



EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

**Policy Area Nutri Steering Group meeting
8.12.2025**

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



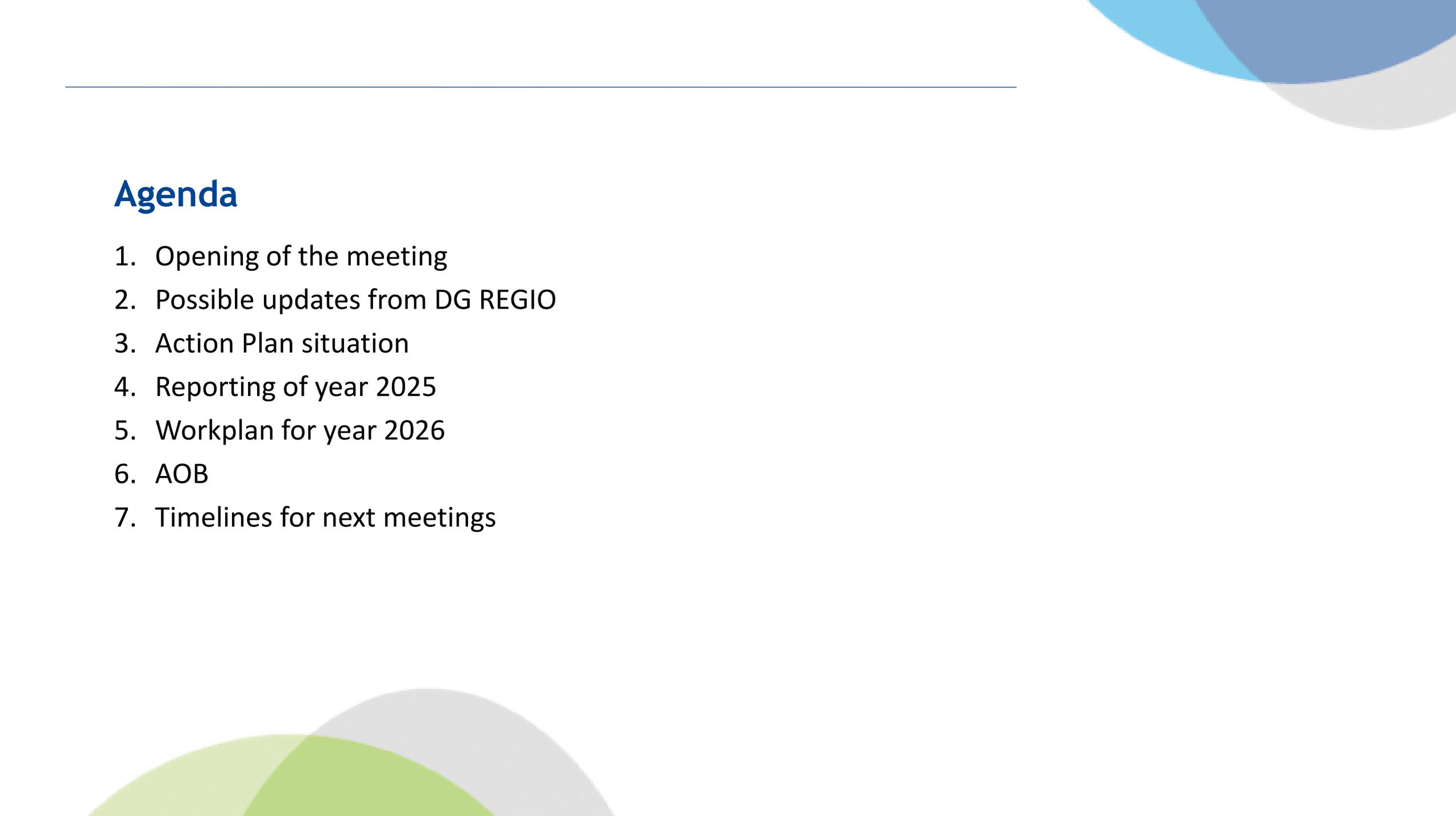
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1. Welcome!

