INTERREG in Baltic Sea EU Perspective

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Objectives of new Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

*Deliver the Europe 2020 strategy objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*

*Focus on results*

*Maximise the impact of EU funding*
EU COHESION POLICY: LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE published 20/12/2013

Cohesion Policy Package:
General Regulation
- Common provisions for cohesion policy, the rural development policy and the maritime and fisheries policies
- Common provisions for cohesion policy only (ERDF, ESF, CF)

Regulations for ERDF, ESF, CF

ETC Regulation
ETC : Main features in Legislative Package

- Main Goals for Cohesion Policy (main Objectives):
  - Investment for Growth and Jobs
  - European Territorial Cooperation

- Overall reform Principles for all OPs (ETC and Country-specific)
  - Thematic concentration
  - Results orientation
  - Strategic approach
Thematic concentration
A menu of thematic objectives...

1. Research & innovation
2. Information and communication technologies (ICT)
3. Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
4. Shift towards a low-carbon economy
5. Climate change adaptation & risk prevention and management
6. Environmental protection & resource efficiency
7. Sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
8. Employment & supporting labour mobility
9. Social inclusion & combating poverty
10. Education, skills & lifelong learning
11. Institutional capacity building & efficient public administrations
Result orientation
Performance framework

- Focuses on the achievement of programme specific objectives, result and output indicators

- Sets out baselines, milestones and targets for performance of programme priorities for 2016, 2018 and 2022

- Milestones established for 2016 shall include financial indicators and output indicators

- Milestones established for 2018 shall include as well result indicators
Strategic Approach

Relevant for ETC:

- Alignment to EU 2020 (smart, sustainable and inclusive Growth)

- MacroRegional or Sea Basin Strategies Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes to take them on board [CPR+ETC Reg.].
INTERREG PROGRAMMES

Interreg programmes located directly on the Baltic Sea and the Kattegatt and Skagerrak sea areas, more than EUR 1 billion in ERDF-funding over this programming period.

Funding that will go to projects supporting for example research and innovation, environment, entrepreneurship, sustainable transport, labour mobility and social inclusion.
CBC PROGRAMMES

All cross-border programmes around the Baltic Sea have been adopted and implementation is underway. Some of them were amongst the first Interreg-programmes to be adopted in late 2014, whilst others took a bit longer to go through the programming process and were adopted in December last year. Hence, some programmes are in an early start-up phase with the launch of the first call, whilst some of the "early birds" have concluded their third call.
The transnational Interreg Baltic Sea region programme, covering all countries around the Baltic Sea, incl. the non EU countries Norway and Russia, aims at fostering co-operation along three thematic priorities: fostering innovation, achieving internal and external accessibility and managing the Baltic Sea as a common resource. The priorities are closely linked to the objectives of the EUSBSR. The programme and the EU Strategy are thus fully aligned and pull in the same direction. In addition, the programme supports key implementers of the Strategy and also Seed Money projects. As a result of the first call of the programme in 2015, 35 projects were approved for funding in November 2015, with a total participation of 506 project partners. The second call is currently open.
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Transnational cooperation

- 15 programmes
- 2bn EUR
- Thematic concentration (mostly in Innovation, Environment, Low Carbon Economy)
THE CROSS BORDER REVIEW

- Launched by Commissioner Crețu in Sept. 2015
- Focus on legal & administrative obstacles in EU border regions (incl. AD, CH, LI and NO)
- Three pillars:
  - Study on legal and administrative obstacles in EU border regions (2015-2016)
  - Public consultation (2015)
  - Stakeholder dialogue – workshops (2015-2016)
The Public Consultation

- Open 21 Sept-21 Dec 2015
- Online questionnaire in 23 languages + possibility to submit papers via mailbox.
- Questions on border obstacles and border solutions
- 623 replies received

Main obstacles and general trends

- Certain obstacles mentioned more/less depending on how often one crosses the border

- Obstacles can be multidimensional: origin and how they appear in practice

- Legal and administrative barriers: labour market
Timeline – Next steps

✓ Public consultation (2015)
✓ Draft inventory (Feb. 2016)
✓ Summary report of public consultation (Apr. 16)

- Inventory – final (May 2016)
- 15 case study reports (June 2016)
- Two stakeholder workshops (Sept./Dec. 2016)
- Input to final conclusions and recommendations (Nov. 2016)
- Final conclusions and recommendations (Jan. 2017)

Follow the progress via:
- First Macro-regional Strategy. Followed by 3 more.
- 3 Big Objectives. Action Plan (13 Policy Areas and 4 Horizontal Actions, recently reviewed).
- Integrated framework where all policies and funding instruments should be aligned. Need to embed 2014-2020 programmes.