



Dear VASAB friends,

As Midsummer brings the Baltic Sea Region together in its unique tradition of light and community, we are pleased to share with you the latest VASAB newsletter.

In this edition, read more about the first integrated land-sea resilience assessment in Europe being developed through the Baltic ReSeaLand project - a direct response to the VASAB Ministerial Tallinn Declaration on Spatial Resilience. You will also learn about the upcoming VASAB Young Planners' Summer School in Gdańsk (23–29 August 2026), discover early progress in shaping the Land-based Planners' Forum, and explore the revised guideline for ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning. We also share highlights from VASAB's engagement at the 17th EUSBSR Annual Forum in Tallinn and the kick-off of new Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme project platforms, along with other recent news and upcoming events from across the network.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and wish you a bright, relaxing, and inspiring summer.



Baltic ReSeaLand Launches Europe's First Integrated Land–Sea Resilience Assessment

The Baltic Sea Region faces compounding pressures - geopolitical tensions, climate change, energy insecurity, and demographic shifts. To strengthen the evidence base spatial planners need, VASAB has initiated **Baltic ReSeaLand** project under the **VASAB Polish Chairmanship**, responding directly to the **VASAB Ministerial Tallinn Declaration on Spatial Resilience** (June 2025).

Funded by **ESPON** and underway since early 2026, Baltic ReSeaLand is Europe's first fully integrated land-sea resilience assessment. For the first time, both terrestrial and maritime spaces are assessed together, delivering vulnerability and resilience maps, harmonised indicators, and a pioneering methodological framework for sea-space resilience. Results will support planners at pan-Baltic, national, regional, and local levels, with first findings expected in early 2027.

[Read more about Baltic ReSeaLand project](#)



CBSS Funding Granted to Boost VASAB Young Planners' Summer School

The VASAB Young Planners' Summer School "Navigate Planning Through Changes" has withstood fierce competition in **CBSS Project Support Facility (PSF) call** and is among five selected projects who will receive the funding for its implementation. CBSS funding will ensure possibility for more young professionals and experts to take part in the event and enrich its content. The Summer School will take place on 23-29 August 2026 in Gdansk, Poland, with the aim to strengthen societal security and resilience in the Baltic Sea Region by equipping young spatial planners with skills to address emerging risks, including climate change and infrastructure vulnerability.

Organisers have selected 30 young spatial planning professionals from Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Denmark and Ukraine to take part in VASAB Young Planners' Summer School. During the event participants will be divided into six groups with the aim in a competitive way to solve four spatial planning challenges:

- Preparedness and resilience;
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation, including green energy investment;
- Connections between people and places;
- Effective use of space, including no net land take and multiuse concepts.

3rd edition of VASAB Young Planners' Summer School is organised as part of VASAB Polish Chairmanship and is co-organised by VASAB Secretariat, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy of Poland, Gdansk University of Technology in partnership with Estonian Association of Spatial Planners and Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association (ARL).

[Read more](#)



VASAB's Baltic Sea Region Spatial Planning Expertise Contributes to Newly Adopted EU Strategy for Coastal Communities

The European Commission has adopted the first-ever **EU Strategy for Coastal Communities**. During EU Ocean Days 2026 on 6 March 2026 in Brussels, VASAB contributed to the panel discussion "Towards an EU Strategy for Coastal Communities", organised by DG MARE as part of the consultation process for the strategy. The session provided an opportunity for VASAB to bring the Baltic Sea Region perspective into the broader European discussion on coastal governance.

The experience of macro-regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region highlights the importance of integrated spatial planning and coordinated governance approaches in supporting resilient and sustainable coastal communities. The newly adopted strategy sets out for the first time a coordinated European approach to support coastal territories and unlock their long-term potential, a significant development for spatial planners working in coastal areas across the Baltic Sea Region.

[Read more and watch the video recording from panel discussion](#)



Towards a Land-based Planners' Forum in the Baltic Sea Region

In just 18 months, the Land-based Planners' Forum grew step by step from a gap analysis into a live, VASAB-endorsed cooperation platform connecting spatial planners across seven Baltic Sea Region countries.

Built through **stakeholder mapping**, a **feasibility study**, and a launch conference in Tallinn bringing together 45 practitioners from across the region, it validated the concept and confirmed strong demand. The Forum is still evolving and shaped by its members, but its purpose is clear: to give planners tackling shared challenges like climate adaptation, energy transition, and depopulation a regional peer network to match.

[Read more](#)

Revised Guideline Strengthens Ecosystem-Based Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea

The HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group has revised the Guideline for the implementation of the ecosystem-based approach in MSP in the Baltic Sea area.



It is a practical resource for planners, walking through each stage of the MSP process, from goal-setting to monitoring, with concrete guidance on cumulative impact assessment, data sources, climate-smart planning and stakeholder engagement.

At a time of real complexity, climate change, shifting security conditions and broader geopolitical pressures, the ecosystem-based approach remains a clear and principled foundation for spatial decisions in the Baltic Sea region.

