



EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

**17th Meeting of the Steering
Committee of Policy Area Nutri**
17.11.2020 Webex

EUSBSR Action Plan update
PA Nutri Workplan 2021



Agenda

1. EUSBSR Action plan review
 - ◆ The role of Flagships in the updated EUSBSR
2. Nutri Work Plan 2021
3. Norwegian observer member to the Nutri SC

Updated EUSBR Action Plan

- Because of delays, the updated EUSBR Action Plan will only come into force at the beginning of 2021
- The Action Plan is now in the Commission internal procedure where likely only some technical changes will be made. The Action Plan will then be published as a Commission Staff Working Document
- Horizontal Areas (HA Neighbours, HA Climate) will be integrated in the policy areas and will not continue as independent horizontal areas (HA Spatial Planning will change into a Policy Area).
- HA Capacity will be replaced in 2022 by Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP) which is tasked with coordinating capacity building, knowledge-sharing and communication

Rotating presidency of the Nutri SC

- The Action Plan review brings some changes in the role of Steering Groups and PACs
 - SG meetings will in the future **“be prepared and organized by the SG Presidency, in close cooperation with the respective PAC/PACs.** The SG Presidency should **rotate** among the SG Members, **normally on an annual basis.”**
 - This change in the tasks of the SG was made on the NC level is intended to beef up the work of the SGs and increase interest of members states’ organizations in participating in the work of the SG.
- The order of the rotation: the logical guideline is to follow the order of the EUSBSR presidency. Germany holds the presidency from July 2020 to June 2021.
 - Since Germany has communicated that they are not willing to take on the first rotating presidency, are there **volunteer Member States to take it for the year 2021 with the support of PACs?**

Rotating presidency of the Nutri SC

- The SG's main task will include "Monitoring and evaluating the PA include i.a Endorsing the Work Plans and annual substantial reports on achievements for the PA, drafted by the PAC/PACs, and submitting these documents to the NCG for information"
- SGs will endorse Rules of Procedure of the PA, substantial reports of the PA and annual work plans.
- Two papers to draft at the end of 2020/beginning of 2021: Terms of Reference and Annual Work Plan

The role of Flagships in the updated EUSBSR

- There has been some discussion about the role of flagships in the updated EUSBSR.
- The current draft of the updated strategy says that:

“Each PA develops Actions which contribute to achieving the EUSBSR Objectives. The proposed activities under each Action are to be evaluated on the basis of their merits and expected added value.

The format of the activities implemented under each Action are decided by the PA to best suit the needs of the Action. Activities under an Action can be – but are not limited to - projects (single or grouped in clusters), processes, networks or platforms. Activities can either be linked to existing capacities or break new ground. Building on existing capacities is important and **PAs may continue to use the flagship concept. However, it is important that the Strategy remains open also for activities outside of established structures.**”
- The National Coordinators level will draft an updated definition of “flagship” with the aim of having a higher quality definition (and accordingly higher quality flagships). The definition will be put on the EUSBSR webpage and is intended to be used as part of the updated strategy
- The Policy Areas can **independently decide whether they will give flagship status to projects when the new strategy is in force**

The definition of flagship in the current EUSBSR

The label of a flagship can be given to a project/process that fulfils the following criteria:

- a. it has a high macro-regional impact;
- b. it contributes to meeting the objectives, indicators and targets of the EUSBSR;
- c. it is related to the implementation of one or more actions of the policy area/horizontal action concerned.

In general, a flagship is also expected to:

- d. have a clear macro-regional dimension (cooperation between and/or impact on at least three Baltic Sea region states including at least two EU Baltic Sea region states if another Baltic Sea region state (Russia, Norway, Iceland, Belarus) is involved); in case a flagship is implemented by individual efforts (projects), coordination between these individual projects should be ensured. It should be clearly shown how these individual projects make an impact at macroregional level. Any flagship shall clearly contribute to the objectives, indicators and targets of the EUSBSR;¹⁸
- e. be mature for implementation:
 - i. can be implemented within a realistic timeframe;
 - ii. has a clear financial and activity plan which e.g. encompass setting aside resources for attending relevant activities of the policy area/horizontal action and the EUSBSR;
 - iii. partnership is established and a flagship leader is identified.
- f. be monitored and evaluated towards the objectives, indicators and targets of the EUSBSR and particular policy area/horizontal action.

-> Any changes you think necessary? Suggestions for a new definition?

Nutri Work Plan for 2021

- Draft Work Plan 2021
 - > suggestions for activities (events or communication activities)?
 - > will be sent for formal SC approval by email
 - > after which will be sent to the NC group for information

Norwegian participation in PA Nutri

- As HA Neighbours is being integrated into policy areas in the new EUSBSR Action Plan, HA Neighbours has approached Nutri about introducing a Norwegian member/partner in Nutri Steering Committee/ Nutri flagships.
- Nutri Terms of Reference state that “Observers with a standing invitation to the meetings represent following institutions/organizations:
 - Interested ministries or state agencies in the field of environmental protection of EU or non-EU countries whose territory forms a part of the Baltic Sea basin;”
- Updated EUSBSR Acton Plan (not yet formally in force):

“An SG may also invite representatives of non-EU neighbouring countries or organisations to join **the group as members or observers**, upon a decision taken by consensus by the EUSBSR Member States representatives in the group. However, before such a decision is implemented, it has to be endorsed by the NCG. Such representatives of non-EU neighbouring countries or organisations **cannot block decisions of the EUSBSR Member States, but they may choose to opt out of specific decisions taken by the SG**. This has to be appropriately reflected in the SG Rules of Procedure”
- HA Neighbours recommends **inviting Norway as an observer member**

Norwegian participation in PA Nutri

- HA Neighbours is in the process of searching for a Norwegian organization and representative interested in joining the Nutri SC mainly focusing on the following two organizations:
 - Norwegian Agricultural Agency – division for resources and areas
<https://www.landbruksdirektoratet.no/en/>
 - Norwegian Environmental Agency – division for water, ocean and coast
<https://www.environmentagency.no/>
- The role of non-EU countries will be defined in the update of Nutri Rules of procedure.
- When HA Neighbours has found an interested representative, the matter will be brought to a Nutri SC meeting and the SC will decide whether to formally accept them as an observer member.



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<http://groupspaces.com/eusbsr-nutrient-inputs/>