Update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region

METHODOLOGY REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

Back in 1994 the VASAB ministers adopted in Tallinn the first commonly agreed transnational vision of the Baltic Sea Region. The document played a vital role in the spatial development of the Baltic Sea Region, describing goals for spatial development, strategies on how to achieve them and joint actions to implement. This forward looking document highlights that the region must develop a strong identity at global level and be a frontrunner for sustainable, environmentally sound development and all this under the veil of cooperation which enhances trust and liability (VASAB secretariat, 1994). This vision has been updated in 2009, looking at trends and challenges for territorial development and setting a Long-Term Perspective and an action plan for prioritised issues of transnational relevance. This VASAB Long-Term Perspective covers the sectors of urban networking and urban-rural cooperation, accessibility and maritime spatial planning, setting time horizons for the implementation of the actions (VASAB, 2010).

Today in 2021, the topics covered in these two aforementioned documents still seem relevant. The pearls (i.e. the urban networking, urban-rural partnerships and functional regions), the strings (i.e. the internal and external digital and physical connectivity), the patches (i.e. the blue sea and green territory, the sustainable development and planning at sea and land) and the system (i.e. the integrated sustainable maritime and spatial planning and management) (VASAB secretariat, 1994) are still of transnational relevance in the territorial discourses of the region. Time has shown that also the evolution of these themes to the three key categories of the updated VASAB Long-Term Perspective as of 2010 (VASAB, 2010), namely the urban networking and urban-rural cooperation, accessibility and maritime spatial planning mentioned above, remain largely relevant. The links, synergies and relevance of the topics show their continuation, timelessness and robustness until today.
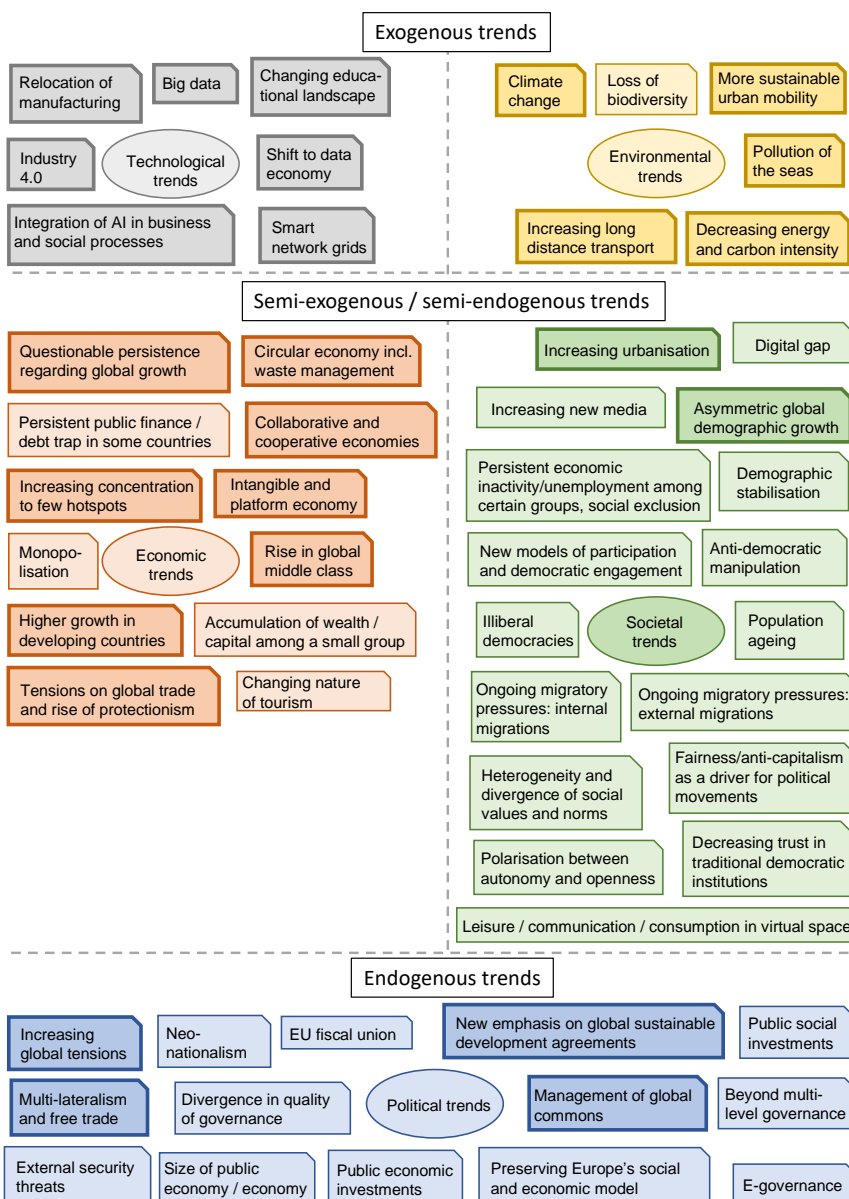
This report raises attention on why another update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective seems necessary and it presents the methodology for updating the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for 2040. It sets the overall approach and structure of the process following the task description, as well as presenting the methods, with a particular emphasis on the co-creation and participatory process through a clear stakeholder engagement plan. The methodology report was presented and discussed on 19 March 2021 at a meeting with the VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development (CSPD). This report is revised based on the proposed adjustments and comments suggested by the VASAB CSPD during this meeting, as shared in written form by the VASAB Secretariat to the research team.

1.1 WHY ANOTHER VASAB LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE UPDATE?

The world is constantly changing with numerous trends and changes taking place daily at global and EU level. Besides, the Baltic Sea Region is also comprised by non-EU countries and their developments and changes are also linked and influence the development of the

Baltic Sea Region. Different trends and developments may play out differently in different types of territories and have different consequences at global or EU level. Figure 1 shows an overview of existing exogenous and endogenous trends (Böhme, Lüer, & Toptsidou, 2019; ESPON, 2019b). Exogenous trends are considered these that cannot be influenced by policy making. Endogenous trends are these trends that can be influenced by policy making. Both exogenous and endogenous trends come from the political, economic, environmental, social and technological spheres and may influence territories and people in different ways. Climate change, biodiversity loss, population ageing, the 4th industrial revolution, collaborative economies, big data, increased global tensions, neo-nationalism, e-governance are only a few of the trends that may influence global and EU territories.
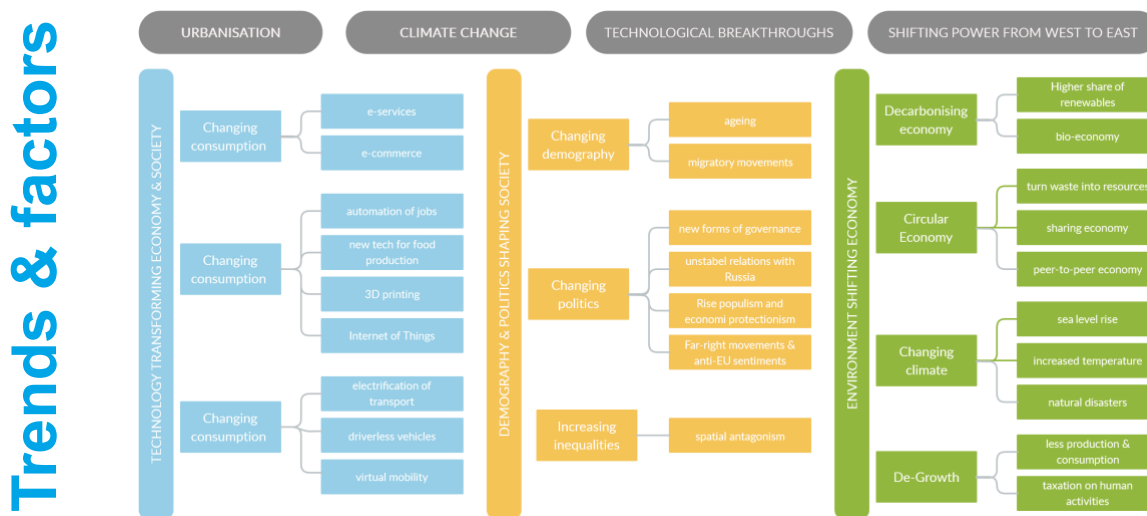
Figure 1 Endogenous and exogenous trends

Source: Böhme, Lüer, & Toptsidou (2019)

Zooming in the Baltic Sea Region, several trends are particularly relevant for the region. The study 'Looking towards the 2030: Preparing the Baltic Sea Region for the future', prepared for the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth' has looked into numerous trends that may have implications for the Baltic Sea Region and the EUSBSR. Four key categories were identified, namely the 'changing demographic pressure', 'renewing industries and innovation', 'deepening environmental conversations' and 'changing democratic decision making' (Böhme, Antikainen, Zillmer, Hans, & Pyykkonen, 2016). These categories highlight the variety of trends as well as the high levels of uncertainty that may affect the region. Further to this, the ESPON study on 'Territorial Scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region 2050' identified additional trends under key categories of relevance for the Baltic Sea Region, including its EU and non-EU members. Particularly trends linked to the overarching themes of technology transforming economy and society, demography and politics shaping society and environment shifting economy may play an important role for the territorial development of the Baltic Sea Region in the future (ESPON, 2019a). All this shows that the world and territorial development in the Baltic Sea Region is uncertain and action to adjust to this uncertainty is necessary.

