



EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Policy Area Nutri

Steering Group meeting

Date: 24/03/2025
Time: 14:00–16:00 EST
Location: online

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair welcomed the participants and declared the meeting open. Polish representative of the PA Nutri Steering Group was changed. New member and chair, Robert Żurawski from Ministry of Infrastructure introduced themselves.

2. Updates from BSP, DG REGIO

DG Regio shared that the biannual Implementation report is not yet published, as it was left to wait for the new Commissioner. It will be ready for publication in April. Macroregional and sea basin days will be organised in September and the Save the Date is available online. The event will include workshops and networking. Speed dates with commission and stakeholders will be organised similarly to last year.

BSP is organising briefings between different DG representatives and PA coordinators. The first briefing that is relevant for PA Nutri is on the topic of bioeconomy with Unit Bioeconomy & Food Systems. It is scheduled for 24th April 10:30-12:30 CET / 11:30-13:30 EET. These meetings are open for Steering Group members. If any of the SG members are willing to join, please contact the coordinators for invitation.

3. Next chair for PA Nutri

According to the Rules of Procedure PA Nutri's presidency follows the presidency rotation of National Coordinators' group. Presidency rotations start from July 1 and end June 30. Next country in turn for chairing PA Nutri is Estonia.

It was agreed that coordinator will organise a meeting between Polish and Estonian members to discuss chairing practicalities.



4. Public consultation on EU's long-term budget (MFF)

The public consultation is relevant for the whole EUSBSR. It's about the existence of Interreg, resources available for EUSBSR, and many other issues. It was pointed out that it is important to make one's voice heard when the opportunity arises and to point out that we want Interreg and other relevant policies to continue. Macroregional strategies will likely continue, but future funding might not be the way it is now.

BSP, NCG and PACs are jointly gathering information for SG members to use. The materials will be shared with the SG. [Public consultation](#) deadline is on 6 May 2025.

5. Upcoming events

Coordinator presented all known upcoming events and at what stage the preparations were. During 1-2 April there will be a meeting between NCs and PACs. One of the topics to discuss is a start for a series of workshops for strengthening cooperation between Policy Areas and Interreg-programmes. One idea that will be discussed there is if synchronized calls between several funding programmes could be beneficial. It was pointed out that especially nutrient recycling is a topic that fits to several priorities of Interreg programmes because it's a complex topic with several different aspects. Because of its complexity, a synchronized call could benefit it.

Next PA Nutri Talks events are being already planned on topics nutrient recycling and water management. It was pointed out that the water management topic should be narrowed down or more clearly defined if it includes both urban and rural areas. In Estonia a new LIFE SIP WetEST-project has begun, and it includes the "catchment officer"-topic. It was suggested to contact them for a speaker. For the nutrient recycling topic, it was pointed out that the HELCOM's Regional Nutrient Recycling Strategy should be included to the programme but does not have to be a separate presentation. SG member from Latvia has forwarded a request for speakers from Latvia, a reply is expected by the end of the week.

One or two workshops on the sediment-topic is being also planned together with PA Hazards and HELCOM. HELCOM is working on designating new hot spots and one new type of hot spot could be contaminated (hazardous substances and/or nutrients) sediments. It was suggested that PAs Nutri and Hazards could offer support to countries by organising a workshop for experts where they could compare results from testing the new criteria for sediment-hot spots. Another workshop could be held later which would be more open and could cover more information about ongoing projects, funding opportunities, and so on. It was shared that some countries are only at the starting phases of testing the new criteria and might not have a lot to share. But if any country is more advanced, then there could be benefit from such workshop. It should be discussed further if research regarding internal loading of nutrients should be shared at the workshop. PA Hazards will also discuss this topic in their SG meeting, and final decisions will be made after that.



6. Platform-project call

Invited guests shared their project ideas and potential improvements to them were discussed.

7. Ukraine-cooperation

Clean Baltic Source-project has come to an end and the started cooperation continues through several other projects and other results. Roadmap for wastewater treatment in the Vistula-river basin and work group started through the project are included to new River Basin Management Plans. Invited guests shared about the upcoming projects and new applications.

8. AOB

No other matters arose for discussion.

9. Timelines for next meetings, end of the meeting

Next meeting was decided to be held in September.

Chair closed the meeting at 16:17 o'clock.



PARTICIPANTS

Estonia	Ministry of the Environment	Ann Riisenberg
Finland	Ministry of the Environment	Henna Rinne
Latvia	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development	Baiba Zasa
Poland (chair)	Water Protection Unit, Ministry of Infrastructure	Robert Żurawski
Sweden	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Josefin Hjort
PACs	ELY-Centre of South-West Finland	Elsi Kauppinen
	ELY-Centre of South-West Finland	Pekka Paavilainen
	Polish Waters - State Water Holding	Jan Pryzowicz
Observers	DG REGIO	Johan Magnusson
	HELCOM	Lotta Ruokanen
Quests	HELCOM	Eetu Virtanen
	GreenBack	Dariusz Włóka
	Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences	Marzena Smol
	Centrum Balticum	Paula Biveson
	Water Resources of Zkhidnyi Buh and Sian Rivers	Nataliia Kruta
	Finnish Water Forum	Topi Helle