



EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Space and the Arctic Workshop
Stockholm, 20/21 October 2009





Challenges

- **Highly sensitive sea - for geographic reasons**
- **Vast territory – long distances**
- **Fragmented markets and trade dependent economies**
- **Division between East & West still a factor**
- **Increased traffic**





Opportunities

- **High motivation on environmental issues**
- **Innovative & dynamic region**
- **Open economies**
- **Skilled work-force**
- **Historic experience in regional co-operation**
- **EU membership**





Why the *macro regional* approach?

- Regional dimension to environmental challenges
- Trade with neighbours substantial share of most MS
- Macro regions = home market for SME:s
- Market conditions differ
 - despite EU:s internal market
- Innovation and clustering benefit from cross-border initiatives
- Resources benefit from regional pooling





4 pillars for the BSS

1. To make the Baltic Sea Region **environmentally sustainable**
2. To make the Baltic Sea Region **prosperous**
3. To make the Baltic Sea Region **accessible and attractive**
4. To make the Baltic Sea Region **safe and secure**



1. To make the Baltic Sea Region environmentally sustainable

Priority Areas:

- 1. To reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels**
- 2. To preserve natural zones and biodiversity, including fisheries**
- 3. To reduce the use and impact of hazardous substances**
- 4. To become a model region for clean shipping**
- 5. To mitigate and adapt to climate change**





2. To make the Baltic Sea Region prosperous

Priority Areas:

- 6. To remove hindrances to the internal market in the Baltic Sea Region including to improve cooperation in the customs and tax area**
- 7. To exploit the full potential of the region in research and innovation**
- 8. Implementing the Small Business Act: to promote entrepreneurship, strengthen SMEs and increase the efficient use of human resources**
- 9. To reinforce sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fisheries**



3. To make the Baltic Sea Region accessible and attractive – *Priority Areas*

- 10. To improve the access to, and the efficiency and security of the energy markets**
- 11. To improve internal and external transport links**
- 12. To maintain and reinforce attractiveness of the Baltic Sea Region in particular through education, tourism and health**





4. To make the Baltic Sea Region safe and secure *- Priority Areas*

- 13. To become a leading region in maritime safety and security**
- 14. To reinforce protection from major emergencies at sea and on land**
- 15. To decrease the volume of, and harm done by, cross border crime**





Implementation

- 4 Pillars
- 15 Priority Areas
- 80 Flagship Projects
- Horizontal Actions

GAERC

Commissi

on

**High
Level
Group**

**Annual
Foru
m**

**Priority Area
Coordinato
rs**

Flagship Leaders

Flagship Leaders

Flagship Leaders

Flagship Leaders



Swedish Presidency

- **Commission's Communication on EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and annexed Action Plan - 10 June 2009**
- **Council of General Affairs (GAC), first presentation July 27 – 28**
- **Ministerial Conference 17-18 September in Stockholm**
- **Adoption at the General Affairs Council 26 Oct. 2009**
- **Adoption at European Council 29-30 Oct. 2009**



Reviews and updates

- **The first review and update of the action plan will take place during the PL presidency in 2011, to be followed during later BSR presidencies:**
 - **DK 2012**
 - **LT 2013**
 - **LV 2015**



Macro-Regional Strategies

- **New and innovative**
- **Shared territorial challenges**
- **Broad stakeholders interaction**
- **Long term vision and concrete actions**
- **Maximising resources**



Photo: Sommer



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EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

- **Communication:**

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/baltic/com_baltic_en.pdf

- **Action Plan:**

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/baltic/action2009.pdf

Photo Yanan Li/ Stockholms stad

Statsrådsberedningen

alexander.schenk@finance.ministry.se



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Thank you for your attention!



Statsrådsberedningen

alexander.schenk@finance.ministr

V. S.



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