

7th Strategy Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region - Vision 2030

Seminar Report

Title of Seminar: Saving and Using the Sea? Connecting Decision Makers and Actors through Maritime Spatial Planning

Name of Seminar Organiser: VASAB (Vision and Strategies Around the Baltic Sea)

Name of Seminar Rapporteur: Jody Raditya Hanindyawan Handoko

Date: 8 November 2016

Time: 15.00 – 16.20

Venue: Lindgren

SUMMARY:

This seminar discussed the role of maritime spatial planning in the effort for a better management toward Baltic Sea region. Maritime Spatial Planning is a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives that usually have been specified through a political process (UNESCO). The Baltic Sea is managed by Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and the council of 23 July 2014 establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning with a deadline on 31 March 2021.

Nine countries and one autonomous region are sharing Baltic Sea region; one of many challenges in the region. Each country has their own priority toward the sea territorial management; that could lead to border conflict among them. Baltic sea hold many interests such as, transportation, energy resource, fisheries, waste dump, marine protected area, IMO Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA), etc.,; all of those concerns are challenges the implication of maritime spatial planning in the sea region.

At the moment, there is no single model for Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea region; it is vary between each municipalities and countries. The responsibilities sometimes more regional and local level; need to be encouraged for the national level to be more involved. The variety of objectives and/or purposes on each authorities is depend on the condition of the ecosystem, Blue Growth also social and cultural values in the area. There is also different participation of the politicians and user degrees.

The seminar consisted of three parts based on the actual recent issues,

1. The role of maritime spatial planning to the Baltic Sea region.

The biggest challenges to maximize the role of MSP in the region is integration; to make the same model among respective country in order to establish a concrete step to make the regional area more sustainable. The most difficult thing to do is to make the partnership collective action to go beyond our own region. One of the audience proposed that before we could apply the MSP, every actors should have a common understanding about MSP, in order to avoid the "green washing" stigma. There might be a different approach for each country, depend on the specific condition, but each of it should have the same direction to one goal.

2. The effort to increase political ownership.

Maritime Spatial Planning is spatial politics; the problem is many politicians do not know it yet. There should be one policy among municipality and national level; one of the effort is by increase the capacity building in administrative agents. There should be a clarity in the management of the MSP and agreement among the stakeholders because with a splash of creativity, MSP will become a big opportunity to maximize the potential of the region. Therefor, politician should not be afraid with MSP, as argued by one of the audience.

3. The process to connect all of the actors that affect maritime spatial planning.

It is important to connect all of the actors that affect maritime spatial planning. This actors or stakeholders are politician, businesses, public, environmentalists, etc., There should be a social learning by making a smart tool to make an interactive engagement among them. The connection is important, it needs a national cooperation, and it is better if more stakeholders involved in the process. The key is a clarity management to attract investors.

The Highlight of the seminar is “Maritime Spatial Planning is a never ending learning process, and it is a circular plan that keep developed”.