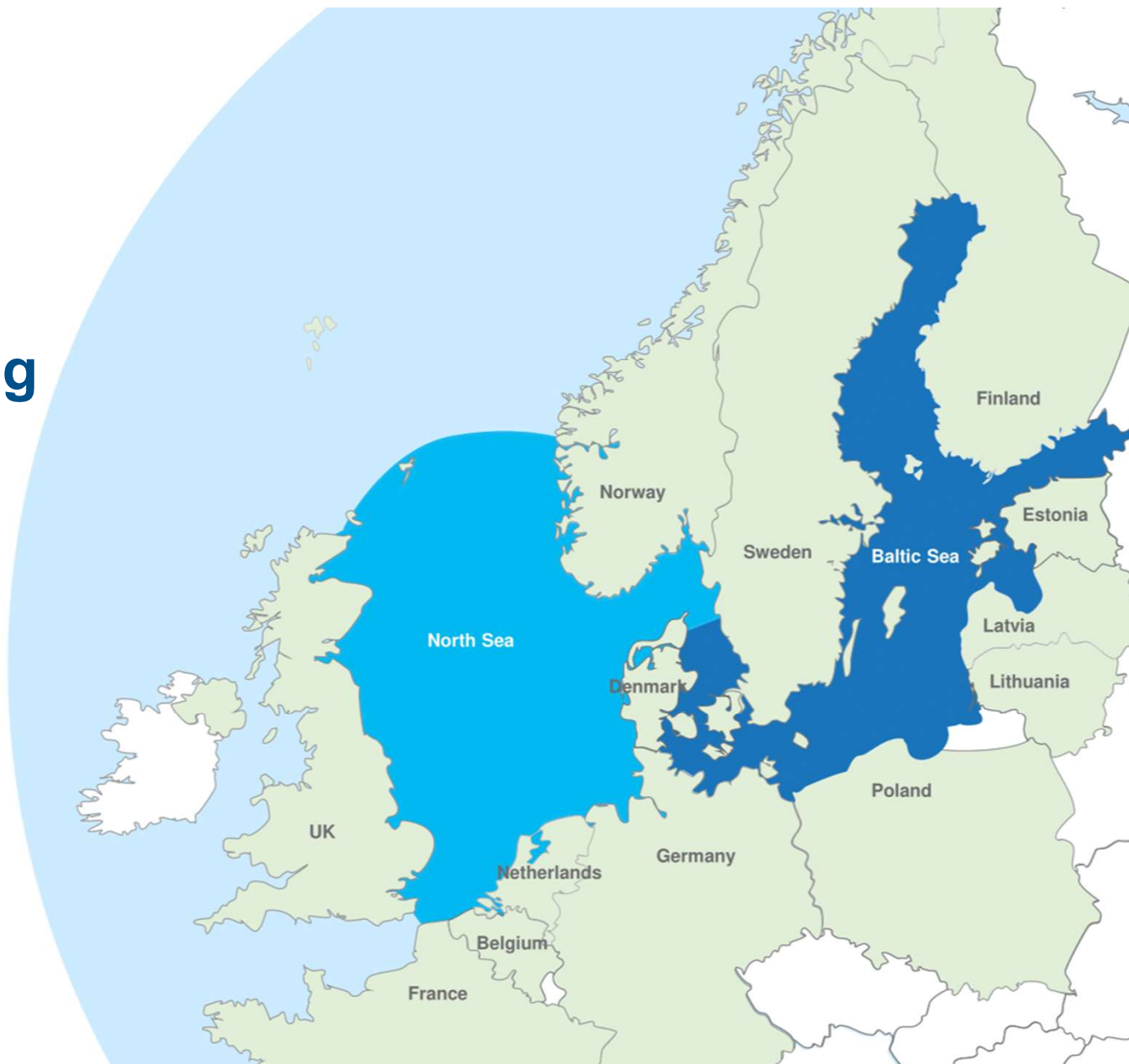




# Maritime Spatial Planning at Macro-regional Scale, Perspective from the Baltic

Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, HELCOM Secretariat

