



Document title	Developments and activities related to the EUSBSR and HA Spatial Planning
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Background

This document contains information on the development and activities related to the EUSBSR and HA Spatial Planning until November 2017.

Action requested

The meeting is invited to take note of the document

Developments and activities related to the EUSBSR and HA Spatial Planning

HELCOM and VASAB are co-coordinators of Horizontal Action (HA) Spatial Planning of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). The joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group acts as the steering committee for the HA Spatial Planning concerning MSP issues. Both Secretariats assist the WG in this role, by e.g. keeping the group informed of activities related to the (EUSBSR) and HA Spatial Planning (such as funding opportunities and meetings) and representing the HA in various meetings and processes as needed.

EC activities towards the next Multi-annual Financial Framework

The European Commission has recently published the 7th report on economic, social and territorial cohesion "[My Region, My Europe, Our Future](#)". The report gives a background for the next year's European Commission's proposal for the next multi-annual financial framework. The report describes how cohesion has evolved in EU regions over the recent past and what needs to be done in the post-2020 financial period.

Flagships of MSP relevance:

Title	Funding	Duration	Latest activities
<p>Baltic LINes - Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans</p> <p>14 partners, 8 associated organisations, lead partner: Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency, DE</p>	Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020	3 years [Mar2016-Mar2019]	<p>Previous project partner meeting: 19-20 September 2017, Gothenburg</p> <p>Next activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy focus group meeting (e.g. on planning criteria) back-to-back with Baltic InteGrid MSP meeting, 22 Nov; - MSP Challenge user testing in December, Breda, NL <p>Planned deliverables: prototype of the BSR MSP Data infrastructure; Future requirements for MSP in relation to shipping and energy sectors in BSR; Suggestions for transnationally coherent planning solutions and transboundary consultations for linear infrastructures; 3rd BSR MSP Forum together with NorthSEE project in November 2018, Hamburg.</p>

Other projects of MSP & ICM relevance

Title	Role of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Funding	Duration	Latest activities
MSP & ICM projects				
Plan4Blue Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Blue Economies	Letter of Support issued by H-V MSP WG on 25 Feb 2016	INTERREG Central Baltic Programme; 2nd Call	3 years [Oct2016-Dec2019]	Project workshop "Scenarios for Blue Economy", 15-16 Jun 2017, Helsinki
BaltSpace Towards Sustainable Governance of Baltic Marine Space	<i>Follow project activities</i>	BONUS Programme 2010-2017	3 years [Apr2015 - Mar2018]	Presented and discussed findings from the BONUS BALTSPEACE project at the BONUS BASMATI project kick-off event, 28 Sept 2017, Stockholm; MSP summer school 2016.

BaltCoast A systems approach framework for coastal research and management in the Baltic	<i>Follow project activities</i>	BONUS Programme 2010-2017	3 years [Apr2015 - Mar2018]	BONUS BaltCoast 2 nd Summer School 2017, Latvia, 20-26 Aug 2017
MCH & MSP Towards Integrated Maritime Heritage Planning and Management in the Baltic Sea Baltic RIM Integrated maritime cultural heritage management in the Baltic Sea region	Letter of Support issued by H-V MSP WG on 1 June 2016	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020; 2nd Call	3 years [Autumn 2017 - Autumn 2020]	<i>Project implementation October 2017 - October 2020</i>
PanBaltic SCOPE The objective of the project is to achieve coherent national maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea region and to build lasting macro-region mechanisms for cross-border MSP cooperation.	HELCOM & VASAB as partners	DG MARE (Call EASME/EMFF/2016/1.2.1.6.)	2 years	<i>Project agreement formalities</i>
Interreg BSR Programme 4th Priority projects				
Let`s Communicate! Let`s Communicate the EUSBSR for the benefit of the region	VASAB as partner	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020	3 years [Aug 2016 - Jan 2019]	Project partner meeting 18-19 Oct 2017, Riga
HASPS 2 Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" Support 2	VASASB as lead partner & HELCOM as partner	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020	2 years [Aug2016-Jul2018]	BSR MSP Data Expert sub- group meetings (Dec 2016 Warsaw, Apr 2017 Riga and 13-14 Sept 2017, Helsinki; <u>next meeting: 14-15 Dec 2017 Tallinn</u>)

Updating the HA Spatial Planning brochure

Taking into account that new projects have been launched, the brochure of updated information about the objectives and structure of HA Spatial Planning, flagships and other related projects could be provided by first half of 2018.

Follow-up on funding activities

Interreg BSR Programme – according to the results of **2nd Call** assessment the project proposal “**Baltic Sea Region Integrated Maritime Cultural Heritage**” (**BalticRIM**) was approved. The project has been supported by the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group on 1 June 2016; project is lead by State Archaeological Department of Schleswig-Holstein.

Programme`s 3rd Call is open from 5th October 2017 till 9th April 2018 for applications for all three Programme`s thematic priorities: 1) capacity for innovation, 2) management of natural resources and 3) sustainable transport, and for all specific objectives under these priorities. A specific focus of this call is to increase institutional capacities of public authorities in all levels of governance. All applying projects are expected to include public authorities with a relevant role in their partnerships.

