

# **VASAB**

## **Macro-Regional Visions in the Baltic Sea Region**

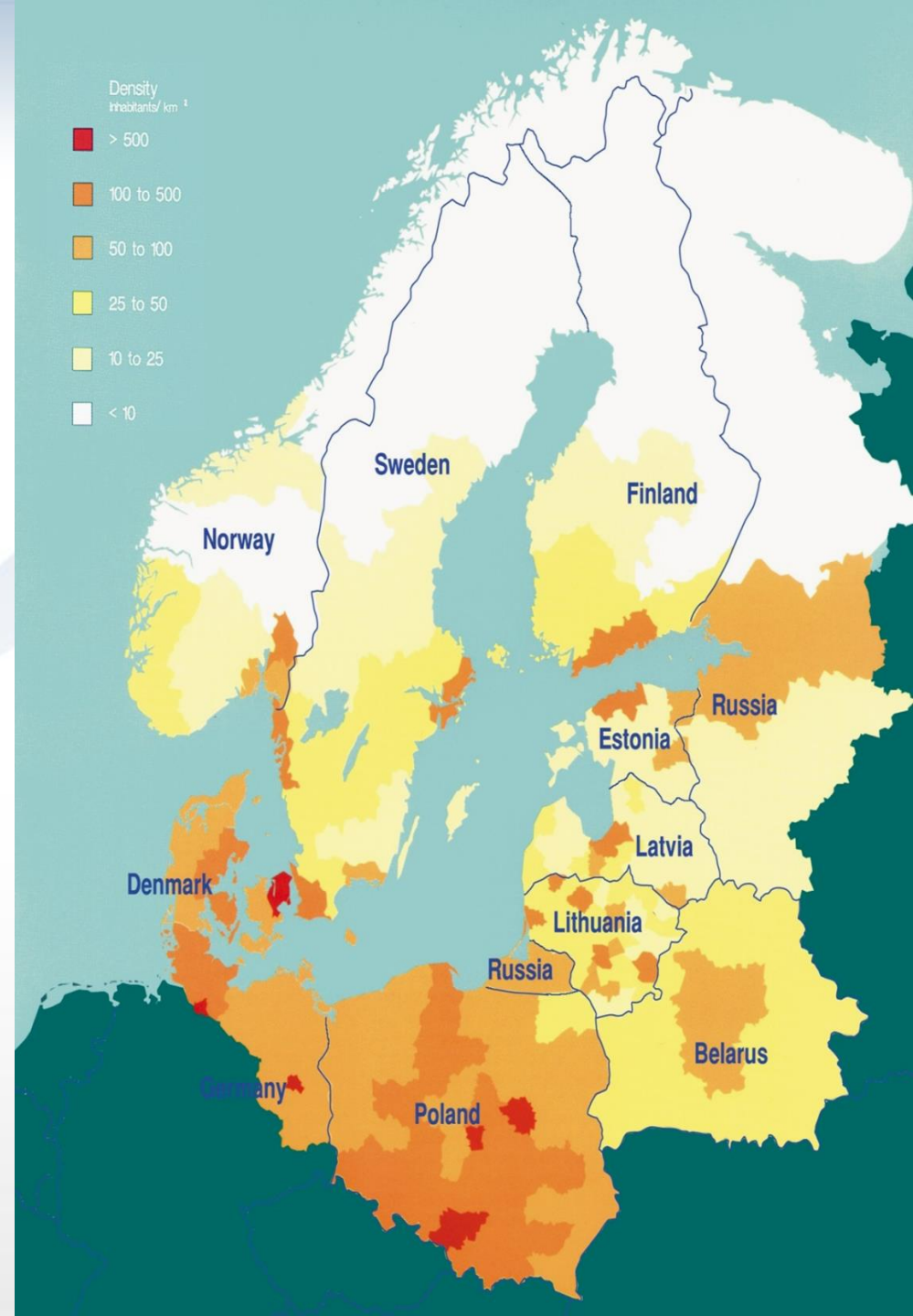
**Talis Linkaits**  
**Head of VASAB Secretariat**

