

Regional development through innovation in multilevel organized cross-border cooperation

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THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LEVEL MACRO - REGIONAL STRATEGIES,

FINNISH LESSONS FROM THE BALTIC SEA REGION STRATEGY

Baltic Sea Region

- Important economic area with great development and economic potential
- 15 % of world's freight traffic conducted via Baltic Sea -> is expected to increase by half before 2030
- Covers 12 % of world's GDP
- Population around 85 million
- Located between Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Baltic States and Russia
- Vulnerable by nature: unique features of the Sea makes it very vulnerable to any kind of pollution or emissions



The Baltic Sea Region



The Baltic Sea Region Strategy

- Adopted by the European Commission in June 2009, endorsed by the European Council in October 2009
 - Includes the Strategy and an Action Plan
 - Action Plan adopted in June 2009 and revised by High Level Working Group in May 2010
- First macro-regional strategy
- Purpose:
 - ➔ to create a regional framework for the EU and the Member countries to define their common development measures, reconciling them with existing financial resources, developing environmental protection for the area and advancing sustainable economic and social development in the area



EU Strategy for the Baltic sea region

- 4 Pillars/key challenges have been identified:
 - sustainable environment;
 - regions prosperity;
 - accessibility and attractiveness;
 - safety and security.
- Implementation of the pillars have been divided to 15 Priority Areas and 13 Horizontal Actions
- Implementation:
 - No new administrative organisations
 - No new financial instruments



Experiences

- Fairly good results
 - Because....
 - Mature co-operation environment and clear political commitment
- Lack of centralised financing has been a slight problem
- Inserting new issues to the existing EU programmes during the implementation period is a fairly difficult exercise
- Strong political commitment in all administrative levels is needed
- Involvement of key players and actors is a prerequisite
- Focusing and prioritisation is recommendable



A project example

- **Baltic Sea Region Stars (BSR Stars)**

- A co-operation project between 10 Baltic Sea States
- The aim is to strengthen competitiveness and economic growth in the Baltic Sea Region by fostering transnational linkages between specialized research and innovation nodes
- The purpose is to establish the Baltic Sea Region as a functional region with an internationally competitive position in a number of strategically prioritized areas
- The mission is to shape a more integrated resource base and expanded market space as well as build dynamic innovation capabilities that can be levered to address common challenges
- The overall objective is to link strong research environments, clusters and SME networks – creating a number of globally-leading research and innovation hubs in the BSR in order to achieve stronger critical mass, attractiveness, and a competitive international position

