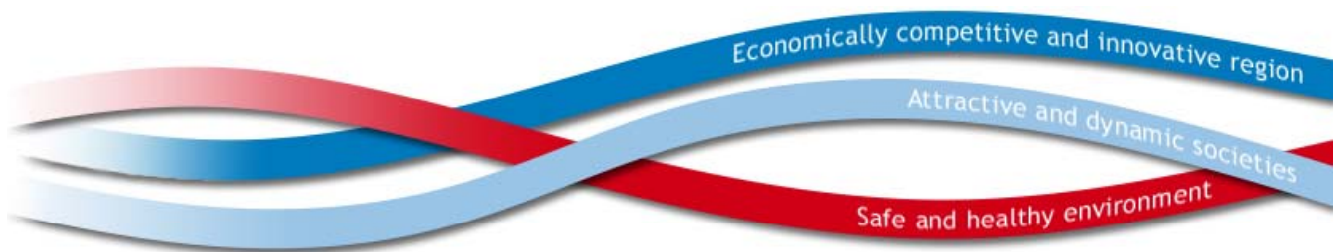


CENTRAL BALTIC INTERREG IV A PROGRAMME 2007–2013

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its implication for
ETC Programmes/Social Funds (Bratislava, 16-17 March 2010)



A – The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) – The Basics

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The Strategy

- Council Conclusions (14 Dec 2007, p. 59):
"..., the European Council invites the Commission **to present an EU strategy for the Baltic Sea region at the latest by June 2009**. This strategy should inter alia help to address the urgent environmental challenges related to the Baltic Sea. ..."
- Council Conclusions (29-30 October 2009, pp. 35-36):
"The European Council **adopts the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and endorses the Council conclusions** on the subject (13744/09). This Strategy constitutes an integrated framework to address common challenges, i.a. the urgent environmental challenges related to the Baltic Sea, and to contribute to the economic success of the region and to its social and territorial cohesion, as well as to the competitiveness of the EU.
- In between: Stakeholder conferences, thematic seminars, public consultation, EUSBSR Laboratory Group



EC Communication & Action Plan

- Action Plan accompanies EC Communication on the EUSBSR (10 June 2009)
- Reviewed regularly
- 15 priority areas organised into 4 pillars
- 80 flagship projects (i.e. with high significance)
- 10 horizontal actions (e.g. align eligible funding and policies to the priority areas and actions of the EUSBSR; build a regional identity)





Pillars and priority areas

4 Pillars – To make the BSR...

- a) an environmentally sustainable place
- b) a prosperous place
- c) an accessible and attractive place
- d) a safe and secure place



Pillar 1 (environmentally sustainable place) – Priority areas 1-5

1. To reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels
2. To preserve natural zones and biodiversity including fisheries
3. To reduce the use and impact of hazardous substances
4. To become a model region for clean shipping
5. To mitigate and adapt to climate change



Pillar 2 (prosperous place) – Priority areas 6-9

6. To remove hindrances to the internal market in the BSR including to improve cooperation in the customs and tax area
7. To exploit the full potential of the region in research and innovation
8. Implementing the Small Business Act: to promote entrepreneurship, strengthen SMEs and increase the efficient use of human resources
9. To reinforce sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries



Pillar 3 (accessible and attractive place) – Priority areas 10-12

10. To improve the access to , and the efficiency and security of the energy markets
11. To improve internal and external transport links
12. To maintain and reinforce attractiveness of the BSR in particular through education, tourism and health

Pillar 4 (safe and secure place) – Priority areas 13-15

13. To become a leading region in maritime safety and security
14. To reinforce protection from major emergencies at sea and on land
15. To decrease the volume of, and harm done by, cross border crime





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INTERact Laboratory Group – Members & Mandate

- 16 members coming from:
 - Convergence and Competitiveness Objective programmes + ESF
 - ETC Programmes (cross-border and transnational)
 - ENPI programme representation
 - EC DG Regio
 - Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth
 - International Funding Institutions (NIB, EIB)
- 7 meetings between 5 February 2009 and 2 February 2010
- Mandate:
 - Support the overall coordination aim of the strategy
 - Define the implications on programmes already adopted
 - Seek operative solutions to identified points
 - Identify consequences on programme management= Laboratory to test and shape





Responses to 4 key questions

- How does the EUSBSR affect the respective programmes?
 - How could programme work be organised to facilitate implementation of the strategy?
 - What necessary steps need to be taken concerning application procedures etc?
 - How could cooperation with other financial instruments be organised in order to implement actions mentioned in the strategy?
- **Key answer: There is not the “one and only” answer**
- **Reason: EUSBSR in 2009 for 2007-2013 Programmes**
- **Challenge: to find unified approach supporting the EUSBSR even if in detail different practical solutions due to different set-ups**



- 
- Impact on programmes?

