



13th Steering Committee meeting of the Policy Area Nutri “To reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels” of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Meeting Minutes
June 6, 2018

Opening:

The 13th meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the EUSBSR Policy Area Nutri (PA Nutri) was called to order back-to-back with the EUSBSR 9th Annual Forum, at 09:00 on 6th June 2018, at the Ministry of the Environment, Tallinn, Estonia by the Policy Area Nutri Coordinators (PACs).

Present:

1. Sanni Turunen, chair, PAC Nutri Finland, Ministry of the Environment
2. Magdalena Dawidowicz, PAC Nutri Poland, Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation
3. Kristiina Isokallio, PAC Nutri Finland, Ministry of the Environment
4. Laura Saijonmaa, PAC Nutri Finland, Ministry of the Environment (skype)
5. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, HELCOM Secretariat (skype)
6. Josefin Hjort, NFP Sweden, Swedish Agency of Marine and Water Management
7. Rene Reisner, NFP Estonia, Ministry of the Environment
8. Agni Kaldma, Estonia, Ministry of the Environment
9. Monika Salkalauskaite, Lithuania, Ministry of the Environment (skype)
10. Viktorija Vaskeviciene, Lithuania, Ministry of the Environment (skype)
11. Aivaras Krusna, Lithuania, Ministry of the Environment (skype)

Invited guests:

1. Tatjana Kolcova, QWATERA, Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre
2. Sandra Karusa, QWATERA, Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre
3. Anna Saarentaus, NutriTrade, John Nurminen Foundation

Apologies:

1. Pekka Jounila, DG REGIO, European Commission
2. Heike Imhoff, NFP Germany, Ministry of the Environment
3. Helle Knudsen-Leerbeck, NFP Denmark, Ministry of the Environment and Food
4. Wera Leujak, NFP Germany, Federal Environment Agency
5. Baiba Zasa, NFP Latvia, Ministry of the Environment



A. Introduction

Rene Reisner welcomed the meeting organised for the first time in the Estonian Ministry of the Environment. He mentioned the importance of the EUSBSR Annual Forum as a platform for connecting and sharing the ideas common for Baltic Sea region.

Sanni Turunen presented the agenda of the meeting. The meeting was divided into two sessions: the first session for the SC members and invited guests and the second session for the SC members only. The meeting focused on the following topics: presentation of new PAC Nutri Poland, discussion and decision on proposal QWATERA, presentation of flagship project NutriTrade results, discussion and deciding of deletion of inactive flagship projects, updating the PA Nutri steering committee Terms of References and presenting planned events for PA Nutri in 2018-2020. Presentations will be published at the PA Nutri webpage: <http://groupspaces.com/eusbsr-nutrient-inputs/pages/documents>

B. Presentation and discussion on a flagship proposal

QWATERA - Evaluation of water quality and territories vulnerability in Daugava River Basin (project leader: Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre)
Presented by Tatjana Kolcova

The main objective of the project is to contribute to the overall good status of the Baltic Sea in the future by improved knowledge on the land-based pollution sources and their management in the Daugava River Basin (implementation of measures). Project objectives aim at integrated management activities with regard to strengthening of institutional cooperation and providing joint harmonized assessment of surface and groundwater quality. The project involves partners from Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Finland, Belarus and Russia.

The SC thanked for presenting the QWATERA proposal and underlined the importance of harmonizing of management of transboundary river basins. The SC noted also the relevance of the proposal to HELCOM Ministerial Declaration 2018 by engaging of relevant river basin authorities. The meeting asked for clarifications about overlapping activities and potential cooperation with BigRivers4Baltic initiative and technical clarifications about usage of VEMALA model. The SC also suggested to include the linkage of the results with HELCOM work in the proposal.

The SC concluded that the proposed project is not mature enough and decided not to support it as a flagship at this stage. The PACs will collect written comments from



the SC and send them to the project leaders in order to improve the macro-regional relevance of the project proposal. When the project leaders have a full project description with implementation plan, the project leaders can re-apply for the EUSBSR flagship status.

C. PA Nutri flagship

Anna Saarentaus presented the results of NutriTrade flagship project, that is a beneficiary of Interreg Central Baltic. NutriTrade has tested new measures to reduce nutrient loading. Anna presented the results of pilots: mussel farming, gypsum treatment of fields, fishing of cyprinids and Nutribute - free fundraising tool for activities reducing eutrophication. Additionally, the NutriTrade pilot on nutrient exchange connects nutrient abatement measures with voluntary financiers willing to acquire nutrient offsets and neutralize their nutrient footprint.

D. Discussion and deciding of deletion of inactive flagships

Sanni Turunen reminded that the SC granted two new project initiatives a flagship status in the previous meeting. Now, PA Nutri has four completed projects, five ongoing and seven under development to apply for funding.

The 12th PA Nutri SC meeting decided to contact the project representatives of BaRuWa, SUWMAB, SmallWWTPs and SIGWET to get an updated plan for implementation, including financing. If there was no response or the plan is not realistic, the SC would propose those projects to be removed from the Action Plan. Additionally, the PACs were in contact with RelNutData, QWATERA and BigRivers4Baltic -project representatives in order to clarify how they would cooperate or merge the project ideas. Sanni Turunen described the results of contacts. For BaRuWa, SUWMAB and RelNutData there was no response, SIGWET informed that it can be deleted and for SmallWWTP there is no realistic funding opportunity at the moment.

Following discussion, the meeting decided to delete BaRuWA, SUWMAB, SmallWWTPs, SIGWET and RelNutData from the Annex of the EUSBSR Action plan ongoing flagship list for PA Nutri. The PACs will inform DG Regio and the flagship leaders accordingly. The meeting welcomed and encouraged the project leaders to apply for the flagship status again with new project proposals.



E. Updated Terms of References for the PA Nutri Steering Committee

With a reference to the 12th PA Nutri SC meeting, Sanni Turunen presented the updated version of Terms of References for the PA Nutri Steering Committee. The meeting made editorial amendments to the text. The PAC Finland will send the updated text for the SC via e-mail for final approval.

F. Planned PA Nutri activities for 2018-2020

Sanni Turunen informed the meeting about submission of application for Technical Assistance from Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme for 2018-2020 and described briefly the planned activities for PA Nutri. The focus will be on facilitating on-going flagships and platforms in implementation and dissemination of results to wider audience and relevant policy stakeholders to support the policy development. The PACs plan to launch a dissemination campaign to facilitate this. Additionally, cooperation with HELCOM is essential in preparing the regional nutrient recycling strategy and updating the BSAP. Finland will also have HELCOM Chairmanship for 2018-2020.

F. Other issues

Alexander Somoza has moved into other tasks at the European Commission and the new contact point for PA Nutri from DG Regio is Pekka Jounila.

The European Commission is currently preparing the bi-annual report of four macro-regional strategies. PA Nutri has provided input to the report. It will be published during autumn. After that, the Commission has planned to launch an update process of the EUSBSR Action Plan.

HELCOM and PA Nutri are planning a workshop on regional nutrient recycling strategy to be held 7th of November 2018 back-to-back with other related events.

PA Nutri and Bioeconomy are planning a seminar on best practices to reduce nutrient loads and recycle nutrients from agriculture on 13.2.2019. It is back-to-back with Finnish national event in Jyväskylä, Finland. HELCOM secretariat mentioned that there are many workshops/events around the same time and there should be synergy between them.

The SC regretted the lack of participation of many focal points in the meeting and encouraged all SC members to participate in the coming meetings.



The SC decided preliminarily to organise the next PA Nutri SC meeting in the early 2019.

The meeting ended at 12:10.