Opening, Estonian chairs

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Possible updates from DG REGIO
 3. Action Plan situation
 4. Reporting of year 2025
 5. Workplan for year 2026
 6. AOB
 7. Timelines for next meetings
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2. Possible updates from DG REGIO

3. Action Plan situation

- Final Actions for all Policy Areas were accepted by their Steering Groups
- Next steps: NCG approval and internal consultation process at EC, approval and publication roughly around 05/2026
- BSP made edits with AI to have common language and look
 - These were circulated among PAs and some language checks were done
- BSP also suggested subtitles for each PA
 - For Nutri the suggestion was **POLICY AREA NUTRI - Reducing nutrient pollution and supporting the recovery of the Baltic Sea**
 - Old version (from current Actions) the subtitle seems to have been (although not used in the Action Plan): **POLICY AREA NUTRI - Reducing nutrient inputs to the Sea to acceptable levels**
 - PAC suggestion: **POLICY AREA NUTRI - Reducing nutrient pollution of the Baltic Sea**

3. Action Plan situation

- Changes in wording of Action indicators:

Action 1: Reduce nutrient emissions from agriculture and other diffuse sources

No changes in outcome indicators

Impact indicators:

Original: Long-term reduction of nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea continues by year 2035, supported by improved regional coordination and policy dialogue on diffuse sources

New: Reduced nutrient loads entering the Baltic Sea

3. Action Plan situation

Original: PA Nutri promotes land use practices with co-benefits for nutrient reduction and climate mitigation, such as carbon-storing buffer zones, peatland-sensitive cultivation, and improved manure treatment by year 2035

New: Reduced nutrient and green house gas emissions resulting from sustainable land use practices ~~such as carbon-storing buffer zones, peatland-sensitive cultivation, and improved manure treatment~~

New 2: Stronger contribution of land-use systems to emission reductions and sustainable nutrient cycles

3. Action Plan situation

Original: Improved agricultural water management and runoff control supported by PA Nutri cooperation help rural areas adapt to climate change, reducing drought and flood impacts by year 2035

New: Improved climate-resilient water management that reduces flood- and drought-related impacts

3. Action Plan situation

Action 2: Reduce nutrient emissions from wastewater treatment

No changes in outcome indicators

Impact indicators:

Original: Long-term reduction of nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea continues by year 2035, supported by improved regional coordination and policy dialogue on wastewater treatment

New: Reduced nutrient discharges to the Baltic Sea from wastewater treatment

Compare Action 1 (agriculture & diffuse sources): Reduced nutrient loads entering the Baltic Sea

3. Action Plan situation

Original: Mitigation of global temperature rise through increased number of energy efficient and circular WWTPs in the BSR by year 2035

New: Increased adoption of energy-efficient wastewater treatment practices contributing to climate mitigation

3. Action Plan situation

Original: Increased nutrient and water reuse help with adaptation to droughts

New: No change

Original: Overflows of wastewater due to severe rains are reduced and more integrated stormwater management solutions implemented in urban areas

New: Fewer wastewater overflows resulting from extreme rainfall events

Option: Implementation of integrated stormwater management solutions result in fewer wastewater overflows

3. Action Plan situation

Action 3: Develop and promote safe and sustainable nutrient recycling

Outcome indicators:

Original: Climate change mitigation is achieved through decreased demand for virgin materials and fossil fuels by year 2035

Original: Increased usage of circular organic fertilizers improves soils and helps with carbon binding (carbon sinks) by year 2035

New: Greater integration of climate aspects into policy and stakeholder discussions on nutrient recycling by year 2035

3. Action Plan situation

Action 3: Develop and promote safe and sustainable nutrient recycling

Impact indicators:

Original: Long-term reduction of nutrient loads to the Baltic Sea continues, supported by improved regional coordination and policy dialogue on nutrient recycling

New: Reduced nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea.

