VASAB
Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea

Alda Nikodemusa
Head of VASAB Secretariat

83rd Executive Board Meeting of UBC

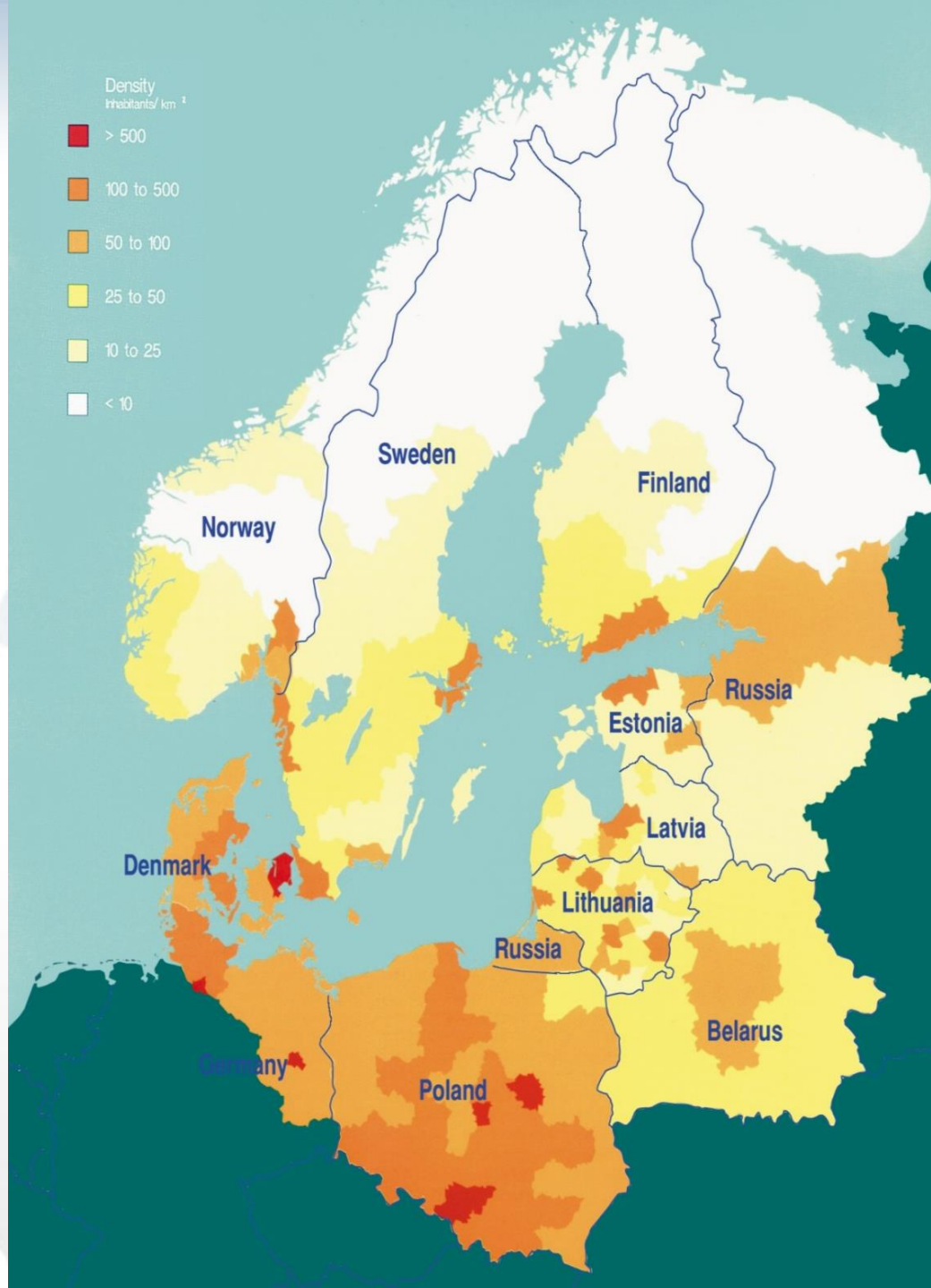
St. Petersburg, 24 April 2019

VASAB
VISION & STRATEGIES
AROUND THE BALTIC SEA

A cooperation of ministers of the Baltic Sea Region countries responsible for spatial planning and development

Organization

Intergovernmental network founded in 1992 to promote cooperation on spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region



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Mission

Prepare policy options for the territorial development of the Region and to provide a forum for exchange of know-how on spatial planning and development between the Baltic Sea countries

Organization

Since 1994 ministers are supported by Committee on Spatial Planning and Development in the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) and permanent secretariat

