

Flagship: functions and structure

The EUSBSR is implemented, among others, by means of flagships – projects and processes. Flagships demonstrate the process and progress of the EUSBSR, and may serve as pilot examples for desired change.

A flagship is frequently the result of a policy discussion within a policy area/horizontal action. It fleshes out the ambition of a policy area/horizontal action in a specified field. It may, for example, develop key solutions, new methodologies, practices or be a network looking for new forms of cooperation. Flagships may also concern key investments of regional importance.

In terms of structure, a flagship is either a:

- **Single project;**
- **Set of projects (a group) contributing to same action;**
- **Process (e.g. network, new cooperation platform, etc.);**

The label of a flagship can be given to a project/process that fulfils the following criteria, it:

- Has a high macro-regional impact;
- Contributes to meeting the objectives, indicators and targets of the EUSBSR;
- Is related to the implementation of one or more actions of the policy area/horizontal action concerned;

In general, a flagship is also expected to:

- have a clear macro-regional dimension (cooperation between and/or impact on at least three Baltic Sea region states including at least two EU Baltic Sea region states if another Baltic Sea region state (Russia, Norway, Iceland, Belarus) is involved); in case a flagship is implemented by individual efforts (projects), coordination between these individual projects should be ensured. It should be clearly shown how these individual projects make an impact at macro-regional level. Any flagship shall clearly contribute to the objectives, indicators and targets of the EUSBSR;
- be mature for implementation;
- be implemented within a realistic timeframe;
- have a clear financial and activity plan which e.g. encompass setting aside resources for attending relevant activities of the respective policy area/horizontal action and the EUSBSR;
- have an established partnership and an identified flagship leader.
- be monitored and evaluated towards the objectives, indicators and targets of the EUSBSR and particular policy area/horizontal action;

A flagship can be listed under one policy area/horizontal action only. If a flagship contributes to several policy areas/horizontal actions, it is recommended to liaise with the other relevant policy areas/horizontal actions.

A flagship does not have the exclusive right to undertake action in the policy area/horizontal action under which it is listed. The policy area coordinator(s)/horizontal action coordinator(s) may at any time accept more flagships in the same field.

Furthermore, by implementing the flagship, its leader shall fulfil certain tasks of the flagship leader as specified under the tasks of flagship leaders above [on p. 15 in the Action Plan].

As soon as the flagship status is granted, the flagship leader should follow the visual identity requirements of the EUSBSR and attach flagship label to it.

With a view to simplify the current procedure in getting a flagship status in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), a following new procedure has been agreed at the meeting of the National Coordinators of the EUSBSR (25 February 2015, Riga, Latvia). The following proposal on a procedure for issuing letters of commitment to potential new EUSBSR flagships and for approval of new EUSBSR flagships is following this new procedure.

PROPOSAL ON INTERNAL PROCEDURE FOR ISSUING LETTERS OF COMMITMENT TO POTENTIAL FLAGSHIP PROJECTS & FOR APPROVAL OF NEW EUSBSR FLAGSHIPS

Most projects applying for funding from e.g. INTERREG Baltic Sea Region programme and aiming at becoming an EUSBSR flagship have to submit a letter of commitment issued by a relevant EUSBSR PAC/ HAC as a supporting document to their project proposal in order to become technically eligible to participate in the selection process.

Projects interested in **obtaining a letter of commitment** as potential EUSBSR flagship under EUSBSR Horizontal Action Sustainable, are to undertake the following:

1. Identify and motivate why and how the proposed flagship would contribute to HA Sustainable and how it fulfills the defined criteria for EUSBSR flagships;
2. Establish contact with the horizontal action coordinator (CBSS-Baltic 21 Secretariat), by submitting the project proposal/ project idea form, the motivation as described in 1.) in written format and indication of the targeted funding source;
3. After assessing the proposed flagship, the horizontal action coordinator (CBSS-Baltic 21 Secretariat) will initiate a written procedure for decision by make a recommendation to the coordination group for the EUSBSR HA Sustainable for issuing a letter of commitment based on the information provided in 1.) and 2.) by the project.

The recommendation can be submitted as a written procedure or as an agenda item of an EGSD meeting and contains the project proposal/ project idea form and the motivation why the project should receive a letter of commitment;

4. After initiation of the written procedure, the members of the HA Sustainable Development coordination group have 10 working days to express support or refusal of issuing a letter of commitment, motivated in accordance with the set flagship criteria;

Alternatively a consensus decision on issuing a letter of commitments might be taken at an EGSD meeting;

5. If the proposal is supported by the group, the horizontal action coordinator (CBSS-Baltic 21 Secretariat) on behalf of the coordination group issues a letter of commitment to the potential flagship

6. The coordinator of the Horizontal Action Sustainable (CBSS-Baltic 21 Secretariat) informs the coordination group on the further development of projects that have received a letters of commitment.

7. In case

- **(a) project(s) that was/ were issued a letter of commitment receive(s) a positive funding decision or**
- **processes/ projects where funding was already secured or is of different nature** are interested in obtaining the label of an EUSBSR flagship,

the Horizontal Action coordinator (CBSS-Baltic 21 Secretariat) is initiating a written procedure, submitting the final project application/ process description together with the EUSBSR flagship



template and a recommendation to the coordination group indicating how the requirements for becoming a flagship have been met by the project/ process for decision;

8. After initiation of the written procedure, the members of the HA Sustainable Development coordination group have 10 working days to express support or refusal of recommending the project to obtain the label of a flagship in the EUSBSR, motivated in accordance with the set flagship criteria;

Alternatively a consensus decision on recommending a project/ process for obtaining the label of a flagship might be taken at an EGSD meeting;

9. If the proposal is supported by the group, the horizontal action coordinator (CBSS-Baltic 21 Secretariat) submits a recommendation to DG REGIO regarding the project/ process, indicating how the requirements for becoming a flagship have been met by using the flagship template for the EUSBSR;

10. DG REGIO considers the proposal and may consult other Commission services before making a recommendation to the national coordinators;

11. As soon as the national coordinators agree on the proposal, flagship status is granted. The flagship will be included in an Annex to the Action Plan and published on the EUSBSR and DG REGIO websites;

12. The HLG will be informed about the modifications in the Annex to the Action Plan (concerning flagships).