



Document title	Developments and activities related to the EUSBSR and HA Spatial Planning
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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 2019

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.

Revision process of the EUSBSR Action Plan

EC has initiated the [Revision process of the EUSBSR Action Plan](#) in order to 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.

In this regard joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG emphasised the role of HELCOM VASAB MSP WG group in the EUSBSR framework during its 18th Meeting in Hamburg on 27th of March 2019 and concluded on importance of coordinated role of the group and the need to keep the Horizontal Action in the Strategy.

The revision timetable has been postponed from what was anticipated earlier. According to a new instructions received from EC DG Regio in October 2019, thematic coordinators of EUSBSR (HACs/PACs) are invited to fill in the template for the revision of their respective sections in the EUSBSR Action Plan. The template has been prepared by EC DG Regio and external expert COWI together with EUSBSR National Coordinators and will ensure that the description of PA/HA sections are similar in terms of content and length. A key aim of this revision is to make the EUSBSR Action Plan shorter, simpler and ensure that it is relevant and demonstrates the added value of the HACs/PACs. The deadline for submission of the draft PA/HA description is 1st November 2019.

The provisional time line for the future is as follows:

- EC DG Regio sends template + instructions to HACs/PACs by 4.10.2019;
- HACs/PACs draft their contribution by 01.11.2019;
- EC DG Regio and Bettina Rafaelsen will draft a revised version of the rest of the AP;
- EC DG Regio will send HACs/PACs contributions to NC group by 4.11.2019 and an analysis/summary of them (proposal for Action Plan) by 8.11.2019;
- EUSBSR National Coordinators meeting, in the middle of November;
- EUSBSR National Coordinators meeting 27.11.2019 and/or 28.11. 2019 (morning / afternoon)
- December 2019: Further EUSBSR National Coordinators meeting (if necessary)
- January – March 2020: Commission internal procedure

The **overall goal** of the HA "Spatial Planning" is to achieve territorial cohesion perspective in the BSR by 2030. 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.

Follow-up on funding activities

Interreg BSR Programme –

- **Regular project calls** - all funds within the current financial framework 2014-2020 are committed. No further calls are planned.
- **2nd Call for the project platforms** was open from 2nd October 2018 till 31 January 2019. VASAB Secretariat's prepared application of **Capacity4MSP** was approved alongside with two other platform projects. No further platform project calls are planned.
- **2nd Call for the extension stage projects** is open from 1 October 2019 until 27 February 2020 for Programme priorities No.1-3. Application procedure includes mandatory consultations with MA/JS (open till 13 February 2020) in order to ensure that project idea is in line with the concept of this instrument.
- **2nd Seed Money Call** is expected to be open on 5 November 2019 – 23 March 2020 in order to "bridge" current financial framework 2014-2020 with the next one. Applications are expected to prepare project proposals with strategic importance to one of the policy areas or horizontal actions of the EUSBSR. Application procedure will be organized in two steps – 1) submission of project idea to relevant PAC/HAC for pre-selection and 2) the

submission of the application to the MA/JS after the applicant has been pre-selected by the PAC/HAC. The pre-selection procedure within the HA Spatial Planning has been agreed in November 2016. The implementation phase will last up to 12 months and is supposed to end by 30 September 2021.

- **Calls for coordination of EUSBSR** – Call for Applications for the Organisation of EUSBSR Annual Forum 2020 was open from 10 May 2019 – 30 June 2019. City of Turku, being as the only submitted application was decided to be a host for the Forum in 2020.

Interreg Central Baltic Programme (EE, LV, SE, FI, Åland) – 5th Call open from 15 August – 15 October 2019 for all Specific Objectives. The funding decision will be announced in 2020 January.

Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 (DE, DK, LT, PL, SE) - Currently, no call for proposal of the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 is open. The decision about the schedule and scope for the next call will be announced after the Monitoring Committee meeting in April 2020.

Interreg Europe – all funds have been allocated to projects. There will be no more calls within current financial framework 2014-2020.

