



EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION




Common challenges and opportunities

macro-regional strategies offer strategic frameworks





Macro-regional strategies in practice

1. Understanding macro-regional strategies
 2. What challenges are being addressed?
 3. How are macro-regional strategies implemented?
 4. Introducing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
 5. Governance structure and the interdependency between functions
- 



Understanding macro-regional strategies



Today's often complex societal challenges call for impactful responses

for example

to achieve a sustainable energy supply

addressing our demographic challenges with an ageing population

making our societies more resilient to climate change

One country can't develop these solutions on its own



competences need to be pulled together cross-sectorial, multilevel and transnational

These platforms for collaboration are offered by macro-regional strategies

Complex societal challenges calls for long term, sustainable collaboration

where single projects are not enough

Rapid changes in the world characterized by moving targets and goals

calls for agility where groups can be formed quickly to develop solutions

Need to engage stakeholders both those that can contribute and those that can bring about change

call for larger implementation formats than single projects



Co-creative action formats – collaborative platforms, learning in-action, networks

This is offered by macro-regional strategies

Macro-regional strategies are part of the cohesion policy

- Evens out differences – building a cohesive Europe
- Address challenges through the cohesion policy programmes

Before macro-regional strategies, this was mainly done nationally and regionally

only 2.5% of the total programme funds were used for cooperation across borders (Interreg)

since 2009 there are macro-regional strategies

Offering cooperation – cross-sectorial, transnational and based on multilevel collaboration

where authorities and organisations strategic development is integrated in long-term collaboration structures

EU programmes (2021 – 2027) making it possible also to use the 97.5% for transnational collaboration

With support of macro-regional strategies

New policies, methods and structures are being developed by stakeholders in collaboration cross-sectorial, transnational and multilevel

A stronger and more cohesive Europe is emerging

where EU members and non-EU members are working together

where we make use of the collective competence instead of finding solutions on our own

where our resources are used more efficiently

SUSTAINABLE COLLABORATION
is macro-regional strategies offering Europe



What challenges are being addressed by macro-regional strategies?



WHAT challenges are being addressed by macro-regional strategies?

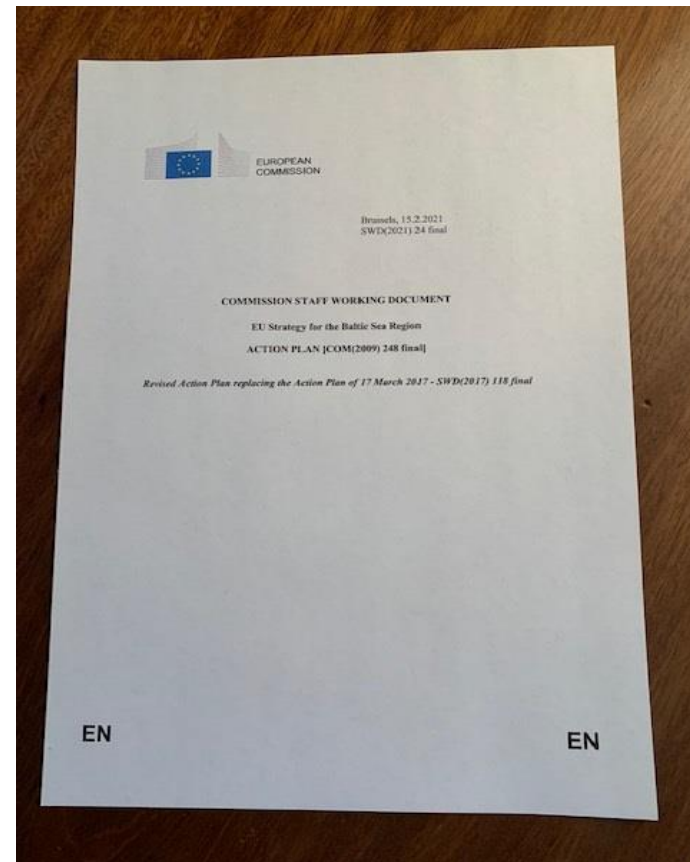
The same challenges we are struggling with in our countries

but selected challenges where collaboration in a macro-regional framework brings an added value

These challenges are listed in an Action Plan

in thematic policy areas

with indicators and targets





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How are macro-regional strategies implemented?



