

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

8th Meeting under the Swedish Presidency, 2022-2023

Date: 05/06/2023
Time: 15:30-17:30 CET
Venue: Clarion Hotel Wisby, Strandgatan 6, Visby, Sweden

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting

The Presidency welcomed the participants and declared the meeting open at 15:44.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved without additional amendments.

3. EUSBSR communication

For discussion: the first draft of the EUSBSR communication guidelines.

BSP presented the first draft of the EUSBSR communication guidelines. The draft document has been prepared by the BSP based on the feedback from the NCG and other stakeholders, including via the BSP facilitated communication workshops, and it refers to the European Commission's MRS report (2022), Action Plan (2021) and the EUSBSR Communication (2009). It aims to identify key EUSBSR messages, mission, and provide comprehensive guidance to the EUSBSR stakeholders on communicating the Strategy. The NCG provided comments and suggestions to further development of the structure and content of the document. Further comments and suggestions on the draft paper should be submitted to the Presidency by June 13th COB.

4. EUSBSR monitoring and evaluation

For discussion: the next steps towards M&E framework implementation and draft EUSBSR reporting questionnaire.

BSP presented the draft reporting questionnaire for the EUSBSR reporting and asked for guidance from the NCG on the needs and next steps of the M&E framework development and implementation. The universal M&E framework shall be ready by the end of the year. In the meantime, there is a need to collect the 2022 PA achievements. BSP presented the draft questions of the short-term questionnaire for the year 2022 and asked for the NCG guidance on the relevance of the questions and the content of the questionnaire. The already existing Interreg reporting system was noted and the maximum length of the 2022 reporting answers was discussed.

5. Managing Authorities Networks of the cohesion policy funds

For discussion: proposal from the ERDF and ESF+ MA Networks on the ways of collaboration between MA Networks and the EUSBSR.

BSP informed NCG on the Managing Authorities Networks for ERDF and ESF+ funds and presented the discussion paper by the Swedish Presidency on the ways of collaboration between the EUSBSR and the MA Networks. European Commission informed NCG on the MA Networks especially in the context of the embedding exercise ongoing in the macro-regional strategies.

NCG took note of the proposal from the Swedish Presidency and discussed the potential cooperation between the MA Networks and the EUSBSR key stakeholders. NCG supported the proposal in terms of cooperation between the MA Networks and the NCG. Regarding the amount of support from the BSP that could be allocated towards the MA Networks, NCG advised cautious approach in terms of the workload due to the limited resources of the BSP and advised for the main focus of such cooperation to be on the preparation for the upcoming programming of the next EU multiannual financial framework.

6. Council Conclusions on the European Commission's 4th MRS Report

a. For information: outcome of the SMOR Working Party meeting on May 24th

Presidency informed the NCG on the outcomes of the second review of the draft Council Conclusions by the SMOR Working Group meeting in Brussels on May 24th. The third draft discussion will take place on June 13th.

b. For discussion (tentative): the third draft of the Council Conclusions.

The third draft of the Council Conclusion was not available as of the time of the meeting.

7. Incoming Latvian Presidency Programme

For information: presentation of the Latvian Presidency Programme and symbolic handover of the NCG Presidency from Sweden to Latvia.

Latvia presented the upcoming LV Presidency and invited to join the Annual Forum in Riga on October 4-5th 2023. Incoming Latvian Presidency Programme is to be published on the EUSBSR website at the start of the Presidency in July. Latvia is committed to continue the

priorities of the Swedish Presidency, while climate, energy and youth will be on the agenda of the upcoming Annual Forum.

8. AOB and date for next meeting

- PA Bioeconomy: staff changes take place in the Lead PAC in the Nordic Council of Ministers. PACs will reconvene the SG following the summer break.
- Estonian NC is expected to change in August 2023 due to staff changes.
- The date for the next NCG meeting will be announced by the incoming Latvian Presidency once it is confirmed.

The Presidency closed the meeting at 17:30.

PARTICIPANTS

Denmark	Anders Henriksson (NC)	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Estonia	Marika Post (NC)	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Finland	Helena Tuuri (NC)	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Germany	Maurice Gajan (NC)	Federal Foreign Office
Latvia	Andra Kuzmina (NC) Ita Klekere	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Lithuania	Robertas Bružilas (NC) Modesta Vanesa Viskontė	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Poland	Ewa Dębska (NC) Monika Langiewicz	Ministry for Foreign Affairs Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Anna Hagström (NC) (Chair) Alicia Nathanson Thulin Anna Tofftén	Prime Minister's Office Prime Minister's Office The Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation
	Juhani Ailio Viktorii Hladii Anja Karppinen Marlene Riedel Tom Schumacher Kirsi Ahlman Stefani Wodrig	Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point
	Petri Koistinen Johan Magnusson Elena Kolosova	European Commission, DG Regio European Commission, DG Regio Interreg Baltic Sea Region