**23 April 2015**  
**Luxembourg**

**A cooperation of ministers of the  
11 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**





# 8th VASAB Conference of Ministers Responsible for Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region

TALLINN,  
26 September  
2014



# Origin

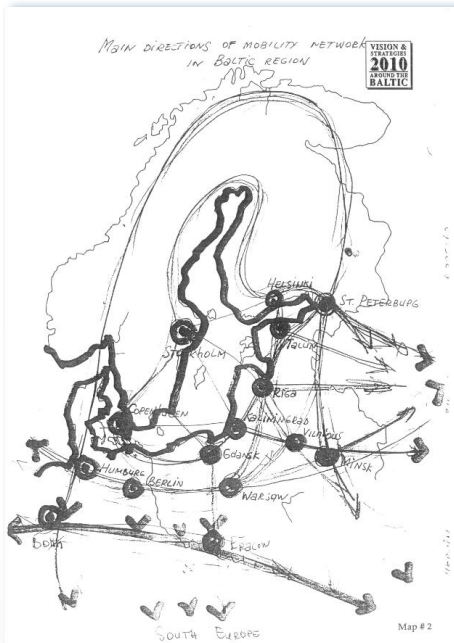


**Ms Görel Thurdin**  
**Swedish Minister of Physical Planning**

***“...such a plan when completed will be of use to all decision-makers around the Baltic Sea as a tool for identifying priorities in the public as well as in the private sector, regarding the planning of the use of our natural resources and the need for investments for our future environment”***

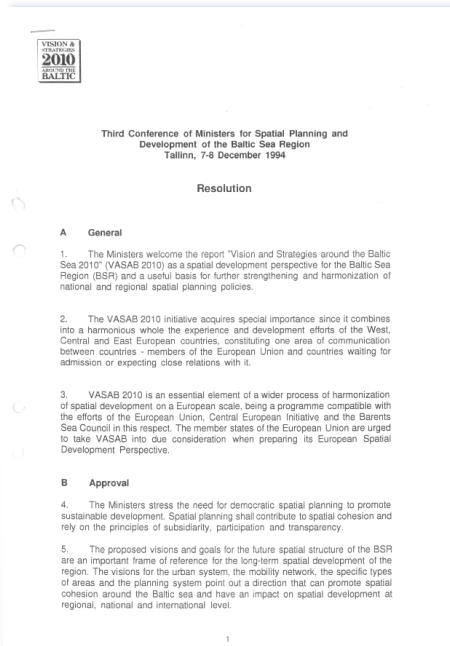
**1st VASAB High Level Conference**  
**Karlskrona, 20-21 August 1992**

# Purpose



- Support the **development of networks** for co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region
- Provide a practical forum for the **transfer of competence** to the countries in transition to democratic market economies
- **Improve the level of information** in BSR countries on current trends and problems in other countries in the region
- **Assess important infrastructure projects** to receive international financial contributions
- **Promote spatial planning** in the participating countries and regions