[Read more and download full guideline](#)

Just 10 minutes!

Your knowledge and opinion will help drive climate-neutral planning!

Share your perspective on MSP and climate neutrality in the Baltic Sea Region

NESBp Co-funded by the European Union

Share Your Perspective on MSP and Climate Neutrality in the Baltic Sea Region!

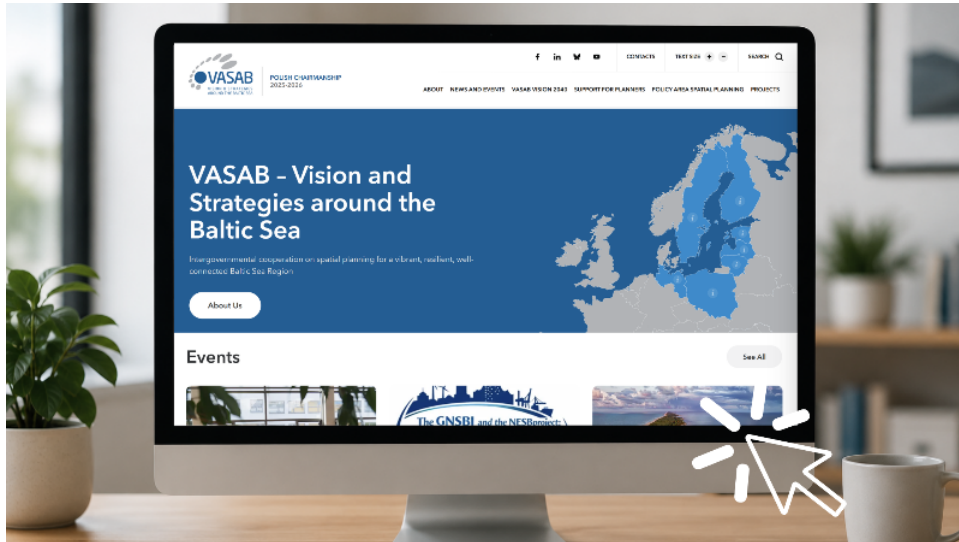
We invite MSP practitioners and stakeholders from across the Baltic Sea Region to participate in a short survey exploring how Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) can support climate neutrality and climate change mitigation goals. The survey

takes up to 10 minutes and you are welcome to answer only those questions that fall within your competence.

The survey covers topics such as offshore renewable energy development, protection of marine and coastal habitats, successful climate-related initiatives, and future planning tools and measures needed to achieve EU climate objectives.

Your input will help identify ways to strengthen the role of MSP in supporting climate neutrality across the region. The survey is conducted by BEF Latvia and VASAB Secretariat within www.NESBproject.eu.

[Access the survey here](#)



Discover New VASAB Website

VASAB has launched its new website with an updated design, improved navigation and content structure. The website continues to serve as a central source of information on VASAB's activities, publications, projects, and regional cooperation initiatives across the Baltic Sea Region.

A key addition to the new website is the **Support for Planners** section, it provides access to valuable resources of expert networks, planning forums, policy documents, practical tools, best practices, and learning opportunities for professional development in spatial planning across the Baltic Sea Region.

www.vasab.org

More News from VASAB:

- **Building Spatial Resilience in the Baltic Sea Region at the 17th EUSBSR Annual Forum.** [Read more>>>](#)
- **Exploring Scenario Development in Maritime Spatial Planning: Insights from the 8th MSP Planners' Forum.** [Read more>>>](#)
- **Northern European Sea Basins project showcasing MSP collaboration in European Maritime Day 2026.** [Read more>>>](#)
- **New Interreg BSR Projects Selected: What They Mean for Spatial Planners Across the Region?** [Read more>>>](#)
- **Baltic PlaNet at the 17th EUSBSR Annual Forum.** [Read more>>>](#)
- **Join the Baltic PlaNet Stakeholder Network!** [Read more >>>](#)

[All VASAB News](#)

Upcoming Events

29 June - 3 July 2026, Helsinki, Finland

World Planning Schools Congress "Peripheral Visions – Rethinking Planning"

[Read more >>>](#)

7-8 July 2026, Wexford, Ireland

EU Ocean Act Conference 2026

[Read more >>>](#)

8-9 July 2026, Brussels, Belgium

EU Macro-Regional and Sea Basin Strategies Days

[Read more >>>](#)

23-29 August 2026, Gdansk, Poland

VASAB Young Planners' Summer School "Navigate Planning Through Changes"

[Read more >>>](#)

30 August - 1 September 2026, Lübeck, Germany

35th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference 2026

[Read more >>>](#)

8-9 September 2026, Gdynia, Poland

"Baltic Active Mobility 2026: Shaping Future Cities" SUMPs for BSR and BATS projects' final conference

[Read more >>>](#)

27-28 October 2026, Gdansk, Poland

First VASAB Directors' General meeting

28 October 2026, Gdansk, Poland

99th VASAB CSPD/BSR meeting

9-10 November 2026, online

Informal consultation session of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG

NB! All event dates are subject to change.

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