Compare Action 1 (agriculture & diffuse sources): Reduced nutrient loads entering the Baltic Sea

3. Action Plan situation

Original: Emission reduction through less demand on virgin materials and fossil fuels

New: Encouraging less use of virgin materials and fossil-fuel-based fertilisers, supporting long-term emission reductions.

Original: Usage of organic and recycled fertilizers can improve soils and help with carbon storage

New: Improved soils and their carbon storage through wider use of recycled fertilisers.

Through encouragement of wider use of recycled fertilisers soils and their carbon storage are improved leading to long-term carbon emission reductions

4. Reporting of year 2025

- Interreg and EUSBSR reports to be made soon
 - Steering Group has to endorse them
 - Interreg report includes feedback to PACs
 - What to include?
- Report to EU commission covering years 2024-2025 probably coming also?
- A short summary of what was done in 2025 was sent through email
 - No self financing available for using the project idea generation –fund from Interreg
 - Platform-applications didn't succeed last year, so no activities with them except for jointly planning new applications
 - Polish PAC has been able to take a bigger role than before

4. Reporting of year 2025

- Things done that were not included to work plan 2025:
 - Joint statement to EU consultation on Bioeconomy Strategy
 - Planning work was started to make a new joint statement to European Climate Resilience and Risk Management – Integrated Framework, deadline on 23 February 2026
 - Cooperation with PA Secure and possibly PA Hazards
- Presentations at:
 - Danube MRS conference on Climate Change: Challenges in Agriculture and Water Sectors, 4.12.2025 (online)
 - ReNutriWater final conference, 10.12.2025 in Warsaw (Polish PAC)
 - Swedish wastewater treatment plant network on nutrient recycling, 11.12.2025 (online)
 - Gotland workshop for Capacity building for transnational cooperation, organised by Swedish NC / PA Education, 30.9.2025 (online)
 - + many meetings with projects

4. Reporting of year 2025

- Points to decide:
 - Feedback to Nutri lead PAC (related to Interreg funding)
 - Steering Group needs to endorse annual reports
 - Is it ok to do this through silent procedure in January?

5. Workplan for year 2026

- Need to include some flexibility because not exactly known when the new Action Plan will become official
- Prolongation of funding for years 2027-2028
 - Programme monitoring committee will make decisions during spring
 - If approved, then application some time after spring
- Discussions or workshops needed with SG
 - The new cooperation groups that are included to new Actions → how, who?
 - EU MFF → MRS is not mentioned, and role of MRS is probably unclear in other DGs than REGIO → do we see how we could strengthen Nutri's role?
 - Post-2027 → what do we want to achieve with Interreg-funding in post-2027?
- Need to develop communications?
 - LinkedIn account for PA Nutri, newsletter, etc?

5. Workplan for year 2026

- PA Nutri Talks topics?
- Estonian seminar: Integrating water smart agriculture and pollutant control through catchment-based collaboration, 6-7 May in Tallinn
 - Nutri possibly co-organises some kind of discussion on cooperation needs and project ideas (?)
- EUSBSR Annual Forum, 11-14 May in Tallinn
 - Workshop application deadline 2 February
 - Possible topics:
 - Nutrient recycling: market perspective, governance challenges, youth
 - CiNURGi and PA Bioeconomy willing to co-organise
 - Something else?
- Possible other events, like start events for potential platforms

5. Workplan for year 2026

- SG needs to endorse also the workplan
 - Is it ok to do it through silent procedure?



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6. AOB

6. AOB

- Organisation change from ELY Centre to Economic Development Centre of Southwest Finland
 - National Coordinators Group has accepted the change in PAC-list
 - Now making organisational change to Interreg-funding
- Polish PAC now only Jan, and he has more time dedicated to being a PAC



7. Timelines for next meeting