

Council of the Baltic Sea States



Annual Report for the Finnish Presidency 2013-2014



Coherence, Cooperation & Continuity

Finland undertook an ambitious programme during the year the Foreign Ministry chaired the Council of the Baltic Sea States, which ultimately culminated in three new long priorities for the organisation.

Finland emphasized the continued need for coherence and cooperation between the various organisations that provide the architecture for Baltic Sea Region cooperation.

Finland's vision of a model maritime region was pushed forward by the utilization of several initiatives in tandem - by adopting a triple pronged approach, including, the integration of maritime spatial planning, the promotion of clean shipping and the management of potential maritime accidents. A strong focus on alternative fuels combined with a dialogue on competitiveness and logistics brought together private actors and public stakeholders in the maritime field, which has strengthened the baseline for action – especially between the shipping companies, including manufacturing and shipbuilding and pan-Baltic multilateral organisations such as CBSS and HELCOM.

Clean, Safe and Smart Baltic Sea

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Finnish Presidency Outcomes

3 New Priorities for the Organisation

10 PSF Projects Awarded Funding
under Finnish Presidency

A Number of Recommendations
for the Baltic Sea Region Leading
up to 2020

Coherence between Regional Actors
– Especially in Maritime Policy

Launch of the Green Technology
and Alternative Fuels Platform for
Shipping Jointly with HELCOM

Baltic Sea Maritime Incidence
Response Survey (BSMIR)



Finnish Presidency Highlights

Baltic Sea Labour Forum Annual
Roundtable

Joint Task Force against Trafficking
in Human Beings and Expert Group
on Cooperation for Children at Risk
Conference

Turku Baltic Sea Days

Directors General meeting of CBSS
Civil Protection Network

Baltic Sea Shipping Conference
on Viking Grace



Highlights



Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) handed over their Action Plan on Cross-Border Mobility to the Finnish Foreign Minister and called for strengthened cross-border cooperation to facilitate mobility of labour in the Baltic Sea region

Labour mobility in the Baltic Sea Region has increased remarkably during the past decade and while it has many benefits both for workers and enterprises, it also poses challenges. Therefore it is necessary to further improve cooperation between the social partners, governmental institutions and the Baltic Sea States regarding the mobility of labour.

To this end the BSLF Round Table in Helsinki, on 1 November 2013, adopted an *Action Plan on Cross Border Mobility*. The main purpose of the *Action Plan* is to convey background information and analysis on cross border mobility; to encourage and support practical cooperation activities among the BSLF members; and to present recommendations to the governments of the Baltic Sea Region and the CBSS concerning cross-border mobility.

The Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Erkki Tuomioja, welcomed the concrete cooperation plans of the BSLF: “the Baltic Sea Region has economic potential which we have not yet fully taken advantage of. When planning the ways to find new methods we have to take international competition and more globalized markets into account. These can bring entirely new challenges that we have to face. We should address these challenges through close cooperation and agreements between all the social partners.”



Enhancing assistance to victims of human trafficking in the Baltic Sea region

On 19 March the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the CBSS Expert Group on Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) and the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) organised a joint conference focusing on "How to Enhance Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region".

The one-day conference looked into existing co-operation models and how best to ensure adequate assistance to women and men, girls and boys in the Baltic Sea Region. The event, in addition to Cooperation Models, specifically addressed victim assistance and safe housing repatriation, and reintegration of victims. It attracted around 100 participants from the Baltic Sea Region, who work with these issues at an operative as well as a strategic level, such as NGOs, National Coordinators and Rapporteurs, law enforcement, social services and international organisations.

The conference was opened by Päivi Nerg, the Permanent Secretary of the Finnish Ministry of the Interior, followed by Key Note Speeches from Eva Biaudet, Ombudsman for Minorities and National Rapporteur of Trafficking in Human Beings, Finland, as well as the EU Coordinator against Human Trafficking Myria Vassiliadou. The conference also included panel discussions and brief sessions with group discussions.



TURKU Growing together for a prosperous, inclusive and connected Baltic Sea region

During 1-5 June 2014, over a thousand stakeholders gathered in Turku for the 2014 Baltic Sea Days to discuss the future of Baltic Sea cooperation. CBSS participated in various events in Turku throughout the week. The last Committee of Senior Officials meeting under the Finnish Presidency of the CBSS took place on 1 June at the scenic Bengtskär Lighthouse in the Turku archipelago.

On 3-4 June, the 16th BDF Summit and the 5th Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea region was organised by the Baltic Development Forum and the European Commission and hosted in partnership with the Finnish Presidency of the CBSS and the City of Turku. The large-scale joint event covered a variety of topics central to Baltic Sea cooperation, such as Baltic Sea region growth zones & investment, steps to save the sea, marine & maritime industry, smart cities & green economy, as well as the digital sectors as an accelerator for growth in the region. Amongst the participants were the Prime Minister of Finland Jyrki Katainen, Prime Minister of Estonia Taavi Rõivas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland Erkki Tuomioja, Minister of Economic Affairs of Finland Jan Vapaavuori, Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade of Finland Alexander Stubb, Minister of the Environment of Finland Ville Niinistö, and EU Commissioner for Regional Policy, Johannes Hahn, as well the Baltic Development Forum Chairwoman Lene Espersen.



CBSS Civil Protection Network

The Finnish Chairmanship of the CBSS Civil Protection Network organised a meeting of the Network's Senior Officials, which took place on 27 February 2014 and the annual CBSS Civil Protection Network Directors General meeting, which took place in Helsinki on 28-29 April 2014. The Senior Officials meeting took place in Stockholm at the premises of the CBSS Secretariat and was organized back-to-back to the EUSBSR PA Secure Project Development Workshop, ensuring operational coherence among activities of these two macro-regional frameworks. As a result of the project development workshop, a partnership consortium was formed, which developed a proposal for a new macro-regional civil protection project, submitted for assessment in the end of May 2014. The Directors General meeting finalised the Presidency year by sharing its results and outlook for future activities. CBSS Member States representatives recalled the importance of engagement in macro-regional civil security cooperation on an operational level, and took the opportunity to share experiences in, among other activities, organising volunteer rescue brigades in Finland and crisis management actions during a fire.



Viking Grace - Green technology and alternative fuels in shipping in the Baltic Sea

To make further progress in the field of sustainable shipping, the Finnish Presidency of the CBSS and HELCOM, in cooperation with the Baltic Development Forum (BDF) and the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics (NDPTL), organised a conference on “Sustainable Baltic Sea Shipping, Green Technology and Alternative Fuels with Focus on Air Emissions” on board the LNG fuelled passenger ship Viking Grace on 16th January 2014.

The event brought together nearly 100 participants from the public and private sectors, policy makers, administrations, the business community, the finance sector and research & development representatives. Plenary speeches were delivered by Mr. Kari Pihlajaniemi, Vice President of Marine Operations, Viking Line, Mr. Oskar Levander, VP Innovation, Engineering & Technology – Marine Rolls-Royce and Mr. Vassilios Demetriades, Policy Officer, European Commission/ DG Move, amongst others. The aim of the conference was to develop a “Draft Roadmap for Future Actions”. The discussions focused on two main themes: technology development, and financial issues to promote pilot projects, acquisition of ships and retro-fitting, as well as R&D in this field. A new cooperation forum, the “Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform in Baltic Sea Shipping” was also launched at the event. The Platform provides a forum for a structured dialogue between public and private sector stakeholders.

Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Chair: Ms Satu Mattila, MFA Finland

Delegate: Ms Tuulia Väliheikki, MFA Finland

The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) consists of senior officials appointed by each Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Member States, and the European Union represented at the CSO meetings by the European External Action Service (EEAS) representative. The Director General of the CBSS, Jan Lundin, and the Deputy Director General, Secretary to the Committee, Eduardas Borisovas, are also present at the meetings. Countries may appoint additional delegates as appropriate to attend specific meetings.

During the Finnish Presidency the CSO Members were the following:

Estonia Ms Triin Uibo, MFA Estonia and Mr Raul Mälik, MFA Estonia

Denmark Mr Kim Vinthen, MFA Denmark

Finland Ms Tuulia Väliheikki, MFA Finland

Germany Mr Karsten Steinig, FFO Germany

Iceland Ms Snjólaug G. Ólafsdóttir, MFA Iceland

Latvia Ms Vita Zivtīņa, MFA Latvia

Lithuania Ms Kornelija Jurgaitienė, MFA Lithuania

Norway Mr Dag Briseid, MFA Norway

Poland Mr Michał Czyż, MFA Poland

Russia Mr Sergey Petrovich, MFA Russia

Sweden Mr Mikael Anzén, MFA Sweden and Mr Hans Olsson, MFA Sweden

European Union Mr Marko Mäntylä, EEAS

Other CBSS Member representatives attending the meetings during the year

Ms Marja-Leena Vuorenpää, Barents Ambassador of the MFA of Finland; Ms Nina Hellström, MFA Finland; Ms Maija Bisofa, MFA Latvia; Ms Daina Šteinberga, MFA Latvia; Mr Tønnes Svanes, Deputy Head of the Norwegian Embassy in Brussels; Katarzyna Barcikowska, MFA Poland; Ms Anastasia Ilinskaya, MFA Russia; Mr German Parfenov, Embassy of Russia in Finland; Ms Jeanette Axelsson, MFA Sweden; Ms Charlotte Haentzel, EU Mission in Stockholm

The CSO met for 7 meetings during the reported period. The meetings took place on the following dates: Helsinki, 10 – 11 September 2013; Helsinki, 15 – 16 October 2013; Stockholm, 3 – 4 December 2013; Helsinki, 28 – 29 January 2014; Brussels, 6 – 7 March 2014; Helsinki, 28 – 29 April 2014 and Turku/Bengtskär Lighthouse, 1 - 2 June 2014

External guests attending the meetings during the year

→ **Mr Juha Rautjärvi**, Chairman of the CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear Radiation and Safety, Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority STUK;

→ **Mr Juha Vuolle**, Commander, Finnish Border Guard;

→ **Mr Toni Fohlin**, Project Manager, Finnish Border Guard;

→ **Ms Tiina Peltola-Lampi**, Director of International Affairs of the Ministry of the Interior of Finland, Chairwoman of the Baltic Sea States Civil Protection Network;

→ **Ms Monika Stankiewicz**, Executive Secretary, HELCOM;

→ **Ms Heli Haapasari**, Head of Section, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE;

→ **Mr Hermanni Backer**, Professional Secretary, HELCOM;

→ **Ms Anna-Stiina Heiskanen**, Marine Research Centre Head of Unit, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, and Chairwoman of HELCOM MONAS;

→ **Ms Maria Laamanen**, Professional Secretary (MONAS, HABITAT and GEAR);

→ **Ms Tarja K. Ikäheimonen**, Director of Environmental Radiation Surveillance, Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority STUK, and Chairwoman of HELCOM MORS Expert Group;

→ **Mr Mikhail Durkin**, Professional Secretary, HELCOM;

→ **Ms Maija Lummeppuro**, Chairwoman of the CBSS Senior Officials Group for Culture, Finnish Ministry for Culture;

→ **Ms Marianne Lehtimäki**, Consulting Coordinator, Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States;

→ **Mr Janne Tamminen**, Executive Secretary, the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions Baltic Sea Commission (CPMR BSC);

→ **Ms Krystyna Wróblewska**, Director, Department of International Co-operation, West Pomeranian Region of Poland;

→ **Ms Lovisa Selander**, Head of Water and Environmental Affairs, Baltic Development Forum;

→ **Mr Tommy Eliasson**, Baltic 7 Islands Steering Committee;

→ **Mr Björn Grönholm**, Head of Secretariat, Union of the Baltic Cities Commission on Environment;

→ **Mr Stefan Musiolik**, Head of Unit Baltic & North Sea Affairs and BSSSC Board Member, Schleswig-Holstein;

→ **Ms Anne Irene Saeternes**, Coordinator International Affairs and BSSSC Member, East Norway Association;

→ **Ms Malgorzata Ludwiczek**, Managing Director at Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation and BSSSC Member, West Pomeranian Region of Poland;

→ **Mr Stefan Herms**, Head of State Office, Hamburg;

→ **Mr Matti Ollinkari**, Head of International Relations, City of Helsinki;

→ **Mr Ossi Savolainen**, Regional Mayor and Chairman of BSSSC, Helsinki-Uusimaa Region;

→ **Mr Guido Froese**, Chairman of ARS BALTICA, Academy Director, Nordkolleg Rendsburg;

→ **Mr Marcus Hagemann**, Head of Secretariat, ARS BALTICA;

→ **Ms Heidi Manns-Haatanen**, Senior Officer and Chairwoman of the EGCC, Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health;



→ **Ms Ulla Koski**, Chairwoman, VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR);

→ **Mr Hannu Lipponen**, Chairman, BASREC Group of Senior Energy Officials;

→ **Dr Mathias Bergman**, Secretary General; Baltic Sea Action Group;

→ **Mr Mikko Lohikoski**, Coordinator of the Turku Process, Director of Communication and External Affairs, Turku City Office;

→ **Mr Simo Kohonen**, Acting Head of Helsinki Office, International Organization for Migration;

→ **Mr Richard Tibbles**, Head of Division, European External Action Service;

→ **Mr Alejandro Eggenschwiler**, Programme Manager, External Relations, Regional Programmes Neighbourhood East, DG for Development and Cooperation;

→ **Ms Joanna Kirylo**, Project Manager, DG for Regional and Urban Policy;

→ **Dr Lothar Dittmer**, Board Member, Körber Foundation;

→ **Ms Gabriele Woidelko**, Program Director Education, Spokesperson of the EUSTORY Steering Committee, Körber Foundation;

→ **Ms Lolan Margaretha Eriksson**, Chairwoman of the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy, Ministerial Counsellor, Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications;

→ **Dr Antti Paasio**, Director of Business and Innovation Development Center, University of Turku;

→ **Dr Kari Hyppönen**, President, Baltic Sea Region University Network

Key Actions Taken by the CSO during the Finnish CBSS Presidency



Agreed *ad referendum* on the **Decision by the Council of the Baltic Sea States on a review of the CBSS long term priorities** to be adopted by the Council through a silent procedure

Agreed *ad referendum* on the **Declaration of the Council of the Baltic Sea States on the implementation of the Vilnius Declaration on A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020** to be adopted by the Council through a silent procedure

Organisational

- » Adopted the Annual Report of the Russian CBSS Presidency 2012 – 2013
- » Adopted the Recommendations for Cooperation with CBSS Strategic Partners
- » Discussed issues of coherence at several CSO meetings during the Finnish Presidency period and, on a basis of the Director General's PM on Coherence in the Baltic Sea Region, considered what recommendations to improve coherence in the region could be delivered to the Deputy Foreign Ministers' Meeting to be held in October 2014
- » Took note of activities and plans of the Finnish Presidency 2013 – 2014 of the Baltic Sea States Civil Protection Network (CPN) outlined by the Finnish Chair and, at the end of the Finnish CPN Presidency, were informed by the Secretariat on the latest developments in the civil security area including publications on civil security and protection cooperation as an outcome of the EUSBSR 14.3 flagship project
- » Held the CSO Annual Consultations with CBSS Observer States to share experiences and to inform them on the latest developments and achievements by different CBSS subsidiary bodies



» Took note of the introduction to the study report on the future of the EuroFaculty project by the Business and Innovation Development Center of the University of Turku and Baltic Sea Region University Cooperation

» Took note of the Finnish Chair of the CBSS Senior Officials Group for Culture presentation

» Were informed about the 4th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region (EUSBSR) held in November 2013 in Vilnius and the Secretariat's participation in organising this event jointly with other partners

» Took note of the information on the CBSS participation in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region where the Secretariat holds the function of co-coordinator for Priority Area Secure, as well as joint-Horizontal Action Leader of both HA Neighbours and HA Sustainable

» Took note of the incoming CSO Chairman's introduction of the Estonian CBSS Presidency priorities and planned activities

» Welcomed the award of the Certificate of Appreciation by the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Latvia R. Kozlovskis to Anna Ekstedt Senior Adviser and Head of the TF-THB Unit for her outstanding work on counter trafficking over her six year tenure

Expert Groups

» Approved the Mandate of the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk until 2017

» Approved the Terms of Reference of the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, with focus on adults as amended, and by this prolonged the TF-THB mandate until 2017

» Approved the Terms of Reference on the Review of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21; established the Baltic 21 Review Evaluation Task Force to provide advice and make proposals to the CSO with regard to the selection of the Consultant and to give feedback to the Consultant during the review process; selected the University of Tartu as the winning tender

» Discussed issues related to the CBSS EGNRS activities with the CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear Radiation and Safety represented by the Chairing Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority STUK

» Took note of the presentation by the Chair of the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy on maritime policy priorities of the Finnish CBSS Presidency and EGMP activities

» Took note of the presentation by the Chair of the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk on the EGCC activities and the new EGCC project: "Child exploitation – Cross-national child protection in practice"

» Were briefed by the TF-THB Unit of the CBSS Secretariat about the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings activities

» Took note of the three round table discussions on climate change adaptation organised by the Baltic 21 Unit of the CBSS Secretariat

» Endorsed the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy self-assessment, approved the included recommendations and asked the CBSS EGMP together with the Secretariat to prepare an evaluation of the Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogue by the end of the current mandate on 30 June 2015

Administrative

- » Approved the Annual Financial Report of the Secretariat for the Fiscal Year 2013 and expressed its satisfaction with the positive balance of the budget
- » Took note and approved the Independent Auditor's Report for the CBSS for the Financial Year 2013
- » Discussed the CBSS Secretariat budget for the financial year 2015 for the operations of the core Secretariat, CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 and CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings
- » Decided to approve a two year prolongation of the contract of employment of Mr. Jan Lundin, Director General of the CBSS Secretariat, i.e., until the 31st of August 2016
- » Decided to approve a two year prolongation of the contract of employment of Mr. Ilya Ermakov, Senior Adviser of the CBSS Secretariat, i.e., until the 15th of August 2016
- » Decided to approve a two year prolongation of the contract of employment of Ms. Maxi Nachtigall, Adviser of the Baltic 21 Unit of the CBSS Secretariat, i.e., until the 31st of August 2016
- » Discussed projects submitted for PSF financing and approved the second, third and fourth sets of projects
- » Regularly considered the update of CBSS project activities presented in three different lists of the projects under implementation, CBSS project ideas and PSF approved project applications
- » Regularly received the Director General's reports and were presented with the Annexes to the Director General's reports on selected visits, meetings and contacts by the Secretariat
- » Decided on the new format of the Minutes of the CSO meetings

Cooperation with other entities

- » Considered preparations for a meeting between the four regional councils in the North and the Northern Dimension and its partnerships to be organized jointly by the Finnish CBSS and BEAC Presidencies before it was decided to postpone this meeting to be rescheduled in late 2014
- » At the CSO Annual Consultations with the EU services discussed issues of closer cooperation with the representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and European Commission Directorates General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG Regio) and Development and Cooperation (DEVCO)
- » Took note of the information provided by the Consulting Coordinator of the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States on the activities of the Group
- » Met with the ARS BALTICA Chair and Head of the ARS BALTICA Secretariat to discuss work and plans for the future activities of this intergovernmental network
- » Took note of the Finnish Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation Presidency presentation
- » Were introduced to the Baltic Sea Maritime Incident Response (BSMIR) project initiated by the Finnish Border Guard on behalf of the BSR Border Control Cooperation and were informed about the final results of this project after it was finalised
- » Were informed by the Chair of the VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) about the activities and plans of the Finnish Presidency of VASAB and on preparations for the VASAB Ministerial meeting to be held Tallinn in September 2014
- » Took note of the presentation by the Chair of the BASREC Group of Senior Energy Officials on activities and plans of the Finnish BASREC Presidency
- » Jointly with the BSSSC Board organized the Joint Baltic Sea Region Actors Meeting to discuss issues of cooperation with strategic partners - the Baltic 7 Islands, Baltic Development Forum, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission, HELCOM, BaltMet and the Union of the Baltic Cities
- » Met with the HELCOM Secretariat in Helsinki to discuss issues of common interest and potential cooperation

» Were informed by the Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund about the Fund's activities, funding scheme and projects

» Were informed by the Program Director for Education, Spokesperson of the EUSTORY Steering Committee of the Körber Foundation about the Foundation and took note on the introduction of the EUSTORY project and Youth Dialogue

» Took into consideration the presentation made by the Baltic Sea Action Group Secretary General on the implementation of the BSAS commitments and pledges and were informed about the BSAG participation in the implementation of the Saint Petersburg Initiative launched at the Conference of the Heads of Government of the Baltic Sea States on the Protection of the Environment of the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic Sea Forum) in April 2013

» Took note of Russia's information on the creation of a permanent Working Group to implement the Saint Petersburg Initiative consisting of a Steering Committee, Board of Partners and Secretariat

» Were informed by the Coordinator of the Turku Process about the Turku Process' activities as a joint-Horizontal Action Leader of the EUSBSR HA Neighbours jointly with the CBSS Secretariat

» Took note of the presentation made by the Acting Head of the IOM Office in Helsinki about the IOM activities in the region and IOM cooperation with the TF-THB on project implementation

» Took note of the information on the XII All-Russian Strategic Planning Forum as an important event related to the regional development of Russia

» Took note of the information on the 22nd BSPP Annual Conference "Sustainable Innovation for a Competitive Economy in the Region" held in August 2013 in Pärnu, Estonia

» Took note of the information on the XII General Conference of the Union of the Baltic Cities held in Mariehamn, Åland Islands, Finland, in October 2013

» Were reported to about the Conference of the Modernization Partnership for the South East Baltic Sea Area (SEBA) held in June 2013 in Kaliningrad, Russia and a SEBA study visit to the Vishtinets/Krasnolesye/Rominten Natural Park



» Took note of the information on the Meeting of the National Coordinators of the Central European Initiative in Vienna and on possibilities to cooperate with the Central European Initiative and plans to sign the MoU between the CBSS and CEI Secretariats

» Took note of the information of the visit of the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean and the corresponding MoU signed by both Secretariats

» Were introduced to the Project Outline "Baltic Science Network" initiated by Hamburg and noted the visit of the Mayor of Hamburg Olaf Scholz alongside the State Minister of Science and Research Dr. Dorothee Stapelfeldt in May 2014

» Took note of the briefing with the Minister for Economics and EU Affairs of the German Federal State of Brandenburg Ralf Christoffers on his visit to the Secretariat in November 2013

» Welcomed the visit of the Swedish Minister of EU Affairs Birgitta Ohlsson to the Secretariat to discuss the CBSS work against labour trafficking in October 2013

» Took note of the information on the 21st BSSCC Annual Conference "Policymaking After 2014 - Towards New Dimensions in the Baltic Sea Cooperation" held in October 2013

Key Actions of the Finnish Presidency



Maritime Policy

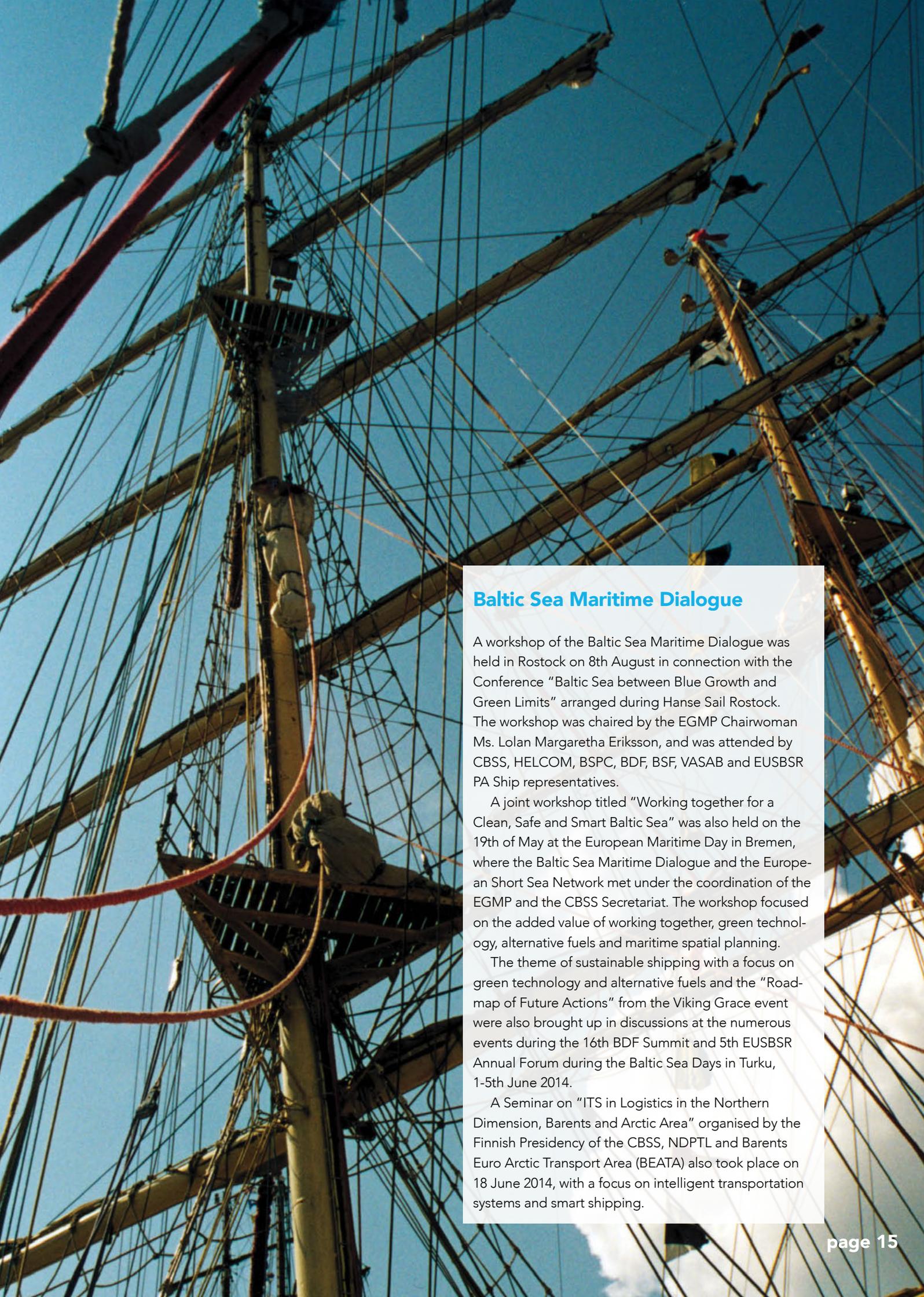
Finland took further steps to develop the Baltic Sea region as a model maritime region and worked in the framework of the Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP) under the theme “Clean, safe and smart shipping in the Baltic Sea”. The Finnish Presidency focused on pragmatic and result-oriented cooperation based on coherence and paid special attention to the promotion of clean shipping and the use of alternative fuels. The Presidency hence sought closer cooperation with other actors in the Baltic Sea region, such as HELCOM, and the bridging of work done in the framework of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics, the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and by other cooperation partners.