Since 2007
VASAB Secretariat located in Latvia

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Tallinn Vision 2010

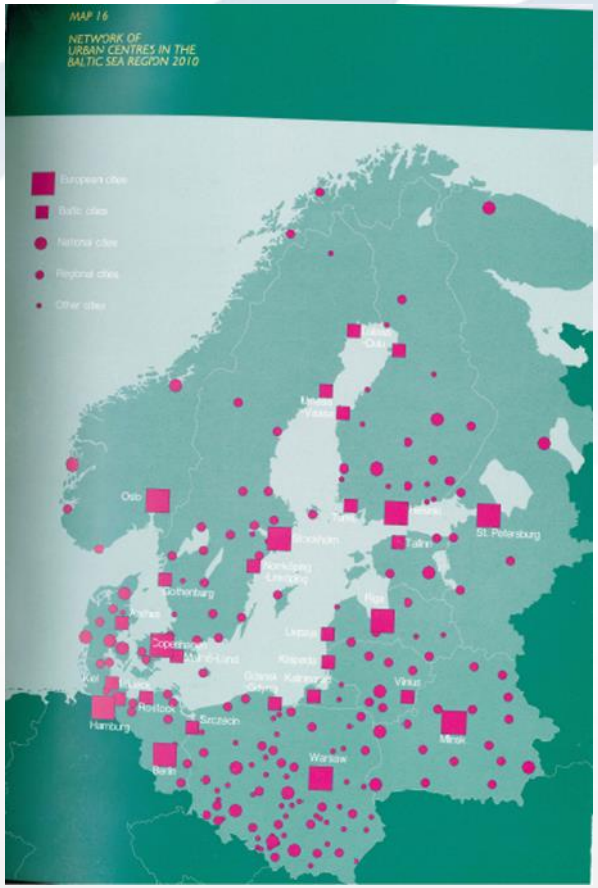
- **THE PEARLS** an urban network of international importance
- **THE STRINGS** effective and sustainable links between cities
- **THE PATCHES** areas supporting dynamism and quality of life

Agreed by the 3rd Conference of Ministers for Spatial Planning and Development, 7-8 December 1994, Tallinn

Network of Urban Centres 2010

Goals

- Competitive system of cities gains value by cooperation across BSR and with Europe
- System of cities ensures spatial cohesion
- Links between urban areas and rural hinterland support regional economic and environmental balance
- Cities offer an attractive urban environment for inhabitants and investments



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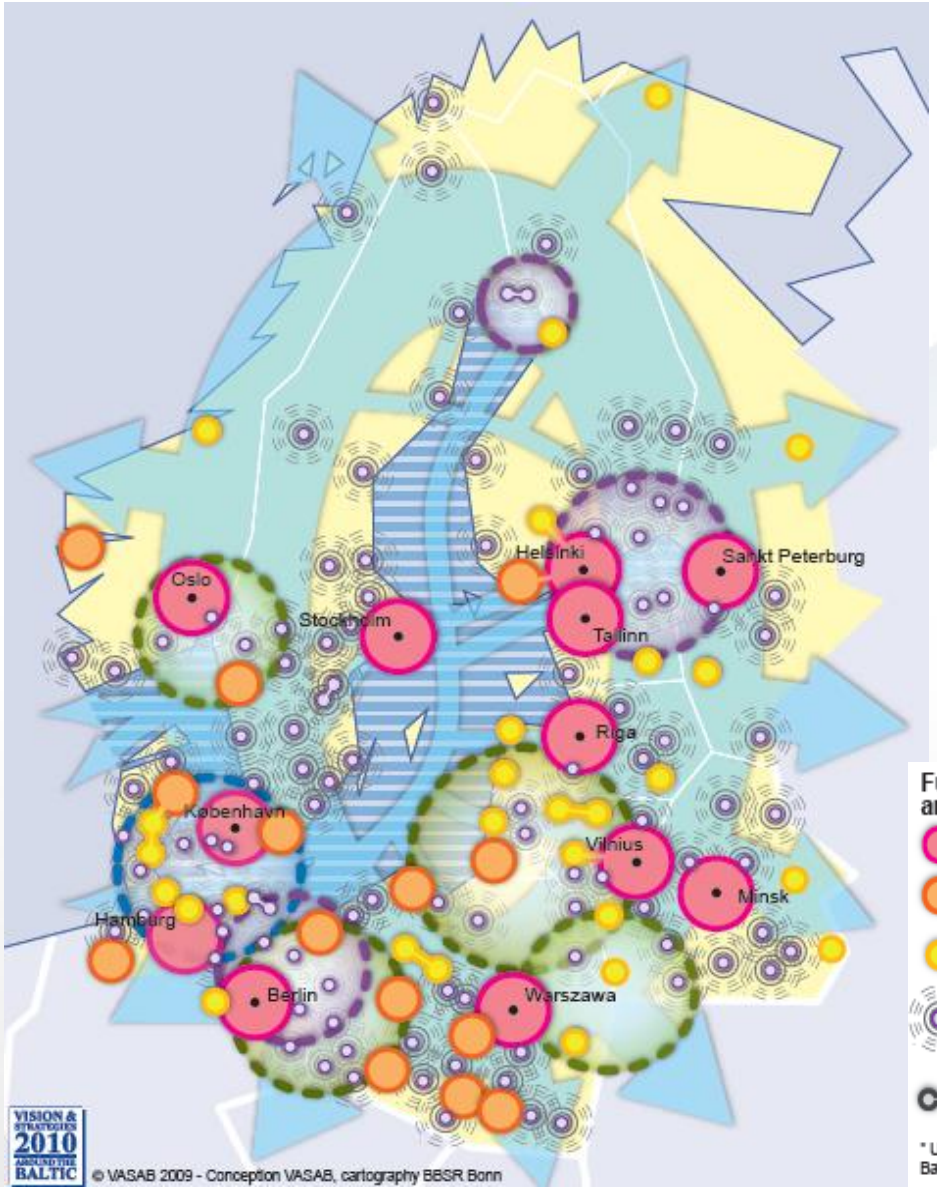
2030: Territorial cohesion perspective

