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## Background

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.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

## Developments and activities related to the EUSBSR and HA Spatial Planning

May 2018

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.

### EU activities concerning macro-regional strategies

Following the European Commission 1<sup>st</sup> report on the implementation of the EU macro-regional strategies in 2016, the EC is to prepare a 2<sup>nd</sup> report on the implementation of the four existing macro-regional strategies: the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region and the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) by the end of 2018. In this regard contributions were requested from key implementers of the strategies (national coordinators, thematic area coordinators) for the period since the last reporting, i.e. 1 June 2016 – April 2018 to be submitted by 16 April 2018. The submitted report of the HA “Spatial Planning” implementation is attached to the Annex.

### Flagship projects:

Title	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<p><b>Baltic LINES</b> - Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans  <a href="http://www.balticlimes.eu">www.balticlimes.eu</a></p> <p>Letter of Commitment issued by H-V on 30 January 2015</p> <p>14 partners, 8 associated organisations, lead partner: Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency, DE</p>	<p>Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020</p> <p>3 years                      [Mar2016-Mar2019]</p>	<p><b>Next project event:</b> “MSP Challenge 2050 workshop” for the BSR energy sector stakeholders to engage in the interactive MSP simulation, shape the future of energy in the Baltic Sea and understand the complexity of MSP, in Copenhagen, Denmark 30 - 31 October 2018.</p> <p><b>Next project partner meeting:</b> 11 – 12 June, Gdansk (PL); will discuss the interim results and topical issues, update the progress of each work package, plan the energy sector workshop, organize the internal session for the Baltic LINES recommendations, discuss the MSP Forum organization.</p> <p><b>Planned deliverables:</b> updated version of prototype of the BSR MSP Data infrastructure; report “Exploring the future of shipping in the Baltic Sea”; future energy scenarios report; recommendations for transnationally coherent planning solutions and transboundary consultations for linear infrastructures; 3rd MSP Forum together with NorthSEE project in February 2019, Hamburg.</p>

### Other projects

Title	Role of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<b>MSP &amp; ICM projects</b>			
<p><b>Plan4Blue</b>                      Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Blue Economies  <a href="http://www.syke.fi/projects/plan4blue">http://www.syke.fi/projects/plan4blue</a></p>	<p><b>Letter of Support</b>                      issued by H-V MSP WG on 25 Feb 2016</p>	<p>INTERREG Central Baltic Programme; 2nd Call</p> <p>3 years                      [Oct2016-Dec2019]</p>	<p>Project meeting and third workshop “MSP alternatives” in June 2018, Finland</p> <p>Prepared:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) collection of maps of available background information within the project area covering part of Finnish and Estonian maritime areas;</li> <li>2) Inventory report of MSP relevant spatial data and its quality;</li> <li>3) Guidelines for harmonising, producing and managing cross-border spatial data;</li> <li>4) Guidelines for identifying and sharing relevant spatial data in MSP.</li> </ol>