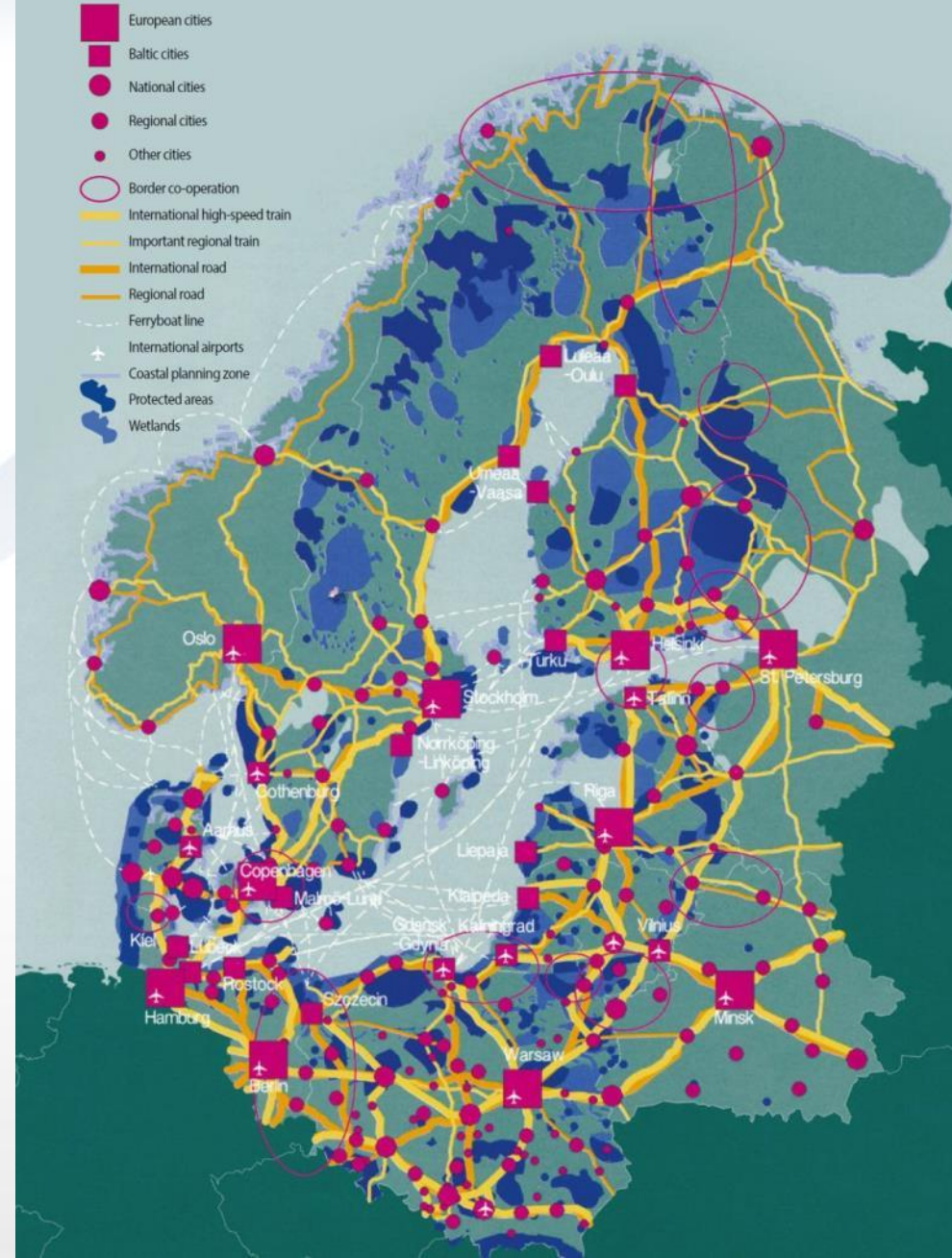
# Principles



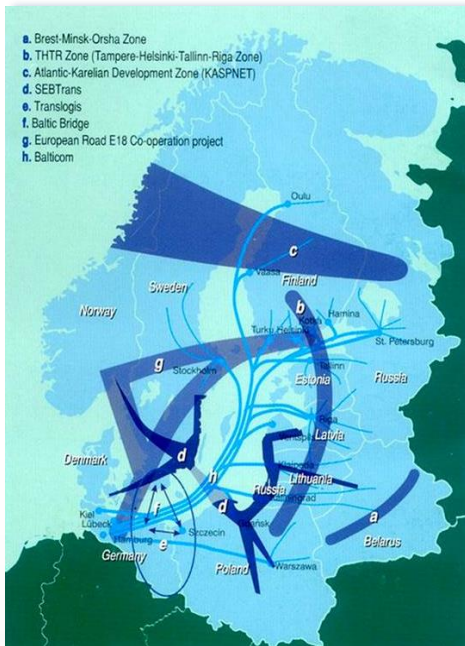
- Joint visions and strategies are **not a comprehensive “mega plan”** for the region. But they are to be taken into account by the authorities when drawing up their own spatial policies
- Strategies and actions concentrate on **aspects of cross-national or Baltic interest**
- **Concertation** on a broad scale was sought with other organizations and international initiatives
- **Based on prognoses for 2010 and taking into account trends / challenges**

# 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



# Implementation



- Applying agreed strategies at national, regional and local level
- Common actions and pilot projects
- Monitoring and assessment
- Updating and further refinement – incl. via Ministerial Conferences
- Increased cooperation among responsible institutions and research institutes
- Joint funding available for follow-up
- Secretariat as daily caretaker



# Legacy

Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea 2010

Symbolic outline of spatial development priorities in the Baltic Sea Region.