Agreed by the 7th Conference of Ministers for Spatial Planning and Development, 16 October 2009 in Vilnius



Functional profile of urban regions and centres *

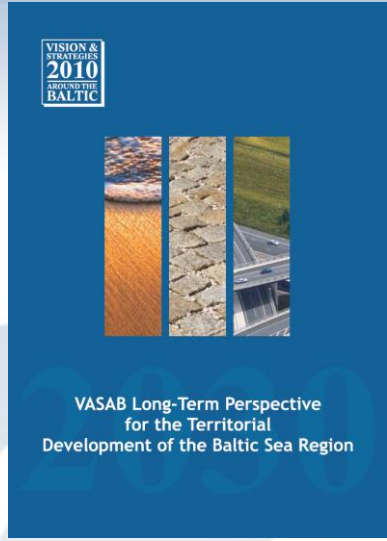
- Global gateway with prominent R&D and knowledge intensive business services
- BSR gateway with well developed R&D and knowledge intensive business services
- Urban region in process of metropolisation with growing globally linked R&D and knowledge intensive services
- Regional development centre providing 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 2006

Cross-border cluster cooperation areas

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

Territorial cohesion perspective of the Baltic Sea Region in 2030



- Well integrated and coherent macro-region with overcome divides
- Well balanced setup of metropolitan centres, small and medium size cities and towns
- Fast, reliable and environmentally efficient technologies of transport, information and communication
- Integrated energy production and supply system with well diversified sources of energy
- Integrated land and sea space planning and management
- Maritime spatial planning principles alleviating potential sea use conflicts for the present and future generations

