



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

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## Introduction to the EUSBSR *Framework for cooperation*

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# European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

- 1<sup>st</sup> macro-regional strategy (2009)

**8 EU Member States**

**4 Neighbouring Countries**

85 mill (16 % of the EU population)

- **Intergovernmental initiative** initiated by countries and **endorsed by the European Council.**
- The Commission acts as strategic coordinator.
- **A strategic and policy framework for transnational cooperation in Baltic Sea Region** between EU and non-EU countries to address common territorial, economic and social challenges



## EUSBSR objectives and policy areas

- Address challenges and opportunities specific to certain geographical areas - too local to be of direct interest to the whole EU, but too broad to be dealt with efficiently at the national level
- Operationalized by a **rolling Action Plan**
  - 3rd revision adopted in February 2021 as a Commission Staff Working Document
  - Linked the priorities of the strategy with emerging challenges and relevant EU-initiatives
  - strengthen cooperation
  - facilitate the embedding of the priorities into the 2021-2027 'mainstream' and other EU co-funded/instruments and programmes

### SAVE THE SEA

- Nutri
- Hazards
- Bioeconomy
- Ship
- Safe

### CONNECT THE REGION

- Transport
- Energy
- Spatial Planning

### INCREASE PROSPERITY

- Tourism
- Culture
- Innovation
- Health
- Education
- Secure

### 3 Horizontal Actions:

Neighbours

Capacity

Climate

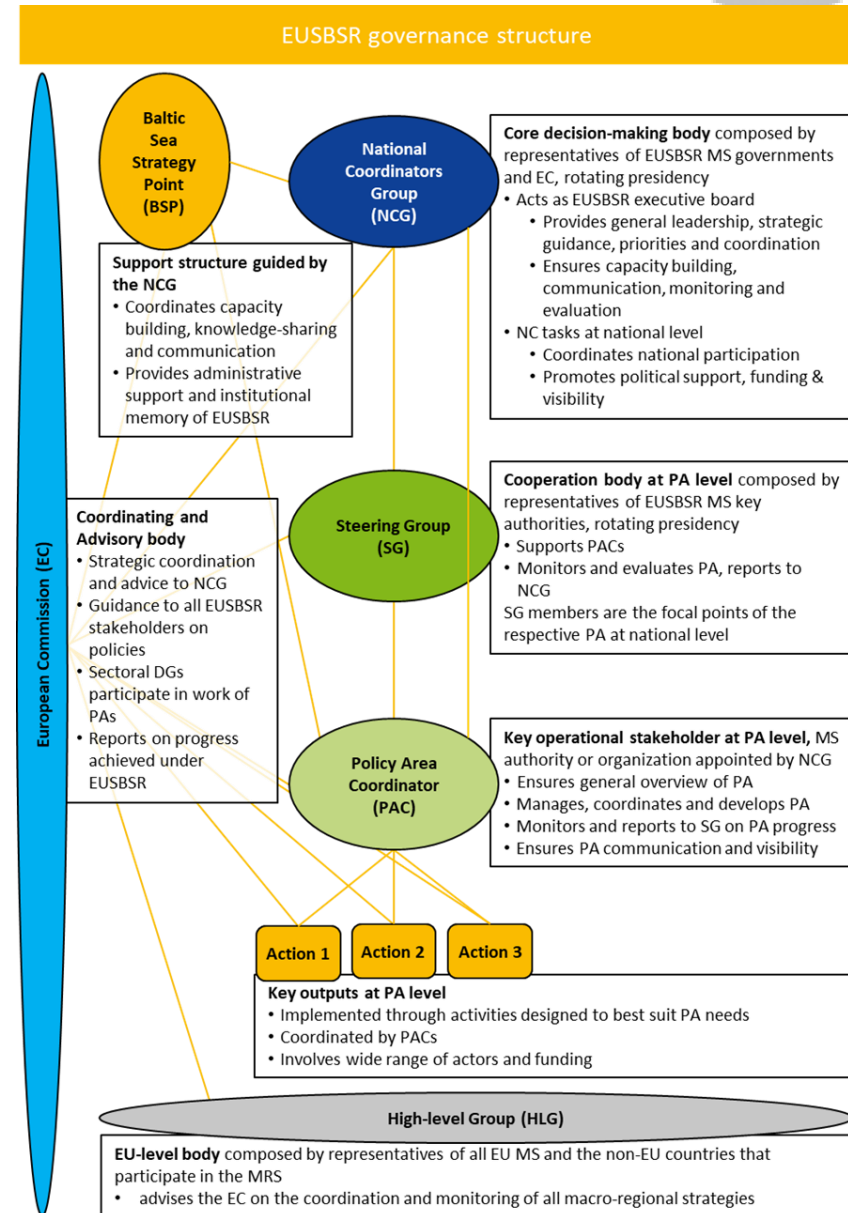
# Governance structure

## 1. Rotating Presidency

- Lithuania (1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022).
- Sweden will take over

## 2. Baltic Sea Strategy Point

- Administrative and technical support
- Coordinate capacity building, knowledge sharing and improve the communication capacity
- Create an institutional memory of the Strategy



## Funding

- **The Macro-regional strategies do not have own funds**
- **Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme provides** funding to EUSBSR flagship projects and administrative activities
- **Alignment of relevant priorities and objectives in MRS with the ones in the mainstream programmes is mandatory**
- Regulatory provisions and requirements for embedding cooperation in mainstream Cohesion policy programmes for 2021-2027 are changed substantially:
  - Increased cooperation between regions and countries is encouraged
  - Actions and investments which have a higher EU added value when implemented jointly is promoted,
  - Funding for inter-regional innovation initiatives and investments in cross-border services or infrastructures is increased
- **Revised Guidance** for policy-makers enabling synergies between European Structural and Investment Funds, Horizon Europe and other innovation-related EU Funds is on the way

## Cooperation

- **Networks of (managing) authorities**
- **Designated functional mail boxes** to serve as a contact point for MRS related issues for all relevant EU directly managed programmes are established:
  - Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, Connecting Europe Facility, Life, Single Market, Erasmus+
- **INTERACT** (<https://interreg.eu/programme/interact/>)
  - carry out actions that facilitate and provide guidance and support for the territorial cooperation programmes regarding implementation issues, cooperation actions, establish platforms for knowledge exchange, identify and spread good practices, develop innovative approaches.

## Mission

By providing a **policy framework for strategic coordination and cooperation** among policies, initiatives, institutions, stakeholders and funding sources EUSBSR will play an important role to the successful green and digital transition, as well as to the strong and resilient recovery in the Baltic Sea region

**The success depends on the clear and determined political support of all participating countries**



**EUSBSR**  
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SEA REGION

[www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu](http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu)

**Thank you for your attention!**

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