Figure 2 Trends and factors influencing the Baltic Sea Region

Source: Aguiar Borges (2020), ESPON (2019a)

Furthermore, besides all the trends and developments, the dawn of the new decade came along with an unprecedent event that nobody was expecting and nobody was prepared for: a pandemic. The coronavirus, or COVID-19, is the latest proof of sudden global changes, which has shaken most aspects of businesses' progress and people's lives, questioned political decisions, social structures and economic systems bringing consequences and a new 'post-pandemic' reality that are yet to be fully seen.

The response to some of these trends comes from various policies and strategies at EU level, which aim to take steps and adjust to these new developments. The EU Green Deal, to start with, is an ambitious plan put forward by the European Commission aiming to make

the EU climate neutral by 2050, setting a number of initiatives that will protect the environment and boost the green economy. At the same time, to address the social consequences of this transformation, the Just Transition Fund is also put in place to ensure that no place is left behind and that transition takes place in a fair way where territories and citizens are taken into account. Furthermore, to address the COVID-19 pandemic, the European Commission has initiated a response strategy. The Commission launched in April 2020 two packages of measures: the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII) and the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+) to mobilise EU cohesion policy to face the crisis. The CRII package does not offer new EU financial resources, rather it provides flexibility to use existing, unspent cohesion policy funds resources and re-direct them to where they are most needed. Furthermore, the Next Generation EU is put in place as a temporary instrument to mediate the economic consequences of the pandemic. The Recovery and Resilience Facility are created, while the CRII/CRII+ initiatives were supplemented on 27 May with the presentation of the REACT-EU package, which is currently under negotiation with the Council and European Parliament institutions. In addition, in December 2020 the ministers responsible for spatial planning, territorial development and / or territorial cohesion have adopted the Territorial Agenda 2030. The Territorial Agenda 2030 has been renewed during 2019-2020 and aims at a green and just Europe, for all places. (Böhme & Lüer, 2020)

What becomes clear from the policy responses, is that territories matter and that place-based but also people-centred policies are necessary. Despite the desires for more place-based approaches in policy design, territorial implications are often neglected. Focusing on the specificities, needs and potential of the territories is necessary for sustainable territorial development. Furthermore, the future calls for putting the needs of people at the forefront to reduce fragmentation, inequality and social disparities across Europe. Multi-level governance from that respect is key to ensure the citizens involvement in policy making. Hence, future policies and strategic documents should be place-based and people-centred to create a desirable future for all. To this direction, cooperation is certainly a must and not a luxury (ESPON, 2017), as in our interconnected world, working together is vital in bringing and bridging all these aspects together.

Although no one can predict the future, one can prepare for it. Change is inevitable, but evolution and adjusting to changes is a choice. VASAB has been forward looking and has shown that developing visions and setting goals for the future is a priority for the intergovernmental cooperation. Its long time approach in developing and updating its visions shows that continuously evolving and adjusting to these changes is necessary to prepare for the future. Against this background VASAB is currently updating its Long-Term Perspective towards territorial cohesion perspective of the Baltic Sea Region until 2040.

Chapter 2 of this report presents the overall approach and tasks for the process. Chapter 3 gives more details about the data and information collection and mapping. Chapter 4 is dedicated to the stakeholder engagement plan. Last but not least, chapter 5 presents the details time plan for the process.

2. OVERALL APPROACH AND TASKS

This chapter lays the overall elements for the update process of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective. First, the overall approach and concept for the update process is presented. Second, the chapter describes the four tasks that shape the process and provides only an overview of the methods to be used. The detailed description of the methods will follow in chapters 3 and 4.
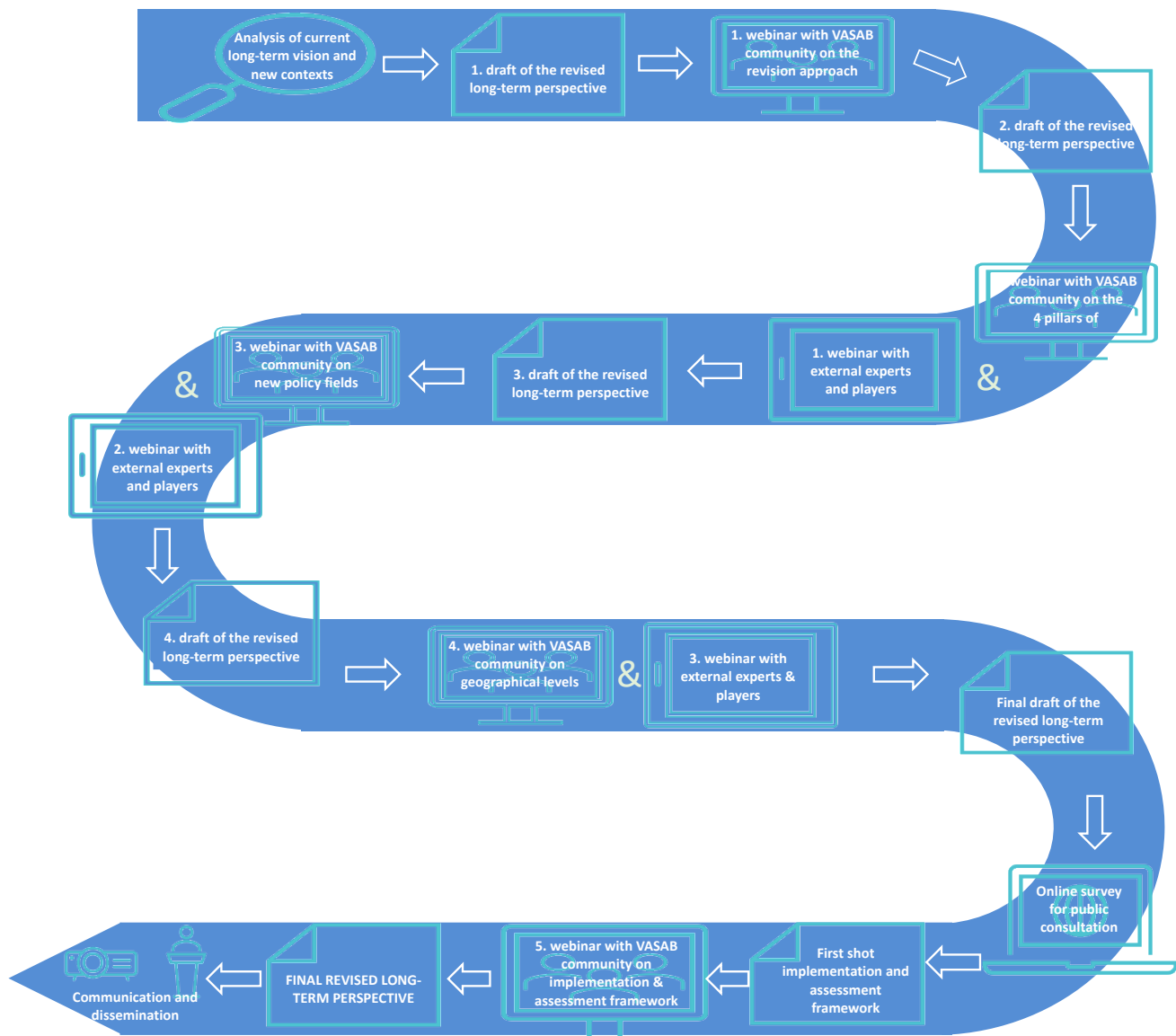
2.1 OVERALL APPROACH

The update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective has the ambition to capitalise on the work and the powerful metaphors already developed by VASAB, giving them a 'future-oriented twist'. The update process shall not reinvent the wheel by developing new concepts, but rather use and work on what is available and make it future relevant. The purpose of the process is to bridge the 'old' with the 'new' and develop a fresh document, that builds up on the relevant topics of the existing VASAB Long Term Perspective, updated and adjusted to current and future trends and policy contexts.

