



Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea Region

Alda Nikodemusa
Head of VASAB Secretariat



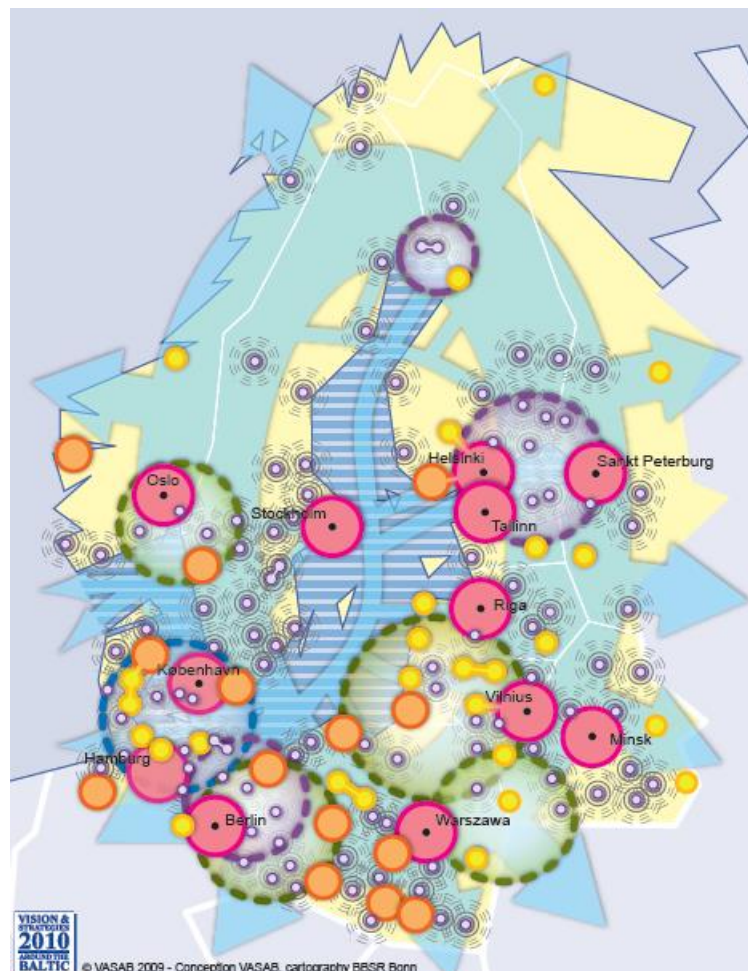
13 February 2019, Hamburg



VASAB- Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea

- Cooperation of ministers of 11 Baltic Sea Region countries responsible for spatial planning and development
- Intergovernmental network founded in **1992**
- **VASAB Long –Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the BSR**
- **MSP – one of VASAB priorities**

2030: Territorial cohesion perspective



Functional profile of urban regions and centres *

- Global gateway with prominent R&D and knowledge intensive business services
- BSR gateway with well developed R&D and knowledge intensive business services
- Urban region in process of metropolisation with growing globally linked R&D and knowledge intensive services
- Regional development centre providing high quality services to residents in the surrounding area
- Bi-polar and multipolar urban development

* Urban regions as defined in the report "Towards an Integrated Baltic Sea Region", Nordregio, Stockholm 2008