Egija Stapkēviča, VASAB Secretariat



**Interreg**  
Baltic Sea Region



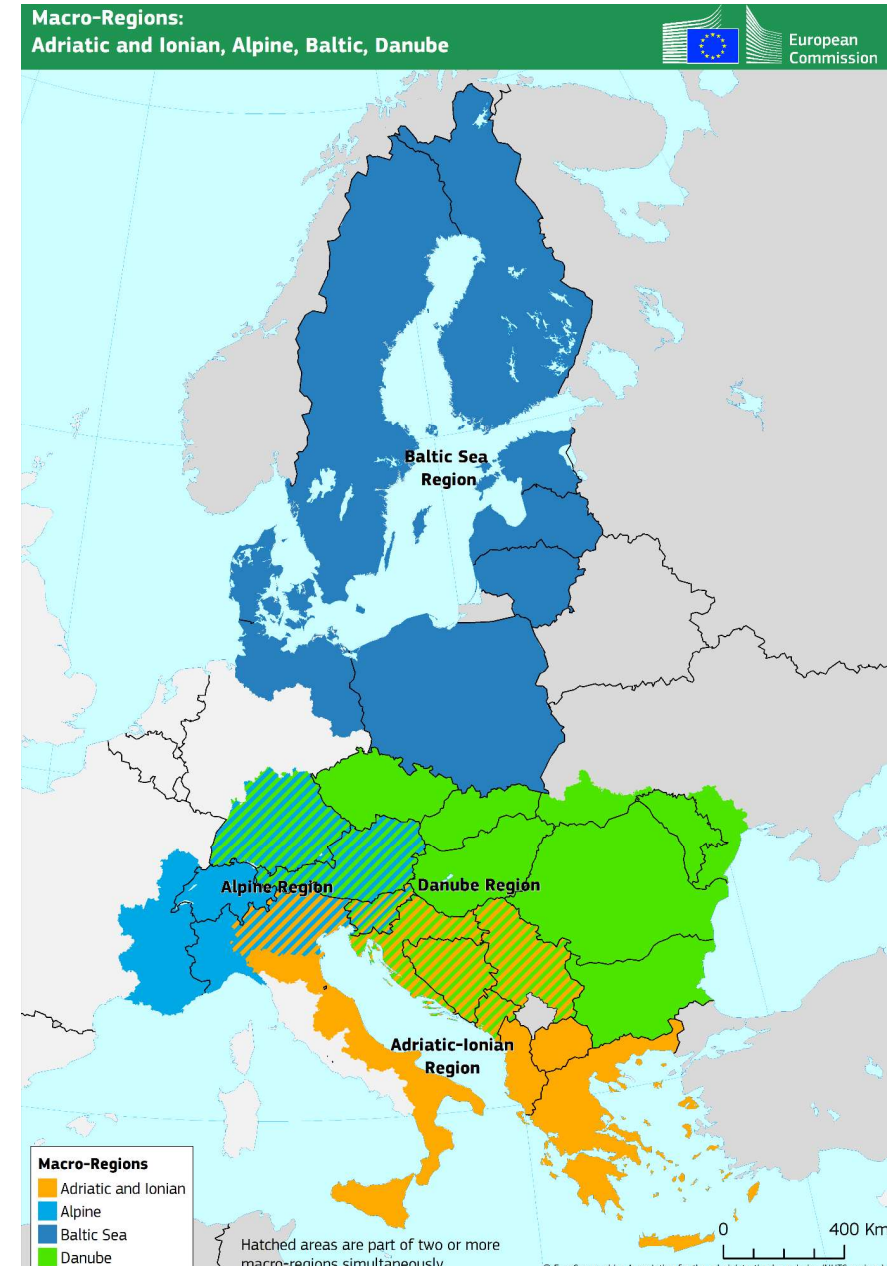
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Before we speak about MSP at macro-regional scale...