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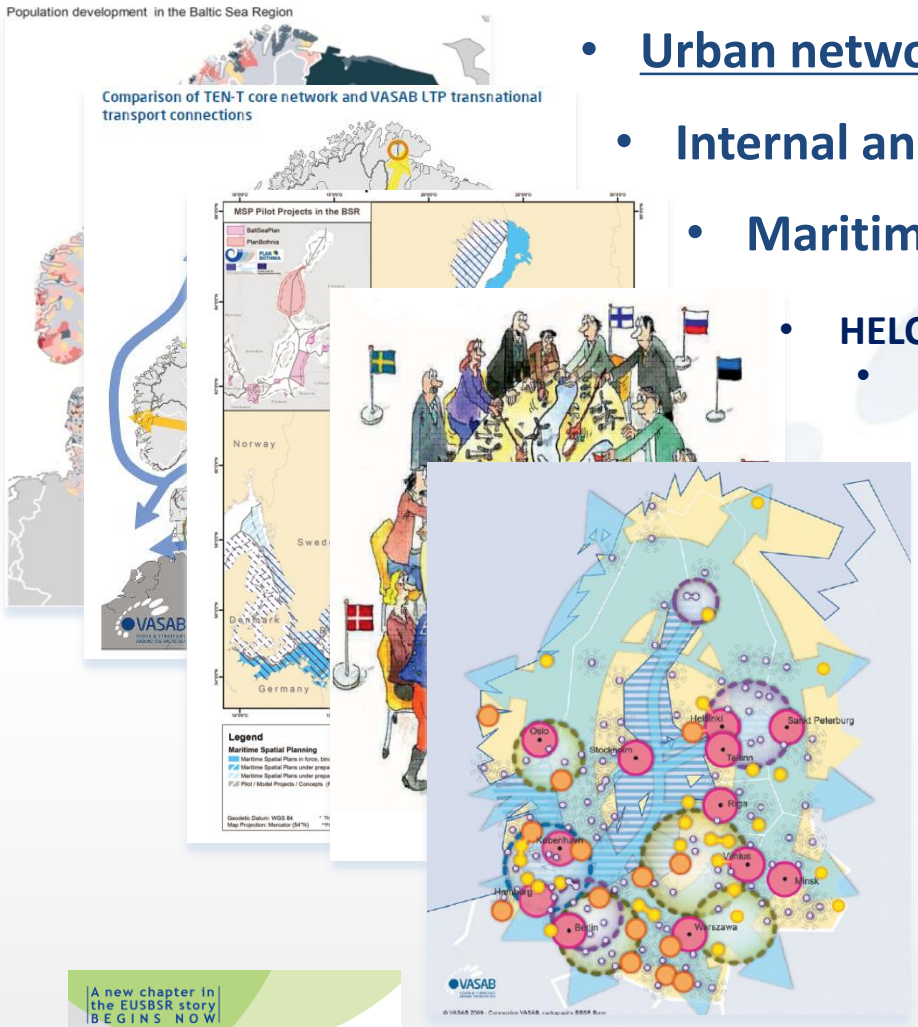
Main directions



- <u>Urban networking, urban-rural cooperation</u>
- Internal and external accessibility, transport links
- Maritime spatial planning
- HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning WG
  - Baltic Sea MSP Data Sub-Group
- Monitoring of territorial development

BALTIC SEA REGION TERRITORIAL MONITORING SYSTEM
ESPON

Baltic LINes

Pan Baltic Scope

EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION
HORIZONTAL ACTION 'SPATIAL PLANNING'

NSB CoRe

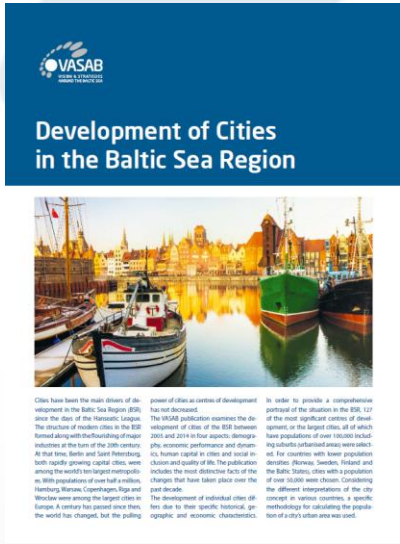
HASPS 3
HORIZONTAL ACTION "SPATIAL PLANNING" SUPPORT 3

A new chapter in the EUSBSR story BEGINS NOW
Let's Communicate
the EUSBSR for the benefit of the region

Urban networking and urban – rural cooperation

VASAB supports countries and ensures

- **Experience exchange through workshops and conferences**
- **Monitoring city development on urban development and challenges**
- **Follow up cooperation projects on urban development and urban –rural linkages**



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HELCOM

EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

HORIZONTAL ACTION 'SPATIAL PLANNING'

VASAB and HELCOM are Horizontal Action Leaders

Encourage the use of Maritime and Land-Based Spatial Planning in all Member States around the Baltic Sea and develop a common approach for cross-border cooperation

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COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES
LATVIAN PRESIDENCY 2018–2019

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development Republic of Latvia

1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

Small and medium sized cities

Workshops

6 September 2018 - **Smart urban governance in times of transition. Resilience of small and medium cities in the Baltic Sea Region,** Liepāja, LV

22 January 2019 - **Urban dimension in spatial policies in the Baltic Sea Region. Trends and prospects of urbanization,** Schwerin, DE

Competitiveness of Small & Medium-Sized Cities in the Baltic Sea Region

CONFERENCE

4 JUNE I RIGA, LATVIA

You are very welcome to join!

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Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development Republic of Latvia

Latvijas vides aizsardzības fonds
LVAF

Nordic Council of Ministers' Office in Latvia

Thank you for your attention!

www.vasab.org

E-mail: info@vasab.org

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