As the updated VASAB Long-Term Perspective process will be a living document shared by all VASAB members, a strong focus is given in the views of all relevant stakeholders and participatory approaches are key for the development and ownership of the process.

This future-oriented document will be developed through a co-creation process together with the VASAB stakeholders, experts in the region, thematic experts, as well as other relevant stakeholders such as the EUSBSR key implementers, the joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group, who will be part of the process throughout the update. The update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective centres around two key elements that run in parallel and are interrelated: the blend of content creation based on current trends, developments and policy discussions and a continuous co-creation approach throughout the process. The figure below depicts this co-creation journey, where content update alternates with co-creation workshops, wider stakeholder involvement and communication.

Figure 3 The process journey

Source: Authors' own

The 'co-creation' journey shows all steps of the process in a schematic and simplified way. The process shall start with analysing the current situation and policy contexts and continue with the actual update process through a continuous and thorough co-creation process with the VASAB CSPD and wider stakeholder involvement. Last but not least, the implementation and assessment framework and the outreach and dissemination activities will be spelled out. The tasks to go through this 'journey' are presented in the following sub-section (2.2), the methods are presented in chapter 3, the stakeholder engagement plan in chapter 4 and the timetable of the activities in chapter 5.

2.2 THE TASKS

The overall approach and concept is represented by four overarching tasks, as described below. The methods to carry out these tasks are presented in more detail in chapter 3, which focuses on the content creation and update and chapter 4, which focuses on the co-creation process.

2.2.1 TASK 1 – BRIDGING THE 'OLD' WITH THE 'NEW'

The content. Task 1 is twofold, as it aims to bridge the 'old' with the 'new' by first looking to the situation of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective and the Baltic Sea Region 'as is', to then relate it with trends, developments and policy contexts and develop the VASAB Long-Term Perspective 'to be' in 2040. The task will lay the foundations for identifying the 'new' VASAB Long-Term Perspective focus, i.e. 'where we want to be in 2040'. More specifically, task 1 aims at first to understand the present, by taking onboard lessons learnt and past experience with the VASAB Long-Term Perspective. As a next step, it aims to look relate these findings to the most recent policy documents and relevant developments and trends at global, EU and Baltic Sea Region levels. This will form the background and concept for the situation 'to be', focusing on new spatial planning narratives for future VASAB cooperation, looking into global, European and Baltic trends and developments, including the post-pandemic reality and the COVID-19 consequences. The first task will therefore describe the standing point of the current VASAB Long-Term Perspective and its position towards other international and pan-Baltic policy initiatives that are relevant to spatial planning. This preparatory work will help in framing the concept and idea for the focus of the updated VASAB Long-Term Perspective.

The how to. Task 1 will be carried out through desk research of numerous qualitative and quantitative sources. They will range from VASAB official documents, to different studies of EU and Baltic Sea Region level, trend collections and reports. Qualitative information will be used for developing maps and visualising of the status quo, while alternative maps will be used for depicting the future situation. Nevertheless, the focus of the work will not be a data analysis in this case, but rather a fresh look of material that is already available from recent studies and reports, as also mentioned earlier. More information about the methods can be found in chapter 3.

The output. The output of task 1 will be a background synthesis report that will summarise in a clear and communicative way the situation 'as is', as well as some first ideas about the situation 'to be'. The situation 'to be' will be open throughout the whole process and subject to updates and adjustments based on the interactions and feedbacks during the update process. This will be accompanied by a number of maps that could best visualise these results.

2.2.2 TASK 2 – UPDATE PROCESS OF THE VASAB LONG-TERM PERSPECTIVE & CO-CREATION PROCESS

The content. Task 2 guides the whole process of development the situation 'to be', by taking into account the findings of task 1 and adjusting and proposing what needs to be changed to meet future challenges. The development of the situation 'to be' will therefore be a living overall idea and a continuous process co-developed with the VASAB CSPD. Although some key elements and ideas will be set during task 1, looking from different policies, developments, trends and directions to spatial planning and land-use relevant issues, so that there is a direction for its development, more details, ideas and concrete aspects will emerge and will be developed in the course of the process. As described in the introduction the overall logic of the process update builds upon the realisation that we need to act as there are challenges and trends that require action and update. At the same time, the topics addressed in VASAB visions and Long-Term Perspectives have been rather robust over the past decades. Therefore, the process of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update will continue working along the key elements of the existing long-term vision and build on its powerful metaphors. To do this, we propose a structure where each of the old elements of the VASAB vision and Long-Term Perspective, i.e. the pearls, strings, patches and system are viewed with a fresh eye of the new the situation 'to be', i.e. the 'where we want to be in 2040'. In addition, each element will be looked on the one hand from the prism of the new challenges and policies, as identified under task 1 and on the other, from the prism of multi-level governance, i.e. of different governance levels covering local, regional, macro-regional, European and global to see the link and synergies of the region with other governance levels, as the Baltic Sea Region is see as part of all.
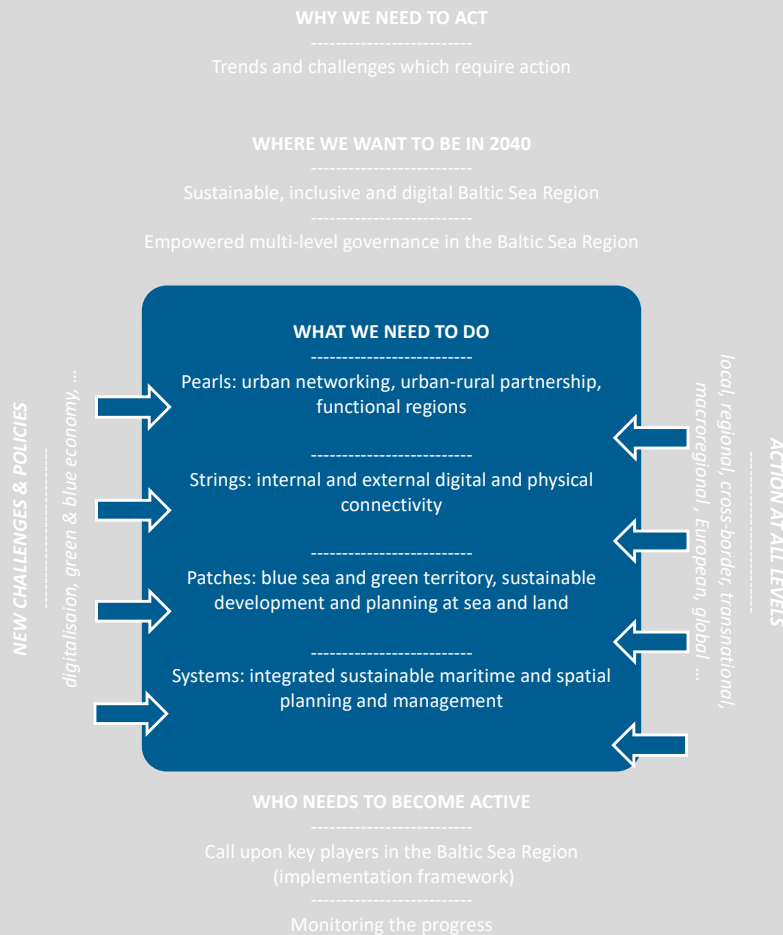
The how to. The research team will propose in a first draft of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective, first ideas on the thematic approach and overall objective, as well as the different perspectives in terms of challenges, policies and governance arrangements based on the findings and research carried out for task 1. Nevertheless, as mentioned earlier, the VASAB Long-Term Perspective shall be updated in a participatory and co-creative process involving both the VASAB community as well as relevant experts and stakeholders in the region. Hence a process journey (see figure 3) will take shape where the initial draft of the updated VASAB Long-Term Perspective will be amended and adjusted in alteration of internal workshops with the VASAB CSPD and external workshops with wider stakeholder engagement. This means that different aspects of the document will be discussed at different workshops and will then be adjusted based on the contributions of and feedback from the participants. As mentioned in the 1st VASAB LTP update meeting with the VASAB CSPD, during the co-creation process also the role of the Long-Term Perspective in the future, the region and in the European level will be discussed, such as with having a common spatial vision for all VASAB countries indicating spatial development features, or it being an operational document for the EUSBSR, or other ideas.

