

## Core themes

The MSRL research will be focused on the Baltic Sea Region as a multidimensional urban phenomenon with Gdansk acting as a hub for the research teams. The idea of the MSRL is to promote the collaboration of professionals and (PhD)students by bringing together the mentor(s) with a local research team working (both) in Gdansk (and other Baltic city), sharing experiences and proposing strategic recommendations to strengthen sustainable urban development initiatives for BSR at the international, regional and local levels. Optionally, the mentors are encouraged to organize or involve their own teams to cooperate within the MSRL framework.

Potential list of suggested topics of the research may include:

**BSR cities and its networks: challenges, visions, ways forward**

How the Baltic cities are connected and how their planning and design could be integrated? What are the mutual influences and codependences of the cities? How these connections reflect in architectural and spatial form of the cities?

**Maritime spatial planning as a tool and process**

How to integrate and bring together land (the coast) and water (the sea) in architectural and planning perspective? What are the lessons from other coastal cities? What are the new threats and challenges that need to be addressed by planning?

**Multicultural coastal cities: new challenges of urban policies**

How urban traditions and cultures meet and what is the spatial result of this meeting? What is the role of architecture and planning in that process? How to increase the resilience of the local cultures (architectural heritage, the local uniqueness)?

**Integrating eco-systems approach into design in coastal cities**

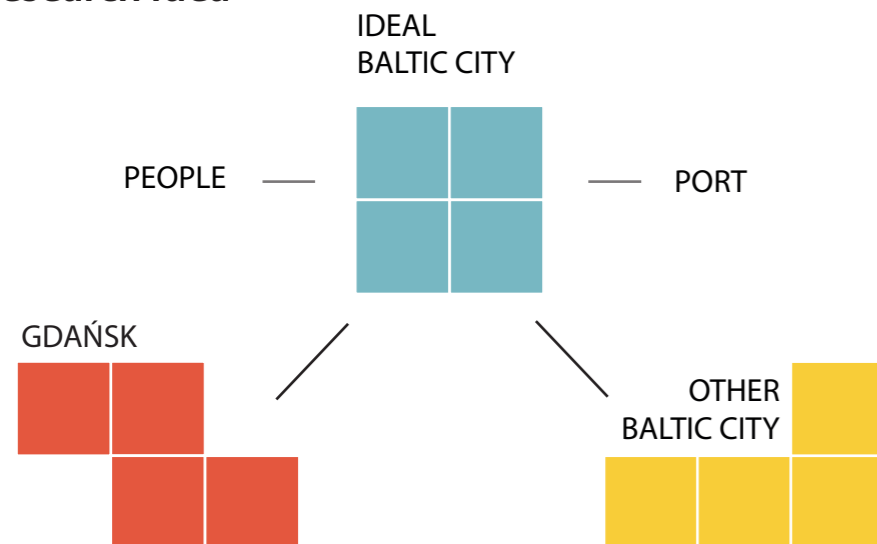
How the integrated environmental design can be integrated into city planning and architecture of the coastal cities? How regional scale can be integrated with local solutions? What challenges Baltic cities have in common and what can they share?

**Contemporary port and maritime industries as growth drivers**

What are the relations between the new economies emerging from the port infrastructures - the modern logistics, maritime industries (manufacturing, sustainable energy developments, shipyards) research and development and the city in economic, symbolic and material dimension?

With the open structure of MSRL the topic will be finally selected and focused by the mentor with the help of its team.

## Research Idea



## Mentor and Student's Research Lab in 2014 (the very first edition)

- \* The idea to organize workshops, in which there is close cooperation of mentors and students appears to be a hit. Each group has conducted numerous studies.
- \* Results from 3 -months hard work were valuable final projects and reviewed publications.
- \* Workshops as unique opportunity to express everyone's opinions, sharing ideas and creating interdisciplinary teams has shown brand new quality of urban workshop.
- \* Thanks to perfect conducted collective work it's proven the concept of globalisation as process of international integration.

Effects:

- \* 5 international working groups
- \* 5 mentors (design planners, professors from all over the world)
- \* 5 scientific projects
- \* 3 publications
- \* 1 conference

## Project recommendations

Ric Stephens, President, ISOCARP and former MSRL mentor

The Mentor&Student Research Lab is an extraordinary programme that combines research, field work and collaborative design. This integrated approach yields a variety of innovative findings, recommendations, as well as planning and design solutions. For everyone involved, it is a meaningful and memorable experience.

