

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

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Agenda

- Background
- Approach
- Implementation
- The road ahead



Why an EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region?

- Requested by the European Council in 2007
- With 8 Member States around the Baltic, the EU has a responsibility, and a unique opportunity, to take lead
- Financial and economic crisis
- New ways of cooperation



The approach

- An integrated approach:
Environment, Economy, Accessibility, Safety
- A rolling Action Plan:
15 Priority Areas, 90 Flagship Projects
- Alignment of funding
- Integrated Maritime Policy
- Simple implementation system: better use of existing institutions, funding, and legislation



Added value of an EU Strategy

- It can mobilise projects across borders and sectors
- It can serve as a catalyst for strengthening cooperation mechanisms within Member States and among countries in a Region
- By involving all relevant policy areas and countries, it can promote balanced regional development
- It can contribute to channel existing funding instruments so their potential can be fully utilised



Examples of flagship projects

- Remove phosphates in detergents
- A fund for innovation and research
- Promote environmental technologies
- Create marine protected areas
- Connect the Baltic States to the energy networks
- Improve transport infrastructures
- Establish joint curricula in universities
- Better cooperation in case of marine pollution





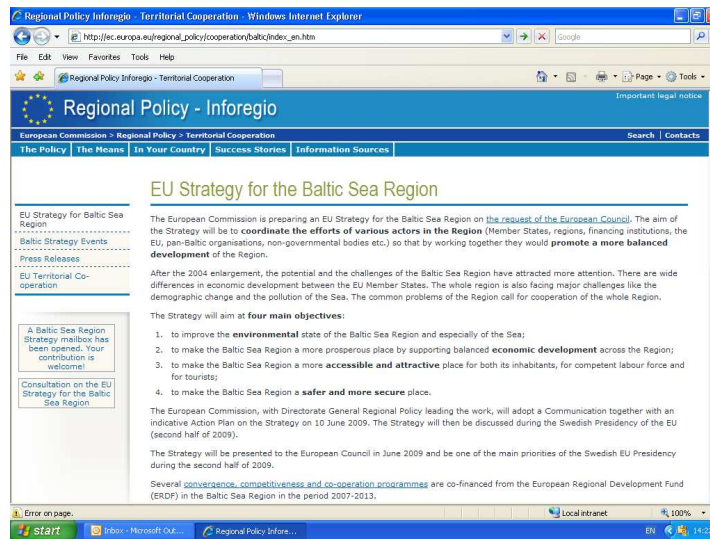
The road ahead

- Kick-off meetings and early results
- High Level Group and updates of the Action Plan
- Annual Forum
- Political review
- New Macro Regions?



Thank you for your attention!

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region: an integrated framework to address the challenges and opportunities of the Baltic Sea Region



http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/index_en.htm