

The following text is included in all nine Swedish ERDF Operational Programmes. For more information, please contact Ulf Savbäck or Björne Hegefældt ulf.savback@tillvaxtverket.se, bjorne.hegefældt@tillvaxtverket.se

Coordination and corporation activities in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Many of the challenges that Sweden and EU faces are cross-border in nature, for both the local, regional and national level. The need for closer cooperation between the member states is also underlined in the Europe 2020 strategy. The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region gives important guidance for the selection of actions so the regional operational program can be used in an more targeted and focused way to address common challenges in the macro-region.

A key issue for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is well-functioning multi-level governance between the different sectors in society. All levels need to participate in order to reach the Strategy's objectives; Save the Sea, Connect the Region and Increase Prosperity.

A Baltic Sea Strategy project can be either a Flagship project listed in the Action Plan for the Strategy, or a project with a clear macro-regional impact that contributes to fulfil the Strategy's objectives and indicators by contributing to one or several of the actions in the Action Plan.

In context of the Swedish operational programmes the contribution to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region will in most cases be by actions that is carried out in cooperation with on ore several other Member States in the macro-region.

The regional structural fund programme will support cooperation activities for the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region using two mechanisms: ¹

A – Macro-regional Integrated Projects

The project integrates transnational cooperation in the project and defines the cooperation activities in the application. The cooperation partners from other Member States are identified in the application and the partners intends to apply for support from their own regional operational programmes in order to participate in the project.

B – Transnational Component

On-going projects is given the opportunity to apply for an additional project, "Transnational Component" to cooperate with other relevant projects in the macro-region. Applying separately for the cooperation component allows for increased flexibility for the duration and content of the cooperation activities. To encourage the use of transnational cooperation a higher co-financing rate for the transnational component could be used.

It is noteworthy that cooperation activities can be carried out with partners from different European Structural and Investment funds, ie between the regional fund, the social fund or the rural development fund.

The Managing Authority will work actively to promote the possibilities for financing of cooperation with stakeholders within the macro-region. An example could be targeted calls for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The above described actions that will receive support as must have an added value for the programme area concerned and contribute to the Strategy's objectives and priorities.

The cooperation activities should be focused on implementing common solutions for identified cross-border problems.

¹ For more information, see Macro Regional Strategies in the ESI Operational Programmes 2014-2020 – proposal for a Transnational Cooperation Component to support the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – EUSBSR; Concept Paper; 2013