



EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

**Policy Area Nutri Steering Group meeting
7.6.2024**

Elsi Kauppinen

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
the European Union

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Updates from BSP, DG REGIO
3. Youth representative as quest
4. Post-2027 consultations – Interreg BSR
5. Funding for PAC-work
6. Action Plan-update
7. Platform-project call – Priorities
8. Next steps for PA Nutri Talks
9. EUSBSR Annual Forum – Planned workshops
10. ELY-Centre organisational changes – Impact on PAC-work
11. AOB
12. Timelines for next meetings

Agenda with changes

1. Opening of the meeting, approval of agenda with changes
2. Updates from BSP, DG REGIO
3. Youth representative as quest

4. Funding for PAC-work
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1. Opening of the meeting

Magda Dawidowicz



2. Updates from BSP, DG REGIO

Tom Schumacher, Johan Magnusson



3. Youth representative as quest

Elsi Kauppinen



4. Post-2027 consultations – Interreg BSR

Elena Kolosova

5. Funding for PAC-work

- Present funding will run out at the end of 2024
- New call for funding will open during summer
- The present situation:
 - ELY-Centre as lead-PAC, no funding for Polish co-PACs
 - PA Hazards as a partner in the “project”
- Questions for next round:
 - Continue as is? Having PA Hazards together in the funding is good – closer cooperation and exchange of experiences
 - Can Poland join to the funding in any way? According to consultation with Interreg BSR the preference is not to make big changes, but small changes might be possible – However this should be verified
 - Seed money?

6. Action Plan-update

- EUSBSR Action Plan update during 2024
 - All Actions and Indicators to be updated
- PA Nutri has very general level Actions and Indicators in comparison to other PAs
 - Updated BSAP was published after the previous Action Plan –update
 - Previous Update was ment to focus the Actions. Instead of a large list of Actions Nutri adopted Actions that cover everything – this was not the purpose (?)
- BSP will publish timetable, format during summer
- Workshop at the Annual Forum as first step
- Possibly discussion with the SG before that?

6. Action Plan-update: comparison of Actions and Indicators to other PAs

Policy Area Nutri

- 1) Reduce nutrient emissions from agriculture and other diffuse sources
 - Practical activities focusing on preventing or reducing of nutrient leakage
 - Regional policy messages
- 2) Reduce nutrient emissions from urban areas and other point sources
 - Activities focusing on reduction of nutrient emissions
 - Regional policy messages
- 3) Develop and promote safe and sustainable nutrient recycling
 - Activities focusing on recycling of nutrients
- 4) Address nutrients already accumulated in the Baltic Sea
 - Activities focusing on reducing of nutrients accumulated in the BS

Policy Area Bioeconomy

- 1) Strengthen the role and importance of bioeconomy for achieving increased sustainability, productivity and adaptation to climate change as well as resilience, including resilience in ecosystems
 - Policy impact: policy recommendations
 - **Public impact: Number of communication activities**
 - **Develop the circular economy: New circular initiatives**
 - Umbrella flagship

Policy Area Hazards

- 1) Prevent pollution and reduce the use of hazardous substances
 - **Develop Baltic Sea region PFAS expert platform**
 - Development of policy recommendations/strategies on PFAS
 - Development of policy recommendations/strategies on PIE
 - Engagement of relevant stakeholders at all levels of governance
 - Flagship processes

7. Platform-project call - Priorities

Preliminary timeline:

Call timeline (tbc)



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Deadline for applications

December 2024

Seminar + consultations

September –
November 2024

Opening the call

June 2024

Networking events

May 2024

Project platforms webinar | 23 May 2024 | 12

Role of PAs in platforms can be a project partner, or just a knowledge “multiplier”

Partnership

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Project platform partnerships consist of:

- project partners,
- associated organisations.

A partnership should **reflect the target groups** but is not equal to them.