(differently due to EUSBSR added to existing set-up; for some programmes no problem as EUSBSR fits to general set-up and priorities (ETC); for some more complicated due to different original aim (Obj. 1/2); original concerns rather regarding practicalities, not EUSBSR as such)

- How to organise programme work?

(Pro-active top-down project stimulation; targeted calls; selection criterion; preference in funding decisions; EUSBSR responsible in programme structures)

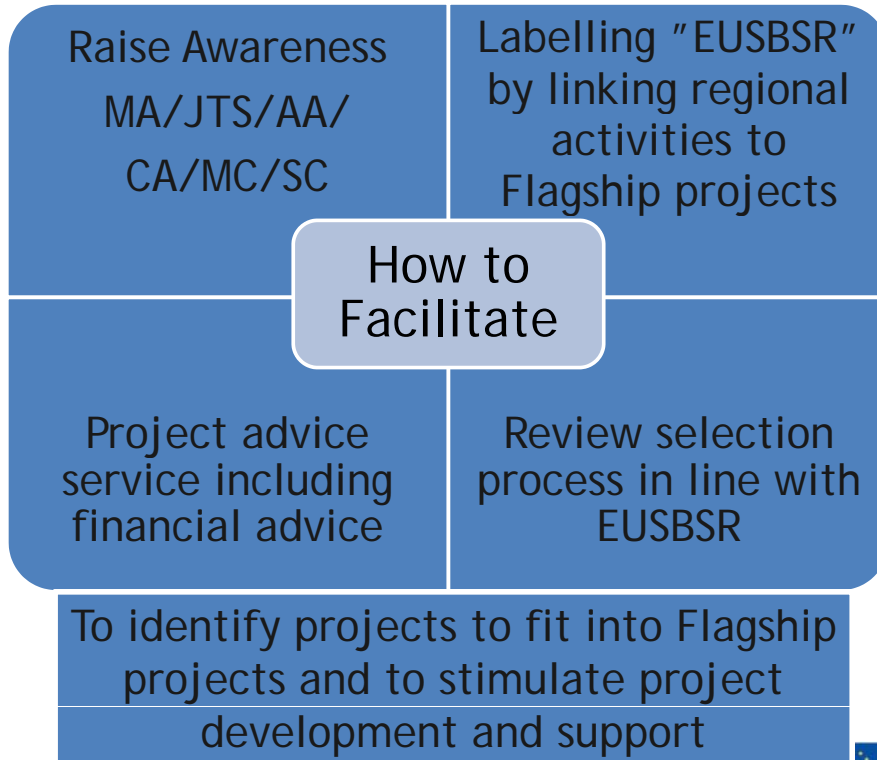
- Necessary steps concerning application procedures etc?

(general information and awareness raising; EUSBSR essential part of project generation activities; input field; flagship recommendation letter; assessment reports for funding decisions)

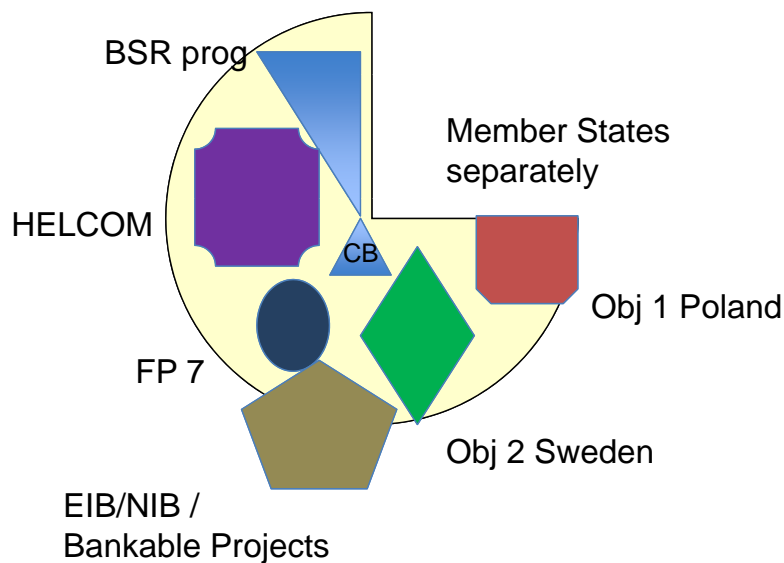
- Cooperation with other financial instruments?

