



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

## BSN Vision 2030

### Future of science and research cooperation in the BSR

“We need a common voice of the science and research community at the macro region“

BSN managed to establish as a key forum for Science and Research cooperation in the BSR. As a flagship of European Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) under Policy Area Education BSN is well established in the political structures of BSR. BSN contributes to the CBSS Science Research Innovation Agenda (SRIA), Action Plan and the CBSS Ministerial Declaration Vilnius II “A Vision for the BSR by 2030”, that stress the importance of close cooperation in education, science, research and innovation in the BSR.

Regarding the future work of the network BSN has launched a vision process to define the future functional role, thematic areas and structure of the network (for details see Annex 1).



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

## Functional Role

BSN's future work will build on key strengths acknowledged in the vision process:

1. BSN serves as a platform for **policy exchange** at macro regional level.
2. BSN's added value and uniqueness is the **diversified voice of different members** such as ministries, universities, funding agencies and regional organisations.
3. BSN has become a **real experience in the wider science community** beyond BSN members
4. BSN helps to form a **BSR identity** with concrete activities such as the BARI mobility programme and the Launchpad.
5. BSN **target group can act as multipliers** for BSN and BSR cooperation.
6. BSN is a **catalyst to initiate new cooperation projects**.
7. BSN brings science and research on the **EUSBSR agenda** and is established as a flagship under PA Education.
8. BSN helps to foster science **cooperation between EU and Non-EU** countries in the BSR.

Building on these strengths BSN strives to be:

9. the **common voice of BSR science community** at the macro region in representing scientists, policy actors, funders and innovators.
10. a **coordinator and joint platform** to initiate joint projects and initiatives among members.
11. a **project enabler** to foster cooperation of scientists and researchers on the ground.

## Priority Areas and Formats

BSN will build on the strong network in its current priority areas while expanding the thematic coverage where opportunities arise. Therefore BSN will:

12. continue its work in the two priority areas life science and photon neutron science.
13. allow a flexible choice of additional topics, especially when a new gap is identified. Any new topic should take into account macro-regional specifics and needs, such as maritime research for example.
14. cover interdisciplinary topics such as green transition and sustainability.
15. cover not only thematic areas but also cross-cutting issues such as digitalisation.
16. continue to use, promote and further develop existing tools such as BARI and Launch Pad.



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

17. strengthen efforts to apply and adapt tools to digital formats.
18. provide different formats to engage different stakeholders.

## Membership and Network

BSN's strength is the diversified voice it represents. Therefore BSN will:

19. continue as a multi-level network including actors from policy level, universities, research infrastructures, funding organisations at regional, national and transnational level.
20. continue cooperation with new members that have been involved in BSN activities.
21. operate as an open network that welcomes new members.
22. encourage all members to actively initiate common projects and initiatives.
23. enhance efforts to integrate countries currently not represented in the network.
  
24. BSN membership is free of charge. All members pro-actively support the network and seek to strengthen cooperation and joint initiatives. All members are free to decide if they want to participate in joint projects and initiatives initiated by others.
  
25. BSN will meet on a semi-annual basis for a regular exchange of ideas and for defining future cooperation projects. Those meetings can be coordinated by the Hamburg Ministry of Science, Research, Equalities and Districts until decided otherwise. CBSS will continue to promote the network via website and news channels.

BSN will continue to strengthen **synergies with existing policy frameworks and initiatives** in the BSR.

Therefore BSN will:

26. continue its efforts to integrate into and make use of existing policy frameworks such as EUSBSR and CBSS.
27. explore options to strengthen cooperation with others organisations such as Nordic Council of Ministers, Northern Dimension Partnerships, BSSSC, HELCOM, BSPC, UBC, STRING and other cooperation formats relevant to the field of science and research.
28. strengthen ties with existing University networks such as BUP, BSRUN.
29. seek to find potential for cooperation with the European Universities Alliances



EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

30. increase cooperation and use synergies with other programmes such as Nordforsk, BANOS and initiatives such as HALOS, HELIOS.
31. strengthen efforts to position the network at EU level in order to promote macro regional interests in the field of science, research and Innovation.
32. act also as an advocate for macro-regional cooperation on the regional and national level of the CBSS Member States
33. actively promote and use synergies with bilateral initiatives and strategies.
34. Explore options for cooperation with S&R networks in other macro regions, to share lessons-learned and good practices.



