European Commission

Revision of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

EUSBSR
EU STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION

DG REGIO – D1 Competence Centre Macro-Regions and European Territorial Cooperation

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

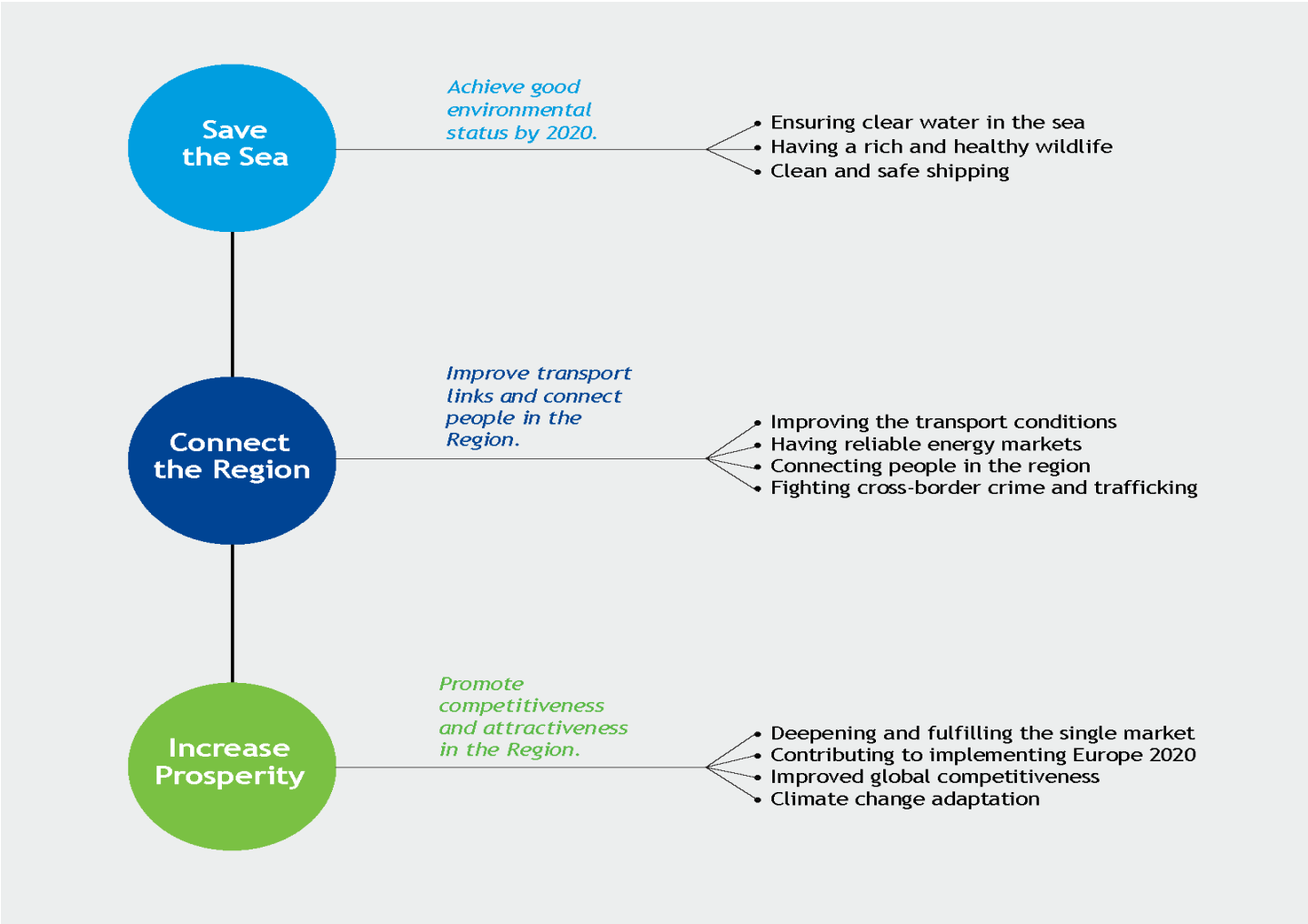
First macro-regional strategy in the EU (set up 2009);

8 EU member states; 85 million people (17% of EU population)

Better and more effective use of existing policies, funding, institutions and legislation