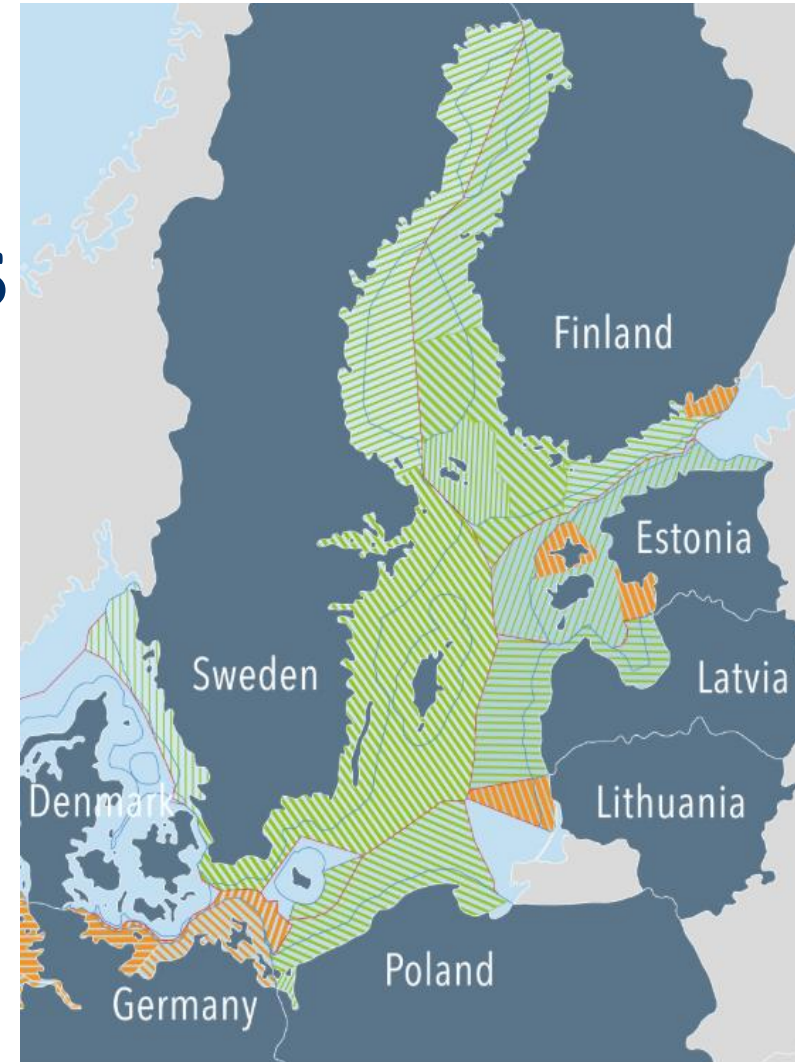
Cross-border cluster cooperation areas

- Existing
- Potential
- Cross border global integration zone
- Integrated transport system and international links
- Integrated maritime spatial planning

Joint Efforts in MSP

- **Joint HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG established in October 2010**
- **All countries around the Baltic Sea are represented**
- **Well established rules and procedures on how to work**
- **Guided by Ministerial level decisions**
 - 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting
 - 2014 VASAB Ministerial Conference

Overview on MSP Status in the Baltic Sea



Up of Common Regional Framework

- **Overall aim:** assess implementation of common regional MSP framework and indicate necessary improvements
- **Main output:** Assessment and evaluation report on MSP Roadmap, MSP Principles and Guidelines on Transboundary Consultation



BALTIC SEA BROAD-SCALE MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Adopted by HELCOM Heads of Delegations meeting on 8-9 December 2010

Adopted by VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region on 13 December 2010

HELCOM and VASAB,

RECALLING the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan commitment to jointly develop by 2010, as well as test, apply and evaluate by 2012, in co-operation with other relevant international bodies, broad-scale, cross-sectoral, marine spatial planning principles based on the Ecosystem Approach; whereby all Contracting Parties and relevant HELCOM bodies shall co-operatively participate; thereby giving guidance for the planning and ensuring the protection of the marine environment and nature, including habitats and seafloor integrity; securing sustainable use of marine resources by reducing user conflicts and adverse impacts of human activities,

RECALLING the "HELCOM Recommendation 28E/9 on development of broad-scale marine spatial planning principles in the Baltic Sea area" adopted to facilitate the protection and sustainable use of the Baltic Sea.

RECALLING that Maritime Spatial Planning is promoted and called for by the VASAB Long Term Perspective, Nordic Council of Ministers, the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its objectives, The European Union Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union, including its roadmap with Maritime Spatial Planning Principles, and the work of UNESCO.

AWARE that while management and regulation of human activities is divided into sectoral frameworks, the Baltic Sea ecosystem hosting these activities and enabling economic and social prosperity, is a single entity which has limits in terms of ecological integrity and available space, and is inherently connected to activities and processes on land.

AWARE that there is an increasing need and competition for marine space of the Baltic Sea which requires an integrated, cross-sectoral approach of managing human activities.



REGIONAL BALTIC MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING ROADMAP 2013-2020

Adopted by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting on 3 October 2013. VASAB Ministerial Conference on 26 September 2014 committed to the implementation of the Roadmap.

PREAMBLE

AWARE of the high and rapidly increasing demand for maritime space and increasing multiple pressures on marine environment and resources.

RECALLING the HELCOM-VASAB Baltic Sea Broad-scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles adopted by HELCOM and VASAB CSPD in 2010.

