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<b>Document title</b>	Developments and activities related to EUSBSR and HA Spatial Planning
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	6 - Coordination of Policy area Spatial Planning and MSP related projects and events
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<b>Submitted by</b>	HELCOM and VASAB Secretariats
<b>Reference</b>	

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## Background

HELCOM and VASAB are co-coordinators of Policy Area (PA) 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 PA 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 PA Spatial Planning (such as funding opportunities and meetings) and representing the PA in various meetings and processes as needed.

The revised EUSBSR Action Plan has been adopted by the European Commission and that implies changes in the governance structure and steering group work of the EUSBSR.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.



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

October 2021

HELCOM and VASAB are co-coordinators of Policy Area (PA) 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 PA 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 PA Spatial Planning (such as funding opportunities and meetings) and representing the PA in various meetings and processes as needed.

### Activities arising from the revised EUSBSR Action Plan

The updated EUSBSR Action Plan has been adopted by the European Commission on 15 February 2021. The revised Action Plan is more focused, 14 Policy Areas cover 44 Actions, climate change and cooperation with neighbouring non-EU countries are mainstreamed as horizontal aspects in all policy areas. The 3 Objectives of the Strategy – Save the Sea, Connect the Region and Increase Prosperity – remain valid and in force. Policy Areas no longer are aligned with certain Objective but rather considered cross-sectoral and overarching. While the Baltic Sea Strategy Point is not yet established, Let's Communicate project is carrying out the tasks.

Further on each PA has to prepare a Work Plan and annual report that has to be approved by the Steering Group. In case of multiple PACs – a lead PAC has to be assigned. Each Steering Group has to establish Rules of Operation.

The overall goal of the 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 that has reduced socio-economic development divides between its individual parts and has turned global challenges into assets. The current version of the revised EUSBSR Action plan for PA Spatial Planning has two actions:

- Action 1: Strengthening territorial cohesion in the BSR through land-based spatial planning
- Action 2: Ensuring coherent maritime spatial plans throughout the Baltic Sea

### Follow-up on funding activities/ upcoming funding period 2021-2027

*CINEA /EMFAF (The European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency/European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund)* – a [call for MSP](#) aimed at all EU countries and non-EU countries in the Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, North Sea and the Mediterranean in is open 28 September – 12 January. Proposals are expected to develop innovative responses to tackle the above mentioned specific challenges that EU Members States might encounter in the implementation and/or revision of their maritime spatial plans. Available funding is EUR 3 750 000 (2-3 projects expected).

*Interreg BSR Programme* – the 2021-2027 [programme](#) was kicked-off during the Annual EUSBSR Forum on September 28. Programme will have 4 priorities:

1. Innovative societies:
  - 1.1. Resilient economies and communities
  - 1.2. Responsive public services
2. Water-smart societies:
  - 2.1. Sustainable waters
  - 2.2. Blue economy
3. Climate-neutral societies
  - 3.1. Circular economy
  - 3.2. Energy transition

- 3.3. Smart-green mobility
- 4. Cooperation governance
  - 4.1. Project platforms
  - 4.2. Macro-regional governance

It is planned that the partner search will be open this fall and the programme call will be launched in the beginning of 2022 right after the programme's approval. Recently a matchmaking platform has been launched.

*Interreg Central Baltic Programme (EE, LV, SE, FI, Åland)* – the 2021-2027 [programme](#) launch event will take place on November 15. Programme's will have 7 objectives 1) More exports by SMEs, 2) More new scaled-up growth companies, 3) Joint circular economy solutions, 4) Improved coastal and marine environment, 5) Decreased CO2 emissions, 6) Improved employment opportunities on labour market, 7) Improved public services and solutions for the citizens. It is aimed to have the first call deadlines in early 2022, project idea form is already available.

*Interreg South Baltic Programme (DE, DK, LT, PL, SE)* – the [3<sup>rd</sup> seed money call](#) of the 2014-2020 programmes is opened from 13 September to 5 November 2021. For the 2021-2027 [programme](#) the public consultations were opened until 15 October. Programme proposal has 4 priorities with 7 objectives: INNOVATIVE 1.1. Digitising the region and 1.2. Building connectivity of the region through internationalisation; SUSTAINABLE 2.1. Supporting transition towards green energy, 2.2. Promoting sustainable use of water and 2.3. Supporting a circular and more resource efficient development; ATTRACTIVE 3.1 Developing sustainable, resilient and innovative tourism; ACTIVE 4.1. Strengthen the cooperation capacity of actors based within the South Baltic area (including civil society).

