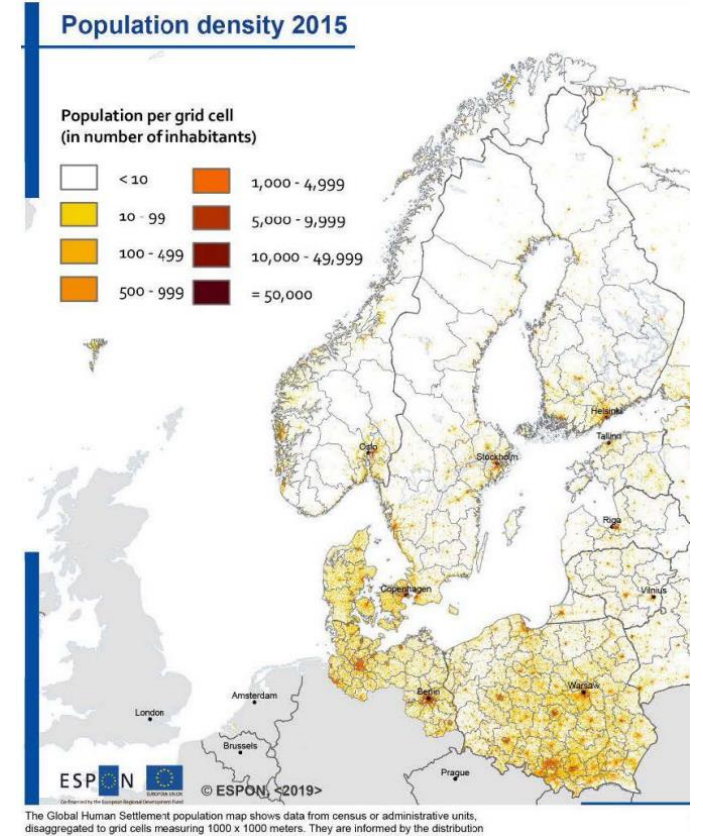
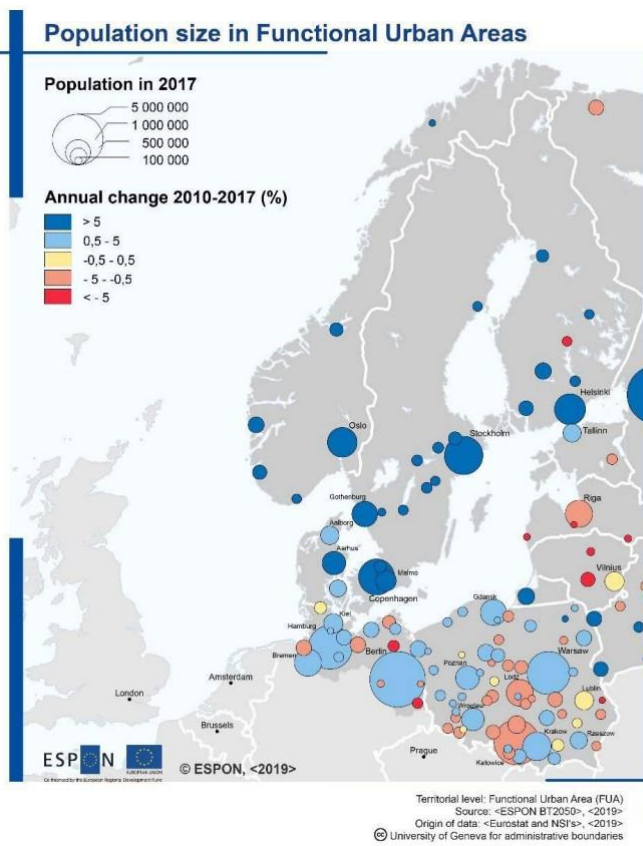
Intergovernmental collaboration on spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region since 1992

- Policy options for BSR territorial development
- Knowledge exchange on spatial planning and development
- Policy Area Spatial Planning of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region



