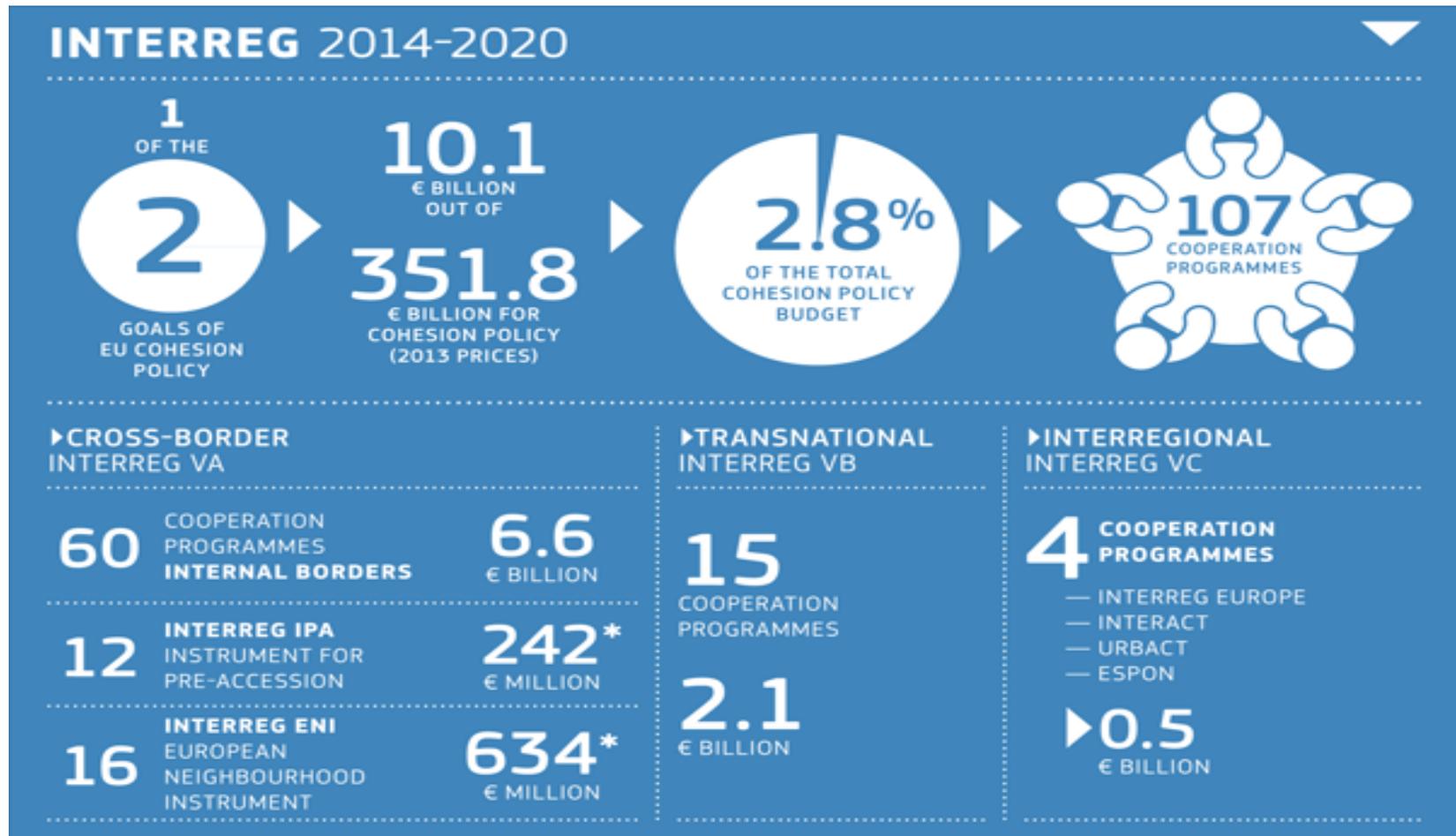# The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) as driver for development in the region

Peter Schenk, European Commission (DG REGIO)
25 October 2017, Växjö

ETC – Interreg 2014-2020

Interreg in the Baltic Sea Region 2014-2020

Funding opportunities via Interreg

11 Cross-border programmes: *Central Baltic; Estonia-Latvia; Latvia-Lithuania; Nord; Botnia-Atlantica; Sweden-Norway; Öresund-Kattegatt-Skagerrak; Germany-Denmark; South Baltic; Germany-Poland; Mecklenburg-Vorpommern / Brandenburg-Zachodniopomorskie:*