In total four online internal workshops with the VASAB CSPD and three external online workshops (back to back with three internal workshops) will take place, alternating with in total four draft revisions. More details about the co-creation process can be found in chapter 4.

Example of a possible structure of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update

The example structure below shows schematically a possible VASAB Long-Term Perspective updated version, as it was used in the tender. The description serves only for clarification purposes and to show how a possible structure of the update process and document could look like, taking into account examples of focus elements. The final selection of overall objective, challenges and policies will only be decided after the finalisation of task 1 and throughout task 2.

Figure 4 Structure of the update process

WHY WE NEED TO ACT

Trends and challenges which require action

WHERE WE WANT TO BE IN 2040

Sustainable, inclusive and digital Baltic Sea Region

Empowered multi-level governance in the Baltic Sea Region

NEW CHALLENGES & POLICIES

digitalisaion, green & blue economy, …

WHAT WE NEED TO DO

Pearls: urban networking, urban-rural partnership, functional regions
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Strings: internal and external digital and physical connectivity
----
Patches: blue sea and green territory, sustainable development and planning at sea and land
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Systems: integrated sustainable maritime and spatial planning and management

local, regional, cross-border, transnational, macroregional , European, global …

ACTION AT ALL LEVELS

WHO NEEDS TO BECOME ACTIVE

Call upon key players in the Baltic Sea Region (implementation framework)

Monitoring the progress

Source: Authors' own

The example figure shows that the overall vision would be to aim for a sustainable, inclusive and digital Baltic Sea Region and to an empowered multi-level governance in the Baltic Sea Region. To do so, the process focuses on a three levels. First it takes as base the still relevant elements of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective, namely the pearls, strings,

patches and system, address each of them in terms of latest developments and trends (e.g. digitalisation, green economy etc), key policies and strategies (e.g. the Green Deal or the Territorial Agenda 2030) and various levels of governance (e.g. local, regional, transnational, macro-regional, etc.). Last but not least, the process it looks into the relevant and necessary stakeholders who will be responsible for taking this process further, as well as its implementation and monitoring.

The output. Throughout the process four drafts of the updated VASAB Long-Term Perspective will be developed. A first full draft will be elaborated before the first workshop. Then in each workshop, different aspects of the draft will serve as basis for discussion on the workshops and wider stakeholder involvement. After each workshop the draft will be adjusted based on the inputs from the workshops. The output of Task 2 will be a first final draft of the revised version of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective process, based on the content updates following the workshops insights.

2.2.3 TASK 3 – IMPLEMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

The content. The VASAB Long-Term Perspective is not just a document, but a framework for action. As such it is important to be specific about the implementation/application approach and the monitoring and assessment of its application. This task regards the design of the implementation framework and the framework of the regular assessment of the Long-Term Perspective. It aims at identifying relevant tools and activities to be used, e.g. elaborating on progress reports, meetings, conferences, reports and links with the EUSBSR. The framework will set out a flexible revision process, including where relevant, action agendas. The implementation and assessment framework will identify the relevant stakeholders responsible for carrying out the process and implementation and will set out the implementation time plan.

The how to. The implementation and assessment framework will be developed in a co-creation process with the VASAB community. One online workshop with VASAB CSPD will take place to discuss concrete specific goals and steps and processes on how to achieve them.

The output. The outcome of this task will be a short implementation and assessment framework document, putting together the actions and key points discussed during the co-creative workshop. More details about the co-creation process can be found in chapter 4.

2.2.4 TASK 4 – COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND FINALISATION

The content. Stakeholder engagement and communication are essential for the success of such an update. Indeed, to be successful the updated VASAB Long-Term Perspective needs to have an ownership in the community. Task 4 focuses explicitly on the

communicate to a wider audience incl. a public consultation and presentation at external meetings.

The how to. Task 4 regards the communication and dissemination of the new VASAB Long-Term Perspective. The lead partner will present the new document in three pan-Baltic events, such as EUSBSR Annual Forums, the European Week of Regions and Cities, Interreg Baltic Sea Region events. The events will be decided together with the client in the course of the process. Last but not least, to ensure a wider stakeholder reach on the document, an online survey sent out to relevant experts and players in the region will help in collecting any additional feedback and input before the final revision and the finalisation of the document.

The output. This last task will help in fine-tuning and finalising the document and spreading the word about the update process.

3. DATA COLLECTION, INFORMATION SOURCES & MAPPING

Qualitative and quantitative data and information collection, is a key step for the development of the update process. Qualitative information and desk research will support the development of the background report. Quantitative information is important for the mapping exercise. More information about the data and information collection and mapping is presented below.

3.1 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE DATA COLLECTION

Qualitative and quantitative data will be harvested to provide an account about what is the BSR today and inform the discussion and analysis of what needs to be changed in the future.

Qualitative data and desk research will be particularly important for the development of the background report (Task 1) , as well as for identifying key challenges, trends and developments useful for the preparation of the update process (Task 2). A good understanding of the present and the elements that may influence the future will be the first step of the process. The desk research will cover all VASAB countries and will capitalise on existing literature and sources. An indicative list is provided below, however, further sources listed in the Terms of Reference, as well as upcoming sources such as national recovery plans when available will be communicated to the team and will be reviewed. The sources will cover different levels, be that EU, Baltic Sea Region or even looking into national or regional documents. Regarding the latter, the team will screen national and regional sources communicated already to the team by the VASAB CSPD members. National and regional inputs will also be considered through the participation of these players in the external workshops and their feedback Nevertheless, the VASAB LTP is a transnational document with an eye to the Baltic Sea Region and beyond. Hence the analysis will strongly focus on

externalising and broadening VASAB's work, instead of focusing on internal processes, given that also the project resources do not allow for analyses at national and regional levels.

Indicative reading list

Among the documents to be analysed are listed below. The list presents a number of policy documents, reports, studies, scenario studies and trends documents. It is indicative and non-exhaustive. This list serves as an additional reference list to the one provided in the Terms of Reference of this offer.

- EPSC, 2018, 10 Trends reshaping climate and energy.
- EPSC, 2017, 10 Trends transforming education as we know it.
- EPSC, 2017, 10 Trends shaping migration.
- ESPAS Ideas Paper Series, 2019, Trends in Artificial Intelligence and Big Data.
- ESPAS, 2018, 2030. Global Trends to 2030: Can the EU meet the challenges ahead?
- ESPON, 2019, Territorial Scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region 2050.
- ESPON, 2019, European Territorial Reference Framework.
- ESPON, 2017, Possible European Territorial Futures
- ESPON, 2015, ET2050, Territorial scenarios and visions for Europe.
- ESPON, 2014, Territorial Monitoring for the Baltic Sea Region.
- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, 2018, EUSBSR after 2020: Governance remastered?
- European Commission, 2019, The Future of Government 2030+.
- European Parliament, 2018, Global Trends to 2035. Economy and society.
- EY, 2015, Megatrends 2015. Making sense of a world in motion.
- HELCOM & VASAB, 2013, Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020
- HELCOM & VASAB, Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning principles (2010)
- Ministry of the Environment of Finland, Scenarios for maritime areas 2050.
- OECD, 2019, Trends Shaping Education.
- OECD, 2018, Global Material Resources Outlook to 2060. Economic drivers and environmental consequences.
- OECD, 2014, Policy challenges for the next 50 years.
- Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, 2016, Looking towards 2030: Preparing the Baltic Sea Region for the future.
- Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, 2016, Territorial Monitoring update and Regional potential Index for the Baltic Sea Region.
- Territorial Agenda 2030 (www.territorialagenda.eu)
- UN, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- UN, the New Urban Agenda
- VASAB, 2018, Accessibility of the Baltic Sea Region - Past and future dynamics (2018)
- VASAB, 2016, Development of Cities in the Baltic Sea Region.
- VASAB, 2014, Progress Review Report on the Implementation of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (2014)
- VASAB, 2001, VASAB 2010+ Spatial Development Action Programme
- VASAB, 1994, Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010, 1994.
- World Economic Forum, 2019, Top 10 Emerging Technologies 2019.