NOTING that the MSP Principles have been tested in 2010–2012 through projects, and that they have proven relevant and well suited.

RECOGNIZING the valuable work done by the HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG since 2010 as a regional Baltic Sea platform on Maritime Spatial Planning.

TAKING NOTE of the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region (LTP), the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy and its goals of blue growth as well as the proposal by the European Commission for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management (COM 2013 133 final), without prejudice to the outcome of the ongoing negotiations.

AWARE that the Baltic Sea countries are currently at a different stage of advancement in maritime spatial planning.

CONFIDENT that this roadmap will support the achievement of a wide range of HELCOM and VASAB goals and policies relevant to the Baltic Sea including VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region and HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan.

AWARE on the potential need for future revisions of the timetable indicated in this roadmap due to ongoing regional and European processes.



GUIDELINES ON TRANSBOUNDARY CONSULTATIONS, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CO-OPERATION

Introduction

The Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 adopted by the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in 2013 and welcomed by the VASAB Ministerial Conference in 2014 calls for the development of guidelines regarding: a) Transboundary consultations and cooperation in the field of MSP and b) Public participation for MSP with transboundary dimensions.

In view of the inter-relationship between these two different aspects, it has been decided by the Joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group (HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG), that both topics will be covered by one guideline document.

The guidelines presented in this document have been prepared in order to assist maritime spatial planners and the authorities they work for. They are of a non-binding character.

The guidelines are applicable for transboundary maritime areas without prejudice to the national systems of the spatial planning.

Transboundary cooperation and consultations for maritime spatial planning (MSP) take place in different formats depending on the topics to be consulted or cooperated on.

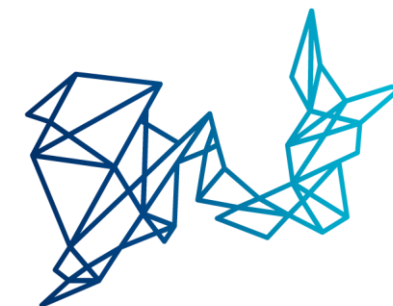
In general terms consultation and co-operation could be described as follows:

Consultation of more practical topics is arising in the course of elaboration of maritime spatial plans, e.g. transboundary impacts of the plan, or transboundary coherence of the planning provisions. This usually takes place in bilateral or trilateral interactions (cross-border interactions) and refers to the formal process, which takes place between affected Baltic Sea Region (BSR) countries and their authorities on specific provisions foreseen in a given Maritime Spatial Plan.

Cooperation on maritime spatial planning is understood as a more open and preparatory process with focus on information and knowledge exchange as well as development of common understanding.

Co-operation at pan-Baltic level concerns strategic and farsighted decisions on joint directions or joint guidelines and principles for development of marine areas.

Cooperation as well as consultation at transboundary scale relates mainly to the structured and organised