- *Priority areas: research and innovation, environment, entrepreneurship, sustainable transport, labour mobility, social inclusion.*
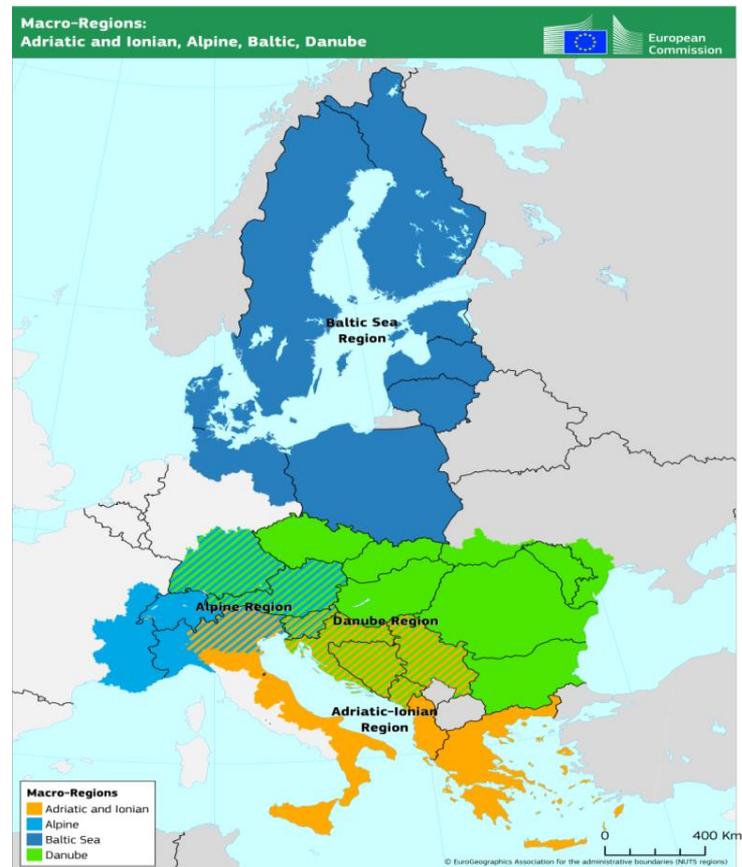- *New: all programmes open to private sector participation*

Transnational Interreg Baltic Sea region *programme:*

- *Priorities closely linked to EUSBSR objectives: innovation, achieving internal and external accessibility and managing the Baltic Sea as a common resource.*

All Baltic Sea Interreg programmes represent more than EUR 1 billion in ERDF-funding

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)

- First macro-regional strategy (2009)
- Eight EU Member States
- Three objectives: "Save the Sea", "Connect the region", "Increase prosperity" (12 sub-objectives)
- Common challenges/opportunities
- Action Plan with 17 thematic areas
- UBC in charge of horizontal action 'Capacity'
- Baltic Sea Region as frontrunner:
  - 2009: EUSBSR (Baltic Sea)
  - 2010: EUSDR (Danube)
  - 2014: EUSAIR (Adriatic-Ionian)
  - 2015: EUSALP (Alpine)

Macro-Regions:
Adriatic and Ionian, Alpine, Baltic, Danube

European Commission

Baltic Sea Region

Alpine Region

Danube Region

Adriatic-Ionian Region

Macro-Regions
- Adriatic and Ionian
- Alpine
- Baltic Sea
- Danube

0   400 Km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries (NUTS regions)

Current involvement of local actors in the EUSBSR

Local/regional authorities coordinating EUSBSR thematic areas (e.g. City of Turku: 'Neighbours'; Hamburg: 'Education'; UBC/Baltic Sea NGO Network/SI: 'Capacity',

EUSBSR Horizontal Action "Capacity" (e.g. Baltic Leadership Programme, Baltic Executive Programme),

Local/regional partners involved in almost 40% of ongoing EUSBSR flagships (http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/action-plan), e.g. UBC 'Youthful cities' – PA Education ('School to work'); UBC 'Sustainable Cities' - PA Nutri ('IWAMA, Interactive water management')

Networking and matchmaking events (e.g. 'Participation Day' at EUSBSR Annual Forum)

Funding sources/partners:

- *EUSBSR Flagship partners: http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/action-plan*
- *Interreg project database (incl. EUSBSR projects): www.keep.eu*
- *EUSBSR Funding Portal: http://funding.balticsea-region.eu/*
- *ESF partner search base: https://ec.europa.eu/esf/transnationality/search/site*

A few examples of EUSBSR Flagships involving cities

Policy Area Education - School to Work

Policy Area Culture - Culture and Sustainability Baltic Sea Region

Policy Area Energy - Urban Biogas Hubs: Enhancing the use of biogas for urban transport