<b>Baltic RIM</b> Integrated maritime cultural heritage management in the BSR <a href="https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticrim">https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticrim</a>	<b>Letter of Support</b> issued by H-V MSP WG on 1 Jun 2016	Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Call  3 years [Oct 2017 - Oct 2020]	Next partner meeting 14-15 June, 2018, Copenhagen 1 <sup>st</sup> project partners meeting 11-12 Jan 2018, Schleswig, DE. Kick-off meeting, 30-31 Oct 2017, Berlin, DE.
<b>BONUS BASMATI</b> Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Ecosystem Services <a href="https://bonusbasmati.eu/">https://bonusbasmati.eu/</a>	<i>Follow project activities</i>	BONUS Programme 2010-2017 3 years [Jul2017-Jun2020]	Project meeting 18-20.04.2018, Warnemünde, Germany PhD course “Spatial Decision Support Systems for Maritime Spatial Planning” will be launched in 20-22 Aug 2018 in Copenhagen, Denmark
<b>PanBaltic SCOPE</b> <a href="http://www.panbalticscope.eu/">http://www.panbalticscope.eu/</a>	<i>Follow project activities</i> HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats – project partners	DG MARE (Call EASME/EMFF/2016/1.2.1.6.) [Jan2018-Dec2019]	Opening Conference 20 June 2018, Malmo, Sweden Kick-off event 27-28 Feb 2018, Stockholm
<b>SEAPLANSPACE –</b> Marine spatial planning instruments for sustainable marine governance	<b>Letter of Support</b> issued by VASAB on 28 Jun 2017	Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 4 <sup>th</sup> Call  3 years	<i>Project lead - University of Gdansk</i> <i>The project aims to increase the quality of labour force engaged in MSP by jointly prepared training curricula paying attention both to national specificities of each country and to PanBaltic coherence.</i> <i>7 partners from research institutions and 4 associated partners from public authorities.</i> Kick-off event 16 March 2018, Gdansk
<b>Interreg BSR Programme 4<sup>th</sup> Priority projects</b>			
<b>HASPS 2</b> Horizontal Action “Spatial Planning” Support 2	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats – project partners	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020  2 years [Aug2016-Jul2018]	BSR MSP Data group meetings (Dec 2016 Warsaw, Apr 2017 Riga, 13-14 Sept 2017, Helsinki, 14-15 Dec 2017 Tallinn and 17-18 Apr 2018 Vilnius). Next Data group meeting in Nov 2018, Riga.  Stakeholder workshop 15 May 2018, Brussels

### 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 is being prepared.

### Follow-up on funding activities

*Interreg BSR Programme – 3<sup>rd</sup>* (and final) **Call** was open from 5 October 2017 till 9 April 2018 for applications for all three Programme’s thematic priorities and for all specific objectives. In this regard the project application of HA Spatial Planning relevance - “**Land-Sea Interactions Advancing Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea Coastal Areas**” was submitted (project lead - Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development. The project was prepared with support of the EUSBSR Seed money project “Land-Sea-Act”.

Within the Programme in the **1<sup>st</sup> Call** for applications for the **project platforms** (open from 5 October 2017 till 28 February 2018) HA “Spatial Planning” submitted a platform application “**Baltic MSP project platform – blending projects into policy**” (platform lead – VASAB). The main objective of the Platform is to blend the outcomes of transnational maritime governance projects on various topics (e.g., Baltic LINes, BalticRIM, Baltic SCOPE, BONUS BASMATI, DAIMON and others) and build up potential synergies to provide an initial input to the macro-regional discussions towards shared understanding of the need for a common Baltic Sea vision. The platform implementation is planned indicatively October 2018 – September 2021 (3 years). Decision of the Monitoring Committee will be announced on 6 June 2018.

Within the Programme's 4<sup>th</sup> priority in the **3<sup>rd</sup> Call** for applications for **technical support** to the EUSBSR Policy area and Horizontal Action coordinators (open from 1 November 2017 till 21 March 2018) HA Spatial Planning coordinators – VASAB Secretariat together with HELCOM Secretariat submitted a project proposal "**Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" Support 3**" (HASPS 3). HASPS 3 builds on the previous HASPS and HASPS-2 projects. The project proposal aims to support objectives assigned in the HA "Spatial Planning" of the EUSBSR. The project will strengthen the coordination of HA's strategic management, support the implementation of the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap and EU MSP Directive (2014/89/EU), strengthen the HA's outreach and integration to other regional and European activities, as well as promote the Flagships. The project implementation is planned from autumn 2018 till the end of 2020. Decision of the Monitoring Committee will be announced on 6 June 2018.

There is an indication of possible Programme's **Call for the extension stage projects** to be opened potentially in September 2018. The extension stage is an instrument of the Programme to flexibly support successful regular projects in the capitalisation of their earlier results and partnerships. The extension stage offers a possibility for the finalised regular projects to receive additional funding for the implementation of specific activities that would strengthen the utilisation of the outcomes of the main stage project. Extension stage should help to increase the quality and durability of the preceding regular projects. An extension stage project needs to implement a solution developed during the regular project in the form of a practical application or an investment.

