



Ministry of Agriculture
Republic of Latvia



EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION
Latvian Presidency
2023-2024

2nd PA Bioeconomy Steering group meeting under Latvian presidency

20.02.2024. MS Teams

Elīna Lāce (LV) Ministry of Agriculture
Kristian Poulsen Nordic Council of Ministers
Dalia Miniataitė (LT) Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania
Vitalija Fokienė (LT) Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania
Lars Andersson (SE) Swedish Forest Agency
Janika Salev (EE) Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture
Iris Huhi (EE) Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture
Rauno Reinberg (EE) Ministry of Climate
Magdalena Skoneczna (PL) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Paweł Łazarski (PL) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

As observers:

Viktoriia Hladii Baltic Sea Strategy Point
Marlene Riedel Baltic Sea Strategy Point
Torfi Jóhannesson, special adviser

As presenters:

Olga Trofimtseva, Agrifood Team Lead at the Mykolaiv Water Hub and Former Acting Minister of Agricultural policy and Food of Ukraine
Laura Liepiņa, European Commission

Minutes from the meeting

	Agenda points	Decisions
1.	Welcome and approval of agenda. Elīna Lāce, <i>Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia</i>	EL welcomed the members of the SG and noted the absence of the members from DE and DK. The agenda for the meeting was approved.
2.	Status of the PA Bioeconomy activities <i>Nordic Council of Ministers</i>	KP, DM, VF, and TJ gave a status for the work of the PA-Bioeconomy: - <u>On Dec 4, 2023</u> , PA-Nutri and PA-Bioeconomy, in collaboration with the Coalition Clean Baltic,

		<p>organized a workshop addressing "Extreme Weather Events and Their Impact on Nutrient Leakage from Rural Areas." There are plans for a follow-up seminar and even to establish a standing network for this thematic area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>On December 11, 2023</u>, PA-Bioeconomy organized an introductory webinar for its Steering Group members, aimed at providing general information on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and, more specifically, outlining the role of Steering Groups within this framework. - <u>In January 2024</u>, most of the work has been devoted to reporting to Interreg Baltic. - <u>On February 6-8</u> some of the PAC's attended an <i>EUSBSR Family Meeting in Hamburg</i>, together with fellow PAC's and NC's and other stakeholders. The meeting was organized by the Baltic Sea Strategy Point. - <u>There have been dialogues</u> with PA-Secure about arranging a workshop on resilience in the BSR, covering both food security, energy, and other vital areas of disaster preparedness. - <u>There have been dialogues</u> with PA-Health about a workshop on healthy and sustainable diets. - <u>PA-Bioeconomy has sent application</u> to the organizers for the Annual Forum 2024 for two workshops, one together with PA-Inno, and the other one together with PA-Nutri. - <u>There have been dialogues</u> with PA-Nutri and several other partners (among them some from Ukraine) about a common project application to the Swedish Institute related to water pollution in Ukraine. It looks like the direction of the proposal is going to be towards wastewater treatment and therefore it will probably not be relevant for PA-Bioeconomy. - <u>Discussions with Submariner</u> are on-going, hopefully resulting in formalized cooperation. - <u>In LT there have been efforts</u> to encouraging potential project applicants to generate ideas, initiate partnerships and prepare project applications to Interreg.
3.	<p>EUSBSR to help rebuild Ukraine. <i>Dr. Olga Trofimtseva, Former Acting Minister of Agricultural policy and Food of Ukraine</i></p>	<p>OT gave a presentation showcasing the damage done in Ukraine by the Russian war, with special focus on the agriculture sector. She also presented ways for the EUSBSR to help Ukraine through cooperation and alignment to EU.</p>

		Discussion about possibilities members of the SG have to offer/ongoing projects. This topic to be continued in the SG work and Annual forum.
4.	Recent Developments in the EU Bioeconomy Policy <i>Laura Liepiņa, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission</i>	<p>LL delivered a comprehensive presentation on the state of bioeconomy in Europe, offering insights into the evolution of bioeconomy policy and its future trajectory. She provided statistics pertaining to the development of national and regional bioeconomy strategies, highlighting key milestones and trends.</p> <p>Additionally, Laura discussed initiatives such as Regional Innovation Valleys, the Bioeconomy Changemakers Festival (a high-level event), and the Bioeconomy Youth Ambassadors program, showcasing innovative approaches and fostering engagement across various stakeholders.</p>
5.	Status on EUSBSR Annual Forum. <i>Nordic Council of Ministers</i>	KP informed the group that the Annual Forum is scheduled to occur on October 1, 2024, in Visby. He mentioned that the organizers are currently soliciting suggestions for potential workshops to be included in the event's agenda. The forum is set to build upon themes from the previous year, particularly focusing on cooperation with Ukraine and resilience.
6.	AOB and Closing of the meeting. <i>Nordic Council of Ministers Ministry of Agriculture</i>	EL thanked the meeting attendees and closed the meeting.