



EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

Roles and responsibilities of the key actors of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

26 April 2012 | Warsaw, Poland

Roles and responsibilities for the key actors

European Commission

Based on the mandate received from the Council in October 2009:

- **not a leader, not an implementer,**
- **but a coordinator at key stages, a facilitator:**
 - Coordination with MSs and key partners of the Strategy in order to find solutions to core issues acknowledged as such by all partners.
 - Facilitation for implementation of the Strategy in cooperation with MS.
- **and a reporter:**
 - For evaluation, and for update and review purposes when needed in cooperation with MSs.

Roles and responsibilities for the key actors



High Level Group

Mainly:

- **an advisor:**
 - on the implementation of the Strategy and its evolution.
- **and a «proposer»:**
 - on how to strengthen the implementation of the Strategy.

NB: HLG now covers two macro-regional strategies concerning 15 MSs



Roles and responsibilities for the key actors



Member State

- **Implementer of the Strategy, and guarantor for its implementation through:**
 - Continuous political commitment;
 - Promotion of the Strategy in EU policies;
 - Embedding of the Strategy in national and regional policies and plans;
 - Existence of coordination at national level;
 - Continuous support to NCPs/PACs/HALs



National Contact Point (1)

- **Seek political support and contribute to political commitment.**
- **Cooperate with other NCPs.**
- **Ensure coordination of and support to the Strategy's implementation:**
 - Ensure information to, consultation with and seek involvement of national institutions;
 - Facilitate involvement of other relevant stakeholders;
 - Maintain an ongoing policy dialogue and work with national coordination body;
 - Encourage dialogue between relevant programmes/financial instruments and national stakeholders;
 - Identify the Priority Area Focal Points.

National Contact Point (2)

- **Formulate and communicate national positions on the Strategy and Action Plan.**
- **In close cooperation with the EC, PACs and HALs to participate in the review and updating of the Strategy and Action Plan.**
- **Support PACs in the implementation of the Strategy.**
- **Regularly monitor and report on the coordination activities to the EC.**
- **Encourage participation of all stakeholders from the entire macro-region in the implementation of the Strategy.**
- **Promote the visibility of the Strategy.**

Priority Area Focal Point (1)

MSs are appointing Priority Area Focal Points (line ministries, agencies, other national/regional institutions) for each Priority Area.

Priority Area Focal Point serve as liaison person at national level for all matters regarding the Priority Area concerned.

Priority Area Focal Point do not hold the position as PAC.

Priority Area Focal Point (2)

- **Function as a Focal Point for the PA in the home country:**
 - Participate in national coordination regarding the Strategy;
 - Provide information on the PA to authorities or public, whenever requested;
 - Identify relevant contact persons in the home country for PA activities and Flagship Projects;
 - Assist the PACs to ensure communication and visibility of the PA;
 - Ensure that decisions regarding the PA are communicated to the relevant stakeholders.
- **Liaise regularly with the PACs in order to:**
 - Contribute to a policy discussion within the PA concerned;
 - Attend relevant activities, e.g. Steering Committees, meetings and conferences, of the PA;
 - Provide information on activities and projects in the home country of relevance to the PA;
 - Convey positions to the PA and ensure they are nationally consolidated among the authorities and stakeholders concerned.

Priority Area Coordinator / Horizontal Action Leader (1)

Background:

Lack of clear description of tasks. Often difficult to obtain sufficient resources nationally, as the management is not aware of the amount of work required.
Still greater differences between the level of activity in different PAs.
Confusion as to what a PAC can/should do.

Proposal:

Clear and relatively ambitious job description. Considered realistic, if the objectives set in the Strategy should be obtained. We are aware that for some PAs/HAs, it might be difficult to live up to due to scarce resources.

Overall task of PACs/HALs:

Facilitate involvement of and cooperation with relevant stakeholders from the entire macro-region

Priority Area Coordinator / Horizontal Action Leader (2)

- Propose targets and ensure follow-up.
- Review the relevance of the Priority Area/Horizontal Action.
- Propose necessary updates incl. the addition, modification or deletion of actions and Flagship Projects.
- Facilitate policy discussions regarding the PA/HA.
- Facilitate development and implementation of actions and Flagship Projects.
- Convey results and recommendations of Flagship Projects to the policy level.
- Ensure communication and visibility.
- Maintain a dialogue with financing programmes/instruments on alignment of funding.
- Liaise and cooperate with other PACs and HALs.
- Monitor progress and report on it.

Flagship Project and Flagship Project Leader

Background:

No clear guidelines regarding the criteria for becoming a Flagship Project. Different practises.

Sometimes unclear which rights and duties a Flagship Project has.

Definition:

The actions of the Strategy are implemented by means of Flagship Projects.

Flagship Projects demonstrate the progress of the Strategy and are frequently the result of a policy discussion.

Flagship Projects translates the desire and ambition of a PA in a field of action.

Proposal:

Describe the role and responsibilities of Flagship Project Leaders in the Strategy.

Set clear criteria and a practical procedure for adoption of new Flagship Projects

- should make it more simple to define, if a given project can obtain Flagship Status;
- should ensure, that the decision making is transparent and fair;
- should stimulate that new promising proposals for Flagship Projects are developed.

Key criteria for (new) Flagship Projects

- it has a high macro-regional impact.
- it is contributing to fulfilling the objectives of the EUSBSR.
- it is related to the implementation of one or more actions of the PA concerned.

In general, a Flagship Project is also expected to:

- have a clear transnational dimension.
- be mature for implementation:
- can be implemented within a realistic timeframe.
- has a clear financial and activity plan.
- partnership is established and a Flagship Project Leader is identified.

Priority Area Coordinator(s) may decide on specific criteria under respective Priority Area after consultation with NCP and DG Regional Policy.

Tasks of a Flagship Project Leader

- Ensure implementation of the Flagship Project.
- Liaise regularly with the respective Priority Area Coordinator(s):
 - Take actively part in the activities of the respective Priority Area, e.g. relevant meetings and conferences;
 - Regularly monitor and report on the progress of the Flagship Project to the Priority Area Coordinator(s).
- Ensure sustainability and promotion of the Flagship Project results. Support the Priority Area Coordinator(s) in conveying relevant Flagship Project results and recommendations to the policy discussions and policy development in the BSR.
- Establish and maintain cooperation with other relevant Flagship Projects of the EUSBSR, in order to ensure coherence, exchange information and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Ensure communication and visibility of the Flagship Project and its results.

Bodies in charge of implementation of programmes/ financial instruments (1)

In the planning phase of future programmes/financial instruments:

- Collaboration with relevant authorities, the Strategy's actors and other bodies in charge of implementation of programmes/financial instruments.
- Support of coordination between existing policies, programmes and financial instruments and their integration into the national and regional strategic planning.
- Identification of specific projects/actions/measures/priorities of the programme that can contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Strategy.
- Allocation of financial resources to support the EUSBSR implementation.

Bodies in charge of implementation of programmes/ financial instruments (2)

In the implementation of the programmes/financial instruments:

- Development of cooperation projects by applying relevant methodologies, working tools and aligning available financial resources for their funding.
- Provision of administrative and technical assistance to support the main actors and activities necessary for the implementation of the Strategy.
- Disseminate information to potential project applicants on the opportunities offered by the programme/financial instrument for the implementation of the Strategy.

In the reporting phase:

- Report on projects contributing to the Strategy's implementation (also Flagship Projects) and on funding allocated to those.



Thank you for your attention!