



Expert Group on Sustainable Development (EGSD) - Baltic2030

Mandate

Mission

The overall mission of the EGSD is to contribute actively towards the advancing of the *Long-term priorities of the Council of the Baltic Sea States* adopted on 20 June 2014 and support the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted at the United Nations summit on 25 September 2015 in the Baltic Sea region.

The EGSD aim is to allow an inclusive discussion of macroregional trends, address cross border regional issues, support common solutions to common challenges as well as serve as a forum for cooperation across borders and between multiple stakeholders.

The EGSD will focus on advancing the SD in different sectors and facilitate translation of sustainable development policies into actions at regional and national level.

Tasks of the EGSD

In order to achieve the overall mission, the EGSD shall perform the following tasks:

- Develop a new Sustainable Development Agenda for the Baltic Sea region post 2015 as recommended by the Council of the Baltic Sea States in June 2014, and follow-up its implementation;
- Facilitate, support and promote macroregional engagement in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the operationalisation of its goals and targets;
- Support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by fostering coordinated SD governance and related activities of stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region, taking into account the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region; the Strategy for the Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal District of the Russian Federation and other relevant regional strategies and action plans.
- Strengthen sustainable development governance in the Baltic Sea Region

through mutual learning, by exchanging and dissemination of best practices, e.g. through the instrument of voluntary peer reviews

- Continue to foster synergies among relevant CBSS expert groups, BASREC, VASAB, HELCOM, etc. in their work on 2030 Agenda.

Focus Areas

The EGSD will follow up on SDGs in order to include and cooperate with other CBSS Expert Groups, networks and strategic partners in the Baltic Sea Region.

With reference to the previous work and specific competencies of the EGSD, identified areas of common concern, future focus areas include, inter alia:

- Sustainability governance on macroregional level;
- Mitigation of and adaptation to climate change;
- Sustainable urban development;
- Sustainable consumption and production, including resource-efficiency;
- Environmental education and outreach.

Sub-groups

The Expert Group may decide to create thematic, ad hoc groups for further policy and project development in selected areas. The format of such a group and frequency of meetings should reflect actual needs and be flexible.

Membership

The EGSD consists of representatives appointed by a ministry or equivalent government institution from the Council of the Baltic Sea States member countries, with one representative being in the lead, thus coordinating EGSD's work nationally.

The European Commission as a member to the Council of the Baltic Sea States can also appoint a member to the group.

The representatives of the Council of the Baltic Sea States relevant expert groups, networks and strategic partners from around the Baltic Sea contributing to implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in the Baltic Sea Region will be invited to participate by the decision of the EGSD.

Time frame

The time-frame for the work of the EGSD under this mandate is for three years from 2016 to 2018.

Meetings of the EGSD

In principle, the EGSD Presidency shall rotate following the established patterns of the Presidency of the Council.

The Presidency approves the EGSD agenda and presents the relevant documents at the EGSD and the Committee of Senior Officials meetings. The Presidency or the Secretariat hosts the EGSD meetings and may facilitate agreements with hotels and other practical issues.

A troika, composed of the former, incumbent and incoming EGSD Chairmanships, shall be formed to ensure the continuity of the work of the EGSD and to assist in the smooth transition of the Presidency. The troika shall work from July 1st until June 30th. The troika advises on day-to-day issues and advises the Secretariat when to ask the EGSD opinion about principal and urgent issues.

In principle at least two regular meetings should take place under each Presidency, to discuss relevant topics of the programme of work, regional cooperation and progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the Baltic Sea region. Otherwise the group may communicate by e-mail.

The EGSD will adopt an annual Work Plan, communicated to the Council of the Baltic Sea States Committee of Senior Officials.

Invitations to the meeting are sent via email to the EGSD members.

Decisions in the EGSD are taken by consensus.

Each EGSD meeting is documented in a report in which the decisions taken by the group are recorded.

The working language for the EGSD is English.

The EGSD's activities shall be serviced by the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

Resources

Funding for the functioning of the Secretariat shall be provided from the regular budget of the Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and, if agreed by the EGSD, extra budgetary resources provided by interested donors. The EGSD will explore possibilities for external funding when considering the projects.

The member hosting meetings of the EGSD bears the costs connected with the meetings, unless otherwise decided. Participants in the meetings cover their travel and accommodation expenses.

Transparency

Documents and activities from the work of the EGSD are made publicly available on the website (<http://www.cbss.org/sustainable-prosperous-region/egsd-baltic-21/>).

