Interreg Baltic Sea Region 2021-2027: Draft thematic framework – State of play November 2020

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Steering Committee meeting for the Policy Area on Clean Shipping

10.11.2020 – online event

Topic 1: More innovative and resilient economies and societies

Policy Objective 1: **A smarter Europe**

Topic 1: More innovative and resilient economies and societies

The proposal is based on the following understanding of the Programme contribution in this topic:

- **Resilience** is considered as ability of both economies and societies to respond to **external disturbances. It refers to ability to avoid the external impact, withstand it or recover quickly from it. Projects need to contribute to increasing innovativeness of the BSR economies and societies;**
- **Business** and **communities** are at the heart of resilience building process;
- Untapping potential of **digitalisation** is crucial mean for increasing adaptability of the BSR;
- There is a need for redefining approach to **smart specialisation** to reinforce the Baltic Sea region resilience at the macro-regional scale and **finding right balance between reducing dependency and connecting to global value chains;**
- Approaches to resilience building in the Baltic Sea region need to consider **uneven territorial developments;**

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Topic 2: Responsive public services

Policy Objective 1: **A smarter Europe**

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Topic 2: Responsive public services

The proposal is based on the following understanding of the Programme contribution in this topic:

- Applying **systemic** and **cross-cutting** approaches to delivery of public services to increase their efficiency;
- Including aspects of **territorial differences and relations** (e.g. rural-urban) to deliver public services better tailored to the needs;
- Enhancing **social innovation** and empowering **citizens** as user of public services and drivers of their transformation
- Strengthening **digitalisation** as an important enabler for more responsive public services;
- Paving the way for **"greener"** (resource saving and environmentally friendly) public services creating **opportunities for business**.

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Topic 3: Sustainable water management adapted to the impacts of the climate change

Policy Objective 2: **A greener Europe**

Topic 3: Sustainable water management adapted to the impacts of the climate change

The proposal is based on the following understanding of the Programme contribution in this topic:

- **Improving water quality** in the region by addressing different types of water resources: the Baltic Sea and coastal waters, inland waters e.g. rivers, lakes and groundwater, as well as storms, floods, etc.;
- **Intensifying implementation** of already **available measures** and **testing new solutions** to prevent and reduce water pollution as well as re-use water in the whole region;
- Advancing **cross-sector actions** as water resources and catchments are shared and used by multiple sectors and stakeholders (e.g. in agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, water management for citizens and industries);
- **Adapting water management** practices in cities, rural and coastal areas across different sectors to the changing climate conditions.

Topic 3: Sustainable water management adapted to the impacts of the climate change

Examples of transnational cooperation actions:

- Engaging authorities, companies and advisories from sectors affecting water (e.g. agriculture, aquaculture, fishery, forestry, waste management, industries, households etc.) to introduce good practices **to prevent emissions** of nutrients and hazardous substances, including facilitation of cross-sectorial cooperation or testing payment models for ecosystem services;
- Developing and testing safe cost-efficient solutions to **recycle** nutrients;
- Introducing procedures to remove nutrients and hazardous substances from the sea and inland waters, incl. **microplastic waste, marine litter, hazardous submerged objects, oil spills**;
- Coordinating and supporting application of tested measures for removal of nutrients, chemicals including hazardous substances and micro-pollutants in **rural, municipal, industrial waste water** treatment;
- Rethinking **urban and rural planning** processes for more efficient water management (incl. heavy rainfalls, storms, floods, droughts and groundwater scarcity), also using nature-based solutions and digital tools;

Topic 3: Sustainable water management adapted to the impacts of the climate change

Examples of transnational cooperation actions:

- Adapting urban, rural and coastal water management practices across different sectors to **use water reasonably** (incl. re-use, retention, recirculation);
- Improving prevent urban, rural and coastal water management practices across different sectors to prevent water pollution and reduce risks caused or aggravated by the **changing climate conditions** (e.g. coastal erosion);
- Piloting actions to influence shift in **consumer behaviour and production methods** to prevent water pollution e.g. reducing use of plastic, efficient handling of pharmaceuticals;
- **Adapting** local and regional water management and other relevant **strategies and action plans to emerging pollutants** or **new ways to address eutrophication** (e.g. through nutrient recycling).