6 key themes

● Co-operation of urban regions

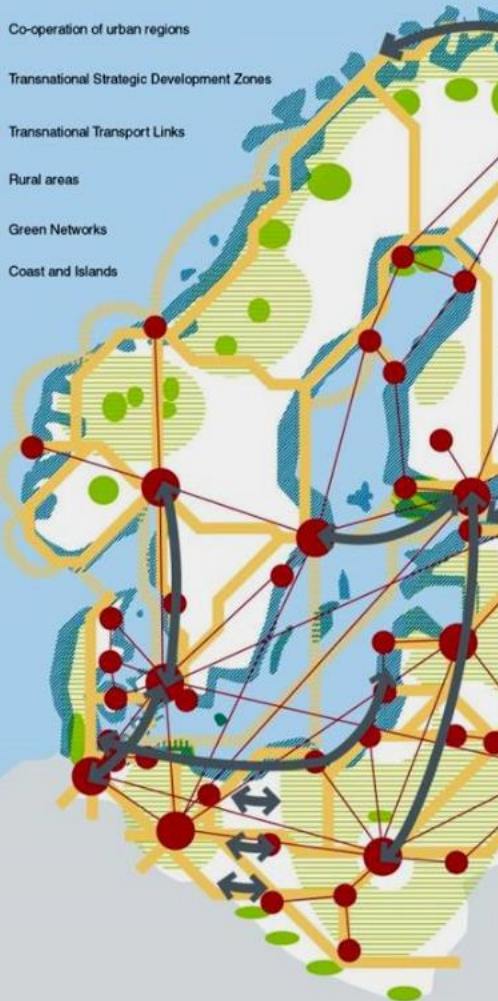
↔ Transnational Strategic Development Zones

— Transnational Transport Links

▨ Rural areas

● Green Networks

▨ Coast and Islands



Compendium

**COMPENDIUM**

OF SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS  
IN THE BALTIC SEA REGION  
COUNTRIES

nt  
ny

S 2015  
development



# Assessment

## Evaluation of implementation of the VASAB 2010 vision in the area of mobility network and energy supply

Contract: 5-13/74, 23.7.2008

Final Report

2008

# 2008



The evaluation report has been prepared within the framework of the INTERREG IIB project "East - West Window" on behalf of the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government of the Republic of Latvia. The project "East - West Window" aims at the promotion of the territorial integration of North-West Russia and Kaliningrad into the Baltic Sea Region through joint spatial planning and development actions.