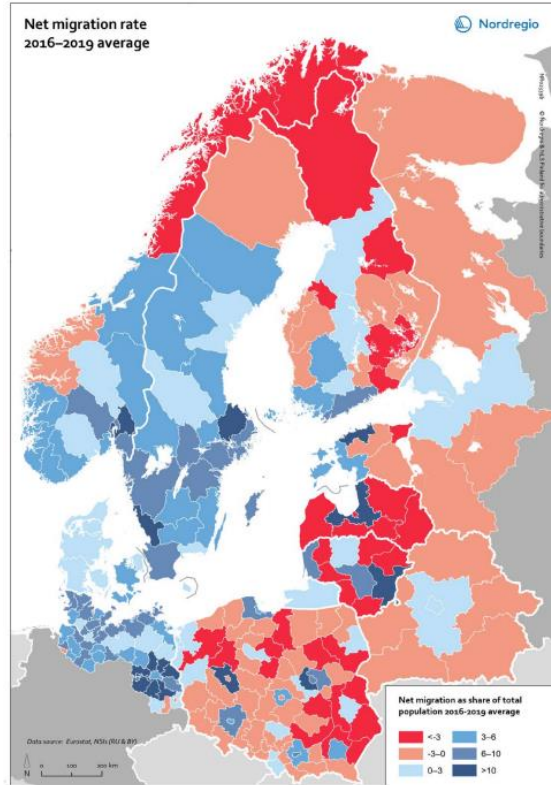


Map 3: Expansion of urban areas in the Baltic Sea Region 1999-2019
Source: Nordregio (Map by Michael Oakden)

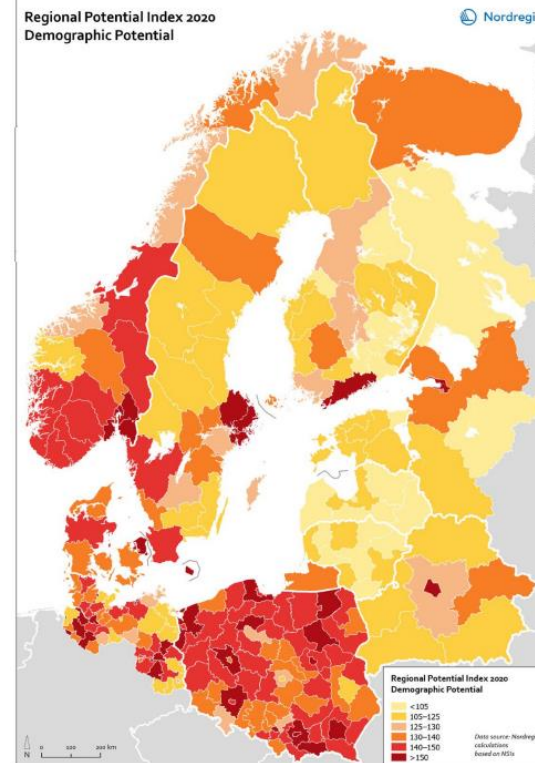


Urbanisation

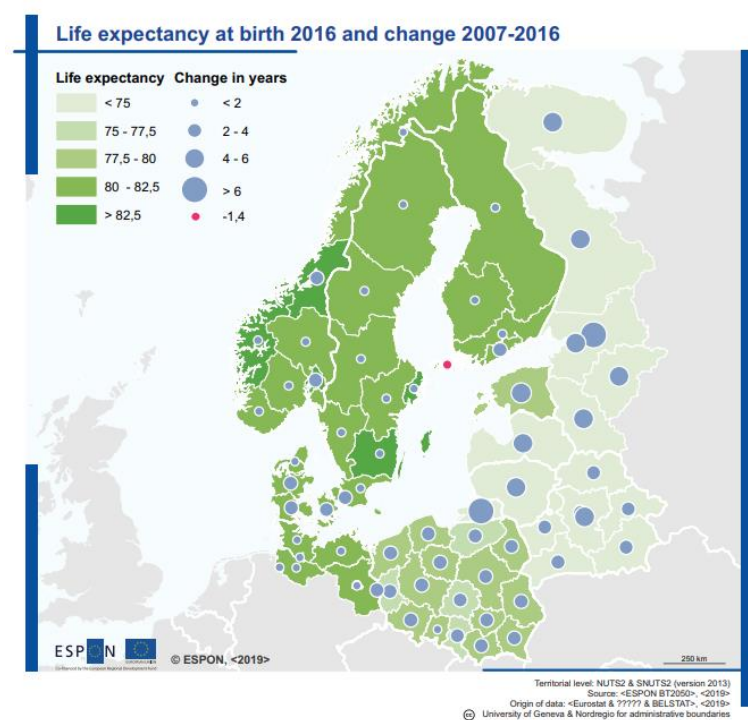
The future of the world is urban, as by 2050 it is estimated that the share of people living in urban areas will rise to 68%, while small and medium-sized towns are also expected to grow further (ESPON, 2019b)



Map 4: Net migration rate 2016-2019
Source: Nordregio (Map by Gustaf Norlén)



Map 9: Demographic potential index
Source: Nordregio (Map by Gustaf Norlén)

