



## OUTCOME OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20B-2020)

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# OUTCOME OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE INTERSESSIONAL HELCOM-VASAB MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING WORKING GROUP (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20B-2020)

## Introduction

0.1 With reference to the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group (section 3.18 of the [Outcome](#)), the intersessional Meeting of the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20B-2020) was held online on 18 June 2020.

0.2 The Meeting was attended by representatives of all HELCOM and VASAB members except Lithuania. HELCOM observers were represented by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), and The Coastal & Marine Union (EUCC) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The Meeting was also attended by the representative from the EU MSP Assistance Mechanism. The list of Participants is contained in Annex 1.

0.3 The Meeting was chaired by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Mr. Joacim Johannesson, Sweden, and Ms. Katarzyna Krzywda, Poland.

0.4 The Co-Chairs opened the Meeting and welcomed the participants.

0.5 Mr. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, Professional Secretary of HELCOM, assisted by Mr. Florent Nicolas and Mr. Riku Varjopuro, HELCOM Secretariat, acted as Secretaries of the Meeting.

## Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the Agenda

Document: 1-1

1.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda elaborated by the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats in consultation with the Co-Chairs.

## Agenda Item 2 Reviewing synopses and other actions proposed for BSAP update

Document: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3

2.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the preliminary timeline and division of tasks for drafting of BSAP that was approved by HOD 58-2020 (document 2-3). The Meeting also took note that this Meeting is expected to select the measures to be proposed for the next stages of the BSAP update.

2.2 The meeting took note that the selected measures will be further elaborated and delivered to dedicated BSAP update workshops that will take place at the end of August and beginning of September 2020.

2.3 The Meeting took note of the information that BSAP update drafting group was set up by HOD 58-2020 and that draft texts of the BSAP segments will be considered by HELCOM Working Groups at the autumn meetings.

2.4 The Meeting took note of the information in the [documents 2-2](#) and its [attachment](#).

2.5 The Meeting assessed each of the proposed measure according to the predefined criteria as given in the Attachment 1. The Meeting agreed which of the measures will be proposed for the new BSAP and gave guidance for their further elaboration.

2.6 The Meeting took note of the information given in the [document 2-1](#).

2.7 The Meeting agreed to establish a drafting group to elaborate the text of the new MSP Roadmap. The Meeting invited the HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats to coordinate and support the drafting group. The

Secretariats were invited to propose the date for the first meeting of the drafting group still before summer holidays.

2.8 The Meeting welcomed the offer from Latvia, Sweden, Finland and WWF to join the drafting group and took note on the information that Germany also considers joining. Other countries and observers are encouraged to join the drafting group and inform the Secretariats ([florent.nicolas@helcom.fi](mailto:florent.nicolas@helcom.fi) and [elina.veidemane@vasab.org](mailto:elina.veidemane@vasab.org)) about their nominations by the end of business in Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

2.9 The Meeting took note of the reminder by the co-Chair that the drafting of the new MSP Roadmap should be ready by September 21<sup>st</sup> in order to be submitted to the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group.

2.10 The Meeting invited the Countries to support the start of the drafting group's work by sending comments on proposed MSP Roadmap actions in document 2-2 to the HELCOM Secretariat ([dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi](mailto:dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi) and [florent.nicolas@helcom.fi](mailto:florent.nicolas@helcom.fi)).

2.11 The Meeting discussed additional measures proposed by CCB and WWF (cf. document 2-1). The summary of the discussion is noted in the column "Proposal" in the Annex 2.

### **Agenda Item 3 Policy Area Spatial Planning in the EUSBSR Action Plan**

Document: 3-1

3.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the update of the EUSBSR Action Plan. The Meeting also took note of the proposed additions to the description of the Policy Area Spatial Planning.

3.2 The Meeting commented the document and proposed rephrasing of some parts of it as given in the Annex 3.

3.3 The Meeting invited Countries to send their contribution to VASAB Secretariat ([liene.gaujeniete@vasab.org](mailto:liene.gaujeniete@vasab.org)) by 12:00 AM (EEST) Friday 19 June 2020.

### **Agenda Item 4 Any other business**

4.1 The Meeting took note of the information from the VASAB Secretariat on the [BalticRIM](#) project that the team project will contact some of the MSP authorities to further discuss the planning challenges of integrating maritime cultural heritage values and assets into MSP (direct invitations will come in due time). The Meeting also note that Baltic RIM final online conference will be tentatively held in September 2020.

