



# Will new Rural Development Programmes save the Baltic Sea

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Answer: **NOT ALONE + if well-coordinated**

## 1. AE baseline

- GAEC-s + SMR-s
- CAP Pillar I
- Advise
- Levelling the baseline? NVA versus the BSR

## 2. Joint implementation of AE aspects in the Baltic Sea Region

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## State of play of the EUSBSR

1. MS-s have integrated the Strategy to the annual reporting on the current RDP-s
2. Flagship projects related to rural development are successful
3. Excellent events related to the Strategy have been organised in the Region, including annual conference "Greener Agriculture for the Blue Baltic Sea"

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## Challenges ahead

1. Establishing or deepening the cooperation between Member States, regions, LAG-s, organisations around the Baltic Sea to achieve the objectives of the Strategy
2. Follow-up of the pilot projects relevant to PA AGRI and implementing the results
3. Taking the Strategy into account in the design of measures of RDP-s 2014-2020

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## Rural Development as agreed in Objective 'SAVE the SEA'

1. Reducing eutrophication = land-based sources of nutrients
2. Cooperation to improve the water quality of groundwater and river basin management
3. Application of sustainable agricultural practices with focus on reduction of fertilisers)

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## 'SAVE the SEA' and RDP-s 2014+

### Alignment of some agri-environmental measures around the Baltic Sea

1. Better design to go well beyond the baseline
2. Special attention to the most vulnerable areas
3. Availability of support to collective territorial approaches

### Coordination and awareness of best practice

1. Availability of investment support in best manure management technologies around the Baltic Sea
2. Development of agricultural advisory services in the BS Region (some elements of advice to be available all around the Baltic Sea)

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## Examples of RDP activities

- FINLAND – Support for investments improving the efficiency of using manure, such as new manure processing systems, construction of manure storage covers
- ESTONIA – Introduction of territorially targeted measures such as less intensive cultivation of peat soils and soils in hilly areas threatened by erosion
- SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN and MECKLENBURG - WESTERN POMERANIA – Development of semi-natural water bodies (serves to improve the morphology and biology of surface waters, and helps to stabilise the ecosystem)
- DENMARK – Support to the establishment and management of wetlands

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## Suggestions by 'Baltic DEAL'

1. Growing nitrogen fixing (leguminous) plants
2. Growing catch crops over the winter and promoting permanent plant cover
3. Promoting precision farming
4. Planning optimal use of fertilisers parcel by parcel, possibly implementing nutrient balance also at farm level
5. Setting wide buffer strips next to water bodies (how wide as a minimum for the Baltic Sea area – a point for discussions)

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## HELCOM list of -PN AE activities 2013

### Soil management

Part cover to winter  
Cultivating land for crop establishment in spring  
Controlled sub-surface drainage  
Vegetative cover in autumn and winter on arable land

Minimal cultivation systems  
Catch crops  
Promoting long-term grass cultivation on arable land

### Fertiliser and manure management

Fertilisation plans  
Adopting the amounts of fertiliser / manure  
No or reduced P for high soil P parts of fields  
Improved spreading technology for manure / fertilizer  
Measure to optimise soil pH = liming  
No spreading of fertilizers / manure in risk periods  
Slurry separation  
Biogas production from manure and waste

Calculating nutrient balances on farm and/or field level  
Conversion from conventional to organic production  
Ammonia emission reduction measures  
Fertiliser (site-specific dosage, control drilling, incorporation, liquid / solid manure)  
Measures to improve soil structure  
Avoiding the application of chemical fertilisers and manure to high-risk areas  
Increasing the capacity of manure storage  
Composting solid manure  
Pelletisation

### Adapted animal feeding

Reducing nitrogen and phosphorus intake

Feed supplementation

Wet feed and fermentation

### Farm infrastructure

Controlled methods for nutrient reduction/restoration  
Buffer zones along water areas and erosion-sensitive field areas  
Converting arable land to extensive grassland

### Systematic on-farm advisory services and training

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## Rural Development as agreed in Objective 'INCREASE PROSPERITY'

1. Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation
2. Implementing resource efficiency (incl. recycling and turning waste into raw material)
3. Increasing research and innovation
4. Support the transition towards a bio-economy

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## 'INCREASE PROSPERITY' and RDP-s 2014+

### Promotion of best practice and technologies

1. Increasing the renewable energy production
2. Sustainable production and use of biomass
3. Investments in research, innovation and skills

### Closer cooperation in the BS Region

1. Promoting the Rural Development Network of the BS Region
2. Coordination of research on developing sustainable agriculture
3. Development of macro-regional dimension of EIP-s on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability

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## Other issues

- References to the Strategy in each of the RDP 2014-2020 requested
- From 2014 reporting on the RDP activities and measures with added value to the Strategy instead of listing business as usual
- Possibly setting joint targets for the macro-region and measuring those – ongoing evaluation of some rural aspects at the macro-regional level could be considered

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## Baseline & "greening" (Pillar I)

*What is the "baseline"?*

- **The baseline is a reference level above which payments under Art. 29, 30, 31, 34 and 35 can be granted i.e. commitments under these Articles must be established at the higher level than the requirements included in the baseline**
- **Such baseline ensures that RD payments are provided only for interventions guaranteeing additional public goods when compared to the benefits delivered by mandatory requirements**

*Greening and the baseline*

*While greening is not an explicit part of the baseline for Art.29-31, **double funding must be avoided** i.e. when calculating the payments under these measures amounts necessary to exclude double funding of the greening practices as defined in Pillar I shall be deducted.*

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## EIP on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability

***A new facility for building bridges between research and practice, whilst encouraging innovation***

***Acts through operational groups carrying out innovative projects***

- Model story of an operational group: a farmer has an innovative idea but does not have means to develop it. He/she joins forces with e.g. a scientist, a farm advisor and a technology supplier and they set up an operational group. The idea is developed and shared via the networks. EAFRD co-finances project-specific costs and costs of co-operation.

***Supported by a national and EU network***

- **National network can be part of the Rural Network**

***Key RD measures for implementing the EIP: Co-operation, Investments (various measures), Knowledge transfer, Advisory services***

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