

Review of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Priority Area 1 Steering Committee
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The review process

- Annual implementation report, June 2011
- Polish EU Presidency, Council Conclusions, November 2011
- Commission Communication, March 2012
- Danish EU Presidency, Council Conclusions, June 2012
- Update of the Action Plan, autumn 2012

=> Strategy 2.0

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Outcomes: An overview

- Clearer objectives, indicators and targets
- Clearer roles and responsibilities
- Embedding the Strategy in financial instruments
- Structured cooperation with neighbours
- Better involvement of all stakeholder groups
- Better communication
- Sustained commitment

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Objectives, indicators, targets

- 3 objectives for the Strategy
 - Save the Sea
 - Connect the Region
 - Increase Prosperity
- ...made concrete by indicators and targets

For example: To "Save the Sea" (objective), we need "Good environmental status" (indicator) by 2021 (target)

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Roles and responsibilities

- Guidelines on what is expected from the main stakeholders are important to make the work transparent and effective
- Lists setting out these key tasks have been developed by a task-force
- To be endorsed by the Council (?) and included in the updated Action Plan
- A handbook will be published with extensive descriptions, explanations and examples

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The future programming period

- Macro-regional strategies included in the draft regulations, especially:
 - Common provisions, Art. 14(a)v: Partnership Contracts to take account, where appropriate, of macro-regional strategies
 - Common provisions, Art. 87(c)vi: Relevant Operational Programmes to set out their planned interventions to support the Strategy
 - ETC regulation, Art. 6(b) allowing transnational programmes to support implementation (TA)
- Seed money facility to ensure the development of good, relevant projects

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Involving neighbouring countries

- To build on existing structures, such as the Northern Dimension, CBSS, NCM and HELCOM
- On-going dialogue with the Russian Federation, agreement on projects of joint interest – expert groups to be established
- Regional cooperation with Russian coastal regions: Turku-process involving St. Petersburg and Leningrad oblasts; CBSS SEBA involving Kaliningrad

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Better Communication

- Cooperation with Interact on new website, newsletter, visual identity.
- Needs analysis in progress

Better involvement of stakeholders

- Through multi-level governance, clearer roles...

Political commitment and policy alignment

- Continuous visibility and relevance to ensure commitment at all levels
- Strategy included in relevant Council agendas

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Updating the Action Plan

- Merging, adding or cutting Priority Areas? Time to clean up!
- Making Strategy objectives operational
- Indicators and targets at Priority Area level to streamline and focus the work
 - PAC/HAL/NCP input by May
 - Annual Forum discussion in June
 - Draft Action Plan over the summer
 - Stakeholders consultations in early autumn
 - Updated Action Plan by the end of 2012