

## VASAB WORK PLAN 2025-2026

(as of 16 June 2025)

**VASAB CSPD/BSR (VASAB Committee) with support of the VASAB Secretariat continues valuable work in facilitating international cooperation in spatial planning according to the [VASAB Ministerial Declaration](#), [VASAB Vision 2040](#), VASAB Chairmanship priorities and VASAB Work Plan.**

### **Priorities set by the VASAB CSPD/BSR Chairmanships:**

#### Estonian Chairmanship (July 2024 – June 2025):

- Explore the links between the emerging topic of spatial resilience and VASAB Vision 2040;
- Highlight the importance of resilient spatial structures and communities;
- Strengthen collaboration between land-based spatial planners to fully utilize VASAB as informal knowledge and best practice hub for practitioners in spatial planning;
- Hold an international webinar to support regional equity, high quality, and sustainable spatial decision across governance levels, by sharing best practices and experiences of national level spatial policies across the BSR.

#### Polish Chairmanship (July 2025 – December 2026):

- Build up on the topics of previous chairmanships of Finland and Estonia: resilience, territorial resilience, and spatial resilience;
- Prepare a proposal for ESPON targeted analysis on measuring resilience in Baltic Sea Region (November 2025);
- Organise a Directors General meeting to present VASAB's work (May/June 2026);
- Hold 3<sup>rd</sup> VASAB Young Planners Summer School (August 2026).

### **Priority Actions of VASAB Vision 2040, proposed by the VASAB CSPD/BSR (January 2024):**

1. Good quality of life and adaptation policies in carbon neutral and resilient cities
  - Carbon neutral and resilient cities; Quality of life and public services in small towns and rural areas; Adaptation (policies) of settlements to crisis conditions; Capitalization of local values and assets to improve competitiveness and attractiveness of territories.
2. Multimodal and integrated mobility and transport connections
  - Intermodal mobility hubs on suburban/peri-urban environments; Sustainable & multimodal transport; Planning green transport solutions, involving energy provider; Bundling of freight transport flows, esp. in Nordics; Safety of maritime transport vs development of offshore wind turbines farms.
3. Secure, climate proofing and decentralized energy systems
  - Offshore energy development; Transformation from centralized to decentralized energy systems; Energy communities in the heating sector.
4. Sustainable blue economy and environmental protection in coastal areas and at the sea
  - Further development of multi-use concept for the Baltic Sea; Coastal & local communities – balancing pressures and vulnerability, traditions and innovation; Data availability; Awareness, communication, knowledge share.

No	Activity / Task	Outputs	Timeframe	Status	Notes
<b>Intergovernmental Multilateral Co-operation of the Baltic Sea Region in Spatial Planning and Development</b>					
1.	<b>VASAB Ministerial Conference</b> (VASAB Member states initiative)	VASAB Ministerial Conference			<a href="#">Wismar Declaration 2023</a>
2.	<b>VASAB CSPD/BSR</b>				
2.1.	VASAB CSPD/BSR	VASAB CSPD/BSR meetings Open Trio meetings Agendas, documents, presentations, reports Committee reports and summaries Open Trio reports	Up to 3 times per year Up to 3 times per year	19-20 March 2025 4 March 2025 16 June 2025 16-18 September 2025	<a href="#">CSPD/BSR meetings reports</a>
2.2.	Strengthen cooperation among BSR countries in spatial planning and development	All BSR countries are represented in VASAB CSPD/BSR (incl. Denmark and Norway)	Continuous	Active in VASAB: EE, LV, LT, PL, DE, SE, FI Suspended from 4 March 2022: RU, BY	
2.3.	Activities as part of the Estonian Chairmanship	Webinar on national level spatial planning during Estonian Chairmanship Land-based Planners' Forum project interaction with Estonian spatial planners (face-to-face event in Tallinn)	Spring 2025 May 2025	11 February 2025 <a href="#">Video, Presentations</a>	
2.4.	Activities as part of the Polish Chairmanship	Directors General meeting to present VASAB's work 3 <sup>rd</sup> VASAB Young Planners Summer School	April 2026 August 2026	<a href="#">24 April 2025</a>	
2.5.	Cooperate with other Pan-Baltic organizations (CBSS, UBC, etc.)	Pan-Baltic organisations represented in VASAB events and vice versa CBSS Expert Group of Sustainable Maritime Economy	Continuous		VASAB as observer
2.6.	Recommend transnational policy measures	Statements, policy briefs, recommendations Recommendations for coastal development & planning Online seminar to discuss Recommendations	Continuous 2025 June 2025	<a href="#">17 June 2025</a>	Baltic Sea2Land <a href="#">project</a>
2.7.	Cooperation with other cross-BSR initiatives (relevant projects)	Projects represented in VASAB events	Continuous		