Roadmap for Future Actions in the Field of Green Technology and Alternative Fuels in Shipping in the Baltic Sea Region

Raised as a highlight of the Finnish Presidency, the conference “Sustainable Baltic Sea Shipping, Green Technology and Alternative Fuels with Focus on Air Emissions”, on board the LNG fuelled passenger ship Viking Grace on 16th January 2014, developed a draft **“Roadmap for future actions”** in the field of green technology and alternative fuels in shipping in the Baltic Sea Region, which in the future will act as

a useful tool for the joint development of sustainable Baltic Sea shipping and growth in the Baltic Sea region. The draft Roadmap was presented by the Finnish CBSS Presidency during Baltic Sea Days in St. Petersburg in March, and in Turku in June 2014.

A new cooperation forum, the **“Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform in Baltic Sea Shipping”** was also launched at the Conference. The platform was supported by the 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) in Pärnu, Estonia, 26 – 27 August 2013, as well as by the HELCOM Copenhagen Ministerial Declaration, which was approved on 3 October 2013. It provides an open forum for a structured dialogue between the public and the private sector stakeholders, including ship owners, shipbuilding and marine design enterprises, manufacturers, ports, cargo owners and the research community, with a view to enhance the effectiveness of measures through information-sharing, increased communication and coherence. As one of the results of the conference, a **“Network of Platform Actors”** will be created using existing networks and project organisations under the leadership of HELCOM and the Zero Vision Tool (ZVT)/Sweden. A list of National Focal Points amongst the administrations and the industry stakeholders will likewise be compiled.



Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogue

A workshop of the Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogue was held in Rostock on 8th August in connection with the Conference “Baltic Sea between Blue Growth and Green Limits” arranged during Hanse Sail Rostock. The workshop was chaired by the EGMP Chairwoman Ms. Lolan Margaretha Eriksson, and was attended by CBSS, HELCOM, BSPP, BDF, BSF, VASAB and EUSBSR PA Ship representatives.

A joint workshop titled “Working together for a Clean, Safe and Smart Baltic Sea” was also held on the 19th of May at the European Maritime Day in Bremen, where the Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogue and the European Short Sea Network met under the coordination of the EGMP and the CBSS Secretariat. The workshop focused on the added value of working together, green technology, alternative fuels and maritime spatial planning.

The theme of sustainable shipping with a focus on green technology and alternative fuels and the “Roadmap of Future Actions” from the Viking Grace event were also brought up in discussions at the numerous events during the 16th BDF Summit and 5th EUSBSR Annual Forum during the Baltic Sea Days in Turku, 1-5th June 2014.

A Seminar on “ITS in Logistics in the Northern Dimension, Barents and Arctic Area” organised by the Finnish Presidency of the CBSS, NDPTL and Barents Euro Arctic Transport Area (BEATA) also took place on 18 June 2014, with a focus on intelligent transportation systems and smart shipping.



Civil Security

The Finnish Presidency paid special attention to the security of civilians in the Baltic Sea States, with efforts to further enhance existing cooperation among the different actors in the field of civil security. The emphasis was on nuclear and radiation safety, border control cooperation as well as on prevention and management of maritime accidents. Finland focused on intensifying cooperation on nuclear and radiation safety, developing the management of multi-sectorial maritime accidents and the interface between operators at sea and on land, enhancing the cooperation of Baltic Sea region border control authorities and strengthening the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation's relationship with other CBSS structures.

Focusing on cross-sectorial cooperation: BSMIR

During the Finnish Presidency the Baltic Sea Maritime Incident Response Survey (BSMIR) – Multi-sectorial Maritime Accident Management in the Baltic Sea, led by the Finnish Border Guard and financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland was implemented in cooperation with the Finnish Ministry of the Interior's Department for Rescue Services. The nine month project aimed to identify major national operating models for large-scale maritime disasters in all CBSS member states including cooperation agreements between these countries.

BSMIR's evaluation of the Baltic Sea region's joint preparedness also indicated that currently no single Baltic Sea coastal state is capable of handling a large-scale maritime incident alone.



Paving the ways for cross-institutional work: EGNRS and BSRBCC

Cross-institutional cooperation has been a focus point of the CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (EGNRS).

Under the Finnish Chairmanship in 2013-2014, two regular meetings took place in Vilnius (19-20 November 2013) and in Stockholm (6-7 May 2014). The meeting in Vilnius was hosted by the Lithuanian Radiation Protection Centre within the framework of actions implemented under the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council. At the meeting in Vilnius the Group welcomed guests from outside the EGNRS network, namely representatives from Lithuanian Environment Protection Agency, Vilnius City Municipality and the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Some of the biggest ongoing achievements of the EGNRS are the implementation of the Agreement on the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data and ongoing communication exercises, as well as study and experience exchange in environmental monitoring. On 11-12 February 2014, the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC) seminar on "Maritime Transports of Nuclear and Other Radioactive Materials in the Baltic Sea Region" took place in Helsinki, Finland. The seminar was organised by the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority STUK, which was simultaneously chairing the CBSS EGNRS, in cooperation with Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC). 36 experts from 12 countries participated in the seminar which was held under the auspices of the Finnish CBSS Presidency.

The seminar indicated that there remains a need for information exchange between various authorities on



transportation of nuclear and radioactive materials, and provided information about the types of transports used in the Baltic Sea region, as well as the relevant regulatory frameworks. Supervision and control practices, as well as information about risk assessment and management methods and practices, were presented and discussed.

Ensuring coherence among Baltic Sea region cooperation frameworks

A workshop on “Macro-regional Approach to Nuclear and Radiation Safety in the Baltic Sea Region” was also organised on 27 November 2013 in Helsinki. The workshop focused on the results of the recently finalised EUSBSR flagship project 14.3.

The decision by the Finnish Chairmanship of the CBSS Civil Protection Network to bring together the activities outlined above, signifies increased coherence between initiatives that are being carried out in parallel: the CBSS Civil Protection Network as a network of the main responsible authorities on the highest operational level in the Baltic Sea region, and the EUSBSR Priority Area Secure, which is a macro-regional thematic initiative operating mainly through its flagship projects.



People to People

The Finnish Presidency highlighted the importance of vivid people-to-people contacts and well-functioning civil society, which are essential elements of regional cooperation. Finland raised the need to find new ways to address youth related topics in the Baltic Sea region, strengthen the role of the civil society and improve possibilities for NGOs to participate in cross-border cooperation. The NGO Forum as a part of the Turku Baltic Sea Days in June 2014 contributed to this end and the NGO Youth Roundtable played a role in increasing the interaction between different stakeholders on youth related questions and providing a platform for young people themselves.

“Finland focused on intensifying cooperation on nuclear and radiation safety, developing the management of multi-sectorial maritime accidents and the interface between operators at sea and on land”



The Twelfth Baltic Sea Region NGO Forum

The Baltic Sea NGO Forum is an annual event open to all interested NGOs in the Baltic Sea region, as well as to governments and local officials wishing to create tighter contacts with NGOs. The purpose of the Forum is to support civil society by bringing together NGOs from different fields and different Baltic Sea countries, in order to exchange experiences and create partnerships.

Between Monday 2 June and Tuesday 3 June over 220 participants gathered in Turku for discussions, sessions and workshops across the five themes of -

- » Saving the sea
- » Diverse society
- » Bringing out the voice of youth
- » People as makers of Democracy
- » People with Special Needs

The NGO Forum was opened by the Finnish Member of Parliament **Paula Lehtomäki** with a keynote speech by the former Finnish President **Tarja Halonen** and greetings by Ambassador **Satu Mattila**, representing the Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States. This was followed by a panel discussion on EU-Russia regional cooperation, where the former Russian Chair of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials **Sergey Petrovich** alongside the Director General of the CBSS Secretariat **Jan Lundin** participated. One of the Working Group Sessions on People with Special Needs was co-moderated by CBSS Senior Adviser and Head of the Children's Unit **Turid Heiberg** and Dr **Olga Kolpakova**, Head of Prevention Programs of the Regional NGO Stellit. The Working Group sessions were complemented by an Open Session on Tuesday morning where one

of the sessions gave **Vineta Polatside** of the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings the opportunity to present alongside **Anniina Jokinen** from HEUNI, the ADSTRINGO project which tackles labour exploitation and trafficking. There was also a Roundtable on Youth Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Final Statement of the XII Baltic Sea NGO Forum was titled "NGOs Creating an Active and Innovative Civil Society". The Baltic Sea NGO Forum was organised with the support of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Cooperation with the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

The Council continued the tradition of the Chairs of the Committee of the Senior Officials addressing the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference when, at the 22nd Annual Conference of the BSPC held in Pärnu, Estonia 25-27 August 2013, the outgoing and incoming Chairs, **Sergey Petrovich** of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia and **Satu Mattila** of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, both addressed the plenary in the first session of the day, which focused on cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. The session was opened by **Laine Randjärv**, MP and **Franz Thönnes** MP, with HELCOM and the Northern Dimension also presented.

The Conference, titled "Sustainable Innovation for a Competitive Economy in the Region", was given welcome words by **H.E. Toomas Hendrik Ilves**, the President of the Republic of Estonia and **H.E. Ene Ergma**, the President of the Riigikogu. The BSPC Conference resolution reflected positions and recommendations on growth, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship as well as green growth and energy efficiency.



The green growth agenda and energy efficiency were followed up upon by an international seminar organised by the Finnish CBSS Presidency with the BSPC, the Parliament of Finland, together with Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Employment and the Economy and BASREC (the Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation), in Helsinki on 4 March. The BSPC–CBSS–BASREC Energy Efficiency Seminar was held at the Finnish Parliament Annex and gathered together about 80 politicians, ambassadors, sector experts and representatives of NGOs and energy organizations. BASREC is an intergovernmental body responsible for energy issues under the umbrella of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). The CBSS is also contributing to this particular topic through the CBSS-Baltic 21 Lighthouse project, and EUSBSR flagship under Horizontal Action Sustainable Development, EFFECT, which is working on creating a dialogue platform on energy and resource efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region.

A background factor in organising the seminar was the report on green growth and energy efficiency prepared by the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC). The seminar was launched by Foreign Minister **Erkki Tuomioja**. According to Tuomioja, energy efficiency should be made a competitive advantage for the countries of the Baltic Sea region and cooperation amongst the various actors should be strengthened. He stated that Finland has paid special attention to the issue of implementing the recommendations aiming for energy efficiency and green growth mentioned in the resolutions adopted by the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference. In her speech, Finnish Member of Parliament **Christina Gestrin**, pointed out that environmental legislation is likely to become more stringent in the future and it is therefore important to be prepared for the resulting costs. For the Baltic countries this is both a challenge and an opportunity and, according to Gestrin,



it is precisely this that should be seen as a competitive advantage for the Baltic Sea States in the field of energy efficiency. Dr **Arto Nuorkivi** presented BASREC's report dealing with, among others, efficient use of energy in district heating and cooling as well as the appropriate utilization of renewable energy sources. A variety of presentations dealing with energy efficiency and the financing of projects were made at the seminar. **Jaakko Henttonen** spoke about the activities of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) and the financing of its energy efficiency projects. In closing the seminar the Chair of the Finnish Delegation to the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Member of Parliament, **Riitta Myller**, stated that the Baltic Sea region should strive to attain a leading role in energy efficiency. This would be achieved by investing in innovations and new energy efficiency technologies and by reducing energy consumption.

The Fiulbaltica Concert

The Fiulbaltica concert was part of the youth cooperation and cultural programme of Finland's Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States and was part-financed by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.

It brought together 200 kids and young people from seven Baltic Sea Countries to play music in two concerts on the 1-2 June in Turku, one at the Sigyn Hall and one at the Market Square. Fiulbaltica – derived from Fiuli, meaning fiddle in the Kaustinen dialect, invited children along with their teachers to play together with Kaustinen's **Näppärit** and the conductor **Mauno Järvelä**. The concert program consisted of folk music from all of the participating countries. The concert culminated with a new song about the Baltic Sea composed specially for the occasion.

The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)



Since the adoption of the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the according Action Plan, interaction with the various facets and levels of the Strategy actions have grown – this is especially noticeable since the latest revision of the Action Plan in February 2013. Post revision the CBSS broadened its interaction from co-coordinating a Priority Area focused on Civil Contingencies (previously PA14, currently PA Secure) to also taking on a formal role as co-coordinator of two Horizontal Actions – Neighbours and Sustainable. Another development saw the re-formulated PA Crime further detailing the Action: Combatting trafficking in Human Beings by nominating the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings project ADSTRINGO as a flagship to specifically address the objective to prevent trafficking in human beings for forced labour. The CBSS as an organisation has also noted the increased engagement of affiliated intergovernmental networks of the CBSS with the Strategy – such as VASAB co-coordinating the Horizontal Action Spatial jointly with CBSS Strategic partner HELCOM as well as the direct engagement of ARS Baltica alongside the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in PA Culture, through flagships. The Finnish Presidency and the concentration on coherence actually followed through on one of the PA Culture objectives to build an efficient framework of Baltic Sea Region cultural cooperation with their follow up meeting in Kotka, Finland in May 2014 to the first joint meeting of the Senior Officials Group on Culture, the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture and the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in May 2012 in Greifswald, Germany. BASREC is also specifically mentioned under PA Energy, giving special attention to certain types of renewables, energy, and aspects of energy efficiency. The Baltic Sea States Civil Protection Network is of course working intrinsically on all levels with PA Secure. Out of the total of eight inter-governmental networks – six are engaged in the work of the EUSBSR directly.

In regard to governance CBSS representatives are members of a number of the Steering Committees and / or Coordination Groups of particular Priority Areas or Horizontal Actions – PA Culture and HA Promo to name two, representatives have standing invites to PA Ship and PA Safe in recognition of the coordination arranged on Maritime Safety, Security and Economy by the Expert Group on Maritime Policy as well as other initiatives such as the CBSS Finnish Presidency supported Baltic Maritime Incidence Response Survey (BSMIR) and Baltic Sea Maritime Functionalities (BSMF) a flagship under the former PA 13. The last meetings being held 4 October in Copenhagen on the topic of Clean Shipping and 13 November in Vilnius on Maritime Safety. The Head of Media and Communication at the CBSS Secretariat and his staff are also members of the EUSBSR Task Force for Communication, attending both meetings held during the presidency year on 5 Sept 2013 in Vilnius and the 5 March in Riga 2014. There is also regular contact with Horizontal Action Involve and Priority Area Education. Specifically in relation to public diplomacy and promotion of the EUSBSR the HA Neighbours flagship project and joint CBSS – Swedish Institute Talent and Leadership programme Balticlab has engaged with 4 Priority Areas Coordinators during 2014 – PA Culture, PA Education, PA Innovation and PA SME (PA Tourism was engaged in the first Balticlab programme in 2013), as well as three Horizontal Action Leaders – HA Sustainable, HA involve and HA Promo. This has enabled creative entrepreneurs and cultural actors in the region to be presented with the actions of the EUSBSR first hand and potentially build a working relationship regionally from an innovative standpoint. Under Priority Area Education for the Action Social Inclusion the Flagship Project Baltic Sea Labour Forum continues to act as the main forum in the Baltic Sea Region macro-regionally for tri-partite dialogue.

In addition to this heightening of responsibility, perhaps the largest demonstration of this strengthening of ties was visualized in the autumn of 2013 by the co-organisation of the 4th Annual Forum of the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in November in Vilnius. This endeavour was a joint production by the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat and Interact point Turku.

In terms of governance of the EUSBSR, gatherings occurred in several settings which the CBSS Secretariat was party to both on a regional setting as well as a Swedish setting due to the Secretariat being based in Stockholm as a result of the Host Country agreement. There was the EUSBSR National Contact Points meeting in Vilnius on 4-5 September 2013. This was supplemented by two joint meetings of the NCPs, PACs and

HALs in Vilnius in November 2013 and in Turku in June 2014. Staff of the CBSS Secretariat also presented at the 5th working meeting in Tallinn 9-10 April 2014.

The National Coordination Meeting of Swedish PAC's and HAL's was held on three occasions – on 28 November 2013, 19 February Stockholm & 28 May 2014 where the Swedish EUSBSR stakeholder's reflections on governance and policy impact of the strategy were presented. This was complemented by a Swedish stakeholder seminar on EUSBSR financial alignment on 25 March 2014. There was also a coordination meeting for non-Swedish PAC's and HALs based in Sweden, held in Stockholm on 21 May 2014. Aside from these which are ostensibly arranged by the Swedish Government Offices there is another grouping which includes all of the authorities and agencies including Flagship Project partners in Sweden which met on three occasions throughout the year – this is called the Swedish Baltic Sea Strategy Network. The meetings are arranged by the Swedish Agency for Regional Development and Growth – they are generally coordination based and operational in nature. Climate Change was presented by HA Sustainable on 3 April 2014. Two other meetings were held during the year on 17 September 2013 and 19 November 2013.

“Since the adoption of the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the according Action Plan interaction with the various facets and levels of the Strategy actions have grown.”

On the technical side the CBSS Secretariat completed and submitted two technical assistance grants for the EUSBSR on PA14 and HA Neighbours as well as a grant for the organization of the 4th Annual Forum. The Final Report of the Flagship Project 14.3 under PA Secure was also submitted to the Commission. Consultations with the European Commission were held in December 2013 and January 2014 to discuss progress on the respective PA and HAs.

A new and welcome addition to project funding since the revision of the Action Plan is the EU Seed Money Facility. In the role of co-coordinators of PAs



and HAs the CBSS Secretariat has written support letters for several EUSBSR seed money applications and was present at the meeting between the EUSBSR Seed Money Secretariat and regional actors as PAC and HALs in Berlin 5 February. During the previous period May – December 2013 Ms. Krista Kampus, HAL Sustainable Development represented one of the two seats allocated to the group of Priority Area Coordinators and Horizontal Action Leaders in the body that is the Seed Money Technical Committee. Other input regarding future funding occurred at the Thematic Programming Workshop on Environment of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014 - 2020, 17 April 2014 also in Berlin and at the Central Baltic Programme 2014 - 2020 Programming Workshop, 22 April 2013, Stockholm. The South Baltic Programme presented on programming period 2014 – 2020 at CBSS Secretariat 4 October 2013. HA Sustainable also participated in the South Baltic Programme 2014 - 2020 Programming meeting in Szczecin, Poland 27 November 2013 and PA Secure participated in the Information day Szczecin 26-27 March to EUSBSR Polish stakeholders organized by Europe Direct Information point and Interact point Turku. The Head of Administration attended the European Conference: The New Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 entitled Addressing the Challenges for Successful Management, Implementation and Control of EU Funds in Brussels on 7-8 November 2013. The CBSS as an organization has also had a role to play in terms of granting small seed financing for projects that have fed into several different Priority Areas of the EUSBSR – these are detailed later in this report.

In terms of cross-pollination between the PAs and HAs – PA Secure and HA Sustainable must be highlighted. PA Tourism on Sustainable Tourism Development has worked together with HA Sustainable through the AGORA 2.0 Flagship Project on the development of a Sustainable Tourism Development Strategy Paper. PA Secure and HA Sustainable have worked together on climate adaptation and preparedness cooperation at the 3rd Policy Forum on Climate Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region on 29 - 30 May 2013 and this led to joint cooperation in EU Seed money project ClimUrban. This acted as a follow-up to the workshop at the 2nd Policy Forum on Climate Change Adaptation in December 2012. HA Spatial & PA Secure participated at the Pan Baltic Roundtable on Climate Change in the BSR on 13 May 2014 in Stockholm within the framework of the BSR Dialogue Platform on Climate Change. HA Sustainable is also leading the Flagship Project EFFECT – Dialogue Platform on Energy and Resource Efficiency. 11 Partners from Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden as well as Belarus are cooperating in this project funded by the Swedish Institute that runs from September 2012 until August 2015. So far, the project has developed two written reports: one Policy Review on Energy Efficiency and a second one on Low Carbon Economy in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Fourth Annual Forum Vilnius

November
2013



4th Annual Forum of
the EU Strategy for
the Baltic Sea Region

Baltic
Sea

Baltic
Growth

The Annual Forum is the largest strategy related event of the year and during the Finnish Presidency two Annual Forum's came around at once. The first was held in Vilnius, Lithuania in the first semester of the CBSS Finnish Presidency and the second one was held in Turku, Finland as the culmination of the Presidency. The Forum's represent all levels of the Strategy's stakeholders engagement and modes of cooperation.

