

CLIMATE CHANGE AND DRAFT VASAB VISION 2040

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ESPON Peer-learning workshop on Climate change strategies in
the Baltic Sea Region, online, 5th May 2022



Draft VASAB Vision 2040 – BSR for the next generations

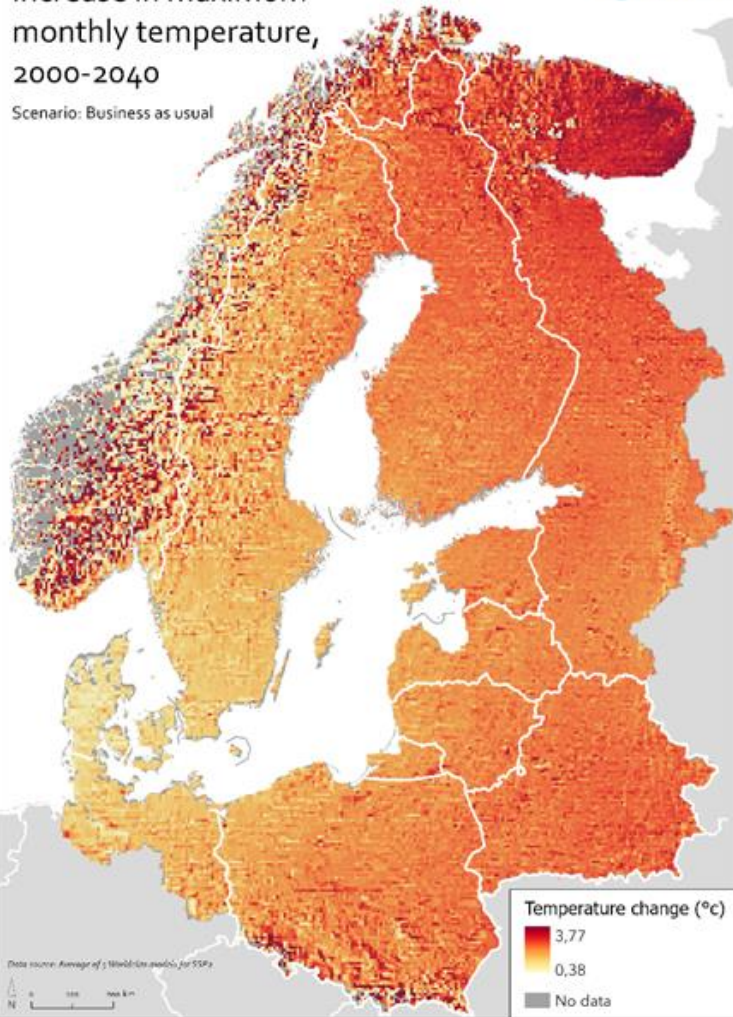


- **Healthy Baltic Sea** - central asset around which the region prospers
- **A buoyant and fresh Baltic Sea Region** - diversity of places, nature and people of the region co-exist in harmony and stimulate each other
- **High quality of life** based on mindset shift towards sustainability in all aspects of life, on more cohesion, integration, solidarity and macro-regional cooperation, and on a wiser use of technology for the common good of places and people.
- **Adequate policies** help in coping with challenges

Increase in maximum
monthly temperature,
2000-2040

Scenario: Business as usual

Nordregio



Long-term risks to the Baltic Sea Region resulting from climate change

Impacts on the biodiversity:

- loss of original flora & fauna, higher survival of invasive species, eutrophication, impacts on food supply (fishery and agriculture), such as the decline in cod populations or the low value freshwater fish

Impacts on the coastal infrastructure:

- damage to buildings and infrastructure due to fungus, sea level rise, storms, floods

