

North Sea Region 2020 – Strategy development initiative

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**The NSC Tartan –
symbol of the North
Sea Family**

Background

- In June 2009 the NSC Executive Committee decided to explore the feasibility of developing an EU strategy for the NSR
- The NSC carried out an extensive consultation among the members in 2010, and has also organised two stakeholder conferences in order to further develop the basis for a strategy
- The NSC has now decided to develop a draft strategy paper to be submitted to the upcoming Danish EU Presidency this autumn. The paper was discussed at the NSC Annual Business Meeting on 21 June

Rationale for a North Sea Strategy

- The NSR has the potential to act as an engine for growth in Europe and as a centre of excellence for wider EU issues
- Common cultural heritage in the NSR and a long history of intensive economic (trade and tourism) and human exchange
- Need and potential for developing existing cooperation efforts – improving coherence within the framework of an overall strategic plan
- Potential for improving policy efficiency and value for money

Added value of a North Sea strategy

- For the NSR to remain and improve the performance as a competitive, attractive and sustainable area of Europe - unlock opportunities
- To more efficiently address common, transnational challenges related to sustainable economic growth, climate, energy and management of the maritime space
- Ensure a better governed region through cross sectorial coordination and involvement of all levels of government
- Improve value for EU and other public funding, as well as exploiting synergies between public and private sources
- Provide a potential pilot for different kind of macro-regional strategy than the EU strategies for the Baltic and Danube

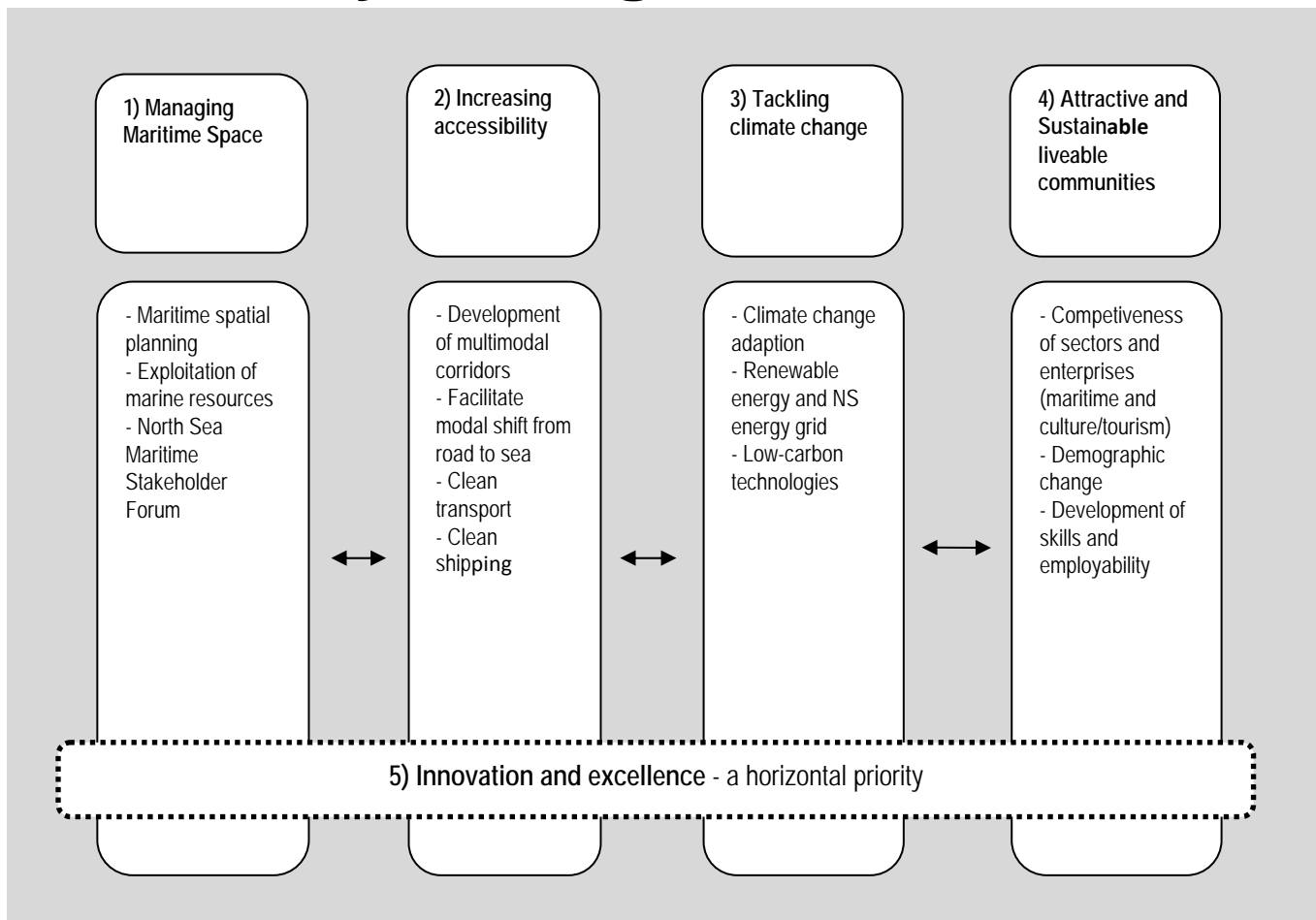
Purpose and objective of the strategy paper