**Connecting
— Seas —**

*NorthSEE – Baltic LINes
MSP conference*

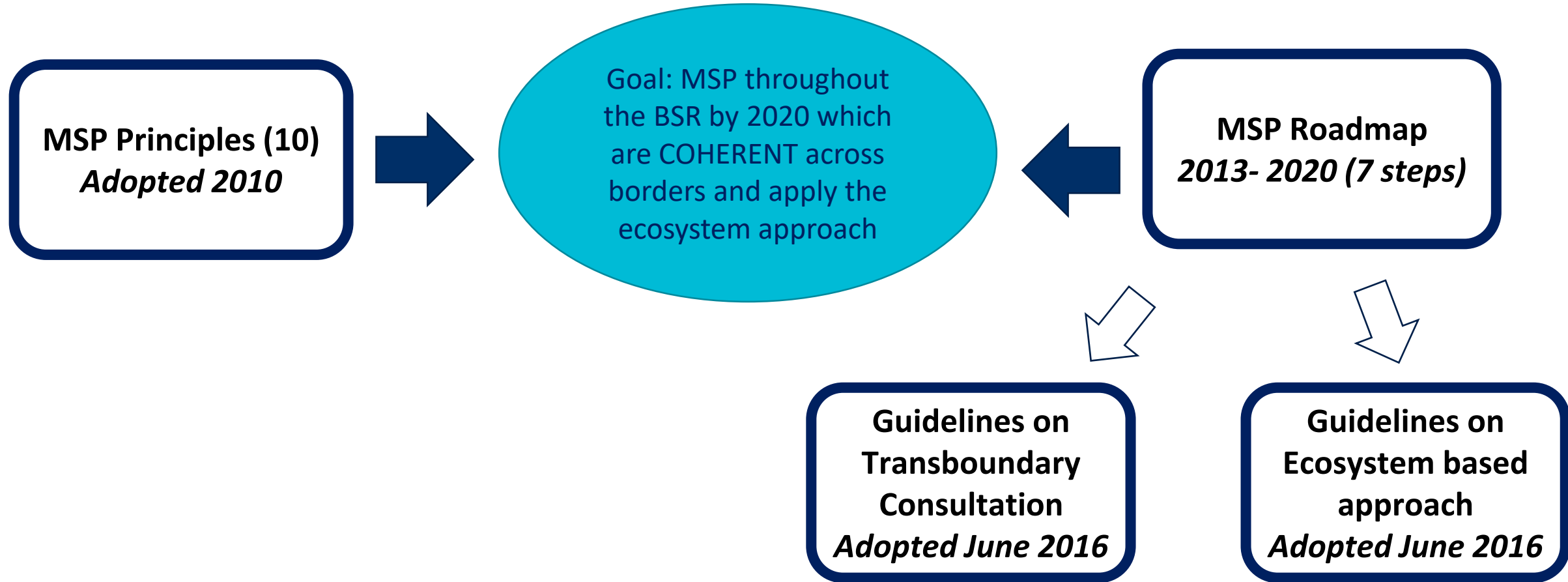
Assessment of the application of Baltic Sea Common Regional MSP Framework. First Findings.

Kristina Veidemane, Baltic Environmental Forum - Latvia

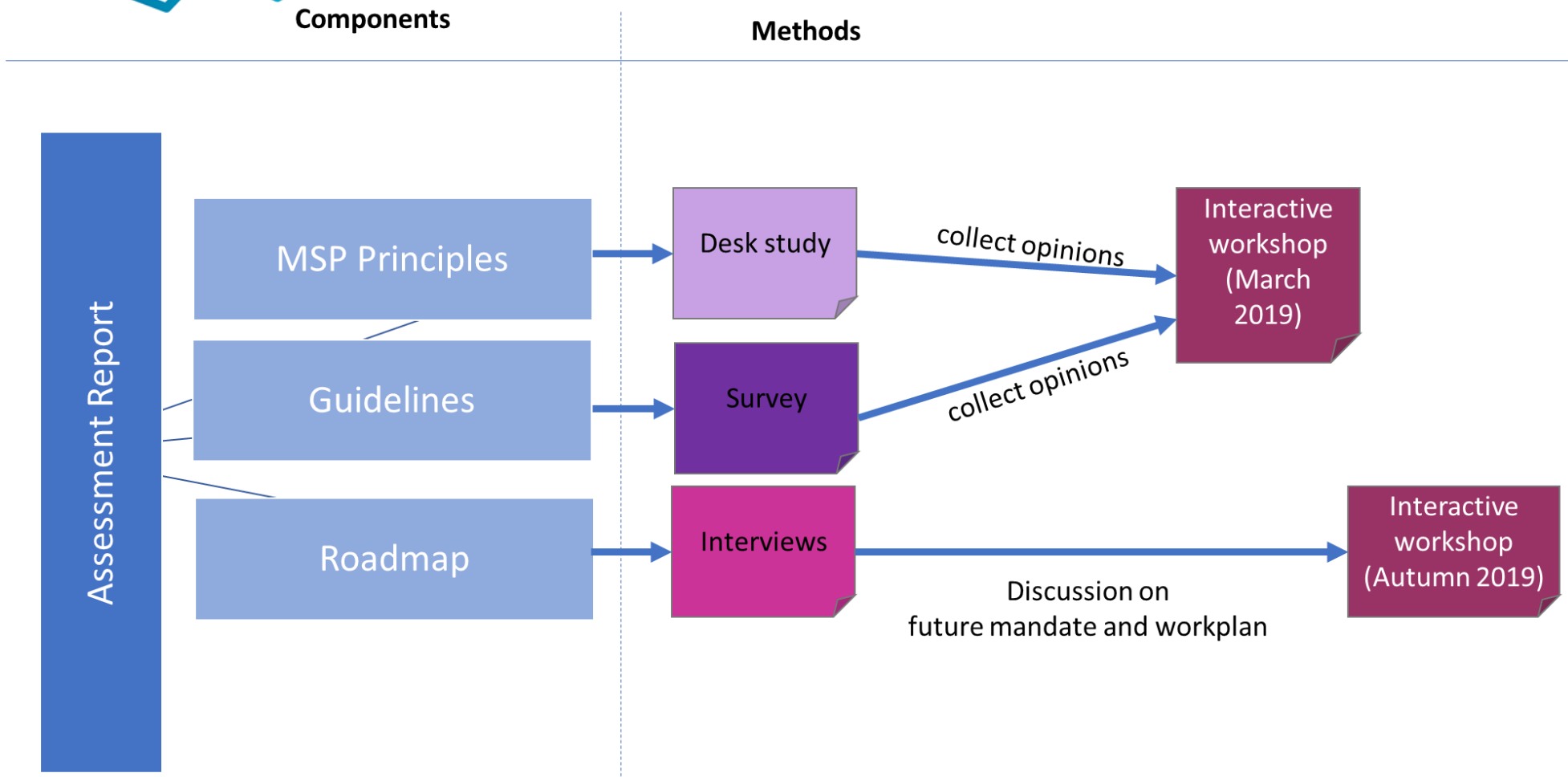
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Common Regional MSP Framework