The 4th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region convened in Vilnius, 11- 12 November 2013 under the slogan **Baltic Sea, Baltic Growth, Baltic Environment**. It was organised by the European Commission and the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, together with the CBSS Secretariat and Interact Point Turku. The forum was opened by Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania and Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for Regional Policy, European Commission. The Forum saw a comprehensive involvement by Finnish stakeholders, ranging from activities in the Forum's Networking Village to keynote addresses on the event's main stage. Ville Ninnistö, the Minister of the Environment of Finland, provided comments on the importance of applying a multi-level and multi-sectorial approach to environmental challenges, and on the necessity of securing cooperation and synergies between macro-regional frameworks.

Baltic Sea region competitiveness. In the Workshop on *Sustainable agriculture – price tags and possibilities for the region* Susanna Kaasinen of Baltic Deal representing the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) gave comments about the follow up to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in October 2013 and how to follow through on commitments by including agriculture in the conversation. The CBSS Secretariat participated in the Workshop Funding the Future which was organised by the Swedish Institute and the Baltic Development Forum in cooperation with the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB) and the Secretariats of the CBSS and the NCM. The Finnish Presidency of the Council and the Council of the Baltic Sea States also presented their work at the Project Village.

During the Closing session, Erja Tikka, Baltic Sea Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and Mikko Lohikoski, Director of External Affairs of the City of Turku, thanked the organisers for a successful Annual Forum setting the ground for the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR, taking place in Turku, Finland during the Turku Baltic Sea Days 1-5 June 2014. Their remarks were followed by a video message by Aleksi Randell, Mayor of Turku, who further welcomed the Forum's participants to the Turku Baltic Sea Days for an eventful week of close-knit Baltic Sea cooperation.

“The 4th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region convened in Vilnius, 11- 12 November 2013 under the slogan: **Baltic Sea, Baltic Growth, Baltic Environment**”

Katariina Poskiparta, State Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment of Finland gave a keynote address during the Plenary Session *How Jobs and Ecology Go Together* alongside Kaisa Kononen, the Executive director of BONUS; as well as Jaakko Mikkola, Director of International Affairs of Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council and Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC) at the Regions as drivers to sustainable Baltic growth Session. Additionally, Lolan Eriksson, Senior Government Adviser at the Ministry of Transport of Finland, participated in the *Baltic Blue Growth* Workshop focusing on the potential of Blue Growth for increased

5th Annual Forum Turku June 2014 and Turku Baltic Sea Days

On 1-5 June 2014, over a thousand stakeholders gathered in Southwest-Finland for the 2014 Turku Baltic Sea Days for an intensive week of close Baltic Sea cooperation. The week was organized under three banners – Growth Zone creates Success, New Growth from the Sea – Blue Growth and Health as a Goal. The entire first week of June Turku played host to a mixture of conferences, back-to-back meetings, side events and public events. The programme was organized and hosted by the City of Turku with the support of the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Chair of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, alongside the European Commission and the Baltic Development Forum.

The last Committee of Senior Officials meeting under the Finnish Presidency of the CBSS took place on 1 June at the scenic Bengtskär Lighthouse in the Turku archipelago chaired by Ambassador Satu Mattila Chairwoman of the Committee.

On 3-4 June, the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR and the 16th Baltic Development Forum Summit was organised by the European Commission and BDF and hosted in partnership with the Finnish Presidency of the CBSS and the City of Turku, under the theme **'Growing Together – for a Prosperous, Inclusive and Connected Baltic Sea Region'** The successful joint event covered a variety of topics central to Baltic Sea cooperation and attracted a wide range of participants, including the Prime Minister of Finland Jyrki Katainen, Prime Minister of Estonia Taavi Rõivas, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland Erkki Tuomioja, Minister of Economic Affairs of Finland Jan Vapaavuori, the Minister for European Affairs and Foreign Trade of Finland and current Prime Minister Alexander Stubb, Minister of the Environment of Finland Ville Niinistö, and EU Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn. On the first day the Plenary Session - The Digital Sector as a Key for a High Value Economy in the BSR gave the opportunity to Jyrki Katainen, the Prime Minister of Finland and Taavi Roivas, the Prime Minister of Estonia to give their take on the opportunities of the digital sector as a driver for growth, jobs and competitiveness. The CBSS Presidency and Secretariat participated in various events in Turku throughout the week including several Parallel Workstreams and the Networking Village programmed events at the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR combined with the 16th Baltic Development Forum as well as some of the back-to-back meetings.

Given that the location of the Forum this time around was Turku, Finnish stakeholders played an active part. On day one Lolan Eriksson, Ministerial Counsellor, Ministry of Transport and Communications and CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy Chairwoman spoke at the workstream Blue Growth I: Green Innovation and Cross-Sector Collaboration for Blue Growth in the Baltic Sea Region. Eeva-Liisa Poutanen, EU Maritime Director

→ To see more coverage of the 5th Annual Forum Turku June 2014 and Turku Baltic Sea Days please see: www.bit.ly/turkuseadays.



in Finland at the Ministry of Environment spoke at the session Next Steps to Save the Sea: Incentives and Disincentives – Making Investments & Reorientation of practice Economically Viable to the Private Sector. Janne Peltola, Senior Officer, Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy spoke at Blue Growth II: Key Drivers to Ensure Sustainable Growth and the Future of European Marine and Maritime Industry. Additionally in a Session on Smart Solutions for Smart Cities Krista Kampus, Senior Adviser and Head of Unit at the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 discussed smart urban solutions amongst other experts. On the second day Ambassador Timo Rajakangas moderated the opening plenary session on Ownership, Leadership and Implementation of the EUSBSR – from Commitment to Action as well as the parallel workstream, Cooperating with and Learning from other European Marco Regions.

At the Opening Plenary Session the Commissioner for Regional Policy Johannes Hahn presented a Report on the Governance of Macro-Regional Strategies. The Report provided concrete recommendations on how to improve the governance of the existing and upcoming strategies. Erkki Tuomioja was given the opportunity to reflect on the report and give his perspectives on what he thought was needed to ensure stronger political leadership and decision making in implementing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

In the afternoon of the second day Marja-Liisa Tapio-Biström, Ministerial Adviser at the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forest was a panelist at the Workstream on Successful Cooperation: Research, Development and Innovation which was moderated by Maxi Nachtigall, Adviser at the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21. In addition at the Parallel Workstream focusing on Cultural Dialogue in the Baltic Sea Region – Let's Do It Faster, Stronger, Better! Maija Lummepero from the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture spoke representing her role as Chairwoman of the Senior Officials of Culture. At the Closing Plenary Session Ambassador for Baltic Sea Issues, EUSBSR Rotating NCP Chair and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland representative Erja Tikka handed over to Dr. Ilze Rūse, Director of the European Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Latvia to welcome everyone to the 6th EUSBSR Annual Forum in Latvia which will be held under the forthcoming Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The CBSS Secretariat and the Finnish CBSS Presidency were represented in the Networking Village where Ambassador Satu Mattila welcomed the Finnish Minister of Foreign Affairs alongside the European Commissioner Johannes Hahn.

Finland was planning to host the 10th Baltic Sea States Summit on June 4-5 back-to-back with the Turku Baltic Sea Days, the meeting was not convened at this time due to the political situation in Europe.

New Priorities of the CBSS



In light of an evaluation and review of the CBSS five long-term priorities approved at the 7th Baltic Sea States Summit, held in Riga in 2008, the Council of the Baltic Sea States has decided to mainstream three renewed long-term priorities for the Council of the Baltic Sea States – **Regional Identity, Sustainable & Prosperous Region, and Safe & Secure Region.**

With the review of the five CBSS long term priorities and the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials recommendations in this regard, the Council reconfirmed the core role of the Council of the Baltic Sea States as a forum for all multilateral intergovernmental cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region in areas agreed by its Members. The CBSS serves as a forum for political and policy dialogue in the region and is guided by a commonly agreed vision for the region set out in the Vilnius Declaration *A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020.*

“Council of the Baltic Sea States has decided to mainstream three renewed long-term priorities for the Council of the Baltic Sea States – Regional Identity, Sustainable & Prosperous Region, and Safe & Secure Region.”

Through these three new priorities the CBSS will strive to improve regional cooperation, where added value can be attained, seek synergies and ensure coherence with other actors, enhance competitiveness, develop cross-border activities, promote sustainable use of resources and improve communication to implement the Vilnius Declaration and other regional strategic documents as appropriate. The work of the CBSS reflects the principles of democracy, social inclusion, sustainability, cultural diversity and non-discrimination, including gender equality. These principles will be mainstreamed in all of the Council’s work, with the new long term priorities being implemented by the Committee of Senior Officials, CBSS expert groups, task forces, intergovernmental networks, and in cooperation with CBSS Observers and Strategic partners.

Regional Identity



Regional Identity, one of the three renewed long-term priorities of the CBSS, aims to develop and foster the concept of Baltic Sea Region identity and a sense of belonging to the Baltic Sea Region through engagement, dialogue, people-to-people contacts, macro-regional networks and multilevel governance.

To this end, several activities, programmes and networks are operational within the priority. This includes Balticlub - an initiative aimed at increasing regional future-thinking, innovation and prosperity by encouraging entrepreneurial and creative industry collaborations through mentoring and sponsoring talent. Other initiatives include EuroFaculty Pskov, and the CBSS Summer University on the education side and ARS Baltica and the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the cultural field as intergovernmental networks affiliated to the CBSS, which report to the Ministers of Culture of the Baltic Sea Region through the CBSS Group of Senior Officials on Culture. During the Finnish Presidency several activities, such as the Joint Meeting of the Three Regional Working Groups in the Field of Culture and the Baltic Sea Cultural Routes: Eastern Viking Forum II, contributed to the enhancement of this CBSS priority.



EuroFaculty Pskov

The EuroFaculty concept in Pskov is an educational development project in the region of Pskov in western Russia, which has been making considerable progress in upgrading university education in Business Economics/Business Administration at the recently created Pskov State University (PskovSU). Concrete results, such as the launch of the Management Development Programme BDPro, have been achieved in several working groups in the EuroFaculty Pskov second three year phase (2012-2015).

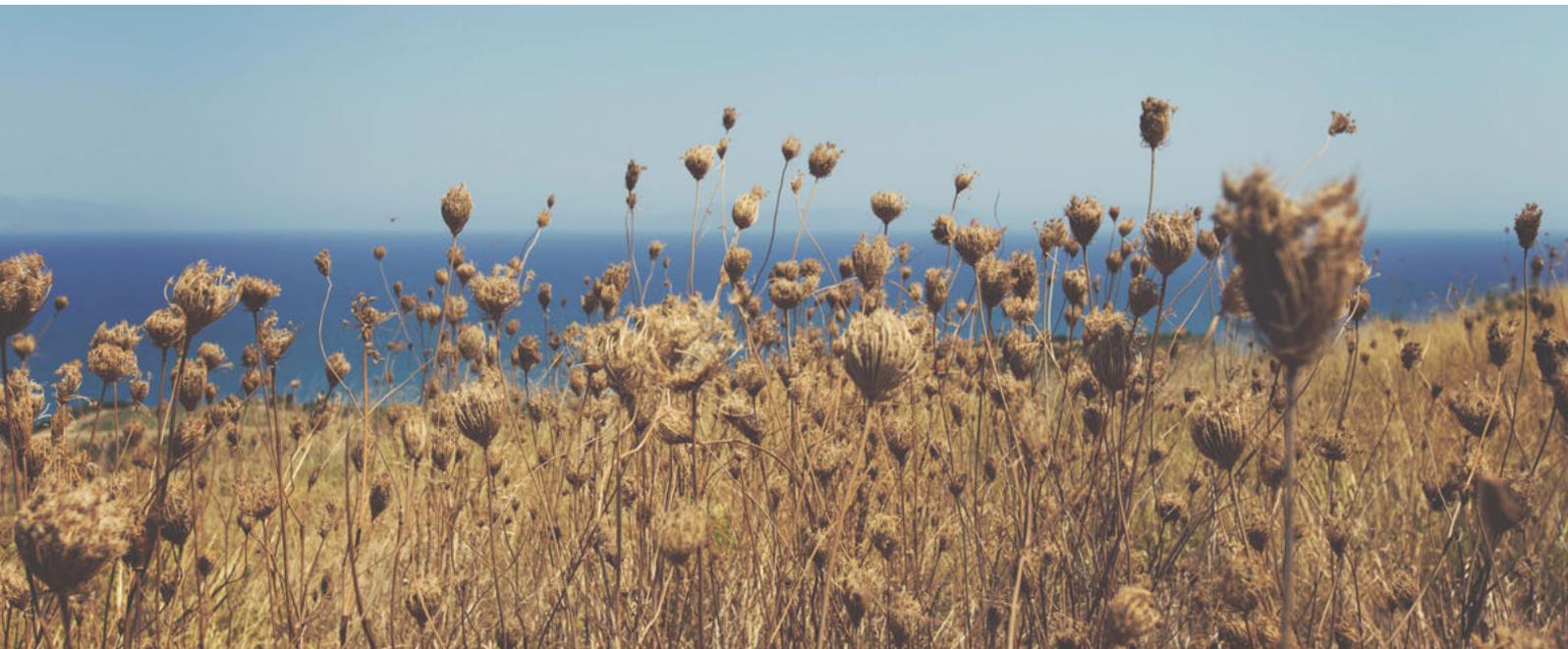
During the second phase of the EuroFaculty Pskov project, the focus has largely been shifted from Bachelor's programs to Master's programs. The working group for the masters programme has thus taken a big step forward. Putting together several different educational systems, working cultures and legislations takes time and is anything but an easy task, hence the current shape of collaboration is a result of several meetings and negotiations. PskovSU is launching the new international Master of Science Program in September 2014, in which other partners will be joining through four different means of collaboration: 1) joint courses, 2) boot camps, 3) interdisciplinary clusters and 4) whole study modules. This kind of collaboration is inclusive and leaves room for collaboration after the formal lifetime of the project.

During the project year the Innovation and Development programme & the Inno working group has engaged in various activities, such as an online survey on the entrepreneurial mind-sets of students and staff, as well as an innovation week in Pskov in October 2013, which featured a pitching competition for students. The winning team – which had students from Tartu, Riga and Pskov – participated at SLUSH 2013 in Helsinki, one of the largest start-up conferences in the region.

A new international Business Development Program, called the BDPro – Your Journey to Innovation and Growth, will also be launched in September 2014 with an active marketing campaign.

The working group for language, under new leadership, is focusing on providing targeted and systematic English language training for PskovSU academic staff and students in economics and management, as well as assisting the local staff in promoting their course elaboration within the BA and MA programs. New courses have been developed, including “foreign language in academic and scientific practice”, “business communication,” and “foreign language for cross-cultural communication of exchange students”. In April 2014, the working group members also took part in a teacher training on teaching in a second language, organized by Narva College at the University of Tartu, Estonia.

Thanks to the strength of its activities, EuroFaculty Pskov has become a showcase project providing international academic standards. Based on the experiences of EuroFaculty Pskov, planning for the next step of another EuroFaculty in the Russian Federation, Belarus or Ukraine has already started with assessments of regional interest.



Joint Meeting of the Three Regional Working Groups in the Field of Culture

In the spirit of coherence the Finnish Presidency convened a joint meeting of the Steering bodies of the cultural actors in the Baltic Sea Region. The joint meeting of the three principle bodies took place on the 21 May 2014 and systematically focused on common actions.

The Joint Meeting of the three regional working groups in the field of culture: the CBSS Senior Officials Group for Culture (CBSS SOGC), the Barents Joint Working Group on Culture (Barents JWGC), the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture Steering Committee (NDPC SC) was held back-to-back with a Forum that centered on cultural routes.

The meeting discussed among other agenda items the possibilities to enhance coherence and cooperation between regional working groups and other actors in the field of culture and the creative sector. It focused on defining objectives and themes of mutual interest for working groups and other cultural actors and also touched upon the State-of-play of the EU-Russia dialogue on cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

There were participants from Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

The main conclusions observed by the representatives of the joint meeting were agreed in the document *Conclusions of the Joint Meeting of the Regional Working Groups*.

The members of the joint meeting observed

- » the need for knowledge-building and exchange as a basis for joint actions and initiatives;
- » the need for flexibility concerning rapid developments and changes in the field of culture and creative industries.

The members of the joint meeting recommended

- » convening at least once in two years in a joint regional format to discuss and up-date strategies for cultural and creative industries in the region.
- » that the Secretariats (CBSS, International Barents Secretariat and NDPC) help in coordinating future joint meetings in cooperation with the rotating chair of the regional councils and the NDPC's steering committee and find suitable meeting places with added-value.
- » striving towards continued self-evaluation and, in the long run, creating flexible working methods for the regional working groups, which would encourage groups to create possible integration mechanisms on the basis of structural changes or thematic work regarding cultural and creative industries issues.
- » In order to promote synergies and a more systematic approach, the joint meeting recommends considering the possibility of offering a joint contact point for relevant regional stakeholders preserving the independence and prerogatives of all regional formats. This coordination may be undertaken under existing resources.



Baltic Sea Cultural Routes: Eastern Viking Forum II

On Tuesday 20 May and Wednesday 21 May 2014, the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, in the framework of Finland's Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), organized an international discussion forum on Baltic Sea cultural routes.

The forum took place in Maritime Centre Vellamo in Kotka, South East Finland.

The Eastern Viking Forum II brought together roughly 80 invited experts in culture, human studies and tourism from all the Baltic Sea countries. The Eastern Viking Forum II was the sequel to Eastern Viking Forum I, held in St. Petersburg in April 2012 by the NDPC. There both Russian and Scandinavian Viking heritage sites were discussed in the light of tourism and education.

The programme of the second forum included the following three panel discussions:

Panel 1: The Baltic Sea in early history and the meaning of history to the people of today

Panel 2: From cultural substance to economically sustainable tourist products

Panel 3: Baltic Sea cultural routes: ideas, cooperation and funding

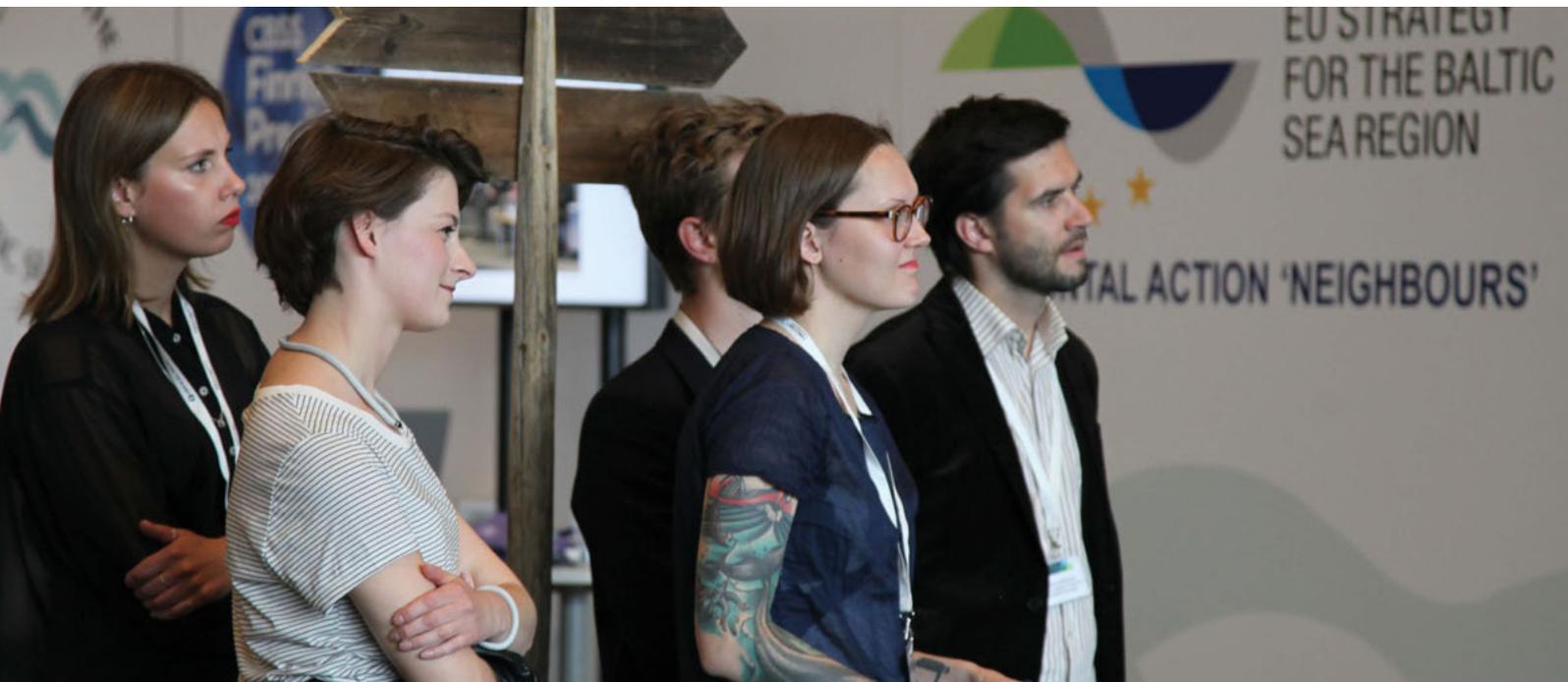
The Council of the Baltic Sea States / Finnish Presidency 2013–2014: was represented by Deputy Director General **Hanna Lehtinen**, Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland who gave the opening statement and Director **Marjo Mäenpää**, Ministry of Education and Culture acted as the chair for the event. The secretaries of the

Forum were **Satu Mäki-Lassila** (Ministry of Education & Culture Finland) and **Marianne Lehtimäki** (CBSS Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage).

The Declaration of Baltic Sea Cultural Routes Forum – Eastern Viking II was adopted on the 21st May. The following emerged as central targets in promoting cultural tourism in the Baltic Sea Region.

