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Seminar: Reaching climate neutrality in the Baltic States

A closer look at the long-term national strategies in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

Time: 13th of September 2022, 10.30-16.00 EEST

Venue: Sokos Hotel Viru (Viru väljak 4, Tallinn, Estonia)

Language: English

To reach global climate stabilisation, it is crucial that countries develop long-term visions, goals and strategic guidelines for climate policy embedded in the broader sustainability agenda. All Member States are already legally obliged to produce, and periodically update, national long-term strategies in the European Union, as mandated by the Governance Regulation (2018/1999) of the European parliament and Council on 11th December 2018. However, countries have differed significantly in terms of their drafting process, final results, and timing. In the Baltic countries, strategies have been adopted between 2017 and 2021. During that time, the environment related to climate mitigation has continued to evolve, most recently with the Green Deal and 'Fit for 55' package of measures, and subsequently in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Although this complicates drawing direct comparisons, a clear distinction with some other member states (such as the Visegrad 4) can be seen in the degree of scenario modelling and the coverage of socioeconomic aspects included in the Baltic strategies. Moreover, limited attempts have so far been made to synthesise or integrate efforts across the region. On the other hand, a positive note is found in the requirement for strategies to be further updated, affording the opportunity to guide the process and seek best practices from all member states.

The upcoming event will focus on an analysis of the approaches across the Baltic states to the development of each respective national long-term strategy and current best practices and highlight missing elements and cross-cutting issues.

The event will take place in the framework of the Climate Recon 2050 project, a platform for intra-EU dialogue on national long-term strategies started in 2017. It aims to connect national experts involved in drafting and implementing long-term climate strategies and provides a forum to exchange experiences and best practices. The analysis of the Baltic countries is third in a series of regional comparisons to be published by the end of 2022.

Draft agenda

Moderator: Matthias Duwe, Ecologic Institute

- 10.30-11.00 Welcome coffee and registration
- 11.00-11.10 Opening words (Moderator: Matthias Duwe)
- 11.10-11.45 Long-term strategies assessment of the Baltic State countries – strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations for improvement (Peter Walke, SEI Tallinn)
- 11.45-12.00 Q&A
- 12.00-13.00 Lunch
- 13.00-13.30 Assessing the long-term strategies of the Visegrad 4 – how do the Baltic states compare? (Wise Europa virtual presentation)
- 13.30-14.30 Panel discussion on collaboration between the Baltic states: Barriers to, and opportunities for, strategic cooperation in the national long-term strategies of the Baltic states:
 - Estonia -
 - Latvia -
 - Lithuania -
- 14.30-15.00 Energy break, discussions in small groups
- 15.00 – 15.30 Balancing the equation: assessing the prospects of natural (LULUCF) and technological sinks (CCS/CCU/DAC...) from across the EU national long-term strategies (presenter to be confirmed)
- 15.30-15.45 Q&A
- 15.45-16.00 Summary and wrap up

Organiser and funding

This event is organised by the Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre in the framework of Climate Recon 2050 project.

The Climate Recon 2050 project is supported by the [European Climate Initiative \(EUKI\)](#) of the German Ministry for the Environment and the [European Climate Foundation](#). The project is led by Ecologic Institute and is implemented together with four partners, research institutes and think-tanks from across the EU.

