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| https://mail5.100procent.com/WorldClient.dll?Session=UCJINIR&View=Attachment&Number=186&CID=7BB7E97B1F704991AD9AE01D226057EA@BrittMardator | [**DG Regional Policy support to projects**](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/index_en.htm)

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| In order to continue to support and facilitate the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, DG REGIO geographical units will propose initiatives involving the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment operational programmes. The Commission's ambition is that these programmes contribute to the achievement of EUSBSR objectives by providing the necessary financial resources independently of the individual, parallel or joint character of good quality projects. DG REGIO will shortly send a detailed proposal to the Managing Authorities of the programmes and will present its ideas in a broader context at the meeting in Gdansk on 16-17 February 2011. |   |

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| https://mail5.100procent.com/WorldClient.dll?Session=UCJINIR&View=Attachment&Number=186&CID=7BB7E97B1F704991AD9AE01D226057EA@BrittMardator | [**BONUS, the joint Baltic Sea research and development programme**](http://www.bonusportal.org/)

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| https://mail5.100procent.com/WorldClient.dll?Session=UCJINIR&View=Attachment&Number=186&CID=050E583BD166422CA1A8CA2A6FCA5B82@BrittMardatorThe EUSBRS and BONUS, the joint Baltic Sea research and development programme worth EUR 100 million for the years 2010-2016, have initiated collaboration related to their common aim of securing a better future for the Baltic Sea Region. For instance, eight of the currently funded BONUS+ projects are delivering against both the set BONUS objectives as well as the priorities of the EUSBSR directly. Plans are already in place to convene a BONUS stakeholder event in conjunction with the annual EUSBSR conference taking place in Gdansk, Poland in late autumn 2011. It will introduce results of the BONUS+ projects finishing next year and demonstrate how these reflect the needs of the wider policy and socio-economic landscape. Matching of BONUS projects with EUSBSR priorities is likely to become further strengthened in the future through the development of the BONUS Strategic Research Agenda for the years 2012-2016. This will set the priorities for the future calls for proposals that will be opening from the beginning of 2012.For more information about BONUS and BONUS+ projects, visit the website at "http://www.bonusportal.org/" or contact Maija Sirola, Communications Manager, BONUS, by email maija.sirola@bonuseeig.fi or phone +358 (0)40 352 0076. |   |

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| https://mail5.100procent.com/WorldClient.dll?Session=UCJINIR&View=Attachment&Number=186&CID=7BB7E97B1F704991AD9AE01D226057EA@BrittMardator | [**4th call for projects of the Baltic Sea Region Programme**](http://www.eu.baltic.net/4th_call.14056.html)

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| The fourth (and probably last) call for project applications is open from1 December 2010 till 31 March 2011. The Monitoring Committee decided to limit applications to EUSBSR flagship projects and to specific topics - please check the announcement note for details. |   |

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| https://mail5.100procent.com/WorldClient.dll?Session=UCJINIR&View=Attachment&Number=186&CID=7BB7E97B1F704991AD9AE01D226057EA@BrittMardator | [**EU Strategy for the Danube Region adopted by the Commission!**](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/danube/index_en.htm)

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| https://mail5.100procent.com/WorldClient.dll?Session=UCJINIR&View=Attachment&Number=186&CID=14D6FFF9EED04C23A8CF7FD9165C7DE1@BrittMardatorOn 8 December, the Commission adopted its Communication on the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The Council will now consider the strategy during the Hungarian EU Presidency with a view to endorsing it in June 2011.More information about the Danube strategy, including the Communication and its Action Plan, can be found via the above link. |   |

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| https://mail5.100procent.com/WorldClient.dll?Session=UCJINIR&View=Attachment&Number=186&CID=7BB7E97B1F704991AD9AE01D226057EA@BrittMardator | [**The power of the Baltic Sea macro-region**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46B8qCMtvr0)

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| "The power of the Baltic Sea macro-region" was the headline for the Baltic Sea Region Programme Conference in Jyväskylä, Finland 30.11-1.12.2010. Almost 300 participants from all over the region had the opportunity to discuss and update their knowledge on this topic. The President of Finland, **Tarja Halonen** stressed the importance of serious work and enhanced cooperation: "The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region can help to set concrete goals in developing the region. We  seek to co-operate and to share experiences with other maritime regions". Furthermore, the Minister for Economic Affairs in Finland, **Mauri Pekkarinen**, pointed out that many elements are best addressed in a Macro Regional context but that Member States have their responsibilities for national policies. In order to have an overall view on the macro-regional concept **Colin Wolfe** from DG Regional Policy reflected on the lessons learnt so far and **Anna Bérczi** from Hungary gave a presentation on the structure and development for the Danube Region Strategy. The ETC programmes have in general put focus on the development and implementation of EUSBSR. The first macro-regional Strategy in Europe was also one of the main topics in the Annual Conference of the Botnia-Atlantica Programme in Pori, Finland on 8-9 December 2010. (Please note that President Tarja Halonens video message is available on youtube via the above link). |   |

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| https://mail5.100procent.com/WorldClient.dll?Session=UCJINIR&View=Attachment&Number=186&CID=7BB7E97B1F704991AD9AE01D226057EA@BrittMardator | [**Priority area in focus: To reduce nutrient inputs to the Sea to acceptable levels (PA 1)**](http://www.itameriportaali.fi/en/suojelu/euyhteistyo/en_GB/eunitameristrategia/)

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| https://mail5.100procent.com/WorldClient.dll?Session=UCJINIR&View=Attachment&Number=186&CID=C16F26E68EDD42D0873BFCD53AEC2180@BrittMardatorOne of the urgent environmental challenges faced by the Baltic Sea Region is the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. To address this complex issue, the Ministry of Environment, Finland, and the Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection, Poland, has joined forces to coordinate Priority Area 1 of the EUSBSR, which is aimed at reducing nutrient inputs to the Sea to acceptable levels. A main first task of the coordinators has been to secure the active involvement of stakeholders from the entire macro-region, and today they are actively networking with organisations such as HELCOM, as well as with several other Priority Areas of the Strategy. Information about the activities and results of PA 1 can be found via the above link and at the website of the Voivodship Inspectorates for Environmental Protection in Poland ([www.gios.gov.pl](http://www.gios.gov.pl/)).The PA 1 Flagship Project "Baltic Deal - Putting best agricultural practises into work" ([www.balticdeal.eu](http://www.balticdeal.eu/)), co-financed by the BSR Programme and the NEFCO/NIB BSAP Trust Fund, is a good example of how important stakeholders engage actively in the process. Initiated by five farmer federations, the Baltic Deal project aims at further reducing agriculture’s contribution of nutrients to the Baltic Sea without impaired competetiveness or production through a focus on improved agricultural advisory services and demonstration farms. Together with around 30 associated partners, the project covers all BSR countries including Norway and Russia. |   |

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| https://mail5.100procent.com/WorldClient.dll?Session=UCJINIR&View=Attachment&Number=186&CID=7BB7E97B1F704991AD9AE01D226057EA@BrittMardator | [**Technical amendments**](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/baltic/newsletter_en.htm)

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| The EUSBSR newsletter now features the possibility of technical amendments: You are invited to use the new four buttons at the end of the newsletter to "share" it with your colleagues/friends, to "subscribe" or "unsubscribe", as well as to "contact" us in case of any question - we will be pleased to respond! |   |

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