

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

6th Meeting under the Polish Presidency, 2024-2025

Date: 10/6/2025

Time: 13:15-15:30 CET

Location: Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda

The meeting was opened by the Presidency at 13:17. The agenda was adopted without further amendments.

2. Final version of the PA template

The BSP presented the agenda point and elaborated on the premise and the details behind the presented template for the PA section of the Action Plan. The Presidency proposed to adopt the final PA Template if there are no objections to the content. No objections were expressed, therefore, the final PA Template has been approved by the NCG and is to be distributed to the PAs in due time according to the timeline.

3. Cooperation between the Baltic Sea Region countries and Ukraine

The Presidency presented the agenda point. Support for Ukraine is one of the Poland's EUSBSR Presidency priorities. On the basis of the work done within the Policy Areas of the Strategy during the year, as well as information and consultations with the Ukrainian side, the Polish Presidency proposed to formulate a letter, to be signed by the Pres on behalf of the NCG, and directed to the relevant heads of departments in Ukraine's MFA and Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development. The draft proposal of the letter, based also on the discussions with DG REGIO, was distributed in an annex to this meeting, and its main aim is to elaborate a message of support for strengthening the cooperation on a working level, following the ongoing operational work already taking place within the Policy Areas. The Presidency invited the NCG to provide their opinions and comments on the topic.

The NCG was in majority in favour of issuing the letter and its intent, emphasising that the message of strengthening the cooperation should primarily address the practical, operational level of work, i.e. the work performed within the Policy Areas. It was also highlighted that such cooperation with Ukrainian stakeholders aims at facilitation of Ukraine's eventual accession process to the European Union. There were some reservations expressed towards the mandate

of issuing the political statements of such nature by the NCG, highlighting that the EUSBSR cooperation is mainly about technical cooperation between the EUSBSR Member States.

The Presidency concluded the agenda point. The comments from the NCs will be taken into the consideration and further work on the letter will proceed in the format of written exchange.

4. PA Bioeconomy Lead PAC

Objective: To agree on next steps regarding PA Bioeconomy Lead PAC.

Following up on the discussion of the previous NCG meeting, the Presidency invited the NCs of the member states involved in the PA coordination to present the situation at the moment. According to the information available, the Nordic Council of Ministers Secretariat assumes its contractual obligation towards Interreg co-financing, therefore, is ready to remain as the Lead PAC by the end of 2026 - the current period of co-financing. It was agreed within the NC group therefore to continue with the status quo of PA coordination for the time being until the end of 2026.

5. Youth engagement in the EUSBSR implementation

Sweden informed that they were contacted by the President of the Swedish Youth Council, representative of which were also present at the Annual Forum of Visby, Sweden, with the proposal to strengthen youth representation in the region. The proposal was elaborated this spring and concerns involvement of youth in the Policy Areas and the implementation of the Action Plan. The NCG took note of the information provided.

The Presidency informed that they are working at the moment on youth representation on the Annual Forum in Sopot.

6. Updates

The BSP presented the agenda point and the latest updates from the Policy Areas and the BSP work since the NCG meeting of March 2025. The NCG took note of the information.

7. Estonian EUSBSR Presidency 2025-2026

Estonian NC representative presented the plans for the upcoming presidency. Preliminarily, the kick off meeting and the 1st NCG meeting will take place in Tallinn on 11 September. The Annual Forum will take place on 9-10 June 2026 in Tallinn, and the Engagement Day June 8th. The presidency priorities for Estonian EUSBSR Presidency are being approved at the moment, but preliminarily they will concern the finalisation of the Action Plan update process, cooperation across the Policy areas with the focus on resilience and sustainability, cooperation with Ukraine, effective governance and external communication. Estonia expressed gratitude to the Polish Presidency for the work and committed to continue in Poland's footsteps.

8. AOB

This was officially the last NCG meeting under the PL Presidency. The Presidency shall continue until the end of June with the NCs in a written mode. The Presidency expressed gratitude to the NC Trio and to the BSP for their effectiveness and professionalism.

Estonia expressed gratitude to the Presidency for the leadership during this year, and for professionally addressing the challenging issues.

Latvian NC announced that the new Latvian NC representative will step in from the next meeting onwards and thanked the NC colleagues, the Presidency and the BSP for the support during the past years.

The meeting was concluded at 14:18.

PARTICIPANTS

Denmark	Peter Wilhelm Linde (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Estonia	Tonis Nirk (NC) Andreas Sepp (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland	Helena Tuuri (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Germany	Winfried Maier (Deputy NC)	Federal Foreign Office
Latvia	Andra Kuzmina (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Lithuania	Albinas Zananavičius (NC) Modesta Vanesa Viskontė (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Poland	Katarzyna Barcikowska (NC, Chair) Monika Langiewicz (Deputy NC) Dawid Kopik (agenda points 1,2)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Anna Hagström (NC)	Prime Minister's Office
	Juhani Ailio Viktoria Hladii Kirsi Ahlman 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
	Elena Kolosova (agenda points 1,2)	Interreg Baltic Sea Region Secretariat