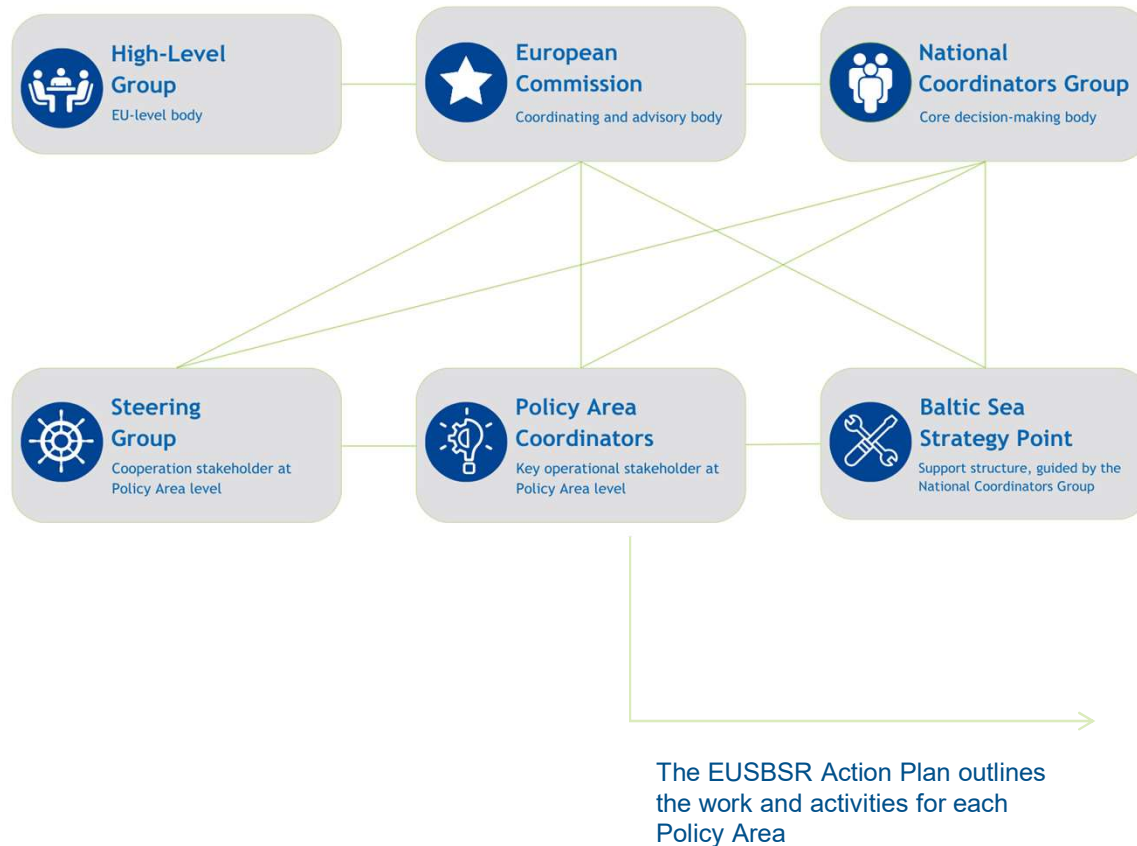
## Briefly on Macro-regional Cooperation

**EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)** is one of 4 EU macro-regional strategies.

A 'Macroregional strategy' is **an integrated framework** endorsed by the European Council **to address common challenges** faced by a defined geographical area.