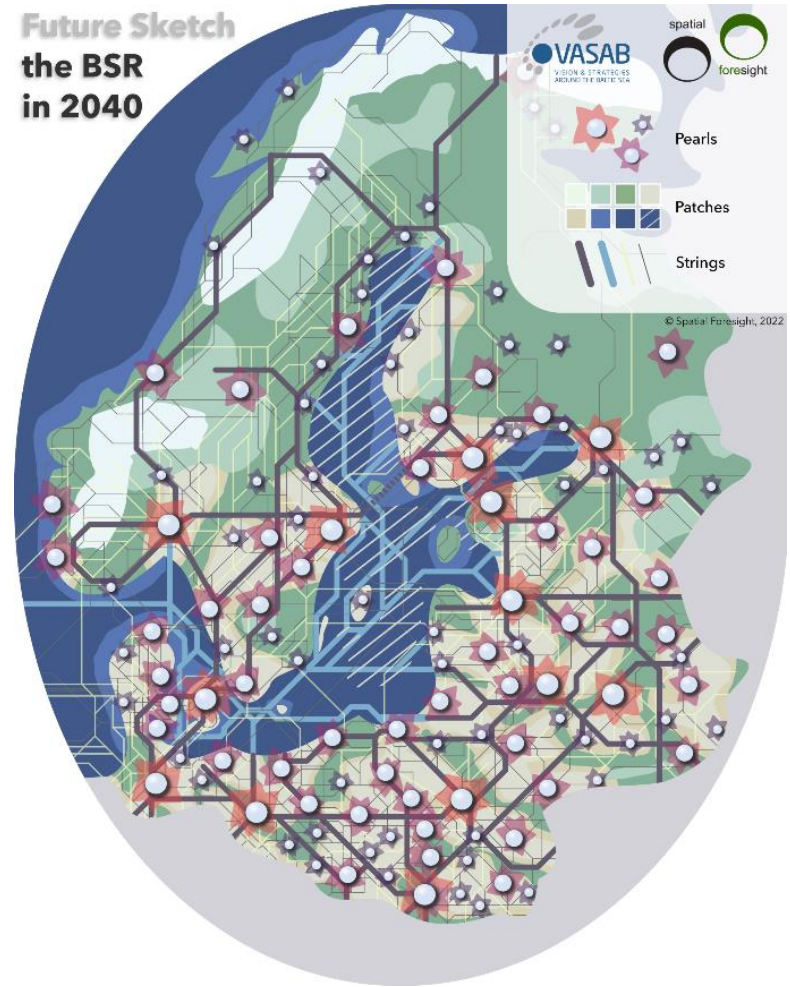
Impacts on economic activities:

- coastal tourism, such as increased beach erosion, floods, less winter tourism opportunities which depend on snow or ice

Climate in draft VASAB Vision 2040

- Carbon neutral Baltic pearls - urban development and services
- Mobility and 'green' transport
- Energy network of decentralised systems
- 'Green' blue economy
- Sustainable agriculture
- 'Green' patches for environmental resilience

Future Sketch
the BSR
in 2040





CARBON NEUTRAL BALTIC PEARLS:

DRIVERS AND HUBS OF GREEN & DIGITAL TRANSITION

QUALITY OF LIFE



- **Climate change adaptation & mitigation approaches and strategies**
- **Smart Specialisation Strategies**
- **Digitalisation of public services of general interest**
- **Smart city concepts**
- **Optimising the efficiency of city operations**
- **Integration of Sustainable Development Goals in the local agendas**
- **Circular economy approaches**



MOBILITY AND 'GREEN' TRANSPORT:

CHARACTERISED BY A SUSTAINABILITY AND
DIGITALISATION SHIFT

UNIQUE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- **Multimodal and sustainable transport modes and connections**
- **Shift away from excess private vehicle ownership to incentives for sustainable encouragement of other means**
- **Transport and energy networks**
- **Sustainable Baltic train network & maritime transport as an alternative to air travel**
- **'Green' energy for maritime transport and harbour services**
- **Short distance shipping into the public transport system**



ENERGY NETWORK OF DECENTRALISED SYSTEMS:



**GREEN & RENEWABLE – KEY ENERGY SUPPLY
REFRAINING FROM FOSSIL FUELS**

SECURE & RELIABLE ENERGY

- **Decentralised, renewable and climate proofing energy systems**
- **Further integration of energy networks connecting renewable energy production sites and energy storage sites towards fully integrated transmission grid**
- **Coordination and balancing renewable energy development with other interests and activities, ecosystem services, community needs and local values**



'GREEN' & TASTY PATCHES:

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

ON LAND / SEA / UNDERGROUND



- More environmental-friendly agriculture
- Organic farming and circular agricultural approaches
- Baltic network of 'green' and 'blue' places, belts, corridors
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture



DISCUSSION:

How can spatial planning address key challenges in the Baltic Sea region regarding climate change?

Does the draft VASAB Vision take the challenges adequately into account?

What are the opportunities and challenges for concrete actions in a macroregional context?