

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Policy Area Secure

19th Steering Group Meeting

31 May – 1 June 2023, Berlin

Venue: Berliner Feuerwehr, Voltairestr. 2, 10179 Berlin

MINUTES

Participants

See attached participants list.

Wednesday, 31 May

Opening of the Meeting

The German chair, deputy chief of Berlin Fire and Rescue Service, Per Kleist welcomed the participants, PACs welcomed to the meeting.

The agenda was adopted by the Steering Group.

1. Latest Updates from PACs

- PACs provided an overview of events and activities ([presentation attached](#))
- Project updates (VOALA, BYFORES, PA Secure Kids, BALTinnoSEC, NEEDS)
- In the pipeline: CASCADE follow-up project on climate change adaptation, UA assistance project, dumped munitions

2. Updates from DG REGIO

Petri Koistinen, Policy Coordinator, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO) informed the SG on the following:

- The Commission adopts the fourth [report on the implementation of EU macro-regional strategies](#), Council conclusion coming soon
- [Register for the Annual Forum in Riga](#)
- Upcoming EUSBSR event in Visby – good opportunity to gather for UA support
- Input expected for results of MRS week

3. Baltic Sea Strategy Point (BSP) update

Marlene Riedel from the [Baltic Sea Strategy Point](#) briefed about the work description of the BSP and the potential for PA Secure to utilise BSP for increasing visibility. Now priority for BSP – developing guidelines for monitoring and evaluation and guidelines for communication as well as targeted capacity building for PACs.

- PAC comment: the new evaluation and reporting requirements should not add more work to already busy PACs but assist them and bring added value.

4. Presentation of the outcomes from NEEDS projects and recommendations to be presented to the DGs

PA Secure Steering Group member, Kaspars Vārpiņš, Chairman of the UBC Safe Cities Commission from Liepāja Municipal Police, shared the NEEDS project outcomes and possible

recommendations which are planned to be presented to the CPN Directors General in Hamburg. ([Presentation attached](#)). After the presentation SG had a short discussion on the topic.

- SE comment: the recommendations need to be more concrete and actionable in order to be presented to DGs. Suggestion - propose recommendations to the Steering Group instead/before DGs.
- CBSS: there is a possibility to work on the recommendations till the DG meeting under FI presidency and then present a more focused version.

Implementation of the [Joint Position](#) on Enhancing Cooperation in Civil Protection Area. Roundtable: Updates of MS on coordinating JP priorities.

Overall strategic priority: Building a common societal security culture in the BSR

DE: Hamburg Fire and Rescue Service reported on the involvement in the Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue, organisation of the Baltic Excellence Programme and the CBSS Senior Experts Meeting as well as the participation in the projects (BALTinnoSEC, NEEDS, VOALA/BYFORES) and reiterated HFRS readiness to participate in the upcoming international projects.

Berlin Fire and Rescue Service reported that the German Strategy for Strengthening Resilience to Disasters was published. [English summary is here](#).

Priority nr. 1. Combining national efforts in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

FI: Established a mechanism for collecting data from different authorities within Sendai. Working on the annual report.

CBSS: provided input for the [Midterm review of the Sendai Implementation](#), continues work in cross-sectoral approach, connecting DRR and CCA for a project on improving urban resilience of BSR to climate change risks. Preliminary – application to the next Interreg core projects call.

Priority nr. 2. Enhancing resilience of the BSR to disasters

DE: Germany is going through a comprehensive modernisation and repair of early warning systems.

NO: Organised a 3-day conference in Krakow: Innovation in disaster prevention. Results and videos from the conference can be found here: <https://www.dsb.no/menyartikler/english/internasjonalt/innovation-in-disaster-prevention/>

FI SPEK: working on a concept of volunteers management in oil spill accidents
<http://www.vapaaehtoisetoljyntorjunnassa.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Managing-and-organizing-volunteers-in-oil-spill-response-ENG-2021.pdf>

Priority nr. 3. Increasing cross-sectoral cooperation and partnerships.

CBSS: VOALA/BYFORES projects are direct continuation of the JP4 sub-group lead by FI.

SPEK: There is a potential for CTIF participation in volunteers activities in the BSR

FI: At the beginning of the year, Finland received substantial funding of EUR 242 million from the EU Commission for the establishment of a CBRN strategic reserve. Material will be stockpiled in the reserve in case of emergencies involving chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) threats, accidents and situations,

Priority nr. 4. Building capacity of Member States in the civil security area.