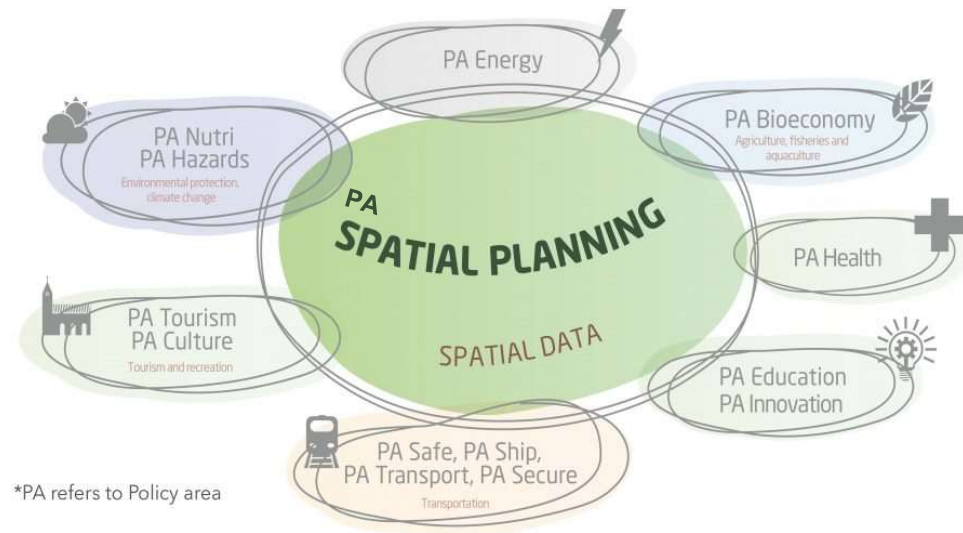
# EUSBSR Governance



List of organizations coordinating the EUSBSR Policy Areas

## EUSBSR (& Action Plan)

- Supports actions that implement and **strengthen governance** and communication activities.
- **Facilitates policy discussions** and trigger policy **changes**, build up **networks** and develop **projects** and other initiatives in the policy areas (PA) of the Strategy **in line with the EUSBSR Action plan**.
- **PA Spatial Planning** is currently coordinated by **VASAB** and **HELCOM**
- Two thematic areas: **land-based, MSP**



and many more macro-regional cooperations in BSR







# HELCOM

The Contracting Parties signed the first Helsinki Convention in 1974 and updated it in 1992. The current Convention entered into force in 2000.



## Helsinki Convention

The set of guiding principles and obligations signed by the Contracting Parties on the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea



## HELCOM Secretariat

Coordinates the work and meetings of the Helsinki Commission and ensures CPs meet their obligations under the Helsinki Convention

## The 10 Contracting Parties (CPs)



Each Contracting Party designates its own Head of Delegation as well as members of the Working Groups and of the Expert Groups and Networks



## Helsinki Commission (HELCOM)

HELCOM chairmanship rotates every two years between the Contracting Parties (CPs)



### Heads of Delegation

Permanently represent the CPs and are decision-makers



**HELCOM Working Groups**  
Develop recommendations, policies & strategies



### Expert Groups & Networks

Provide scientific and technical underpinnings



## Decision making in HELCOM



The highest decision-making body in HELCOM is the Ministerial Meeting (the meeting of the HELCOM line ministers of each CP) that takes place every three years.



The Helsinki Commission meets annually and is also entitled to make decisions. Its participants are designated by the CPs.