The desk review will be the starting point for identifying policy lessons and contexts to be taken onboard in the update of the Long-Term Perspective and will result in a short and highly communicative background document.

Following VASAB recommendation to review some national spatial documents of the BSR countries, we identified the reports and websites below as the primary sources for this task.

- The ESPON COMPASS - Comparative Analysis of Territorial Governance and Spatial Planning Systems in Europe (ESPON, 2018). This report provides a comprehensive overview of territorial governance and spatial planning systems for all the EU-member states.
- The compendium on spatial planning systems in the Baltic Sea Region[1] offers an overview of Russian and Belarusian spatial directives. Despite outdated, it can be the starting point for grasping the spatial models adopted in both countries.
- The 'BaltSeaPlan[2]' – INTERREG project. This website delivers a summary of the national and regional strategies with relevance for the maritime space for most of the BSR countries.

The project's limited resources do not allow a thorough review of the spatial planning documents of all BSR countries. Nevertheless, some of the documents listed in Table 1 might be consulted if the information provided in the sources mentioned above will not be sufficient. A number of national / regional documents have been communicated by the VASAB CSPD, as mentioned earlier, and will also screened, where relevant, and in replacement of some of the documents below.

Table 1: List of the relevant national document by BSR country

County	Document
Finland	- National land-use guidelines[34]. - Finland vision for 2050[5]
Norway	- Government Planning Guidelines[6]; - National expectations regarding regional and municipal planning 2019–2023[7]
Sweden	- Vision for Sweden 2025 (Boverket 2012)[8] - Regionalisation of national goals, plans and programs[9]
Denmark	- Strategic and visionary document (Landsplanredegørelse) [10] - Overview of national interests in municipal spatial planning[11]

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[1] [COMPENDIUM OF SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION COUNTRIES (leontief.net)](#)

[2] https://www.msp-platform.eu/projects/planning-future-baltic-sea

[3] [VAT_14122017_english.pdf](#)

[4] [Environment > National land use guidelines (ymparisto.fi)](#)

[5] [ALLI_Ett möjliggörande Finland som har en förmåga att förnya sig_En utvecklingsbild av regionstrukturen och trafifiksystemet 2050.pdf (valtioneuvosto.fi)](#)

[6] [Statlige planretningslinjer (SPR) - regjeringen.no](#)

[7] [Nasjonale forventninger til regional og kommunal planlegging 2019–2023 (regjeringen.no)](#)

[8] https://www.boverket.se/globalassets/publikationer/dokument/2014/vision-for-sweden-2025.pdf

[9] https://www.boverket.se/globalassets/publikationer/dokument/2014/regionaliseri-g-av-nationella-mal-planer-och-program.pdf

[10] [landsplanredegoerelse_2019.pdf (erhvervsstyrelsen.dk)](#)

[11] [oversigt_over_nationale_interesser_i_kommuneplanlaegning.pdf (erhvervsstyrelsen.dk)](#)

Estonia	- National Spatial Planning 2030[12] - National Designated Spatial Plan[13] - Estonia Maritime Spatial Plan[14]
Lithuania	- Comprehensive plan of Republic of Lithuania[15] - Comprehensive plan of a part of the territory of the country[16]
Latvia	- Sustainable Development Strategy of Latvia until 2030[17] - National Development Plan 2021-2027[18] [19i] - Maritime Spatial Plan[20]
Germany	- Federal Regional Planning Act[21] - Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany [22]
Poland	- National Spatial Development Concept 2030[23] - National Strategy of Regional Development 2010-2020: Regions, Cities, Rural Areas (NSRD)[24] - Maritime Spatial Planning Poland [25]- European MSP Platform
Belarus	- National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2020[26] - Compendium of SPS in BSR[27]
Russia	- Compendium SPS in BSR[28]

Given that the approach of the update process looks rather at VASAB and beyond, i.e. it is a more extrovert process, the focus on national information sources will be limited to serve the purpose of opening up and broaden the spectre of VASAB in the Baltic Sea Region and the EU.

When it comes to quantitative data, we will capitalise on the extensive database and mapping of the Baltic Sea Region carried out by Nordregio in the latest years. The ESPON BSR-TeMo and ESPON Up-TeMo projects and follow-up activities, including 'Trends, challenges and potentials in the Baltic Sea Region' (TeMoRI), and ESPON BT2050, are some of the projects that will inspire the selection of indicators as well as handling the data. Other relevant projects, such as ESPON "European and Macro-regional Territorial Monitoring Tool" will also be considered. In addition, data from different sources, e.g. HELCOM, ESPON

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[12] https://eesti2030.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/estonia-2030.pdf
[13] https://planeerimine.ee/ruumiline-planeerimine/rep/
[14] http://mereala.hendrikson.ee/dokumendid/Eskiis/Estonian_MSP_draft_plan_ENG.pdf
[15] http://www.bendrasisplanas.lt/2019/12/13/en/
[16] https://www.espon.eu/sites/default/files/attachments/Lithuanian%20Case%20Study%20by%20Marius%20Narmontas%20%28LT%29.pdf
[17] https://www.pkc.gov.lv/sites/default/files/inline-files/LIAS_2030_parluks_en_0.pdf
[18] https://www.pkc.gov.lv/en/node/573,
[19] https://www.pkc.gov.lv/sites/default/files/inline-files/NAP2027__ENG_1.pdf
[20] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mKigVjv6N03cjgPkwR5RSItcQezsn5zY/view
[21] https://germanlawarchive.iuscomp.org/?p=647
[22] https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/DE/veroeffentlichungen/themen/heimat-integration/raumordnung/leitbilder-und-handlungsstrategien-raumordnung-en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=5
[23] https://www.msp-platform.eu/projects/planning-future-baltic-sea
[24] http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WMP20110360423/O/M20110423.pdf
[25] https://www.msp-platform.eu/sites/default/files/download/poland_december_2020_0.pdf
[26] https://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/sites/default/files/belarus_national_strategy_for_sd_to_2020.pdf
[27] COMPENDIUM OF SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION COUNTRIES (leontief.net)
[28] COMPENDIUM OF SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION COUNTRIES (leontief.net)

database, Eurostat, NSI's and global databases, will be explored during the starting phase of the project.

Available data for Russia and Belarus usually constitutes a challenge for the analysis of the Baltic Sea Region. To clarify the possibilities of harvesting qualitative data from both countries Table 2 provides a list of the available indicators.

Table 2: List of indicators with data available for Russia and Belarus

Indicator	Geographical scale	Time period
Total population	Rayon	RU: 1995-2017 (1st January) BY: 1995-2018 (1st January)
Total population by age, 0-14, 15-64, 65+	Rayon	RU: 2001-2017 (1st January) BY: 2011-2018 (1st January)
Total population by gender	Rayon	RU: 1995-2018 (1st January) BY: 1995, 1999-2018 (1st January)
Net migration	Rayon	RU: 2001-2017 BY: 2005, 2008-2017
Live births	Rayon	RU: 2006-2017 BY: 1995-2017
Deaths	Rayon	RU: 2006-2017 BY: 1995-2017
Life expectancy	SNUTS2	RU: 1995-2017 BY: 1995, 1999-2017
Population density	1km*1km grid	2015
Accessibility potential by road, rail and air	SNUTS2	2016
Accessibility potential, multimodal	SNUTS2	2016
Accessibility relative potential change	SNUTS2	2016
Frequencies of Ferry routes	Spatial data	2016
Number of persons accommodated in hotels and other similar accommodation facilities	SNUTS2	2017
UNESCO World heritage sites	Spatial data	2018
GDP in PPP per capita	SNUTS2	2000-2016
Trade flows between countries in the BSR	NUTS0	2001-2018
Number of employment persons (RU: 15-72 years old; BY: total)	SNUTS2	RU: 2000-2017 BY: 2000, 2005, 2007-2017
Employment by branch of economic activity (RU: 15-72 years old; BY: total)	SNUTS2	RU: 2000-2017 BY: 2000, 2005, 2007-2017
Tertiary educational attainment level (census data - RU: 25-64 years old; BY: 15 years old and over)	SNUTS2	RU: 2002, 2010 BY: 1999, 2009

The mapping of future developments of the region confronts data limits and shortcomings. There is, however, few possibilities to gather relevant information about future developments using global databases. For example, Nordregio will explore the possibility of providing an account of the climate vulnerability of the BSR in the future using data from

WorldClim[29]. The future development of the BSR depicted in the baseline and territorial scenarios developed in ESPON BT2050 and the future scenarios for the Finnish marine areas and the Baltic Sea 2050 developed as part of the Finnish Maritime Spatial Planning process are also promising sources to inform the revision of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective.