Progress of ongoing Flagship project of MSP relevance:

Title	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<p>PanBaltic SCOPE http://www.panbalticscope.eu/ <i>Flagship status granted by EUSBSR NC meeting on 26 September 2018.</i> Flagship lead: Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, SE 12 partners, 3 associated organizations,</p>	<p>DG MARE (Call EASME/EMFF/2016/1.2.1.6.) 2 years [Jan2018-Dec2019]</p>	<p>Recent activities: At EMD on 16-17 May in Lisbon project was represented at the exhibition and workshop “Innovative Tools & Transferability in MSP Projects”. 3rd Project Partner meeting took place on 27-28 May, 2019 in Tallinn, main topics: the progress of the project, final products and updates about MSP Forum in November 2019. 6th Planning forum was held on 28-29 May 2019 in Tallinn. 4th partner meeting was organized on 25-26 September 2019 in Helsinki. Planning Forum and various thematic workshop took place back-to-back with the Meeting. Next project event: MSP Forum on 19-21 November in Riga will be organized together with IOC UNESCO, it will bring global perspective to the MSP topics as well as look closer to the Pan Baltic Scope project results. Next project partner meeting:, Final partner meeting December 2019 in Gothenburg. Planned deliverables. Coordination of the final deliverables and the MSP Forum are in progress. The outcomes of the project events and the event calendar are available on the project website www.panbalticscope.eu.</p>

Progress of other ongoing projects of MSP relevance:

Title	Role of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<p>Plan4Blue Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Blue Economies http://www.syke.fi/projects/plan4blue Project lead: The Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE), 2 partners from Research institutions, 3 partners from regional organizations and associated with 4 public authorities</p>	<p>Letter of Support issued by H-V MSP WG on 25 Feb 2016</p>	<p>INTERREG Central Baltic Programme; 2nd Call 3 years [Oct2016-Dec2019]</p>	<p>Project’s 4th phase "Finalization of the project" Latest activities: Final conference 4–5 June 2019 Next project event: Project meeting / September 2019 (Finland) Final outputs - Guidelines & best practice reports on: - Economics methods; - Environmental risk assessments and mitigation; - Spatial analysis methods and data management; - Cross-border collaboration. Available deliverables: https://goo.gl/dMgpdJ</p>
<p>Baltic RIM Integrated maritime cultural heritage management in the BSR https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticrim</p>	<p>Letter of Support issued by H-V MSP WG on 1 Jun 2016</p>	<p>Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020, 2nd Call 3 years [Oct 2017 - Oct 2020]</p>	<p>Recent activities: 3rd partner meeting took place on 5-6 Feb 2019, Kaliningrad. Currently elaboration on 5 test cases: https://www.submariner-network.eu/projects/balticrim Project will identify potential MCH challenges for MSP, as well as elaborate on future scenarios</p>