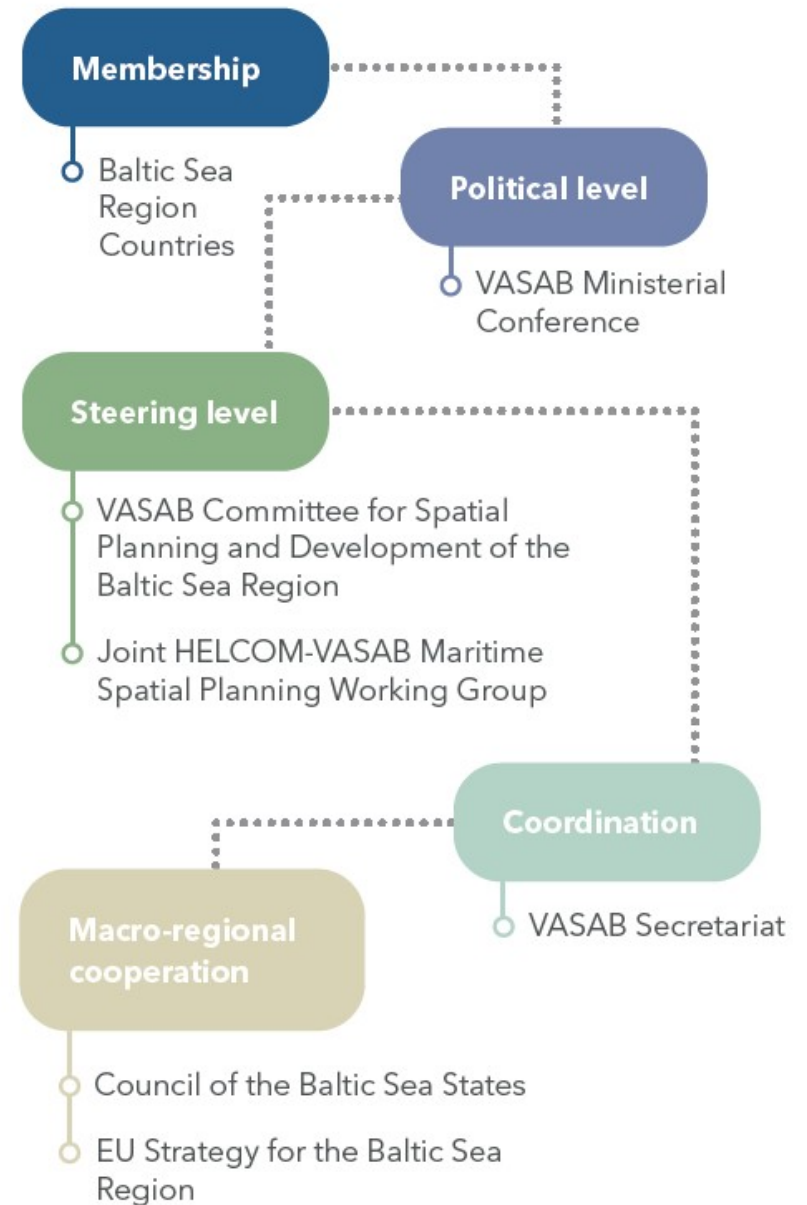


The Heads of Delegation meet twice per year and are also authorised to make decisions on behalf of the CPs.



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

Since 1992 &  
most recent **joint framework** is  
**VASAB Vision 2040**



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

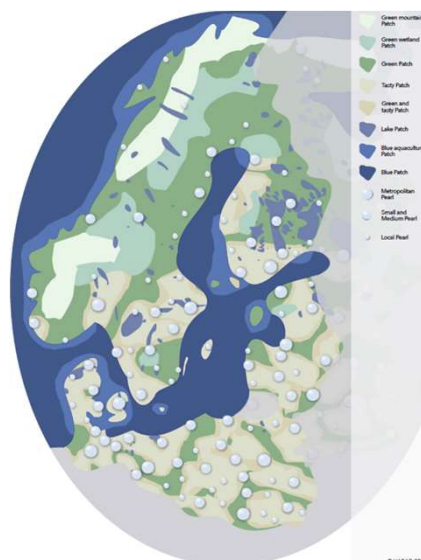
## Pearls



## Strings



## Patches



## System



# MSP at Macro-regional Scale



Baltic **Marine** Environment **Protection**  
Commission

***A unique cross-breed enabling a common  
approach and facilitating  
coherent Maritime Spatial Planning  
across the borders***



*Intergovernmental multilateral **co-operation**  
of 7 countries of the Baltic Sea Region in  
**spatial planning and development***

**HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group 2010-2030**

Joint HELCOM-VASAB  
MSP principles

Regional MSP Roadmap  
2021-2030

MSP Planners' Forum

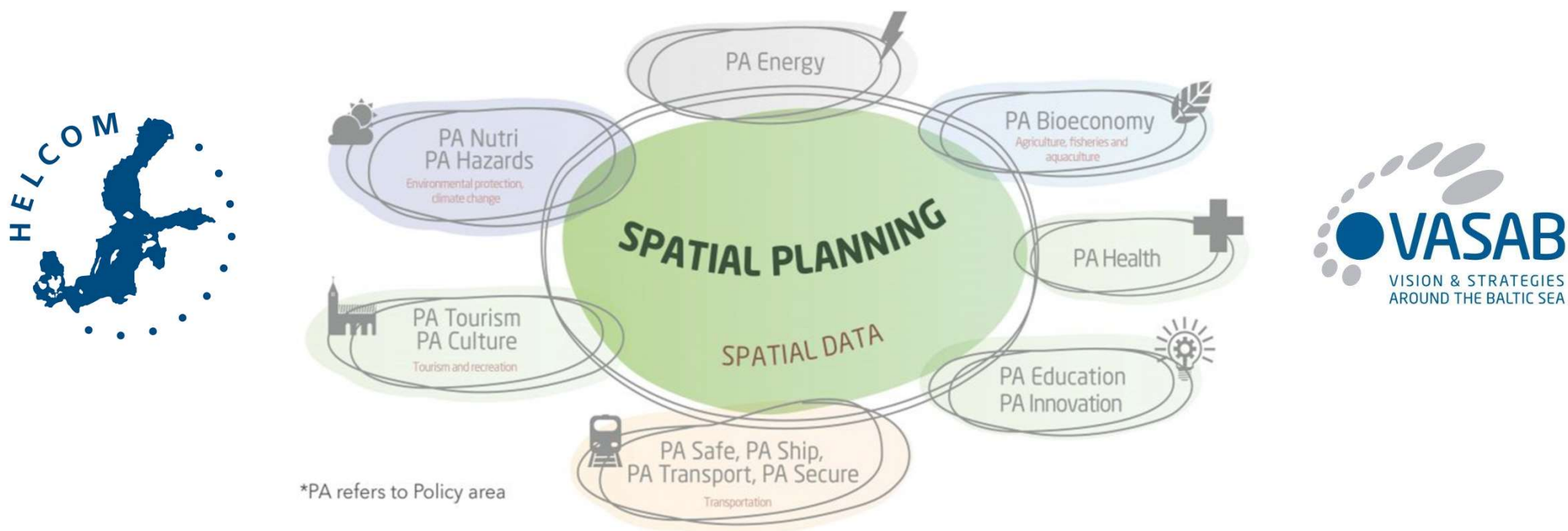
Agreed MSP guidelines  
(e.g. on Ecosystem-based  
approach in MSP)

Baltic MSP Forum –  
gathering ca300 MSP  
stakeholders once per 3-5  
years

Baltic Sea Region MSP Data  
Expert Sub-group



# MSP at Macro-regional Scale



PA Spatial Planning is embedded into HELCOM & VASAB structures

Steering group – VASAB CSPD/BSR and Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

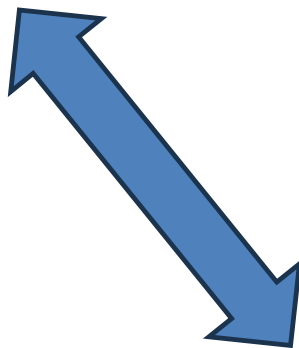
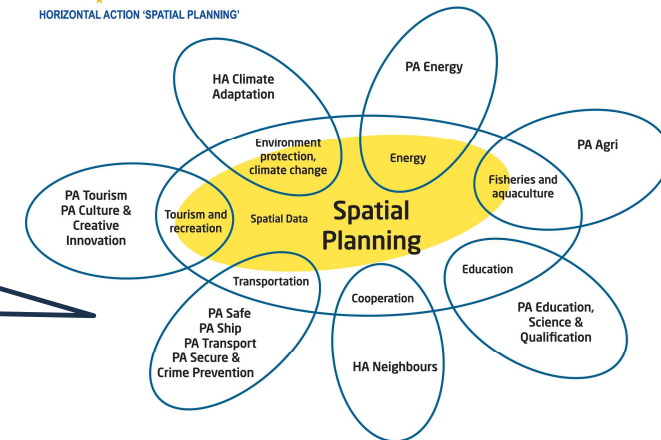
Coordinated by VASAB Secretariat & HELCOM Secretariat

Financially supported by Interreg Baltic Sea Region

**EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Planning:**

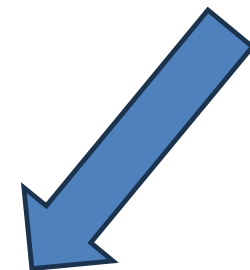
- ✓ for **regional, trans-boundary** and **cross-sectoral dialogue** on integrated coastal management and MSP
- ✓ enhances **stakeholders' engagement, community building** and new **project development**

