



# **EUSBSR** EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

---

**PA Nutri Talks - Water and nutrient  
management in rural areas**

Elsi Kauppinen

**Interreg**  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
the European Union

# Implementation of the EUSBSR

- ✓ 3 main objectives
- ✓ 14 interconnected Policy Areas

Climate change aspects and cooperation with neighbouring non-EU countries are mainstreamed into all 14 policy areas.



**EUSBSR**  
EU STRATEGY  
FOR THE BALTIC  
SEA REGION

**Through cooperation and coordinated actions,  
we protect and preserve the Baltic Sea and  
jointly build a well-connected and prosperous region.**

## Policy Area Nutri

### **Action Plan 2021:**

- 1) Reduce nutrient emissions from agriculture and other diffuse sources
- 2) Reduce nutrient emissions from urban areas and other point sources
- 3) Develop and promote safe and sustainable nutrient recycling
- 4) Address nutrients already accumulated in the Baltic Sea

Actions contribute towards implementing

- HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan
- Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy

Coordinated by:

- Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland
- State Water Holding Polish Waters

## Programme - first half

- 13:00 Introduction – Elsi Kauppinen, coordinator for the EUSBSR Policy Area Nutri, ELY-Centre of South-West Finland
- 13:10 Climate benefits from catchment-based water management / Mari Lappalainen, ELY-Centre
- 13:30 Swedish identified needs for catchment officers / Markus Hoffman, The Federation of Swedish Farmers
- 13:50 Estonian LIFE SIP WetEST project and Catchment coordinator’s role in river basin management and support for farmers / Elina Leiner, Head of the River Basin Management Plan Bureau at the Environmental Board and Ragnar Viikoja, Environmental Project Manager at the Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce
- 14:10 HELCOM Policy Brief - Integrated rural water management, experiences from WaterDrive-project / Kaj Granholm, BSAG
- 14:30 Finnish roadmap towards catchment planning / Petri Nissinen, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland
- Break



**EUSBSR**  
EU STRATEGY  
FOR THE BALTIC  
SEA REGION

Back at 14:00 CET / 15:00 EET

## Programme second half

- 15:00     Sponge Enough? – Adding sponge to the Archipelago Sea catchment, Katariina Yli-Heikkilä, Valonia
- 15:20     BaltCOP - The Baltic Catchment Officer Project (Interreg Central Baltic) – Mats Johannson, WWF Sweden
- 15:40     WSSP - WaterShed Safety Plan (Interreg Central Baltic) – Josefiina Ruponen, Häme University of Applied Sciences
- 16:00     Discussion, questions to speakers from audience
- Cooperation needs
  - Interest to make an effort towards a joint statement [to EU's open consultation on climate resilience and risk management – integrated framework](#)

**16:30 END**

---

## Discussion: Possible joint statement to EU's consultation on climate resilience and risk management

- EU's regional policy (cohesion policy) includes programmes such as ERDF, Interreg, Just Transition Fund, etc. It has five main targets:
  - a more **competitive** and **smarter** Europe (PO1)
  - a **greener**, low carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy (PO2)
  - a more **connected** Europe by enhancing mobility (PO3)
  - a more **social** and inclusive Europe (PO4)
  - a Europe closer to **citizens** by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories (PO5)
- Macroregional strategies are part of cohesion policy

---

## Discussion: Possible joint statement to EU's consultation on climate resilience and risk management

- The consultation is in response to EU parliament's and Council's requests to somehow respond to the devastating recent floods. Requests include some interesting points:
  - Affected areas were mainly less developed with weaker infrastructure and agricultural regions
  - Whereas, owing to its regional focus, place-based approach, strategic planning and effective implementation model, **cohesion policy should play a key role in the prevention of disasters, recovery from symmetric and asymmetric shocks, and the fight against climate change**; whereas in order to effectively address these challenges, it is essential that the future MFF recognises the crucial role of cohesion policy, ensuring an adequate budget;
  - Whereas **nature-based solutions are essential** to prevent climate-induced weather-related disasters; whereas floodplains and healthy forests, soils and moors, wetlands and peatlands, and natural green areas in cities and the countryside act as a buffer against climate impacts by retaining water and mitigating the effects of floods and droughts;
  - Whereas researching and tackling flood risks requires **a holistic approach**, taking into account various factors including industry, transport, insurance underwriting practices, land-use planning and historical distribution of floodplains, demographic change, financial liability and other relevant aspects; whereas the EEA has pointed out that vulnerable groups and regions are more severely affected by floods and other weather extremes;