Policy Area Hazards - NonHazCity ('Innovative management solutions for minimizing emissions of hazardous substances from urban areas in the Baltic Sea')

Policy Area Nutri - IWAMA ('Interactive water management')

Policy Area Transport - North Sea Baltic Connector of Regions

Horizontal Action Climate - iWATER ('Improving urban planning by developing integrated and multifunctional storm water management in the Central Baltic Cities)

EUSBSR Flagship: Baltic Training Programme – project partners

INTERREG

Baltic Training Programme
SE – Norden Association (NGO)
SE - Frans Schartau Business Institute (local)
EE - Narva Vocational Training Centre (state)
LV - Vidzeme Planning Region (region)

Nordpraktik
SE – Norden Association Norrbotten (NGO)
SE – Nordic Aviation Centre (local)
FI - Lapland University of Applied Sciences (state)
NO - Troms Regional Council (region)

South Baltic Training Programme
SE - Netport Karlshamn (triple helix)
SE - Litorina Folk High school (foundation)
GE - ITC Innovation and Trend centre (company)
GE - HIE-RO at the University of Rostock (academy)
LT - Rietavas Business Information Centre (company)
LT - Zemaitija College (local VET school)
PL - Szczecin University (academy)
DK - EUC Zealand (local VET school)

LLP Leonardo da Vinci TOI

HansaVET
LV -National Centre for Education (state)
SE – Norden Association(NGO)
LV – Baltic Bright (company)
GE – Hanse-Parliament (company)
EE – Tartu Vocational Education Centre (state)
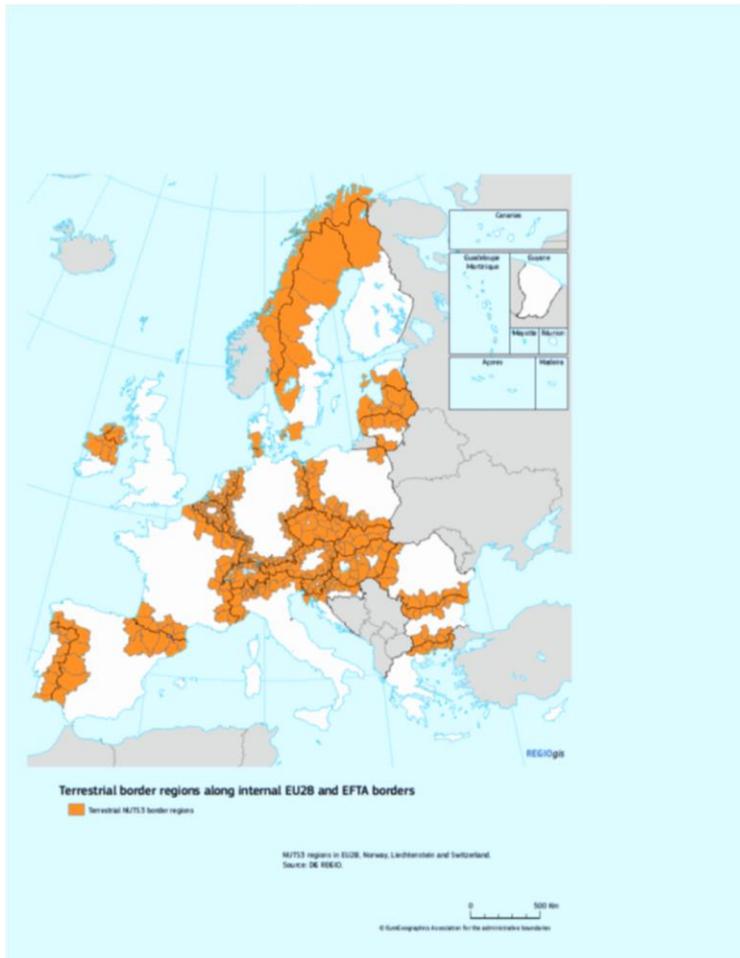LT - Vytautas Magnus University (academy)

HansaECVET
SE – Norden Association (NGO)
GE – Hamburg Institute for Vocational education (state)
FI – Lapland University of Applied Sciences (state)

INTERREG

BBVET - Boosting Business Integration through joint VET Education
SE - NetPort Science Park (triple helix)
GE - University of Rostock (academy)
LT - Rietavas Business Information Centre (local)
LT - Zemaitija College (local VET school)
PL – University of Szczecin (academy)
DK - EUC Zealand (local VET school)

Border Regions matter...