the goals defined

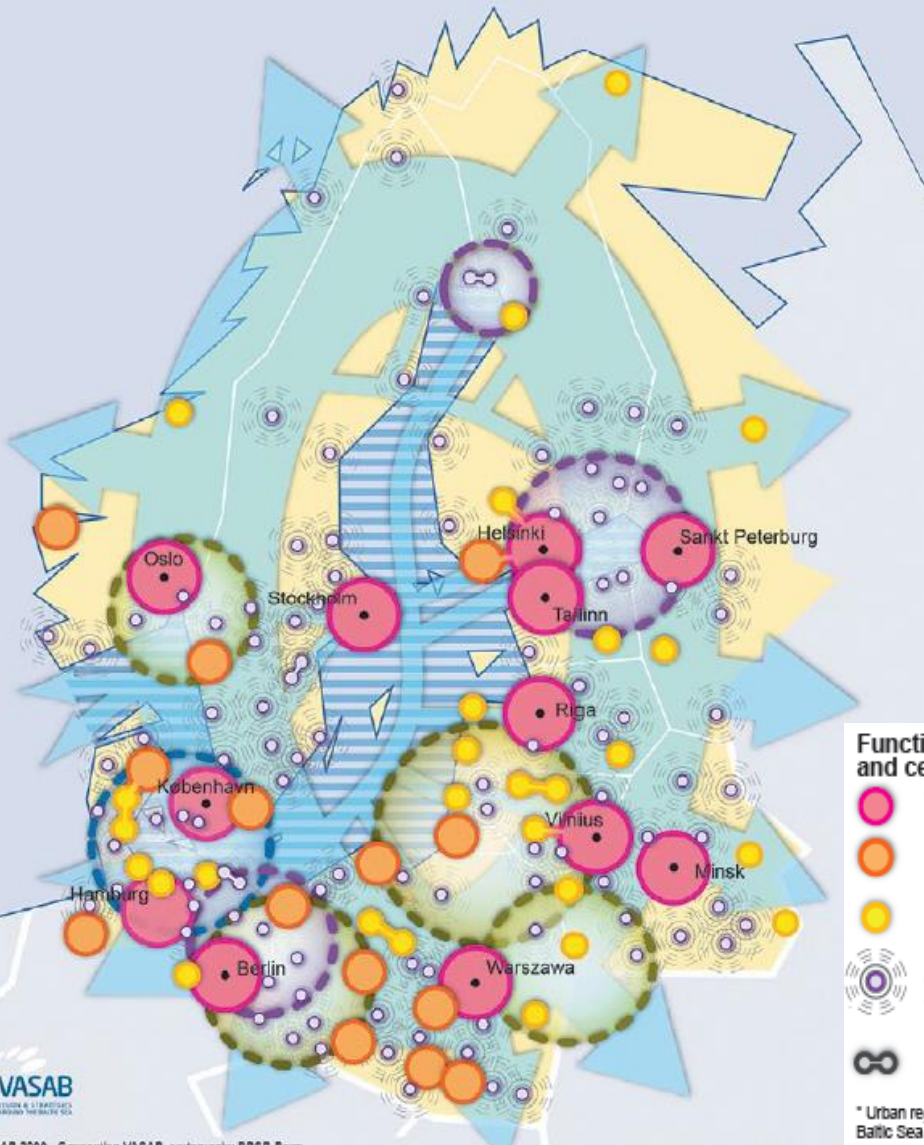
review by using information  
using some of Eurostat data  
report.

BSR and with the world;  
sources of energy.

# Rail Baltica



# Territorial development perspective of the Baltic Sea Region in 2030



## 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

## Cross-border cluster cooperation areas

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

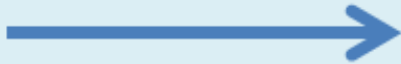
\* Urban regions as defined in the report 'Towards an Integrated Baltic Sea Region', Nordregio, Stockholm 2008

# Long Term Perspective

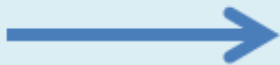
- LTP concentrates on policy themes, where **transnational cooperation in spatial planning** provides a clear added value: **(1)** urban networking and urban-rural relations, **(2)** accessibility, and **(3)** sea space planning and management
- LTP particularly addresses **territorial disparities** in the field of socio-economic development (east-west, north-south, urban-rural divides)
- LTP is **complementary** to transnational actions of other organisations (no duplication of efforts)
- LTP a combination of **policy** and **22 actions** (involving stakeholders)

## How far/ambitious?

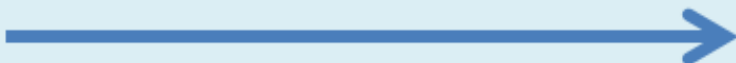
- **urban networks and urban-rural relations:** discuss, disseminate, develop new forms of urban-rural partnership



- **external and internal accessibility:** enter into dialogue with relevant bodies



