



EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Updates from the EUSBSR Policy Area Nutri new coordination

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Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



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New coordinators for policy area Nutri

Finland: Elsi Kauppinen

- Start date 15.9.2022, fulltime
- Background: Eutrophication issues, etc.
- Interim coordinator Pekka Paavilainen will continue as a backup, and participates in HELCOM's work

Organisation: Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland

- Water unit's focus on marine strategy and water management
- National coordination responsibility for the Marine Strategy management, and as a national representative of ELY-Centres in cooperation with HELCOM

Poland: Andrzej Kaczorek

- Start date 1.07.2022
- Background: Eutrophication issues

Organisation: State Water Holding Polish Waters

- Cooperation with HELCOM

Policy area coordinators - rules of procedure

- According to the Steering group for policy area Nutri - rules of procedure:
 - If the PA has more than one PAC, the NCG decides which one of them is the leading PAC, following a proposal by the SG.
 - Previously Finland has been the lead PAC, but the organisations responsible for the PAC role have changed
 - Finland is willing to continue as the lead PAC
 - Should there be a discussion about the roles, or is it ok for Finland to continue as the lead coordinator?



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2. Funding of PA Nutri work: situation in Finland and Poland

Funding for PA Nutri work

Finland:

- Funding applied for salaries from Interreg BSR and approved until 31.12.2024
- Money for meetings (food, rooms, etc) included to some extent (fixed % over salaries)
 - No seed-money for project generation

Poland:

- No external funding yet



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4. EU Strategy for Baltic Sea region, and it's effect on PA Nutri

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region - effect on policy area Nutri

- General new changes:
 - The third revision of the Action Plan was done, Policy Areas linked to the overall EU Strategies, for example the Green deal. The governance structure was improved strengthening the role of the Steering Group and their members.
 - A Baltic Sea Strategy Point was introduced and starts operation at the beginning of October
 - Centrum Balticum Foundation, Finland, Turku together with Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Germany
 - Will support the strategy management, communication, coordination and capacity building, acts like “a living memory” of the EUSBSR

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region - effect on policy area Nutri

- Activities can be projects, processes, networks or platforms
 - Can continue to use the flagship concept
 - Up to the PA to decide what kind of format fits the activity best
- According to the Action plan 2021: Involvement of stakeholders in PA Nutri is at implementation level and thematic focal areas mainly through projects
- EUSBSR and PA Nutri help member states in reaching HELCOM targets
 - HELCOM Action plan, October 2021
 - Baltic Sea regional nutrient recycling strategy, October 2021

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region - effect on policy area Nutri

Action	Completed activities	Ongoing activities	Planned activities
Reduce nutrient emissions from agriculture and other diffuse sources	DESIRE, SuMaNu	-	Nothing planned – funding decisions for core projects have just arrived
Reduce nutrient emissions from urban areas and other point sources	BEST, Water platform	-	Nothing planned – funding decisions for core projects have just arrived
Develop and promote safe and sustainable nutrient recycling	BSR Water, SuMaNu	-	Nothing planned – funding decisions for core projects have just arrived
Address nutrients already accumulated in the Baltic Sea	-	-	Nothing planned – funding decisions for core projects have just arrived

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region - effect on policy area Nutri

Action	Completed activities	Ongoing activities	Planned activities
Reduce nutrient emissions from agriculture and other diffuse sources	DESIRE, SuMaNu	-	-
Reduce nutrient emissions from urban	BEST, Water platform	-	-

No activities done in this action
 Not included in HELCOM Action plan, but mentioned in minister-level “Our Baltic Declaration”, “We will further explore the potential for eutrophication abatement measures that reduce the internal load of nutrients.”

nutrient recycling			
Address nutrients already accumulated in the Baltic Sea	-	-	-



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5. Brief description on previous period

Latest PA Nutri Flagships

- **NutriTrade** - Nutrient Offsetting for the Baltic Sea. NutriTrade develops new innovative policy instruments promoting cost-effective, cross-border, cross-sector nutrient reduction measures in the Baltic Sea basin. The project will pilot a platform for nutrient trading, nutrient offsets and joint implementation of nutrient reduction targets in Baltic Sea area. **Deadline: 2019**
- **Baltic Blue Growth** – Initiation of full scale mussel farming in the Baltic Sea. The project with all its stakeholders will set up a successful mussel farming value chain, the aim is to develop an integrated territorial industrial production of blue mussels and establish commercially viable production of fodder. **Deadline: 2019.**
- **IWAMA** – Interactive water management aims to improve the resource efficiency in wastewater management in the Baltic Sea region (BSR) by developing the capacity of wastewater treatment (WWT) operators and implementing pilot investments which will result in reduced nutrient inflows into the Baltic Sea. **Deadline: 2019**
- **BEST** - Better efficiency for Industrial Sewage treatment. Project BEST tackles both eutrophication and risks of hazardous substances to the Baltic Sea through concrete demonstration and pilot investments, training and transferring best practises. **Deadline: August 2020.**
- **CONSUME** a Baltic project aimed at developing consumer meat guides in all Baltic Sea countries. This is a tool to help businesses and consumers make a conscious choice when buying or eating meat products. The guide also demonstrates how alternative protein sources can replace and complements meat diets. **Deadline: 2018.**
- **DESIRE** - Development of Sustainable peatland management by Re-wetting and paludiculture for nutrient retention in the Neman river catchment. The project aims to increase efficiency of peatlands management in the Neman catchment to reduce nutrient release to the Baltic Sea. **Deadline: 2021.**

Nutrient offsetting for the Baltic Sea (NutriTrade)



Initiating full scale mussel farming in the Baltic Sea (Baltic Blue Growth)