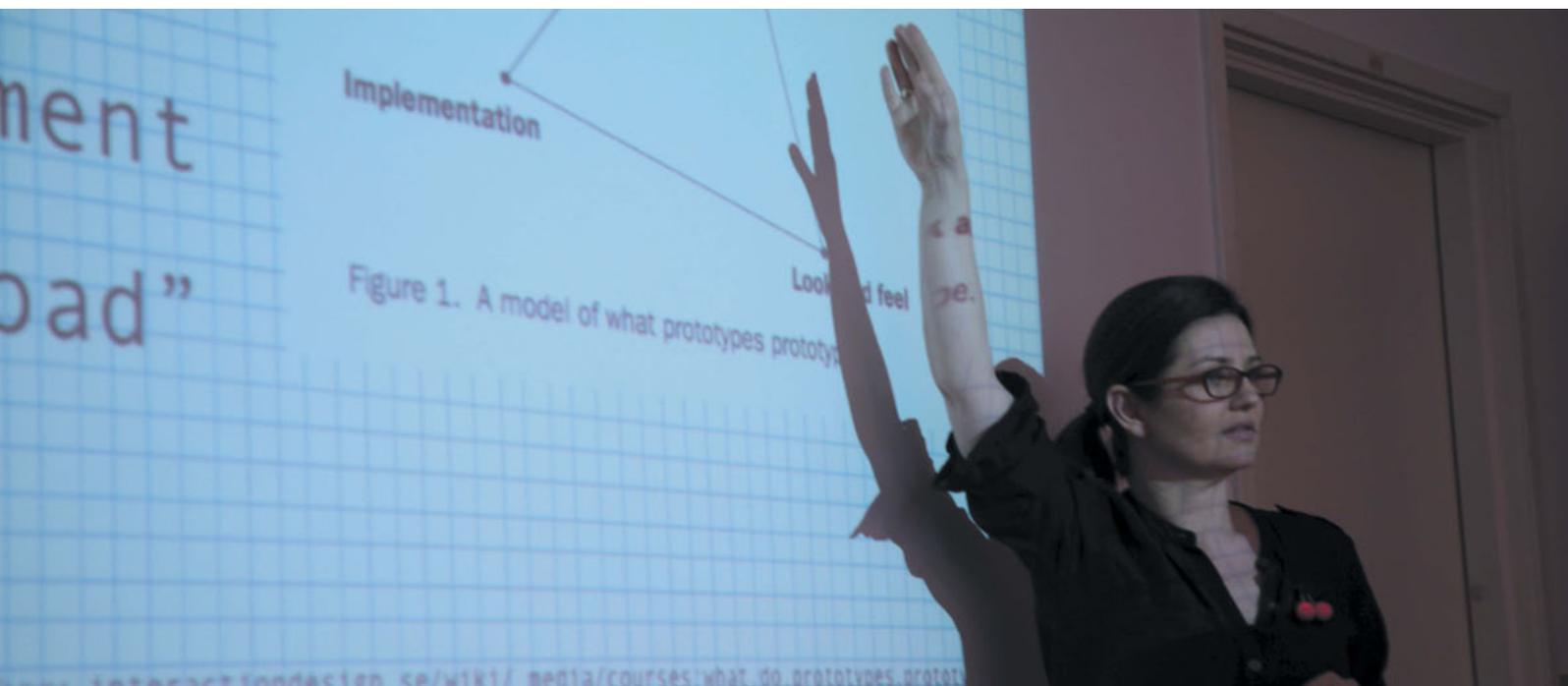
- » Capacity-building and enhanced knowledge base through research and education;
- » Encouraging the diversity of cultural heritage, cultural expressions and local cultures;
- » Directing tourism incomes to assure the quality of sites and the sustainable development of the areas concerned;
- » To evaluate the use of cultural routes as working methods in promoting cultural tourism in the BSR;
- » Consolidating cross-border networking and constant interaction for thematic cultural-based products for tourism;
- » To improve communication and cooperation between and within the existing organizations and tourism business in the BSR and the Barents Area and to work closely together with relevant international organizations and stakeholders for promoting cultural tourism.

The Forum encouraged that future Presidency Programmes of the CBSS and other regional bodies to enhance these targets.



Entrepreneurship

The Turku Baltic Sea Days gave many opportunities for young leaders and entrepreneurs to engage on a regional level. On June 3 the Young Innovators for Baltic Sea Region Growth presentation took the stage at the Networking Village, organized by Turku Region Development Centre and the City of Turku, as part of the 3rd Turku-St.Petersburg Bridge Young Leaders Forum. The CBSS & Swedish Institute joint programme - Balticlub took part in this session as a preview to the Balticlub workstream "Baltic is the New Black" the following day. The Night of the Entrepreneur was also held on the 4 June. In the afternoon of Tuesday 3 June both the then Prime Minister of Finland Jyrki Katainen and the Prime Minister of Estonia Taavi Rõivas headlined a debate that focused on the Digital Sector as a key for a high value economy in the Baltic Sea region. The session focused on the necessity of innovation in the ICT field for the prosperity of a flourishing SME community of business leaders. The discussion is very much in line with the CBSS continued support for facilitation of contacts between innovative initiatives and funding mechanisms, and the call for increased cooperation between regional organisations working in the field of innovation, creative industries and interdisciplinary collaboration networks, including mentorship and sponsorship programmes for regional talent, such as the Balticlub initiative, as outlined in the Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020. The economic and social conditions for creative entrepreneurship were also on the agenda of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in Pärnu.



A Balticlab year in review

The Baltic Sea region is filled with talent and potential. Talented entrepreneurs working in the field of IT, social innovation, product development and creatives in the field of design, music, PR, events and art. Potential to be a pioneering region in Europe and the world as a model hub of innovation and interdisciplinary collaborations. Balticlab is a way for the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Swedish Institute to support this talent and to utilize this development potential.

For the second year running, Balticlab brings these talented entrepreneurs and creatives from the Baltic Sea Region together into one space to explore new perspectives and sources of inspiration, inviting them to prototype the future of the Baltic Sea Region through interdisciplinary collaborations.

From December 2013 to July 2014 Balticlab held its second programme year under the title Balticlab 2.0. As in the pilot, the programme year kicked off with a Networking Weekend in Stockholm, where this year 77 participants from Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden gathered for a weekend of idea and experience-exchange, joint workshops on future-forecasting, presenting-skills, social entrepreneurship & prototyping. The weekend was a space for the 77 curated participants to make connections to each other, to find new inspiration and also motivation to collaborate across the Baltic Sea as well as take an active role in the future of the Baltic Sea Region. Balticlab emphasizes the intersection between the fields of entrepreneurship and creative industry.

The Networking Weekend also acted as ground for the beginnings of the Balticlab 2.0: Project Development Programme, as 35 participants from the weekend

were invited to continue their Balticlab experience through a three module ideation programme in the spring of 2014. The participants met in Riga for module one in February, where they self-selected themselves into interdisciplinary project groups. In module two in Tallinn in March, the groups met their assigned mentors and a wide array of regional practitioners in the field of entrepreneurship, creative industries and regional cooperation, who would guide them and inspire them to formulate their own ideas. The programme culminated in Warsaw, where the prototype groups polished up their ideas with the help of PR and communication experts. The participants were also invited to present their final ideas to a feedback jury: Uffe Elbaek (founder of KaosPilot), Marcus Andersson (Tendensor AB), Klaus Hahn (Volontaire), Torun Ekstrand (Artland), Johanna Olsson (Hyper Island) & Aga Szostek (School of Form). As an outcome of this jury session, two prototype groups received special recognition: The Beach Institute (www.thebeachinstitute.org) & Frön (www.thisisfron.com). These two groups were offered the opportunity to continue their group work through financing for follow-up group meetings.

In a constant process of reformulation, growth and new inspiration, Balticlab continues to add new dimensions to its programme as its participants change each year. This year the programme expanded its scope to Estonia, Latvia and Finland and hence grew in size. For the first time each group received their own mentor, carefully selected for them by the organizing team. It was also the first time a jury was involved in the programme. While the focus of the programme remains on the importance of process rather than output, the inclusion of a jury feedback session added gravitas



and a sense of “grand finale” to the programme. There is no doubt that Balticlab will continue to remould its shape as it continues into its third year, with plans to widen its country scope as well as shake up its process structures.

The outcome of this years programme should not be limited to only the 8 project prototypes, which the participants have been working on. The value of Balticlab lies in the connections made between the participants, the mentors, inspirators and organisers each year. These connections lay the ground for future collaborations, innovative businesses in the countries involved and the empowerment of talent in the Baltic Sea Region to harness their creative energies for uplifting the social and economic structures in the region. The aim of Balticlab is not to make the participants “think outside the box”, the aim is to remove the box. Its only there where true creativity, innovation and the future of the Baltic Sea Region can be found.



Almedalen

Balticlab was also present at the Swedish political week Almedalen in Visby, Gotland. The annual gathering brings together the majority of Swedish political, educational, business, media and NGO stakeholders. Almedalen also holds a regional dimension through the involvement of various Baltic Sea regional actors and topics related to sustainability, environment and regional cooperation.

The CBSS took part in the event for the third year, this time with two events organised by the Secretariat.

On 30 June the CBSS Secretariat & the Swedish Institute hosted a Balticlab seminar titled "Baltic is the New Black! Bringing about fresh thinking in the region through Balticlab". The seminar was a showcase of ideas by creative industry professionals and entrepreneurs as a basis for dialogue on how to further Baltic Sea regional cooperation and branding by mixing the establishment with young talents and emerging subcultures. The seminar introduced the concept of the Balticlab programme, two of the project prototypes from this year's programme, the Beach Institute and Frön, and concluded with comments from a panel of regional experts. The overarching theme at the seminar was the need for more connections across the Baltic Sea and platforms for talent to thrive, especially young women. The speakers included Uffe Elbæk (Member of the Danish Parliament), Hege Marie Mandt (Talentjakten), Lina Thomsgård (Rättviseförmedlingen), Pia Areblad (TILLT), Rasmus Wiinstedt Tscherning (Center for Cultural and Experience Economy) and Verner Kristiansen (Verner Kristiansen ApS), Mikael Olsson, (Balticlab Programme Manager, SI), and Mirjam Külm (Balticlab Programme Manager, CBSS) moderated the event. To view the seminar please go to www.bit.ly/balticlabnewblack.



Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs, Kiel

The Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs (BSSYA) has developed additional activities in the field of youth cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region in 2013.

As a means to further strengthen its institutional capacities as a project facilitator, the BSSYA successfully applied for the Seed Money Facility of the EUSBSR for the PA Education potential flagship project "Baltic Sea Youth Forum". The first Youth Forum took place in Kiel in June 2014. Twenty young people from around the Baltic Sea Region, who are engaged in youth organizations in their home countries, had the chance to meet and discuss common matters of interest. The forum was coorganized by the State Parliament of Schleswig-Holstein, the BSSYA and the Europa Union Schleswig-Holstein.

Youth Dialogue in Narva (Estonia) and Ivangorod (Russian Federation): One river, two countries, two cities.

In the autumn of 2014 the twin fortress of Narva and Ivangorod will be the setting for the first Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue, a pilot project of the CBSS together with EUSTORY, Koerber Foundation. Using the geographical spot of the twin cities, the international youth encounter will look at the region as a microcosm of European history, from the times of the Hanseatic League to the 21st century, and analyze its historical and current settings linked to borders, identity, mobility, inclusion and dialogue. During the project, the 25 young participants will identify key elements of a life next to a border in order to develop an understanding of the different dimensions of personal, cultural and regional identity. The participants will transform the result of their work, their experiences and ideas for a regional Baltic identity into an Instagram photo exhibition and into a vision for the future of the region of Narva and Invangorod. With their exhibition, the participants will visualize their definition of mobility through the use of Instagram and Twitter.





Horizontal Action Neighbours

HA Neighbours – Increasing cooperation with neighbouring countries to tackle joint challenges in the Baltic Sea Region

Horizontal Action Neighbours is one of the five Horizontal Actions in EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), which was included to the EUSBSR Action Plan in February 2013. The Horizontal Action is co-coordinated between the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat (CBSS) in Stockholm and the City of Turku, Finland. The main purpose of Horizontal Action (HA) Neighbours is to bring together stakeholders in the EU Member States of the BSR and neighbouring countries, particularly Russia and Norway. Close cooperation at national, regional and local level is vital to jointly tackle many of the challenges in the Baltic Sea Region, and to fully utilize its development potential. HA Neighbours presented various actions as a part of both Annual Forums Networking Villages with a networking stand.

The “kick-off” event and open seminar of HA Neighbours entitled – Developing New Ideas for Cooperation with Neighbours in the Baltic Sea Region took place at the 4th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Vilnius on 11 November 2013.

HA Neighbours representatives took part in Consultations with the European Commission in Brussels at the end of January 2014.

HA Neighbours representatives presented at the 5th Working Meeting of the EUSBSR in Tallinn on the 9 April 2014 when discussing the role of the Horizontal Actions Leaders in the EUSBSR implementation.

HA Neighbours received Technical Assistance financing from the European Commission which was divided between the co-coordinators and which was reported upon in early 2014 for the preceeding year. Numerous coordination meetings were held throughout the year to coordinate the actions. Liaison with other Horizontal Action Leaders and Priority Area Coordinators grew through the reporting period and will continue to be explored for mutual benefit.

The first Coordination Group meeting of the EUSBSR Horizontal Action Neighbours took place in the afternoon of Thursday 5th June 2014 in Turku, Finland as part of the Baltic Sea Days, back-to-back with the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR. The Coordination Group was preceded by an HA Neighbours workshop devoted to project presentations and discussion. The Coordination Group meeting was opened by the Finnish Chair of the

Strategy's National Contact Points, Ambassador Erja Tikka. The two meetings gathered 30 stakeholders with representation from eight Baltic Sea region countries. Stakeholder representation was broad and multi-level, including Horizontal Action leaders (HA Involve and HA Spatial), Priority Area coordinators (PA Agri, PA Health, PA Inno, PA Nutri and PA Secure), ministry officials representing National Contact Points and National Focal Points of the Strategy, national authorities and ministries (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Environment, Rural Affairs), as well as regional and local representation (German Federal State representation from Hamburg (Hamburg Senate Chancellery), and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (State Chancellery), the City of Turku, and the Regional Council of South-West Finland. Three pan-Baltic organisations (Baltic Sea Region University Network, VASAB, and Union of the Baltic Cities) were present alongside representatives from the University of Tartu and St. Petersburg State University of Economics.

Currently there are two large flagship programmes within the HA Neighbours framework – **CBSS Pilot Financial Initiative (PFI)** and **Balticlab**.

PFI, an open platform for financial cooperation, seeks to attract partners and funds to finance innovative SMEs as well as public private partnership projects to upgrade social, municipal and regional infrastructure, energy efficiency and nature protection in the Baltic Sea region. Since one of the partners, KfW Development Bank, Moscow representative, is also chairing the Financing Committee of the St. Petersburg Initiative, PFI is currently evaluating opportunities of joint project identification and development. KfW and CBSS Secretariat also jointly presented best practices and waste-to-energy technologies in Denmark, Germany and Sweden at the Consultative Council of the Russian State Duma (Parliament) Energy Committee in February 2014.

Balticlab, a programme conceptualised by the CBSS Secretariat and the Swedish Institute, offers mentorship and coaching for young entrepreneurs and creatives in the Baltic Sea region through interdisciplinary collaborations. This year Balticlab has completed its second Balticlab Project Development Programme, where 35 entrepreneurs and creatives, collaborated over a period of 4 months, together with regional business & design mentors and coaches, to create 8 project prototypes, which combine their fields of practice and seek to innovate Baltic Sea Region cooperation.

There are also two large projects within the horizontal action, the **EuroFaculty Pskov** project and the Lake Peipsi project, as well as seven smaller projects which have been granted seed money and funding.

EuroFaculty Pskov, an educational development programme in the Northwestern part of Russia, has been making steady progress in upgrading university education in Business Economics/Business Administration at the recently created Pskov State University (PskovSU).

The Lake Peipsi Project has the objective of improving the environmental situation of the Lake Peipsi basin by establishing and renovating waste-water treatment facilities in Pskov Oblast and by developing modern infrastructure in small harbours on the Estonian side of Lake Peipsi.

EU Seed Money Facility

The **EU Seed Money Facility** also supports a number of projects closely linked with the objectives and actions under Horizontal Action Neighbours. The following EU Seed Money Facility funded projects have been endorsed with a letter support by the Horizontal Action Leader:

» The project **preKNIGHT** – Preparatory Actions Towards the Knowledge Network in Green Housing Technologies in the Baltic Cities works towards the promotion of higher education and professional networks with innovative enterprises and is run by Turku University of Applied Sciences (LP), Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Centrum Balticum Foundation and St. Petersburg State University of Economics (FINEC).

» **BSR IWAMA** on Interactive Water Management – Baltic excellence cluster for water management aims to strengthen environmental cross-border competence in the Baltic Sea and is coordinated by the Turku Process and is a joint EUSBSR Priority Area Nutrient and Horizontal Action Neighbours initiative. It is developed with the following partners Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), Commission on Environment c/o City of Turku (LP), Lahti Region Development Company LADEC Ltd, Technical University of Berlin and University of Tartu.

» **TransMobinBSR** looks to foster labour market related activities in the cross-border context through speeding up the development of transitional mobility in vocational education in the Baltic Sea Region – by using the Innovation Transfer example of Hamburg – St. Petersburg – Turku. The project partners are Arbeit Und Leben Hamburg, Mobility Agency (LP), Center for Interregional Cooperation of Employers of Northwestern Federal District of Russia, City of Turku/Education Division / Turku Vocational Institute.

Project Support Facility (PSF)

Four projects were awarded funding by the Project Support Facility (PSF) detailed later in this report.

» **Cross Border Information Management in the BSR (CBIM-BSR)** focuses on the creation of a network of information centers and this will lead to a BSLF Flagship Mobility Initiative under the EUSBSR Priority Area Education.

» **The Vistynets Lake/Rominta Forest trans-border natural area** project seeks to develop sustainable cross-border areas for tourism and economic development in the trans-border RUS-PL-LT natural area through regional interdisciplinary partnerships. The Lead Partner is the Information office of the Nordic Council of Ministers in Kaliningrad.

» **The CBSS Summer Youth Camp 2013** was initiated to foster informal learning, facilitate people-to-people contacts, intercultural dialogue and network-building between young people from Russia and other countries of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). The project convened affiliated youth organizations in the BSR, as well as representatives of higher education, for example the Baltic University Programme and Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University (Kaliningrad City), which were responsible and in charge of arranging the three workshops held in English at the International Steam of the Baltic Artek Youth Camp. In the field of cross-border cooperation through academic and youth exchange two projects, which are making headway, should be highlighted. The **CBSS Summer University**, organised in cooperation by Humboldt University in Germany, Södertörn University in Sweden and the CBSS, gathered around 20 masters students to Stockholm in August 2014 to discuss governance and administration in the Baltic Sea Region.

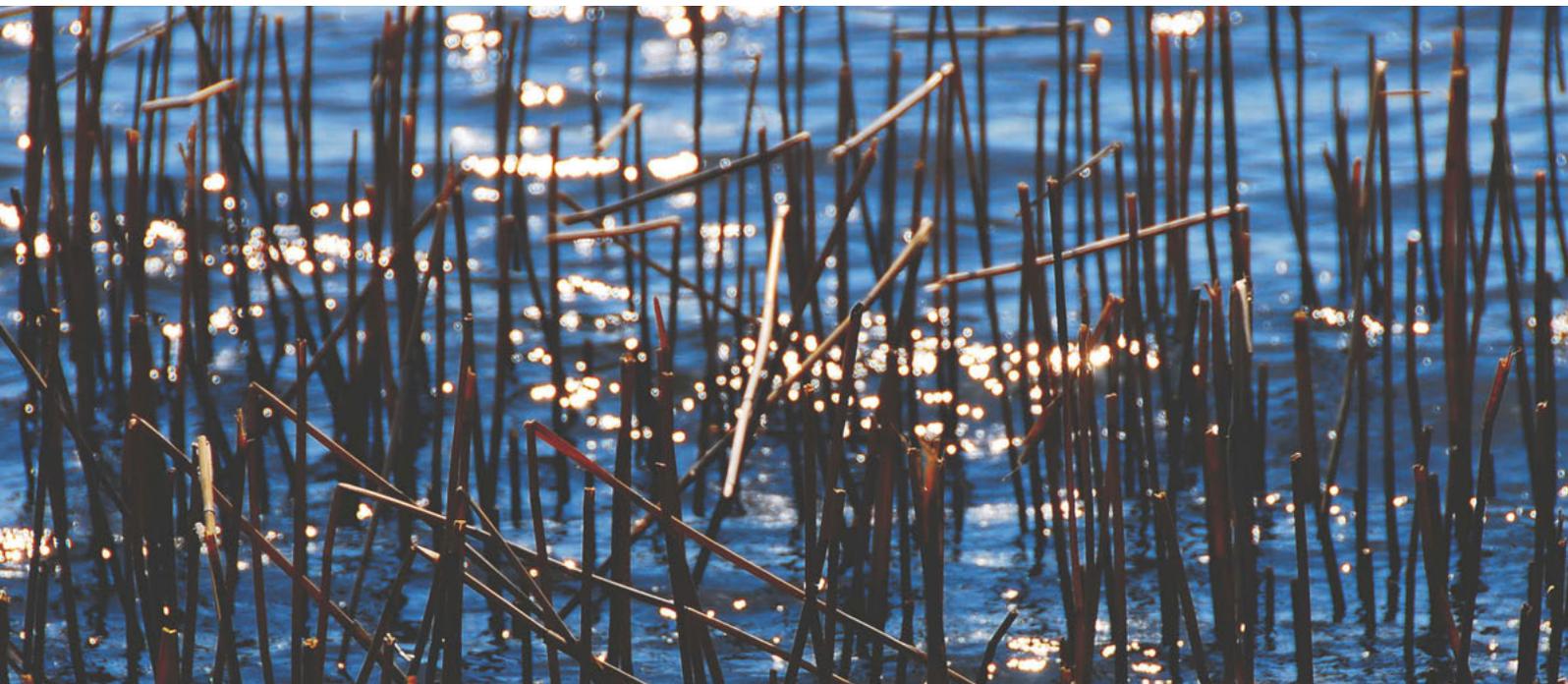
» The CBSS and Koerber Foundation joint pilot project **Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue**, taking place in September 2014 in Narva and Ivangorod, will focus on young people interested in the history of the Baltic Sea Region, inviting them to analyze its historical and current settings linked to borders, identity, mobility and inclusion.

→ See page 35 for more information on the Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue.

Sustainable and Prosperous Region

The new CBSS long-term priority Sustainable & Prosperous Region works towards developing the Baltic Sea Region as a model region of sustainable societies able to manage and use resources efficiently, and to tap the economic, technological, ecological & social innovation potential of the region, in order to ensure its prosperity, environmental protection and social cohesion. We believe that joint efforts and pooled expertise of the countries of the region in searching for efficient solutions countering modern challenges give a strong impetus to sustainable economic and social development, healthy societies and dynamic ecosystems in a balanced and integrated manner.

The actions under the priority **contribute** to the eradication of obstacles hampering the comprehensive and sustainable development of the region, and seek to **improve** the overall competitiveness of the Baltic Sea region through sustainable economic growth and labour markets, research and development, innovative infrastructure, an integrated maritime policy, transport and communications. The work under the priority **supports** the transition of the Baltic Sea region towards a competitive, green and low-carbon economy thereby ensuring sustainable development and inclusive growth. The priority also works towards strengthening the region's capacity to adapt to climate change and the resilience capacity of ecosystems and societies, ensuring further mainstreaming of sustainable development at all levels and in all policy sectors, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects and promoting sustainable and green technologies and initiatives in order to protect the ecosystem and biodiversity of the Baltic Sea region.



The Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP)

The EGMP held two meetings during the Presidency period. The 13th meeting of the EGMP took place in Helsinki on 5 November 2013 and focused on clean shipping, with representatives of HELCOM and the Baltic Sea Action Group (BSAG) invited as guests to take part in the discussions on the Sustainable Baltic Sea shipping.

The topic of the 14th meeting of the EGMP which was held in Helsinki on 9 April 2014 was safe shipping and the meeting was held back-to-back with the meeting of the Baltic Sea Organizations with maritime competence. The Group also discussed the draft self-assessment and concluded to make the recommendations to the Committee of Senior Officials contained in the document. The EGMP and the participants of the Maritime Dialogue also visited the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) centre in Helsinki, with a presentation of the Gulf of Finland reporting system (GOFREP), as well as the HELCOM Secretariat, where the work of HELCOM in the maritime field was presented.

Building on the St. Petersburg Initiative, which was agreed at the Baltic Sea Forum in St. Petersburg in April 2013, a special emphasis was also put on cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF)

The Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) is a platform for exchange of experience and communication between social partners and other key labour market actors in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). The BSLF aims to promote social dialogue, tripartite structures and cooperation as crucial elements of sustainable growth and social development in the BSR. It works on common labour market issues in the BSR, based on joint transnational strategies — particularly on youth employment, labour mobility, and demographic changes.

