

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

4th Meeting under the Latvian Presidency, 2023-2024

Date: 11/04/2024
Time: 11:00-11:45 EET
Location: Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

First part of the meeting (11/04/2024)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Presidency welcomed the participants and declared the meeting open.

2. BSP report

The BSP presented the activities during the third reporting period between 1/10/2023 - 31/3/2024.

The NCG took note of the reported activities, for instance, strengthening communication and visibility of the Strategy (through finalisation of the guidelines for the EUSBSR communication and the work on the impact stories), building of the institutional memory of the Strategy and acknowledged the BSP's efforts and continuous support of the NCG, its Presidency and the PACs.

Furthermore, the NCG also positively regarded the progress on the practical work performed by the BSP. One Member State proposed that the BSP could in the future support the NCs with a more elaborate overview of the day-to-day PA work, however, NCs have the possibility to stay up to date with the PACs day to day work and activities via the EUSBSR Monthly meetings. The NCG noted the positive trend of the PACs' increasing capacity to implement the Strategy as the BSP gradually introduces new practices, provides good support and capacity building to the PACs. DG REGIO representative highlighted the significant role of the BSP in the upcoming Action Plan update process.

The NCG also welcomed the more realistic approach to planning of the BSP Work Programme and noted that the current version of the BSP report, including the shorter summarised version, is a good format for the BSP reporting to the NCG.

3. AOB

- Presidency informed that the Overall Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of the EUSBSR, after the presentation and feedback round from the PACs, will now be forwarded for the final NCG Procedure by the silence procedure.
- DG REGIO representative informed that the upcoming Macro-regional and Sea-basin Strategies Days website is open, and registration opening will follow in the next weeks.
- Sweden informed about the status of the preparation of the upcoming Annual Forum in Visby on 29-31 October 2024.

The NCG agreed that the Presidency will draw the draft of the feedback based on the discussion, and the feedback will be further discussed and agreed upon in the second part of the meeting on 16/04.

The first part of the meeting was closed.

Date: 16/04/2024
Time: 11:00-11:11 EET
Location: Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Second part of the meeting (16/04/2024)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Presidency welcomed the participants and declared the second part of the NCG meeting open.

2. Feedback Form from the NCG to Interreg BSR

The NCG continued the discussion on the BSP reporting period between 1/10/2023 - 31/3/2024 and the draft Feedback Form, prepared by the Presidency. The NCG agreed on the content of the Feedback Form from the NCG to the Interreg BSR with few additional notes. The NCG is satisfied with the support of the BSP. The NCG views that the BSP is making constant progress and performing in accordance with the interest and requirements of the EUSBSR in supporting the NCG and PACs to operate the EUSBSR. For the next six-month period NCG expects the BSP to complete the Annual Forum Guidebook and continue its work on effective communication of the Strategy and coordinate the process of the update of the Action Plan.

The second part of the meeting was closed.

PARTICIPANTS

First part of the meeting (11/04/2024)

Denmark	Anders Henriksson (NC) Sissel Sofia Steinholm	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Estonia	Tõnis Nirk (NC) Andreas Sepp (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland	Helena Tuuri (NC) Kaisa Arkkila (Deputy NC) Heta Hassinen (Deputy NC) Saara Kemppainen	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Germany	Maurice Gajan (NC)	Federal Foreign Office
Latvia (Presidency)	Andra Kuzmina (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Lithuania	Feliksas Remeika (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Poland	Andrzej Cieszkowski (NC) Monika Langiewicz (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Anna Hagström (NC) Anna Tofftén	Prime Minister's Office Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure
	Juhani Ailio Kirsi Ahlman Viktoria Hladii Tom Schumacher	Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point
	Petri Koistinen Blagovestka Riiser	European Commission, DG REGIO European Commission, DG REGIO

Second part of the meeting (16/04/2024)

Denmark	Anders Henriksson (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Estonia	Tõnis Nirk (NC) Andreas Sepp (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland	Kaisa Arkkila (Deputy NC) Heta Hassinen (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Germany	Winfried Maier (Deputy NC)	Federal Foreign Office
Latvia (Presidency)	Andra Kuzmina (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Lithuania	Modesta Vanesa Viskontė (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Poland	Andrzej Cieszkowski (NC) Monika Langiewicz (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Blagovestka Riiser	European Commission, DG REGIO