*Interreg Central Baltic Programme (EE, LV, SE, FI, Åland)* – the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Call will be open in autumn 2018. The 4<sup>th</sup> call will be targeted only to the opened Specific Objectives (SO 1.1., SO 1.3., SO 2.1, SO 3.1, SO 4.1). The Steering Committee takes the decision on 4<sup>th</sup> Call projects in February 2019, thus making the first possible start date for projects 1 March 2019. Projects have to end by 30 June 2021.

*Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 (DE, DK, LT, PL, SE)* - The **Programme's 5<sup>th</sup> Call** was opened between 13 November - 20 December 2017. 10 projects have been selected for funding on 24-25 April 2018. There is no indication of any project of MSP relevance. The Programmes Monitoring Committee decided also to open the **6<sup>th</sup> Call** for proposals from 1 October until 18 December 2018 for the Specific Objectives: 2.2, 3, 4 and 5.

*Interreg Europe* – **4<sup>th</sup> Call** for project proposals for interregional cooperation projects opens on 7 May and closes on 22 June 2018 for all thematic priorities and all remaining ERDF funding (~74 mil EUR). The eligible Interreg Europe cooperation area covers the whole territory of the EU with its 28 Member States, including insular and outermost areas. In addition, Norway and Switzerland are full members of the programme and organisations from these countries are welcome to participate in projects. Partners from other countries can participate at their own costs.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> EUSBSR Seed Money Call* two projects of MSP relevance (**Land-Sea-Act** and **MSPDAT**) were approved for Seed Money funding. All projects should be finalized by August 2018.

*The next – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the EUSBSR* will be held on 4-5 June 2018 in Tallinn, Estonia. The main topics of the Forum will be a) Cohesion Politics and EUSBSR after 2020, b) EUSBSR and Digital World, c) EUSBSR and

Maritime Environment. Online registration will be available up to 18 May 2018 (<https://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/9th-annual-forum>).

Among the selected workshops there is a seminar “Sharing heritage through digitalisation: the added value of Virtual Reality for BSR cultural heritage” where the project “BalticRIM” (supported by HA “Spatial Planning”) will be represented.

In order to ensure a proper representation of HA Spatial Planning within the EUSBSR Annual Forum, there will be a separate HA’s stand representing the MSP activities, projects and achievements in the Baltic Sea.

*EUSBSR HAC/PAC Coordination meeting* was on 10-11 April 2018 in Brussels, Estonia as the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 second module had a focus on the evaluation and monitoring of HAC&PAC, the third analysed the working formats of HAC&PAC. The next module is planned on 11-12 December in Warsaw, Poland. The regular HAC&PAC meeting is planned in September 2018.

*2<sup>nd</sup> Module of the Baltic Leadership Programme on 2030 Agenda* was organized on 11-12 April 2018. It merged previous two models and groups (National Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Coordinators with EUSBSR PAC&HAC and National Coordinators) and focus on networking, understanding each other’s challenges, uncovering common opportunities and learning how EUSBSR can support and bring added-value for national implementation of SDG’s.

*Information prepared with support of the Interreg BSR Programme project “Horizontal Action “Spatial Planning” Support” (HASPS2).*



## **2<sup>nd</sup> report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies**

### **1) Achievements.**

The implementation of the HA Spatial Planning (HA) activities strengthens HA ambition to achieve territorial cohesion of the BSR by 2030. The financial support provided to the EUSBSR coordinators from the Interreg BSR Programme (it specific objective 4.2) has strengthened a coordination of strategic management of the HA between two HA steering groups - VASAB CSPD/BSR and the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group. The role of VASAB and HELCOM as the HA coordinators and the VASAB CSPD/BSR and HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG as the Steering Committees of the HA Spatial Planning has supported the visibility and recognition of HA activities.

