

Future EU Baltic Sea Strategy Position of Warminsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship

Assumptions to EU Baltic Sea Strategy

- a) Strategy should refer to the objectives of the European Union policy towards Russian Federation and the content of forthcoming EU – Russia agreement (Partnership and Cooperation Agreement),
- b) strategic planning process in the Baltic Sea area requires compliance with partnership rule, which demands involvement of a wide range of partners at various levels,
- c) Strategy has to be a platform for coordination, which guarantees harmony of EU policies and instruments,
- d) Strategy will strengthen and support international and interregional cooperation of institutions in the Baltic Sea Region,
- e) in order to realize objectives of the Strategy, the optimal use of existing budget lines is assumed,
- f) Strategy will facilitate coherent and coordinated expenditure of EU funds in the framework of available programmes,
- g) it is necessary to conduct a coordinated analysis of results of previous EU-financed projects in the Baltic Sea Region and disseminate best practices, in order to avoid duplication of activities undertaken.

EU Baltic Sea Strategy should include following elements:

Objective 1: environment

- a) emphasis on integrated coastal zone management – area characterised by big and growing investment pressure and crossing economic interests, which should become reconciled with requirements regarding environment protection (Nature 2000, formation and protection of sea shores),
- b) support for initiatives for improvement of condition of natural environment around Baltic Sea, including creation of comprehensive development of ecologically valuable areas, such as Green Baltic Belt, and for accomplishment of objectives of Helsinki Convention and HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan,
- c) taking activities to increase energy efficiency and degree of production of renewable energy,
- d) retaining high ecological standard and attractiveness of natural environment in the Baltic Sea Region,

Objective 2: economic development

- a) ensuring of accomplishment of Lisbon and Goteborg Strategy objectives,
- b) building common economic benefits in relations with Russian Federation (especially with Kaliningrad Region) and resulting from that:
 - striving to abolish non-tariff barriers to trade in economic relations with Russian Federation,
 - support for initiatives taking advantage of European Funds for cooperation with EU neighbour countries,
 - support for export promotion initiatives with a special consideration of Kaliningrad Region,
- c) common, uniform approach towards support for small and medium enterprises,
- d) strengthening of centres being poles of growth of bigger than local importance,
- e) creation of zones of accelerated socio-economic growth along transport corridors of European, supranational and local importance,
- f) strengthening of modern sea industry sector, including production and repair of ships, boats and yachts, port and similar services, transport-logistic services, fishing and fish processing.

Objective 3: attractiveness of the region (transport, education, tourism, culture)

- a) support for development of transport infrastructure - great Baltic ring road, energy and telecommunication infrastructure,
- b) taking account of environmental impact assessments,
- c) emphasis on ensuring of sea transport safety at Baltic Sea, taking advantage of the results of projects concerning transport safety,
- d) inclusion of Polish maritime regions into system of Baltic Sea highways and support for development of medium-size ports and competitive coastal navigation,
- e) ensuring of free navigation among all sea ports situated along the Baltic Sea,
- f) preferences for programmes and projects related to research and technological development and educational projects, including cooperation between universities and schools (common research), especially regarding environment protection and maritime economy (clean energy, water protection, health food),
- g) support for dialogue between institutions, non-governmental organisations, societies, universities and academic sector from Baltic Sea states,

h) support for research and development sector through EU and national policies and instruments, development of new research areas, strengthening of research centres in the Baltic Sea Region,

i) support for creation of interregional tourism products on the basis of coastal location, continuity of natural system and common cultural heritage,

j) coordination of actions regarding coastal and ferry navigation, yachting and water sports.

Objective 4: safety

a) strengthening of cooperation in the area of safety, justice and crime prevention,

b) striving to simplify visa regime at the external border of the EU to the highest possible extent, opening of new land and sea border crossing points.