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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

October 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

EC is going to initiate the [Revision process of the EUSBSR Action Plan](#) by the end of 2018 in order to provide a relevant update before the new programming period 2021-2027 starts. Revision will consider achievements and challenges for both thematic and governance issues, the relevance of Strategy's objectives, sub-objectives and targets, as well as set the future tasks. The revision is expected to be more coherent with other macro-regional strategies, EU policy and funding priorities. The timeline for the revision is set quite ambitious with goal to finalize the process by autumn 2019. In this regard the external expert is expected to be hired by EC in the beginning of 2019. However, EUSBSR thematic coordinators will have an important role in revision. Taking into account that majority of the strategic targets are set with timeline by 2020/2021, strategic goals within thematic areas could be reconsidered.

The strategic goal of the HA "Spatial Planning" is to draw up and apply transboundary, ecosystem based maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea region by 2020/2021. Current work on follow-up of the regional MSP principles, guidelines and Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap can be valuable and timely input to the EUSBSR update process.

### Follow-up on funding activities

First developed as a pilot initiative for the Danube Region in 2016, the updated [online platform "EuroAccess"](#) ([www.euro-access.eu](http://www.euro-access.eu)), covering all four EU macro-regional strategies, was launched on 25th June 2018. The platform is an online information and search tool on EU-funding available in four EU Macro-Regions in order to help people and organisations with project ideas find suitable sources of EU funding.

*Interreg BSR Programme* – within the **3<sup>rd</sup>** (and final) **Call** (open from 5 October 2017 till 9 April 2018) one project application of ICM relevance was approved - "**Land-Sea Interactions Advancing Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea Coastal Areas**" (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" and has received the Letter of Support on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019 on behalf of VASAB Secretariat.

Within the *Interreg BSR Programme* the **2<sup>nd</sup> Call for the project platforms** has been launched from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 till 31 January 2019 to combine projects for more impact, more intensive use, better durability and transferability of the projects' outcomes in the following topics:

- Research and innovation infrastructures,
- Smart specialisation,
- Marine litter management,
- Management of marine space (*capacity building of public authorities & practitioners for more integrated & safe management of marine space & strengthened MSP across the borders*),
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The core of project platforms shall be built by at least 2 ongoing or accomplished *Interreg Baltic Sea Region's* projects and at least one project from other funding programme.

VASAB together with HELCOM, Maritime Institute in Gdansk (PL), Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SE), Aalborg University (DK), Latvian Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (LV) is preparing an application for MSP projects platform.

Within the *Interreg BSR Programme* the **1<sup>st</sup> Call for the extension stage projects** has been launched from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 till 31 January 2019. 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 and increase the quality and durability of the preceding regular projects.

*Interreg Central Baltic Programme (EE, LV, SE, FI, Åland)* – the **4<sup>th</sup> Call** is open from 15 October till 16 November 2018. The 4th call is targeted only to the opened Specific Objectives (SO 1.1., SO 1.3., SO 2.1 (*sustainable tourist attractions*), SO 3.1 (*transport flows of people and goods*), SO 4.1). The Steering Committee will make the decision on 4th Call projects in March 2019.

*Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 (DE, DK, LT, PL, SE)* - **6<sup>th</sup> Call** is opened between 1 October - 18 December 2018 for the Specific Objectives: 2.2 (*green technologies*), 3.1 (*sustainability of transport services*), 4.1 (*skilled labour force in blue & green economy sectors*) and 5.1 (*cooperation capacity*). The Monitoring Committee’s decision on the approval of projects submitted under the 6th call for proposals is expected in April 2019

*Interreg Europe* – **4<sup>th</sup> Call** for proposals for interregional cooperation projects was open between 7 May - 22 June 2018 for all thematic priorities and all remaining ERDF funding (~74 mil EUR). The strategic and operational quality assessment will be carried out by January 2019; the decisions of Monitoring Committee will be announced in March 2019.

**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.

*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 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.

**Progress of ongoing Flagship projects of MSP relevance:**

Title	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<p><b>PanBaltic SCOPE</b>  <a href="http://www.panbalticscope.eu/">http://www.panbalticscope.eu/</a></p> <p><i>Flagship status granted by EUSBSR NC meeting on 26 September 2018.</i></p> <p>12 partners, 3 associated organisations, lead partner: Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, SE</p>	<p>DG MARE (Call EASME/EMFF/2016/1.2.1.6.)</p> <p>2 years [Jan2018-Dec2019]</p>	<p><b>Latest activities:</b> several workshops were held to develop the content within the project activities related to Planning Forum, Green infrastructure, Cumulative Impacts, Ecosystem approach and FI-AX-SE Case.</p> <p><b>Next project event:</b> several events are planned in December back to back with the partner meeting - Green infrastructure in cooperation with HELCOM State and Conservation and HELCOM Fish Working Groups (Essential Fish Habitats) on 12-13 December, and Cumulative impacts on 13-14 December.</p> <p><b>Next project partner meeting:</b> 11-12 December in Riga</p> <p><b>Planned deliverables.</b> It is planned to discuss the outcomes and deliverables during the upcoming partner meeting to agree on the type and way how the deliverables of each project activity will be presented and what could be the timeline.</p>
<p><b>Baltic LINes - Coherent Linear Infrastructures in Baltic Maritime Spatial Plans</b>  <a href="http://www.balticlines.eu">www.balticlines.eu</a></p> <p><b>Letter of Commitment</b> issued by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on 30 January 2015                      VASAB Secretariat = Partner (external communication)</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> Connecting Seas - NorthSEE – Baltic LINes MSP conference 13 – 14 Feb, 2019 Hamburg, Germany as the first joint North Sea and Baltic Sea MSP conference. The conference programme will cover topics related to the North Sea and Baltic Sea Region’s experience of dealing with Maritime Spatial Planning, with a focus on shipping, energy and environment.</p> <p><b>Next project partner meeting:</b> 13 – 14 November, Riga (LV); will discuss the project progress and topical issues, update the progress of each work package, plan the final deliverables of the project and discuss the final conference organization.</p> <p><b>Planned deliverables:</b> Report on energy scenarios; updated version of prototype of the BSR MSP Data infrastructure; recommendations for transnationally coherent planning solutions and transboundary consultations for linear infrastructures.</p> <p><b>Deliverables for download:</b> Project has disseminated the study “Capacity Densities of European Offshore Wind Farms” and the report “Exploring the future of shipping in the Baltic Sea” with the future shipping scenarios and trends.</p>