# Baltic Sea MSP Governance structure

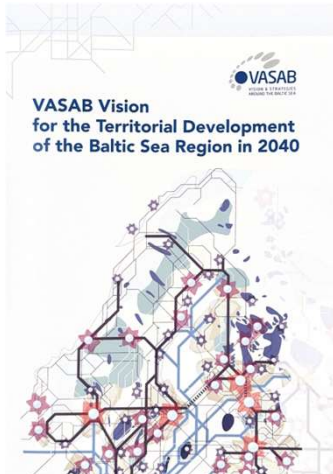


Baltic Sea Region MSP  
Data Expert Sub-group

MSP Planners' Forum



# Baltic Sea MSP Policy Framework



**Healthy Baltic Sea** - central asset around which the region prospers

## RESILIENT PATCHES OF ECOSYSTEMS AND UNIQUE AREAS AT SEA AND LAND

Sea and land environments of the Baltic Sea Region have high levels of biodiversity, intact, continuous and unbreakable ecosystems and overall a healthy nature securing the livelihood, production and good quality of life in all parts of the Region

## 10 Baltic Sea broad-scale (MSP) principles 2010



**MSP is a process to support the integrated management of sea-based human activities**

By **reducing their negative impacts**, MSP effectively contributes to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the various BSAP segments



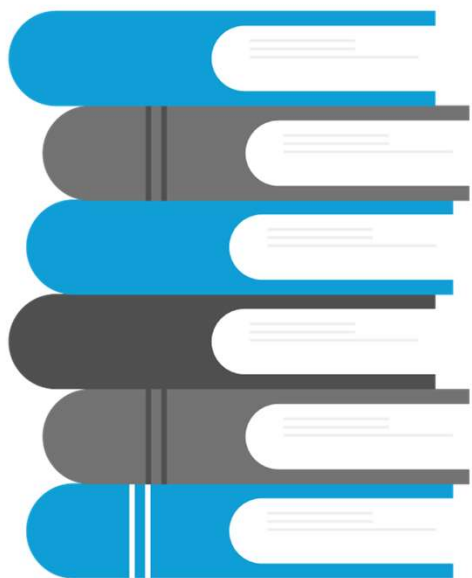
**Goal:**

Draw up and apply **maritime spatial plans** throughout the **Baltic Sea Region** by 2020

**Goal:**

Building a sound basis for an adaptive Maritime Spatial Planning process applying the **ecosystem-based approach**.

# Baltic Sea MSP Guiding Framework



**Guideline** for the implementation of **ecosystem-based approach** in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Baltic Sea area (2016) (under revision)

**Guidelines on transboundary consultations**, public participation and co-operation (2019)

**Guidelines on transboundary MSP output data** structure in the Baltic Sea (2019) (under revision)

**Voluntary guidance for** assessment of **cross-border coherence** in MSP (2022)

# Regional MSP Roadmap 2030 vs NESBp Tasks

**Objective 1. Implementation of MSPs builds knowledge base for the new MSP cycle.**



**T2.1:** Performing and testing cross sea basin dialogue

**T5.4:** Development of knowledge-sharing platform

**Objective 2. Maritime Spatial Planning improves regional policy coherence.**



**T2.6:** Enhancement of the effectiveness of transboundary governance

**Objective 3. Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to ... good environmental status.**



**T3.3:** Mitigation measures – a catalogue and gap-analysis on mitigation measures

**T3.4:** Cumulative Impact Assessment at North Sea Basin level

**T2.2:** Strengthening the application of the EBA

**Objective 4. Maritime Spatial Planning contributes to sustainable blue economy**



**T4.1:** Analyses and exploration of governance framework of ecosystem based Mariparks

**T4.4:** Governance of ecosystem based Mariparks

**Objective 5. Spatial planning contributes to climate change ... resilience of the Baltic Sea Region**



**T2.5:** Policy instruments for climate neutrality



# **Maritime Spatial Planning (Governance) at Macro-regional Scale in BSR**

## **First/Initial/Some Conclusions for possible consideration/discussion**

- MSP objectives reflect the values of VASAB and HELCOM (MSP is environmentally oriented)
- Very well operating/performing at macroregional level with clear vision, goals and well equipped with guiding documents for stakeholders (MSP planners)
- More efforts are needed to:
  - engage with local and regional governance levels (to enhance multilevel-governance, land-sea interactions);
  - deliver macroregional MSP knowledge to local and regional stakeholders;
  - boost cross-sectoral dialogue to support economies and effective/sustainable use of (sea) space (EBA guidelines)
- What else?

Thank you!



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[www.eusbsr.eu](http://www.eusbsr.eu)



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Baltic Sea Region



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