In particular, the following results have been achieved:

#### ***Impact on policy making:***

- [The Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP in the Baltic Sea](#) area was adopted by 72nd meeting of VASAB CSPD/BSR on 8 June 2016 and approved by HELCOM HOD 50-2016;
- [The Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation](#) were adopted by the 72nd meeting of VASAB CSPD/BSR on 8 June 2016 and HELCOM HOD 50-2016 on 15-16 June 2016.
- HELCOM Ministerial Meeting 2018 stressed the importance of further cooperation in using the agreed principles, guidelines, concepts and mechanisms to reach the common goal of all Baltic Sea countries to establish, by 2020, maritime coherent spatial plans;
- [Voluntary commitment](#) to identify Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas that can be used in the national and transboundary Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes in the Baltic Sea was made in 2017. In 2018, the regional work to identify Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in the Baltic Sea area has begun and this process is expected to provide useful information for MSP processes as well as other HELCOM processes and assessments.

#### ***Processes launched:***

- In order to provide knowledge to the ongoing process of territorial cohesion and to follow up on the territorial development monitoring practice in the BSR, ESPON EGTC project “European and Macro-regional Territorial Monitoring Tool” has been launched. In order to ensure the usefulness of the outcomes of project, HA has been appointed by the EUSBSR Nacional Coordinators as a representative of the BSR to the project's Steering Committee. The ESPON EGTC project aims to develop a practical and operational tool to continuously observe the development trends and patterns taking place in Europe and its macro-regions, including the BSR. The tool should help the EUSBSR to monitor its objectives and activities. The tool will be built inter alia on BSR-TeMo project initiated by VASAB.
- A joint regional action labelled “How to consider MPAs in Maritime Spatial Planning and vice versa” has been agreed in 2016 (HELCOM 2016b). The aim of the action is to provide guidance on how MPAs should be properly taken into account in MSP and how MPAs can contribute to the application of HELCOM-VASAB Regional broad-scale MSP principles;

#### ***Other ongoing processes:***

- [Communication with other HAs/PAs and relevant stakeholders](#) through the representation of the HA in networking events (such as EUSBSR Annual Forums, European Maritime Day etc.) and other relevant EUSBSR meetings (HAs/PAs meetings, workshops, seminars etc.) by initiating seminars or other activities as part of conferences and/or presenting the achieved progress and applied approaches within HA.
- [Coordination and communication with relevant Flagships](#) on their progress and engaging them into HA activities and events to assure sustainability of their results through promotion of their outputs application in the HA work. The following Flagships were regularly involved in the work of HA:
  - o “Baltic SCOPE – Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Plans”,
  - o “Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans” (Baltic LINES)

- „Baltic Energy Areas – a planning perspective” (BEA-APP).
- Coordination of new projects of HA relevance so they demonstrate high macro-regional impact and contributes to fulfilling the objectives of the EUSBSR. In the reporting period (June 2016 – April 2018), 10 support letters have been issued and 3 project ideas pre-selected for Interreg BSR Seed Money.
- Regional work on cumulative impacts by HELCOM has been presented in MSP meetings to consider how it could be utilized in MSP, leading to including this topic in the new Pan Baltic Scope project.

#### **Regional networks:**

- Implementation of the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020 has enhanced the countries around the Baltic Sea towards strategic target of the HA to draw up and apply of transboundary, ecosystem-based maritime spatial plans throughout the Region in 2020/2021. In this regard a linkage between HA and implementation of the Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap and EU MSP Directive (2014/89/EU) concerning MSP data sharing and availability has been improved by establishing BSR MSP Data Expert group as sub-group to the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group in order to ensure application of coherent maritime spatial plans across the Baltic Sea region.  
Core members of the BSR MSP Data Expert Group are MSP representatives and Data / GIS / SDI (Spatial Data Infrastructure) experts from relevant authorities/agencies from all BSR countries.  
So far Data group has compiled information about currently available data sets which are agreed as most relevant in transboundary cooperation and consultations, as well as drafted technical requirements for the interoperability and harmonization of spatial data sets corresponding to the transboundary/cross-border MSP output data. Recommendations prescribes how the GIS data, presenting MSP output data, could be structured to be comprehensible to stakeholders from other countries.

