

# Welcome!



## Webinar on good planning & cooperation practices in the Baltic Sea Region

18 September 2025

/ 9:00-12:00 CEST /

Online

**SI.** Funded by  
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**ARL** ACADEMY FOR  
TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE LEIBNIZ ASSOCIATION

 **Nordregio**



 **EESTI PLANEERIJATE ÜHING**  
ESTONIAN ASSOCIATION OF SPATIAL PLANNERS

# project

## LAND-BASED PLANNERS' FORUM



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 **Nordregio**

 **VASAB**  
VISION & STRATEGIES  
AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

 **EESTI PLANEERIJATE ÜHING**  
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# Why?

## Baltic Sea Region and ...

### Challenges

Climate change,  
COVID pandemic,  
war against Ukraine,  
depopulation,  
urbanisation &  
urban-rural imbalances,  
economic growth,  
energy crisis,  
connectivity and  
new EU policies

### Strength

**Spatial planning has been identified as a valuable mechanism through which an adaptation to** various foreseeable as well as unpredictable **needs** and future scenarios **can be facilitated**

### Solution

Aim is to establish a **macro-regional working mechanism (cooperation platform) – Planners` Forum for land-based spatial planning** at various governance levels to strengthen the capacity and cooperation of spatial planners

# WORKSHOP ON GOOD PLANNING & COOPERATION PRACTICES IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION

18 September 2025  
9:00- 12:00 CEST  
in-person in Ilawa, Poland & online

**Moderator:**  
**Kinga Stańczuk-Olejnik,**  
Head of Territorial Dimension Unit  
Department of Strategy  
Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland

Time CEST	Programme
8:45	Connecting online
9:00-9:10	<b>Opening &amp; Introduction</b> Why a Planners' Forum for land-based planning in the BSR
9:10-9:20	<b>Who is in the room?</b>
9:20-9:35	<b>Baltic Sea Region Spatial Planning Systems of VASAB Member Countries</b> <i>Peter Schmitt, Professor in Human Geography with focus on Urban and Regional Planning, Director of the Master's Programme in Urban and Regional Planning, Department of Human Geography, Stockholm University</i>
9:35-9:50	<b>Land-based Planners' Forum Feasibility Study (incl. survey results)</b> <i>Kerstin Bly Joyce, Senior Research Advisor, Nordregio</i>
5 min	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
	<b>Inspiration talks – Good cooperation (for spatial planning &amp; development) practice examples</b>
9:55-10:05	<b>METREX and Riga experience</b> <i>Guntars Ruskuls, Head of the Strategic Management Division, Department of City Development, Riga State City Municipality</i> Network of metropolitan regions and areas in Europe – sharing urban and regional planning knowledge.
10:05-10:15	<b>MSP Planners' Forum</b> <i>Tina Šipkēvica, Spatial Planning Expert, VASAB Secretariat</i> <i>Elin Celik, Marine Spatial Planner, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM)</i> A platform for maritime spatial planners in the Baltic Sea Region to regularly exchange experience.
10 min	<b>Break</b>

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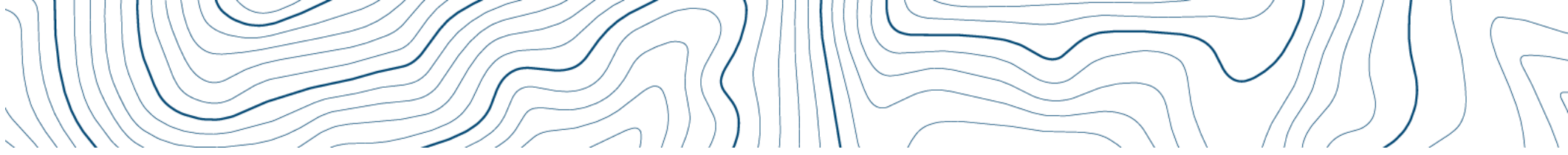
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## LAND-BASED PLANNERS' FORUM

10:25-10:35	<b>Small Town Academy (Kleinstadt Akademie)</b> <i>Carola Thomsen, Advisor for Urban Development at the Small Town Academy</i>
10:35-10:50	<b>URBACT</b> <i>Sylvia Widzisz-Pronobis, URBACT expert and Ad-Hoc expert at the In4Green URBACT Network in Dąbrowa Górnicza</i> <i>Maciej Zacher, URBACT expert and coordinator of the Schoolhoods URBACT Network in Skawina</i>
10:50-11:00	<b>UBC (Union of the Baltic Cities)</b> <i>Katarzyna Wisniewska, Urban Planner, Deputy Mayor of the City of Elbląg</i> A network of local governments promoting sustainable urban development and cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region, with a talk on the reconstruction of the Old Town in Elbląg.
11:00-11:10	<b>Estonian Spatial Planners Association (ESPA)</b> <i>Agnes Lihtsa, Adviser, Department of Land and Spatial Planning, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications; ESPA member</i>
11:10	<b>Panel discussion participants:</b>
	<b>VASAB CSPD/BSR</b> <i>Tiit Oidjärv, Head of Planning Policy, Land and Spatial Policy Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia</i>
	<b>ARL – Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association</b> <i>Britta Bockhorn, Head of the Staff Unit for International Affairs; Deputy Scientific Director</i>
	<b>UBC – Union of the Baltic Cities</b> <i>Paulina Szweczyk, Chairperson of the UBC Planning Cities Commission</i>
	Panelists will start with needs/opportunities, then cover what's missing, and end with what's next. The discussion will be guided by questions to help us understand how existing cooperation(s) works and where there are opportunities for the Land-based Planners' Forum.
11:55-12:00	<b>Wrap-up and next steps; announcement of the final event in Tallinn (February 2026)</b> <b>Moderator</b>

This event is intended for land-based spatial planners working in local, regional, or national public authorities across the Baltic Sea Region, as well as for existing cooperation networks focused on spatial planning issues. During the workshop, key findings will be presented, potential forum formats explored, and—most importantly—participant input welcomed.

Information and registration:



# Panel discussion participants:



**VASAB CSPD/BSR**

**Tiit Oidjärv,**

Head of Planning Policy, Land and Spatial Policy Department,  
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia



**ARL – Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association**

**Britta Bockhorn,**

Head of the Staff Unit for International Affairs; Deputy Scientific Director



**UBC – Union of the Baltic Cities**

**Paulina Szewczyk,**

Chairperson of the UBC Planning Cities Commission



*Save the date!*

**11-12 February 2026**  
**Tallinn, Estonia**

Face-to-face event with stakeholders (you!)

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# Thank you!

**For any questions,  
suggestions,  
inquiries, please  
reach out to**



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