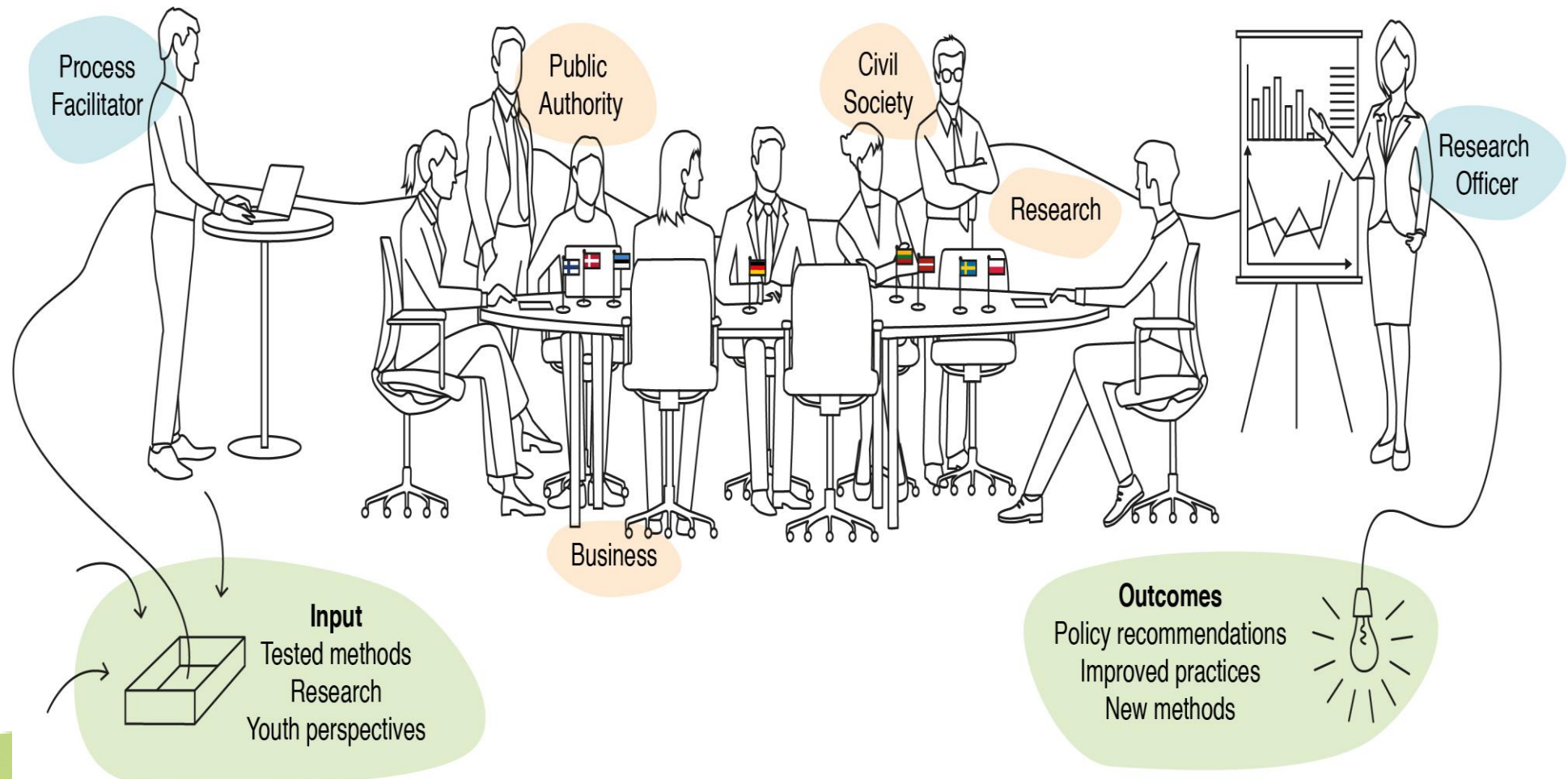
The given prerequisites (3 NO)

- No new institutions
- No new funding
- No new legislation

But 2 YES

- Integrate transnational cooperation in institutions and organisations strategic development – invite them to be part of macro-regional strategies
- Aligning existing funding for the implementation of the macro-regional strategies – EU funds and national funding

Cross-sectorial, transnational, multilevel collaboration is the core of macro-regional strategies



HOW are macro-regional strategies implemented?