Topic 4: Blue economy resilient to the changing climate

Policy Objective 2: **A greener Europe**

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Topic 4: Blue economy resilient to the changing climate

The proposal is based on the following understanding of the Programme contribution in this topic:

- Blue economy is based on **sustainable use** of water and **marine resources** for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs as well as healthy ecosystems in the sea and other water bodies;
- Supporting sustainable and innovative **business development** by using fresh and sea waters as well as marine resources across the whole region in emerging and established sectors (e.g. aquaculture, blue biotechnology, mussel and algae farming, shipping, fisheries, coastal/maritime tourism);
- **Mitigating potential conflicts** among users of sea space and promoting its joint use;
- Strengthening **resilience of blue businesses** in adapting to the changing climate and mitigating impacts of blue businesses to climate to keep and increase productivity in a sustainable way.

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Topic 4: Blue economy resilient to the changing climate

Examples of transnational cooperation actions:

- Creating new **business opportunities** by developing value chains **for sustainable fresh water and marine-based products and services**, with potential to scale up, across the region and in line with national and regional smart specialisation strategies;
- Developing blueprints to market and distribute **locally produced fresh water and marine based products**;
- Developing governance, communication and cooperation models among public authorities and across industries to mitigate potential **conflicts in the use of the sea and coastal space** to promote **joint use of the sea and coastal space**, through maritime spatial planning incl. land-sea interaction measures;
- Developing and testing solutions for **multi-use of the marine and coastal space** to allow different types of actions in the same sea and coastal space, e.g. through combination of offshore or land activities;

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Topic 4: Blue economy resilient to the changing climate

Examples of transnational cooperation actions:

- Assessing climate change impacts in marine economic activities and integrating mitigation measures into management and development plans to **strengthen climate resilience of blue economy**;
- Developing and introducing common **environmental standards and clean solutions for ships**, ports, harbours, e.g. to reduce emissions, process waste and recycling, treat wastewaters, prevent harmful species from entering the Baltic Sea and inland waters;
- Introducing advanced **digital eco-efficient solutions on ships and in ports** for a cleaner and safer shipping;
- Diversifying **coastal and maritime tourism products** and **connecting them** to other sectors e.g. food, health, as a solution for combating seasonality;
- Developing and testing payment models for ecosystem services provided by blue economy businesses.

Topic 5: Circular economy

Policy Objective 2: **A greener Europe**

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Topic 5: Circular Economy

The proposal is based on the following understanding of the Programme contribution in this topic:

- The circular economy supports shift from **linear to circular use of resources**;
- The circular economy requires a **systemic and holistic approach**, going beyond the waste sector and making connections across water, energy, transport and land use in an integrated manner. It implies **behavioural change and integrated planning**;
- **Business** and **communities** are at the heart of transitions towards circularity. The design of interventions should take into account **winners and losers of the transition**;
- Untapping potential of **digitalisation** is important mean for achieving resource efficient BSR economy;
- There is a need for redefining approach to **smart specialisation** to accelerate transition towards circularity.
- Successful transition towards circular economy requires an enabling environment and **rising awareness** about circular opportunities.

Topic 6: Low-carbon energy systems

Policy Objective 2: **A greener Europe**

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Topic 6: Low-carbon energy systems

The proposal is based on the following understanding of the Programme contribution in this topic:

- **Decreasing** regional **greenhouse gas emissions** across different economic sectors to **mitigate** the **climate change**;
- Increasing **energy efficiency** and energy saving **in production processes and** public and private **building stock**;
- **Enhancing** production and distribution of **renewable energy** from locally available resources and integrating it in building, industry, district heating and cooling;
- Enhancing **capacity of public authorities as enablers** for decarbonising the energy systems through updating policies, sharing and introducing good practices;
- **Mobilising industries and citizens** to initiate introduction of energy solutions towards the climate neutrality and plan wider deployment with other public or private funds.