3.2 MAPPING AND VISUALISATION

The update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective will be accompanied by the development of different maps, which will best depict the situation 'as is' and the situation 'to be'. For this, different types of maps are envisaged. Classic maps will best depict the present and support the findings from the background report. The alternative, creative maps will show the vision of 'where we want to be' in 2040. The mapping exercise will start early in the process and will continue throughout the whole update process. They will serve as basis for the discussion during the workshops and will be adjusted based on comments and considerations of participants. Both classic and creative maps are introduced in more detail below.

Classic maps. The development of classic maps is based on the collection of available indicators and data of the Baltic Sea Region. Maps developed by Nordregio already for past projects offer a good starting point to be used and updated, such as the maps developed under the ESPON BT2050 project. The main factors that contribute to the new vision will be identified, and quantitative indicators that represent them will be selected. The mapping exercise of classic maps will examine the old elements of the VASAB vision and Long-Term Perspective, i.e., the pearls, strings, patches and systems with a fresh eye using innovative indicators and up-to-date datasets. A data overview will be conducted, involving an inventory of available data at different geographical and administrative scales (NUTS, LAU, functional urban areas, grid, etc.) and eventual data gaps where harmonisation is needed. We propose the thematic focus of classic maps in each element as follows:

- Pearls:
  - Functional urban areas and urban-rural relationship
  - Human capital and labour market
- Strings:
  - Digital infrastructure and performance
  - Physical infrastructure and connectivity
- Patches:
  - Climate change and vulnerability
  - Urbanisation and land cover change
- Systems:
  - Maritime spatial planning and governance

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[29] Global climate and weather data — WorldClim 1 documentation

Regarding possible challenges in data collection, Nordregio's existing contacts with national and regional statistical institutions in the BSR can be approached. The Russian Federation Federal State Statistics Service (ROSSTAT) will be used as the main data source for Russia. The database "Indicators of municipalities"[30] will be assessed primarily, where socio-economic data are available on municipal /rayon level. The main data source for Belarus will be the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus (BELSTAT)[31]. The data collected for relevant indicators mentioned above will be mapped at NUTS2 or a finer scale (NUTS3, LAU, FUA, hospital, etc.).

Creative maps. Creative maps, are maps that do not follow established cartography rules and are well-suited to illustrate qualitative features in combination with quantitative elements in a simple and easy-to-communicate way. The maps, which are based on real figures or qualitative observations from workshops and allow to grasp a more complete picture of a development or of a region. Thanks to their illustrative layout, 'creative maps' are well-suited for the use in everyday and specialised policy-making as well as the public, that are not in contact with maps on a daily basis.

The 'creative maps' can be used as final or interim output and stand at the end of a long participative or expert-focussed process. They allow to gather tacit knowledge that cannot be depicted by standard maps and thus open policy-measures to a wide public. Especially when used for illustrating visions and scenarios, the 'creative maps' show their strength as they don't allow for exactness which is in most cases not important when talking about the future.

4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Putting all these elements together, the update process will be a co-creation journey where the content work and update is merged with participatory approaches. The desk research is combined with strong involvement of the stakeholders throughout the process co-creating and co-producing the process.

As highlighted already, the process of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update will be a combination of content research and co-creation processes. Well-designed and organised participatory approaches with relevant stakeholders and at different stages of the process are of outmost importance to shape the thematic relevance and gain inputs and verification. In particular, they are important to collect insights for relevant trends, topics to focus and geography, provide tailor-made and user-centred insights, focused on a later 'application', as well as build a common point of view and create ownership. Therefore, the co-creation approaches will be embedded in all stages of the update process. This chapter

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[30] https://rosstat.gov.ru/free_doc/new_site/bd_munst/munst.htm

[31] https://www.belstat.gov.by/en/

gives an overview of the types and variety of participatory approaches to be used in the process. The VASAB Long-Term Perspective is therefore targeted to different stakeholder groups. More specifically, a diversified stakeholder involvement for different stages and purposes of the process is proposed. First come the internal online workshops, i.e. a number of regular workshops with the VASAB CSPD are envisaged to ensure that relevant insights are collected and agreed within the VASAB CSPD. Second come the external online workshops, i.e. a number of external workshops with a wider stakeholder group are envisaged to verify and nuance the findings of the process. Last but not least, participatory approaches also regard outreach activities, i.e. spreading the word about the update process work and results to the community outside the Baltic Sea Region.

Stakeholder engagement is an important and integrative part of the update process. The key element for well-designed participatory and co-creation approaches is the involvement of appropriate stakeholders. For the purposes of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update, different types of participatory approaches are envisaged, in which different stakeholders will be involved. The following sections present the types of workshops, thematic of each workshop, the role of the stakeholders, as well as a first proposal of the participants in each type of workshop.

4.1 INTERNAL ONLINE WORKSHOPS WITH VASAB CSPD

What are these workshops about? Internal workshops with the VASAB CSPD will be the cornerstone of the update process. These workshops are designed to serve the purpose of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update. In total five internal workshops are envisaged depicting different steps of the process. Each workshop discusses the updated VASAB Long-Term Perspective from a dedicated thematic and focus, i.e. each workshop will discuss the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update from a different angle each time. This approach will ensure that the document is reviewed and discussed from different perspectives in each workshop, reflecting the multifaceted nature of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective and avoiding a bias to a particular perspective. The topic will be shortly presented by the research team in the beginning of the workshop. The team will also prepare and guide the discussion, as well as moderate the discussion. The workshops, their indicative titles and their topics are presented below.

- **Workshop 1 – The Approach**
  This workshop will introduce the overall approach and the structure for the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update, the single themes and policy fields to discuss and agree on, as well as some first ideas on possible directions of the vision. This introduction will be largely based on the work carried out for the background report, which had identified the relevant topics, trends and challenges. The aim of the workshop is to develop a common agreement on the process and the most important themes to focus on.
- **Workshop 2 – The Pearls, the Strings, the Patches and the System**

The second workshop will present the updates and adjustments to the text regarding the four pillars of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective, namely the pearls, strings, patches and the system. The urban networks, the urban-rural relationships, the accessibility and quality of life are still very relevant themes. However, given that times change, these themes also adjust and change over time. The adjusted meaning of these topics will be discussed during the workshop.

- **Workshop 3 – The Policy Fields**
  The third workshop will focus on the relevant and contemporary policy fields that shape discussions at global, EU and Baltic Sea Region level. This element is important to see the relation and relevance of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update with overarching and current policies, but also to keep the Long-Term Perspective forward-looking and extrovert. This means to broaden the Long-Term Perspective towards to wider discussions and topics and adjusting the VASAB visions to those.

- **Workshop 4 – The Territories**
  The fourth workshop emphasises the strong territorial dimension of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update. The aim is to look and identify the appropriate geographical levels for action, be that local, regional, transnational, macro-regional, European or even global that would support a framework for action. The workshop will also pay particular attention to the land-sea interactions, as both land and sea are an integral part of the Baltic Sea Region.

- **Workshop 5 – The Implementation & Assessment**
  The last workshop focuses on the development of the implementation and assessment framework. The ownership of the updated VASAB Long-Term Perspective lies with its members. Therefore, the achievement of this overarching goal, i.e. the update process, needs to be implemented and assessment over time. The overall goal to commit for the implementation and the break down of this overall goal into smaller and achievable ones over time, so that the process will take shape and progress, will be discussed during the workshop. Furthermore, the necessary governance arrangements will be decided and set in place.