Interactive water management (IWAMA)



Better efficiency for industrial sewage treatment (BEST)



Consumer guide for sustainably produced meat (CONSUME)



Development of sustainable wetland management (DESIRE)



Brief description of previous work

- Seminar 27.9.2022: Improved nutrient management in biogas production and utilization of new biomass sources for sustainable bioenergy
 - Interreg funded projects Sustainable biogas project, Baltic Biomass 4 Value
- No flagships/projects in 2022



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6. Short term and long-term planning of work

Tasks of a PAC outlined in the EUSBSR Action Plan

- Ensuring general overview of the PA
- Managing, coordinating and developing the PA
 - Facilitating the implementation of Actions defined in the action plan,...
- Monitoring and reporting on progress within the PA
 - Drafting a working plan, based on the Action Plan
 - Annual substantial report on PA achievements
 - Endorsed by the SG, submitted to the NCG
- Ensuring communication and visibility of the PA
 - Maintaining and updating the website and other suitable communication channels for the PA

Short term goals

- Latest work plan was for years 2021/2022, with activities planned up to 06/2022
 - Time to update the work plan
 - Detailed work plan for 2023 and some rough ideas for longer term goals (2024)
 - Focus on getting new projects? → Find the red line for how PA Nutri can help projects spread their message/get funding/find partners/etc?
- Report on year 2022
- Next steering group meeting in December
- Medium/long-term goal: Analyse national marine strategies vs HELCOM Action plan vs Baltic nutrient recycling strategy
 - Find ideas for long-term progress

Discussion (FIN) - Short-term and long-term planning of work

- Now we need feedback and **ideas from the steering group**
 - What should we first focus on?
 - Long term goals
- We would like to find ways to **involve SG more** into the planning of work
 - More in depth discussion based on preliminary ideas in the next SG meeting
- How to involve the youth to PA Nutri?
- How to improve communication towards projects and spread the message that there is a benefit in being a "PA Nutri project/flagship"?
 - No benefit in gaining funding → no interest → no new "flagships"/projects
 - Contact financing institutions and ask them to spread a message about the existence of Nutri and what kind of help we could offer
 - Help in finding partners, cooperation between projects, spreading the message and results, etc?
 - Update the website to have projects and their results more visible?
 - Other ideas?

Discussion (PL) - How should the coordinators promote the goals of PA Nutri in the short-term and in the long-term

The tasks of PAC

- Organisation of stakeholder events, dissemination of knowledge and good practices
- Promotion of actions and flagship projects
- Linking with EU funds, especially Interreg BSRP – Support letters and guidance to project applications
- Promotion of implementation of MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive)
- Close cooperation with PA Agri, PA Hazards, and HELCOM
- Enhance of cooperation within the region, across country and sector borders
- Spread of information in the frame of International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River against Pollution
- Involvement of Ukraine as a country sharing the international river basin of the Vistula river

Discussion (FIN) - Some ideas for work plan

- Could PA Nutri improve continuation between project cycles?
 - Organise a workshop for completed projects:
 - What didn't work, what should be focused on more in future?
 - What results need further promotion?
 - What caps were identified during project, but didn't get a chance to work on?
 - What's still missing?
 - Bring the results to Interreg/other funding organisations and to applicants (seminar/workshop/blogposts on website/etc)
- Improve communication with different funding organisations, not only Interreg BSR:
 - There is a possibility to see project applications before funding decisions in Interreg BSR, but not in others (?)
 - In addition: try to see bigger picture: are there areas missing projects, etc

Discussion (PL) - Cooperation within the region - Initiative to support Ukraine

Mention by Swedish Institute at the kick off –meeting in Stockholm

Why does action have to be taken?

- The reasons:
 - ✓ A neighbouring country of Poland
 - ✓ Vistula river catchment area
- Increase the possibilities for Ukrainian partners to engage in networks is by creating an initiative using existing multilateral, cross-sectorial partnerships and macroregional stakeholder engagement.
- The EUSBSR is an example where wide partnerships and processes tackle current identified regional challenges, structured in thematic policy areas.
- Cooperation within some EUSBSR policy areas (PA) takes place in various platforms, projects and other settings. Existing partnerships and expertise could be beneficial in cooperation and tasks connected to building capacity for the reconstruction of Ukraine.

Discussion (PL) - Cooperation within the region - Initiative to support Ukraine

How to achieve it? Event: seminar and workshop (proposal)

- Bringing together EUSBSR stakeholders and Ukrainian representatives, elaborating ideas on possible cooperation.
- Explore how macroregional strategies, with their cross-sectorial, transnational, and multigovernance approach could be a fast but still comprehensive way to create sustainable and long term cooperation focusing on topics of importance for the reconstruction of Ukraine and yet with thematic relevance for the EUSBSR.
- The event will consist of both a strategic (seminar) and an operative (workshop) perspective and build on multi stakeholder dialogue.
- Strategic part:
 - Introductions, presentations, panels.
- Operative part:
 - Dialogue between EUSBSR stakeholders and Ukrainian representatives, formulating ideas and concepts for cooperation.
- Event format: hybrid.



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7. AOB and closing of the meeting

Other issues

- SG presidency rotation unclear still? → Swedish presidency until end of June 2023?
 - If SG presidency follows NCG presidency rotation, then:
 - 2022/2023 Sweden
 - 2023/2024 Latvia
 - 2024/2025 Poland
 - 2025/2026 Estonia
 - 2026/2027 Denmark
 - 2027/2028 Finland
 - 2028/2029 Germany
 - 2029/2030 Lithuania



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Thank you for attendance and discussions!

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