Programme has opened the **1st call** for applications for **project platforms** which shall ensure a more intensive use, better durability and transferability of the projects` outcomes. The applications are welcome in all 3 thematic priorities in the following topics: smart specialisation, clear waters, blue growth, intermodality of transport modes, maritime safety and environmentally friendly shipping. The Call is open from 5th October 2017 till 28th February 2018.

The Programme`s 3rd Call for applications for **support to the EUSBSR PACs&HACs** will be open from 1st November 2017 till 21st March 2018. HA “Spatial Planning” is considering to apply for funding for HASPS3.

Interreg Central Baltic Programme (EE, LV, SE, FI, Åland) – the 3rd Call 2nd step was open until 15 Sep 2017. There is no indication yet whether any project concerning MSP has been submitted. The decision on approved projects will be available on 30 November 2017.

Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 (DE, DK, LT, PL, SE) - the 4th call for proposals was open between 22 May and 30 June 2017. Following the assessment phase, the selection of the 4th call projects is expected to be made on 8-9 November 2017. The 5th call for proposals will be open between 13 November and 15 December 2017. The decision on the specific objectives of the Call will be made in the beginning of November.

Interreg Europe – 3rd Call was open 1 March - 30 June 2017. Monitoring Committee decision on which applications are approved will be available in December 2017. There is no indication yet whether any project concerning HA “Spatial Planning” has been submitted.

EUSBSR Seed Money

Seed money is EU funding to prepare projects that contribute to one of the priority areas or horizontal actions of the EUSBSR. The Seed money gives an opportunity to draft a project plan that can be further developed into an application to any of the EU or national funding sources.

In the 1st EUSBSR Seed Money Call two projects of MSP & ICM relevance (**Land-Sea-Act** and **MSPDAT**) were approved for Seed Money funding. Both Seed Money projects should be finalized by August 2018.

The next – 2nd Seed Money Call will be open in autumn 2019. Taking into account the fact that in next 2 years most of the Interreg funds will be committed and to avoid the situation that seed money projects develop plans without any real funding options, there was agreement to postpone the 2nd call to the latest possible time (end of 2019). In this case seed money would work also as “bridging funding” between the funding periods.

Events related to EUSBSR

The 8th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR was held on 13-14 June 2017 in Berlin, Germany. HA Spatial Planning was present via several workshops and activities in the Forum:

- by co-organizing two seminars:

- **“The Connected Society – a Transformation to the Baltic Smart Cities”** – the seminar introduced current and upcoming developments of the BSR Cities towards “smart” governance and connected society. Additionally, the seminar discussed how the BSR countries can contribute to improve the performance of their “smart” and prosperous cities and regions.
- **“What’s the future? Testing the possible scenarios for shipping and energy in the Baltic Sea and how to integrate them into maritime spatial planning”** – the seminar introduced to proposals for future scenarios of the shipping and energy sectors in relation to maritime spatial planning that were developed in frames of the Baltic LINes project (Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans). During the seminar, participants had the chance to play a strategy board-game “MSP Challenge” in which the proposed scenarios were visualised.
- By taking part at the seminars:
 - **“Sustainable transport connections in the Baltic Sea Region – added value of building up cooperation platforms for transport projects”** – the seminar aimed to find out how project platforms co-financed by Interreg Baltic Sea Region would support the work of PA Transport, Ship and Safe and the HA Spatial Planning towards EUSBSR objectives for sustainable and efficient transport systems in the Baltic Sea region.
 - **“Regional cooperation to connect regions to the TEN-T corridors”** - the seminar pointed out the benefits of the TEN-T Core Network Corridors implementation in the Baltic Sea Region in terms of connectivity. The seminar was organised in close cooperation with three Interreg BSR programme transport corridor projects: NSB CoRe, TENTacle, Scandria. VASAB introduced participants to the concept of spatial vision for the TEN-T corridor, the first of such type being developed within NSB CoR project.

VASAB as a partner in the **“Let's communicate!”** consortium was also involved in the Connectivity Lounge activities.

The 9th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR “After 2020” will be held on 4-5th June 2018 in Tallinn, Estonia. The main topics of the Forum will be:

- Cohesion Politics and EUSBSR after 2020;
- EUSBSR and Digital World;
- EUSBSR and Maritime Environment.

The Call for parallel seminars will be open in January 2018, approximately 21 seminars are expected to be organized. A draft Program of the Forum might be available in April 2018.

EUSBSR HAC/PAC Coordination meeting was on 19-20 September 2017 in Riga, Latvia as one of the 6 thematic modules within the Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020 project “EUSBSR Support” carried out by HA Capacity. The first module/workshop focused on funding alignment and future options beyond 2020. The next coordination meeting is planned on 11-12 December 2017 in Tallinn.

Other events

VASAB was represented in the [All-Russia Strategic Planning Forum](#) in St. Petersburg (RU) on 23-24 October 2017 by having a stand showing the current activities and on-going projects in the Baltic Sea Region. The participants of the Forum were invited to try the digital tool on MSP to dive deeper into transboundary cooperation and cross-border challenges, as well as get more information about regional efforts on coherent MSP throughout the Baltic Sea.

On 28-29th November 2017 VASAB by having Baltic MSP stand will be represented in the [SIMCelt project` s Closing Conference](#) “Maritime Spatial Planning: Transboundary Cooperation in the Celtic Seas” (Liverpool, UK).