- Provide arguments for and demonstrate the added value and benefits of having an EU strategy for the North Sea Region by identifying challenges, opportunities and priority strategic areas, as well as by defining targets and suggesting concrete actions to be implemented
- The strategy must focus on those areas where public sector intervention at the macro-regional scale would accelerate positive development and bring about results otherwise not attainable
- The strategy intends to support the implementation of EU 2020 and focus on cross-border issues where working together adds a value

Challenges and opportunities

- Transport and mobility
- Energy and climate
- Environment
- Culture and human resources
- Risks and safety
- Innovation/economic development

Response: Priority strategic areas



Contribution of NSR 2020 to EU 2020 flagships

Priorities of NSR 2020 EU 2020 Flagships	1 managing maritime space	2 Increase accessibility and clean transport	3 Tackling climate Change	4 Attractive and Sustainable Community	5 Promoting Innovation and Excellence
Innovation Union	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Youth on the Move				✓	✓
A digital agenda for Europe		✓			✓
Resource efficient Europe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
An industrial policy of the globalisation era	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
An agenda for new skills and jobs			✓	✓	✓
European Platform against poverty				✓	✓

Implementation, cooperation and coordination

- Implementation through existing bodies at EU, national and regional level, ensuring cross-sectoral coordination and multilevel governance.
- Develop a rolling action plan where actions are replaced as they are completed
- Consider to Introduce priority area coordinators to strengthen links between policies and a wide range of stakeholders as in BSR and Danube strategies
- Funding would need to come from existing EU and public sources, using existing funds in a better way and exploiting the potential for public-private investment cooperation, loans, guarantees and revenues from Emission Trading Schemes

Next steps in strategy development process

- June – September: Consult NSC members and other stakeholders
- October: NSC Executive Committee to decide on final paper
- October?: Submit final paper to upcoming Danish EU Presidency

Innovation is a key feature of the region

Some of the challenges

- How to develop into one of the best performing regions in Europe?
- How to develop into an outstanding region of excellence?
- How can peripheral regions be included in this work?
- How can we include innovation and excellence throughout all sector and policy areas?

Opportunities

- The NSR is already a strong region with great possibilities
- Well developed framework conditions already exists – we don't have to start from zero

It is a proven fact...

... that regions which are outstanding on research and innovation also are the strongest financial regions, attractive places for people to live and work in

So:

- **How, When, and Where and What do we start with?**
- **Who is going to fire the start pistol?**