

COMMITTEE ON SPATIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE BALTIC SEA REGION

**Draft Report of the 95<sup>th</sup> CSPD/BSR Meeting**

Online, 16 June 2025

**Chairperson:** Mr. Tiit Oidjärv (EE)

*Participants: CSPD/BSR members:* Mr. Piotr Piekut (DE), Ms. Mari Pohja-Mykrä (FI), Ms. Algimantė Treinienė (LT), Ms. Donata Paulauskaitė (LT), Ms. Diāna Rasuma (LV), Ms. Kinga Stańczuk-Olechnik (PL), Ms. Emilia Malak-Pęćlicka (PL), Ms. Maxi Nachtigall (SE), *invited guests:* Mr. Uģis Zanders (Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat), Ms. Sintija Vanaga (Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat), Mr. Tom Schumacher (Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg), Mr. Tõnis Nirk (CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, Ambassador-at-Large for Baltic Sea Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia), Mr. Andreas Sepp (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia), Mr. Jacek Zaucha (Maritime Institute in Gdansk, University of Gdansk), Mr. Jan Schmidtbauer Crona (SwAM), Mr. Peter Schmitt (Stockholm University), Ms. Kerstin Joyce (Nordregio), Ms. Lotta Ruokanen (HELCOM Secretariat), *VASAB Secretariat:* Ms. Egija Stapkēviča, Ms. Jana Patmalniece, Ms. Margarita Vološina, Ms. Tīna Šipkēviča and Ms. Liene Strazdiņa.

**DECISIONS and OUTPUTS**

1. The CSPD/BSR (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) adopted the Report of 94<sup>th</sup> CSPD/BSR meeting held on 19-20 March 2025 in Tallinn, Estonia without changes.
2. The Committee adopted the Summary of 94<sup>th</sup> CSPD/BSR meeting held on 19-20 March 2025 in Tallinn, Estonia without changes.
3. The Committee took note of the Report of the VASAB Open Trio online meeting on 2 June 2025.
4. The Committee took note of the information on Draft Tallinn Declaration of VASAB on Spatial Resilience and approval process in VASAB countries, as well as further steps after approval of declaration.
5. The Committee adopted the latest version of VASAB Work Plan 2025-2026 and agreed that the Work Plan should be published at VASAB website stating - 'Updated on 16 June 2025'.
6. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat shares via MS Teams platform adopted VASAB Work Plan 2025-2026 with the Committee to update the living document when necessary.
7. The Committee took note of the information about the outcomes of Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Warsaw Joint Declaration and main points regarding territoriality, future of Territorial Agenda and ESPON seminar 'Exaptive resilience in border regions' to be held on 25-26 June 2025 in Gdansk, Poland.
8. The Committee took note of the information about the upcoming Polish VASAB chairmanship.
9. The Committee took note of the information about the proposed concept of the ESPON targeted analysis and agreed that written comments should be sent to Ms. Kinga Stańczuk-Olechnik until 15 July 2025.

10. The Committee took note of the information about Vihula Declaration of the Council of the Baltic Sea States which was adopted in May 2025.
11. The Committee took note of the information about EUSBSR Policy Area 'Spatial Planning' news and activities, technical assistance project 'PASPS'.
12. The Committee took note of the information about 6<sup>th</sup> MSP Planners' Forum within 'PASPS' project which was held online on 25 March 2025 and hosted by VASAB Secretariat.
13. The Committee took note of the information about EUSBSR Annual Forum 2025 (including information about parallel session "Towards a Climate-Resilient Baltic Sea Region" organised by VASAB / Policy Area 'Spatial Planning' jointly with Policy Area 'Energy' and Policy Area 'Secure') which will take place on 29-30 October 2025 in Sopot, Poland.
14. The Committee took note of the information about Baseline report on marine digital twins and green shipping corridors in the Baltic Sea Region prepared by the Council of the Baltic Sea States.
15. The Committee took note of the information on the second draft of the revised Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Region developed by the task force of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group.
16. The Committee took note of the information about outcomes of informal consultation session of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group held on 7-9 April 2025 in Rostock, Germany.
17. The Committee took note of the information about progress of project 'Land-based Planners' Forum' (Swedish Institute) stakeholder mapping, survey, and comparison of seven Spatial Planning Systems in the Baltic Sea Region.
18. The Committee is invited to check the document 'Comparison of seven Spatial Planning Systems in the Baltic Sea Region' in relation to each VASAB country and provide feedback until 4 August 2025 to [egija.stapkevica@vasab.org](mailto:egija.stapkevica@vasab.org).
19. The Committee took note of the information on upcoming 'Land-based Planners' Forum' project online workshop on good planning & cooperation practices in the Baltic Sea Region to be held on 18 September 2025.
20. The Committee took note of the information about NESBp - Northern European Sea Basins project (EMFAF) progress.
21. The Committee took note of the information about the progress of Baltic Sea2Land project (Interreg BSR) and its final conference – 5th Baltic MSP Forum which will be held on 11-12 November 2025 in Riga, Latvia.
22. The Committee was reminded that all Committee members have received an invitation to 5th Baltic MSP Forum and are invited to share the invitation with colleagues/relevant stakeholders.
23. The Committee took note of the information about Interreg BSR project platform 'Baltic PlaNet' (Baltic Climate-Resilient Coastal Planning Network) progress.
24. The Committee took note of the information on preparation process for the Young Planners Summer School in August 2026 in Gdansk, Poland.
25. The Committee took note of the information about upcoming VASAB Workshop 'Towards updated Coastal Planning and Development Recommendations for the Baltic Sea Region' to be held on 17 June 2025 (organised within Interreg BSR Baltic Sea2Land project).
26. The Committee agreed to update VASAB Common Recommendations for Spatial Planning of the Coastal Zone in the Baltic Sea Region (1996) and align with the HELCOM Recommendation 24/10R on Implementation of integrated coastal management and maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea revision to ensure consistency in terminology and

