



EUSBSR EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

GoSmart BSR

**Bringing regions and countries together
to set a new agenda for competitiveness**

23.02.2021 | Simon Stermann



Federal Foreign Office

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.

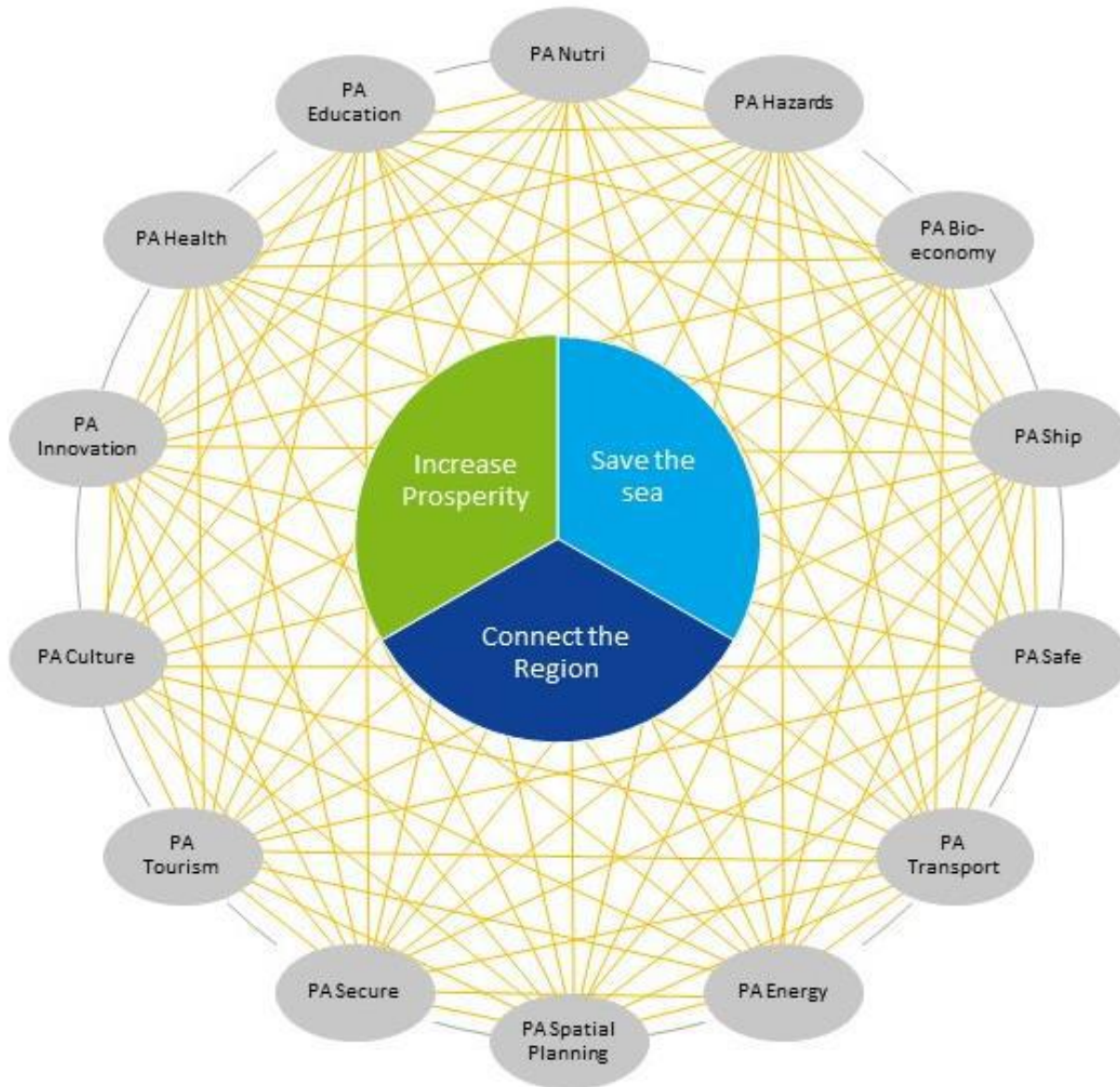


Regional Cooperation through the EUSBSR

- 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

EUSBSR since 2009 - Why?