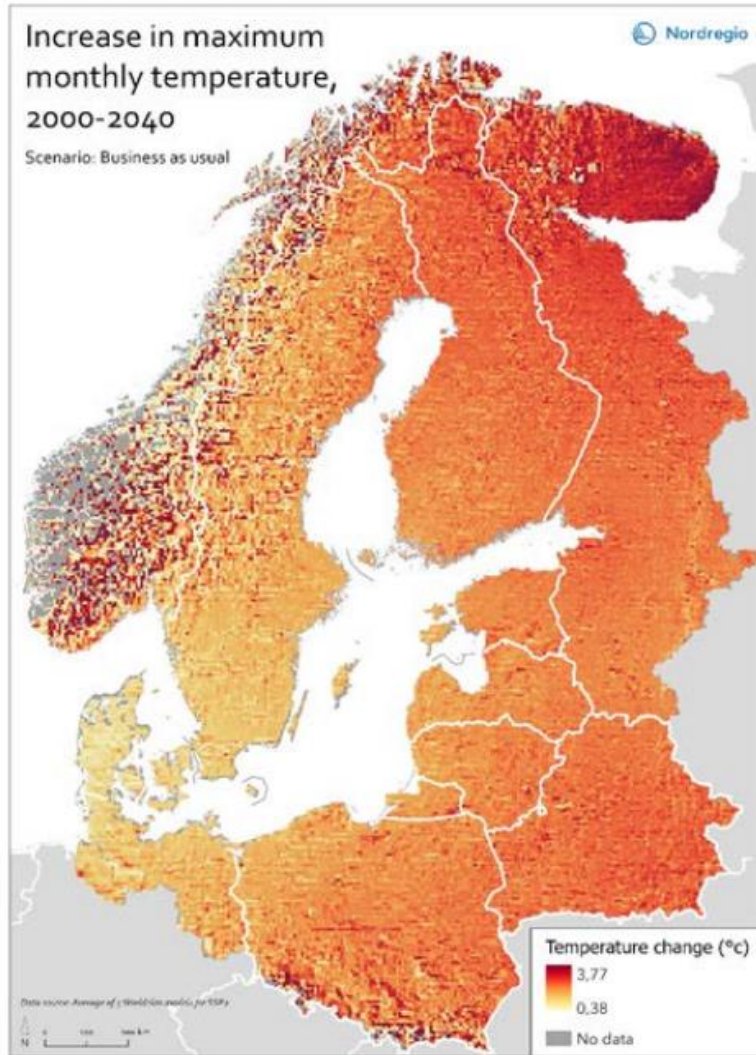


Map 8: Life expectancy
Source: ESPON, 2020a

Demographic changes

Particularly driven by **depopulation, ageing and migration movements will continue**. Europe is ageing which in combination with longer life expectancy and technological advancements, as well as the migration movements are the demographic dynamics that may have important social, environmental and economic implications (JRC, 2021; Lutz et al., 2019)

Climate change



Map 17: Increased in max temperature 2000-2040

Source: Nordregio (Map by Michael Oakden)

- Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C is likely to occur in the 21st century (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2021).

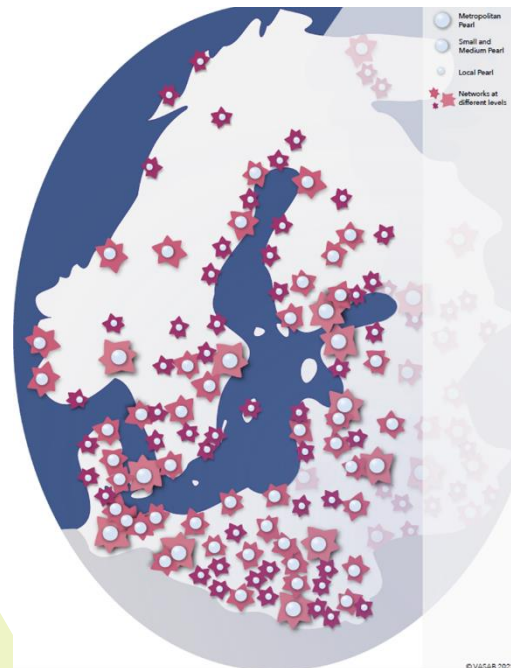
Long-term risks

- **rising sea levels**, coastal erosion, insufficient oxygenation of the Baltic Sea resulting from cyanobacterial blooms (Meier et al., 2017; Räisänen, 2017),
- **loss of original flora and fauna**, higher survival of invasive species, eutrophication,
- **impacts on food supply and particularly fishery and agriculture**, decline in cod populations, low value freshwater fish,
- **damage to coastal infrastructure** due to fungus and sea rise,
- **negative impacts on economic activities** like coastal tourism, increased beach erosion, floods, or less winter tourism opportunities which depend on snow or ice (Baltadapt, 2013)