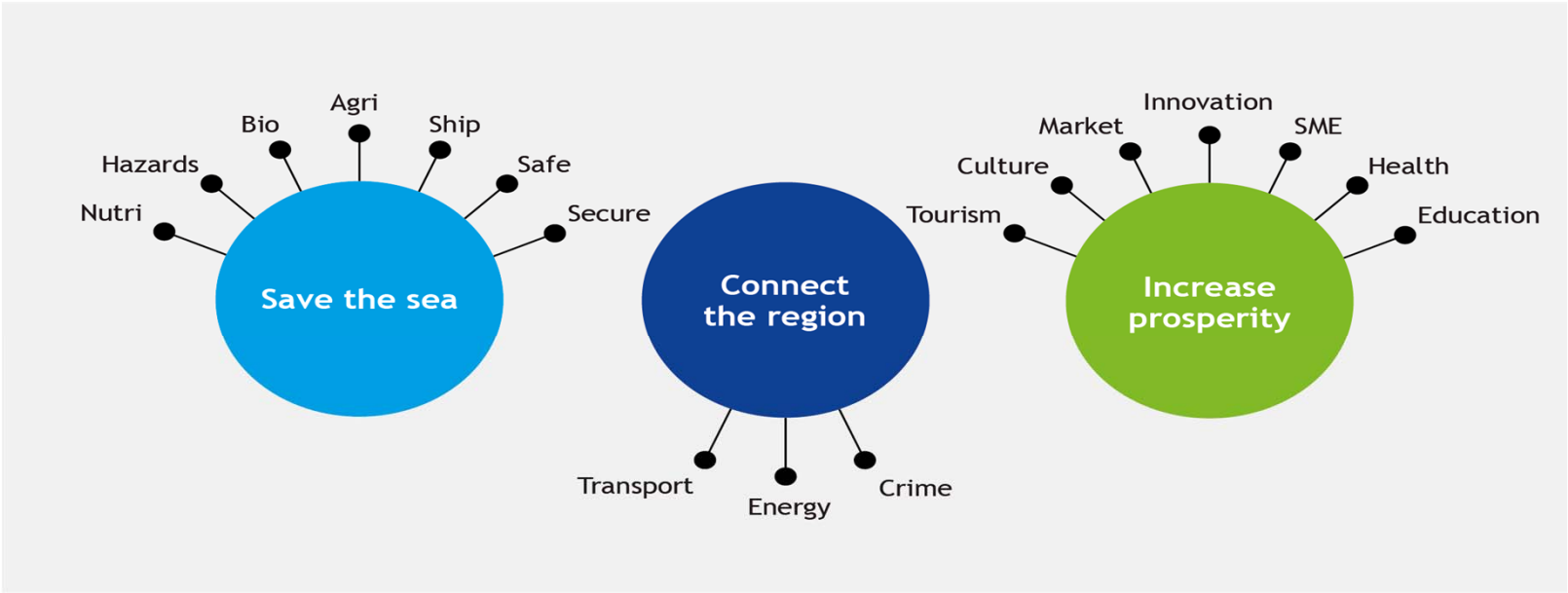
Three objectives: "Save the Sea", "Connect the Region", "Increase Prosperity"

Objectives and sub-objectives



Objectives, priority areas and horizontal actions (pre-review)

Objectives and Priority Areas



Horizontal Actions

Spatial	Neighbours	Involve	Sustainable	Promo

Expected results (examples):

Reduction/decreasing trend in the number of shipping accidents

Elimination of illegal discharges by 2021

Improved environmental status, e.g. reduced nutrient inputs by 2021

Increased innovation capacity/performance for each country by 2020 (as measured by Innovation Scoreboard)

Achievements:

Mobilisation of projects across borders (120 Flagship projects)

Increased knowledge and joint initiatives

Better coordination of existing networks: Strategy as reference point

Involvement of neighbouring non-EU countries

Better implementation of EU legislation

Why review the Strategy?

To streamline and focus

To re-confirm sustained commitment

To update and re-align the work programme

To achieve synergies/avoid overlaps with existing networks

Review process:

Individual screening/interviews of all 22 policy areas

REGIO Discussion paper (analysis)

Consultation with geographical units and interservice meeting with DGs

Extensive discussions and agreement with National Coordinators

Request for revision/update of each policy area

Next steps: launch ISC (22 April); Endorsement at 'Macro-regional High-level Group' (3 June); Annual Forum in Latvia (15/16 June)

Results of the Strategy review

More focus on a reduced number of areas (from 22 to 17)

Updated work programme of all policy/horizontal areas

Clarification on the role and added-value of regional organisations (new chapter)

Simplification of procedure and clearer scrutiny for Flagship projects (template)

Clarified governance: e.g. 'National Coordinators', 'Policy Areas'

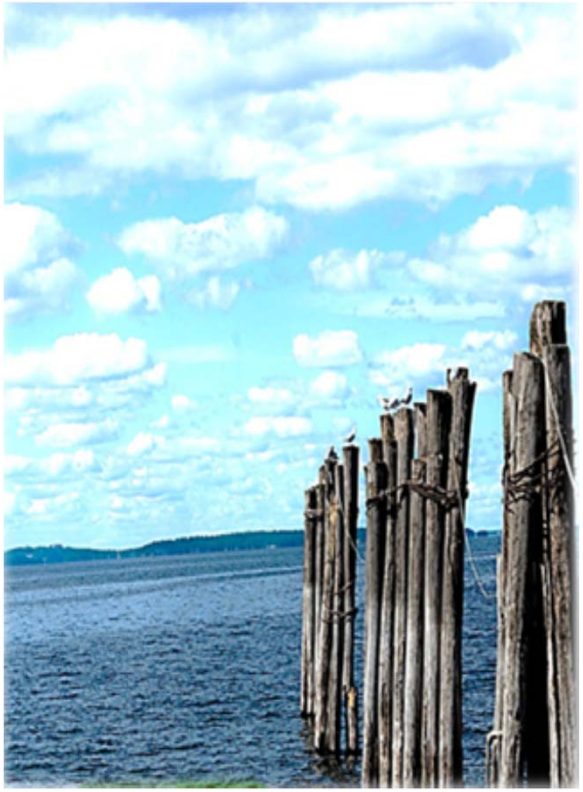
Voluntary rotation of coordination responsibilities for the policy/horizontal areas (e.g. 3 years)

Challenges

Creating stronger links between Strategies and programmes

Using all funding sources available

Maintain commitment



EUSBSR Annual Forum

15th-16th June 2015

Jurmala, Latvia

Information on other upcoming events can be followed on http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/