Who participates? These internal workshops are primarily targeted to the VASAB CSPD. The VASAB CSPD serves as the steering body for the update process and the key decision making body. Hence its close intervention and participation in the process should be ensured. During these meetings, the Committee will have the opportunity to be part and have a direct say in each step of the process. During the kick-off meeting, the idea of establishing an advisory group was discussed, to participate in these discussions besides the VASAB Committee. The idea has been further discussed and agreed during the 1st VASAB LTP update meeting with the VASAB CSPD. The role of the advisory group will take place at a voluntary basis with participants providing suggestions for the different topics. During the 1st VASAB LTP update meeting of the VASAB CSPD, it was agreed that the advisory group should be kept small and fixed throughout the update process. For this, the VASAB

Secretariat shall prepare a proposal on whom to select, how to select and contact possible members to the advisory group. The final decision shall be taken by the VASAB CSPD via written procedure. The role of this group shall by no means be decision making. Members of the advisory group could possibly also participate in the external workshops..

How do the workshops take place? The internal workshops will take place online, in the form of online workshops or focus groups. The research team will ensure that the workshops remain creative and the most appropriate online tools will be used. The workshops last about two to three hours and be highly interactive to ensure active participation, limited 'online fatigue' and collection of useful inputs. For economies of scale, the internal workshops may be linked as much as possible back-to-back with VASAB CSPD meetings. Participants will be informed about the topic and discussion themes of the workshop before it takes place, through a short one-pager input paper, accompanied by the agenda of the workshop.

Online workshops. Participatory workshops and / or online webinars can be used to discuss territorial development perspectives and systematic approaches to the foresight topics. The result may shape the narrative on the future and further refine the framework for the foresight topic. Participatory workshops can also be used to assess the territorial implications of the foresight topic and develop initial maps of how the territory might look in the future. An example is also the TIA workshops, which support the TIA development. Last but not least, workshops and webinars help to refine the foresight topic and potential extreme case assumptions and developments further.

Focus groups. The focus group is a well-established method of qualitative research, taking the form of organised and structured discussion with a selected group of individuals to gain information about their views and experiences. The technique is particularly valuable for analysing themes or fields which give rise to divergent opinions or which involve complex issues that need to be explored in depth, and for obtaining several perspectives about the same topic. In terms of process, focus groups could be conducted using the World Café technique, a technique aimed at gauging diverging views and achieving consensus on the issues proposed for discussion. The core team would chair and facilitate, by introducing the issues to be discussed and organising discussion in small groups and short discussion rounds, in line with the format of the World Café technique.

What happens after the workshop? The results and key discussion points of the workshop will be summarised by the research team in a short, one-pager workshop output paper. The comments and suggestions of the participants will be taken into account in the revision of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective updated version. Therefore, the VASAB Long-Term Perspective document will be a living document, being updated and adjusted after every internal workshop, based on the comments of the participants.

4.2 EXTERNAL ONLINE WORKSHOPS FOR WIDER STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Wider stakeholder involvement will be useful and necessary to gather further information, verify the results of the update process, as well as nuance the outcomes.

What are these workshops about? These external workshops are designed to share and test the outcomes of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update process with a wider audience. They aim to introduce different inputs from the process, see their relevance for different stakeholders and also cross-check their usefulness for other contexts and cooperation frameworks. In total three of these workshops are envisaged, one of which to take place in the Russian language. Each workshop will have a thematic focus, presented and followed by a discussion guided and moderated by the research team. The expected inputs regard the level of relevance of the topics for a wider group representing different territorial levels, cooperation frameworks and expertise. The workshops, their indicative titles and their topics are presented below.

- **External Workshop 1 – From 'as is' to 'to be'**
  The first external workshop aims to present the overall approach developed in the update process, its aims and background. The workshop will be largely based on the work carried out for the background report, describing the situation 'as is', i.e. the current challenges, trends and developments, relevant for the pearls, strings, patches and system, as well as the presentation of the overall vision on where we want to be in 2040, i.e. the situation 'to be'. The workshop will gather inputs on whether all relevant trends and challenges are taken into account. This workshop may take the form of a forecathon, a future oriented workshop, to identify possible future paths and ideas at this early stage. The final format will be decided in due time for the event.

- **External Workshop 2 – From green and sustainable, to digital and just**
  The second workshop addresses relevant policies which the update process has taken into account during the exercise and aims to cross-check and gather inputs on whether the policies have been well taken into account or whether other policies need to be considered. These reflect current policies that shape the overall EU policy discourse and have been relevant for the update process. This workshop will take place in Russian. During the workshop the overall concept of the update process will be discussed and the relevant policies will also be introduced, enhanced with additional relevant policies and developments from Russia and Belarus.

- **External Workshop 3 – From local to global and back**
  The third workshop is dedicated to the relevant territorial levels for action and particularly which territorial level would be the most appropriate for which action. During the workshop, the research team will gather inputs on whether the adequate territorial levels are considered, while participants will also exchange on potential roles and cooperation to embed the VASAB Long-Term Perspective. This workshop may identify the most

important governance and territorial levels to consider. The final format will be decided in due time for the event.

Who participates? The target groups for these workshops are mainly players from different organisations and cooperation frameworks in the region, such as players from the EUSBSR, CBSS, HELCOM, Union of the Baltic Cities, Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation, as well as regional and national players from the VASAB members and academia. The research team has already received a number of stakeholders names from the VASAB CSPD members. These will be collected and discussed further with the Committee during the phase of the stakeholder identification, where Committee members will have the opportunity to add further names and prioritise. The VASAB Secretariat will take part in these meetings, while the VASAB Committee members are welcome, but not obliged to participate. Particularly as the role of the EUSBSR is important for the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update work, some additional synergies can be considered. These regard presenting and discussing the work on the update process during the 'Coffee with the Presidency' meetings of the EUSBSR, a new meeting format of the EUSBSR.

Another important element in the external workshops for wider participation is the involvement and participation of the national, regional and local levels, along with the macro-regional. Players from these levels will be invited by the VASAB CSPD members to participate to the external workshops. To support this process, the research team can support the VASAB Secretariat in developing a 'feedback' or 'comment' section on the VASAB website where key features of the drafting are presented and national / regional / local players (among others) can add further feedback or comments. This will help in collecting more opinions and keep these levels updated, giving them also a continuous floor for comments. The comment section may be a short open field where players can fill in their names and institutions and fill in their comment. The same webpage will contain also updated materials and relevant documents, such as any available drafts, input and output papers of the workshops etc.

How do the workshops take place? The workshops will take place online, in the form of online workshops or focus groups, forecathons, depending on the topic. More specifically, as a proposal, the first workshop may have the form of a forecathon, where future oriented ideas can be tested for identifying future paths of the vision. The second workshop, which will be carried out in the Russian language, may take the form of an online workshop. In the third workshop different territorial implications and governance settings can be discussed. The final format of the workshop will be decided at a later stage and will aim to best fit the need for the study.

The research team will ensure that the workshops remain creative and the most appropriate online tools will be used. The workshops will be organised with the support of and in cooperation with the VASAB Secretariat. The external workshops will be organised back to back to two of the five internal workshops (see also chapter 5) and last approximately two to three hours. The research team will provide participants with a short one-pager workshop

input paper to introduce them to the discussion topics and theme, accompanied by the agenda of the workshop.

Forecathon. Forecathon, a workshop in itself, aims to utilise and put in practice the variety and creative thinking that participatory approaches offer. A forecathon, i.e. a forecast marathon, is a sprint-like event to sketch and identify the future dimension of different developments or trends in a co-creative and interactive approach. It is an off-the-shelf participatory tool which allows for speedy forecasts through a quick design and operationalisation of a participatory approach. Although the forecathon method has initially been designed for developing different sets of possible scenarios in a sprint event, it can be adapted and implemented in a wider context where identifying the future dimension is necessary, such as in the development of future policy recommendations. During a forecathon, participants will collaborate intensively to develop policy recommendations. The moderator of the forecathon will give participants the topics they need to work on and guide them through the process of developing and carrying out their own participatory approach to be used throughout the forecathon workshop.

What happens after the workshop? The inputs from the workshop will be taken into account for the revision of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective update. The research team will take into account only those inputs that are most relevant and useful for the process. Those will be summarised in a short one-pager workshop output paper and will be discussed and agreed with the client.

4.3 COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

Outreach activities are another important element of the process as it will present the importance and need for the LPT update, as well as present the results for the process for communicating it further.