CBSS Context

The CBSS Secretariat is the Lead and Coordinator of BSLF. The Annual Roundtables and the Enlarged Steering Committee Meetings are attended from the CBSS side by the CBSS Secretariat Director General, the Head of Media and Communications, and the Senior Adviser assigned to the economic development portfolio in their capacities as Steering Committee Member and Facilitator Team Member.

28 member and 10 observer organisations have joined the BSLF (June 2014). Visit the website of the Baltic Sea Labour Forum at www.bslf.eu to find out more about the organisations. The CBSS Secretariat is supported in the work by BWH - Education and Training Service for Hamburg Businesses, Germany.

European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) context: Baltic Sea Labour Forum is a EUSBSR Flagship Project under the action social inclusion of the Priority Area Education – Developing innovative education and youth coordinated by Hamburg (Germany) and the Norden Association (in Sweden).

Political support

The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) Secretariat is one of the founding members of the BSLF and supports the work actively in the Facilitator Team and Steering Committee. The German MP and member of the BSPC Standing Committee, Franz Thönnies, is a Member of BSLF Steering Committee.

Events during the period July 2013 and June 2014

The project Cross Border Information Management in the Baltic Sea Region (CBIM BSR) - financed by CBSS Project Support Facility – started in July 2013. In the frame of the project, several activities took place:

The BSLF working group on mobility of labour agreed on an "Action Plan on Cross Border Mobility in the Baltic Sea Region" in September 2013.

In addition, the Enlarged Steering Committee, the highest strategic decision-making body of the BSLF, met at the CBSS premises in September 2013. The Enlarged Steering Committee comprises of one representative each of the BSLF member organizations and observers

The BSLF Round table was organized in November 2013 in Helsinki. The participants adopted a resolution and the Chairs of the Working Group on Mobility of Labour handed the "**Action Plan on Cross Border Mobility in the Baltic Sea Region**" to the Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Erkki Tuomioja. In November 2013, the BSLF was also present at the Project Village at the Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) in Vilnius.

In the beginning of 2014, the BSLF developed a first proposal for a mobility flagship initiative. BSLF members were asked to deliver ideas and the facilitator team agreed on the draft plan. This includes the implementation of a "Hello Baltic" information management in the BSR. For the preparation of the initiative, meetings were organised with Norden Association, Hamburg Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs, Family and Integration, and the Hamburg Ministry for Education.

The facilitator team has had several video conferences during this period with representatives from social partners, CBSS and BSPC.

The Flagship initiative paper was presented at the coordination group meeting of the priority area Education (EUSBSR) and the European Social Fund – Baltic Sea Network on 2 June 2014 in Turku.

In the same week, BSLF organised a Workshop on Information Management in the BSR in Turku, in order to evaluate the needs and possibilities for web-based information management in the BSR.



Upcoming events during the CBSS Estonian Presidency

The Baltic Sea Labour Forum and the partners of the project "Best Agers Lighthouses" will organise a joint tripartite conference 16-17 September 2014 in Riga, Latvia, under the title "**Employment for the Future: How should the Baltic Sea Region respond to ageing workforces?**"

In the frame of the Latvian Presidency in the European Council, the Latvian BSLF members are involved in several events.

In line with the priorities and as part of the official programme of the Latvian Presidency, the Employers' Confederation of Latvia (LDDK) is planning a number of public events in Riga:

» **Thursday, 12 February 2015** – International Conference "Entrepreneurship in Regions to Strengthen the European Union Competitiveness"

» **Thursday, 26 February 2015 – Friday, 27 February 2015** – International conference "Role of Trade Unions in Forming Sustainable Growth and Qualitative Work Places"

» **Tuesday, 31 March 2015** – Forum of Social Partners "The Role of Social Dialogue in Ensuring the Economic Growth and Qualitative Work Places"

» **Thursday, 21 May 2015** – Eastern Partnership Business Forum as part of the 4th Eastern Partnership Summit scheduled on May 21 - 22, 2015

In addition, the LDDK will support the event organised by the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia (LBAS) - international conference "Role of Trade Unions in Forming Sustainable Growth and Decent Work Places" to be held in the first week of February 2015.



The Expert Group on Sustainable Development (EGSD) – Baltic 21

The Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 convened three times under the Finnish chairmanship, first in Stockholm on 5 - 6 September 2013 for the 8th Meeting of the EGSD. The 9th Meeting of the EGSD took place in Stockholm two months later, on 5 December 2013. The final meeting under the Finnish chairmanship, the 10th Meeting of the EGSD, was organised in Turku on 5 June 2014 during the Turku Baltic Sea Days.

One main focus of the Finnish Presidency of the EGSD - Baltic 21 was an external review and evaluation of the Expert Group on Sustainable Development, including the revision of the Terms of reference which was commissioned by the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and conducted by the Centre for Applied Social Sciences, University of Tartu (Estonia).

An inception report was prepared by the winning bidder in June 2014, the work on the review started shortly thereafter with the main focus on desk top research on EGSD documentation during summer 2014, followed-up by stakeholder interviews in August/September 2014 and a first draft evaluation report presented to the evaluation task force on 22nd October 2014 back to back with the 11th EGSD meeting. The final report is expected to be circulated by the end of 2014.

The Committee of Senior Officials will take note of the recommendations and decide the way forward on the lead up to mandate discussion in early 2015.

Other focus topics during the year were the beginnings of a BSR Sustainable Development Study, mapping the status of Sustainable Development in the

region as well as the establishment of the Dialogue Platform on Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region. Results of these activities are expected under the Estonian Presidency.

In an attempt to undertake further efforts to elaborate and implement strategies to cope with the inevitable consequences of climate change and transform the BSR into a Green Region, CBSS-Baltic 21, in close cooperation with Member States, is also now responsible for the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Horizontal Action Sustainable Development.

Here are two highlight projects: Bioenergy Promotion II

During Bioenergy Promotion II (Extension Stage), seven of the initial 17 demo regions started to implement regional strategic plans and concepts drawn up during the Main Stage. The implementing activities included awareness-raising, mobilization and training of local stakeholders and decision-makers, and the adoption of complementary strategies.

The Extension Stage Project also comprised bilateral "twinning" activities between demo regions, e.g. between the regions of Zealand (Denmark) and Skaraborg (Sweden), and the region of Zealand and Gdynia (Poland).

Bioenergy Promotion II envisaged the "testing" of the sustainability principles and criteria developed during the Main Stage. For this purpose the partners entered into a dialogue with energy utility companies and the European Commission about sustainability criteria for solid and gaseous biomass used in electricity, heating and cooling, and held a joint workshop in Brussels during the Sustainable Energy Week organized by the Polish project partners. Further successful project activities included the development of principles and criteria for sustainable bioenergy production in the Baltic Sea Region, policy monitoring and showcasing of good practices of integrating the principles and criteria into policy frameworks and support schemes, as well as support in formulation and implementation of coherent strategies and action plans promoting sustainable production and use of bioenergy.

The partners deepened the dialogue with the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 to feed project results into policy and programme development at the macro-regional level. Policy recommendations of Bioenergy Promotion II were amongst others presented and discussed at the BSPC-CBSS-BASREC Seminar on Energy Efficiency in March 2014. www.bioenergypromotion.net/bsr



RecoBaltic 21 TECH

The most important outputs of the project Reco Baltic 21 Tech are a Baltic Waste Investment Concept, a joint Baltic Sea Region (BSR) Strategy for Municipal Waste Management, and the establishment of a BSR Waste Management Council.

The RECO project has recognized that the investment process is one of the cornerstones for a successful organization of municipal waste management. The investment concept aims at describing the investment process as a cycle, taking into consideration the complexity and continuity of the process as well as the uncertainties related to factors such as the analytical tools, procurements, return on investments, and evaluations. The project thus provides practical assistance to all stakeholders interested in investments in municipal waste management.

The joint Baltic Sea Region Strategy for Municipal Waste Management, provides a unique opportunity to initiate one of the first regional high-level collaboration programmes in the field of waste management in the BSR, and serves as an example of concerted regional integration to other European regions.

Close cooperation has also been developed with the Mediterranean region and the Union of the Mediterranean, UfM. This includes a one day seminar on Waste Management which was jointly organised by CBSS-Baltic 21, UfM, and the Reco Baltic 21 Tech project in Barcelona, December 2013 — allowing for in-depth knowledge exchange in the field.

www.recobaltic21.net/sv/final-results-downloads.html

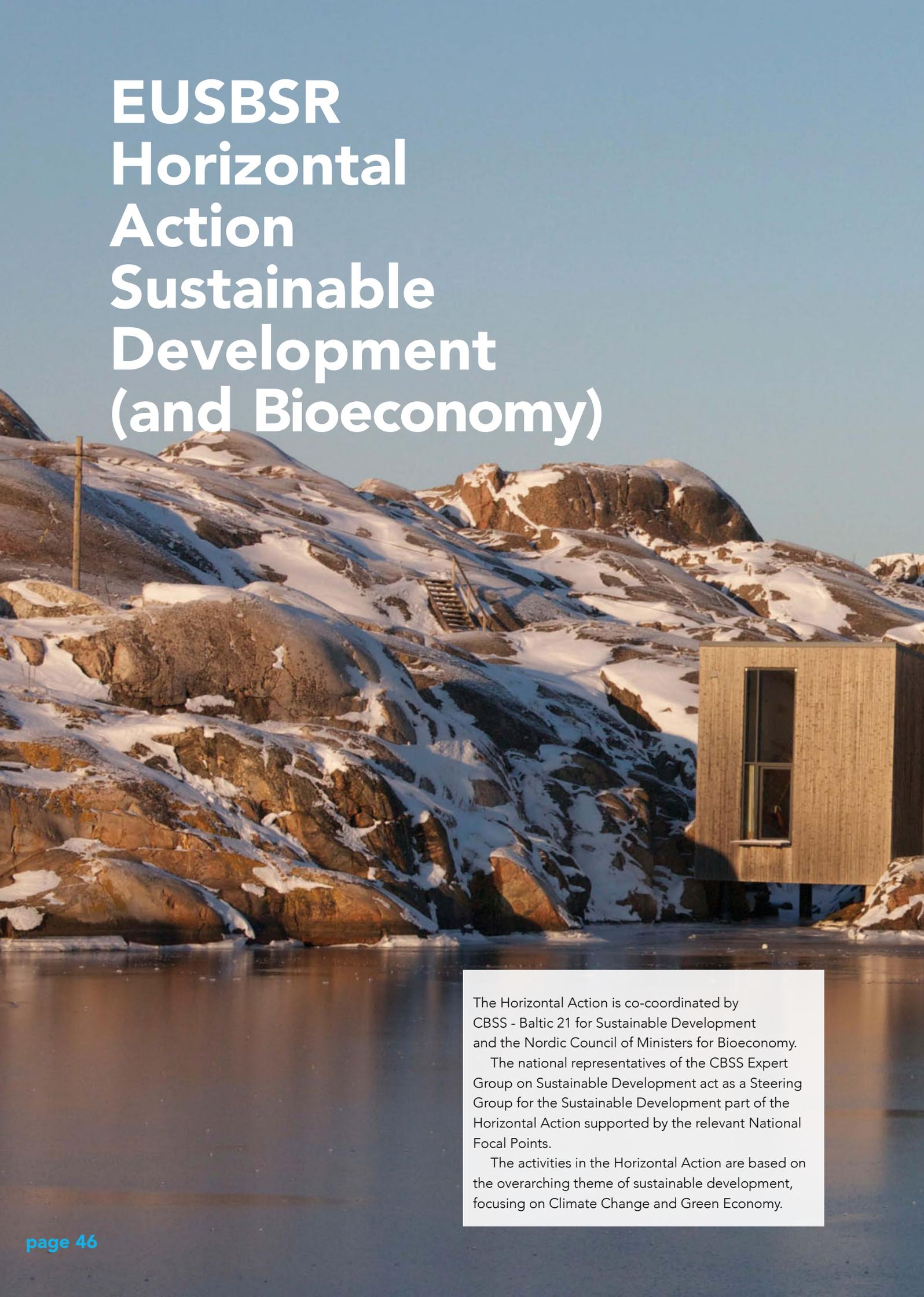
On 1 July 2014, the CBSS, under the Estonian Presidency and within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, arranged the international event

We cannot do it alone – how to save the sea on shores across borders – an International Day.

This one day event raised awareness on the environmental status of the Baltic Sea as well as showcased and discussed cross-border cooperation to save the Baltic Sea waters, while ensuring prosperous economies and promoting sustainable development on land. Almost 100 stakeholders and experts from across the whole Baltic Sea region gathered to discuss the topics “The business in being sustainable”, “Blue and green economy”, “Bottom up environmental cooperation” and “The sea as a resource”. The day was opened by a high level panel showcasing cooperation to save the Baltic Sea on shore across borders, with statements by Allan Larsson (Forum Östersjön), Elena Basile (Italian Ambassador to Sweden), Lowri Evans (European Commission, Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, EC DG MARE), Meelis Münt (Deputy Secretary General of the Estonian Ministry of the Environment), and Ewa Dębska (Deputy Director European Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland).



EUSBSR Horizontal Action Sustainable Development (and Bioeconomy)

A scenic view of a snowy, rocky coastline. In the foreground, a modern wooden building with a large window is partially visible. The background shows rugged, snow-covered rocks and a clear blue sky. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

The Horizontal Action is co-coordinated by CBSS - Baltic 21 for Sustainable Development and the Nordic Council of Ministers for Bioeconomy.

The national representatives of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development act as a Steering Group for the Sustainable Development part of the Horizontal Action supported by the relevant National Focal Points.

The activities in the Horizontal Action are based on the overarching theme of sustainable development, focusing on Climate Change and Green Economy.



ACTION: 'Climate Change'

Climate change is one of the most pressing environmental issues today. The Baltic Sea is a specific eco-region, where impacts from climate change can also be expected to be specific. The riparian BSR countries thus share a vulnerability to climate change with possible impacts on human security, environment and competitiveness. It is important to work not only on mitigation measures, but also on strategies to adapt to changes. The establishment and implementation of a macro-regional climate change adaptation strategy and action plan will strengthen efforts to such cooperation, based on understanding and coping with specific impacts within the BSR.

Flagship projects

BaltAdapt has facilitated the action "Climate change adaptation" by preparing the proposal for a BSR wide Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan. The project, consisting of 11 partners from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden – led by the Danish Meteorological Institute – was approved for funding in the 3rd Call of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013, and ran until December 2013. Final project conference took place on 3 – 4 September 2013 in Riga, Latvia where the proposal documents were officially handed over to the BSR Member States and the responsible EUSBSR Horizontal Action Leader (HAL) Sustainable Development, CBSS – Baltic 21 – thus achieving a main milestone in the implementation of one of the EUSBSR's sub-objectives. The EUSBSR HAL Sustainable Development, in close cooperation with the members of the CBSS-Expert Group on Sustainable Development and Steering Group to the Action, are responsible for facilitating the further development and monitoring of the document until final endorsement is made by the Member States. More information on the project, including its final results can be found at the project website www.baltadapt.eu.

ACTION: 'Green economy'

The Baltic Sea region has a great potential to be a model region for green economy and a world leader when it comes to the development of knowledge-intensive products and services, eco-innovations, and environmental technologies capable of increasing competitiveness and creating new business opportunities, all the while reducing negative environmental impacts.

The action aims at supporting the transition of the Baltic Sea region into a green region resulting in 'improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities'.

Flagship projects

Baltic Green Public Procurement was a two year Baltic 21 Lighthouse Project and EUSBSR Flagship Project ending in December 2013 after a three months extension period dedicated for dissemination and communication of project results to BSR countries outside of the partnership. During the regular implementation time, the project partners produced a free-of-charge online training tool on Green Public Procurement for procurers and suppliers. Furthermore, the project conducted a number of national and one international train-the-trainer seminars. During the extension phase, two awareness raising seminars on the issue of green public procurement were arranged; the first on 10 December 2013 in Riga, Latvia in cooperation with the project partner Motiva Oy; and the second on 17 December 2013 in St Petersburg, Russia, in cooperation with Leontief Centre St Petersburg and the project's Lead partner, the Swedish Environmental Management Council (SEMCO). Additionally, the project published a broad selection of success stories on green public procurement in an online publication. www.balticgpp.eu

EFFECT – BSR Dialogue Platform on Energy and Resource Efficiency, funded since 2012 as a Thematic Partnership by the Swedish Institute entered its second year of implementation. In addition to the 3rd project partner meeting implemented in November 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania, the project partners went on the first peer to peer visit consisting of three two-day job shadowing sessions at the City Administration of Petrozavodsk where partners could learn first-hand about energy and resource efficiency issues in Russia. Furthermore, two main reports were produced:

- » Policy Review on Energy Efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region
- » Project and Policy Review on Low Carbon Economy in the Baltic Sea Region

A third report will focus on case studies from front runner cities and regions from the BSR in this field and an identification of their success factors.

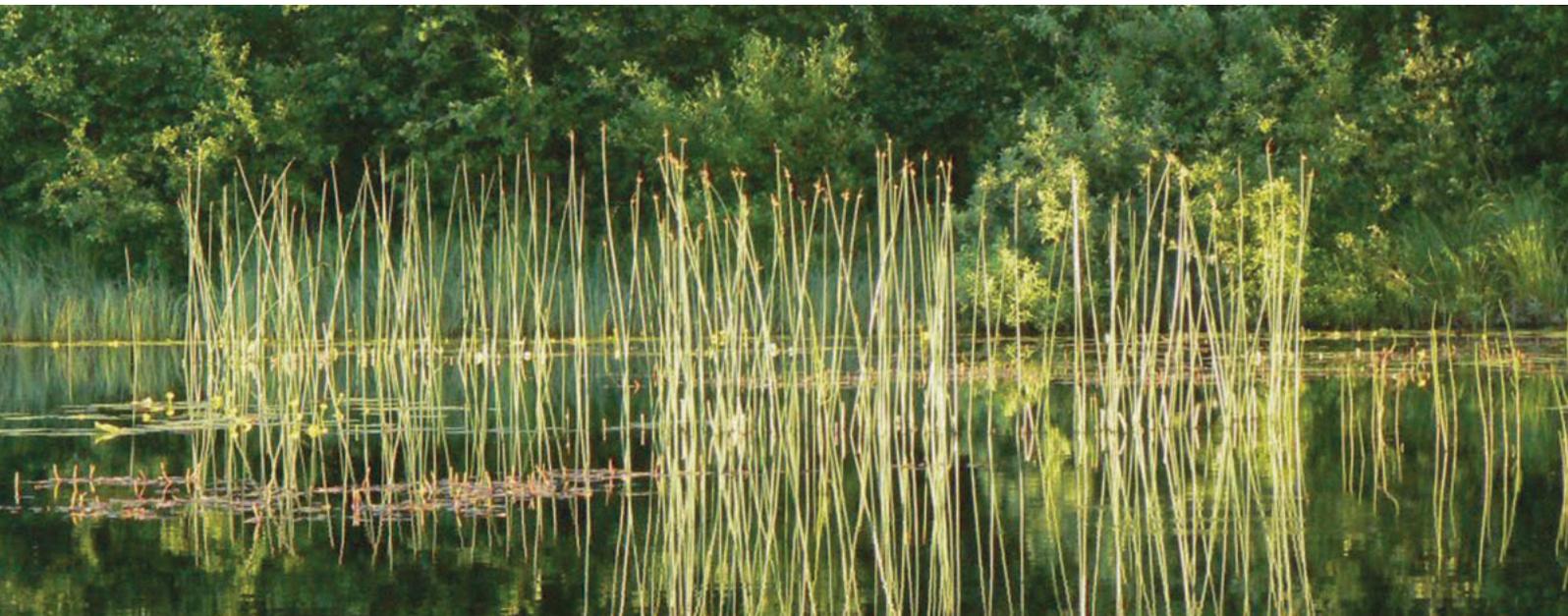
For late 2014, the project's lead partner, CBSS - Baltic 21, will arrange two stakeholder workshops on the issues of energy and resource efficiency, and work more intensively on the development of a main project application for a first call in a relevant funding programme under the upcoming funding period 2014 – 2020. The project will be ongoing until August 2015.

Ecovillages

The three year project "**Ecovillages for sustainable rural development**" funded by the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme ended in December 2013. The project aimed at helping our society getting closer to nature and developing new ways of living together in a genuinely more sustainable way. The overall objective of this project was to develop more sustainable ways of living in the rural areas of the BSR by offering toolkits for initiators and developers of eco-villages. The project developed an effective model for planning and implementing eco-villages and launched three manuals on:

- » eco-settlement practices and environmentally friendly technologies applied in eco-villages;
- » cultural aspects of eco-village establishment and governance;
- » green business and entrepreneurship.

The project team has also formulated a set of policy recommendations delivered to relevant EU institutions such as DG Environment and DG Agriculture. One of the greatest contributions towards sustainable Europe is the formation of the **Baltic Ecovillage Network (BEN)**, which serves as a transnational umbrella of national eco-villages networks in the BSR. BEN offers a vehicle to continue the work started by the project towards the societal recognition of the values that eco-villages pursue and the transition to sustainable living. The Ecovillages project has also contributed to the rise of other initiatives, such as the recently launched REALS – Resilient and Ecological Approaches for Living Sustainably – project which extends the framework from focusing on eco-villages in particular to "sustainable lifestyles" in general. www.balticecovillages.eu



EU Seed Money Facility

The EU Seed Money Facility also supports a number of projects closely linked with the objectives and actions under Sustainable Development. The following EU Seed Money Facility funded projects have been endorsed with a letter support by the Horizontal Action Leader:

Baltic Sea Region Urban Forum for Smart Cities (Action: Green Economy)

The main project aims at establishing the “Baltic Sea Region Urban Forum for Smart Cities”. The objective of the Forum is to form a broad network with participation of cities and towns that will effectively address challenges and realise opportunities for a green transition towards sustainable societies. It will facilitate experience sharing and joint actions on the application of green technologies and innovation in urban areas. The aim of the Forum is to bring together local and regional decision makers, service producers, and innovation developers. The Forum will also include a fair, which works as a place for networking and exhibition, as well as workshop activities on smart city technologies, innovations, applications, and practices.

Lead partner: Smart City LAB Tartu (EE)

Seed money project's total budget: 49,550.00 EUR

BALLOON (Action: Climate Change)

Transition to a low carbon economy is one of the EU2020 strategy priorities within the framework of climate change and energy sustainability. The BALLOON main project aims to support the development of a low carbon economy in Baltic Sea Region countries by

establishing cooperation, building capacity, and exchanging best practices among involved stakeholders. The project activities include networking, exchange of information, as well as developing methodologies and research instruments to promote the BSR as a low carbon growth region. The project furthermore aims at building a platform to support the exchange of experiences and networking activities.

