

**EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION**  
**NATIONAL COORDINATORS GROUP**  
**2nd MEETING UNDER THE SWEDISH PRESIDENCY, 2022-23**

**10 November 2022**

**Minutes**

**§1 Welcome and opening**

The Presidency welcomed the participants and declared the meeting open.

**§2 Approval of the agenda**

The points about Co-Presidency in the Steering Group and the upcoming Annual Forum were added to AOB. The agenda was approved with the proposed amendments.

**§3 Interreg BSR**

Interreg Baltic Sea Region Joint Secretariat presented the Interreg Baltic Sea Region (Interreg BSR) funding for the implementation of the EUSBSR Action Plan. Interreg BSR Programme has been actively contributing to the implementation of the EUSBSR. As a result of the first call for funding, 31 core and 17 small projects have been funded in various Policy Areas (PAs). Second call for applications is now ongoing for all Interreg BSR priorities until mid-February 2023. Joint Secretariat wants to support PAs in supporting project developers, hence meetings between the Secretariat and several PAs are being set up. Joint Secretariat also supports close cooperation between PAs and projects funded in the respective areas, for it can bring benefits to the policy development in the region. During the discussion, the importance of trying to mobilise other funding sources for the implementation of the Strategy besides Interreg was also highlighted.

**§4 Ukraine - event in Stockholm**

The Presidency informed that on 8 December 2022 a hybrid conference is being organised by the Swedish Presidency and the Swedish Institute on the ways to support Ukraine from the EUSBSR. The conference will aim to come up with practical ways of cooperation between the EUSBSR and Ukrainian actors and stakeholders.

## §5 Status update on PAs

### 5a. PA Hazards

The Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP) informed that PA Hazards PAC will appoint a new staff member in charge tentatively as of February 2023.

### 5b. PA Bioeconomy

It was informed that the Nordic Council of Ministers will be proposed to the role of the Lead PAC at the next PA Bioeconomy Steering Group Meeting to be held on 16 November 2022.

### 5c. Status of PAC & SG member double roles

The double role status update was presented by the BSP. While the issue of the same person having double roles has been almost entirely fixed (one PA remaining), double roles of organisations remain where the same organisation acts both as the PAC and as a steering group member. During the discussion, the NCG reiterated the content of its decision from 3 October 2022 that, as it has proved difficult in certain PAs to find a relevant substitute organisation from the same member state to join the Steering group, there is a consensus in the NCG that as long as it is not the same person, it is acceptable for the same organisation to remain both PAC and steering group member while the new organisation is being searched for the role.

## §6 Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP)

### 6a. State of play - SE presidency meeting with the BSP on October 24th

The presidency informed NCG about the first formal meeting between the Swedish Presidency and the BSP that took place on 24 October 2022 in Stockholm. At the meeting, the BSP team had a chance to formally present themselves to the Presidency team and present in more detail the BSP application and its envisioned role and activities in the EUSBSR.

### 6b. Presentation of the BSP

The BSP team has presented to the NCG their structure and activities, also the team members have presented themselves and their roles in more detail.

### 6c. NCG priorities to the BSP - discussion on the work plan timelines.

The BSP team presented for discussion to the NCG an issue of the reporting timelines for BSP (it needs to report twice a year to the Interreg Baltic Sea Region, and once a year to the NCG). With the current reporting setup, the timelines do not match, which can create duplication of efforts and an additional administrative burden. It was decided that the Presidency will draft a new version of the Priorities for the Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP) for approval.

## §7 Discussion on the rotation of the Annual Fora

The BSP team presented the Annual Forum and EUSBSR Presidency rotation alignment. Three options of alignment were explored. The discussion on aligning the Annual Forum rotation to the EUSBSR Presidency was agreed to be held during the next NCG meeting.

## §8 AOB

- The Annual Forum 2023 preparations are ongoing. The Forum application to Interreg Baltic Sea Region has been finalised. Riga City Council will be among the organisers. The proposed dates for the Forum are 4-5 October 2023 in Riga.
- The agenda points on Co-Presidencies and the Annual Forum alignment discussion have been moved to the next NCG meeting.
- The next NCG meeting was agreed to be held on 19 December 2022 online.

## Participants:

Sweden, Anna Hagström (Chair), NC, Prime Minister's Office

Sweden, Anna Tofftén, The Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Sweden, Alicia Nathanson Thulin, Prime Minister's Office

Lithuania, Robertas Bružilas, NC, MFA

Lithuania, Modesta Viskontė, MFA

Germany, Maurice Gajan, NC, Federal Foreign Office

Germany, Winfried Maier, Federal Foreign Office

Estonia, Marika Post, NC, MFA

Estonia, Raul Mälk, MFA

Denmark, Anders Henriksson, NC, MFA

Finland, Helena Tuuri, NC, MFA

Finland, Anu Kynkäänniemi, MFA

Latvia, Iveta Stanislavska, NC, MFA

Poland, Ewa Dębska, NC, MFA

European Commission, DG Regio, Petri Koistinen

European Commission, DG Regio, Blagovestka Riiser

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Kirsi Ahlman (Centrum Balticum)

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Juhani Ailio (Centrum Balticum)

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Viktoriia Hladii (Centrum Balticum)

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Anja Karppinen (Centrum Balticum)

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Tom Schumacher (Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg)

Baltic Sea Strategy Point, Stefanie Wodrig (Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg)

Interreg Baltic Sea Region, Elena Kolosova