- Experimental multi-level and cross-sectoral cooperation model for engaging a wide range of stakeholders to network and cooperations.
- Strengthened ownership and raised engagement to tackle common challenges and seize common opportunities.
- The cooperation model itself adds value by connecting people, creating networks, improving coordination and enhancing synergies.
- In 2019 the European Commission reported that the EUSBSR has successfully generated projects, networks and platforms.
- We need a strategic framework promoting more a coherent and synergic implementation of EU policies, programmes and funds.



Council Conclusions - MRS, December 2020

- Art (3) UNDERLINES the importance of capacity-building, clear-cut and results-oriented governance of the MRS and, in that context, CALLS on the Commission to continue to play a leading role in the coordination of MRS and CALLS on **participating countries/regions** to:
 - b) ensure **effective involvement of national/regional/local stakeholders, citizens and civil society, including young people, in the implementation of the MRS;**
 - i) increase **the visibility of the results achieved by the MRS through strategic communication;**

GER Presidency priorities

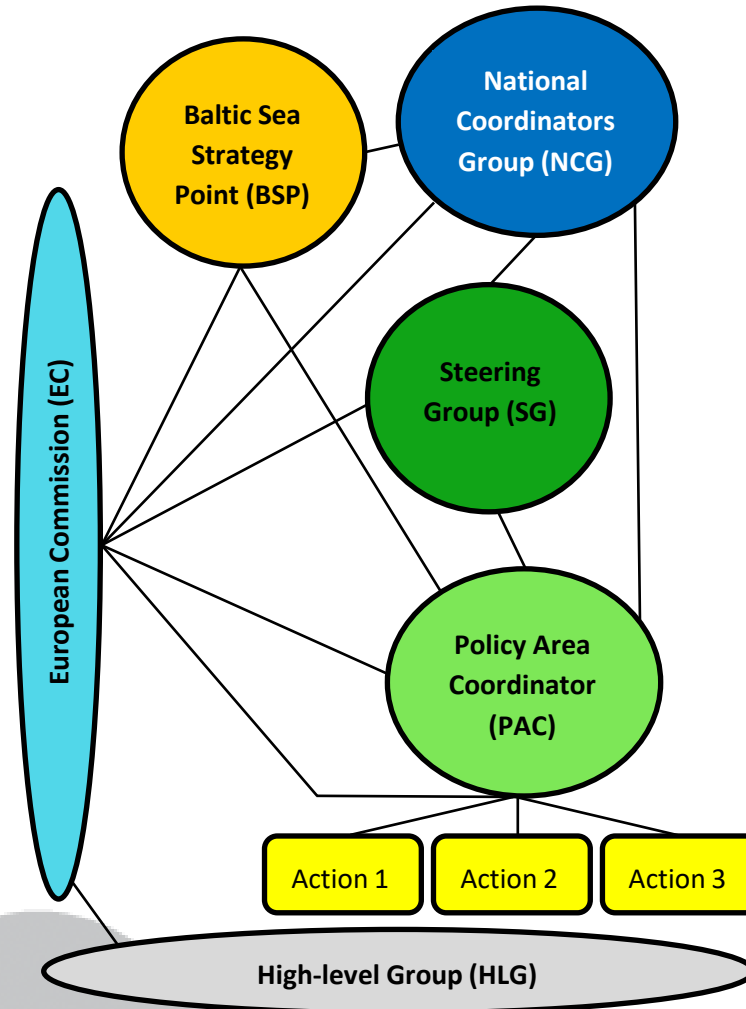


Governance - Aims

- Establishment of the Baltic Sea Strategy Point
 - EUSBSR Governance is consolidated in BSP (administrative and technical support)
- Integration of 'Climate', 'Neighbours' and 'Capacity' into the Let's Communicate Project
- Increase the involvement of a variety of stakeholders (NGOs, civil society, regions, cities, youth organisations and the business community)
- Policy Area coordinators (PACs) can be a representative of a ministry or other official authority of the national or regional government