## **2) Policy impact.**

All riparian countries in the Baltic Sea region have undertaken actions to elaborate national maritime spatial plans. International consultations are ongoing in some countries and planned by others.

HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018 recognized the Baltic Sea region as a forerunner in regional cooperation on ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning (MSP) and regional governance, facilitated by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, and the important contribution MSP can make to fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **3) Monitoring / targets and indicators.**

The overall task of the HA is to achieve territorial cohesion perspective of the Baltic Sea Region by 2030, i. e. the Region is a well-integrated and coherent macro-region, and it has overcome the socioeconomic development divides between its individual parts and turned the global challenges into assets. Strategic target of the HA is to draw up and apply of transboundary, ecosystem-based maritime spatial plans throughout the Region in 2020/2021.

The EUSBSR Action Plan envisages 4 determined actions within HA in relation to land based spatial planning:

- 1) to contribute to EU Urban Agenda process and propose specific approaches for a diverse urban pattern,
- 2) to underline the need to apply place-based approaches to territorial development policies,
- 3) to observe the territorial development processes by using and advancing territorial development monitoring solutions,
- 4) to encourage transnational actions improving accessibility and connectivity of the Region.

HA regularly follows-up these activities by providing policy statements, observing existing practices on various planning topics, following various projects, collaborating with ESPON EGTC on the elaboration of the macro-regional territorial monitoring tool.

Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020 provides the necessary steps to achieve a goal to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the BSR which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem approach. The MSP Roadmap also includes a regular assessment on the implementation of the MSP Roadmap (in 2016, 2018 and 2020). The MSP Roadmap is implemented by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group Work Plan which has been updated every 2 years accordingly to the results of the MSP Roadmap assessment. Work towards reaching the target of having maritime spatial plans applied through out the region by 2020/2021 is progressing. Currently nearly all countries around the Baltic Sea are engaged into MSP process - Germany and Lithuania have national maritime spatial plans in place and are considering to elaborate the

second generation maritime spatial plans; other countries are in the different stages of preparation their first ones. Due to the various projects and activities the information and data of several MSP related topics have become more available and the national and sector needs are more clearly expressed and better recognized.

#### 4) Funding allocated:

	Project	Budget	Funding source
<b>Flagship projects</b>			
1.	<b>Baltic LINes</b> - Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans	€ 3 409 458	Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020
2.	<b>BEA-APP</b> - Baltic Energy Areas – a planning perspective	€ 2 700 000	Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020
3.	<b>Baltic SCOPE</b> - Towards coherence and cross-border solutions in Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Plans	€ 2 638 829	DG MARE (Call MARE/2014/22)
<b>Other projects</b>			
4.	<b>Live Baltic Campus</b> - Campus Areas as Labs for Participative Urban Design	€ 1 850 000	Interreg Central Baltic Programme 2014-2020
5.	<b>Baltic Urban Lab</b> – Integrated Planning and Partnership Model for Brownfield Regeneration	€ 2 200 177	Interreg Central Baltic Programme 2014-2020
6.	<b>BALTSPACE</b> - Towards sustainable planning of Baltic marine space	€ 2 000 000	The joint Baltic Sea research and development programme 2010-2017 (BONUS EEIG)
7.	<b>BaltCoast</b> - A systems approach framework for coastal research and management in the Baltic	€ 2 900 000	The joint Baltic Sea research and development programme 2010-2017 (BONUS EEIG)
8.	<b>Augmented Urbans</b> - Visionary, Participatory Planning and Integrated Management for Resilient Cities	€ 2 350 000	Interreg Central Baltic Programme
9.	<b>Baltic RIM</b> - Integrated maritime cultural heritage management in the Baltic Sea region	€ 2 621 798	Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020
10.	<b>BASMATI</b> -Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Ecosystem Services	€ 2 800 000	BONUS Programme 2010-2017
11.	<b>PanBaltic SCOPE</b>	€ 3 315 113	DG MARE (Call EASME/EMFF/2016/1.2.1.6.)
<b>Seed money projects</b>			
12.	Accommodating of land-sea interactions into maritime and coastal planning in the Baltic Sea Region through blue-green infrastructure and ecosystem services ( <b>Land-Sea-Act</b> )	€ 50 000	EUSBSR Seed Money
13.	Brownfields regeneration in sustainable and resources efficient mixed-use areas for eco-social living and working ( <b>Baltic Urban Living</b> )	€ 50 000	EUSBSR Seed Money
14.	Pathways and Needs Towards a Baltic Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure for MSP ( <b>MSPDAT</b> )	€ 50 000	EUSBSR Seed Money

