# Invitation to
# PLAN BOTHNIA Baltic Sea Region Stakeholder Meeting

**6 February 2012 Riga, Latvia**
**Monika Centrum Hotels, meeting room "Glory", Elizabetes street 21, Riga**

Largely due to recent interest in developments on maritime areas, among others wind powers, many coastal countries around Europe are engaged in the new field of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP). In the Baltic Sea a new intergovernmental group on the topic has started its work in 2010: a joint HELCOM-VASAB Maritime Spatial Planning Working Group. Also a couple of maritime spatial planning development projects are being carried out right now in the Baltic Sea area.

The PLAN BOTHNIA project (Dec 2010-May 2012) concretely tests joint transboundary MSP in a large area (ca 350x250km) covering the Bothnian Sea, a part of the Baltic Sea between Finland and Sweden. The project focuses on offshore areas and thus not directly covers any dry land. Now in its twelfth month the project has created background material on activities in the Bothnian Sea and is working on future scenarios for this sea basin.

As part of its dissemination activities the project partner VASAB organizes a public stakeholder event on 6 February 2012 in Riga, Latvia to inform and discuss about the project context, progress and results of the two studies on minimum requirements for MSP, as well as to link to other activities in the same field. This event is mainly targeted to those stakeholders around the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) who are not previously involved in the project activities but are interested to use provided opportunity to discuss progress and next steps of the Plan Bothnia project.

The working language of the event will be English.

**Aims:**

1. Introduction to Plan Bothnia project and its present situation to all interested participants
2. Present and discuss links to recent Baltic Sea and European developments
3. Present and discuss the project study on minimum requirements for MSP and best practices in applying MSP principles
4. Present other MSP activities and discuss their links to Plan Bothnia

**Programme:**

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| 10:30-11:00 | Registration and coffee |
| **11:00**-11:10 | Welcome and introductions |
| 11:10-11:40 | Plan Bothnia project progress/Hermanni Backer<br>(Lead Partner HELCOM Secretariat) |

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| | Discussion |
| 12:00-12:15 | Finnish experience in the Plan Bothnia project / Tiina Tihlman<br>(Ministry of the Environment, Finland) |
| 12:15-12:30 | Swedish experience in the Plan Bothnia project / Sten Jerdenius<br>(Ministry of the Environment, Sweden) |
| 12:30-12:40 | Discussion on both experiences |
| 12:40-13:10 | Plan Bothnia web services and data base/Manuel Frias<br>(Lead Partner HELCOM Secretariat) |
| 13:10-13:20 | Discussion on data availability for MSP |
| **13:20-13:50** | Coffee break |
| 13:50-14:20 | MSP best practices in the Baltic Sea and other EU maritime regions / Jacek Zaucha, Maritime Institute in Gdansk<br>(PLAN BOTHNIA project Component 5.2.4 Expert II) |
| 14:20-14:50 | Discussion / moderator Tiina Tihlman |
| 14:50-15:20 | Minimum requirements for MSP in the BSR / Bernhard Heinrichs, Consultant<br>(PLAN BOTHNIA project Component 5.2.4 Expert I) |
| 15:20-15:50 | Discussion / moderator Sten Jerdenius |
| 15:50-16:10 | BONUS project PREHAB / Mats Lindegarth, Project Coordinator<br>Department of Marine Ecology, Gothenburg University, Sweden |
| 16:10-16:30 | MASPNOSE project / Martin Pastoors, Centre for Marine Policy, the Netherlands |
| 16:30-16:50 | MESMA project / Doug Beare, Project Leader (tbc) |
| 16:50-17:00 | EU developments in ICZM and MSP/ EC DG ENV (tbc) |
| **17:00** | Refreshments and informal discussion |

Please, register to the meeting **till 27 January 2012** by sending reply to **info@vasab.org**.

Sincerely yours,

Talis Linkaits
Head of VASAB Secretariat

Hermanni Backer
PLAN BOTHNIA Project Manager



Hermanni Backer (PLAN BOTHNIA Project Manager)
HELCOM Secretariat, Katajanokanlaituri 6 B
FI-00160 Helsinki, Finland
phone: +358 468509199
fax: +358 207 412 639
e-mail: hermanni.backer@helcom.fi
internet: http://www.planbothnia.org