



The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

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Agenda

- A brief introduction to the Strategy
- The Strategy after two years: Establishing targets and other recommendations
- Looking ahead
- Future Cohesion Policy 2014-2020



The EU's first macro-regional strategy

- Why do we have a Strategy?
- The Action Plan: 15 Priority Areas, 80 Flagship Projects
- Broad ownership



June 23: First implementation report

- Considerable progress
 - New, targeted and more inclusive projects
 - Better alignment of funding
 - Greater policy coherence
- Challenges
 - Better alignment of funding and policy
 - Maintaining momentum and internal resources
 - Need for targets and improved communication

Current discussion on Council conclusions on the review of the Strategy.



Alignment of funding and other financial initiatives

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** – new selection criteria; calls targeted to promote the Strategy
- **European Fisheries Fund (EFF)** – MS 2010 annual implementation reports include a specific chapter on contribution to the Strategy’s implementation
- **European Social Fund (ESF)** – priority given to transnational activities in calls for project proposals (SE, DK, EE)
- **“Strategy approach”** adopted by other EU funding programmes



Recommendations

- Reinforce the integrated nature of the Strategy through closer alignment with Europe 2020
- Assure the European nature of the Strategy through regular discussions at policy Councils
- Prioritise work on establishing targets to make the Strategy more focused and more concrete
- Maximise efforts to align funding with the Strategy's objectives
- Strengthen implementation structures (financial and staff)
- Develop a “Communication initiative” to ensure broader participation and dissemination of achievements



Looking ahead

- Ambitious Polish EU Presidency
- Task force on targets
- Annual Forum 2011
- Technical Assistance and implementation facility
- Review in 2013. Future Cohesion Policy – New macro-regional strategies?



Debate on future cohesion policy

- Europe 2020 Strategy adopted in July 2010
- Budget review October 2010
- 5th cohesion report November 2010
- Public consultation and cohesion forum Jan/Feb 2011
- Council conclusions 21 February on 5th cohesion report
- EP report on 5th cohesion report and specific report on future ETC in preparation
- COM proposal Financial perspectives 29/06/2011.
- Legislative proposals 5th October 2011

Macro-regional strategies

- Baltic Sea and Danube strategies underway, interest for strategies in other parts of Europe
- Provide framework for aligning policies and funding with a view to increase impact, beyond ambit of cohesion policy
- Review of existing strategies needed before deciding on future approach
- General support for « Three No »s (no new EU legislation, institutions and funding)
- Scope for synergies between transnational cooperation programmes and macro-regional strategies to be further explored (where geographical overlap)

Thank you for your attention
– see you in Gdansk!

NEW AMBITIONS FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

13th Baltic Development Forum Summit
European Commission's 2nd Annual Forum on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
Gdansk, 24-26 October 2011

- EUSBSR website:
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic
- The EUSBSR Annual Forum and the BDF Annual Summit:
www.bsr2011.eu