



EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Policy Area Nutri

Steering Group meeting

Date: 25/02/2026
Time: 14:00–16:00 EST
Location: online

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

Chair opened the meeting and reminded everyone about topics discussed in previous Steering Group meeting in December. Then reporting of year 2025 and work plan for year 2026 were the main things on agenda.

2. PA Nutri Talks

In previous Steering Group meeting it was discussed about the next PA Nutri Talks that they could be used for discussing establishment of the cooperation groups that are visioned in the new Actions for wastewater treatment and nutrient recycling. In this meeting the purpose was to discuss what kind of proposals we will give in the webinars regarding the structure of the groups and their purpose. Quets were invited to join the discussions.

For discussion on wastewater treatment invited quets were Louise Floman/PA Hazards, Mayumi Narongin/IVL, Agnieszka Ilola and Lotta Lehti/UBC Sustainable Cities Commission. Main points from the discussion were:

- PA Hazards' Steering Group is also going to discuss wastewater treatment in their meeting during the same week.
- Get experiences from existing networks, such as the Swedish network related to wastewater treatment. Their experience during the network's development was that it started as a smaller closed group but eventually developed towards an open large group. This keeps the aims of the group grounded on real challenges and needs, and the process as ground up.



- Bring projects and other initiatives together, help them spread policy messages, combine efforts and work on joint opinions.
- Small municipalities are already partially involved in the work UBC is doing, but they lack active participation. So, there is a gap to close with smaller municipalities.
- A gap analysis of needs could be useful.
- Make sure the network doesn't overlap with possible platform-projects.
- **Most important is to exchange experiences from testing new wastewater treatment technologies.**

For the discussion on nutrient recycling invited guests were Leena Anttila/PA Bioeconomy, Erik Sindhøj and Cheryl Marie Cordeiro/Rise and Helen Honkasaari/Centrum Balticum. Main points from the discussion were:

- Agree on the previous discussions that good to go from a smaller group towards more open larger group.
- Main challenges that should be on group's agenda: improved resilience of agriculture, smaller reliance on import of fertilizers, price of recycled fertilizers.
- Agriculture organisations should be involved.
- Implementation of nutrient recycling goals that are outlined in BSAP are lagging. There are lots of barriers that are not going to be overcome without policy changes. That is why **the nutrient recycling group should focus on policy and how to make the needed changes happen.**
- Discuss also project calls and how to get nutrient recycling projects funded.
- Projects can be a link to ground level and get user needs.
- Group can shorten the connection between ground level and policy development.
- More scattered topic than the wastewater topic. Here many focuses from users and manufacturers to markets.

After the discussions, the guests left the meeting with thanks.

3. Possible updates from BSP and DG REGIO

No updates.

4. Action Plan situation

Action Plan is going through approval procedure in the NCG. A suggestion was given to PA Nutri to change one indicator related to Action 1 Reduce nutrient emissions from agriculture and other diffuse sources. The suggestion is to remove word "new" from beginning of the following indicator:

New funding calls or programmes (e.g. Interreg, CAP) reference or prioritise nutrient reduction from agriculture and diffuse sources in line with Policy Area Nutri objectives by the year 2035.

This change was accepted by the PA Nutri Steering Group.



5. A look at workflow

After previous Steering Group meeting, the report to EUSBSR and workplan for year 2026 were endorsed by the Steering Group through silent procedure. Interreg report is being finalised, it is submitted and waiting for clarifications.

A joint statement with PA Secure was submitted to the EU consultation on [new European climate resilience framework](#). Included inputs from projects:

- [ClimaResponse](#) - Responsive Local Action for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (contributions included to consultation questions)
- [CityBlues](#) - Bluegreen nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation and citizen wellbeing
- [Nursecoast II](#) - Model nutrients reduction solutions in near-coast touristic areas
- [ReNutriWater](#) - Closing local water circuits by recirculating nutrients and water and using them in nature

The joint statement will be published on the EUSBSR website.

6. EUSBSR Annual Forum & CBSS Day of cities and regions

Annual Forum is going to be on 11-13 May in Tallin. PA Nutri involved with two applications. First one is about nutrient recycling and how to develop markets, main organiser CiNURGi-project. Second application is about solutions for reducing pollution from shipping and ports with PA Ship as main organiser. Results for the applications will be known by the end of February.

At the Forum there will be Networking Village. This year there is an open possibility for projects to apply to join PA stands.

7. Estonian event

Event called FOCUS ON CLEAN WATER ALLIANCES - Integrating water smart agriculture and pollutant control through catchment-based collaboration on rural water management will be held on 6-7 May in Tallin. Save the date-announcement has been sent to the whole SG. They are asked to spread it in their networks especially to people working on rural water management. Programme for the event is getting finalized and then a new round of announcements will be sent also to the SG members and again they are asked to spread it to their networks.

PA Nutri is involved with organising session 2 which is about cooperation needs, project ideas, sharing experiences from Finland and Sweden. The topic is focused on reducing nutrient pollution from rural areas.



8. AOB

Finnish member of the Steering Group announced that she will be stepping down from her role as a Steering Group member. A new Finnish member, Maija Vilpanen, is replacing her and already joined the meeting to listen in and learn.

9. Timelines for next meetings, end of the meeting

Next meeting was decided to be held during first two weeks of June. A doodle will be sent for finding a best option for a meeting time.

Chair closed the meeting at 15:15 o'clock.

PARTICIPANTS

Estonia (chair)	Ministry of Climate	Ann Riisenberg
Estonia (chair)	Ministry of Climate	Annabel Keerd
Finland	Ministry of the Environment	Henna Rinne
Finland	Ministry of the Environment	Maija Vilpanen
Latvia	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Baiba Zasa
Poland	Ministry of Infrastructure	Robert Zurawski
Sweden	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Josefin Hjort
PACs	Economic Development Centre of Southwestern Finland	Elsi Kauppinen
Observers	HELCOM	Lotta Ruokanen
Quests	PA Hazards	Louise Floman
	IVL	Mayumi Narongin-Fujikawa
	UBC Sustainable Cities Commission	Agnieszka Ilola
	UBC Sustainable Cities Commission	Lotta Lehti
	PA Bioeconomy	Leena Anttila
	Rise	Erik Sindhøj
	Rise	Cheryl Marie Cordeiro
	Centrum Balticum	Helen Honkasaari