

SAVE THE DATE!

VASAB Stakeholder Workshop 2018

Achieving coherent and sustainable development of macro-region Unique team-work of the countries around the Baltic Sea

15 May 2018

Venue: Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU
Avenue de Cortenbergh, 80, Brussels, Belgium

Many know that Baltic Sea Region had the first macro-regional strategy in the European Union. But not so many realize that macro-regional cooperation in the Baltics takes place for many decades.

What is the added-value of macro-regional cooperation? What are the benefits of common actions and mutual knowledge as the main pillars fostering coherent and sustainable regional development in three themes: **urban networking** and **urban-rural cooperation**, **internal and external accessibility** and **maritime spatial planning**? What are the future challenges and opportunities for macro-regional cooperation after 2020? These will be the main topics for discussion of the VASAB workshop on 15 May 2018.



VASAB (“Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea”) is intergovernmental multilateral cooperation of 11 countries of the Baltic Sea Region in spatial planning and development, both EU and non-EU countries guided by the Conference of Ministers responsible for spatial planning and development, steered by the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) composed of representatives of respective ministries and regional authorities (Germany, Russia).

VASAB cooperation is the first macro-regional collaboration in Europe dealing with territorial development, common vision and joint actions of the region. It was founded in 1992. On 2009 it agreed on Long-Term Perspective for Territorial Development of the Region.

Policy makers and **stakeholders** involved in macro-regional development and cooperation concerning urban planning, accessibility and maritime spatial planning at EU, macro-regional and national level are invited to participate in this workshop. It also addresses the **practitioners** and **researchers** interested in macro-regional topicalities.

Registration is open [here!](#)

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Duration: 13.00 – 17.00

Introduction:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of spatial planning and regional cooperation in EU and macro-regional context - Achievements and activities carried out within the VASAB cooperation 	
Urban networking and urban – rural cooperation:	
Keynotes for inspiration:	Moderated discussion topics
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VASAB Study on Development of Cities in the Baltic Sea Region - Comparison on Urban Revitalization in the Baltic Sea Region - Smart, Attractive and Competitive Baltic Cities - Concept in practice - German approach for Smart Cities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>How macro-regional cooperation influences Baltic cities and rural areas?</i> - <i>How medium-sized cities and rural regions can adapt to the challenges of contemporary urbanization?</i> - <i>What opportunities and challenges will be faced after 2020</i>
Improving internal and external accessibility:	
Keynotes for inspiration:	Moderated discussion topics:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VASAB Study on Accessibility of the Baltic Sea Region - Developing common vision for the North Sea-Baltic Corridor - What TEN-T core network corridors bring for coherent development of the macro-region? - Spatial planning for sustainable growth of renewable energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Regional development perspective and the needs of peripheral regions in the core network corridors context</i> - <i>Comprehensive transport structure to improve internal connectivity and competitiveness of the BSR regions</i> - <i>BSR accessibility in the global context</i> - <i>Access to renewable energy for sustainable macro-regions</i>
Maritime spatial planning (MSP)	
Keynote speeches for inspiration:	Moderated discussion topics:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional cooperation on MSP at transnational, cross-border and national level - Linking practice with science – a benefit for MSP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Added value of macro-regional cooperation</i> - <i>Cross-border dimension in MSP – how to achieve the coherence of maritime spatial plans?</i> - <i>Involvement of research community for more evidence based MSP</i>
Wrap-up discussions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What are the main benefits of macro-regional cooperation?</i> - <i>How could the common knowledge be fostered in the future?</i> - <i>What should be the future focus for macro-regional cooperation?</i> - <i>What challenges should be addressed post 2020?</i> - <i>What else should be done to achieve coherent macro-region?</i> 	
Closing & Mingling event	

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