### **Agenda Item 5 Outcome of the Meeting**

5.1 The Meeting adopted the Outcome.

**Annex 1 List of Participants**

Representing	Name	Organization	E-mail address
<b>Chair</b>	Joacim Johannesson	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	joacim.johannesson@havochvatten.se
<b>Chair</b>	Katarzyna Krzywda	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation	katarzyna.krzywda@mgm.gov.pl
<b>Contracting Parties</b>			
<b>Denmark</b>	Kristina Beiter	Danish Maritime Authority	krb@dma.dk
Denmark	Anders Boe-Hansen	Danish Maritime Authority	abh@dma.dk
Denmark	Liv LindhardtFrandsen	Danish Maritime Authority	lifra@dma.dk
<b>Estonia</b>	Triin Lepland	Estonian Ministry of Finance	triin.lepland@fin.ee
<b>European Union</b>	Juan Jose Ronco Zapatero	DG Mare	juan.ronco@ec.europa.eu
European Union	Celine Frank	DG Mare	celine.frank@ec.europa.eu
<b>Finland</b>	Tiina Tihlman	Ministry of the Environment	tiina.tihlman@ym.fi
<b>Germany</b>	Bettina Käppeler	Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)	bettina.kaeppler@bsh.de
Germany	Gerold Janssen	Federal Agency of Nature Conservation	g.janssen@ioer.de
Germany	Lotta Maack	Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde	lotta.maack@io-warnemuende.de
<b>Latvia</b>	Kristīne Kedo	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	kristine.kedo@varam.gov.lv
<b>Poland</b>	Natalia Zajac	Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation	natalia.zajac@mgm.gov.pl
<b>Sweden</b>	Jan Schmidtbauer Crona	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	jan.schmidtbauer.crona@havochvatten.se
<b>Russia</b>	Andrey Lappo	Institute of Maritime Spatial Planning Ermak Northwest, Saint-Petersburg	a.lappo@mail.ru
Russia	Larisa Danilova	Institute of Maritime Spatial Planning Ermak Northwest, Saint-Petersburg	lorhend@mail.ru
<b>Observers</b>			
<b>International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)</b>	Julie Kellner	ICES	julie.kellner@ices.dk
<b>The Coastal Union Germany (EUCC)</b>	Franziska Stoll	EUCC	stoll@eucc-d.de
<b>World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)</b>	Metta Wiese	WWF Sweden	metta.wiese@wwf.se
<b>Invited guest</b>			
Baltic Environmental Forum	Kristina Veidemane	Baltic Environmental Forum	kristina.veidemane@bef.lv
<b>HELCOM Secretariat</b>			
HELCOM	Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky	HELCOM Secretariat	dmitry.frank-kamenetsky@helcom.fi

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<b>Representing</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>E-mail address</b>
HELCOM	Florent Nicolas	HELCOM Secretariat	florent.nicolas@helcom.fi
HELCOM	Riku Varjopuro	HELCOM Secretariat	riku.varjopuro@helcom.fi
<b>VASAB Secretariat</b>			
VASAB	Alda Nikodemusa	VASAB Secretariat	alda.nikodemusa@vasab.org
VASAB	Elina Veidemane	VASAB Secretariat	elina.veidemane@vasab.org
VASAB	Liene Gaujeniete	VASAB Secretariat	liene.gaujeniete@vasab.org

**Annex 2 Discussion on measures proposed by CCB and WWF**

The summary of the discussion that took place the Meeting is added in the column "Proposal".

**Additional proposals by CCB and WWF on MSP related measures**

The measures originate from WWF [position paper](#): Achieving ecosystem based marine spatial plans [MSP applying an ecosystem-based approach to support the BSAP-objectives and contributing to sustainable sea-based activities](#)

Action	WG Meeting	Proposal
Benefits of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) beyond nature protection should be included as the basis of ecosystem-based approach in Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP).	<a href="#">Outcome of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG 20-2020</a>	Considered or the BSAP Annex XXX
National and transboundary maritime spatial plans (MSPs) be based on the ecosystem-based approach and implement the principles set in <a href="#">Rec 28E-9</a> , <a href="#">Guidelines on transboundary consultations, public participation and co-operation</a> and <a href="#">for the implementation of ecosystem-based approach in MSP</a> in the Baltic Sea Area.	HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Already set. It might be reflected in the preamble to the BSAP to assure that the MSP framework is applied.
Set maritime spatial plans to significantly contribute to mitigate the impacts from blue economy activities exerted on MPAs and include individual MPAs and MPA networks as an integral part of MSP.		considered for the BSAP Annex XXX. Finland sees as too strict to include all MPAs in MSPs. Proposal to include also OECMs and other conservation measures. To speak about "planning" but not "plans".
Ensure that future development and activity undertaken in the Baltic Sea Area does not undermine the health and integrity of the ocean, therefore ensuring that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>restores, protects and maintains diverse, productive and resilient marine ecosystems</li> <li>provides social and economic benefits for current and future generations; and</li> <li>is based on clean technologies, renewable energy and circular material flows.</li> </ul>		Too technical for the BSAP and even for the Roadmap. The proposal looks more like an objective rather than a measure.
Set clear, measurable, consistent targets and guidelines to ensure development is consistent with and within the limits of the planetary boundaries.		Setting targets might be relevant for the Roadmap. Should be further elaborate for proper consideration.

