



Dear VASAB friends,

As the Baltic Sea Region embraces the brightness of the summer solstice, we are pleased to share with you our latest newsletter, marking key developments and achievements in the first half of 2025.

We are also proud to announce that on the 1st July Poland will take over the chairmanship of the VASAB CSPD/BSR from Estonia, whose leadership successfully concludes with adopted VASAB Ministerial Tallinn Declaration on Spatial Resilience - a milestone that reaffirmed the shared commitment to fostering spatial and territorial resilience and cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and wish you a bright, inspiring, and refreshing summer!



Poland Takes Over VASAB Chairmanship

From 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2026, Poland will hold the chairmanship of the VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (VASAB CSPD/BSR). The Chairmanship will be led by Ms. Emilia Malak-Petlicka Deputy Director of the Strategy Department at the Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland.

The Polish Chairmanship will focus on strengthening spatial and territorial resilience, building on the developments by the previous Finnish and Estonian chairmanships. A key priority will be to advance territorial cohesion across different territorial scales and initiate a targeted analysis on measuring territorial resilience in the Baltic Sea Region.

In addition, Poland will organise a high-level Directors General meeting in 2026 to present the progress of ongoing VASAB work and achievements. Another highlight will be the 3rd VASAB Young Planners Summer School, to be held in August 2026 in Gdańsk, providing a platform for the next generation of spatial planning professionals to engage, collaborate, and co-create innovative territorial responses.

As part of its priorities, the Polish Chairmanship will also seek to ensure that VASAB's work meaningfully contributes to the follow-up of the Joint Warsaw Declaration, adopted by Ministers responsible for Cohesion Policy, Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters in May 2025 under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union – a declaration which sets a common vision for resilient, balanced and cohesive territorial development across Europe.

[Read more](#)



Join the 5th Baltic MSP Forum “Navigate Planning Through Changes”!

 **11-12 November 2025 in Riga, Latvia**

Under the slogan **“Navigate Planning Through Changes”**, the Forum’s agenda features a wide array of timely and pressing topics, including enhancing resilience and liveability of coastal communities, integrating ecosystem services into MSP, improving coastal accessibility, addressing climate change challenges in coastal municipalities, promoting blue-green infrastructure, and advancing multi-use and implementation of sustainable blue economy. Special focus will also be given to sea-basin/macro-regional and multi-level governance, ecosystem-based approach, effective use of space, security and safety in the Baltic Sea Region, and **the Sea2Land Navigator** – innovative planning tool developed within the Baltic Sea2Land project.

This year, the Forum is organized in close cooperation with the **Baltic Sea2Land project**, serving as its final conference, and broadens the scope to strengthen linkages between maritime spatial planning (MSP) and coastal zone planning.

Preliminary agenda is published and registration is now open!

More information and registration

LAND-BASED
PLANNERS'
FORUM

SI Swedish Institute, Stockholm University, ARL ACADEMY FOR TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE LEBAND ASSOCIATION, Nordregio, VASAB, Baltic Sea2Land project

Workshop on good planning & cooperation practices in the Baltic Sea Region

18 September 2025
/ 9:00-12:00 CET /
Online

Early bird registration is now open

What kind of cross-country cooperation can support spatial planners in the Baltic Sea Region? The Land-Based Planners’ Forum project is exploring it right now.

Through an in-depth comparison of national planning systems and a targeted survey of spatial planning professionals, the project investigates which collaboration mechanisms could effectively support planners working at national, regional, and local levels across borders.

A recent stakeholder survey gathered insights from 96 respondents from Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Sweden. These inputs, along with other insights, will guide a feasibility study for a Land-Based Planners’ Forum - a new space for connection, exchange, and collaboration among spatial planners in the Baltic

Sea Region.

To build this forum together, we invite you to an **interactive workshop on good planning & cooperation practices in the Baltic Sea Region on 18 September, 9:00 - 12:00 CET, online**. 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.

More information and early registration



SAVE THE DATE! EUSBSR Annual Forum 2025

“Securing the Future: Stronger Together – Building Stability in Times of Uncertainty”

 **29-30 October 2025 in Sopot, Poland**

The Annual Forum will address the crucial question: What actions are needed to build stability and a prosperous future for us all and the generations to come, across geopolitical, economic, social and environmental dimensions? With a dynamic programme of high-level plenaries, panel discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities, the forum will encourage collaboration on strategies in the Baltic Sea Region to tackle the challenges of stability and sustainability in changing times.

VASAB as the co-coordinator of the Policy Area Spatial Planning, Interreg BSR project platform “Baltic PlaNet” together with Policy Areas Energy and Secure are organizing a **session “Towards a Climate-Resilient Baltic Sea Region”** within the EUSBSR Annual

Forum. This session aims to promote collaborative, cross-sectoral climate adaptation across the Baltic Sea Region, fostering a more climate-resilient macro-region through knowledge exchange, practical tools, and innovative planning approaches.

Follow along for more details and join us at the session!



News from the EUSBSR Policy Area Spatial Planning

Reacting to Interreg BSR's call for Project Platforms, PA Spatial Planning initiated and submitted two Project Platforms that have been selected for funding by the Monitoring Committee on March 5, 2025. Only 8 project platforms out of 23 submissions have been selected, and 3 of them are PA Spatial Planning relevant (Baltic PlaNet, SEABAS and BSR Urban Mobility). Platform projects that have received funding and have been submitted by PA Spatial planning:

- **Strategic Ecosystem-Based Planning for the Sustainable Future of the Baltic Sea (SEABAS Project Platform)**

The SEABAS project platform aims to establish a Baltic Sea regional framework for integrating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) into Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), synthesizing prior outcomes to enhance the sustainable management of human activities at sea while promoting blue economy and biodiversity conservation.