Progress of other ongoing projects of MSP relevance:

Title	Role of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<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>	<b>Letter of Support</b> issued by H-V MSP WG on 25 Feb 2016	INTERREG Central Baltic Programme; 2nd Call  3 years [Oct2016-Dec2019]	Project is on its 3 <sup>rd</sup> phase "MSP alternatives": Workshop 3 "MSP alternatives" with project meeting, 4-5 September 2018, Finland Workshop 4 "Blue Economy Scenarios for Maritime Spatial Planning" / January 2019, Tallinn (EE)  Available deliverables: <a href="https://goo.gl/dMgpdJ">https://goo.gl/dMgpdJ</a>
<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]	3rd partner meeting 5-6 Feb 2019, Kaliningrad Elaboration on 5 test cases: <a href="https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticrim">https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticrim</a> <i>Project will develop commonly agreed spatial planning perspectives for maritime cultural heritage and gain knowledge for the integration of MCH into cross-sectoral planning processes.</i>
<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]	PhD Course on Spatial Decisions Support Systems, Copenhagen (DK), 20-22 August 2018 3 <sup>rd</sup> project partner meeting, Helsinki, 1-3 Oct 2018 Project's newsletter: <a href="https://bonusbasmati.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/BONUSBASMATI_newsletter_1.pdf">https://bonusbasmati.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/BONUSBASMATI_newsletter_1.pdf</a>
<b>SEAPLANSPACE –</b> Marine spatial planning instruments for sustainable marine governance	<b>Letter of Support</b> issued by VASAB Secretariat on 28 Jun 2017	Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 4th Call  3 years [Jan2018-Dec2020]	Kick-off event 16 March 2018, Gdansk Project lead - University of Gdansk <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.                      7 partners from research institutions and 4 associated partners from public authorities.</i>

Progress of Interreg BSR Programme 4th priority (technical assistance) projects

Title	Role of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<b>HASPS 3</b> Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" Support 3	VASAB & HELCOM Secretariats – project partners	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020  2 years [June2018-Sept2020]	HASPS3 aims to support objectives assigned in the HA "Spatial Planning" of the EUSBSR, co-led by HELCOM and VASAB and it builds on the coordination activities started within the previous HASPS (2015/2016) and HASPS 2 (2016/2018). Particularly the HASPS 3 will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Strengthening the coordination between the two its Steering groups (VASAB CSPD/BSR and the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG) and reporting on latest updates and activities related to EUSBSR;</li> <li>•Assistance in setting the agenda and ensuring the outputs of the MSP Data group (Next BSR MSP Data group meeting in 12-13 Nov 2018, Riga).</li> <li>•Enhancing outreach and integration of HA "Spatial Planning" to other regional and European activities and stakeholders.</li> <li>•Following-up the implementation of the current projects and Flagships, their outputs and interact with the project partners.</li> </ul>
<b>Let`s Communicate!</b> <a href="https://vasab.org/project/lets-communicate/">https://vasab.org/project/lets-communicate/</a> Let`s Communicate the EUSBSR for the benefit of the region	VASAB Secretariat – project partner	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020  3 years [Aug 2016 - Jan 2019]	<b>Latest activities:</b> the project has launched the social media campaign to promote the EUSBSR and its achievements, including the video. <b>Next project event:</b> the final project seminar on 23 January 2019 in Turku. <b>Next project partner meeting:</b> the final partner meeting is planned to be held during the final seminar.

		<p><b>Planned deliverables:</b> The project is due at the end of January 2019. Until then the revision of the EUSBSR Communication strategy is in progress, also organisation of the final seminar, regular EUSBSR online communication (incl internal newsletter) and small survey for the internal key stakeholders.</p>
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## Events related to EUSBSR

The next – *10<sup>th</sup> Annual EUSBSR Forum* will be held on 12-13 June 2019 in Gdansk (Poland) with main focus on circular and sharing economy as response to the demographic changes in the BSR and how these challenges influence such areas as:

- Mobility, labour market;
- Health care and social security systems,
- Social structure, family policy and cultural patterns,
- Production and consumption models
- Use of natural (non-renewable) resources,
- Mature and emerging markets and business sectors.

Call for seminars will be open by mid-December 2018. The organizers will give the priority to the proposals in line with the main theme of the Forum to ensure thematic coherence of the event as well as to the seminars organized more than one EUSBSR coordinator to show the horizontal perspective.

*EUSBSR HAC/PAC Coordination meeting* will be on 11-12 December 2018 in Warsaw, as the 4<sup>th</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 will focus on upcoming revision process of the EUSBSR Action Plan.

The regular *HAC&PAC autumn meeting* was held on 26-27 September 2018 in Copenhagen where latest developments within the EUSBSR were presented, e.g., progress on ESPON Territorial Monitoring tool, EU DG Regio statement on EUSBSR AP Revision process, upcoming EUSBSR Annual Forum 2019 in Gdansk, "Let`s Communicate!" project support etc.

\* Information prepared with support of the Interreg BSR Programme project "Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" Support 3" (HASPS3).