New structures for collaboration established

Policy briefs being produced and presented to policy makers

New methods being developed and implemented



Policy Area Coordinators are organising processes for long term collaboration – collaboratives sometimes referred to as flagships or policy-action processes delivering to set indicators in the Action Plan

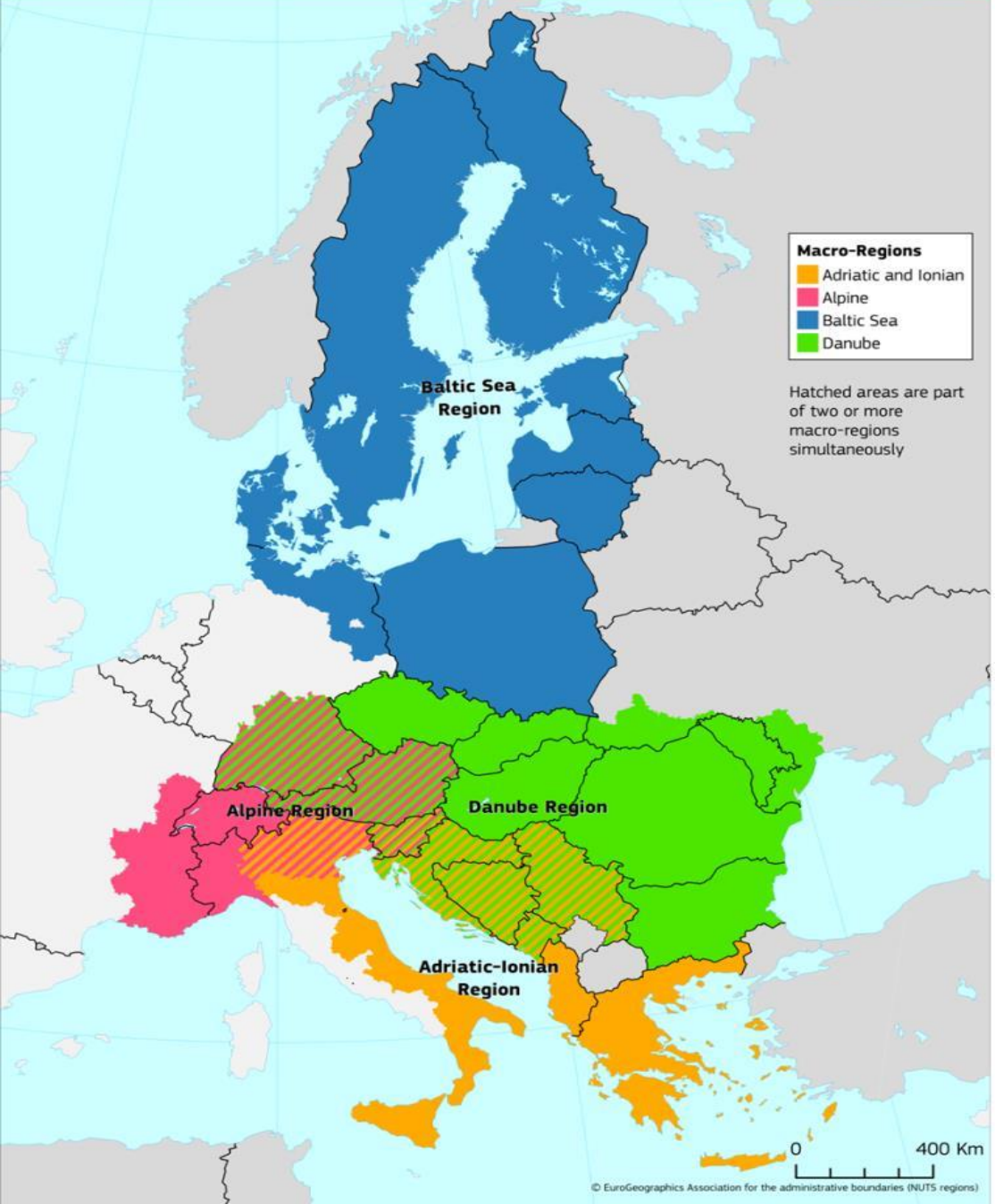
Stakeholders are invited to be part of these processes – via projects, thematic working groups or networks



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Where in Europe does macro-regional strategies exist?