---

## Discussion: Possible joint statement to EU's consultation on climate resilience and risk management

- Interesting points continue:
  - Strongly supports the strengthening of EU investments linked to regional and local resilience in the next MFF
  - Acknowledges that the **EU's future cohesion policy should place a further focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation**; calls, therefore, for investments in climate adaptation and disaster prevention and preparedness to be guaranteed either through a dedicated policy objective or a dedicated priority axis under regional development and the overall framework of cohesion policy, thematic concentration or a specific enabling condition to **address emerging priorities in a bottom-up process**, so as to ensure sustainable investments in local, regional and national infrastructure and risk management in less-developed urban and rural areas, including border regions, islands and the outermost regions;
  - Stresses that differences exist between the Member States when it comes to the competences of their local and regional authorities; recalls that local and regional authorities are fundamental actors in planning, preparing and implementing the projects that should contribute to climate adaptation, risk prevention and preparedness on the ground; **calls for an enhanced place-based approach to bring disaster preparedness and management closer to the regional and local levels**

---

## Discussion: Possible joint statement to EU's consultation on climate resilience and risk management

- Interesting points continue:
  - Highlights that the **EU's regional policy has been instrumental in helping develop the corresponding capacities of local and regional authorities, and calls for their role to be strengthened**; underlines that technical, financial and administrative capacities are essential in ensuring that managing bodies and local and regional authorities acquire technical knowledge, especially on climate change, that they can use for urban and rural planning and management; is convinced that this will improve the design and evaluation of project proposals and enable the more effective allocation of resources and satisfactory budget implementation, without a significant risk of decommitments of EU investments;
  - Calls for existing technical assistance and advisory programmes **to specifically target smaller municipalities, cross-border, remote and rural areas, and the outermost and island regions**, to help them face new challenges such as the green transition and climate change;
  - Encourages **the strengthening of regional cooperation frameworks among central and eastern European countries** and encourages the deployment of international expertise to support recovery and rehabilitation efforts to foster **joint disaster management strategies, share best practices and improve transboundary water management**;

---

## Discussion: Possible joint statement to EU's consultation on climate resilience and risk management

- Interesting points continue:
  - Calls, in this regard, on the Commission to **reduce bureaucratic hurdles and speed up approval procedures for the repair and construction of flood management infrastructure and nature-based solutions** so that urgently needed protection measures can be implemented without unnecessary delays; stresses that this requires more time-efficient procedures, well-defined responsibilities and a clear focus on the necessary construction measures;
  - Stresses that floods, droughts, wildfires and other extreme weather events create major challenges for many economic sectors, in particular the agricultural sector and farmers, who are suffering further losses and are unable to harvest their produce; calls on the Commission to **better address the impact of these climate-related hazards on food production, food security and farmers' incomes**;

.....

---

## Discussion: Possible joint statement to EU's consultation on climate resilience and risk management

- Interesting points from Council:
  - **CALLS FOR an initiative on water resilience, including the alignment and revision of relevant EU policies to better integrate water considerations, conservation objectives and the experiences of Member States where necessary to ensure a comprehensive, bottom-up approach focusing on achieving availability and security of water supply through the application of nature-based solutions** such as conservation and restoration of wetlands and other freshwater ecosystems and the development, where required, of non-conventional water resources, and expansion of green-blue infrastructure, **and mainstreaming a 'water and soil' driven approach into spatial planning**

---

## Interest towards making a joint statement?

- Purpose of the joint statement would be to:
  - Give projects an opportunity to impact EU policy
  - Identify and communicate challenges and solutions that are characteristic to the Baltic Sea Region
- PA Nutri can coordinate and send it, giving credit to all authors
- Use as an example the joint statement to Bioeconomy Strategy consultation, but improve on messaging on BSR challenges
- What it would include:
  - Projects write project specific policy messages
  - PA Nutri writes a joint summary based on those texts
  - A workshop/email exchange to discuss the joint summary, to improve text together



**EUSBSR**  
EU STRATEGY  
FOR THE BALTIC  
SEA REGION

Thank you for joining!