Online survey. To ensure a wider stakeholder reach on the document and contribute to its fine-tuning, the research team will participate in a number of outreach activities. One of these activities concern an online survey. The online survey will be sent out to relevant experts and players in the region to collect any additional feedback and input. The survey will be launched in Autumn 2021 to engage additional stakeholders from a relatively early stage. The target group will be players from the region, but also players from other macro-regional strategies or cooperation frameworks. For this VASAB Secretariat's and VASAB CSPD's networks will be used for the dissemination.

Survey. Surveys are useful tools to collect information from large number of respondents in a relatively short time. Moreover, survey findings can be aggregated and allow for quantification of qualitative information. To ensure a wider stakeholder reach on the document, an online survey sent out to relevant experts and players in the region. This will help in collecting any additional feedback and input before the final revision and the

finalisation of the document. Relevant online survey tools will be used to collect this information.

Presentations at relevant events. Presenting the work on the update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective at EU, pan-Baltic or wide national events will engage participants at different levels and strengthen communication. The research team will present the work of the update process in a number of outreach events. These regard for instance presentations at the EUSBSR Forums, the All-Russia Forums, events carried out in the framework of the Capacity4MSP project, as well as the European Week for Regions and Cities. As also mentioned earlier, also the possibility to present during the 'Coffee with the Presidency' meetings of the EUSBSR will be explored. Regarding the latter, an application is already prepared for the event of October 2021, to introduce the first steps of the update process in a wider audience. The research team will present the update process in total in three events, in agreement and coordination with the client.

The research team will also support and have synergies with the VASAB Secretariat in its communication activities, i.e. as regards VASAB's website section, the regular VASAB newsletters, VASAB social media etc.

Last but not least, once the update process is finalised and approved a final conference will take place, where the research team can also present the update process.

5. DETAILED WORKPLAN

The overall VASAB Long-Term Perspective update process will last until the end of 2022. To ensure a thorough update and dedicate sufficient time for commenting, improving and communicating the process and its outcomes, the research team proposes a timeframe as regards the update of the process document that lasts largely until end of 2021 with spreading the participatory approach over regular intervals to keep the stakeholders committed and updated. This will allow to have enough time for participating in different events and allowing time-wise the VASAB committee members to run the approval process within their countries and jurisdictions. During this time, the research team will in parallel participate in the outreach activities to communicate the process and the new vision.

Following this approach, the research team proposes the following dates for the internal workshops and the external workshops. The dates will be agreed with the VASAB CSPD and the VASAB Secretariat.

Table 3 Workshops plan

Workshop Type	Workshop Title	Proposed date – Week
Internal online workshop 1	The Approach	7 May 2021
Internal online workshop 2	The Pearls, the Strings, the Patches and the System	7-11 June 2021
External online workshop 1	From 'as is' to 'to be'	4-8 October 2021

Internal online workshop 3	The Policy Fields	4-8 October 2021
External online workshop 2	From green and sustainable, to digital and just	25-29 October 2021
Internal online workshop 4	The Territories	25-29 October 2021
External online workshop 3	From local to global and back	15-19 November 2021
Internal online workshop 5	The Implementation & Assessment	15-19 November 2021

The participation in international / European or Baltic events will be discussed and agreed together with the client. At this stage, the following is proposed and is subject to discussion:

- European Week of Regions and Cities, 11-14 October 2021 (application submitted).
- EUSBSR 12th Annual Forum, 28-30 September 2021 (date tbc).
- All-Russia Forum, 25-26 October 2021 and 2022 (date tbc).

Regarding the deliverables, they will follow the requirements as stated in the Terms of Reference, adjusted slightly to the services and the timing of the update process as proposed in this report. The minor adjustments are marked in *italics* in the second column. The table below gives in more detail the deliverables and activities, the small adjustments where relevant, as well as the first proposals of deadlines.

Table 4 Deliverables plan

Deliverable	Content & proposed adjustments	Proposed deadlines
Methodology report, including data and information sources, data collection and research methods, detailed work plan and stakeholders engagement plan	n/a	15/03/2021
First draft report including: - draft background synthesis document (*Task 1*) - proposals for thematic workshops and/or expert pools (*Task 4*) - results of stakeholder mapping (*Task 4*) - proposals for updated Territorial Perspective and implementation framework (*Task 2 & 3*)	First draft report, including: - draft background synthesis document (Task 1) - proposals for thematic workshops and/or expert pools (Task 4) - results of stakeholder mapping (Task 4) - proposals for updated Territorial Perspective and implementation framework. - *first results from one internal online workshop with the VASAB CSPD.*	04/06/2021
Second draft report including: - results from the stakeholders interviews/surveys (*Task 4*) - draft final background synthesis document (*Task 1*) - draft updated Territorial Perspective and implementation framework (*Task 2 & 3*) - first results from international events and thematic workshops/expert pools (*Task 4*)	Second draft report, including: - results from the stakeholders *involvement in internal workshops so far* (Task 4) - draft final background synthesis document (Task 1) - draft updated Territorial Perspective and implementation *and assessment* framework (Task 2 & 3) - first results from international events and thematic workshops/expert pools *so far* (Task 4)	05/08/2021
Third draft report including: - finalized background synthesis document (*Task 1*) - draft final updated Territorial Perspective & implement. & assessment framework (*Task 2 & 3*) - results from international events and thematic workshops (*Task 4*)	Third draft report including: - finalized background synthesis document (Task 1) - draft final updated Territorial Perspective & implement. & assessment framework (Task 2 & 3) - results from international events, thematic workshops *and survey* (Task 4)	10/12/2021
Final draft report including**:** - finalized tasks 1, 2 & 3 - concept for stakeholder consultations at EU, BSR and national level (*Task 4*) - presentation materials for stakeholder consultations	Final draft report including**:** - finalized tasks 1, 2 & 3 - concept for stakeholder consultations at EU, BSR and national level (Task 4) - presentation materials for stakeholder consultations	20/02/2022
Report on results from stakeholder consultations, events and concertation of received stakeholders` feedbacks with VASAB CSPD/BSR	Report on results from stakeholder consultations, events and concertation of received stakeholders` feedbacks with VASAB CSPD/BSR	01/08/2022

A more detailed time plan is presented in the chart below, showing the key dates for the workload, the workshops, as well as the deliverables. More specifically, the internal online workshops with the VASAB CSPD are marked in orange, the external workshops are marked in light blue and the participation in outreach activities / international events are marked in pink. The deliverables are also marked with a 'D'.

Table 5 Timetable

Update of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective (LTP) for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region

Timetable																							
Year	2021												2022										
Months	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Project months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Tasks																							
Task 1 Bridging the 'old' with the 'new'																							
Methodology report		D																					
Analysis situation 'as is' - Policy lessons and context		■	■																				
Analysis situation 'to be' - Impact of vision			■	■																			
First drafts classic and creative maps				■																			
Background report				■																			
Task 2 Update process of the VASAB LTP & co-creation process																							
First draft of the updated VASAB LTP		■	■																				
Mapping (incl. Several revisions)			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Internal online workshop 1 - The Approach				▥																			
Second draft of the updated VASAB LTP				■																			
First draft report					D																		
Internal online workshop 2 - The Pearls, the Strings, the Patches and the System					▥																		
Second draft report							D																
External online workshop 1 - From 'as is' to 'to be'									▤														
Third draft of the updated VASAB LTP									■														
Internal online workshop 3 - The Policy Fields									▥														
External online workshop 2 - From green&sustainable to digital&just									▤														
Fourth draft of the updated VASAB LTP									■														
Internal online workshop 4 - The Territories									▥														
External online workshop 3 - From local to global and back										▤													
Fifth draft of the updated VASAB LTP										■													
Adjusting and redrafting the updated VASAB LTP draft										■	■												
Final revision											■	■											
Task 3 Implementation and assessment framework																							
First draft of the implementation framework				■		■		■			■												
Identification of stakeholders				■	■		■	■															
First draft of the assessment framework				■		■		■															
Internal online workshop 5 - The Implementation and Assessment									▥														
Final draft implementaiton and assessment framework										■													
Third draft report											D												
Task 4 Communication, dissemination and finalisation																							
Three international events participation								▦	▦												▦		
Public consultation survey								■	■	■	■												
Final draft report													D										
Analysis and revision															■	■	■	■	■				
Report on results																				D			
Service delivery management																							
Regular contact with VASAB Secretariat	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Internal coordination	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

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