

18th Steering Group 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 8, 2021

Opening:

The 18th meeting of the Steering Group (SG) of the EUSBSR Policy Area Nutri (PA Nutri) was called to order in Teams 8 June 2020 at 13.30 EET by the Policy Area Nutri Coordinators (PACs).

Present:

1. Anna Hernberg, chair, PAC Nutri Finland, Ministry of the Environment
2. Magdalena Dawidowicz, PAC Nutri Poland, Ministry of Infrastructure
3. Laura Saijonmaa, PAC Nutri Finland, Ministry of the Environment
4. Josefin Hjort, NFP Sweden, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
5. Dmitry Frank-Kamenetsky, HELCOM Secretariat
6. Baiba Zasa, NFP Latvia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
7. Agne Lukoseviciene, NFP Lithuania, Ministry of Environment
8. Ann Riisenberg, 2nd NFP Estonia, Ministry of the Environment
9. Johan Magnusson, DG REGIO, European Commission

Apologies:

1. Raul Ilisson, NFP Estonia, Ministry of the Environment
2. Heike Imhoff, NFP Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
3. Wera Leujak, NFP Germany, Federal Environment Agency
4. Lasse Tor Nielsen, NFP Denmark, Ministry of Environment

Guests:

1. Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło, WaterMan, Nutri seed money project
2. Ksawery Kuligowski, Nursecoast, Nutri seed money project
3. Virpi Vorne, Nursecoast, Nutri seed money project

A. Introduction

Anna Hernberg opened the meeting and the meeting confirmed the meeting agenda.

B. Nutri Seed money project presentations

Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło/WaterMan and Ksawery Kuligowski/Nursecoast gave presentations about the Nutri Seed money projects and their current situation.

The SG discussed the future plans of the projects, their linkages to national, HELCOM and EUSBSR policies and the experiences of the projects with Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme Seed Money.

C. PA Nutri Draft Rules of Procedure and confirming the Nutri SG rotating presidency order

Anna Hernberg introduced the draft PA Nutri Rules of Procedure article by article and asked for comments. The SG discussed the draft rules paying special attention to the rotating presidency of the SG and how it will work in practice. The SG initially adopted the Nutri draft rules with an additional sentence to article 5 clarifying the SG meetings are chaired by the SG Presidency. The SG also initially approved the annex to the rules pending confirmation of Nutri SG members by their respective NC Group members. The rules have to be approved by the NC before they are finally adopted by the Nutri SG.

Anna Hernberg opened the discussion about the PA Nutri SG rotating presidency once the Nutri Rules of Procedure have been finally adopted. The objective is that all PA Nutri SG members hold the presidency in turn. Sweden/Josefin Hjort offered to take the presidency for the year 2022. Finland/Laura Saijonmaa offered take the SG presidency from the adoption of the rules to the end of 2021. The SG approved this.

D. PA Nutri activities for the programme period 2021-2027 and the use of flagship concept in Nutri in the era of the updated EUSBSR Action Plan

Anna Hernberg gave a PowerPoint presentation about defining Nutri activities for the programme period that is beginning and presented some questions for discussion. The SG discussed the continued use of a Nutri Flagship concept in the era of the new EUSBSR Action Plan when the Flagship concept is no longer implemented on the EUSBSR strategy level. The SG decided not to nominate projects as Nutri Flagships, but choose and designate transnational projects that implement Nutri actions well as Nutri projects from among projects operating in the thematic field of the Policy Area. The Nutri project criteria is going to be discussed more in detail in future meetings. The SG would like to see that these selected Nutri projects could be given a status as projects implementing EUSBSR priorities and have a concept name that would help support the visibility and wider recognition of the projects.

E. Discussing PA Nutri and PA Bioeconomy workshop idea on the implementation of the HELCOM Nutrient Recycling Strategy

The SG discussed the idea paper and contributed some ideas to the panels of the workshop. It is important to address the difficulties that countries face in national

implementation of nutrient recycling as well as the lessons learned in implementation this far. Anna Hernberg noted the ideas and will take them into consideration in the preparation of the workshop. The SG is welcome to propose speakers/panelists to the workshop.

F. Next meeting

The next PA Nutri SG meeting will take place online in the autumn of 2021.

The meeting ended at 16:25.