Project platforms webinar | 23 May 2024 | 11

7. Platform-project call - Priorities

- Interreg BSR has indentified the following topics as priorities:
 - Circular bioeconomy, incl. nutrient recycling
 - Closing water and nutrient loop
 - Resilient coastal management (incl. Coastal-marine interactions and coastal management)
- Based on personal "feel", there are potential for platforms:
 - Nutrient recycling – just lacking projects
 - Re-use of water from wastewater treatment
 - Nature based solutions for water management in cities/rural areas
 - Coastal management in sense of vulnerable islands and coastal towns
- **Role of PA Nutri?**
 - Policy area coordinators are expected Interreg BSR to help coordinate project idea generation, networking, etc
 - Involvement of PA Nutri during the idea generation phase?
 - Organise meetings for idea generation, set up a group on Interreg BSR's matchmaking platform?
 - During project? Project partner or outside knowledge multiplier?
- Suggestion: Is it possible to invite the potential platform-consortiums to Steering Group meeting or a separate meeting?

7. Platform-project call - Priorities

- Water re-use topic
 - Centrum Balticum is organising a public panel discussion on "Sustainable water management in the Baltic Sea Region" / "Ensuring water security" with PA Nutri and projects NURSECOAST II, ReNutriWater, WaterMan and CityBlues
 - 28.8.2024, 14:00-14:45 EET
 - One of EU Green Week partner events, part of Europe Forum
 - First joint discussion about the challenges the projects are solving
 - https://green-week.event.europa.eu/partner-events/riding-wave-ensuring-water-security-2024-08-28_en
 - <https://europeforum.fi/en/programme#calendar-08923bed-4371-48d1-8d1e-3ef0ce3376bc-event-lvl3k8kr>

8. Next steps for PA Nutri Talks

- Water management in rural areas
- Nutrient recycling -event under planning
- Nutri&Hazards sediments -topic (incl. internal nutrient loading)

8. Next steps for PA Nutri Talks

Water management in rural areas

- Continuation still open, but PA Bioeconomy willing to continue jointly
- Nordic Council's Nordic Joint Committee for Agricultural and Food Research and Nordic Forest Research are open for collaboration in bringing research results and policy-initiatives to wider audience
 - Nordic networks on drought in agriculture, forest fires (forestry)
 - Funding calls for new networks (October-November)
- Present Polish priority of increasing water retention
- Suggestion 1: Apply for seed money from Swedish Institute (deadline in September)?
 - Include Ukraine
 - Lead partner from Sweden, possibly the leads of the Nordic networks?
 - Goal: apply funding from EU-programmes (possibly Interreg Europe), or from Nordic Council → establish a longstanding network on climate change impact on nutrient leakage and integrated water management (incl. forestry)?
- Optional suggestion 2: Organise webinars in October-November, spread info, raise more interest for a network

8. Next steps for PA Nutri Talks

Nutrient recycling -event under planning - 23.9.2024

Early programme:

- 1) Introduction - Elsi Kauppinen, coordinator for the EUSBSR Policy Area Nutri, ELY-Centre of South-West Finland
- 2) State of play in the Baltic Sea Region - newest data on what is the potential for nutrient recycling and Baltic Sea Region Nutrient Recycling Strategy - Sari Luostarinen, Luke
- 3) Project presentations:
 - Lex4Bio, Optimising bio-based fertilisers in agriculture - Kari Ylivainio, Luke
 - CiNURGi, Circular nutrients for a sustainable Baltic Sea Region - Erik Sindhöj, Cheryl Marie Cordeiro, Rise
 - Nutrient recycling from silage production - Sustainable Silage -project - Silja Lehtpuu, Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce, EPKK
 - New project idea about regenerative farming (?) TBC, Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce, EPKK
 - Other project presentations
- 4) Challenges in nutrient recycling in hot spot area: Finnish Archipelago Sea - Essi Hillgren, ELY-Centre of South-West Finland
- 5) An example of cooperation between biogas and fertilizer companies: Kiortoravinne Oy - Gasum - Jenni Ylikahri, Kiortoravinne Oy
- 6) Finnish experiences spanning over 12 years about national programmes for funding nutrient recycling innovations - Petri Nissinen, Ministry of the Environment and TBC, Ministry of the Agriculture and Forestry of Finland
- 7) Funding opportunities, TBC
- 8) Questions to experts