SO FAR 4 MAKROREGIONAL STRATEGIES

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region	2009
EU Strategy for the Danube Region	2010
EU Strategy for the Adriatic-Ionian Region	2014
EU Strategy for the Alpine Region	2015



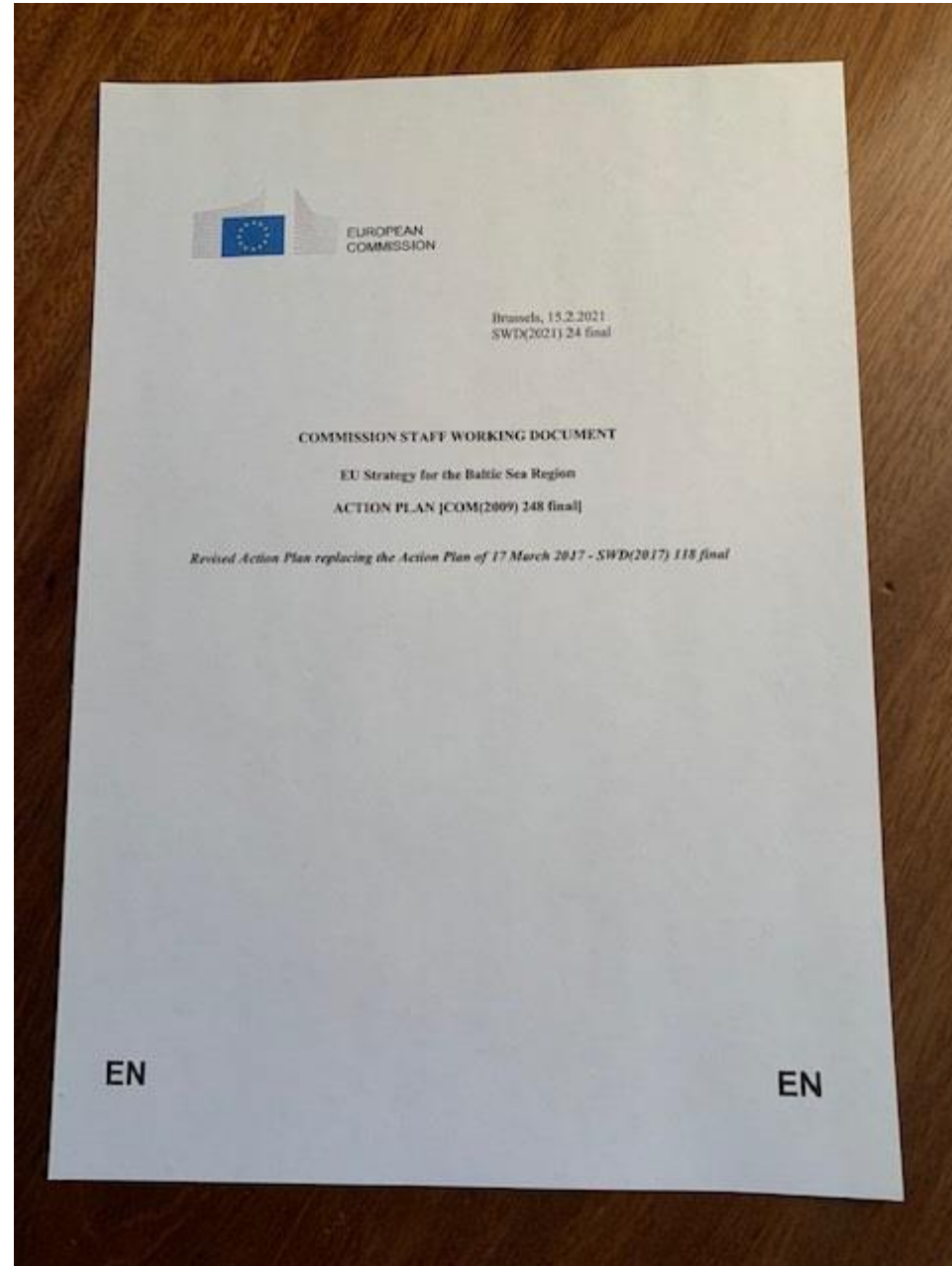
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Let's zoom in on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region



