**The Swedish structure for the implementation of the EUSBSR**
Since the EUSBSR was adopted the Swedish Government has assigned 37 government agencies and 21 County Administration Boards to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy, Tillväxtverket (the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth) was given the task to establish a network, coordinate and follow up the implementation of the Strategy in Sweden in consultation with the relevant Ministries and the Prime Minister´s Office.

Each organization shall annually submit a report to their respective ministries with a copy to the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth concerning activities during the preceding calendar year. Tillväxtverket shall annually prepare a consolidated report for those authorities that have got a formal assignment to contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

To fulfill the coordination mission Tillväxtverket continuously cooperates with officials in the secretariat of the Prime Minister´s Office and the officials of relevant ministries. To create conditions for the important and necessary dialogue between the national and regional/local level, officials from government agencies, regions and county administrative boards have been invited 3-4 occasions yearly since 2010. Between 70 and 80 people attend the Network meetings each time. These meetings play an important role in exchanging information and experiences both between the authorities themselves and between the authorities, regions and county administrative boards.

The meetings are attended by the Swedish National Contact Point from the Prime Minister's Secretariat and officials from relevant Ministries. They provide valuable information on ongoing work within the respective ministries in the implementation of the Strategy, bringing information from the "high-level group meetings" and other relevant meetings at EU level. Officials from the Swedish Institute (former SIDA Baltic Sea Unit) have informed about the options available to obtain "seed money" for projects in early stages. In order to get a connection to the municipal level, officials from the Swedish Association for Local Authorities and Regions participate in the above mentioned meetings. Furthermore the participants inform each other about the ongoing work within their respective organizations. They also present specific projects. In addition to the mutual exchange, there are discussions about; funding sources, definitions of flagship projects, roles and responsibilities etc.

Following requests from the Network participants, a number of sub-working groups are being established. So far, there are groups dealing with the social dimension, education and the Digital Agenda.

Regarding water management issues, the County Administrative Boards concerned, which are also appointed as “Water Authority”, have built up an integrated water management structure with a new network-like approach. In addition, they have built up, developed and participated in the Nordic and European network of water management issues. By initiating a comparative study of how the Nordic countries have implemented the Water Framework Directive, the Water Authorities have contributed to increasing the understanding of how water management is conducted in other European countries.

The Managing Authority for the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) in Sweden has participated in a concrete way in the dissemination of the strategy to the local level. This has been done by informing about the strategy and its possibilities. In connection with the announcement of calls for proposals, a new selection criterion was added where applications must clearly state how the project contributes to implementation of the EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region.