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

## Annex 1: Concept Vision Process

### Political vision for the BSN beyond powerhouse

#### Starting position

BSN\_powerhouse has proved that

- there is a strong interest from BSR RI and HEI to receive political and practical support for engaging in transnational cooperation and to develop the BSR as common region for research and innovation
- BARI and LaunchPad match these demands / have been successfully tested and developed further during the pilot phase
- Despite a wide range of already existing transnational cooperation networks the BSR still offers large untapped potentials suitable to develop the region to one of the world's most competitive science and innovation hubs

Since 2016 BSN has become the most important arena for discussing, developing and joining political action towards intensified science cooperation in the region. Beyond practical support for research cooperation BSN also has a unique role to play as it facilitates multilevel science governance involving EU-, national-, subnational, -regional actors, as well as non-EU countries (Russia, Norway) and non-state actors (Universities, RIs, Funding organisations). The strategic importance and wider recognition of the BSN is underlined by its EUSBSR Flagship status. Achievements in BSR science cooperation can be seen as important steps on the way to realise the ERA.

#### Objectives of Vision Process:

Two-fold approach:

1. BSN WPs shall develop concepts for continuation and further development of two Instruments (launchPad and BARI). This is in the responsibility of WP 2 and 3 but Vision group will meet regularly with the two WPs to share ideas, include ideas of the two WPs and harmonise both concepts.
2. Vision for Future of BSN: the aim of the Vision process is to develop a concept for the future of BSN. This will include results developed by the two WPS (no. 1) but shall not be limited to simple continuation of the two instruments. Tasks include:
  - Develop a general vision, objective, governance, funding, ...
  - Define any new topics (e.g. Resilient Society, Green Deal, Digitalisation, Maritime Research, Life Science, Development of Science Cities) and/or formats (e.g. testing new digital instruments for cooperation, ...)
  - Redefine focus/direction of action (technology/knowledge transfer, involving actors and needs from industry, business, society)
  - Make suggestions for widening and reorganising the network accordingly



EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
FUND

The vision will reflect latest developments and priorities of major political processes. The BSN plays a major role in the CBSS agenda under its priority area Sustainable & Prosperous Region. Also the Vision for the Baltic Sea Region 2030 Science and Research Cooperation are highlighted as major cornerstones of the future vision. Of particular relevance is further the EUSBSR Action Plan, where BSN is defined as a Flagship project. The future vision will further take into account the new Interreg Baltic Sea Programme and its four priorities namely 'Innovative societies' (Priority 1), 'Water-smart societies' (Priority 2), 'Carbon-neutral societies' (Priority 3) and 'Cooperation governance' (Priority 4).

### Methodology:

- Organisational Team: WP Leaders (UTU, EE, HH) will conduct first meeting in January (the mandate of the organisational team is to organise the vision development process. All decisions about the future of BSN will be made by all BSN partners)

#### Step 1: External Input

- The brainstorming will be organised in smaller groups, to allow for extensive discussion and input from various stakeholders
- Conduct 4-5 Vision Workshops / Brainstorming Sessions in spring 2021, additional bilateral discussions with individual experts may be conducted if suitable.
- In each Workshop small groups of 6-7 people will discuss the future of BSN work
- The first workshops will primarily focus on external partners and target group (e.g. key BSR experts, representatives from EUSBSR, Universities and RIs) All partners are invited to share ideas and names for participants.
- During each of the workshops 1-2 BSN partners are invited to participate.

#### Step 2: Internal Discussion

- LP will summarise results and present these during next Partner Meeting in April
- During the Partner Meeting an internal Vision Workshop will be organised to discuss external input and develop further ideas for future of BSN work.
- Partners will approve content, next steps and concept for finalisation of the BSN Vision

#### Step 3: Finalisation

- Further expert discussions and workshops may be organised after April 2021 if necessary.
- Final BSN vision should be approved by all partners during final conference

For further information contact BSN Project Manager Franziska Jerosch

([Franziska.jerosch@bwfgb.hamburg.de](mailto:Franziska.jerosch@bwfgb.hamburg.de))