EUSBSR Governance Structure



Steering Groups (SGs)

- Include national and regional governments
- Support respective PAC/PACs:
 - Guiding the PA through policy discussion and by endorsing new objectives, developments and operation formats
 - Endorsing proposals to update targets, references etc.
- SGs ensure linkages between macro-regional, national and regional processes/policy-making
- SGs evaluate and endorse annual reports by PACs on PA achievements



Policy Areas (PAs)

- HA climate change integrated into all 14 PAs
- Cooperation with neighbouring non-EU countries needs input
- Indicators and Actions were tightened, e.g. PA Secure (from eight to three Actions)
- Indicators and Actions were specified, e.g. PA Energy
- New PA included: PA Spatial Planning (formerly a Horizontal Area)
- Climate protection is now the overall guideline for every PA



New Action Plan 2021 -> Regional Cooperation

- Close coordination with the Policy Area Coordinators
- Promotion of the updated EUSBSR Action Plan within the greater EUSBSR network (CPMR BSC, BSSSC, UBC, etc.)
- Follow up with DG Regio and relevant EC stakeholders
- Fostering the Embedding process on EU, national, regional and municipal levels

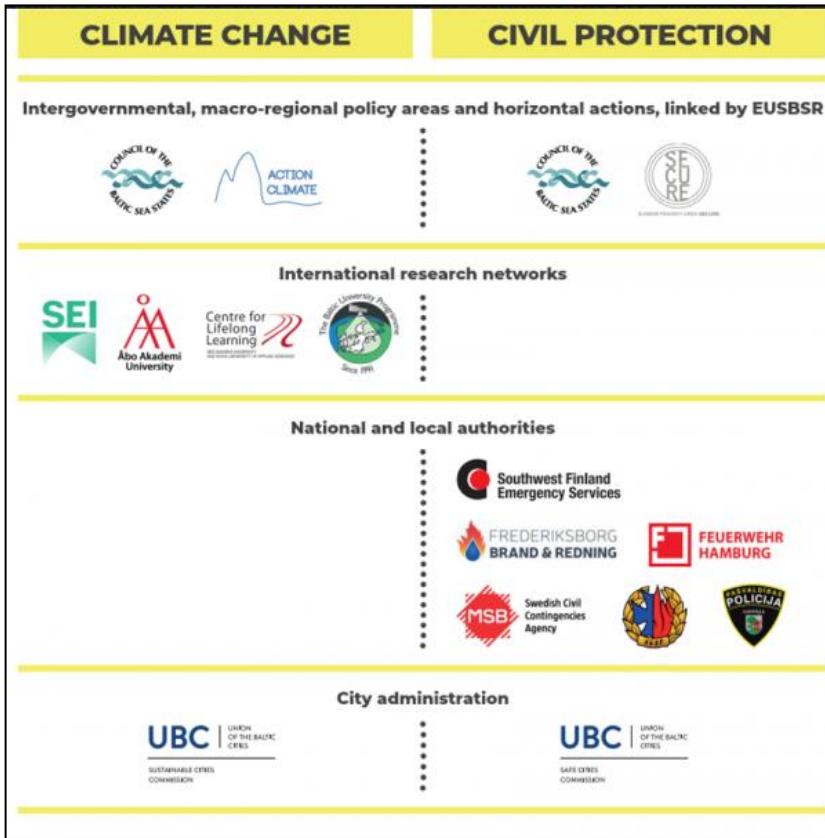


Capacity Building

- Alignment of funding (Embedding) within the EUSBSR
- Exchange with the Managing Authorities Networks
- Promotion of EUSBSR communication strategies



Bringing regions and countries together





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Thank you for your attention!