



EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

**Policy Area Nutri Steering Group meeting
16.9.2025**

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Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
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1. Welcome!

Opening, Estonian chairs

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Possible updates from BSP, DG REGIO
3. Action Plan situation
4. Updates on events and Annual Forum
5. Platform-project call
6. AOB
7. Timelines for next meetings



2. Updates from BSP, DG REGIO

3. Action Plan situation

- Feedback from National Coordinators Group and BSP (Tom Schumacher)
- Next steps for finalization of the Actions

Timeline:

By 29 August – Working draft submitted to BSP (does not require SG approval)

1–5 September – BSP prepares and sends written feedback

16 September – PA Nutri’s SG meeting, I will present there something about the texts and Tom will discuss BSP’s feedback

18 September, 13:30 CET – One-on-one feedback calls between PACs and BSP

11 September – Joint Tallinn workshop for cross-PA review and alignment

By 31 October – Final SG-approved texts submitted to BSP for NCG circulation

3. Action Plan situation

- Draft text is prepared and sent to BSP for comments and ideas for improvement
- The formula is bit different than the longer version prepared last year
 - Shorter
 - But also adds one or two more boxes to fill in about impacts (climate change mitigation and adaptation separated, and new “finances-box”)
 - Will need to decide if we include something to each, or stick to the previously defined objectives

4. Updates on events and Annual Forum – past ones

- Joint statement to EU's open consultation on Bioeconomy Strategy (June 2025)
 - <https://eusbsr.eu/shaping-the-future-of-the-eus-bioeconomy-together/>
 - How to continue with similar joint statements?
 - Are they an appropriate tool?
 - Any ideas how to improve the concept?
- Next possibility to do something similar is EU's open consultation on climate resilience and risk management, expected late this year
 - Parliament and Council published positions emphasize nature-based solutions, bottom-up approach in raising interest, importance of cohesion policy, etc
 - Relevant projects around catchment-based approach to water management, catchment officers, water re-use
 - HELCOM Policy Brief on integrated rural water management

4. Updates on events and Annual Forum - past ones

- PA Nutri Talks on nutrient recycling was in June
 - Around 65 people online
- PA Nutri Talks on water management in rural areas was on 9 August
 - 48 people online
 - Since the HELCOM Policy Brief on integrated water management in rural areas, there has been quite a lot of progress on catchment officer –concept in many countries
 - Can be worth to continue supporting it?
 - Received lots of good comments afterwards, one wish to have more time for interaction and discussions on cooperation
 - A suggestion to have an international networking event for catchment officers and catchment coordinators

4. Updates on events and Annual Forum - coming up

- **Joint PA Nutri and PA Hazards workshop on sea-based hot spot criteria, 17.9.2025**
 - Organised together with HELCOM, Wera Leujak
 - Main idea is to help experts exchange thoughts, and gather ideas for future work of PA Nutri and PA Hazards
 - Cooperation needs
 - Preliminary project ideas
 - Topics cover now all marine hot spots and ports in addition
 - Now ~30 registrations

4. Updates on events and Annual Forum - coming up

- **Workshop at Macro-regional and sea-basin strategies Days**
 - Title: Joining Forces for Water Resilience– Macro-regional Contributions to the EU Resilience Agenda
 - Main idea: What is being done towards water resilience, and how the different MRS could cooperate in the future on the topic
 - Main organiser: Danube MRS, together with EUSBSR, EUSAIR, EUSALP, Danube Youth Council, European Commission
 - PA Nutri will contribute by “laying the groundwork” → why the state of the waters is important, why its especially important for BSR, how drought has been impacting the region (Jan), what kind of projects are ongoing that work on relevant topics
 - Also relays remarks from Baltic Sea Region Youth Forum representatives
- Event is followed up by a panel discussion at the Landscape conference of EUSALP, where cooperation ideas are further discussed!

4. Updates on events and Annual Forum - coming up

- **Annual Forum workshops**
 - Nutri is involved with two workshops:
 - New circular solutions, PA Ship leading, and Nutri, Hazards, Bioeconomy joining
 - Presents projects developing new circular solutions,
 - From Nutri's part GYPREG, CiNURGi and FERTITEC
 - Counteracting BSR Scarcity - Building water-smart cities through regenerative water and nutrient cycles
 - Projects WaterMan and NurseCoast II leading the organisation, others (ReNutriWater, CityBlues) join the panel discussion

4. Updates on events and Annual Forum

- Other past smaller events, organised/participated/was a speaker:
 - EUSBSR internal meeting in Turku, 1.-2.4.
 - Published an article about nutrient recycling in Turun Sanomat
 - Europe Day, local introduction to EUSBSR and PAs Nutri and Ship, 9.5.
 - Baltic Sea Region Forum in Turku, 12.5., a panel discussion about nutrient recycling
 - Europe Forum in Turku had a panel discussion about nutrient recycling, organised by CiNURGi, 27.8.
- Coming up:
 - Swedish national coordination is organising a Swedish seminar about capacity building for transnational coordination, where there will be a discussion about what kind of cooperation is ongoing about the Save the sea-objective, 30.9.'
 - CiNURGi organises a workshop on 20.10.

4. Updates on events and Annual Forum

- Possibility to apply for Estonian funding for an event in spring 2026?
 - Uncertain if works out
 - But if the opportunity presents itself, then suggestions for topics:
 - Nutrient recycling - how to get more projects about it during next EU-programme period + development of preliminary project ideas
 - Water management in the rural areas: catchment/nature/restoration officers/coordinators
 - International networking opportunity for people who are already doing the work as coordinators/officers
 - What is their role now, and what are the new arising needs coming from EU's nature protection and nature restoration goals?
 - How such bottom-up activity is supported in different countries and how it could be further supported (policy exchange + project idea development)



5. Platform-project call



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6. AOB



7. Timelines for next meeting