2.8.	Promote a dialogue with sector institutions	The dialogue takes place	Continuous		Mainly through the <a href="#">EUSBSR Framework</a>
2.9.	Terrestrial Country Fiches	Publicly available on VASAB website, up to date information about terrestrial spatial planning (land-use planning) in the Baltic Sea Region countries	Continuous		
<b>VASAB Vision for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region in 2040</b>					
<b>3.</b>	<b>VASAB Vision 2040</b>				
3.1.	Preparation for update of VASAB Vision 2040	Analytical background paper 'VASAB Vision 2040 and spatial resilience' Ministerial Declaration	2025-2026		Signed via written procedure
3.2.	VASAB Vision 2040 Implementation	Assessment of VASAB Work Plan 2025-2026 VASAB Work Plan 2027-2028	Continuous		
3.3.	Promotion of VASAB Vision 2040 to increase awareness	Through various events and social media VASAB area vision passport*	Continuous		* Short document which includes key elements from the vision
<b>4.</b>	<b>Land-based planners' forum</b>	Feasibility study (stakeholder mapping, collaboration needs, all levels of government) Webinar (comparison of country planning systems, cooperation practices for planners) Stakeholder conference in Tallinn BSR cooperation mechanism proposal	March 2026  Sept/Oct 2025  February 2026 March 2026	18 September 2025	<a href="#">Project</a> , co-funded by Swedish Institute
<b>5.</b>	<b>Young Planners' Academy</b>	Third Young Planners' Summer School (Poland)	August 2026		Project application in 2025
<b>6.</b>	<b>VASAB Knowledge Hub to Shape Cooperating Planning Systems</b> (Transfer of knowledge contributing to cohesion of spatial planning in the region)	VASAB planners forum Multi-level governance enhanced Integrated land and sea observations and assessments Digital planning sharing platform Communication and dissemination	2025-2026		Supported by Interreg BSR Project Platforms: Baltic PlaNet SEABAS BSR Urban Mobility Future Cities Platform

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and Integrated Coastal Management					
<b>7.</b>	<b>HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group</b>	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Meetings Agendas, documents, reports, presentations	At least twice a year	7-9 April, 2025, Rostock 15-17 October, 2025	<a href="#">Workplan 2025-2027 of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG</a>
7.1.	Implementation of Regional Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2021-2030	Regional MSP Roadmap Interim Assessment Task Force meetings Survey on value of MSP Country Fiches	2025	21 March, 2025	Survey closed on 14 February
7.2.	Update of Ecosystem Based Approach Guidelines	EBA Task Force meetings A draft revised version of the Guideline on ecosystem-based approach in MSP	2025		Relevant to VASAB CSPD/BSR
7.3.	Knowledge sharing and networking across sea basins	Structure (platform) for cross-border collaboration and learning with North and Baltic Sea countries Assessment of the progress of policy instruments and other actions promoting climate neutrality Evaluation of current MSP governance in BSR Communication and dissemination	2025-2026		Northern European Sea Basins (NESBp) <a href="#">project</a>
7.4.	MSP Country Fiches	Publicly available on VASAB and HELCOM websites, up to date information about MSP in the Baltic Sea Region countries	Continuous		
<b>8.</b>	<b>BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group</b>	BSR MSP Data Expert Sub-group meetings (update on VASAB activities) Steering the use and developments of HELCOM Basemaps service	Up to two meetings per year	18 February 2025	Policy Area “Spatial Planning” Support ( <a href="#">PASPS</a> )
<b>9.</b>	<b>MSP Planners’ Forum</b>	MSP Planners’ Forum online/physical meetings, agendas, reports	Up to two meetings per year	<a href="#">25 March 2025</a> 12 november 2025, Riga	Policy Area “Spatial Planning” Support ( <a href="#">PASPS</a> )
<b>10.</b>	<b>5th Baltic MSP Forum</b>	5th Baltic MSP Forum in Riga (Logistics, procurements, speakers, moderator, parallel sessions/workshops, social programme, etc., including leading Forum Task Force composed of Baltic Sea2Land project partners)	11-12 November 2025		Baltic Sea2Land <a href="#">project</a> final conference
<b>11.</b>	<b>EU Member States MSP Expert Group</b>	EU Member States MSP Expert Group meetings (physical/online)	At least twice a year	24 March 2025	VASAB as observer