DE: German presidency organized a [Baltic Excellence Course \(BEP\)](#) – the event focused on children and youth participation in disaster risk reduction, energy security, early warning systems, and dumped munitions.

LV: A comprehensive test of early warning systems, especially sirens is underway in LV. Procurement process is launched for modernization of the EWS.

EE: Large-scale evacuation exercise CREVEX 2023 – will take place in September 2023; organised every four years to train and test the nationwide emergency response capability and the continuity of state institutions. EE started establishing and almost completed development of the sirens network. EE submitted a non-paper at the EU DG meeting for widening the role and capabilities of UCPM.

PL: Main School of Fire and Rescue became Fire University (Fire Academy), new faculty established – for medical rescuers. PL is conducting research on accidents with electrical cars – will be published soon. PL cooperates with Georgia – helping establishing CBRN capabilities. Preparing [for EU MODEX New wave exercise in Poland Sept 2023](#).

Priority 5. Supporting mutually beneficial interaction between research and practitioners.

PL: The Pilot [BALTinnoSEC Forum](#) led to concrete results May 2023 a demonstration was organized by Deloitte. The company demonstrated their [Nadia help management IT platform](#): transparent, easily customizable solution for distribution of goods and services and volunteer management

CBSS: NEEDS project contributes directly to P.5. Follow-up project NEEDS to SEEDS will assist FI in BEP organization with young people in focus.

EE: CTIF Nordic Plus meeting was organized by FI – Baltic countries were invited.

EUSBSR 2023 Annual Forum in Riga, October 3-5 Oct:

CBSS Secretariat briefed us about the upcoming Annual Forum and workshop planned together with FI focused on individual resilience. Workshop description is here: <https://www.eusbsr.eu/annualforum2023-workshops/591520-workshop-3> Register for the Forum: <https://www.eusbsr.eu/annualforum2023-registration>

Thursday, 1 June

Opening, first day summary

EUSDR (EU Strategy for the Danube Region) PA5 presentation, Disaster Management Working Group

Kinga PERGE, Senior advisor for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Hungary briefed about the latest in the [Policy Area Environmental Risks in the Danube Region Strategy](#) (see [presentation attached](#)). Most interesting common topic for both regions is volunteerism. Followed by the discussion on potential cooperation cross-MRS.

Discussion summary. Ideas for cooperation:



EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY
FOR THE BALTIC
SEA REGION



Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



EUROPEAN
UNION
European Regional
Development Fund

- Depending on DG ECHO decision – run an Exchange of Experts together
- Organise an interactive online session between PA Secure and PA5
- Cooperate for the next EU Civil Protection Forum – i.e. organise a session together or invite EUALP and EUSAIR. Potential topic – volunteerism – start with an online meeting – to test the idea
- Create a common Macro-regional column in the EUCPM Knowledge Network website

PA Safe briefing

Ulf Siwe from Swedish Maritime Administration briefed about activities and projects of PA Safe ([presentation attached](#)). A short discussion on possible cooperation followed. Summary of ideas:

- Organise a follow-up meeting with PA Safe
- Organize a workshop brainstorming on potential joint projects

Finnish Presidency in the Steering Group and upcoming DG meeting in Hamburg

Presentation by **Jari HONKANEN** from Finland outlined the main priorities of the Finnish presidency and main events of the year. The PA Secure Steering Group approved the list of events ([presentation attached](#)).

Short presentation and approval of SPEK (Finish National Rescue Association) as a new Steering Group Member

Finish National Rescue Association (SPEK) has been a trusted partner of PA Secure for a long time. Now the PA Secure with the endorsement from the Finnish Ministry of Interior agreed to invite SPEK as a full member of the Steering Group. **Petri Jaatinen**, Director of the Fire department services at the Finish National Rescue Association gave a short brief of the organisation's activities and confirmed their readiness to become a member of the Steering Group.

An official voting followed: all SG members approved the membership of the Finnish National Rescue Association (SPEK) in the PA Secure Steering Group and tasked PACs with sending a letter with approval request to the NCG of EUSBSR.

Relevant news and announcements from member states

The group discussed the upcoming CBSS DG meeting. The following points were raised:

- Keynote speech potentially can be made by: DG Echo Hans Daas, or Professor Johann Goldammer
- Guiding questions will be helpful for DGs before discussions
- Youth statement should be presented for DGs during the meeting
- NEEDS recommendations: will be presented to DGs and either endorsed or taken note of
- NO suggested using video meeting for DGs in the beginning of the presidency for guidance to the Steering Group