Terrestrial border regions along internal EU28 and EFTA borders

Terrestrial NUTS3 border regions

NUTS3 regions in EU28, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.
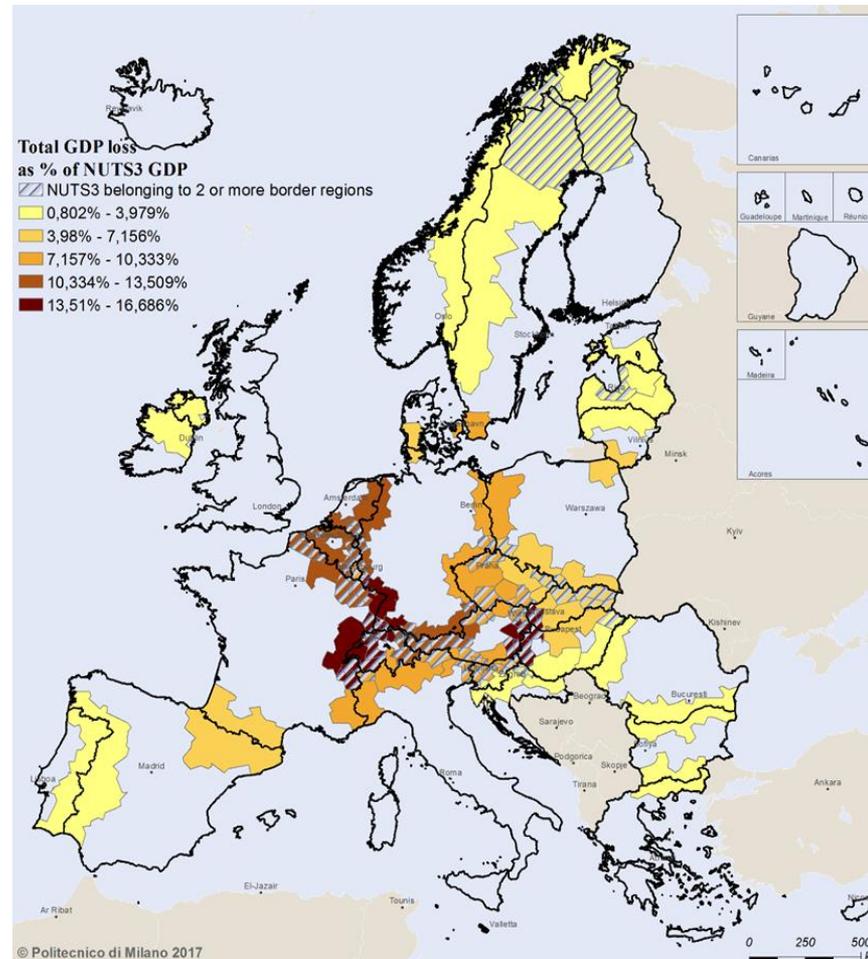Source: DG REGIO.

✓40% EU territory; 30% EU population (150m), 40 % EU GDP
✓**BUT** less economically developed, lower access to public services

AND they suffer...
Navigating different legal and administrative systems is still **complex, long and costly**

Persisting issues – unused potential

- ✓ costs of cross-border formalities 60% higher than domestic ones
- ✓ Complex tax, social security and recognition hampers cross-border labour mobility
- ✓ Local public transport across the border insufficient, too expensive, not integrated
- ✓ Health care provision across borders not fully exploited

Positive effect on growth of removing border obstacles

The Action Plan

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2014/boosting_growth/com_boosting_borders.pdf

deepen cooperation and exchanges

improve the legislative process

support cross-border employment

promote border multilingualism

facilitate cross-border accessibility

e-government to enable cross-border public administration

provide reliable and understandable information and assistance

promote greater pooling of health care facilities

consider the legal and financial framework for cooperation

build evidence for better decision-making

Recent/ongoing developments

- COM Communication on 'Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/communications/2017/boosting-growth-and-cohesion-in-eu-border-regions

- 7th Cohesion Report, just published: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/cohesion-report/

- ESPON European Territorial Review – Territorial Cooperation for the future of Europe: https://www.espon.eu/european-territorial-review

- COM Study on Macro-regional Strategies and their links with Cohesion Policy (Nov. 2017)

- EUSBSR Annual Forum 4/5 June 2018 in Tallinn: https://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/9th-annual-forum

9th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR

Thank you for your attention

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/cooperation/macro-regional-strategies/

http://www.balticsea-region-strategy.eu/

http://www.danube-region.eu/

http://www.adriatic-ionian.eu/

http://www.alpine-region.eu/