- **maritime spatial planning:** promote, develop and introduce

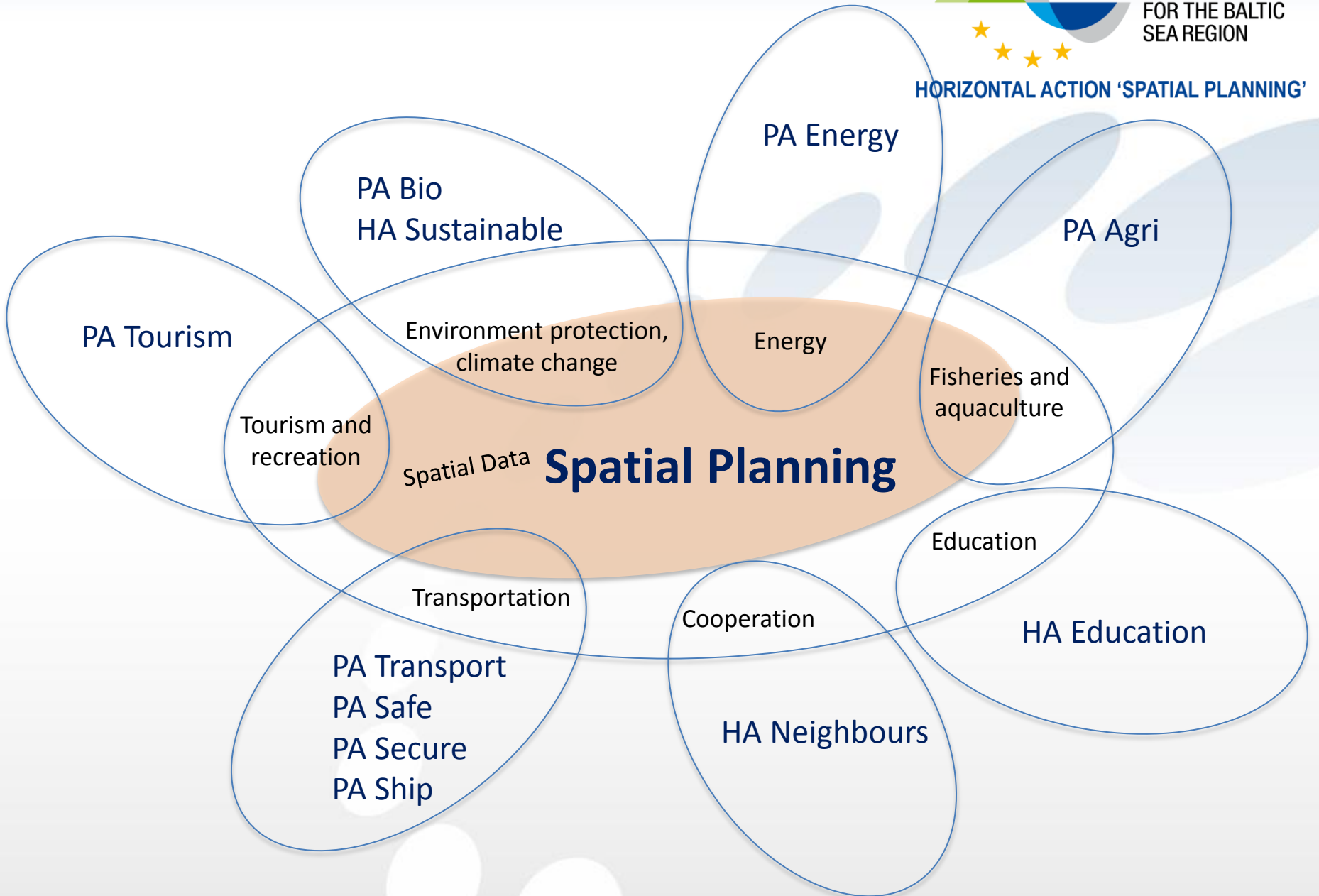


# Links to EUSBSR PAs and HAs



**EUSBSR**  
EU STRATEGY  
FOR THE BALTIC  
SEA REGION

HORIZONTAL ACTION 'SPATIAL PLANNING'