9. EUSBSR Annual Forum

- Activities where PA Nutri will participate:
 - Organise three workshops
 - Engagement day
 - Networking village
 - Possibility of steering group members to staff the stand?
 - Posters & fliers from from projects, also project-people staffing the stand
 - For now: CityBlues, ReNutriWater/CiNURGi, TRUST ALUM, MUSTBE, Finnish gypsum-project

9. EUSBSR Annual Forum - Planned workshops

Sustainable tourism and water resilience - together with PA Tourism

Moderator: Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło, PA Tourism

1) Opening: Magda Leszczyna-Rzucidło, PA Tourism

2) Keynote: Professor Gunilla Rosenqvist / Uppsala university

3) Short presentations from projects reflecting on how they are relevant for Gotland/other Baltic Sea Islands/coastal cities

- [WaterMan](#), [ReNutriWater](#) → re-use of water from wastewater treatment
- [NURSECOAST II](#) → improvement of wastewater treatment in coastal touristic towns
- Possibly also [CIRTOINNO](#) → circular economy for tourism

4) Why islands are facing challenges? - Ellen Lundkvist/Leader Gute

5) Local stakeholder perspective from Gotland - Kati Ahtee / Gotlands Besöksnäring, Gotland visiting organisation

6) Reflections

7) Roundtable discussions:

- 1) What is sustainable tourism, especially from perspective of water resilience?
- 2) Practices of sustainable tourism?

9. EUSBSR Annual Forum - Planned workshops

Empowering sustainable rebuilding of Ukraine - together with PAs Hazards, Bioeconomy, Ship

Moderator: Torfi Johannesson / Nordic Insight / PA Bioeconomy

- 1) Opening words: Torfi Johannesson / Nordic Insight / PA Bioeconomy
- 2) New Ukrainian River Basin management plans - regional and national implementation, Natalya Krutya / Basin Department of water resources of Zakhidnyi Buh and Sian rivers
- 3) Clean Baltic Sea Source- project, Halina Sukhonos / Basin Department of water resources of Zakhidnyi Buh and Sian rivers
- 4) Current cooperation and future outlook for agriculture in Ukraine, Nataliia Cholovska / Ecoterra LCCC
- 5) Future outlook from youth perspective, needs for river and lake restoration, Sofia Melnyk
- 6) Take aways from the short presentations - Torfi
- 7) Roundtable discussions:
 - Educational ideas – ERASMUS-project on maritime education as an example / PA Ship
 - Cooperation ideas for future – Clean Baltic Source-project about wastewater treatment as an example / PA Nutri
 - Cooperation between youth-organisations and representatives
 - Agriculture

9. EUSBSR Annual Forum - Planned workshops

Aligning cross-sectorial efforts to reach policy goals on Saving the Sea

Together with all Save the Sea-PAs and Spatial planning

Moderator: Johan Magnusson

Opening: Johan Magnusson

Short presentations (framing the scene):

1. Briefly going through BSAP / HELCOM
2. EU role and goals / DG ENV TBC
3. “Save the Sea”-PAC → EUSBSR role
4. Gun Rudquist (TBC) → policy cooperation?

Panel discussions/pitches of cross-sectorial topics: PACs - how to work together and how to prove that through indicators

Roundtables - cross-sectorial:

- 1) Climate change
- 2) Biodiversity
- 3) Emerging topics such as offshore wind farms
- 4) Circular economy - nutrient recycling
- 5) Joint indicators that are not involving climate change, biodiversity, nutrient recycling
- 6) (Hazardous substances - emerged as the most important threat towards Saving the Sea)

Sum up, results from roundtables

10. ELY-Centre organisational changes - Impact on PAC-work

- Big changes in state and regional-level public organisations in Finland
 - ELY-Centre will stop existing by 2026
 - Environmental operations will be divided to two organisations
 - National level organisation for permits, control/supervision
 - WFD, MSFD, point source permits, control and supervision etc
 - Regional level organisation for projects, development, financial support
 - Agriculture and forestry –topics (?), water management, local/regional/national projects

Timeline



10. ELY-Centre organisational changes - Impact on PAC-work

- Who decides where PA Nutri should go?
- What is Steering Group's preference?



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11. AOB



12. Timelines for next meeting



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