Markus Appenzeller (Netherlands China), mentor

"The MSRL program is a very good way for students to understand research and what it could mean. It was both inspiring and fun to work with motivated people on a subject for a limited amount of time and it would be great if there was an opportunity to expand that further."

Christian Horn (France, Germany), mentor

A rare occasions for interested students to think out of the box and see the big picture. And a challenging initiative based on the strong commitment of all participants and organizers.

Oscar Bragos (Argentina), mentor

The program has designed and implemented an innovative modality, while attractive, agile and dynamic, to produce studies on the contemporary city in a relatively short time. A pattern of work that gets to bring students of different disciplines related to the study of the organization of cities. And along with those students achieve an interesting final product.

It is a form of work that immediately puts students in contact with a particular problem, analyze it and interpret it. A new modality that should continue and be replicated elsewhere since it manages to interest students in the exciting topic of the management of cities.

\* from MSRL publication Urban transformations. Towards wiser cities and better living edited by Sławomir Ledwon, Hanna Obracht-Prondzyńska

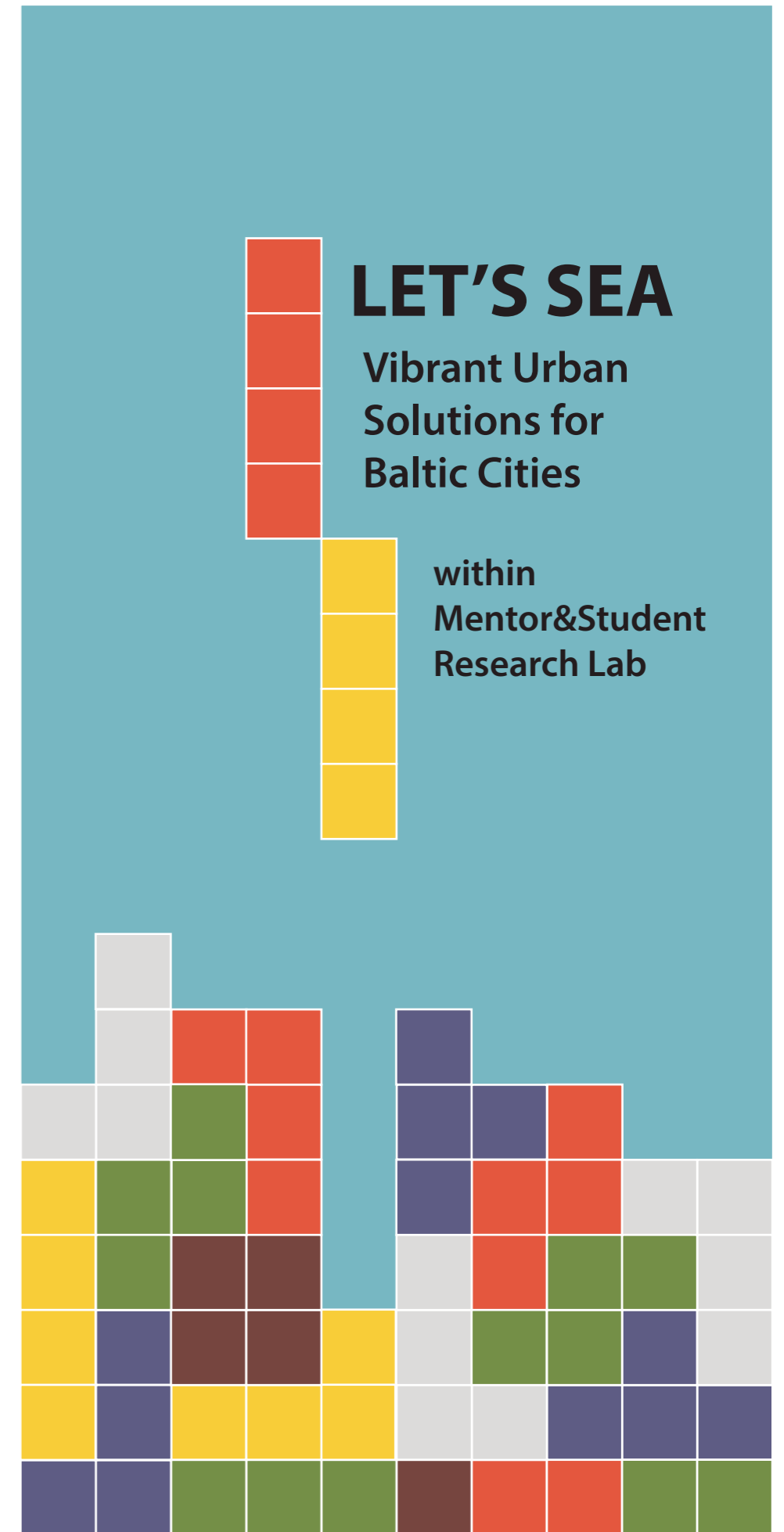
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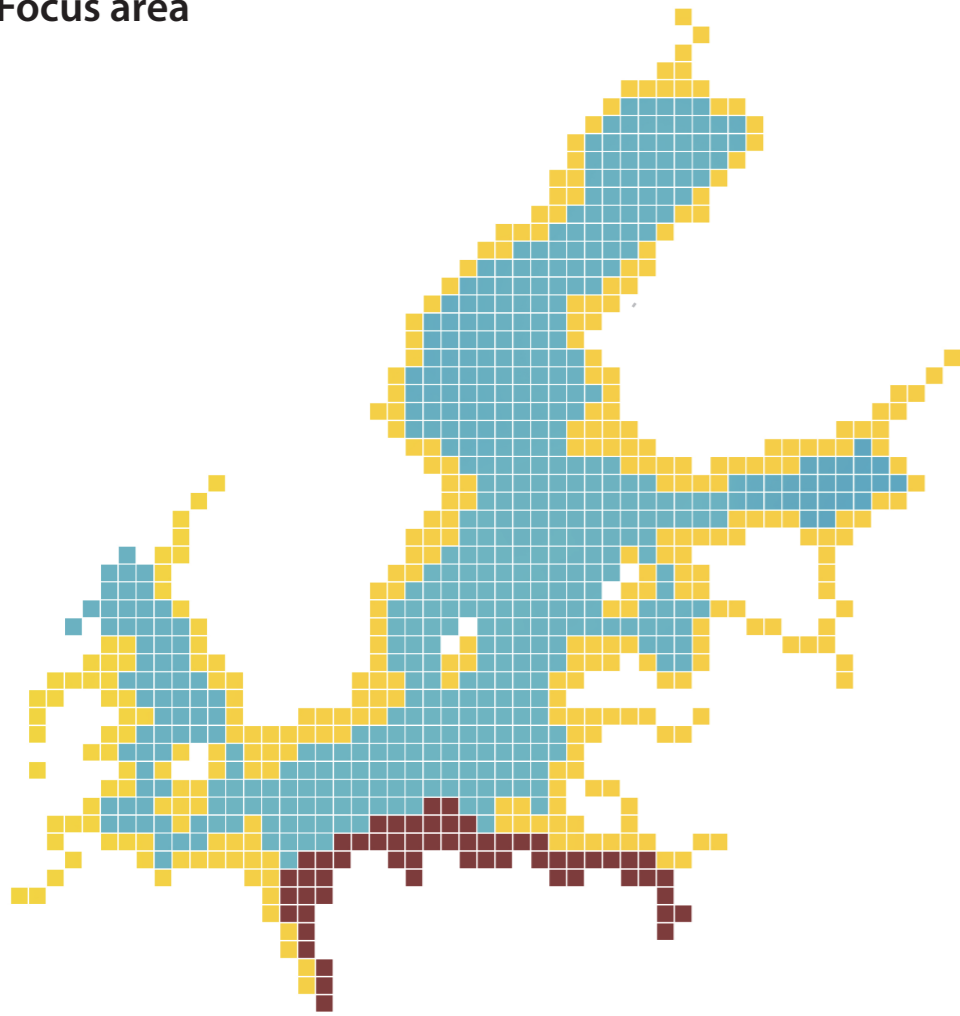


