



# **EUSBSR** EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

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## **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region - EUSBSR**

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**Interreg**  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## Baltic Sea Region (I)

Some of the characteristics and challenges

- A vast geographical area with the Baltic Sea as a focal point, connecting the region
- **Sparsely populated north and densely populated south** results in uneven development in transport conditions and nutrient flows, among other things.
- The area corresponds to almost **one fifth of the GDP of the EU**, and **one fifth of the EU's population** with just over 105 million inhabitants.
- An **east-west divide in terms of economic performance**, although the divide has been closing.
- Economically, the region is **growing more than twice as fast than the EU average**.
- **The Baltic Sea suffers from eutrophication**, with at least 97% the region was assessed as eutrophied in 2011-2016.
- Another environmental concern, mainly in urban areas, is **air pollution**.

## Baltic Sea Region (II)

- The Baltic Sea Region has a **dense governance structure**, characterised by various institutional arrangements. These arrangements cover differently the territory, accounting for part of the region, the entire region and even having influence beyond the borders of the region.
- Transnational, multilateral, cross-border, local and regional cooperation are implemented throughout **several organisations with different degrees of institutionalisation** (e.g. formal and informal), different scope of agreements (i.e. goals pursued by promoters of the initiative) which are also financed by different sources.
- Thick governance structure suggests that **the region is successful in bringing different sectors and actors together** to address common challenges.

## EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, objectives

The three objectives of the EUSBSR are

**SAVE THE SEA**

**CONNECT THE REGION**

**INCREASE PROSPERITY**

The strategy contributes to

**better division of labour among existing networks and organisations**

-> reduces overlaps and strenghtens synergies.

## EUSBSR Key Facts

- First of the four EU macro-regional strategies, launched in 2009
- **8 EU Member States** bordering the Baltic Sea, and **Norway and Iceland**. Cooperation with Russia and Belarus has been suspended
- Addresses **common challenges** and makes the most of the **long history of cooperation** in the region
- **A platform for cooperation and coordination** among the Baltic Sea States on all levels of society from civil society, businesses and academia to administrations and ministries
- The EUSBSR **calls for more effective use of existing funds, structures and legislation** to deal with the challenges faced by the region, Member State(s) and the macro-region
  - "The three no's of the EUSBSR"
- Thrives on **continuous political support, commitment and ownership**
- **Interprets and implements national and EU strategic objectives** to the Baltic Sea Region reality
- Constantly monitored, evaluated, and revised when needed

### EUSBSR Evolution 2006-2022 (I)



**EUSBSR  
Evolution  
2006-2022 (II)**



# Implementation of the EUSBSR

- ✓ 3 main objectives
- ✓ 14 interconnected Policy Areas

Climate change aspects and cooperation with neighbouring non-EU countries are mainstreamed into all 14 policy areas.



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# Governance of the EUSBSR



## EUSBSR Funding

- Strategy is intended via existing financial instruments available in the region.
- Interreg programmes - offering funding for transnational cooperation.
- Besides Interreg, broad landscape of the EU, regional and national funding:
  - Cohesion policy and other shared management funds - open calls organised by the national Managing authorities
  - Centrally managed thematic funds - open calls managed by the European Commission
  - National seed money funding, other national funding
- Pooling of funding and embedding of cooperation component into mainstream EU funds are the two challenges and ongoing effort.

Funding for interregional and transnational cooperation	EU Cohesion policy funds	Centrally managed thematic funds
Interreg Baltic Sea Region (all EUSBSR + NO)	ERDF + CF	Horizon Europe
Interreg Europe (whole EU + NO)	ESF+	LIFE
Interreg Central Baltic (regions in SE, FI, EE, LV)	JTF	Connecting Europe Facility
Interreg South Baltic (regions in PL, DK, DE, LT, SE)	EMFAF	Digital Europe
Interreg Aurora (north regions of FI, SE, NO)	EAFRD	Creative Europe
		....and so on

## The Baltic Sea Strategy Point

The Baltic Sea Strategy Point provides administrative and technical support for EUSBSR management, development, and communication. Mainly with the National Coordinators Group and Policy Area Coordinators.





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**Thank you for your attention!**

**Read more at [www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/](http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/)**