

## EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

### 1<sup>st</sup> JOINT MEETING BETWEEN NATIONAL COORDINATORS AND POLICY AREAS COORDINATORS

27 January 2022

#### Minutes on behalf of the Presidency

#### §1 Welcoming remarks from the Presidency and adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as suggested by the Presidency.

#### §2 EUSBSR status quo: update from the Presidency

The Presidency updated on the latest developments: adoption of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the National Coordinators Group (NCG) (25 November, 2021), the progress in establishing the Baltic Sea Strategy Point and the support of the NCG to Finland's intention to organise the Annual Forum 2022 of the EUSBSR.

The Presidency and the European Commission also encouraged the Policy Area Coordinators (PACs) to develop and submit their proposals for seminars/ workshops/ events to be organised within the framework of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Macro-regional strategies week (7-11 March 2022). The importance of cross-macroregional strategy cooperation was emphasized and encouraged.

#### § 3 Implementation of the EUSBSR Action Plan: opportunities and challenges for the new financial period 2021-2027

The Presidency highlighted the importance to plan activities and to base the work of PACs on the revised Action Plan. The need to prepare and submit the RoP of the respective Steering Groups of the PAs by the end of February 2022 was emphasized. The Interreg BSR JS updated on the latest developments within the programme and provided information on the upcoming events.

#### § 4 AOB

##### - Confirmation of the official list of the EUSBSR PACs as of January 2022

The NCG confirmed the list of PACs as of January 2022. It will be published on the EUSBSR website. Taking into account that not all the PACs have been appointed, the respective parts of the list will be subject to revision and update.

- **Let's Communicate update on mainstreamed activities (climate and non-EU cooperation)**

The representatives of the Let's Communicate (LC) project informed about the ongoing work on mainstream activities - *climate and cooperation with non-EU countries* and the next steps in these particular areas.

- **Follow-up to the EUSBSR Annual Forum 2021**

The Presidency informed that the final [content] report of the Annual Forum 2021, organized by Lithuania, is already published on the EUSBSR website. It was emphasized that the Presidency is considering how to consolidate results and ideas of the Annual Forums and to ensure linkages from one Forum to another.