# Regional cooperation on accessibility







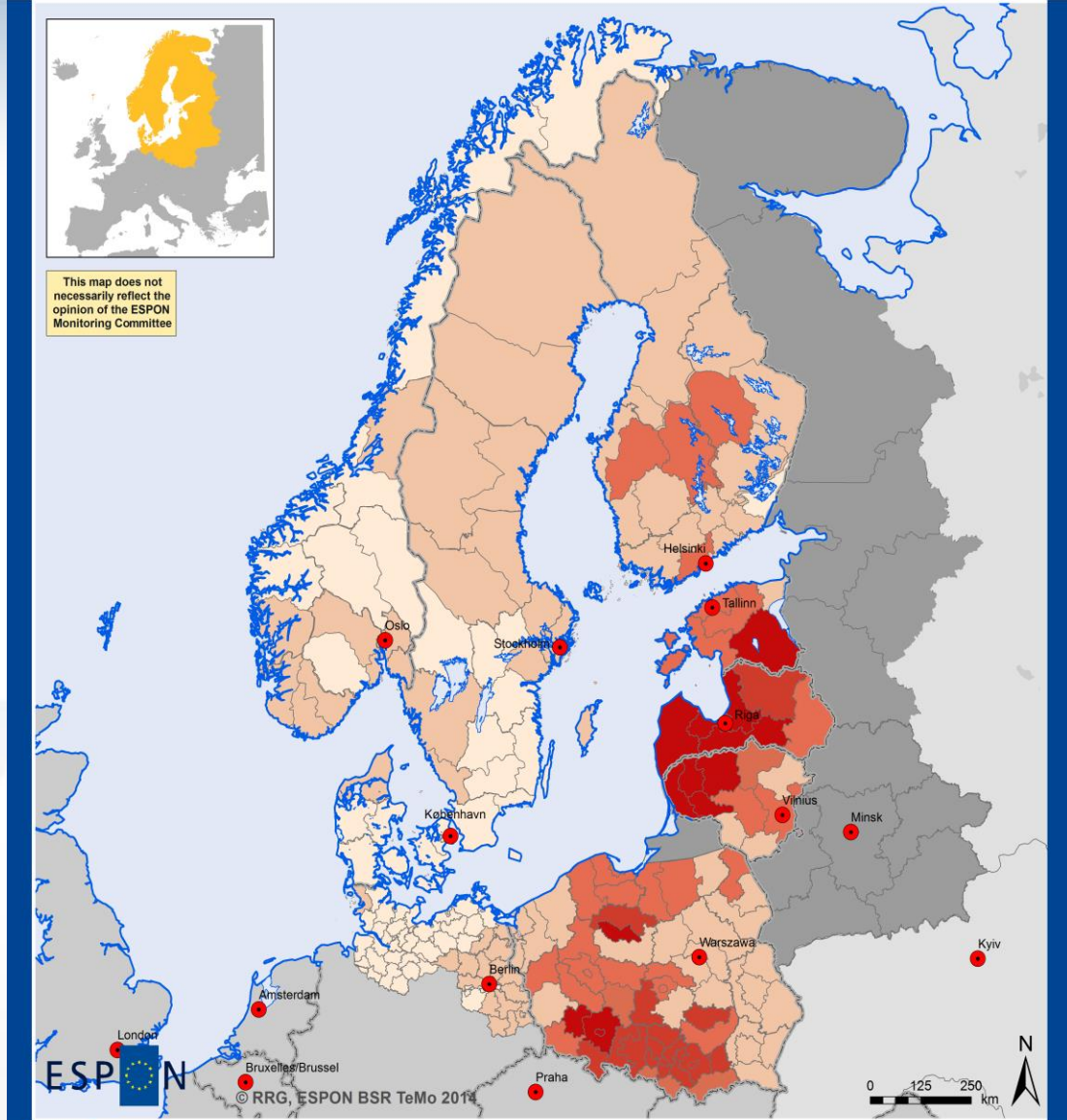
**Thank you for your attention!**

**[www.vasab.org](http://www.vasab.org)**

**E-mail: [info@vasab.org](mailto:info@vasab.org) Twitter: [vasab\\_org](https://twitter.com/vasab_org) Facebook: [VASAB](https://www.facebook.com/VASAB)**

# Accessibility by air

The only major positive change over the last decade for EE, LV, LT



EUROPEAN UNION  
Part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund  
INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

Regional level: NUTS-3  
Source: Spiekermann and Wegener  
Urban and Regional Research (S&W), 2013  
Origin of data: S&W Accessibility Model, 2013  
© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries

## Accessibility potential by air Change 2001 - 2011 (%)



# Accessibility by rail

- Positive change over the last decade for SE, FI, PL