(interlinking of financial instruments beyond “traditional” borders; understanding of own programme as contributing to beyond programme aims; instruments complementing each other via “chain of funding”; including IFIs)





FLP structure



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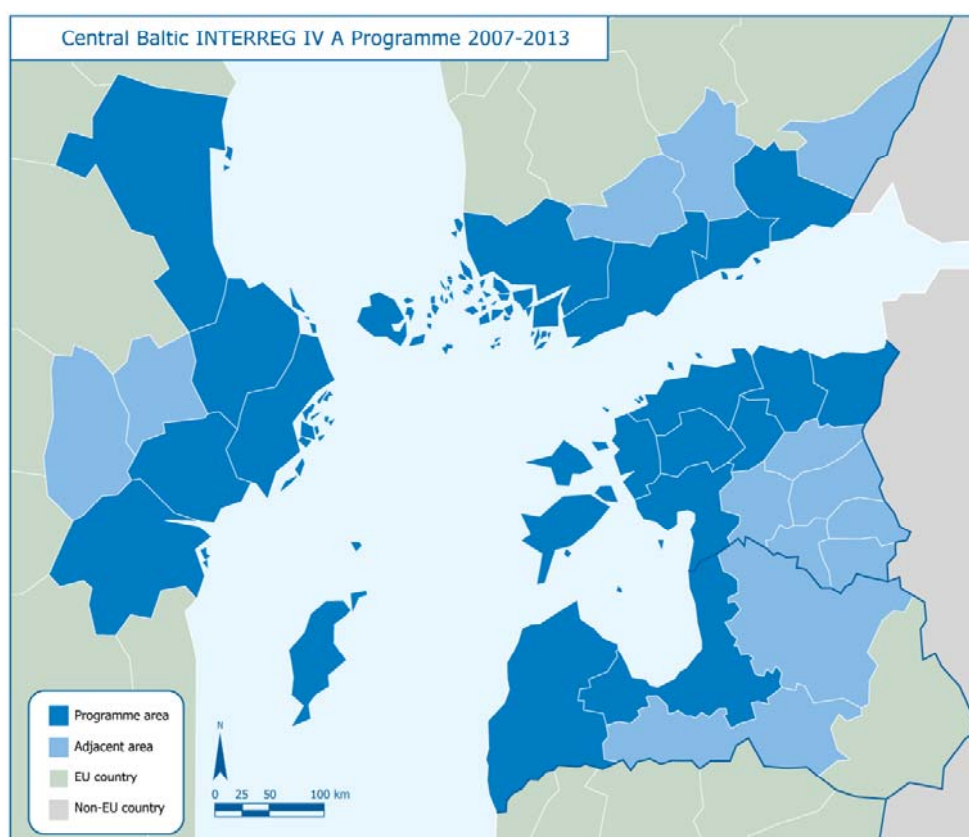
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Central Baltic INTERREG IV A Programme 2007-2013





Discussion and organisation – MC, Task Force

- **Briefings** by EC Desk Officer already at very first MC meeting (19 Feb 2008)
- Head of JTS invited to **INTERACT Laboratory Group** (5 Feb 2009; reporting to MC)
- **Task Force established** by MC (8 May 2009)
- Task Force **met twice** (19 Aug and 9 Nov 2009)
- Findings **discussed and general support** to EUSBSR expressed by MC (25 Nov 2009)
- Two **trainings of JTS staff** on EUSBSR (so far)



Before funding decisions – Application, assessment, recommendation letter

- No separate selection criterion
- **Additional input field** in application form (all projects)
- **Recommendation letter** from PAC (*1st contact*) (CB projects being (part of) a flagship project)
- **Assessed** (JTS) like selection criterion and part of assessment report to Steering Committees
- Essential part of **project generation activities** (involve PACs), **individual consultations etc.**





After funding decisions – Labelling and promotion

- Labelling done **by PACs** (*2nd contact*)
- **Individualised project lists** and summaries
- Check if relevance (no financial consequences)
- **Labelled projects highlighted** in Programme information activities (e.g. Showcase Brochure)
- **1st round** Dec '09-Feb '10 (66% feedback rate)
- Feedback in general very positive, some hesitations due to "first time insecurities"



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Working meeting (Riga, 11 March 2010)

- 110 NCP, PAC, OP (MA), IFI, EC, LabGroup
- 1st face-to-face working level meeting for exchange on expectations, resources and first experiences
- Questions regarding practicalities, not EUSBSR as such (reluctance vs. realism)
- Need for "TA" (PACs)
- Strong request for more guidance by EC
- Reference documents to come from EC on reporting, labelling, access to funding, selection criteria, better coordination (especially of infrastructure projects)



www.centralbaltic.eu/eusbsr
www.interact-eu.net/macro_regional_strategies/283

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