#### 5) Cross-cutting cooperation.

Due to the horizontal nature of spatial planning, both at sea and on land, cross-cutting cooperation is continuous feature of HA Spatial Planning. HA is cooperating with other PAC/HAC, EUSBSR National Coordinators, regional stakeholders and different authorities e.g. involved in the work of HELCOM (groups dealing with fisheries, nature and conservation, underwater heritage and shipping), as well as VASAB stakeholders (spatial planners at different levels, regional development experts, urban planners, HA Climate, PA Transport, PA Energy, PA Culture). The attempts to reach out to other thematic areas will need to continue.

#### 6) Governance.

VASAB CSPD/BSR acts as Steering Committee for the land-based spatial planning issues of the HA. The joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group acts as the Steering Committee for the HA concerning MSP issues. Both groups were established prior to the EUSBSR and have since taken up the role as the Steering Committees. VASAB CSPD/BSR includes also representations of the Russian Federation, Norway and Belarus. The joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working group includes also representation of the Russian Federation. All member countries are actively participating in the groups.

Cooperation in the HA is well organized and efficient due to fact that the existing HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and VASAB CSPD/BSR structures has been utilized to coordinate the HA. HELCOM and VASAB have long tradition of cooperation internationally, in a structured way, and involving stakeholders.

HELCOM and VASAB are part of the Advisory Board of BONUS, giving advice on the BONUS research agenda. Through the role as the HACs for HA Spatial Planning, HELCOM and VASAB, with the overview of spatial planning related projects, are able to identify gaps and overlaps and have their ability to affect to the thematic calls (e.g to include MSP as its own thematic topic).

### **7) Civil society.**

Involvement of the civil society is vital part of the [Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation](#). Moreover, non-governmental organizations which have status of observer's to HELCOM are attending HELCOM-VASAB MSP meetings and contribute to its work. Non-governmental organizations, representing regional civil society are actively involved into the implementation of the Flagships and other relevant projects.

### **8) Main issues.**

Availability of consistent and regularly updated data for MSP is one of the challenges on the way towards implementation of the Baltic Regional MSP Roadmap. Partly, the data management model in the BSR can be elaborated through international project, however, a commitment and effort is also required from all countries to make national datasets consistent and available across the BSR.

**9) Lessons learnt.** Cooperation between two organizations, like VASAB and HELCOM, with different areas of expertise, strengthened with the joint responsibility to co-lead HA, has led to fruitful outcomes and given added value to the coherent strategic work at the pan-Baltic level.

HA Spatial Planning within its horizontal and comprehensive character cooperates with many sectors, therefore further openness, dialogue and information exchange is needed.

### **10) Next steps.**

In order to improve the implementation of HA, following issues have been highlighted:

- follow-up the application of the Baltic Sea Broad-scale maritime spatial planning (MSP) principles;
- Facilitate and follow-up the application of the *“Guidelines for transboundary consultation, public participation and cooperation”*;
- Promote the creation and sharing of MSP relevant Baltic Sea regional datasets;
- Promote the education and professional development of MSP planners;
- Consider the practical use of socio economic parameters including ecosystem services in MSP;
- Investigate the possible regional development of concepts such as green infrastructure, blue corridors to take into account ecosystem components in MSP;
- Further work towards integration of the coherent network of marine protected areas in MSP;
- Facilitate and follow-up the application of the *“Guideline for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP”*;
- Further work to utilize regionally and nationally available methods to assess cumulative impacts in MSP.