Methods applied



Baltic MSP Roadmap (2013-2020)

1. Intergovernmental cooperation on MSP
2. Public participation
3. Ecosystem approach in MSP
4. Information and data for MSP
5. Education for MSP
6. National and Baltic Sea regional frameworks for MSP in place
7. Evaluation and follow-up

**Drafting and
adopting
Guidelines**

**HELCOM-VASAB
MSP WG**

Baltic Sea broad-scale MSP principles

	Baltic Sea MSP principles	EU MSP Directive, minimum requirements and the text.
1.	Sustainable management	(b) take into account environmental, economic and social aspects, as well as safety aspects
2.	Ecosystem approach	Recital (13); Article 5.; point 1.
3.	Long term perspective and objectives	-
4.	Precautionary Principle	Recital (14)
5.	Participation and Transparency	(d) ensure the involvement of stakeholders
6.	High quality data and information basis	e) organise the use of the best available data
7.	Transnational coordination and consultation	(f) ensure trans-boundary cooperation (g) promote cooperation with third countries
8.	Coherent terrestrial and maritime spatial planning	(a) take into account land-sea interactions (c) aim to promote coherence between maritime spatial planning and the resulting plan or plans and other processes, such as integrated coastal management or equivalent formal or informal practices
9.	Planning adapted to characteristics and special conditions at different areas	-
10.	Continuous planning	plans shall be reviewed by Member States at least every ten years (article 6.; point 3)

Survey with focus on the Guidelines on Transboundary consultation cooperation

© **Target group:** responsible authority of MSP in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Russia.

