



# **EUSBSR** EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

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**Policy Area Nutri Steering Group meeting**  
**24.3.2025**

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**Interreg**  
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by  
the European Union



## 1. Welcome!

Opening, chair Robert Żurawski

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## Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Updates from BSP, DG REGIO
3. Next chair for PA Nutri
4. Action Plan situation
5. Public consultation on EU's long-term budget (MFF)
6. Upcoming events
7. Platform-project call (quests)
8. Ukraine-cooperation
9. AOB
10. Timelines for next meetings



## 2. Updates from BSP, DG REGIO

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### 3. Next chair for PA Nutri

- Rules of procedure - Article 5: The rotating SG Presidency
  - *“The SG presidency should rotate among the SG Members, normally on an annual basis and following the Presidency of the National Coordinators Group.”*
  - NCG rotation (1 July – 30 June):
    - 2024/2025 Poland
    - 2025/2026 Estonia
    - 2026/2027 Denmark

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## 4. Action Plan situation

- NCG has had first discussions, but didn't yet make any decisions
- They will invite each PA to a discussion with them during April

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## 5. Public consultation on EU's long-term budget (MFF)

- BSP, NCG and PACs are jointly gathering information for SG members to use
  - Common interests such as simplification of EU-funding
  - Selection of most important issues,...
- Public consultation deadline 6 May 2025
- Materials will be shared with the SG later

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## 6. Upcoming events

- An article to Baltic Rim -journal was submitted on “Cooperation on nutrient management in the BSR”
  - Not yet published
- A request for a newspaper (Turun Sanomat) article on importance of nutrient recycling
- National Baltic Sea Region Forum, 12.5.2025
  - Panellist on nutrient recycling

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## 6. Upcoming events

### 1.-2.4. NC-PAC live meeting in Turku

- Organised by BSP
- Workshops:
  - Strengthening Actions for implementation & peer learning
  - Understanding funders' reality
    - What funders expect and need, how Actions could be positioned to align with funding opportunities
  - Extracting essentials for the final Action Plan

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## 6. PA Nutri Talks - Nutrient recycling in the Baltic Sea Region

- Monday 9 June, starting at 13 EET / 12 CET
- Jointly with PA Bioeconomy, applied for EU Green Week partner event-status

Draft programme:

- 1) Introduction – Elsi Kauppinen, coordinator for the EUSBSR Policy Area Nutri, ELY-Centre of South-West Finland
- 2) Country-specific examples:
  - Swedish experiences about a network for recycling nutrients from wastewater, “Svenska Näringsplattformen” - Elin Kusoffsky, Rise
  - Recycled Nutrients- Latvian Farmers’ Perspective - Zanda Melnalksne, Biedrība Zemnieku saeima, Latvian agricultural producers’ organization
- 3) Project presentations, with a special focus on how farmers/farmer organisations are included in the projects:
  - Fertitec, FERTILiser product recovery from secondary raw materials using best available TECHniques- Erik Sindhøj and Cheryl Marie Cordeiro, Rise
  - Updates from CiNURGi, Circular nutrients for a sustainable Baltic Sea Region - Erik Sindhøj and Cheryl Marie Cordeiro, Rise
  - GREENHOOD, Nutrient management strategies for regional ecosystems across Europe, Sari Luostarinen or Kari Ylivainio Luke
- 4) Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, new regulations on phosphorus recycling, and considerations about N-removal in cold climates, Chris Thornton, European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform
- 5) Discussion/presentation:
  - How we can get more involvement from farmers, farmers unions/organizations and advisory organizations

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## 6. PA Nutri Talks - Water and nutrient management

- August/September
- Preliminary programme:
  - 1) Introduction – Elsi Kauppinen, coordinator for the EUSBSR Policy Area Nutri, ELY-Centre of South-West Finland
  - 2) HELCOM Policy Brief - Integrated rural water management
  - 3) Finnish experiences from a programme supporting catchment planning and catchment officers
  - 4) Polish experiences from improving water retention
  - 5) Project presentations:
    - BaltCOP – a ICB project on catchment officers
    - WSSP – a ICB project on water safety plan (risk assessments)
    - Other possible project presentations
  - 6) ?
  - 7) Discussion:
    - Any experiences that show how/if extreme events cause increases in nutrient run-off?
    - Does water management improve nutrient retention? Is there is any way to show results?
    - Are there key take aways on cooperation with local stakeholders? Is there anything that should be improved? Does good cooperation trickle into other types of topics, like agricultural practices?

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## 6. Upcoming events

- PA Nutri – Hazards – HELCOM workshops on sediments (internal loading and contaminated sediments) and possible new sediment-hot spots
- First workshop:
  - EUSBSR point of view: Sediments are in new Actions of PA Nutri and PA Hazards, important to set up cooperation
  - Low barrier workshop, not too demanding, a way to help countries in their work
  - Target group: Experts that are applying the new hot spots criteria in the countries
  - Aim: To let the experts present their state-of-play and methodologies, and to exchange practices.
    - Compare experiences from applying new criteria for selection of new candidate hot spots
      - Sweden furthest along in testing (?), could present their results
    - Discuss knowledge gaps, gaps in accessibility of data, etc
    - Discuss the different approaches possible for selecting hot spots/applying the criteria: Sector-based, area-based or a hybrid approach
    - Possible transboundary hot spots?
    - Possible addition to the programme: Finnish research on significance of internal loading at the Archipelago Sea
  - **Timing: either before or after the INF-document deadline (before or after Easter)?**

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## 6. Upcoming events

- Possible second open workshop for spreading information about sediment-related projects, and discussing funding options for removal of hot spots
  - Target group: To invite a larger range of actors, experts but also funding programmes. Industry/stakeholders?
  - Aim: To discuss possible funding sources, to support Contracting Parties in implementation of possible future remediation activities on these sites. To lift the issue of making hot spots a criteria/advantage when applying for funding (EU and national). Spread information about the possible new sediment hot spots to people working on coastal and marine management and relevant sectoral experts.
    - Also present ongoing sediment-related projects and networks?
  - Timing: Late in 2025, or early 2026. Possibly after the hot spots have been designated?

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## 6. Upcoming events

- EUSBSR Annual Forum
  - Many themes focused on safety
    - Environmental security and climate adaptation
  - 29.10. Engagement Day, a side event organised by UBC, CBSS, ...
  - 30.-31.10. Event days
  - Location Sopot/Gdansk
- Call for workshops opens in April
- Early idea about a workshop with PA Bioeconomy on self-supply of fertilizers, and security aspects of water (drought, floods)
  - Finland preparing a report on circularity of micronutrients and potassium

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## 7. Platform-project call

- Situation with platform-applications
- Quests:
  - Eetu Virtanen / HELCOM → BSR Circular Nutrient platform -application
  - Marzena Smol / Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences → CircuBioHub, second nutrient recycling platform
  - Paula Biveson / Centrum Balticum & Klara Ramm / Izba Gospodarcza „Wodociągi Polskie” → WaterNutriLoop – water re-use /water resilience platform
- Three applications will be presented at the meeting. Discussion with the applicants on improvements, etc

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## 8. Ukraine-cooperation

- Presentation on Clean Baltic Source -project and its continuation
- Quests:
  - Nataliya Kruta / Basin department of water resources of Zakhidnyi Buh and Sian rivers
  - Topi Helle / Finnish Water Forum



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**9. AOB**



## 10. Timelines for next meeting