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Topic 7: Green and intelligent transport and mobility

Policy Objective 2: **A greener Europe**

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Topic 7: Green and intelligent transport and mobility

The proposal is based on the following understanding of the Programme contribution in this topic:

- Advancing transition to **zero greenhouse gas emissions** with use of renewable fuels and clean electricity;
- Securing the smooth movement of people and goods within and across cities and regions while saving resources by increasing **efficiency**, **integrating** transport modes and strengthening **digitalisation**;
- **Harmonising transport systems** across the borders enabling **coherent use** of green transport solutions;
- **Enhancing capacity** of public authorities in urban and regional **planning** and **introducing of green and intelligent** transport solutions to **reduce pollution**;
- **Mobilising transport companies and citizens** to actively use green and intelligent transport solutions.

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Topic 7: Green and intelligent transport and mobility

Examples of transnational cooperation actions:

- Testing and deploying innovative technologies and planning infrastructure for **production and storage of renewable fuels** (e.g. biofuels, hydrogen) as well as their distribution in cities and regions to replace diesel or petrol for transport purposes;
- Integrated **planning and piloting of e-mobility**, **smart grid services** and charging stations, including electricity from local resources, and linking green energy to existing energy grids;
- Planning charging infrastructure at public transport stations and freight hubs repurposing gas or petrol stations as **charging hubs for renewable fuels;**
- Developing **common standards for harmonisation of transport systems** to ensure compatibility of green solutions along transport corridors and across the borders, e.g. charging systems, new modes of vehicles;

Topic 7: Green and intelligent transport and mobility

Examples of transnational cooperation actions:

- Supporting public authorities in developing, testing and deploying **multimodal transport as an integrated service** using digital tools;
- Rethinking urban, rural and regional **spatial and transport planning** adapting to vehicle and service innovation (autonomous, connected, electric, shared and active mobility options e.g. walking and biking);
- Advancing **freight mobility** through introducing **shared solutions** and distributed centres using digital platforms to maximise the efficiency of vehicle utilisation and minimise freight kilometers;
- Testing and applying **digital solutions** (big data analytics, real-time data processing) for regulating traffic flows, optimising public transport lines, predicting changing transport patterns.

A proposal for the Interreg-specific objective 1 ‘a better cooperation governance‘

1. Coordination among different EU funding programmes through **project platforms**

2. Support to the **governance of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region** (EUSBSR)

1. Project platforms

Aim: to synthesise results from projects of Interreg Baltic Sea Region and other EU funding programmes

Thematic focus: in line with the Programme's thematic priorities

Type: implemented as projects

Partners: partners from IBSR and other EU funding programmes, EUSBSR policy area coordinators, pan-Baltic organisations

Target groups: public authorities, specialised agencies and others types of organisations working in thematic areas

2. Support to the governance of the EUSBSR

Aim: to support the EUSBSR governance and communication activities

Actions:

- Assistance to the **policy area coordinators** of the EUSBSR
- Organisation of the EUSBSR Annual **Forum**
- The EUSBSR **Strategy Point**

+ Cooperation with **partner countries**

Type: implemented as projects

Seed money projects

37 approved projects on the last call:

- most of them already contracted.

PA Ship: 2 projects

- **SEAMEASURES** - addresses the decarbonisation of the shipping sector in the Baltic Sea Region.
- **Small Green Craft** - aims at reducing negative impact of high-speed craft in the Baltic Sea by transferring it to clean, safe and smart boating.

PA Safe: 2 projects

- **UROSCO** - update of the national contingency plans that are used to coordinate national response activities related to sea accidents, namely oil spills.
- **Human XFactor at Sea** - increasing maritime safety by improving the understanding of the human factor in the digitalized maritime environment.

Planned next steps (optimistic scenario)

1. **Cooperation Programme**
   a. We plan to submit the programme to the COM. (after summer 2021)
2. **Programme Manual** *first half 2021*
   ✓ Procedures on application, assessment, selection, reporting
3. **Calls for proposals** *earliest late 2021*

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Interreg Baltic Sea Region

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