



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

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### Norway and the EU **EUSBSR Action Plan enabling neighbourhood cooperation**

25.02.2021 | Valentina Frezzella



Federal Foreign Office



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## Regional Cooperation through the EUSBSR

- Unique platform for cooperation and coordination between EU Member States
- Cooperation with non-EU countries in the region where relevant and appropriate (Belarus, Iceland, Norway and Russia).
- Focus on challenges and opportunities, which are addressed best in a regional manner- these challenges go beyond borders of participating EU countries



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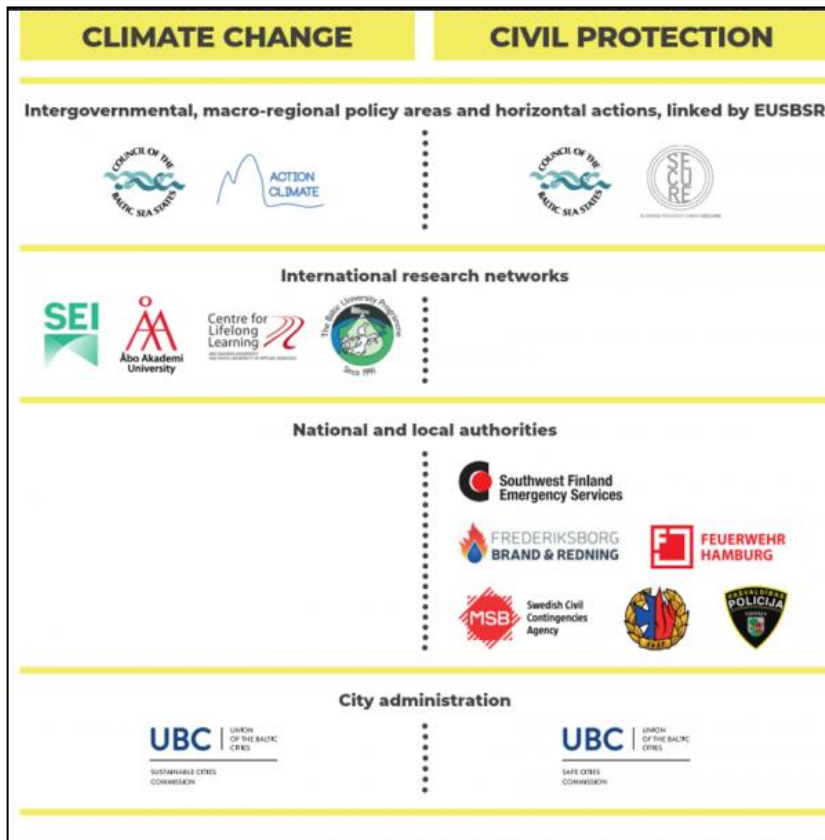
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## Cooperation with non-EU neighbouring countries- Why?

- EEA member states Norway and Iceland, as well as Belarus and Russia are inextricably linked to BSR due to historical, political, economic, environmental and cultural ties
- Same priorities in our policy making e.g. European Green Deal, Covid 19 recovery programme
- MRS connects European priorities with regional ones going beyond EU borders – target in a specific regional context



# Bringing regions and countries together



February 2021



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## EUSBSR Action Plan revision adopted by the EC

The European Commission has adopted the revised EUSBSR Action Plan on February 17 2021 and the revision process is now completed.

## Revised Action Plan - What changes about cooperation with neighbours?

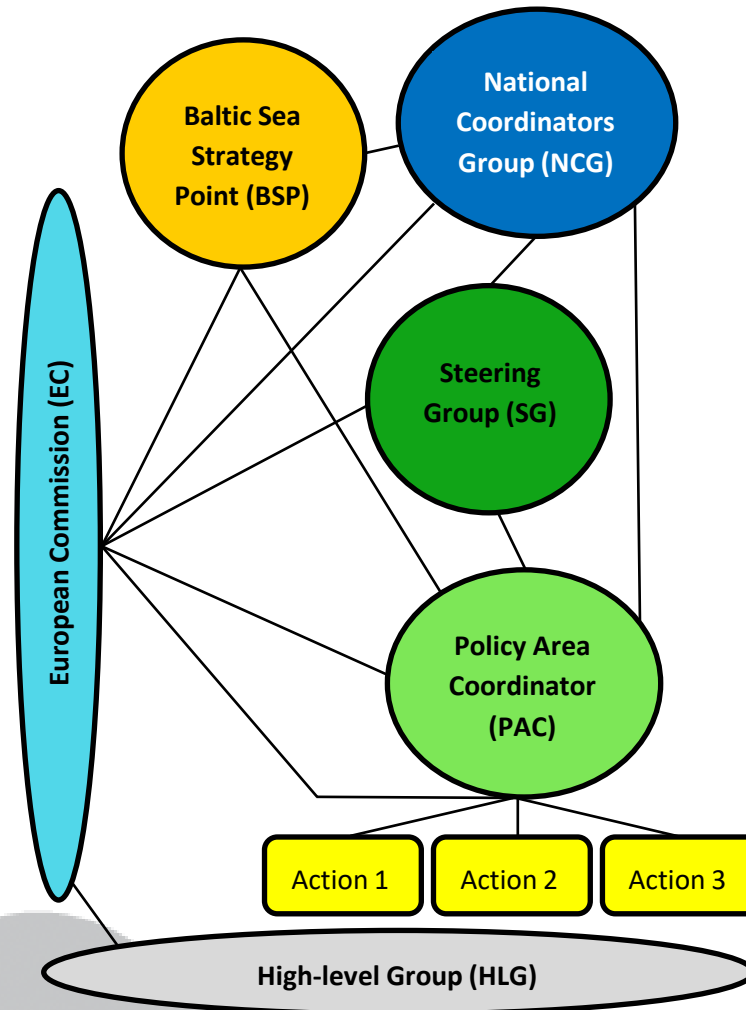
- Integration of HAs 'Climate', 'Neighbours' and 'Capacity' into the Let's Communicate Project – Mainstreaming (including in all level of implementation)
- Inclusion of neighbour cooperation in all PAs and SGs
- New opportunity for PAs and neighbouring countries:

Allows PAs to tailor-make cooperation in ways that are most efficient for each PA

Allows neighbouring countries to decide in which PA it wants to take part (sets its own priorities in policy making)



# EUSBSR Governance Structure - Introduction of the BSP





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## Role of the BSP

- Targeted capacity building for EUSBSR stakeholders including those in neighbouring countries
- Sharing of knowledge and best practices between Pas as regards integration of essential elements such as cooperation with neighbouring countries



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## We need you!

- EUSBSR is a EU strategy but its objectives can only be successfully pursued through constructive cooperation with neighbouring non-EU countries
- EUSBSR is willing and open to engage non-EU stakeholders



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**Thank you for your attention!**