© **Time:** January, 2019

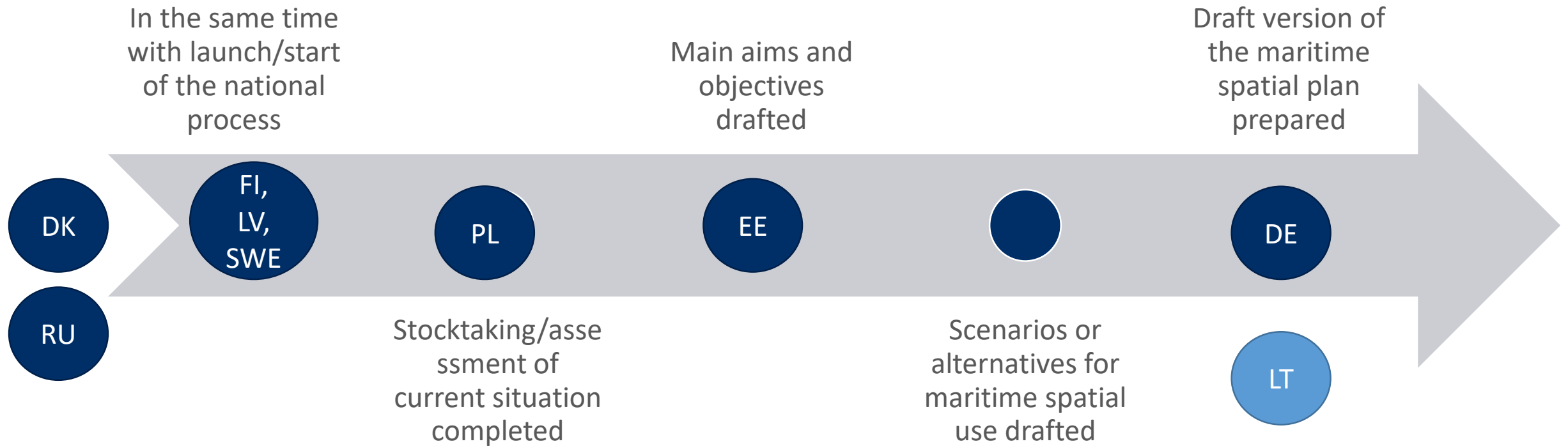
© **Key issues:**

- how transboundary consultation is organized
- to which extent Guidelines are being implemented
- main challenges to implement guidelines
- suggestions for improvements

Scope of the transboundary consultation

- Overall aims and objectives of maritime spatial plans
- Environmental impact assessment (strategic)
- Socioeconomic aspects: trends and future perspectives
- Potential Conflicts and Synergies
- Full maritime spatial plan

Timing of the transboundary consultation



Coherent maritime spatial plans

- Shipping line and maritime traffic: continuity of the lines from own country to the neighbouring country
 - Cables and pipe lines
 - Production of renewable energy
 - Nature conservation interests
 - Maritime tourism (ferry lines)
-
- Management of Fish resources
 - Environmental pollution

Information and communication

- **Direct communication** with the competent authorities of neighbouring countries **by phone** or in relevant events and occasions
- **Arranging meeting** for competent authorities of neighbouring countries for MSP to explain the nature of the maritime spatial plan and to discuss potential conflicts and synergies
- **Taking part in the meetings** arranged by neighbouring country

Countries are satisfied (fully or with some improvement needs) with efforts in PROVIDING INFORMATION and COMMUNICATION to the neighbouring countries

Language of communication with neighbouring countries

- information is sent in **English** to the neighbouring countries – **most common practice**
- information is sent in **national language** of a neighbouring country (**all documents are translated by DE to PL; summaries by other countries**)
- information is not translated; the sent letter contains a link to published document in the language of the country that develops MSP (**the whole document or related background documents**)

Most critical in consultation process

- Different data format, no access to the project plan in GIS format which would facilitate the assessment of the coherence
- The most important issues are environmental and economic activities impact of neighboring countries in the context of impact on national interests:

Good example

- Transboundary consultation process organized by Sweden
- Polish MSP review process
- Response of Latvia on comments from Sweden

To be avoided

- Too many formal meetings and letters. There should be informal collaborations to have constructive results.
- Presentation of finished materials only at meetings without prior review.
- Changing of the MSP contact point without informing the concerned countries.

Response to the received comments

A

- A formal letter is sent to the neighbouring country to inform to what extent their remarks have been taken into consideration in the process of drafting the plan
- A formal letter also justifies the remarks that have not been taken into account in the drafting the plan

B

- A cross-border meeting is organised to discuss the conflicting issues
- A transnational meeting is organised to discuss the conflicting issues

Informal transboundary cooperation processes

- HELCOM-VASAB MSP WG – is official platform, nevertheless countries see this also as platform for sharing experience and knowledge beyond the official platform
- bi-lateral committees on Spatial planning (DE/PL)
- projects (Baltic & Pan-Baltic Scope, Interreg)
- Field trip for participants to demonstrate Finnish underwater biodiversity research

Benefits from informal cooperation process

- It facilitates the informal supply of information outside the narrow confines of (potentially restrictive) formal channels
- Informal discussions can be initiated as a useful vehicle for brokering common solutions
- Build trust, and also to know who to communicate with during formal processes
- A better understanding of my neighbours planning system.
- Identification and prevention of transboundary conflicts at an early stage

Evaluation of the Pan-Baltic cooperation on MSP

- Role of HELCOM and VASAB
 - Mainly significant and very significant; 1 country neutral and 1 country slightly insignificant
 - To inform about the process and for networking
 - Important role in cooperation with Russia
- Need for cooperation on:
 - Data infrastructure, exchange
 - Ecosystem approach
 - MSP process and content
 - Blue Growth



Pan
Baltic
Scope



Co-funded by the
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HENDRIKSON & KO



EUROPEAN UNION

