

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region National Coordinators Group

4th Meeting under the Estonian Presidency, 2025-2026

Date: 14/11/2025
Time: 10:00–12:30 EET
Location: [Microsoft Teams](#)

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda

The meeting was opened by the Presidency at 10:02.
The agenda was adopted without amendments.

2. Action Plan update - Chapter 1 drafting

The Presidency presented the agenda point and the draft text of the Chapter 1 which was prepared taking into account the previous NCG discussion in Sopot. It was also proposed to amend the Chapter 2 of the Action Plan. Since the current update does not aim to modify the governance part of the Action Plan, it was decided these amendments will be addressed via the NCG Rules of Procedure and the Steering Group Rules of Procedure and other Guidelines as needed, which are to be presented to the NCG at the earliest possible stage. The NCG went through the text section by section, suggesting the amendments and clarifying the content. The NCG also discussed the content and the length of the Chapter 3 Policy Areas. It was decided that the BSP and NCG Presidency will conduct a third round of edits for consolidating the layout and addressing the suggestions and prepare the next version of the text, to be presented to the NCG for written comments.

Furthermore, the BSP presented the proposal on harmonising the naming of the EUSBSR supporting documents. The proposal concerns unification of the documents on monitoring and evaluation, communication, visual identity as well as the future supporting documents in a uniform way as the guidelines. It was decided that the proposal will be implemented in the ongoing Action Plan update text.

3. Annual Forum 2027

The Presidency presented the agenda point. For the moment, no Member State formally indicated about the possibility to host the Annual Forum. The Presidency highlighted on the importance for the Strategy to hold the Annual Forum each year and invited the Member States to come forward should they have the possibility to host the event in 2027. The discussion will continue during the subsequent NCG meetings.

4. Updates on MFF negotiation process

BSP presented the agenda point and invited the National Coordinators to exchange any relevant information or developments regarding the ongoing MFF negotiation process from the national perspective. The advocacy for inclusion of the macro-regional references into the 2028-2034 MFF regulations is currently ongoing in multiple Strategy Member States, including via submitting input to the Interreg discussion and discussions with the national MFF negotiation teams at the Ministry of Finance and the Prime Minister's offices. NCG also supported inclusion of the Strategy representation in the programming process of the next Interreg Baltic Sea region programme.

5. PA reporting template 2025

The BSP presented the agenda point. According to the procedure laid out in the EUSBSR Guidelines for Monitoring and Evaluation, the Policy Area template is to be approved by the NCG ahead of the annual Policy Area reporting. The template valid from 2024 was approved by the NCG without changes or amendments.

6. AOB and date for next meeting

The next NCG meeting is to take place on 2 December.
The meeting was concluded at 12:19.

PARTICIPANTS

Denmark	-	-
Estonia	Tõnis Nirk (NC, Presidency) Andreas Sepp (Deputy NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland	Helena Tuuri (NC)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Germany	Sven Freitag (NC) Christine Gockel (Deputy NC)	Federal Foreign Office Federal Foreign Office
Latvia	Kristine Cukure (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) Jan Krzymowski (NC team)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sweden	Anna Hagström (NC) Anna Tofften (Deputy NC)	Prime Minister's Office Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure
	Juhani Ailio Viktorii Hladii Tom Schumacher	Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point Baltic Sea Strategy Point
	Petri Koistinen Blagovestka Riiser	European Commission, DG Regio European Commission, DG Regio