## Annex 3 Proposed rephrasing for the PA Spatial Planning in the updated EUSBSR Action Plan

### Policy Area Spatial Planning

**Policy Area Coordinator:** Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea, VASAB, Latvia; The Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission HELCOM), Finland.

- VASAB (for land-based spatial planning issues)
- HELCOM & VASAB (for maritime spatial planning issues)

#### 1. EUSBSR Objectives

The overall goal of PA 'Spatial Planning' is to increase **territorial cohesion in the Baltic Sea region**. In 2030, the Region shall be a better-integrated and more coherent macro-region, with reduced socio-economic development divides between its individual parts and global challenges that have been turned into assets. To achieve this, PA is encouraging the use of maritime and land-based spatial planning [as well as integrated/territorial approach to development policies](#) in all Member States around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation.

Spatial planning is an integrative process to influence the future spatial distribution of human activities. It aims to ensure functional integration across multiple scales (macro-regional, national, regional, local levels) and different sectors of public policy in order to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment, to reduce the vulnerability of spatial development and spatial structures to adverse climate change impacts and to achieve social and economic objectives. Spatial planning is therefore an important tool for promoting sustainable development and improving the quality of life.

#### 2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This PA is contributing to SDGs 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14.

#### 3. EU or other policy framework:

**PA Spatial Planning** is related to the following EU- regional - and international strategic frameworks:

- Territorial Agenda 2030 of the European Union: A future for all places. (Draft December 2019, adoption foreseen at an informal ministerial meeting on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 2020);
- [Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning;](#)
- [A European Green Deal for the European Union that is the Commission's commitment from 2019 to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges with a goal of making the EU climate neutral in 2050;](#)
- VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the BSR and Tallinn Declaration 2014;
- HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan;
- Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap [2013-2020 and the new Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2021-2027](#).

#### 4. Involvement of stakeholders

**At steering groups:** National ministries and/or agencies responsible for spatial planning and development, maritime spatial planning and environment issues.

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP): HELCOM jointly with VASAB is coordinating the MSP part of HA. The joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group acts as the Steering Committee for the MSP related activities of HA and it includes representatives from relevant ministries and authorities of all Baltic Sea countries Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden as well as from the EU. According to the Mandate for the Working Group, its meetings take place up to three times a year. The outcomes of the meetings can be found in the HELCOM Meeting Portal and on the VASAB website.

Land-based: VASAB is the coordinator of land-based spatial planning component of the PA. VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) composed of senior civil servants of the respective ministries of 10 countries of the Region (Belarus, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden) as well as representatives of regions acts as steering group for the land-based spatial planning activities, in close cooperation with the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

**At implementation level:** additionally to the mentioned ones above, also national/regional ministries and/or agencies from related sectors (e.g., transport, energy), regional and local municipalities, research institutions – through application of PA policy recommendations and using PA reports, as well as participation in Flagships and other cooperation projects.

#### 5. Key PA achievement so far

PA is represented by two well-established macro-regional networks involving both EU and non-EU countries:

- VASAB prepares policy options for the territorial development of the BSR and provides forum for exchange know-how on spatial planning and development among the BSR countries;
- HELCOM is an environmental policy maker for the Baltic Sea area and it develops common management solutions and actions to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution through intergovernmental cooperation.

Land-based spatial planning is carried out by all BSR countries at national and/or regional and local level. PA ensures a joint framework to follow up territorial development trends and challenges, to build a territorial cohesion perspective for the BSR in the 2030, as well as to propose concrete actions to stimulate territorial development potentials to overcome existing gaps.

Widely recognized BSR collaboration on maritime spatial planning (MSP) within the joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group has turned the Baltic Sea region a global forerunner in regional cooperation and governance on MSP applying ecosystem-based approach.



