

The EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy and the transnational programme 2007-2013

Contribution to the Transnational pilot-workshop „Cross-programme ETC Danube projects“ 28/29 September 2009 in Vienna

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0 Content

1. What are the objectives of the BSR strategy?
2. What can the transnational BSR programme contribute to it?
3. What did the BSR programme already achieve?
4. What can the BSR programme further do?
5. What is needed for a contribution to the strategy?



1. Objectives of BSR Strategy

The 4 pillars:

- **Environment:** to improve the environmental state of the Baltic Sea Region, the largest brackish water system in the world
- **Economy:** to make the Baltic Sea Region more prosperous by better networking, better shared ideas, breaking down barriers and better economic development
- **Energy and transport:** to make the region more accessible and attractive, for its inhabitants, for its labour force and for tourists
- **Safety and Security:** to prevent accidents in the Region, reduce dangers and work together to solve crimes and sort out problems



1. The Action Plan of BSR Strategy

- > **Action Plan, with 15 Priority Areas, inc. 80 Flagship Projects**
- > **Priority Areas (examples)**
 - Environment:**
 - to reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels
 - to become a model region for clean shipping
 - Prosperity:**
 - to exploit the full potential of the region in research and innovation
 - Accessibility & Attractiveness:**
 - to improve access to, and the efficiency and security of the energy markets
 - to improve internal and external transport links
 - Safety and Security:**
 - to reinforce protection from major emergencies at sea and on land



2. Objectives of BSR Programme

- **Fostering innovations across the BSR**
- **External and internal accessibility of BSR**
- **Management of the Baltic Sea as common Resource**
- **Promoting attractive and competitive cities and regions**



2. Role of BSR Programme

- **BSR Programme covers most issues of EU Strategy**
- **BSR Programme, other programmes, financing institutions + private actors can help implementing the strategy**
- **BSR Programme has complementary role to other programmes:**
 - Focuses on **integrated territorial development** (difference to sectoral programmes and covers the whole BSR (difference to national, regional, interregional, cross-border programmes))
- **In view of small financial volume: pre-investment activities and pilot investments or solutions respectively.**



3. Achievements so far

10 -15 Interreg IIB projects to build on such as, ScanBaltCampus, CBSR, B-SME, New Hansa

Strategic and other Interreg IVB projects:

- **EfficienSea** (Efficient Safe and Sustainable Traffic at Sea)
- **Bioenergy Promotion**
- **BRISK** (risk reduction of oil spills)
- **TransBaltic** (integrated transport system)
- **Best Agers** (Using skills of „Best Agers“)
- **Baltic Compass** (Reducing agricultural sea pollution)

4. Selection criteria („Strategic“ projects)



BSR Programme could provide selection criteria for strategy or existing criteria for “strategic projects” could be linked to strategy

- **Referring to problems and develop solutions essential for stable development of the whole BSR**
- **Geographical area or area of impact covers whole BSR or large part of it (could also be pilot solutions which are relevant/will be applied to whole BSR)**
- **Aiming at strategically relevant investments**
- **Having strong political backup at transnational/many national levels**

+ external criteria (political and financial relevance; impact)



4. „Strategic“ projects in BSR programme

- Definition and examples of “strategic” projects in programme
- Procedures in programme manual
- Proposal of potential “strategic” projects from secretariat assessment
- Adoption of some projects by Monitoring Committee
- Specific obligations of “strategic” projects in reporting
- Certain advantages in funding, implementation time and assistance
- Higher probability of a second political and/or investive project implementation phase

= Rather pragmatic approach to strengthen a specific project quality called “strategic”



4. Further Possibilities

- Select relevant projects
- Propose them for inclusion in BSR strategy
- Monitor and help implementing projects
- Provide a data basis to report progress
- Highlight results
- Assist in project implementation strategy
- Get in touch with other financing sources
- May be, carry out focussed calls



5. External requirements

- Structures for proposing and selecting projects to be included in EU BSR strategy
- Need to concentrate on most relevant projects and actions
- Structures to highlight the most successful outcomes
- Willingness of other actors to cooperate and finance