Lead partner: Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (LV)

Seed money project's total budget: 31,200.00 EUR

BSP Science Skills (Action: Green Economy)

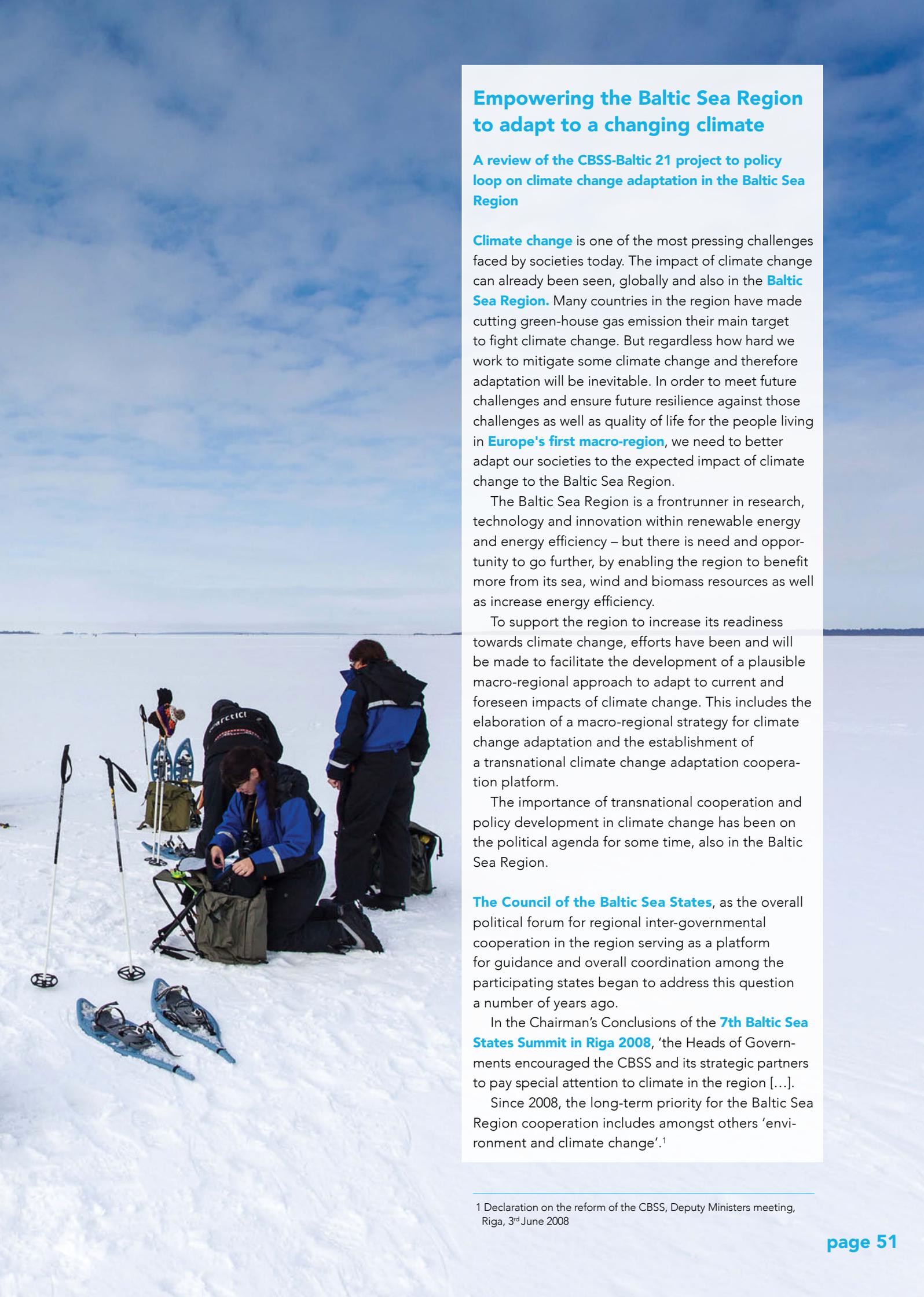
The main project aims to unite ideas, capacities, and tools to improve education for sustainable development and strengthen transnational networks based on local and regional educational actions in the Baltic Sea region. Drawn upon previous experience (the BSP was established in 1989) the main project is expected to create added value for already existing cooperation and to motivate various actors from the educational sectors to work for a common purpose. An important aspect of the project will be awareness-raising among partners from different sectors and disciplines. The key outcome of the main project will be the ‘Baltic Sea Project Learner’s Guide’ app – a unique mobile app jointly developed by all participating countries – which aims to provide new approaches for education and research, and disseminate knowledge about sustainable development among students.

Lead partner: Tartu Environmental Education Center (EE)

Seed money project's total budget: 44,831.00 EUR

Climate Change Case Study





Empowering the Baltic Sea Region to adapt to a changing climate

A review of the CBSS-Baltic 21 project to policy loop on climate change adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges faced by societies today. The impact of climate change can already be seen, globally and also in the **Baltic Sea Region**. Many countries in the region have made cutting green-house gas emission their main target to fight climate change. But regardless how hard we work to mitigate some climate change and therefore adaptation will be inevitable. In order to meet future challenges and ensure future resilience against those challenges as well as quality of life for the people living in **Europe's first macro-region**, we need to better adapt our societies to the expected impact of climate change to the Baltic Sea Region.

The Baltic Sea Region is a frontrunner in research, technology and innovation within renewable energy and energy efficiency – but there is need and opportunity to go further, by enabling the region to benefit more from its sea, wind and biomass resources as well as increase energy efficiency.

To support the region to increase its readiness towards climate change, efforts have been and will be made to facilitate the development of a plausible macro-regional approach to adapt to current and foreseen impacts of climate change. This includes the elaboration of a macro-regional strategy for climate change adaptation and the establishment of a transnational climate change adaptation cooperation platform.

The importance of transnational cooperation and policy development in climate change has been on the political agenda for some time, also in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Council of the Baltic Sea States, as the overall political forum for regional inter-governmental cooperation in the region serving as a platform for guidance and overall coordination among the participating states began to address this question a number of years ago.

In the Chairman's Conclusions of the **7th Baltic Sea States Summit in Riga 2008**, 'the Heads of Governments encouraged the CBSS and its strategic partners to pay special attention to climate in the region [...].

Since 2008, the long-term priority for the Baltic Sea Region cooperation includes amongst others 'environment and climate change'.¹

¹ Declaration on the reform of the CBSS, Deputy Ministers meeting, Riga, 3rd June 2008

The reform of CBSS in 2008 led to the **integration of Baltic 21 into the Council as the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development, Baltic 21 in 2010**. Baltic 21 is the macro-regional expression of the UN Earth Summit, 1992 Rio and local Agenda 21 processes. With the integration of Baltic 21 into CBSS, Member States and relevant stakeholders agreed on a new Strategy document for the Expert Group for the years 2010 - 2015, the **'CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development'**.

The strategy is the guiding document for policy dialogue and development on sustainable development for the CBSS member countries, including Iceland, Norway and Russia. At the very heart of the Strategy, it defined four areas of cooperation, amongst others climate change, as well as adaptation and mitigation.

The CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010 – 2015 was endorsed by the **CBSS Oslo Ministerial Session in 2011**. The Session called for the strategy's active implementation, encouraged support for green economy and welcomed the efforts underway to develop a climate change adaptation strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.²

Concerning climate change adaptation, the main goal was to identify communalities in the adaptation strategies at different levels in the Baltic Sea Region and to provide a common platform for the development of the Baltic Sea Region climate change adaptation strategy as an important policy framework to help the region to increase its readiness to climate change. Such a strategy was also called for in the **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**.

As a parallel process, in 2009 the **European Council** and its Member States adopted **Europe's first macro-regional strategy - the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**. In its Action Plan the Strategy called for the development of a BSR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the macro-region.³

Today, climate change (adaptation and mitigation) is seen as a horizontal topic in the EU Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region framework, and worked with under the **Horizontal Action Sustainable Development (HASD)**. **CBSS-Baltic 21 as leader** of this action has taken a central role to ensure coherent joint policy making efforts in this field across the whole Baltic Sea Region, including Russia.⁴

In order to facilitate the implementation of goals set out in the different BSR relevant policy documents and frameworks, the Expert Group on Sustainable Development developed a strategic project with the main aim to develop a climate change adaptation strategy and action plan for the whole Baltic Sea Region.

The EU financed project Baltadapt was approved by the Baltic Sea Region programme in 2010 and implemented as a **EUSBSR Flagship** and **Baltic 21 Lighthouse Project** - two quality labels that ensured an integrated cross-sectoral working approach within the project, clear policy impact and high visibility in the region.

The project partnership was developed in a triple helix setting, bringing together not only national policy makers and state agencies but also research institutions and non-governmental organizations from across the Baltic Sea Region.

CBSS-Baltic 21 was a fully-fledged partner in the project tasked to ensure the project to policy links between Baltadapt, its partnership and the policy stakeholders on the national and EU level. Baltadapt reported regularly not only to the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development and its members, the project through CBSS-Baltic 21 had also close contact to other pan-Baltic organizations like VASAB, UBC, HELCOM and BSSSC as well as to the European Commission, DG Climate Action and its Unit on Climate Change Adaptation. All actors followed the project closely throughout its three years implementation process.

Within the project implementation process, CBSS-Baltic 21 also arranged the so called **BSR Policy Forum on Climate Change Adaptation – "Time to Baltadapt"** - a multi-stakeholder conference with the aim to create a standing platform for exchange, networking and capacity building among relevant actors in the Baltic Sea Region with regards to climate change adaptation. The Policy Forum was arranged three times during the life time of the Baltadapt project, in April 2012 in Berlin, Germany, in close cooperation with the German Ministry for the Environment, on a second occasion on 10 - 11 December 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden in close cooperation with the Swedish Ministry for the Environment and last but not least in 29 - 30 May 2013 in Tallinn, Estonia with the Estonian Ministry for the Environment.

Beside overall discussions on the state of play on adaptation in different relevant sectors in the Baltic Sea Region, the Policy Forum provided the opportunity for stakeholders from all levels of governance to give input to the draft versions of the BSR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and its Action Plan at these different occasions and in different stages of the development of the documents.

The documents were also discussed in depth during two stakeholder workshops, one on agriculture (Adapting agricultural practices and production to climate change, 30 – 31 May 2012 Norrköping, Swe-

² Declaration of the 16th CBSS Ministerial Session, Oslo, 7th June 2011

³ EUSBSR 2009

⁴ CBSS-Baltic 21 took over the lead of EUSBSR Horizontal Action Sustainable Development as a result of its first revision in February 2013. Climate Change was integrated into the Horizontal Action being prior Priority Area Climate Change, led by Denmark

den) and one on tourism (Building A Baltic Sea Tourism Region - Towards a Cooperative Approach in Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany, 3 - 4 May 2012). The stakeholder workshops meant to deepen the understanding of challenges and opportunities of climate change for specific highly relevant sectors in the Baltic Sea Region from a practitioners' perspective.

After three years of project work, Baltadapt handed over the **BSR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan to Member States and the Horizontal Action Leader Sustainable Development of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region for further action in September 2013.**

The Baltic Sea Region now has its very own Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan.

A main milestone for Europe's first macro region has been reached.

Already in April 2013 the participants of the **High Level Conference on the Protection of the Environment of the Baltic Sea Region in St Petersburg** "called on the CBSS through its Expert Group on Sustainable Development (EGSD - Baltic 21) to undertake further efforts to elaborate and implement adaptation strategies to cope with the inevitable consequences of climate change."⁵

In its role as Horizontal Action Leader for Sustainable Development, CBSS - Baltic 21, in close cooperation with the CBSS Member States, is now responsible to close the project to policy loop by having to seek for and establish a suitable policy process in which countries can take onboard the recommendations from the strategy documents, make them workable and change policy making in their countries.

CBSS-Baltic 21 is now facilitating a continued policy process by arranging a series of **macro-regional climate change adaptation round tables** with national ministry representatives.

To this end, CBSS-Baltic 21 arranged the **First Climate Change Adaptation Roundtable in the Baltic Sea Region** in December 2013 in Stockholm. The meeting was hosted by the Swedish Ministry for Environment and back to back with the 9th meeting of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21. Seven BSR countries attended and discussed potential next steps on how to follow-up on the proposed BSR Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan. The meeting agreed on the need for and interest in a continued future facilitated platform on macro-regional cooperation and knowledge exchange on the issue of climate change adaptation in the BSR. This could poten-

tially be facilitated within an ad-hoc working group under the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development -Baltic 21 as the main interregional cooperation platform for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region.

The second Roundtable on Climate Change took place on 29 April 2014 in Warsaw and was hosted by the Polish Ministry of Environment. As an outcome the countries decided to establish a **Climate Change Dialogue Platform for Cooperation** in the Region wherein the round tables should be continued. Furthermore, countries expressed their wish to invite other regional players, such as pan-Baltic organizations and academia, to join the Climate Dialogue Platform, while also emphasizing the need to initiate concrete action and joint macro-regional activities to further knowledge exchange, capacity building and hands-on implementation of good solutions.

Respectively, CBSS-Baltic 21 arranged a **Pan-Baltic Roundtable on Climate Change Adaptation** on 13 May 2014 in Stockholm. This meeting called a majority of pan-Baltic organizations, active in the field of climate change, to engage in discussion, knowledge exchange and capacity building on a number of topics relevant for transnational cooperation in the field of climate change.

HAL Sustainable Development also had the possibility to get engaged in successful implementation of the 'Climate-ADAPT Science/Policy Forum: Workshops for the Dissemination and Exchange of Adaptation-related Knowledge to Policy-makers' organized by DG Climate Action for the Baltic States, showcasing cooperation in the BSR on climate adaptation **as a good case example on how to empower the region and its countries to adapt to climate change.**

Through these activities CBSS-Baltic 21 aims to strengthen and consolidate the **Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Dialogue Platform** which can contribute to the implementation of the EU climate policies on macro-regional level, promoting cooperation in the area of climate change (adaptation & mitigation), informing policy development, catalyzing exchange of information and best practices, fostering synergies among existing initiatives, exploring further cooperation opportunities and contributing to the identification and development of concrete joint initiatives in the field across the whole Baltic Sea Region. Awareness and preparedness to climate change differ across the Baltic Sea region. Therefore cooperation between member states, sub-regions and relevant pan-Baltic players, including on knowledge sharing and transfer as well as on capacity building and policy mainstreaming, must be promoted. CBSS is actively driving this process, further establishing itself as a main cooperation arena on climate change in the Baltic Sea Region.

⁵ Statement of the High Level Conference on the Protection of the Environment of the Baltic Sea Region, St Petersburg, Russia, 5 – 6 April 2013

Safe and Secure Region

Safe & Secure Region is the third renewed long-term priority of the CBSS and is supported by several specialized CBSS-related networks and structures. Its goal is to enhance **societal security** and safety in the Baltic Sea Region and to ensure that people of the Region are protected from and resilient to violence, accidents and emergencies through preparedness, and safeguarded against harm caused by criminal exploitation and human trafficking. The priority's objectives are to counteract all forms of trafficking in human beings in the Baltic Sea Region via preventive and protective activities and projects based on a coherent and **multidisciplinary** approach, and to promote comprehensive and sustainable child protection in order to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children through a multi-sectorial approach as well as increased cooperation between relevant authorities and other stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region. The priority also works towards **strengthening** societal resilience to disasters and hazards in all stages of crises through adequate prevention, preparedness, response and recovery and seeks to **enhance** interoperability and strategic macro-regional cooperation enabling assistance and rapid response to cross-border accidents and emergencies, including disasters that may have cross-border consequences and impact.



A well-developed cooperation exists in most fields of law enforcement, including cross-border crime-related networks of police, border guard, prosecutors and tax administrations. In addition to in-sector cooperation, these law enforcement sectors often cooperate cross-sectorially, thus bringing added value for our regional cooperation. Furthermore, the Baltic Sea region benefits from highly developed and practical expert level cooperation structures within the field of fighting against trafficking in human beings through the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as a specialized network focusing on safety and well-being of children at risk, the Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk. One of the most concrete civil security cooperation fields is nuclear safety, taking place in the framework of the CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety. There is also a civil protection network, based on cooperation between national rescue and crisis management authorities.



Expert Group on Children at Risk- Expanding the child rights and protection agenda

During the Finnish Presidency the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) expanded its scope, range of activities and ways of working.

The Committee of Senior Officials adopted a new Mandate and Priority Paper (2013-2017), as well as a long-term objective and strategic activities. These decisions represent a move forward from mostly working with sexual exploitation towards much more of a comprehensive scope and content. Today, the EGCC focuses on early intervention and prevention, on the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as the protection of migrant children and child victims of trafficking. Ensuring the rights of children in residential care and, other forms of out of home care is also of importance. Child participation is a general principle underpinning the work.

Additionally, the EGCC promotes the need for a comprehensive and sustainable child protection system to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation through a multi-sectorial approach and increased cooperation between relevant authorities and stakeholders. A Ministerial Session is planned for the Estonian CBSS Presidency, which will highlight good practices and identify challenges in the promotion of child rights and child protection. Furthermore, the Child Centre website and the system of National Coordinators have been analysed and amended to better capture the changes in mandate and progress.

The Expert Group is consistently undertake investigation, adding new knowledge, and seeking cooperation with partners on all levels in respect to children's right to

protection. The emphasis on efficient child protection systems are in line with the UN, Council of Europe, EU frameworks and acts as a follow up to the UN Millennium Development Goals. The EGCC is closely communicating with the Council of Europe, the EU and the UN Special Representative to the General Secretary on Violence against Children, and supports and interacts with other regional networks such as the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Barents Euro-Arctic Council to promote child rights and protection. The EGCC cooperates closely with the CBSS TF-THB on trafficking issues.

Highlights:

"PROTECT children on the move" is a new project funded by the European Return Fund and CBSS, where during 2014 and 2015, several hundred professionals will identify child rights standards and key agencies responsible for protecting children exposed to exploitation and trafficking in cross-border situations. The Children's Unit, in collaboration with the State Border Guards in Latvia, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service in Lithuania, and the Stockholm Social Emergency Authority in Sweden, is organising five Expert Meetings with partners in Europe and beyond. The outcome of the meetings will include a report and an online tool outlining relevant laws, policies and procedures, as well as responses to issues faced by child welfare and migration authorities in relation to the return of child victims of exploitation and trafficking.

AudTrain is an efficient model for systematic training of staff conducting auditing and monitoring of child residential care settings. Training has been conducted for staff from several agencies in the Baltic Sea region and beyond and more people will be trained through additional fundraising. The AudTrain project has produced training material in English, Estonian, Latvian, Russian and Swedish available in folders suitable for training events and on a CD Rom that are easy to distribute.

The www.childcentre.info website has been refreshed and offers easy access to activities, news and relevant publications. It has been developed to give a rapid introduction to the work of the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk and the Children's Unit. It was deemed a necessary tool to demonstrate the expanded scope and importance of child rights and protection issues. A sustainable and prosperous society is closely linked to the fostering of a healthy, educated and motivated group of children and young people.



Task Force Against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) and The Expert Group on Children at Risk (EGCC) Joint Conference “How to Enhance Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region”

The Finnish Presidency of the CBSS in cooperation with the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) and the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) held a joint conference on “How to Enhance Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region” on 19 March 2014 in Helsinki. The event served as a platform for knowledge exchange and looked into existing cooperation models and how to best ensure adequate assistance to women and men, girls and boys in the Baltic Sea Region. The event, in addition to Cooperation Models, specifically addressed Victim Assistance, Safe Housing, Repatriation and Reintegration of Victims. It attracted over 100 participants from all CBSS Member States working with human trafficking issues at both strategic and operative levels. The conference resulted in a set of recommendations suggesting ways forward to better safeguard rights and ensure protection of human trafficking victims in the region.

The presenters were asked to give three main recommendations based on their experience from victim assistance and anti-trafficking work. In addition, a group discussion with the conference participants was held to collect their recommendations and input. The following key recommendations crystallized during the conference:

- 1/** Adequate and rights based assistance should be provided not only to formally identified victims of human trafficking, but also to potential and presumed victims in vulnerable and unprotected situations.
- 2/** Assistance provided to victims should be unconditional and not depend on an agreement to cooperate with law enforcement authorities in investigations or criminal proceedings.
- 3/** A human rights based approach should always be applied and the gender dimension of human trafficking considered. All forms of trafficking are a gross violation of the human rights of the victims.
- 4/** All decisions concerning children should be made on the basis of international standards including the obligations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The Convention is explicit on the ways to protect children under 18 including the obligation to make best interest assessments and ensuring children’s right to be heard in decisions affecting their lives.
- 5/** All interventions should be tailored to the specific individual needs of the victim taking into consideration their background, gender, age, ethnicity, orientation, identity, form of exploitation and other relevant factors.
- 6/** All assistance needs to be rights based and in line with the EU policy framework and relevant international conventions.
- 7/** Cooperation between different actors at the national and international level is crucial to effectively prevent trafficking in human beings, prosecute offenders and assist victims. Trust, professional attitude and dialogue are necessary to ensure well-functioning victim assistance and protection.
- 8/** Formalised cooperation tools such as cooperation agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) enable victim assistance to be more efficient. Clarity in roles and responsibilities (for example by including the work against human trafficking in different actors’ mandates) is necessary for actors to gain ownership and take responsibility.
- 9/** Systems for victim assistance need to be quick to respond, predictable and clear but also adaptable, flexible and comprehensive. Cooperation is always a work in progress that can be developed further.
- 10/** All Member States should establish a National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking (EU law stipulates establishing National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms) with a broad and law based mandate to gather information and to monitor the implementation of anti-trafficking measures.



Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings

In line with a strategy for 2012-2014, the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) continued to counteract all forms of trafficking in human beings in the CBSS Member States via preventive and protective activities and projects. Three TF-THB meetings were held under the Finnish Presidency. The main focus of the TF-THB during this period has been on actions that can enhance protection and assistance to victims of all forms of human trafficking and especially increase the capacity of key actors in the Region to identify instances of trafficking for labour exploitation, and develop strategies to address exploitative labour situations. To avoid duplication of efforts and maximise the use of resources and expertise, the TF-THB strived to strengthen strategic partnerships and increase cooperation with local, regional and international actors working against THB and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience to partners outside the region. The TF-THB successfully cooperated in various anti – trafficking events with the EU Commission and the EU Coordinator against Human Trafficking, the Nordic Council of Ministers, International Center for Migration Policy Development, the OSCE Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings, the OSCE Alliance Expert Coordination Team against Human Trafficking, and the International Organization for Migration. The TF-THB also increased cooperation with a number of CBSS Observer States in counter trafficking activities by starting up the joint project “Trace – Trafficking as a criminal enterprise”.

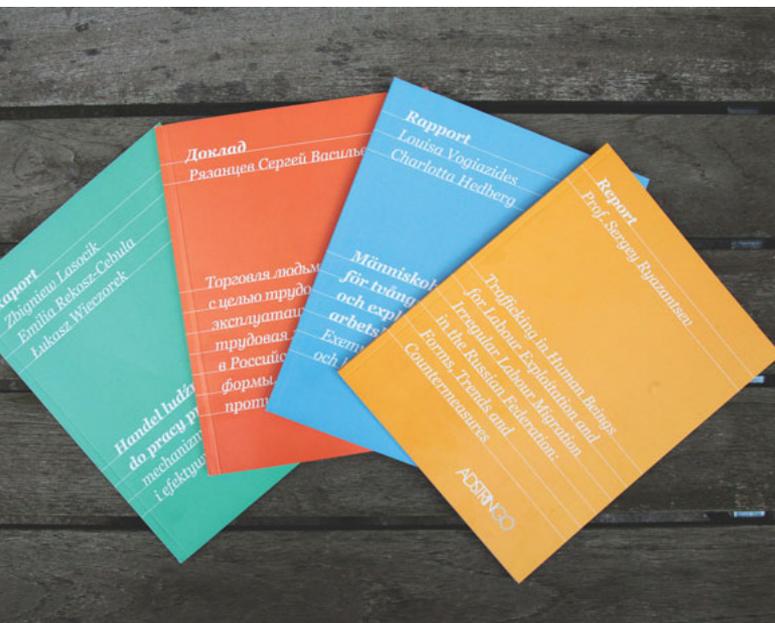


Main achievements

The TF-THB in cooperation with the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), the Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania and the University of Tartu successfully implemented a 2-year transnational project “ADSTRINGO – Addressing trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation through improved partnerships, enhanced diagnostics and intensified organisational approaches”. Under the umbrella concept of ADSTRINGO, **four independent research reports** on recruitment practices were conducted in Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, and Sweden. The reports were compiled in the publication **Exploitation of migrant workers in Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Lithuania: Uncovering the links between recruitment, irregular employment practices and labour trafficking** and printed in English and all four national languages. Two national meetings with key labour and countertrafficking actors were organised in the participating Member States intensifying organizational approaches, building capacity, and establishing a dialogue among key labour actors at the national level.