*Interreg Europe* – the overall objective of the 2021-2027 [programme](#) is to improve the implementation of regional development policies, including Investment for jobs and growth goal programmes, by promoting the exchange of experience, innovative approaches and capacity building in relation to the identification, dissemination and transfer of good practices among regional policy actors. The Interreg-specific objective 'a better cooperation governance' will be the single programme objective. 80% of the funds will to be allocated towards Smarter Europe, Greener Europe, and More Social Europe (labour markets, health, culture and sustainable tourism) policy objectives. The remaining 20% of the programme budget can be allocated to More Connected Europe, Europe closer to citizens, More social Europe policy objectives. It is planned that the Commission will approve the programme in January 2022.

[EURO ACCESS tool](#) can be used to identify further funding programmes.

Progress of ongoing Flagship project of MSP relevance:

Title	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<p><b>Capacity4MSP - Strengthening the capacity of MSP stakeholders and decision makers</b>  <a href="http://www.capacity4msp.eu">www.capacity4msp.eu</a></p> <p><i>Flagship status granted by EUSBSR NC meeting on 29-30 June 2020.</i></p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> VASAB Secretariat / State Regional Development Agency, 4 partners from Research institutions, 2 partners from public authority, 2 international organisations and 16 associated organizations</p>	<p>Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020, 2nd Call</p> <p>2.5 years (August 2019 – March 2022)</p> <p>Project was prolonged for 6 months due to Covid-19</p>	<p><b>Recent activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Final conference was organised online on 1-2 June 2021 jointly with Land-Sea-Act final conference (4<sup>th</sup> Baltic MSP Forum).</li> <li>Thematic workshops organised:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thematic workshop on MSP and the Blue Bioeconomy on 27 April</li> <li>- helpdesk on BASEMAPS on 14 October</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Upcoming activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of the Synthesis report on ongoing activities in MSP has been finalized and is being prepared for publishing</li> <li>- Report of identified mechanisms for the implementation of MSP</li> <li>- Report on MSP Follow-up mechanism</li> <li>- Development of Russian MSP Roadmap, intensive work with stakeholders</li> <li>- Study on how to reach co-existence between commercial fisheries and offshore wind</li> <li>- Scientific publication on MSP Implementation in the EU BSR Member States'</li> </ul> <p><b>Deliverables:</b> <a href="#">Integrated report</a> on stakeholder involvement and engagement in MSP <a href="#">Report</a> from the 4<sup>th</sup> Baltic MSP Forum <a href="#">Report</a> from 3<sup>rd</sup> Planners Forum Further deliverables available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Next meetings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Next project partner meeting and 4th Planners` Forum will take place on 23 and 24 November, online</li> <li>-MSP Visioning workshop on 2 December, online</li> <li>-Workshop on Cumulative impacts on 6-7 December, Copenhagen</li> <li>-Concluding event planned for February/March 2021</li> </ul>

Progress of other ongoing projects of MSP relevance:

Title	Role of HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG	Funding & Duration	Latest activities
<p><b>eMSP NBSR</b> Emerging ecosystem-based Maritime Spatial Planning topics in North and Baltic Sea Regions <a href="https://vasab.org/project/emsp-nbsr/">https://vasab.org/project/emsp-nbsr/</a></p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), 17 partners from NL, BE, DE, PL, DK, FI, SE, FR, Åland representing national and regional authorities, intergovernmental and research organisations. 2 associated organisations.</p>	<p>The project is to support the implementation of EBA and MSP data related tasks of the Regional MSP Roadmap. HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG and BSR MSP Data ESG are supposed to be involved in co-creation of respective knowledge.</p>	<p>CINEA, EMFF-MSP-2020 call</p> <p>2,5 years [Sept 2021 – Feb 2024]</p>	<p>Currently project is in 6-month inception phase to define the working frame, learning questions, work plan and planned results in each learning strand. <b>Upcoming activities:</b> - Kick-off Internal Conference Meeting on 30 November – 1 December in Haarlem, NL and online. -Kick-off External Conference – February 2022. -Development of project communication channels, communication guidelines, visual identity, website.</p> <p><i>The aim of the eMSP NBSR project is to enable Maritime Spatial Planners of managing authorities and policymakers from the North and Baltic Sea Regions to reflect on current MSP practices, to learn effectively from each other, and to collectively identify problems and solutions.</i></p> <p><i>Work will be divided into 5 learning strands (LS):</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ocean governance;</li> <li>2. Ecosystem-based approach;</li> <li>3. Sustainable blue economy;</li> <li>4. Monitoring and evaluation;</li> <li>5. Data sharing, information and communication technology serving MSP.</li> </ol>
<p><b>SEAPLANSPLACE –</b> Marine spatial planning instruments for sustainable marine governance  <a href="https://seaplanspace.ug.edu.pl/">https://seaplanspace.ug.edu.pl/</a></p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> University of Gdansk (PL) 7 partners from Research institutions and 4 associated partners from public authorities.</p>	<p><b>Letter of Support</b> issued by VASAB Secretariat on 28 Jun 2017</p>	<p>Interreg South Baltic Programme 2014-2020 4th Call</p> <p>3 years [Jan2018-Dec2021]</p> <p>Project was prolonged for 6 months due to Covid-19 &amp; accepted for 1st Mini Call of the South Baltic Programme</p>	<p><b>Recent activities:</b> SEAPLANSPLACE <a href="#">summer school</a> took place on 28.06.-02.07.2021. SEAPLANSPLACE Final Joint <a href="#">Project Meeting</a> took place on 21-22 October</p> <p><b>Planned deliverables:</b> The SEAPLANSPLACE General Knowledge <a href="#">Manual</a> and Country Specific Manuals are estimated to be delivered in March 2021. SEAPLANSPLACE Webinar (20h online training) addressing national and international MSP is being developed.</p>
<p><b>Land-Sea Act</b> Land-sea interaction advancing Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea coastal areas <a href="https://land-sea.eu/">https://land-sea.eu/</a></p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> Latvia's Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development 3 partners from Research institutions, 7 partners from public authorities</p> <p><i>The project Land-Sea-Act aims to bring together stakeholders involved in coastal management</i></p>	<p><b>Letter of Support</b> issued by VASAB Secretariat on 6 Apr 2018</p>	<p>Interreg BSR Programme 2014-2020, 3rd Call</p> <p>3 years [Jan 2019 - Dec 2021] Prolonged for 6 months</p>	<p><b>Recent activities:</b> -Final conference was organized on 1-2 June 2021 jointly with Capacity4MSP final conference (4th MSP Forum). -20-21 October 2021 Training on land-sea interactions in spatial planning, online, broadcasted from Tallinn.</p> <p><b>Next meetings:</b> -5 November 2021 Multi-level governance workshop, online, broadcasted from Riga. -9 November 2021 Policy Workshop BLUE GROWTH Strategies to foster economic development in coastal areas and deal with the challenges ahead, online workshop as part of Dialogue of Continents conference <a href="https://www.dialogueofcontinents.com/">https://www.dialogueofcontinents.com/</a> -Final project partner meeting in December 2021 online, broadcasted from Riga.</p>

<p>and planning, to find solutions to Maritime Spatial Planning and Blue Growth challenges around the Baltic Sea.</p>			<p>The project partners are working on 6 case studies. 4 case studies are on spatial planning solutions for addressing development trade-offs in coastal areas. Other 2 case studies address Blue Growth issues and work towards boosting entrepreneurship in coastal areas. The 2 Blue Growth case studies will be assisted by Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI) assessing regional economic statistics, Blue growth options and marketability of innovative business ideas. Each case study involves relevant stakeholders and knowledge exchange across sectors and borders.</p>
<p><b>HASPS 3</b> Horizontal Action “Spatial Planning” Support 3</p> <p><b>Project lead:</b> VASAB Secretariat <b>Project partner:</b> HELCOM Secretariat</p>	<p>Supporting the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG, communication about EUSBSR and MSP related projects</p>	<p>Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020</p> <p>3,5 years [June2018-December2021] prolongation due to Covid-19</p>	<p>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:</p> <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 (BSR MSP Data group meeting in 3–4 March 2021, Warsaw).</li> <li>•Enhancing outreach and integration of PA “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>

Events related to EUSBSR

The latest meetings of *EUSBSR National Coordinators' group* took place online on 2 June and 21 and 29 April 2021. *Coffee with EUSBSR Presidency* meetings were introduced by the German Presidency and are organised regularly. The latest meeting was on 28 October 2021.

*4<sup>th</sup> BSR MSP Forum* was organized on 1-2 June 2021 jointly with final conferences of Capacity4MSP and Land-Sea-Act final conferences. Results are available on VASAB [website](#).

*The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual EUSBSR Forum* was organized on 27 September to 1 October 2021 by Lithuania and was held online. VASAB LTP update 1<sup>st</sup> external workshop ‘Bridging the old with the new: How can we built a better Baltic Sea Region future for 2040 and beyond?’ was organised as part of the event on 28 September.

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