



Euroregion Baltic

EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy

Questionnaire

The aim of this questionnaire is to help identify concrete inputs from ERB to the further process lead by the European Commission drafting an EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy (BSR Strategy).

Preparing these inputs we must find the links between the aim and priority areas of the BSR Strategy and the ERB Joint Development Strategy.

The main aim of the BSR Strategy will be to improve the coordination and effectiveness of the implementation of the EU policies in the BSR, and hereby developing the BSR as a showcase for other European macro-regions.

The ERB vision is:

"In 2015 the ERB will be a region characterised by growing prosperity and good living conditions for the citizens. ERB is internationally recognised as a front runner in sustainable growth and the integration of old and new market economies, characterised by real social and regional cohesion."

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Question 1:

Does the BSR currently have a sufficient organisational architecture to coordinate and effectively implement an EU Baltic Sea Strategy?

Question 2:

How do you see the role of euroregions and similar cooperation structures in the organisational architecture?

Question 3:

Do you agree in the four headlines so far proposed by the European Commission – or are important issues (policy areas etc.) not covered by the headlines?

The proposed headlines are:

1. To make the BSR environmentally clean
2. To make the BSR a prosperous place
3. To make the BSR an accessible and attractive place
4. To make the BSR a safe and secure place

Question 4:

What should be the role of Russia, Norway and Iceland in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the BSR Strategy?

Question 5:

What should the interrelation be between the BSR Strategy and the Northern Dimension Policy (between EU, Russia, Norway and Iceland)?

- Northern Dimension Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/north_dim/

Question 6:

Can you point out concrete problems related to a badly coordinated and in-effective implementation of EU policies in the BSR?

- Are you aware of any reports or analyses made on concrete subjects, such as hindrance of the free movement between the EU member states in the BSR?
- Have your region experienced any specific barriers or obstacles in implementing cross-border or transnational projects due to differently implemented rules in the BSR countries – such as different criteria for eligibility of partners and/or expenditures, different definitions of public-private partnership or definition of semi-public partners, or different interpretation of the EU State Aid rules etc.?

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Questions 6:

Is the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) a sufficient basis to make the BSR cleaner?

- SDS: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st10/st10917.en06.pdf>
- Can you concretize concrete elements missing or which should be reformulated?

Question 7:

Is the HELCOM's "The Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP)", adopted in November 2007, a sufficient basis to make the Baltic Sea (marine environment) cleaner?

- BSAP: http://www.helcom.fi/press_office/news_helcom/en_GB/BSAP_full/
- Or can you point out concrete actions not included in the BSAP or actions which should be reformulated?

Question 8:

How can an EU BSR Strategy add value to make the BSR cleaner (not only the marine environment!)?

- Coordination with other EU strategies having environmental impacts – good or bad?
- Creating a BSR structure for all environmental issues – or specific structures as HELCOM for the marine environment?
- Involving the local and regional authorities more, as well as civil society actors?
- Higher priority to BSR Local Agenda 21 plan?
- Or?

Question 9:

How can an EU BSR Strategy add value to improve the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's), especially as for strengthening the competitiveness through innovation?

- Considering the ERB strategy and action plan for Innovation and SME development?

- Can you point out concrete barriers or obstacles as for the free movement for SME's, trade, service etc. between the EU member states in BSR?
- Are the business promotion and support structures sufficient to ensure a functioning Single Market in the BSR – or can you formulate concrete actions to be taken to make the single market function better?
- Can a BSR Strategy do more than the current BSR strategies and programmes to encourage and support the strengthening of innovation, based on clusters, the triple-helix model etc.?

Question 10:

How can an EU BSR Strategy add value to rural development?

- Considering the ERB strategy and action plan for rural development?
- To improve the economic and social integration by reducing the negative impact of peripherality, poor accessibility, decreasing population, demographic imbalances etc.?

Question 11:

How can an EU BSR Strategy add value to tourism development?

- Considering the ERB strategy and action plan for tourism development?

Question 12:

How can an EU BSR Strategy add value to the transport infrastructure and accessibility?

- Considering the ERB strategy and action plan for transport infrastructure?
- Implementing the TEN-T: http://ec.europa.eu/ten/transport/index_en.htm
- Connecting the TEN-T

Question 13:

How can an EU BSR Strategy add value to the social dimension, such as labour market mobility, social inclusion and how to avoid negative impacts like 'brain drain' etc.?

- Considering the ERB strategy and action plan for the social dimension?

Question 14:

How can an EU BSR Strategy add value to the energy saving and supplies, especially in the development of renewable energy sources and systems?

- Considering the ERB strategy and action plan for the energy area?
- Considering the EU Energy and Climate Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/index_en.htm

Question 15:

How can an EU BSR Strategy add value to the youth in the BSR?

- Considering the vision, ambition and plans of the ERB Youth Board?
- Education, cooperation and mobility of youth?
- Youths participation in the democratic life, such as decision making structures, elections etc.?