incorporate cross-references between the two documents, as well as look into possibility to merge both recommendations.

27. The Committee took note of the information about operations of the VASAB Secretariat.
28. The Committee acknowledged the execution of VASAB Budget 2024 and took note of the auditor's Review Report by SIA "Auditorfirma Padoms".
29. Taking into account the audited VASAB Budget 2024, the Committee decided to amend the VASAB Budget 2025 the following:

1) Budget line A: Cash balance on 1 January 2025	add 4 585 EUR
2) Budget line B: Revenues	decrease by 5 966 EUR
3) Budget line C: Expenses	decrease by 10 792 EUR
4) Budget line C.1: Secretariat office	decrease by 10 241 EUR
5) Budget line C.1.1: Purchases of goods and services	decrease by 11 241 EUR
5) Budget line C.1.5: Services of Experts	add 1 000 EUR
6) Budget line C.2: Activities to be decided by CSPD/BSR	add 8 000 EUR
7) Partners` ERDF	decrease by 8 551 EUR
8) Add new Budget line: C.23: Baltic PlaNet project	add 25 000 EUR
9) Project reserve	decrease by 25 000 EUR
10) Budget line D: Cash balance on 31 December 2025	add 9 411 EUR.

Allow payout of the non-taxed salary bonuses in 2025 for the staff members of the Secretariat (total amount up to 2 220 EUR, included under the Budget line C.1.2: "Bonus payment" and respective social security payment reflected at the Budget line C.1.2: "Taxes and social charges").
30. The Committee took note of the information regarding launched competition for Head of VASAB Secretariat position, evaluation process of received applications and potential time of organising interviews.
31. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat organised a written procedure to update VASAB Cooperation Rules of Procedure: 1) update a sentence 'VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (LTP)' to 'VASAB Vision for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region in 2040'; 2) update a sentence 'Relevant international policies' to 'Relevant international and EU policies'; 3) update a sentence 'VASAB is a coordinator for the EUSBSR Policy Area (PA) Spatial Planning and implementation of LTP supports achieving the targets of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)' to 'VASAB is a coordinator for the EUSBSR Policy Area (PA) Spatial Planning and implementation of VASAB Vision for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region in 2040 supports achieving the targets of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)'; 4) update point No.2 to following wording 'VASAB CSPD/BSR is composed of the nominated representatives of the respective ministries/regional authorities represented in VASAB cooperation from Estonia, Finland, Germany (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and Schleswig-Holstein regions), Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden. CBSS participates as an observer. It is possible for other BSR countries to become members of VASAB Cooperation. Due to the war in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia are suspended from the VASAB cooperation as of 4<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 based on a decision by the EU Member States participating in VASAB'; 5) update point 3.b to following wording 'CSPD/BSR has given a mandate on MSP matters to the Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group (WG), including those of the MSP within the EUSBSR and PA. CSPD/BSR oversees activities of the Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG'; 7) delete point 7; 6) update point No.20 to following wording 'Materials of the VASAB CSPD/BSR meetings are available prior each meeting on MS Teams platform'; move section 'VASAB Trio' with points No.24, 25 and 26 to section 'Modus Operandi'.

32. The Committee agreed that VASAB Secretariat shares with the Committee VASAB Secretariat Rules of Operations for commenting, and a separate meeting should be organised online to discuss necessary changes in the document.
33. The Committee took note of the information about Latvian Ministry's of the Smart Administration and Regional Development need for a partnership (national, sub-national level) to submit a project application to Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme on coastal monitoring topic, probably under priority "Resilient economies and communities".
34. The Committee agreed to hold 96<sup>th</sup> CSPD/BSR meeting on 16-18 September 2025 in Ilawa, Poland.