The findings of the national meetings and the research were presented at the **ADSTRINGO high level conference** which took place on 17 – 18 October 2013 in Vilnius as a side event to the 7TH EU Anti-Trafficking Day.

Building on the ADSTRINGO research findings and the main outcomes of the national meetings, **regional Guidelines to Prevent Abusive Recruitment, Exploitation and Trafficking of Migrant Workers** were developed. The guidelines provide action-oriented recommendations and practical guidance to enhance prevention of trafficking for labour exploitation, especially through addressing the specific mechanisms that foster abusive and exploitative recruitment and employment



of migrant workers in the Baltic Sea region. The guidelines intend to contribute to promoting decent work, protecting fundamental rights at work, and ensuring effective enforcement of existing labour standards, especially in sectors prone to exploitation. The guidelines focus especially on addressing abusive and exploitative practices in the cleaning sector, in restaurants, as well as in agriculture.

The guidelines will also be in national languages and are further complemented by an **In Brief version** which was designed to be easy to use, refer to and function as a quick overview and checklist on how to prevent exploitation of migrant workers.

A parallel project **"ADSTRINGO Poland and Russia"** complementing the ADSTRINGO project is implemented with funding from the Swedish Institute Baltic Sea Cooperation Unit. The project has a strong focus on strengthening the regional cooperation to prevent trafficking for forced labour in Poland and the Russian Federation. Within the project two national and six regional meetings were organized.

The ADSTRINGO national and regional meetings in Poland and Russia were held as follows, in chronological order and divided by country:

POLAND:

1st National meeting was organised on 24 April 2013 in Warsaw. The national meeting of the Province Counter Trafficking Focal Points was organised on 9 September 2013 in Warsaw.

Regional meetings:

9 September 2013 in Warsaw
 10 February 2014 in Gdansk
 7 March in Poznan
 29 April in Katowice
 11 June in Wrocław
 30 June in Rzeszów

A further national meeting was organised in Warsaw in September 2014 to gather the findings.

RUSSIA:

The National meeting in Moscow was organized on 20 February 2013.

Regional meetings:

11 June 2013 in Kaliningrad
 29 August 2013 in Kaliningrad, joint regional meeting with St. Petersburg region
 4 December 2013 in Perm
 25 February 2014 in Kazan
 29 July in Novosibirsk

A further national meeting will be organised in Moscow in December 2014 to gather the findings.

Furthermore, two research reports looking into trends and patterns in human trafficking for labour exploitation, with a special focus on the situation of migrant workers, were produced in Russia and Poland. The findings of this project jointly enhance the final results of ADSTRINGO. The reports are published in national language (Polish and Russian) as well as English.

TRACE

On 1 May 2014, a transnational research project "TRACE- Trafficking as a criminal enterprise" was launched. The two-year project is financed by the EU's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). The main objective of the project is to support stakeholders in combating and disrupting human trafficking, one of the largest criminal enterprises in the world, by assessing and consolidating information surrounding the perpetrators and the wider trafficking enterprise. The project will develop a theory-driven understanding of relevant aspects of the trafficking industry and what influences it, including an evidence-based understanding of the modus operandi of the perpetrators, the victims and their relationships. This project will provide a better understanding and a completely new approach towards combating and disrupting the crime of trafficking in human beings for all forms in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond. The TF-THB will mainly be responsible for reviewing and analyzing European and Member States policies and projects around human trafficking and determining how effective they have been in combating this activity.

Priority Area Secure



Pioneering through inclusion: Cross-Sectorial Cooperation in BSR Civil Protection

The main challenges for Baltic Sea region civil security remain related to cross-sectorial cooperation hindrances, when the transboundary nature of disaster – risk is considered. Existing cooperation frameworks such as CBSS Expert Groups, CBSS Civil Protection Network, EUSBSR Priority Area Secure, together with other EUSBSR neighbouring Priority Areas, Horizontal Actions as well as Civil Protection cooperation bodies and institutions in the Baltic Sea region. Provide a unique platform to develop pioneering cooperation based solutions in response to the existing needs in macro-regional disaster risk management.

» The EUSBSR Priority Area Secure is co-coordinated by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and the CBSS Secretariat and operates in close relation to the CBSS Civil Protection Network.

» A Strategic Project Development Workshop held on the premises of the CBSS Secretariat took place 19-20 February 2014. This was followed up on 15 May with another Project Development Workshop held at the Secretariat and co-hosted by the Lithuanian representative from the Ministry of Interior who would ultimately lead the project.

» A project proposal was submitted entitled Gaps to Caps to DG Echo in Spring 2014

» The Final Report of the Grant Agreement for the Action Technical Assistance and Dissemination of Information on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (PA 14 TA) was compiled and submitted to the European Commission.

» Consultations with the European Commission regarding Priority Area Secure took place in Brussels on 30 January 2014.

» A Parallel Workstream was held on 3 June at the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR entitled Reduction of Risk and Improving Disaster Preparedness – Possibilities for Investment, where Janet Edwards, the International Coordinator, of the Swedish National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction at the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency gave a key note speech. (see point 4)

» A presentation at the 5th Working Meeting on capacity building to increase effectiveness of the EUSBSR implementation was given using the Flagship Project Baltic Leadership Programme in Civil Protection as a practice example.

» A Priority Area Secure Coordination Group Meeting took place on the 9-10 December 2013.

» A draft Terms of Reference was developed and disseminated to Member States. Two Flagship Projects were completed at the beginning of the period. The Final report of the Grant Agreement for the Action 14.3 was compiled and submitted to the European Commission.

» The Feasibility Study entitled *Implementing and Institutionalising Civil Protection in the Baltic Sea Region* was published and presented for discussion in Helsinki in November 2013.

» The potential Flagship Project - Mitigating Land based Hazard Risks in the Baltic Sea Region (HAZARD) was developed led by Turku School of Economics, University of Turku and applied for EUSBSR Seed Money with a support letter from PA Secure.

» A concept note and outline for a Baltic Sea Region Leadership Programme was developed. The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and PA Secure, in partnership with the Swedish Institute and the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat has confirmed the **Baltic Leadership Programme course** will take place in Tallinn, Estonia from 1 to 4 December 2014.

» Dissemination of the 14.3 Notebooks and the Project Book continued as well as the publication of the *Being Secure in the Baltic Sea Region* and the Handbook on Gender in Civil Protection.

» Two short films were produced for the Flagships 14.3 and Baltic Leadership Programme. One additional clip was shot for the Priority Area Secure. Both presentation events held under PA Secure at the 4th Annual Forum were also filmed. All film clips can be accessed at <http://www.bsr-secure.eu/group/media-room/>

» PA Secure also utilizes a twitter channel, facebook page and pinterest.

Over the last year, four significant processes were launched within the PA Secure platform:

1. Dialogue on challenges in cross-sectorial cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region - Shoreline example

On 12 November 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania, a seminar **From "Shoreline" to Working "on Shore": Turning Challenges into Opportunities for Cross-Sectorial Cross-Border Cooperation. Civil Security in the**



Baltic Sea Region took place as a kick-off event for identifying, capturing and finding ways to address cross-institutional and cross-sectorial civil protection cooperation challenges in the region. The event was initiated by PA Secure co-coordinators, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency MSB and the CBSS Secretariat; and arranged in a dialogue with the HELCOM Secretariat and the Finnish Border Guard, and thus demonstrated a clear example of cross-institutional cooperation. Conclusions from the launch event were included into the publication *Being Secure in the Baltic Sea Region*.

2. Gender and Civil Protection

PA Secure introduced a gender perspective in civil protection on a macro-regional level in the Baltic Sea region with the first event on the topic **Women in Civil Protection: Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming - Towards Prosperity in the Baltic Sea Region, The Case of Civil Security** which took place on 11 November 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The panel brought together prominent speakers who addressed the urgency of applying a gender balanced and talent based approach in macro-regional civil protection. As a result of the discussion, the *PA Secure Handbook on Gender in Civil Protection* was published as a complementary booklet to the publication *Being Secure in the Baltic Sea Region*.

3. Civil Protection and Climate Change Adaptation - a matter of integration

A cooperative process between EUSBSR PA Secure and HA Sustain aimed at integrating civil protection in climate change adaptation in the Baltic Sea region

through a cross-institutional approach is continuing in 2014. PA Secure granted support to a project which was awarded financing from the EUSBSR Seed Money Facility. The project will directly link the two areas as well as their respective stakeholders in order to better address common concerns.

The project **ClimUrban** had its first partnership meeting on 12-13 June in Espoo, Finland. The main goal of the project is to support cities in the BSR region to develop appropriate climate change adaptation strategies – and potentially ensure their implementation. The main focus of adaptation will lie in taking current and future flood hazards into account back in planning processes. Major issues of concern are, e.g., floods caused by storm waters, groundwater flooding, as well as riverine and marine flooding. By addressing groundwater floods the project also addresses groundwater quality and availability, which is a very important issue in the Baltic Sea region.

Lead partner: Baltic Environmental Forum, BEF Germany (DE)

Seed money project's total budget: 49,698.00 EUR

4. Possibilities of cooperation with the private sector: Civil protection and insurance

Public-private partnerships in the field of civil protection in the Baltic Sea region have been identified as an untapped source of cooperation possibilities on various occasions. With this in mind, PA Secure organised a session at the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR in Turku, Finland, on reduction of risk and improving disaster preparedness as possibilities for investment. Conclusions from the session were included into the overall summary list of the Annual Forum results, and a new focus on safety culture was suggested to be developed further.

Reaching beyond: BSR Civil Security in International Context

Bringing Baltic Sea region civil security cooperation forward as a success story and potential experience exchange source in order to develop a partnership with other macro-regions and international settings is an important goal that can not only strengthen regional cooperation as an evolving concept, but also provide support to particular initiatives undertaken within the BSR. Through EUSBSR Priority Area Secure, a dialogue with the EU Danube Region Strategy was established in 2013, foreseeing possible joint developments in the future.

In a broader setting, the invitation to the 1st Preparatory Meeting of the 22nd OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum specifically focused on Disaster Risk Reduction (27-28 January, Vienna) became a great opportunity to consolidate emergency preparedness cooperation related activities undertaken within the CBSS setting and position them within the international setting. A position paper was also submitted to the preparatory meeting outlining the CBSS position. The integrated disaster risk management approach, as prioritised within the BSR setting, was identified as a potential good practice example for international stakeholders. This event and others like it have been important for channeling ideas and dissemination of work, especially on Risk Management and Assessment – within the EU context this could be seen as a follow-up to the discussions that took place at the end of the previous presidency period at the 4th European Civil Protection Forum in Brussels on the 15-16 May 2013 with the theme Disasters – Protecting and Responding Together where the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection spoke on the panel. This was followed directly with CBSS participation at the Advisory Group on Environmental Emergencies (AGEE) Forum in the UN (UNEP/OCHA) context on 15-17 May 2013 in Geneva at the Palais des Nations (UNOG). The CBSS work on Risk Assessment on a macro-regional level should ultimately lead into the work required by The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199 which requested UNISDR to facilitate the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The 10-year international disaster risk reduction plan, The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA) - Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters will be the marker. The question will be **What should a post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction look like and how does our work on a macro-regional level match up and feed into this framework?**

The picture of Baltic Sea region civil security cooperation in its full complexity was captured in a feasibility study on *Institutionalisation of the Civil Security Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region based on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region*. The study was commissioned by the CBSS Secretariat, acting as de-facto priority area coordinator of the EUSBSR priority area 14 in 2011. The feasibility study, which discussed various co-existing macro-regional cooperation frameworks and suggested the way forward, was included into the EUSBSR PA Secure handbook *Being Secure in the Baltic Sea Region*, presented at the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR in Turku, 3-4 June 2014.



EU Seed Money Facility

The **EU Seed Money Facility** also supports a number of projects closely linked with the objectives and actions under Priority Area Secure. The following EU Seed Money Facility funded project has been endorsed with a letter of support by the Priority Area Coordinator alongside ClimUrban outlined on the previous page: **Building urban safety through citizens participation (Citizens for Safety)**

Successful management of civil protection and urban safety has to be based on cost-efficient prevention activities oriented to the needs of local communities. To achieve this, the main project aims at identifying safety and security threats in the local environment. The project will gather reliable information on the state of public security based on inhabitant opinions. It will also facilitate the establishment of a website with an interactive threat map and a mobile device application. One of the outcomes will be an open, free-of-charge database – a reliable tool to compare and analyse the data on macro regional level.

Seed money project partnership

- » Gdansk Municipal Guard (PL)
- » Liepaja Municipal Police (LV)
- » Vilnius City Municipal Administration (LT)

Seed money project's total budget: 40,434.00 EUR

A flagship Project that is currently running under the umbrella of PA Secure is coordinated by MSB

BaltPrevResilience was created as a response to the multiple everyday accidents that occur in the Baltic Sea Region. The project aims to prevent such accidents and reduce their impacts by improving the prerequisites for collection and analysis of impact and response data at the local level. The project will do so by introducing a process to establish a common understanding of statistics, evaluation of experiences and sharing of evidence based knowledge and best practices.



The project will organize three thematic seminars. These seminars will address multiple aspects of risk prevention mechanisms such as the identification of best practices and gaps, awareness raising, resilience building, comparability assessments, and cost-benefit examinations.

BaltPrevResilience partners are the National Institute for Health and Welfare, Injury Prevention Unit, Finland (THL); Estonian Rescue Board, Estonia (ERB); Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire & Rescue Service, Denmark (FHFRS); Main School of Fire Service Warsaw, Poland (SGSP); Jelgava City Municipality, Latvia (JCM); and Karlstad University, Sweden (KaU).

The project runs from 1 February 2014 to 31 January 2016 and is coordinated by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB). The project has been funded by the European Commission Civil Protection Financial Instrument – DG ECHO.



The CBSS through the Secretariat has always had strong ties to other regional organisations across different formats. This last year the cooperation has strengthened in light of the experience the CBSS has gathered with strategy coordination and in the lead up to the adoption of the third macro-regional strategy – this time building on the lessons learnt and experience from the two current macro-regional strategies (EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, EU Strategy for the Danube Region). On 17 June 2014 the European Commission adopted a Communication on the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region, accompanied by an Action Plan . The new Strategy incorporates the Maritime Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, adopted by the Commission on 30 November 2012.

Cooperation with other regions, entities and other regional strategies



The Communication and Action Plan have been transmitted to the other EU institutions and bodies, and will be discussed in the Council during the second semester of 2014 with a view of its endorsement by the European Council before the end of the year. This is the first EU 'macro-regional strategy' with such a large proportion of non-EU countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia) cooperating with EU members (Croatia, Greece, Italy, and Slovenia). The Strategy mainly revolves around the opportunities of the maritime economy - 'blue growth', land-sea transport, energy connectivity, protecting the environment and sustainable tourism – sectors that are bound to play a crucial role in creating jobs and boosting economic growth in the region so therefore has a strong correlation with the interests of the Baltic Sea Region – especially blue growth. The Deputy Director General made two visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina the first in September 2013 when he participated in a workshop on regional strategies at the Regional Cooperation Council in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. The second when the Deputy Director General participated in the South Eastern European Strategy 2020 Final Conference organized by the Central European Initiative and the Regional Cooperation Council Secretariats on 17-19 March again in Sarajevo. On the 13 May 2014 the Director General took part in the XVII Adriatic Ionian Council Meeting upon invitation of the H.E. Mr Ditmar Bushati, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania which took place in Brussels.

The dialogue continued when the Director General attended the meeting of the National Coordinators of

the Central European Initiative entitled CEI as bridge between European Macro Regions / Synergies with International Organisations and met with the CEI Secretariat officials in Vienna on 24 January 2014. This was followed up by the Meeting of Regional Organisations discussing priority development and project orientation hosted by the Black Sea Economic Cooperation which took place in Istanbul, Turkey in March and was attended by both the Director General and the Deputy Director General.

The developing partnership with the Union for the Mediterranean continued when the Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean Ambassador Fathallah Sijlmasi visited the Secretariat in Stockholm on the 8 October 2013. Secretariat staff had visited Stockholm twice before and staff from Stockholm have also visited Barcelona on three separate occasions.

Further afield, the Director General took part in a panel on the role of regional organizations in a global context at the Summit on the Global Agenda, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates World Economic Forum on 18-20 November 2013.

In addition to these meetings on May 26-27 2014 the Director General and Deputy Director visited the International Visegrad Fund in Bratislava to discuss regional cooperation and explore ground for cooperation. Ms. Karla Wursterova, Executive Director of the International Visegrad Fund had informed about the Fund's activities, funding scheme and projects earlier in the Finnish Presidency year at the Annual Consultations of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials with CBSS Observer States in Stockholm, 3 December 2013.

CBSS Project Support Facility

PHILOSOPHY:

“To support cooperation in a flexible way, and to pave the way for larger regional cooperation projects in the future, funded by much bigger funds existing in the region. This instrument adds value by being flexible, non-bureaucratic and fast.”

- » Created at the 9th Baltic Sea States Summit in Stralsund, Germany, on 30 – 31 May 2012.
- » Main purpose to co-finance the development and implementation of Baltic Sea macro-regional cooperation projects, which would bring added value for the Baltic Sea Region, show impact in regional cooperation and foster long-term partnerships.
- » The total amount of the PSF is **one million euro**.
- » **Timeframe 2013 until 2015** - continuous open call for applications.
- » Amount of co-financing granted may range between 10.000 to 50.000 euros in general

The PSF should be used to facilitate project preparation and implementation in relation to the defined priority areas of the CBSS:

1. Regional Identity
2. Sustainable & Prosperous Region
3. Safe & Secure Region

Which projects qualify to apply

- » Support the implementation of the above mentioned long-term priority areas of the CBSS.
- » Bring added value and visibility for macro-regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.
- » Have a clear transnational impact.
- » Bring together different sectors and actors to increase coherence in cooperation among the CBSS Member States.
- » Have outcomes of a sustainable character.
- » The results of the project should be disseminated to all relevant stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region.
- » Have the potential to become a basis for a network, partnership or cooperation model that would become viable beyond the duration of the project itself.
- » The project must cover at least three CBSS Member States.

Who can apply

- » The project partnership must involve at least three institutions/organisations from three different CBSS Member States.
- » Each project has to appoint a Lead Beneficiary (LB), who is responsible for submitting the funding application and for the implementation of the whole project, including reporting and coordinating activities among the involved partners.
- » Legal entities

Progress so far

3 calls – total **44** applications.
14 grants approved.

Total contribution from Member States by April 2014	736.461 €
Amount committed May decision	-188.748 €
Amount committed September decision	-106.848 €
Amount committed December decision	-103.910 €
Amount committed June decision	-352.398 €
Amount remaining for funding by June 2014	33.669 €

*withdrawal of 49.112 for LT led project

The next call for CBSS PSF Applications is foreseen for spring 2015. A total of **44 projects** have been submitted to the PSF Selection Committee.

16 projects have been granted award of which two projects declined financing post award. **14 projects** have received financing. **2 projects** are currently finished and have been reported upon. It is envisaged that this round of PSF will be completed and reported sometime during 2017. At the end of June 2014 **12 projects** were active (seven of which were just awarded finances).

Out of the **16 awarded** projects seven different CBSS Member States are represented in the Lead Party tally: Estonia **1**, Finland **2**, Germany **4**, Latvia **1**, Lithuania **1**, Russia **2**, Sweden **5**

Adding the total number of co-beneficiaries and project partners together for the **14 projects** that have received financing demonstrates that partners from all CBSS Member States have benefitted directly or indirectly (**16** for Sweden, **15** for Poland, **11** for Russia, **9** for Lithuania and Germany, **8** for Finland, **6** for Estonia, **3** for Latvia and Denmark, **2** for Norway and **1** for Iceland). A total of **83** co-beneficiaries and **14** lead partners totaling **97** Baltic Sea Region actors benefitting so far from the PSF.

A total of **€702,792** has been awarded up until the end of the Finnish Presidency – leaving **€297,208** out of the total agreed allocation for the period 2013-2015. As stated, 44 projects have applied so far for consideration requesting a total of **€2, 080 025** – the last application round in April 2014, the Secretariat received 22 project applications requesting for a total amount of **€1.006.077**. After the technical evaluation of the proposals, 19 proposals requesting **€ 877.719** were considered for quality assessment and ranking.

In the August 2013 round of applications, the Secretariat received 18 proposals requesting for a total amount of **€847.584**. After the technical evaluation of the proposals, 16 proposals requesting **€748.071** were considered for quality assessment and ranking.

In the first May 2013 round of applications, the Secretariat received 5 proposals requesting for a total amount €226,400, all of these were considered for quality assessment and ranking.

Three PSF Selection Committee Meetings have taken place under the Finnish Presidency (9 September 2013 in Helsinki, 2nd December 2013 in Stockholm and 29th April 2014 in Helsinki).

It is difficult to allocate the projects specifically to priority area; especially as the CBSS priorities set for the award were the previous five before the renewed three priorities of Regional Identity, Sustainable & Prosperous Region and Safe & Secure Region were approved. Some projects do not easily fit into one category either. Roughly speaking the divide is seven to Regional Identity, three to Sustainable & Prosperous and four to Safe & Secure.

The troika members invited to the meetings of the PSF Selection Committee held during the Finnish Presidency were Estonia, Russia and Finland as Chair. Under the Estonian Presidency the Selection Committee Troika will consist of Finland, Estonia and Poland.



The Selection Committee consists of the Committee of Senior Officials Troika (preceding, current and future Chair of the CSO) alongside the Secretariat management (Director General, Deputy Director General, Head of Administration and Head of Media and Communication)

The Selection Committee forwards their proposals to the Committee of Senior Officials for discussion and approval.

More updated information can be found here along with the rules of procedure and application form as developments take place

<http://www.cbss.org/project-support-facility/>

Each of the 14 awarded projects are described below with a short extract.

CBSS Summer Youth Camp 2013 within the International Stream of the Youth Forum Baltic Artek

CBSS Summer Youth Camp 2013 was a follow-up to the project "International Baltic Artek", organised and implemented by CBSS-Baltic 21 in the summer of 2012, with a view to strengthen the long term youth cooperation in the field of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea region. The project supported green entrepreneurship and sustainable lifestyles awareness-raising among youth from across the BSR by facilitating the participation of an international youth delegation of 25 - 30 people. English speaking topical seminars and interactive workshops, titled "CBSS Summer Youth Camp 2013" within the International Stream of the Baltic Artek were arranged. The project worked to strengthen the partnerships already established with the youth

organizations and relevant networks in the BSR and foster informal learning, facilitate people-to-people contacts, intercultural dialogue and network-building among young people in the region, thus contributing to strengthening the Baltic Sea identity.

