

Revision of the EUSBSR Action Plan, input from the MOMENT project

The MOMENT project is eager to contribute to the EUSBSR process and, thereby, gives the following suggestions and comments.

Flagship Projects (FP)

Clarifications

The concept with flagship projects needs to be clarified and more developed, to secure effectiveness, quality and transparency. We know that the European Commission has started this process and we are looking forward to a clearer definition within the following fields.

- **Criteria.** The criteria for becoming a Flagship Project – both general criteria valid for all Priority Areas and, if needed, specific criteria for Flagship Projects within the different Priority Areas.
- **Status.** What is the status of a Flagship Project, for example in relation to possible funds and to other projects and initiatives within the same area? If a Flagship Project is appointed – will this be the “one and only” to get support from EU? Is the Flagship Project supposed to, in some way, co-ordinate other projects and/or gather and compile results from other ongoing work within the same field? What is the relation between Flagship Projects and the Priority Area Coordinators?
- **Results.** When a Flagship Project is finished, who will be the receiver of the results? How will the EUSBSR structure (PACs, NCPs, EC) take care of the results for further processing within the EU and national administrations?

New Flagship Projects

The EUSBSR Action Plan has been valid for some years. Some Flagship Projects have been successfully implemented, many of them are under implementation and new FPs have been introduced. Until now, the process of becoming a Flagship Project has been slightly unclear and it also differs among the Priority Areas. This is natural, since the macro-regional EUSBSR is a new way of cooperating. We appreciate and encourage this willingness to try new ways of working.

Nevertheless, it is important that the process of appointing Flagship Projects is transparent for all Baltic Sea stakeholders and possible to understand. To create this, we suggest a two step process.

1. Flag ship theme. The Action Plan appoints “flag ship themes” instead of Flagship Projects - important and strategic themes where Flagship Projects need to be developed.
2. Open call. All Baltic Sea stakeholders are invited to present their suggestions. A Flagship Project, or Flagship Projects, are chosen among these suggestions.

Local and regional initiatives

During the last years, we have seen a tendency to appoint national bodies as Flagship Project Leaders. We want to underline the importance and value of also involving local and regional actors as Flagship Project Leaders.

The Flagship Projects have to be strategic and of high importance, with a potential to give a strong contribution to the EUSBSR implementation. The Flagship Project concept is just one of several tools to fulfil the EUSBSR objectives. Laws and regulations are other examples.

Nevertheless, daily work is the main tool for implementation of the EUSBSR at all levels all around the Baltic Sea. To be able to reach the EUSBSR objectives, a broad commitment and co-operation at all levels are important. We want to underline the importance of giving EU support to transnational cooperation at local/regional level, as well as the importance to include Russian actors in this co-operation.

Priority Area 1

New Flagship Theme

Based on MOMENT's and its project partner's experience, we want to raise the following item as possible new Flagship theme under Priority Area 1.

- Participating management – “participation”. Local and regional involvement in river basin based water management. Better communication and cooperation between stakeholders at all levels. Further development and extension of local Water User Partnerships (WUP) as a method for managing water according to the EU Water Framework Directive requirements. Development of tools that can assist the WUP in placing necessary cost-effective measures at the right location.

Fund for Local Investment Programmes

The MOMENT project partners have a long experience of local and regional co-operation for a cleaner Baltic Sea. The project supports, on the basis of these experiences, the idea of an intergovernmental fund for local water correlated investments, designed in such a way that funds can be used by local and regional actors around the Baltic Sea. We believe that the

model applied in Sweden's Local Investment Programmes (LIP) and Climate Investment Programmes (KLIMP) would work very well even for a fund of this kind. These programmes were allocated for investments reaching beyond the minimum requirements in existing legislation. The model has two major advantages. First, it provides support to local and regional initiatives with high cost efficiency. Secondly, the beneficiaries have to present an overall program, in which various actions are prioritized based on a comprehensive analysis and strategy. Support should be given both to concrete actions / investments and to river basin based water management activities with a wide participation from public, private and academic sectors.

Diffuse outlets

There is an ongoing work, in most part of the Baltic Sea river basin, to decrease the outlets from point sources of different sizes. Not least, EU puts strong resources in this process.

As soon as the point sources are deleted, the diffuse sources raise in importance. The design of the future EU Common Agricultural Policy is crucial for the Baltic Sea, influencing the future development of the agricultural sector and the effects of diffuse water pollution from agriculture. Also outlets from smaller settlements and private houses are of strategic concern for the development of the BSR and for the possibilities to reach the objectives in the HELCOM BSAP. To handle these kinds of questions, local and regional competences and measures are important, following the subsidiary principle.

Best regards,



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