## 6. Actions for the PA

<b>Action 1: Strengthening territorial cohesion in the BSR through land-based spatial planning</b>				
<b>Description:</b> VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (LTP) sets the main framework for PA. In order to implement LTP within the EUSBSR and achieve coherent development of the Baltic Sea region, PA aims to: <a href="#">1. Take action in the fight against climate change and address environmental challenges in a systemic way.</a> <a href="#">12.</a> contribute to better adaptation of strategies to different types of areas and propose specific approaches for a diverse urban pattern by ensuring pan-Baltic dialogue; <a href="#">23.</a> underline the need to apply place-based approaches to territorial development policies as well as effective use of functional area's concept and territorial impact assessment tools by acting as a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Territorial Agenda for the EU from 2021 on; <a href="#">34.</a> observe the territorial development processes in the Region by using and advancing territorial development monitoring solutions, inter alia developed within projects of the ESPON programme; <a href="#">45.</a> encourage transnational actions improving accessibility and connectivity of the Region using potential of TEN-T for regional development and observe regional effects of the European transport infrastructure development. <a href="#">5. Contribute to adaptation, mitigation and resilience to climate change in land-based spatial planning process.</a>				
<b>Timing: ongoing</b>				
<b>Indicator title</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target/deadline</b>	<b>Data source</b>
<i>Increased the knowledge on land-based spatial planning in the BSR</i>	<i>Number* of workshops, thematic monitoring reports and possibly policy statements (*according to the chairmanship priorities)</i>	<i>By 2019 at least one thematic seminar has been organized per year, two thematic monitoring reports have been elaborated</i>	<i>Continuous</i>	<i>VASAB CSPD/BSR, national ministries, ESPON, project reports of European Territorial Cooperation programmes</i>
<b>Flagship on-going or planned within this action:</b> <b>MARA</b> – Mobility and Accessibility in Rural Areas” (flagship of PA) <b>SUMBA</b> – Sustainable Urban Mobility and Commuting in the Baltic Cities” (Flagship of HA Climate)				
<b>Project (s) and other action (s) are planned within this action:</b> VASAB currently is discussing a possible update of the <b>Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region</b> (process has been initiated in January 2019). This process might suggest new priorities / actions/ tasks for PA.				
<b>Current and planned funding sources for the PA activities:</b> Interreg BSR programme, Interreg Central and South Baltic programmes, ESPON programme, VASAB's own budget				

<b>Action 2: Ensuring coherent maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea</b>				
<b>Description:</b> The Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020, along with VASAB LTP and HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan sets the framework for MSP cooperation and defines the necessary steps to achieve the goal to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the BSR which are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem-based approach to contribute to <a href="#">reaching jointly agreed environmental and climate goals. Transboundary coherency of maritime spatial plans implies strengthening of cooperation with non-EU neighbouring countries and organizations.</a>				
<b>Timing: ongoing</b>				
<b>Indicator title</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Target/deadline</b>	<b>Data source</b>

<p><i>Maritime spatial plans <u>in the Baltic Sea are coherent across borders and apply the ecosystem-based approach.</u></i></p>	<p><i>Elaborated and applied maritime spatial plans throughout the BSR.</i></p>	<p><i>In 2019 all EU countries in the BSR are engaged into MSP. Maritime spatial plans covering whole national marine waters in the Baltic Sea are adopted in 3 countries.</i></p>	<p><i>Maritime spatial plans <u>elaborated and applied</u> throughout the Baltic Sea in 2020/2021.</i></p>	<p><i>EC DG MARE, national ministries, HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, European Territorial Cooperation programmes' reports.</i></p>
<p><b>Flagship on-going or planned within this action:</b> Capacity4MSP (2019-2021), planned</p>				
<p><b>Project (s) and other action (s) are planned within this action:</b> Current <b>Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap 2013-2020</b> includes an agreed goal: “to draw up and apply maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 which are coherent across borders and apply ecosystem-based approach”. According to the Work plan 2020-2021 of the HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, the elaboration of new Roadmap for 2020+ will be carried out by 2021. In the period after 2020 focus of the activities on MSP will move from preparation of the plans to their implementation and to follow up of effectiveness. There will be important updates for the overall policy frameworks. An update of the <b>HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan</b> is going on <u>and a new Regional Baltic MSP Roadmap is under development. Both documents are</u> expected to be adopted by the end of 2021. Also, a <u>n-possible</u> update of the <b>VASAB LTP</b> <u>has started is currently being discussed.</u> <b>BSR MSP Data group</b> works on establishing the joint BSR MSP webmap where adopted maritime spatial plans in the Baltic Sea will be available. <b>Capacity4MSP</b> project platform (ongoing till September 2021, funded by Interreg BSR Programme)</p>				
<p><b>Current and planned funding sources for the PA activities:</b> EU Commission’s DG MARE, Interreg BSR Programme, joint Baltic Sea research and development Programme (BONUS), Interreg Central Baltic Programme, VASAB’s and HELCOM’s own budget.</p>				