Action Plan

Endorsed on 15 February 2021 –
replacing the previous one from
2015 (2017)



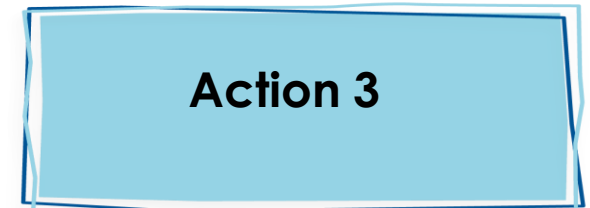
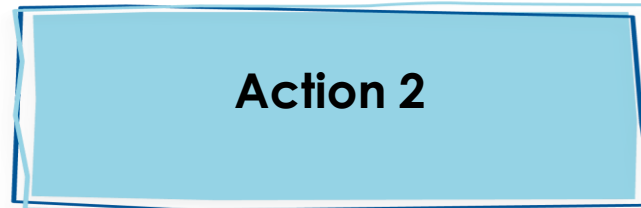
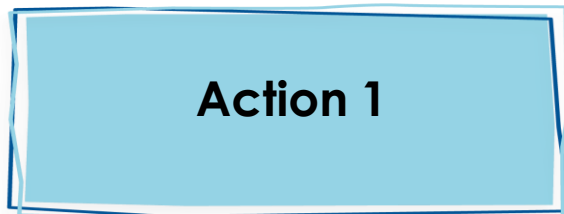
Implementation of the EUSBSR

- ✓ 3 main objectives
- ✓ 14 interconnected Policy Areas



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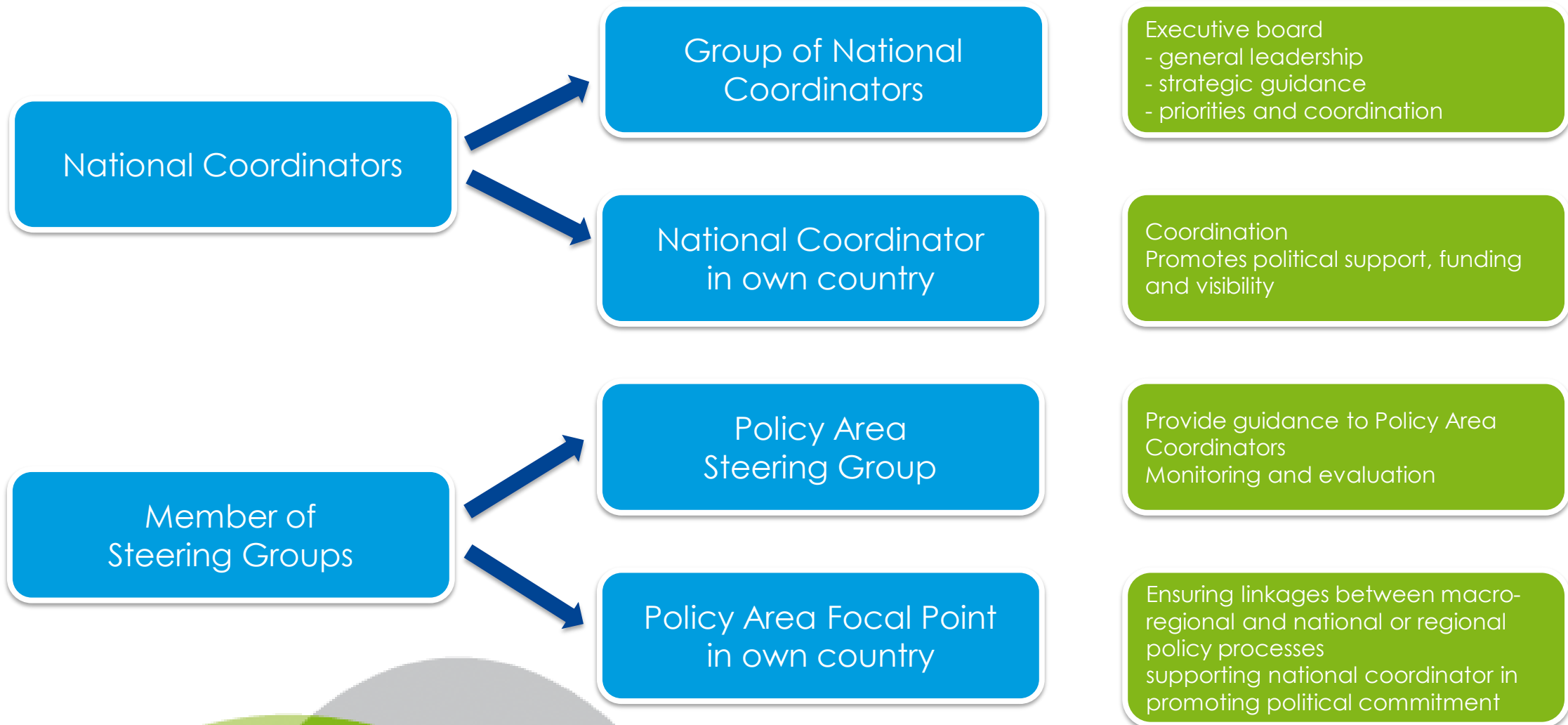
ACTION PLAN - STRUCTURE



