

## Steering Group meeting Policy Area Nutri - Minutes

Date: 1 June 2026 | Time: 13:00-15:00 EET | Place: Teams

### 1. Opening of the meeting

Chair opened the meeting at 13.05. Agenda for the meeting was agreed on.

### 2. New platform projects

Quests representing two new platform projects joined the meeting to present their plans. Presentation slides in attachment. It was discussed what kind of cooperation between platform projects and Nutri's coordinators as well as Steering Group would be beneficial. Both platform representatives wished to make use of the structures existing through PA Nutri, such as access to right country and EU contacts through Steering Group members as well as Nutri Talks-webinars for spreading information. Short duration of projects makes building up their own channels difficult and they rather use existing ones. Both were interested in the new planned cooperation groups and willing to be part of them. They didn't see overlapping objectives between cooperation groups and platforms but rather synergies. Both platforms will be invited into planning the groups from the start and to the planned workshop for Steering Group members (to be held in early 2027).

### 3. Possible updates from BSP and DG REGIO

Johan Magnusson from DG REGIO shared the dates for next Macroregional and Sea-basin Strategies Days and wished for participation.

Tom Schumacher from BSP shared that the Action Plan is going through the last commenting round in sectoral DGs. The commenting round will be done by the end of June.

Norway is now official member of the EUSBSR, and participating to NCG. Members for Policy Area Steering Groups are being searched.

Policy Areas Safe and Ship are looking for new coordinator organisations.

BSP is organising meetings with Interreg-programmes and mainstream programmes about post-2027 planning. There PAs will be able to share their priorities that were identified during Action Plan update process. In addition, high-level group of macroregional strategies (MRS) representatives is planning to make a position paper on how to include MRS into EU's MFF.

#### **4. General issues from the EUSBSR**

It was discussed if the Nutri's SG members have contacts to Norway that would be good fits for a new member organisation. Norwegian NCs are going through options and any suggestions or even confirmations of the options they have identified would be helpful. However, no suggestions arose.

It was discussed what kind of issues coordinators should bring up during the meetings with Interreg-programmes. It seems likely based on discussions had this far that there will be a clean waters-related funding priority at least in some Interreg-programmes. However, nutrient recycling would still be left in a grey zone and as it is a high priority for PA Nutri, it would be important to make sure there will be projects related to it during next funding period. For example, "resource efficiency" could be worded "resource and nutrient efficiency" for clarity. It would help also applicants identify that their project idea fits to the programme and a specific priority.

#### **5. Water management event in Estonia (6-7 May 2026)**

Clean Water Alliances event in Tallinn was successful and there seemed to be strong interest and need to continue exchanging experiences. Ann Riisenberg shared that Estonia sees catchment-based water management and catchment officers as a stronger implementation model for Water Framework Directive's goals.

As follow-up a meeting is planned for autumn for all interested participants of the Clean Water Alliances event and others who could not attend the event in Estonia. It will be jointly organised by PAs Nutri and Hazards and projects BaltCOP, WetEST, CleanEst.

#### **6. Other events and Nutri participation**

It was discussed that Nutri coordinators have difficulties in joining all upcoming events and some (organised by others) will be skipped because of that.

## **7. Extension of funding for PA Nutri**

PA Nutri coordination is funded through Interreg BSR funding (80 % of costs). Now Interreg BSR is offering an opportunity to apply for extension for the funding for years 2027-2028. Coordinator presented ideas for the application's work package. It included usual coordination work as has been done this far, and in addition establishment of cooperation groups that are part of Nutri's updated Actions.

It was also discussed if an additional idea about a workshop related to project funding should be included or not. The workshop would cover lessons learnt from the ongoing Interreg funding period and discuss needs for the next period. Estonia supported the idea and suggested that we should not restrict ourselves only to Interreg-programmes but also include other funding sources. This workshop with the discussed changes will be included to the workplan for years 2027-2028.

It was asked if Steering Group gives their recommendation for the application. Steering Group supported giving the recommendation.

## **8. Next chair for PA Nutri**

According to Rules of Procedure, it would be Denmark's turn to be a chair for PA Nutri's Steering Group from July 2026 to June 2027. However, there is no Danish Steering Group member, and Danish National Coordinator didn't find a new one. It was discussed what kind of alternative arrangements should be done. It was suggested if present chair (Estonia) and next chair after Denmark (Finland) would like to divide Denmark's turn to half. Both countries expressed their interest. It was discussed if Estonia's half a year would be first. This was concluded to be the best option.

A decision was asked to be made about the following proposal: Estonia continues their chairmanship until end of year 2026, and Finland starts their turn from start of 2027 and continuing until June 2028. This suggestion was accepted by the Steering Group.

## **9. AOB**

No other issues arose for discussion.

## **10. Timelines for next meetings**

Next PA Nutri's Steering Group meeting was decided to be held on 28.10.2026 at 13-15 EET.

## PARTICIPANTS

Estonia (chair)	Ministry of Climate	Ann Riisenberg
Estonia (chair)	Ministry of Climate	Annabel Keerd
Finland	Ministry of the Environment	Maija Vilpanen
Latvia	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Baiba Zasa
Poland	Ministry of Infrastructure	Robert Zurawski
PACs	Economic Development Centre of Southwestern Finland	Elsi Kauppinen
Observers	DG REGIO	Johan Magnusson
	BSP	Tom Schumacher
Quests	HELCOM	Eetu Virtanen
	IGWP	Klara Ramm