



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

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The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea  
Region

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## The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)



*'The EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region is a major step as it marks a new way of working together in the Union.'*

# The EUSBSR

- The first macro-regional strategy in the EU;
- Reflects the needs and key directions of Baltic Sea region and 8 EU member states;
- Based on better and more effective use of **existing** policies, funding, institutions and legislation.



- **Three objectives:** Save the Sea, Connect the Region and Increase prosperity.
- **Clear agreement on priorities and leadership to focus and to deliver:**  
Broad ownership of Action Plan with 22 priority areas / horizontal actions and about 80 flagship projects.
- **Integrated approach:** Environment, Economy, Accessibility, Security...

## The added-value of the EUSBSR

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- Mobilises projects across borders and sectors;
- Serves as a catalyst for strengthening cooperation mechanisms within Member States and among countries in a Region;
- By involving all relevant policy areas and countries, it promotes balanced regional development;
- Contributes to channel existing funding instruments so their potential can be fully utilised.

## Implementation of the EUSBSR (I)

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- Implementation system: making better use of existing institutions, funding and legislation - no new EU structures, EU laws, or EU money;
- Policy development: European Council and High-Level Group;
- Coordination, monitoring and follow-up: European Commission on the basis of a mandate from the Council in October 2009 and again in 2012;
- Implementation on the ground: Member State or equivalent coordinates priority area / horizontal action; Ministry, agency, or other body leads flagship projects.

## Implementation of the EUSBSR (II)

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- Very demanding process which aims at improving coherence and coordination between a large number of:
  - policies and priorities at the european, national, regional levels;
  - instruments and programmes;
  - partners, including public, NGO, and private;
  - countries and regions - sometimes heterogeneous.
- Macro-regional strategy requires combination of:
  - strong political committment;
  - preparedness for multilevel governance;
  - knowledge management experience.

## Review process (I)

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- Annual implementation report, June 2011;
- Polish EU Presidency, Council Conclusions, November 2011;
- Commission Communication, March 2012;
- Danish EU Presidency, Council Conclusions, June 2012;
- Review of the Action Plan, autumn 2012.

=> Strategy 2.0

### The key modifications of the Action Plan are:

- The structure modified from four pillars to three objectives - Save the Sea, Connect the Region and Increase prosperity;
- targets and indicators are introduced at priority area and horizontal action level in coherence with those fixed at strategy level;
- the roles and responsibilities of the main implementing stakeholders are described;
- close links with Europe 2020 Strategy.

## The EUSBSR and the future EU programmes

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- Macro-regional strategies included in the draft regulations, especially:
  - Common provisions, Art. 14: Partnership Contracts to take account, where appropriate, of macro-regional strategies;
  - Common provisions, Art. 87: Relevant Operational Programmes to set out their planned interventions to support the Strategy;
  - ETC regulation, Art. 6 allowing transnational programmes to support implementation (TA).
- Seed money facility to ensure the development of good, relevant projects run by Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (1,3 M€ ERDF) - (see also Swedish Institute and CBSS).
- Shoul not be limited only to ETC programmes.

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Thank you for your attention.

For more information:

<http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/>