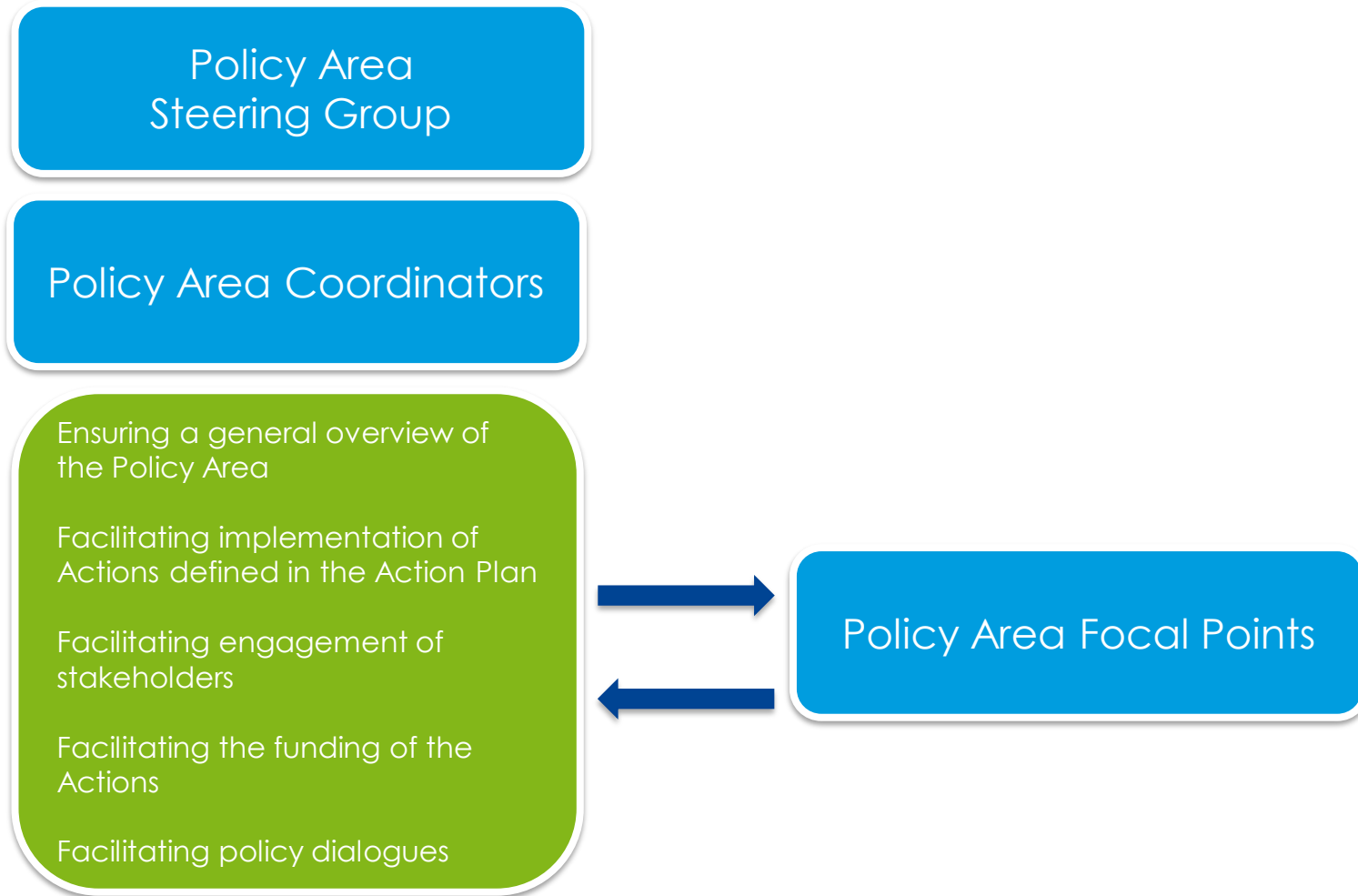
Governance of the EUSBSR



Governance and the interdependency between functions



Governance and the interdependency between functions





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Extract from the Action Plan on the role of Steering Groups



Steering Group

Each Policy Area has a Steering Group (SG). **SG members are representatives of the national or regional governments of the EUSBSR Member States.**

SG members have two kinds of tasks. On the one hand, **they represent their governments in their respective SG.** On the other hand, **they perform their tasks as focal points at the national level.**

The objective is that all SGs include members from all EUSBSR Member States. However, a Member State can choose not to participate in a specific SG. **A Member State can also appoint more than one representative to an SG,** if this is necessary due to the structure of the Member State or other similar reasoning. **In this case, one of the representatives has to be nominated as the main representative and act as such.**

SG members should come from key ministries or authorities in the relevant field. **They should have sufficient capability, mandate and resources to fulfil their tasks as required by the EUSBSR.**

A SG may also invite representatives of non-EU neighbouring countries or organisations to join the group as members or observers, upon a decision taken by consensus by the EUSBSR Member States' representatives in the group.

SGs should convene at least twice a year. Online meetings are encouraged. **The meetings are prepared and organised by the SG presidency, in close cooperation with the respective PAC/PACs.** The SG Presidency should rotate among the SG Members, normally on an annual basis.

Steering Group

SGs take decisions by consensus. They adopt their own **Rules of Procedure**, in accordance with the Action Plan and the common structure for the SG rules of procedure provided by the NCG, while taking into account the specific requirements of their Policy Area.

SGs are cooperation bodies at Policy Area level. Their main task consists of:

- A. Supporting Policy Area Coordinator(s) in fulfilling their tasks**, including:
- **guiding the development of the PA** in general by policy discussions and by endorsing new objectives, developments and operation formats, including flagships;
 - **endorsing proposals to update targets, references etc.** that do not change the Action Plan substantially, in close dialogue with the European Commission and
