An Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea region: CBSS-Baltic 21 Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015

ESDN Conference 2014
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Council of the Baltic Sea States, CBSS

- Overall political forum for regional inter-governmental cooperation in the BSR
- Members: the 11 states of the Baltic Sea Region (incl. Russia, Norway and Iceland) as well as the European Commission
- Steered by representatives of the BSR Ministries of Foreign Affairs

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Multi-stakeholder involvement...

Initiated by the Prime Ministers of BSR countries in 1996
Regional expression of the global Agenda 21
Integrated into structure of the CBSS as an Expert Group on Sustainable Development in 2010.
MAIN REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

1. Climate Change
2. Sustainable Urban and Rural Development
3. Sustainable Consumption and Production
4. Innovation and Education for Sustainable Development

HORIZONTAL ACTION ‘SUSTAINABLE’

1. Green Economy
2. Climate Change Adaptation Climate Change Mitigation
3. Bioeconomy (Nordic Council of Ministers)
How to design processes and projects that generate new ideas for sustainable development?
PROJECTS

RECO
Towards Sustainable Waste Management in the Baltic Sea Region

Baltic 21 Tech

Bioenergy Promotion

AGORA 2.0

EcoVillages

EFFECT
Developing the BalticSeaRegion into the world’s first EcoRegion

EcoRegion

Baltic GPP
Green Public Procurement

Baltic Sea Region Urban Forum for Smart Cities

marlin
Baltic Marine Litter

BALTIC LANDSCAPE
RESULTS

Policy reviews, analyses and strategies

✓ BSR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
✓ Recommendations for sustainable bioenergy production for the BSR
✓ Policy and training tools for GPP
✓ Waste Management Strategy and Investment Concept
✓ Educational packages for higher education in the field on sustainable agriculture land use
New cooperation platforms and networks

- BSR Climate Change Dialogue Platform
- BSR Leadership Carbon Economy Leadership Programme
- BSR Green Public Procurement Network
- Baltic Waste Management Council
- BSR Platform of Smart Cities
- BSR Network on Sustainable Cities and Villages
MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE IN POLICY PROCESS: example from Baltic 21 work on climate change

Objective: improve the coordination and information-sharing between MS and ensure that adaptation considerations are addressed in all relevant national policies.

7th CBSS Summit 2008: special attention to climate change in the BSR

2009 EUSBSR:MS calling for elaboration the CCA Strategy for the BSR

2010-2013 CBSS Baltic 21 Lighthouse BALTADAPT

2014 June new CBSS Long Term Priorities: implementation the BSR CCA

CBSS Baltic-21 EG initiating the CCA RT

2013 BSR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy ready

Establishment the BSR Climate Change Dialogue Platform

Identification topics of common interest (input to drafting/up-date of national CCA Strategies)

Initiation new joint projects&actions
CHALLENGES

- Climate change
- Demographic change
- Consumption patterns

POSITIVE TRENDS

- Renewable Energy
- Energy efficiency and access to clean technologies and fuels
- Environmental management systems
- Political commitment to sustainable development
WHERE ARE WE STANDING TODAY?

Key strengths of Baltic 21:

- Multi-stakeholder network
- Better coordination and coherence among actors in the BSR
- Projects as a tool for implementation
- High-level commitment

Challenges:

- Lack of commitment from some countries
- Risk of "sectorialization" - how to keep the holistic approach
- Conflict of interest in some sectors/countries between growth agenda and SD agenda
New CBSS Long Term Priorities from June 2014

Tasks for the CBSS Baltic 21

- Development of actions towards green and low carbon economy in accordance with the new SDG goals
- Mainstreaming climate change adaptation across sector policies
- Development on a new sustainable development agenda for the BSR with specific goals post 2015
HOW - FUTURE SD STRATEGY WORK....

- Revision of CBSS SD Strategy 2010-2015

- Study "Assessing the status of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region – a macro regional perspective"
  - Conceptualisation SD at BSR context level cognizant the global SDG
  - Identification general constraints and challenges that may hinder the implementation of SD; mapping the existing opportunities
  - Development a new sustainable development agenda for the BSR post 2015
  - Development a set of SD indicators for the BSR

- Strengthening the cooperation with national SD coordinators
Thank you!

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