**ISOCARP**  
Knowledge for better Cities

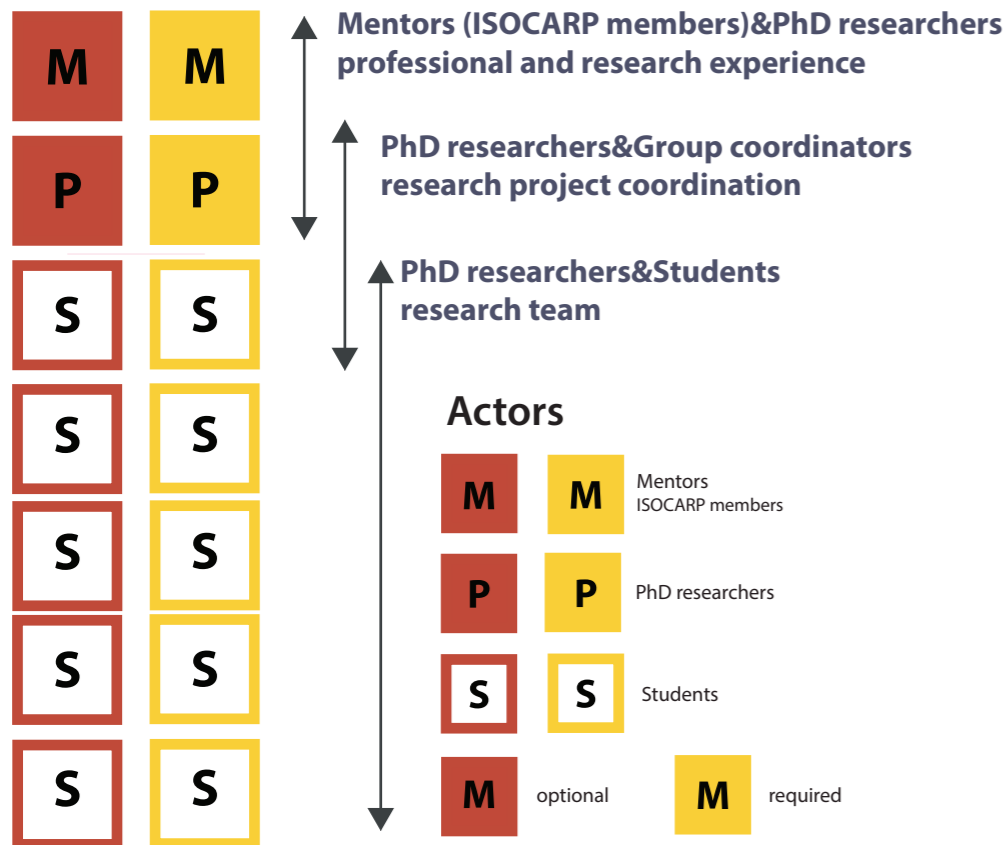


We invite Professionals  
PhD Candidates  
Students

## Focus area



## Research team



## Tasks

**M**

- Specify your research from the proposed core themes.
  - It should be relevant to the Baltic Sea Region context but you are encouraged to bring the experience of your own city.
  - It is possible to join the research with your own team of (PhD) students or colleagues to team up with the local MSRL team.
- Supervise a team of your own young researchers.
- Support the (PhD) student team with your skills and knowledge.

**P**

- Leading the group of students.
- Managing the communication between the mentor and the research group.
- Supporting with your knowledge and ideas.
- Effective cooperative learning. Assist with mentors and coordinators.

**S**

- Actively involved in international research work.
- Actively involved in training activities and meetings.
- Cooperation both with mentors and participants.
- Responsibility for all work of each member of the group.

## Benefits

**M**

- Chance to lead and shape an urban or architectural focused research under your guidance and of your own design.
- Opportunity to guide a dedicated team of PhD candidates and students who value your academic and professional input.

3. Participate in preparation of the report that addresses the relevant issues for the host city (Gdansk) and the Baltic Region.

The first MSRL report was published and distributed on-line, printed copies were published and distributed during the International ISOCARP Congress in Rotterdam, in 2015.

**P**

- Conducting scientific research internationally.
- Publication of the results.
- Mastering methodology application.
- Mastering teaching methods.

**S**

- International work with support of practicing urbanists and architects.
- Extensive knowledge underway of designing process with high prospect for publishing in international field.
- Obtaining and gathering professional skills.

## Project timeline



**Project Supervisors**  
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