 - **ensuring linkages to relevant national and regional policy-making.**
- B. Monitoring and evaluating the Policy Areas** include:
- **endorsing the work plans and annual substantial reports on achievements for the PA**, drafted by the PACs, and submitting these documents to the NCG for information.

Steering Group members' tasks at national level

In addition to their responsibilities within their group, SG members' representing national or regional governments **serve as focal points in their respective administrations**. Their role includes:

- **acting as liaison between their PA and the respective administration, ensuring linkages between macro-regional and national or regional policy processes;**
- **raising awareness and ownership of the objectives, means and achievements of the EUSBSR** within their respective administrations and amongst other relevant stakeholders;
- **cooperating with relevant Managing Authorities in their respective home countries**, regarding the operational level;
- **supporting the National Coordinator in promoting political commitment to the Strategy** as well as in raising national awareness and promoting visibility of the EUSBSR.



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What motivates stakeholders to engage in macro-regional strategies?



What motivates stakeholders to engage in the Strategy?

- When implementing local, regional or national strategies connect to the collaboratives (flagships/policy-action processes) offered by the Strategy for exchange of experiences, and/or for taking part in the co-creation of new policies, structures and methods
- Access to knowledge in relevant thematic areas and stakeholders from different sectors, countries and levels (local, regional, national, EU)
- For partner search, finding and building relations with relevant partners for new projects.
- Access to information on funding (EU programmes and national funding)
- For policy dialogues, and possible policy impact.



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Where do macro-regional strategies fit into societal development?



Ex. European Pillar on Social Rights
EU

Agenda 2030
UN

Our Vision2030
Nordic Council of Ministers

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

project

project

project

Interreg programmes

Erasmus+

ESF+

ERDF



Regional Development Plans

National Development Plans



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Thank you for your attention ©