

19th 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

November 30, 2021

Opening:

The 19th meeting of the Steering Group (SG) of the EUSBSR Policy Area Nutri (PA Nutri) was called to order in Teams 30 November 2021 at 14.00 EET by Laura Saijonmaa (FI), rotating chair of the PA Nutri Steering Group.

Present:

1. Laura Saijonmaa, chair, NFP Finland, Ministry of the Environment
2. Josefin Hjort, NFP Sweden, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
3. Baiba Zasa, NFP Latvia, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development
4. Egidija Dūdaitė, NFP Lithuania, Ministry of Environment
5. Ann Riisenberg, NFP Estonia, Ministry of the Environment
6. Magda Chreptowicz, 2nd NFP Poland, State Water Holding Polish Waters
7. Marcin Zieleniak, 2nd NFP Poland, State Water Holding Polish Waters
8. Lotta Ruokanen, HELCOM Secretariat
9. Johan Magnusson, DG REGIO, European Commission
10. Anna Hernberg, PAC Nutri Finland, Ministry of the Environment
11. Magdalena Dawidowicz, PAC Nutri Poland, Ministry of Infrastructure

Apologies:

1. Liis Kikas, NFP Estonia, Ministry of the Environment
2. Damian Bojanowski, NFP Poland, State Water Holding Polish Waters
3. Heike Imhoff, NFP Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
4. Wera Leujak, NFP Germany, Federal Environment Agency
5. Lasse Tor Nielsen, NFP Denmark, Ministry of Environment

Guests:

1. Sari Luostarinen, SuMaNu Project platform, Natural Resources Institute, Finland
2. Pekka Paavilainen, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland (ELY Centre for Southwest Finland)
3. Marcel-Tobias Schreiber, DG REGIO, European Commission

A. Introduction

The Chair opened meeting and welcomed the participants. The meeting approved the agenda. The SG members introduced themselves to the new SG members that

were able to attend the meeting: Egidija Dūdaitė, Ministry of Environment of Lithuania as well as Magda Chreptowicz and Marcin Zieleniak from the State Water Holding Polish Waters. The Annex of the Nutri Rules of Procedure has been updated to include the new members.

B. Results and policy recommendations of the SuMaNu project platform and discussion on the way to apply them

Sari Luostarinen gave a presentation about the policy recommendations of the SuMaNu (Sustainable Manure and Nutrient Management for reduction of nutrient loss in the Baltic Sea Region) Project platform that was finalized in September 2021. The SG thanked the Project platform for its valuable work and contribution a.o. to the update of HELCOM BSAP and Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy. The meeting discussed the policy recommendations and their implementation.

C. PA Nutri Rules of Procedure approved by the NCG and communication from the NCG to the Nutri SG

Anna Hernberg introduced the PA Nutri Rules of Procedure that were adopted by the National Coordinator's Group (NCG) on 28 October 2021 and the recommendations of the NCG on the Nutri Rules of Procedure. The SG took note that the Rules of Procedure have been formally adopted. The SG took note of the recommendations of the NCG.

D. Update from DG REGIO

Johan Magnusson, DG REGIO, strategic advisor member of Nutri SG gave an update about the Interreg Annual Event, plans for Macro-Regional strategies week of 2022 and Policy Area reporting to the European Commission in early 2022. The participants were encouraged to take part and disseminate information of the events as appropriate.

E. PA Nutri SG presidency rotation

The Chair noted that the meeting should decide on the rotation of the SG presidency as instructed by the new EUSBSR Action Plan and asked the participants to volunteer to take the role in 2022. Sweden/ Josefin Hjort indicated that Sweden would prefer that their Nutri SG presidency take place at the same time as Sweden's EU Council Presidency (January-June 2023) instead of the year 2022. As there were no volunteers, the SG discussed the need to create a fixed list on the order of the rotating presidencies in line with the EUSBSR/National Coordinator's Group presidency rotation. The NCG is chaired by one EUSBSR Member State for the duration of one year (1 July - 30 June).

The SG agreed that the PACs should prepare a draft list of the Nutri SG presidency rotation order for the SG to discuss in the next meeting. Latvia/ Baiba Zasa indicated that Latvia would prefer not to have their Nutri SG presidency at the same time as

Latvia's HELCOM Chairmanship (July 2022-June 2024). Finland/Laura Saijonmaa offered to take the SG presidency until Sweden takes over the presidency in July 2022. The SG approved this.

F. Transfer of the role of PAC Nutri Finland to Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment of Southwest Finland (ELY Centre for Southwest Finland)

Finland/Laura Saijonmaa noted that the Ministry of the Environment has been considering how to best organise the continuation of the work of PA Nutri and its coordination in Finland. The ministry proposes that the PA Nutri Steering Group agrees to transfer the PAC Nutri Finland role from the Ministry of the Environment of Finland to the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southwest Finland (ELY Centre for Southwest Finland) as of 1 January 2022. ELY Centre for Southwest Finland is a regional authority of the state and has extensive experience in the protection of the marine environment and Baltic wide networks having specialised in Baltic Sea eutrophication issues and e.g. through the national coordination responsibility of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and through cooperation within HELCOM. The Ministry of the Environment of Finland would continue as a PA Nutri Steering Group member.

Pekka Paavilainen from the ELY Centre for Southwest Finland introduced the role and tasks of the ELY Centre in the central government and gave an overview of its experience in MSFD and HELCOM work.

The SG initially approved the decision to transfer the coordination of PA Nutri in Finland to the ELY Centre for Southwest Finland. The decision on the transfer will be formally approved by the National Coordinators Group. The issue will be on the agenda of the NC Group meeting in December.

G. PA Nutri and PA Bioeconomy webinar on the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy

Anna Hernberg gave an overview of the webinar the implementation of the Baltic Sea Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy that was held on 22 November. The purpose of the webinar was to present some topical issues and points of view in nutrient recycling, take stock of the present situation in nutrient recycling and also to look ahead and discuss opportunities and challenges in implementing the Nutrient Recycling Strategy in the Baltic Sea Region. The morning session consisted of five presentations from experts across public and private sectors. In the afternoon session, six experts took part in a panel discussion on the present situation in nutrient recycling and took a look ahead and discussed opportunities and challenges in implementing the Nutrient Recycling Strategy focusing on creating business opportunities and improving policy coherence.

The webinar was well attended: it gathered ca. 120 participants representing national authorities, businesses, research organizations and NGOs from different

countries across the Baltic Sea. The SG discussed the webinar and had found it to be useful in pointing out aspects that will be important in the implementation of the strategy. The panel discussion also offered an opportunity to contrast differing points of view to nutrient recycling and to its implementation.

The Chair thanked the PACs for organising the event.

H. Next meeting

The next PA Nutri SG meeting will take place online in the spring of 2022.

The meeting ended at 15:55.