<p>Project lead: State Archaeological Department of Schleswig-Holstein (DE), total: 13 partners.</p> <p>Project develops commonly agreed spatial planning perspectives for maritime cultural heritage and gains knowledge for the integration of MCH into cross-sectoral planning processes.</p>			<p>(undiscovered heritage, climate change, MCH and Blue Growth etc.)</p> <p>Next project meeting: will take part back-to-back to the BSSSC conference in Klaipėda, on 17-18 September 2019. On 19th of September project will have a session during the conference.</p>
<p>BONUS BASMATI Baltic Sea Maritime Spatial Planning for Sustainable Ecosystem Services https://bonusbasmati.eu/</p> <p>Project lead: Aalborg University (DK) 7 partners from Research institutions</p>	<p><i>Follow project activities</i></p>	<p>BONUS Programme 2010-2017 3 years [Jul2017-Jun2020]</p>	<p>Recent activities: partner meeting on 8.-10 May 2019 Turku - focus on the evaluation of the ongoing national and international MSP initiatives, and on the methods and tools related to monitoring and evaluation of maritime spatial plans. As part of the partner meeting there was PhD course on MSP processes in Baltic Sea countries on 6.-8. May 2019: https://bonusbasmati.eu/event/phd-course-on-msp/ The development of the Baltic Explorer is in progress, and it will allow simultaneously to access the shared platform from different devices. Baltic Explorer will probably also be tested within a Pan Baltic Scope setting in a nearby future.</p> <p>Next project partner meeting on 30.09.-01.10.2019. in Copenhagen (DK).</p> <p>Planned deliverables: Several publications are in the pipeline, and the available deliverables so far can be found her: https://bonusbasmati.eu/results-material/deliverables/</p>
<p>SEAPLANSPACE – Marine spatial planning instruments for sustainable marine governance https://seaplanspace.ug.edu.pl/</p> <p>Project lead: University of Gdansk (PL) 7 partners from Research institutions and 4 associated partners from public authorities.</p>	<p>Letter of Support issued by VASAB Secretariat on 28 Jun 2017</p>	<p>Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 4th Call 3 years [Jan2018-Dec2020]</p>	<p>Recent activities: So far up to 5 partner meetings have been organized in Gdańsk and Sopot. Stakeholder event “Marine spatial planning instruments for sustainable marine governance” was organized on 18 Oct 2018 in Gdansk. The event consisted of three sessions: Challenges of the MSP, Marine governance instruments and The SEAPLANSPACE Training.</p> <p>Planned deliverables: current work on the SEAPLANSPACE Manuals. The curricula has been prepared and agreed with all our partners from 5 countries, the list of speakers has been drafted, promotional activities are being performed and the registration for the SEAPLANSPACE Workshops will be launched soon. Some progress is also being made in the field of preparing the SEAPLANSPACE Portal.</p>
<p>Land-Sea Act Land-sea interaction advancing Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea coastal areas https://projects.interreg-baltic.eu/projects/land-sea-act-170.html</p> <p>Project lead: Latvia’s Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development 3 partners from Research institutions, 7 partners from public authorities</p>	<p>Letter of Support issued by VASAB Secretariat on 6 Apr 2018</p>	<p>Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020, 3rd Call 2,5 years [Jan 2019 - Jun 2021]</p>	<p>Recent activities: Partner meeting on 30 Sept-2 Oct 2019 in Tallinn (EE) to discuss development scenarios for project areas. Project webpage is currently under construction and is expected to be launched in November 2019.</p> <p>The project Land-Sea-Act aims to bring together stakeholders involved in coastal management and planning, to find solutions to Maritime Spatial Planning and Blue Growth challenges around the Baltic Sea.</p> <p><i>The project partners are working on 6 case studies. 4 case studies will be on spatial planning solutions for addressing development trade-offs in coastal areas. Other 2 case studies will address Blue Growth issues and will work towards boosting entrepreneurship in coastal areas. The 2 Blue Growth case studies will be assisted by Hamburg Institute of International</i></p>

			<i>Economics (HWWI) assessing regional economic statistics, Blue growth options and marketability of innovative business ideas. Each case study will also start involving relevant stakeholders and start knowledge exchange across sectors and borders.</i>
<p>Capacity4MSP Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers</p> <p>Project lead: VASAB Secretariat / State Regional Development Agency, 3 partners from Research institutions, 4 partners from public authority and 18 associated organizations</p>	<p>Project Leader Letter of Support issued by HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG on 14-15 Nov 2018</p>	<p>Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020 , 2nd Call</p> <p>2 years [Autumn 2019 – Autumn 2021)</p>	<p>Approved by Interreg BSR MC on 11th April 2019. Platform to be launched in Autumn 2019. <i>Capacity4MSP will create a practically oriented and interactive collaboration platform. It will deepen the knowledge and experience gained from projects, as well as intensify the dialogue among MSP stakeholders, decision and policy makers.</i></p>

Events related to EUSBSR

EUSBSR HAC/PAC autumn meeting will be held in Helsinki on 27-28 November and will discuss the following topics:

- Revision of the Action Plan – state of play
- Next Multiannual Financial Framework (2021–2027) and opportunities for EUSBSR
- Communication and capacity building – reflections on what is done today and expectations for next programme
- 2nd Seed Money call – information from Interreg BSR Programme

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