- **Baltic Climate-Resilient Coastal Planning Network (Baltic PlaNet)**

The Baltic PlaNet project platform is a comprehensive initiative dedicated to enhancing the resilience of coastal communities in the Baltic Sea Region. By empowering municipalities to integrate climate change considerations into their spatial planning, the platform aims to safeguard both natural and urban environments.

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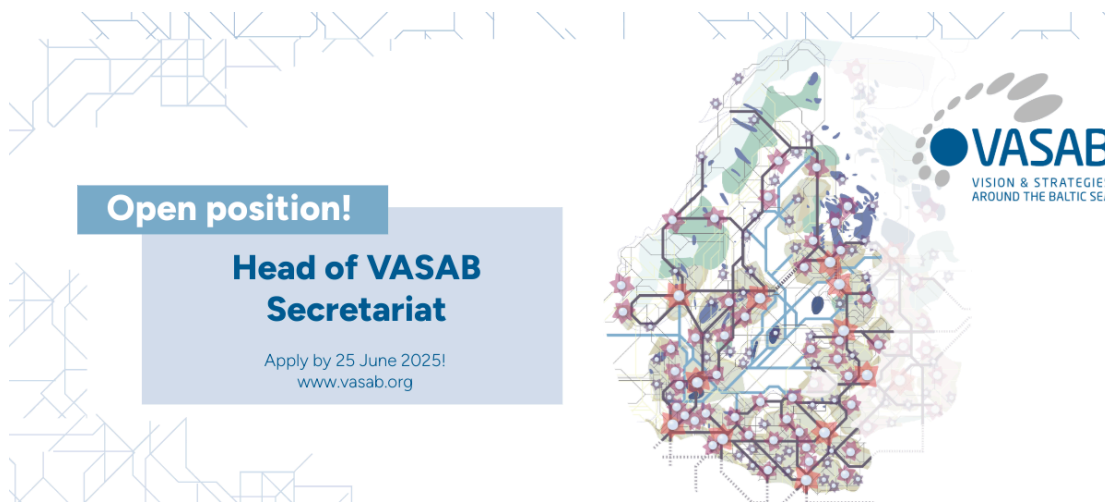


One ocean, shared future: Highlights from European Maritime Day 2025 in Cork!

On May 22–23, 2025, the city of Cork, Ireland, became the heart of Europe’s maritime conversation as it welcomed over 1,000 participants from across the continent and beyond for European Maritime Day (EMD). This year’s edition took on particular importance, taking place just one month before the official launch of the Ocean Pact - a bold new initiative to unite efforts for a healthy, resilient, and sustainably managed ocean.

VASAB was glad to participate in European Maritime Day 2025, contributing to the dialogue and reaffirming its commitment to sustainable maritime and coastal development in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond. In addition to advancing its stakeholder-driven strategic framework - VASAB Vision 2040, a long-term perspective for the region’s territorial development - VASAB actively supports the implementation of transnational cooperation projects. Notable examples include **Baltic Sea2Land**, which focuses on the sustainable development of coastal areas, and the **NESB project**, which promotes MSP as an integrative and adaptive tool, enhances cross-sea basin dialogue, and strengthens the sea-basin approach across both the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions.

[Read more](#)



Open position!

Head of VASAB Secretariat

Apply by 25 June 2025!
www.vasab.org

The State Digital Development Agency of the Republic of Latvia announces an open competition for the position of Head of the Secretariat of the “Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea”.

Apply by 25 June 2025

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Thank you for staying engaged with VASAB news. If you have any colleagues who would like to receive our newsletter, feel free to share the subscription link with them. Let's stay connected!

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Upcoming events

25-26 June, 2025, Gdansk, Poland
**ESPON Seminar - Exaptive Resilience
in Border Regions**
Read more >>>

16-18 September 2025, Itawa, Poland
96th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting

22-23 October 2025, Limassol, Cyprus
**EU Member States Expert Group on
Maritime Spatial Planning**

29-30 October 2025, Sopot, Poland
EUSBSR Annual Forum
Read more >>>

18 September 2025, online

**Land-Based Planners' Forum project
webinar on good planning /
cooperation practices**
[Read more>>>](#)

24-25 September 2025, Brussels, Belgium

**EU Macro-regional & Sea Basin
Strategies Days 2025**
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14-15 October 2025, Helsinki, Finland

REMAP project's final conference
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15-17 October 2025, Helsinki, Finland

**Informal consultation session of
HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG**

October 2025 (tbc), online

**Informal consultation session of BSR
MSP Data Expert sub-group**

4-7 November 2025, Słupsk, Poland

UBC General Conference
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11-12 November 2025, Riga, Latvia

**5th Baltic MSP Forum - Navigate
Planning Through Changes**
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12 November 2025, Riga, Latvia

7th MSP Planners' Forum

12-14 November 2025, Riga, Latvia

Liveability project's final conference
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25-26 November 2025, Germany

**GreenIndustrialAreas project's final
event**
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NB! All event dates are subject to change.

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