

# EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

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# Overall Framework

- European Commission requested by European Council in December 2007 to present EU strategy at the latest by June 2009
- *Inter alia* help to address the urgent environmental challenges
- The Northern Dimension framework provides the basis for the external aspects of co-operation (esp. Russia)

# Main topics and approach(1)

- From open-door discussions; stock-taking process
- 4 objectives:
  - To make the Baltic Sea region an **environmentally sustainable** place;
  - To make the Baltic Sea region a **prosperous** place;
  - To make the Baltic Sea region an **accessible and attractive** place;
  - To make the Baltic Sea region a **safe and secure** place.

## Main topics and approach(2)

- With a view to
  - Move from political statements to **action**;
  - **Simple / straightforward approach** needed;
  - **Integrated approach** (not compartmentalised);
  - Strong potential for **improvement**;
  - **Stakeholder involvement** demanded.

- **Two stakeholder summits**
  - Stockholm, 30/09/08; Rostock, 5-6/02/09
- **Four major roundtables**
  - Accessible & attractive (Kaunas, 18-19/09/08)
  - Environmentally sustainable (Gdansk, 13/11/08)
  - Prosperous (Copenhagen 01-02/12/08)
  - Safe & secure (Helsinki, 09/12/08)
- **Public consultation: 03.11.2008 - 31.12.2008**
- **Further roundtable & expert discussions**
  - Open Days 2008; Regions events, etc.
- **Launching or implementation process**
  - e.g. Gotland event for programme managing authorities, June 2009
  - Swedish Presidency 2009, Polish Presidency 2011; Danish/Lithuanian Presidencies 2012/2013 etc.

# Outcomes

- **Rolling EU Action Plan for Baltic Sea Region:**
  - Concrete actions to address challenges
  - Actors responsible
  - Deadlines
  - Regular reviews, with new actions possible
- **Alignment of policies / funding**
- **Implementation of EU *acquis***
- **Clearer Baltic Sea region identity**
- **Better co-operation at macro-region level**  
(inc.link to EU Integrated Maritime Policy)
- **Better discussions with third countries**

## EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region

Building of bridges between programmes operating in same area



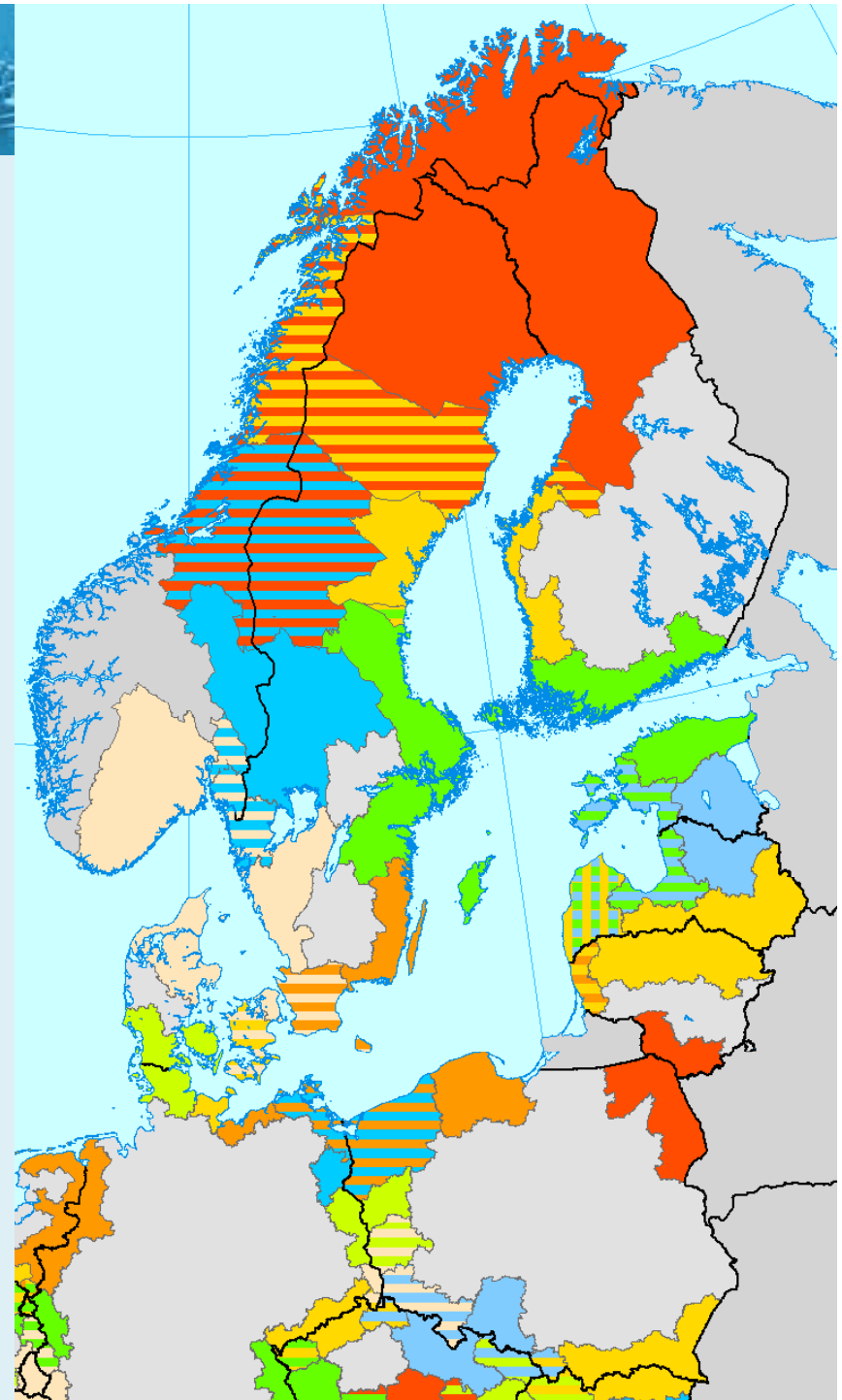
...aiming at promoting more cooperation and better alignment and coordination of EU/national/regional policies and instruments with a view of using existing resources and instruments in a more efficient way.

## The Baltic Sea regions have access to:

- European Territorial Cooperation (cross-border, transnational, interregional programmes)
- Convergence programmes
- Competitiveness programmes
- ENPI programmes

## And not to forget:

- Other EU instruments
- Other national/regional policies and financial instruments



• <b>Denmark:</b>	<b>509.577.239</b>
• <b>Sweden:</b>	<b>1.626.091.888</b>
• <b>Finland:</b>	<b>1.595.966.044</b>
• <b>Estonia:</b>	<b>3.403.459.881</b>
• <b>Latvia:</b>	<b>4.530.447.634</b>
• <b>Lithuania</b>	<b>6.775.492.823</b>
• <b>Poland:</b>	<b>**32.944.456.864</b>
• <b>Germany:</b>	<b>*1.661.577.950</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53.047.070.323 EUR</b>

\* only the most relevant operational programmes (Hamburg, Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) are included;

\*\* only the most relevant 5 operational programmes are included (Zachodniopomorskie, Pomorskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie, Development of Eastern Poland, and Infrastructure & Environment).

## Territorial cooperation programmes can have important catalyst effects

- **Territorial cooperation programmes** (€ 8.7 bn = 2.5% of Cohesion Policy budget) **offer platforms for joint development of ideas, action plans and projects, part of which could be implemented via Convergence and Competitiveness programmes**
- **Opens up for development of a more strategic approach to entire zone (macro-region), for example in the Baltic Sea region, the Mediterranean area, the Alps or the Danube area.**

# Thank you !

Website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperation/baltic/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/index_en.htm)