EUSBSR Policy area ‘Spatial Planning’ - a forum and cooperation platform for regional, trans-boundary and cross-sectoral dialogue towards more coherent planning					
12.	<b>Coordination of EUSBSR PA ‘Spatial Planning’ jointly with HELCOM</b>	Evaluation of <a href="#">PASPS Work Plan 2025-2026</a> PASPS Work Plan 2027-2028 Monthly meetings Updated EUSBSR Action Plan, PA ‘Spatial Planning’ description Reports on main outcomes and PA relevant projects to VASAB CSPD/BSR and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Feedbacks of VASAB CSPD/BSR and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG Reports to Interreg BSR, EUSBSR, DG MARE	2025-2026	28 January 2025	Policy Area “Spatial Planning” Support ( <a href="#">PASPS</a> )
12.1.	PAC presence in EUSBSR and PA relevant events	Regular exchange with Baltic Sea Strategy Point PA workshops and networking within EUSBSR Annual Forums, Blue Mission BANOS, European Maritime Day, EU Macro-regional and Sea Basin Strategies Days, EUSBSR Presidency, Funding Programmes, European MSP Week, ESPON Seminars	Continuous		Policy Area “Spatial Planning” Support ( <a href="#">PASPS</a> )
12.2.	Follow-up, Communication and exchange with key relevant projects (incl. ESPON)	PA news prepared and updated to EUSBSR and VASAB Newsletters <a href="#">PA Spatial Planning page on EUSBSR website up to date</a> Presentations from key projects Promotion material on PASPS project	Continuous		Policy Area “Spatial Planning” Support ( <a href="#">PASPS</a> )
12.3.	PA relevant project idea generation and development	An overview of project ideas generated, and organizations involved in the development of those ideas Targeted events to facilitate the development of perspective project ideas	2026		Policy Area “Spatial Planning” Support ( <a href="#">PASPS</a> )
VASAB Communication and Visibility					
13.	<b>Visibility, promotion of VASAB, VASAB projects</b>	Regular information and update of VASAB website Regular information and update of EUSBSR, HELCOM websites	Continuous		www.vasab.org

	<b>and regional policy impact of the outcomes</b>	Regular information on VASAB social media (X, LinkedIn, Facebook, Youtube channel) Thematic publications VASAB Newsletter Brochures, leaflets, etc. Video Representation materials	Twice per year		
13.1.	Participation in different events representing VASAB cooperation, VASAB Vision 2040, PA Spatial Planning, respective projects	Exhibition booth in relevant Pan-Baltic and EU Stakeholders networking events Presentations Project partners meetings		22-23 May, Cork, Ireland	<a href="#">European Maritime Day 2025</a>
13.2.	Develop a new VASAB website	Procurement procedure New VASAB website in operation	2025-2026	Concluded May, 2025	