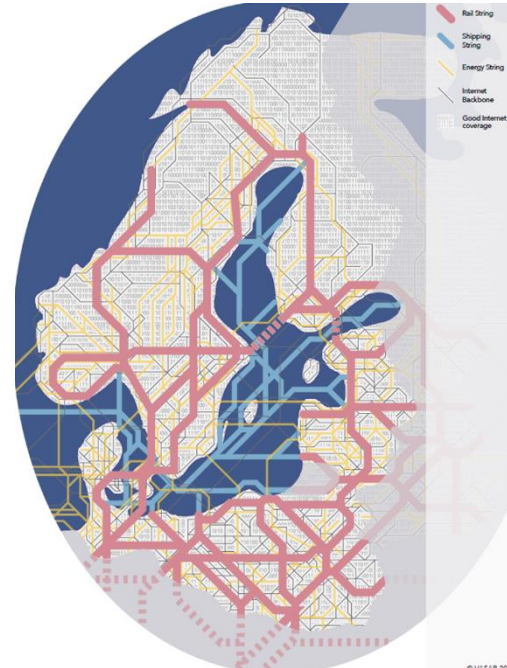
VASAB Vision 2040

Long-term territorial perspective for a vibrant, resilient, well-connected Region with diversity, sustainability, integration and cooperation as key values

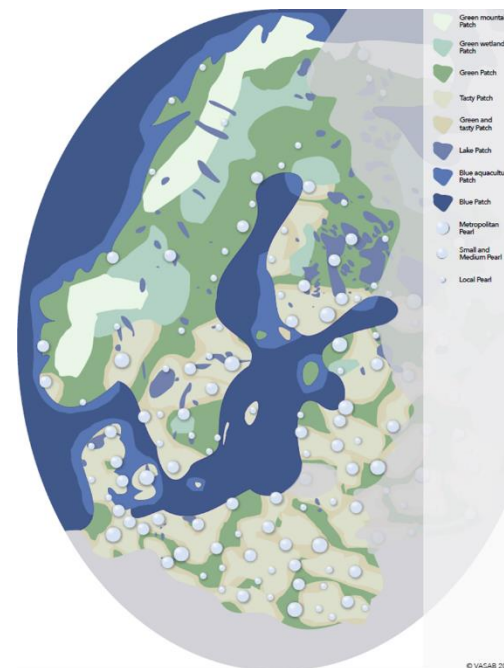
PEARLS



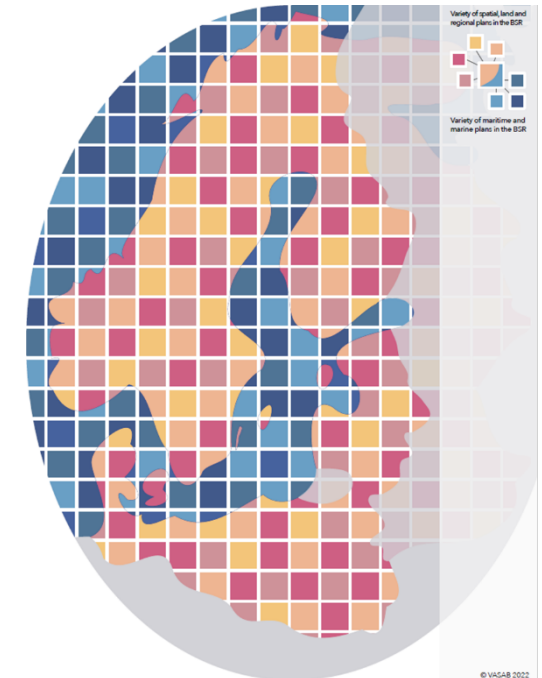
STRINGS



PATCHES



SYSTEMS



Endorsed by VASAB ministers on 2 June 2023 in Wismar, Germany

Pearls 2040



By 2040 all places, rural areas, small and medium-sized towns, cities and metropolitan areas offer high quality of life, building on their own comparative advantages and complementarities and being well networked with and across each other.

Local Pearls	Small and Medium Pearls	Metropolitan Pearls
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibrant, diversified local economies • Quality of life and social cohesion • Nature and ecosystem services • Urban-rural partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pioneers for innovation • Smart specialization and smart shrinking • City networks • Centers for services • Human-centricity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfaces to the world • Profiling, networks • City-Surrounding Cooperation, Greater Region responsibility • Diverse neighborhoods • Greener metropolises • Diplomacy

Carbon neutral Baltic pearls

Possible Future Actions	<i>Community-led cooperative economies</i>	<i>Small pearls academy network</i>	<i>The Baltic necklace</i>
	<i>Innovative digital services of general interest</i>	<i>Adaptation policies for demographic change / ageing</i>	<i>Urban pearls and their growth functional geography</i>
		<i>Sustainable tourism initiatives</i>	<i>Metropolitan visions</i>

Thank you!

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FOR THE BALTIC
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Policy Area Spatial Planning