Lead Beneficiary: Landesjugendring Schleswig – Holstein

Co-beneficiaries: Baltic University Programme, CSD, Uppsala, Sweden, Immanuel Kant University of Russia, Kaliningrad, Agency of Youth Affairs of the Government of the Kaliningrad region and CBSS Baltic 21 Unit, Stockholm

Project's total budget: 67,994.00 EUR



**Development of trans-border
Lithuanian – Polish – Russian natural
area Vistynets (Vistytis)
Lake / Rominten (Krasnolesye)
Forest through regional
interdisciplinary partnerships**

The Vistynets project aims to create a sustainable network of partners working in the trans-border natural area Vistynets (Vistytis) Lake / Rominten (Krasnolesye) Forest, to overcome fragmentation of identity and knowledge, and to shape the visibility of this area in the Baltic Sea region, Europe and North-West Russia. The aims are achieved through three expeditions of interdisciplinary character which include participants from all three sides as well as external experts. The expeditions present and explore the uniqueness and the potential of this area in the form of an open-source online database. The project concludes in Summer 2014 with a local festivity event in Krasnolesye (RUS). The Vistynets project provides a sustainable ground for larger projects in the future. Moreover, the original methods and approaches applied in the project could be used as a model for other partnerships throughout Baltic Sea region.

Lead Beneficiary: Information Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers in Kaliningrad; Coordinator of the SEBA CBSS Project

Co-Beneficiaries: Rominka Forest Fund, Poland, Vistytis Regional Park, Lithuania and the Ecomuseum, Kaliningrad oblast, Russia

Project's total budget: 73,500.00 EUR

Survey on state support for NGOs in the BSR

Sustainable financing is a key element in maintaining a strong civil society. However, the prerequisites for NGO state funding varies between countries in the Baltic Sea region. The Survey on state support for NGOs in the BSR aimed to develop an overview of the different funding possibilities in each country in the region. The project is planned to continue through a second step which will present an overview of the civil societies in the BSR countries today, including information such as their size and areas of interest in individual countries and the BSR respectively.

Lead Beneficiary: Norden Association in Sweden (Föreningen Norden – Svensk förening för nordiskt samarbete)

Co-Beneficiaries: Forschungsgruppe Nordeuropäische Politik e.V, Germany and Suomi-Venäjä seura, Finland

Project's total budget: 21,000.00 EUR

Cross-Border Information Management in the BSR (CBIM-BSR)

The project "Cross-Border Information Management in the BSR (CBIM-BSR)" aims to develop a first draft concept for a competence and information centre network in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) in order to support the sustainable economic growth and social development in the Baltic Sea region. A pre-analysis on the involvement of North-West Russia (especially St. Petersburg) is integrated in this concept. The action supports the work of the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) and its working group on mobility of labour. The BSLF is a Flagship Project for the Baltic Sea Strategy of the European Union (EUSBSR). The CBIM-BSR project will also cooperate with the Turku process, co-leader of the EUSBSR Horizontal Action Neighbours.

Lead Beneficiary: Bildungswerk der Wirtschaft Hamburg e.V (BWH – Training and Education Service for Hamburg Businesses)

Co-Beneficiaries: Confederation of Labour of Russia KTR, Kooperationsstelle Hamburg IFE GmbH, NORD-METALL e.V – Employers Association of the Metal and Electrical Industries e.V and STTK Toimihenkilökeskusjärjestö (Finnish Confederation of Professionals).

Project's total budget: 50,000.00 EUR



The Future of the EuroFaculty

The Future of the EuroFaculty project is based on the experiences of the three EuroFaculty projects and aims to develop the concept of EuroFaculty in order to bring it up to date with the current needs of the Baltic Sea region in the field of university cooperation, such as by increasing the geographical scope of the concept. During the project period a conference on “University cooperation in Baltic Sea region” will be organised, as well as a study on the EuroFaculty concept — the results of which will be presented at the concluding seminar.

Lead Beneficiary: University of Turku

Co-beneficiaries: University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Saint Petersburg State University of Economics and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Project's total budget: 55,557.19 EUR

CBSS Summer University

The CBSS Summer University aims to develop a programme for a CBSS Summer University on “Governance and Administration in the Baltic Sea Region” to be arranged annually during a five year period, starting in 2014. The target group will be 25–30 graduate/doctoral students each year from different countries of the Baltic Sea Region who will receive credit points (ECTS) for their participation. At a later stage the programme will be further developed to offer vocational training for civil servants. In order to discuss the profile of the programme a joint conference “University collaboration in the Baltic Sea region” convened on 28th–29th October 2013 in cooperation with the University of Turku and its project “The Future of the EuroFaculty”. Following the conference, national as well as international/regional

funding opportunities for the Summer University were investigated and applications filed. The first CBSS Summer University took place on 4th – 14th August 2014 at the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University, Sweden.

Lead Beneficiary: Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Co-beneficiaries: Södertörn University Sweden and the University of Turku, Finland

Project's total budget: 56,681.00 EUR

PRO BSR common heritage (Pro BSR)

The Pro BSR project streamlines and enhances the integrated management and sustainable use of heritage assets in the Baltic Sea region. Activities are controlled by the Baltic Sea Monitoring Group on Heritage Cooperation. The Pro BSR aims to streamline the Monitoring Group's role and practices with a view of the current operative BSR environment, resulting in a Monitoring Group Strategy 2015-20. Furthermore, as the marine environment is a key sphere for regional collaboration, the project will analyse ways of integrated approaches for the management of the BSR maritime heritage as a case study. Following the analysis, a BSR maritime heritage action plan connected to the MG strategy will be developed. Pro BSR will likewise prepare a feasibility study for a EUSBSR Flagship Project based on the above mentioned analyses, the mapped training needs, and operative processes for effective integrated management of cultural heritage resources in the BSR — ensuing in a project application.

Lead Beneficiary: Archäologisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein

Co-Beneficiaries: National Board of Antiquities, Finland and The Polish Maritime Museum, Gdansk

Project's total budget: 75,680.00 EUR



Strengthening the Role of Municipalities in the Work against Trafficking in Human Beings in the Baltic Sea Region

The current project is a follow-up to the projects ADST-RINGO, DEFLECT, “Development of the model MoU”, and “Fostering NGO-Law Enforcement Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking in, from and to the Baltic Sea Region” successfully implemented by the CBSS Task Force Against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB). The project will ensure the sustainability of the achievements already made by supporting activities at the national level in ten CBSS Member States: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, and Sweden. The project partners are ministries and other state institutions and non-governmental organisations responsible for the coordination of anti-trafficking efforts. The main aim of the project is to strengthen capacity and role of the municipalities to work against trafficking in human beings in the respective countries. The project will improve strategies used by the municipalities to fight human trafficking and provide assistance to victims of trafficking, as well as to raise awareness of local stakeholders and to foster better cooperation and a common understanding of policies between municipalities in the Baltic Sea Region.

The project’s activities include a baseline assessment of the role of municipalities in the chain of assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings; a regional expert group meeting; the development of specific guidelines for municipalities on how to successfully deal with cases of trafficking in human beings, and how to develop local referral mechanisms; translation and dissemination

of the guidelines and the development of a potential EUSBSR Flagship Project under PA Crime to strengthen the municipalities’ work against human trafficking in the CBSS region.

Lead Beneficiary: The Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia

Co-Beneficiaries: The Association of Local Authorities (Lithuania), County Administrative Board of Stockholm (Sweden), Ministry of Justice and Public Security, (Norway), Ministry of Interior (Poland), NGO Living for Tomorrow (Estonia)

Project’s total budget: 104,880.00 EUR



Baltic Law Enforcement Analysis Cooperation

The development of cooperation between the Baltic Sea Task Force on Organised Crime (BSTF OPC) and the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC) is one of the targets listed under the Action Plan of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). A potential flagship project is included in the Action Plan to meet the target. The idea of the Baltic Law Enforcement Analysis Cooperation (BALANCE) is to define the needs for cooperation and create a basis for a future joint cooperative structure for law enforcement authorities operating in the Baltic Sea Region.

BALANCE's main aim is to enhance information flows between law enforcement authorities operating in the Baltic Sea Region. A list of recommendations based on information analysis will be produced in order to increase the utility and efficiency of the information flow between the respective authorities. The process will foster law enforcement authorities' ability to cooperate, as well as to share and access information within the Baltic Sea region. BALANCE will be conducted in connection with the selected meetings of the BSRBCC and the BSTF OPC.

Lead Beneficiary: The Finnish Border Guard

Co-Beneficiaries: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board (Estonia), Danish National Police (Denmark), Federal Police Directorate Bad Bramstedt (Germany), Icelandic Coast Guard (Iceland), Latvian State Border Guard (Latvia), State Border Guard Service HQ (Lithuania), National Criminal Investigation Service (KRIPOS) (Norway), HQ of the Border Guard (Poland), BG Directorate FSB Russia on St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region (Russian Federation), Swedish Coast Guard (Sweden), Baltic Sea Task Force Organised Crime (BSTF OPC)

Project's total budget: 55,554.40 EUR

Project Turnstone +

Turnstone+ is a project between the Border Guards, Border Police and Police organisations in Gdansk, Klaipeda and Stockholm. The project aims to fight serious cross-border crime in the Baltic Sea Region, especially in terms of human trafficking and illegal migration. The project combines intelligence information activities, as well as operative actions, in order to create comprehensive measures to reduce criminality. Activities will be implemented together with law enforcement agencies in Helsinki, Tallinn, and Riga. The project focuses on the exchange of information concerning criminals traveling by air and ferry and is designed to facilitate the exchange of information during the need of immediate action. Turnstone + is a development of project Turnstone which was funded by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme (ISEC). The projects will be implemented simultaneously in order to increase the coordination of law enforcement activities in the region — thereby increasing their range and effectiveness.

Lead Beneficiary: Border Police Division-Stockholm County Police

Co-Beneficiaries: Maritime Regional Unit of the Border Guard (Poland), Regional Police Headquarters in Gdansk (Komenda Wojewódzka Policji w Gdańsku) (Poland), State Border Guard Service at the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, Coast Guard District (Lithuania)

Project's total budget: 39,463.00 EUR



Evaluating the Universal Value of the Submerged Heritage of the Baltic Sea (USHer)

The main aim of the project evaluating the Universal Value of the Submerged Heritage of the Baltic Sea (USHer) is to strengthen cooperation when it comes to raising public awareness of the environment of the Baltic Sea, its unique underwater cultural heritage and good preservation conditions, as the submerged cultural heritage of the Baltic Sea is a potential candidate for the World Heritage List. All Baltic Sea countries are involved in the project through the Baltic Sea Region Working Group on Underwater Cultural Heritage which is initiated by the Baltic Sea Monitoring Group on Heritage Cooperation. The project's activities are divided into three work packages with each project partner responsible for one package. The work packages consist of developing the value criteria; developing the activity plan; mapping activities; and preparing European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBR) flagship project.

Lead Beneficiary: Estonian National Heritage Board

Co-Beneficiaries: National Maritime Museum (Poland), Swedish National Maritime Museums (Sweden)

Project's total budget: 51,684.00 EUR

Pre-project to "The Common Map for Culture Tourism in Baltic Sea Region", based on historical and cultural heritage of the region

The proposed action is the pre-project stage to the new project "The Common Map for Culture Tourism in Baltic Sea Region", based on the historical and cultural heritage of the region. The main goal of the project is to foster development of the BSR, its economic growth and attractiveness by using culture heritage as a source and culture tourism as an effective instrument. Based upon mutual economic interests, common historical roots and rich cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea region, the region's tourism industries all have the conditions for successful long-term cooperation. As a first step, a cross sectorial Working Expert Group (WEG) from NW Russia's border regions, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Poland and Sweden will be formed. The WEG will work on the new Project development and will consist of representatives from the tourism industry, public sector, cultural actors, civil society and academia institutions.

Existing projects and experiences in the field of culture tourism in the BSR will be taken into account during the pre-stage action in order to avoid overlaps and to ensure the complementary nature of the project.

Lead Beneficiary: Interregional NGO Norden

Co-Beneficiaries: Russian Union of Travel Industry, North-West department (Russia), The Ministry for Tourism of Kaliningrad region (Russia), The Department of Cultural and Tourism of Novgorod region (Russia), The Department of Cultural of Pskov region (Russia), NGO "Lake Peipsi Project, Pskov" (Russia), Swedish Travel and Tourism Industry Federation (Swedish Tourism Innovation Center AB) (Sweden), Copenhagen Business School (CBS) (Denmark), The University of Eastern Finland (Finland), The museum Centre of Turku (Finland), Estonia Tourists Board (Enterprise Estonia) (Estonia), NGO "West-Estonia" (Estonia), Vidzeme Tourism Association (VTA) (Latvia), Warmińsko-Mazurska Regional Tourist organization and The Department of tourism of Warmińsko - mazurskovoivodship (Poland)

Project's total budget: 64,250.00 EUR

School to work - BSR flagship initiative

School to work is a EUSBSR Flagship Initiative to combat early school leavers and assist young people not in education, employment, or training (NEETs). The results will help diminish the rate of youth unemployment in the Baltic Sea region and contribute good practices that can be mainstreamed throughout the European Union. After more than a year of preparation, meetings and conferences this initiative has generated a plan with expressed interest by 31 stakeholders from 9 countries. The project will focus on both the preventive measures in school as well as intermediate and reactive measures.

Lead Beneficiary: Sveriges Kommuner och Landsting, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, SALAR

Co-Beneficiaries: Ministry of Labour, Family, Social and Family Affairs&Integration (Germany), Starostwo Powiatowe Wołomińskie Voivodeship (Poland), Norden Association Föreningen Norden (Sweden), Swedish Board of Youth Affairs (Sweden), Arbetsförmedlingen (Sweden), Jämtlands Gymnasium (Sweden), Region of Gotland (Sweden), Association of local authorities in Blekinge (Sweden), National agency for Education, Skolverket (Sweden), Association of the local authorities in Skåne (Sweden), Sörmland Regional Council (Sweden), Local Government (KL) (Denmark), Foundation Innove (Estonia), Tartu Vocational Education (Estonia), Hanse-Parlament (Germany), Lawaetz-Foundation (Germany), GSM (Germany), Latvian Association of the Local and Regional Governments (Latvia), Siauliai Pedagogical Psychological service (Lithuania), National Centre of Special Needs Education (Lithuania), ESF, Lithuania (Lithuania), Ausra School (Lithuania), Stowarzyszenie Wspierania Inicjatyw (Poland), Caritas Archidiecezji Gdańskiej (Poland), Mazovia Region, EU Implementing body (Poland), Świętokrzyskie Biuro Rozwoju Regionalnego (Poland), Młodzieżowy Ośrodek Socjoterapii, Ustka (Poland), Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture (Finland)

Project's total budget: 62,679.00 EUR



FLOW Baltic flagship initiation project

The FLOW Baltic Flagship initiation project, aims to establish FLOW Baltic as a Flagship Project under the EUSBSR Priority Area Agri. The Flagship project is proposed as an umbrella, in which the main project would link to other research and cooperation projects in the field. The umbrella project would ensure coordinated communication of the activities and results of the clustered projects and support pan-Baltic cross-sector authority level dialogue on water quality and water flow management, field drainage, and agricultural productivity with connection to climate change adaptation and supporting innovations in bio-economy. The proposed pre-project will deliver a financing application for a sub-project on local pilot areas and a plan to operationalise and sustain the FLOW Baltic Flagship.

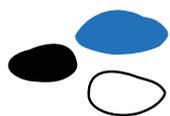
Lead Beneficiary: SLU Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

Co-Beneficiaries: ProAgriaEtelä-Suomiry (ProAgria) (Finland), Lietuvos Žemės Ūkio Konsultavimo Tarnyba (Lithuania)

Project's total budget: 68,870.00 EUR



The Estonian Presidency - Practicality, Efficiency & Cooperation



Estonian Presidency
2014-2015

2014 is the **Baltic Sea Year** for Estonia, during which regional cooperation will receive special attention. Next to its Presidency at the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), Estonia is also heading Baltic cooperation, both in the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council of Ministers, as well as Nordic-Baltic cooperation through the format of NB8. Estonia is also heading VASAB and began its two-year chairmanship of HELCOM in July.

The Estonian Presidency of the CBSS, which began on July 1, focuses on the keywords of **pragmatism, efficiency and cooperation**. Estonia will seek to ensure that the work of the Council is efficient, impact-driven and result-based. The CBSS regular Foreign Ministers' Council Session, to be held during the Estonian Presidency in the spring of 2015, will be an important milestone for this endeavour. In September 2014, the ministers of spatial planning will meet, as well as the social ministers in the spring of 2015.

Estonia is the first country chair under whose leadership the CBSS will start working towards its new long-term priorities developed during the Finnish Presidency: **Regional Identity; Sustainable & Prosperous Region; Safe & Secure Region**. The Estonian Presidency will therefore seek to calibrate and streamline the CBSS Secretariat's work in connection to the three new long term priorities, in relation to the current division of labour and cooperation between the different regional cooperation formats.

Working on the basis of long term priorities:

Regional Identity

- » Continuing cooperation with non-governmental initiatives, networks and organisations in the Baltic Sea region.
- » Concluding the review of the EuroFaculty concept and preparing decisions about future work in the field of higher education.
- » Further strengthening of the Balticlab initiative in the third year of programming to encourage entrepreneurial and creative industry collaborations, through mentoring and sponsoring talent, which increases regional future-thinking, innovation and prosperity.
- » Raising awareness and visibility about Baltic Sea cooperation, including supporting the *Night of the Ancient Lights* on August 30, 2014.

Sustainable & Prosperous Region

- » Enhancing Baltic Sea maritime spatial planning, with a special focus on the VASAB Ministerial Conference in September 2014, Tallinn.
- » Preparing for the CBSS Energy Ministers' Session 2015 in cooperation with BASREC.
- » Cooperating with HELCOM to fulfil the resolutions adopted at its 2013 Copenhagen Ministers' meeting.
- » Completing the evaluation process of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21.
- » Evaluating the work of the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy, as well as the progress of the Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogue.
- » Proceeding with activities related to the Climate Change Adaption Strategy for the Baltic Sea region.
- » Implementing the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference resolution on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency.

Safe & Secure Region

- » Paying special attention to the CBSS Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk's work on matters related to alternative care and children's rights, the handling of cross-national child protection cases and child-friendly justice standards. The meeting of the Ministers responsible for Children's Issues will take place in Estonia in May 2015.

- » Focusing on the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings' recommendations and guidelines to counter labour exploitation, and stressing self-regulation of private sector actors. A thematic conference will take place in Estonia in September 2014.
- » Enhancing cooperation in the field of civil protection, paying particular attention to the prevention of fire accidents and macro-regional best practice. The Heads of Services will meet in Estonia in the spring 2015.
- » Developing further cooperation mechanisms between authorities dealing with maritime and border security in the region. The Heads of the Border Services will meet in the autumn 2014, and in addition, a new Annual Threat Assessment will be compiled and a Maritime Security Exercise organised. Enhancing the work of the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation in conjunction with other partners, including FRONTEX as a key player, will be another focus.
- » Starting the implementation of the decisions of the 16th Conference of the Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States
- » Establishing a Strategy for the Baltic Sea Task Force in the fight against organised crime for the next mandate.

International Secretariat



International Secretariat

Employment rotation overview

Jan Lundin Director General, Sweden
Eduardas Borisovas Deputy Director General, Lithuania
Ilya Ermakov Senior Adviser, Russian Federation
Iris Kempe Senior Adviser, Germany
Janusz Gaciarz Senior Adviser, Poland,
from 1 of September 2014
Nanna Magnadóttir Senior Adviser, Iceland
completed her tenure at the end of Summer 2013

There were four trainee assistants for the Core Secretariat during the period:

→ **Ugne Augyte** from Lithuania (March to August 2013)
→ **Tobias Martinsson** from Sweden (January to July 2014), → **Ann-Mari Sundsten** from Finland (October to March 2014), → **Darius Kaziukenas** from Lithuania (October to June 2014)

Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB)

Anna Ekstedt Senior Adviser and Head of Unit for the TF-THB (Sweden) will complete her tenure in August 2014
Vineta Polatside Project Officer for the TF-THB (Latvia)
Endrit Mujaj Interim Project Assistant for the TF-THB (Sweden) employed until December 2013

Expert Group on Sustainable Development (EGSD-Baltic 21)

Krista Kampus Senior Adviser and Head of Unit for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 (Estonia)
Maxi Nachtigall Adviser for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 (Germany)
Sam Grönholm Project Officer (60%) for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 (Finland) employed until 30 of April 2014

Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk (EGCC)

Turid Heiberg Senior Adviser and Head of Unit for Children at Risk (Norway)
Ann-Mari Sundsten Project Assistant (Finland) until 30 June 2014
Shawwna Robert Project Assistant (USA/Sweden) from 18 August 2014

Media and Communications

Anthony Jay Olsson Head of Media and Communications (took a part-time sabbatical from March 2013 – end of 2013)
Mirjam Külm Media and Communications Assistant (Internationally recruited from Estonia)
Eva Thora Karlsdóttir Media and Communications Assistant (Iceland) employed on a local temporary contract until the end of August 2014 (previously held position as Media & Communications and Civil Security Intern Assistant on the CBSS Internship and Scholarship Programme)
Egle Obcarskaite Adviser for Media and Communications and EUSBSR Projects (Internationally recruited from Lithuania) completed her tenure on June 30 2014)
Jacek Smolicki Media and Communications Officer completed his tenure end of August 2013
Filip Janczak (Poland) Media & Communications and Civil Security Intern Assistant on the CBSS Internship and Scholarship Programme (completed his placement in summer of 2013)

Administration

Gertrude Opira Head of Administration
Ligia Broström Administrative Officer
Susann Burström Project Accountant
Chris Tancredi Front Office and Office Administrator
Jekaterina Popova Project Assistant
Ugne Augyte Project Assistant for EUSBSR Annual Forum (Lithuania) employed from September to December (previously held an Intern Assistant position on the CBSS Internship and Scholarship Programme)
Margareta Nordfeldt Office Administrator – Employment Agency Staff

The Permanent International Secretariat located in Stockholm currently employed **17 staff members** as of **1 July 2014**. Additionally there two intern assistants. A total of **19 individuals**.

The Internationally recruited staff members come from the following Member States in alphabetical order: Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. There are currently no Danish, Finnish or Icelandic internationally recruited staff.

Selected Events – during the Finnish CBSS Presidency 2013-2014

1 August

Meeting with the Lithuanian MFA regarding the organisation of the 4th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR, Vilnius, Lithuania

3 – 4 September

BALTADAPT Final Conference, Riga, Latvia

5 – 6 September

The 8th Meeting of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development, Stockholm, Sweden

9 September

2nd PSF Selection Committee Meeting, Helsinki, Finland

10 – 11 September

The 1st CSO Meeting under the Finnish Presidency, Helsinki, Finland

July

5 July

Balticlab Almedalen Seminar "Facelifting the Baltic Sea Region: New Actors, Perspectives and Technologies in the Baltic Sea Region", Visby, Gotland, Sweden

August

8 August

CBSS EGMP Joint Workshop on "Future Enhanced Cooperation of Baltic Sea Organizations" during the Maritime Conference "Baltic Sea between Blue Growth and Green Limits", Rostock, Germany

9 – 14 August

Organisation of the 2nd CBSS Summer Camp in the Field of Sustainable Development within the International Baltic Artek, Kaliningrad, Russian Federation

25 – 27 August

The 22nd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, Pärnu, Estonia

27 – 28 August

"Financing Innovation – Closing the Funding Gap" Conference organised by the German Federal Ministry of Finance, KfW and VEB, Moscow, Russian Federation

September

13 September

Baltic Sea Labour Forum Enlarged Steering Committee Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden

18 – 20 September

The 5th Baltic Sea Area Cultural Heritage Forum, Tallinn, Estonia

20 September

Meeting of the Four Regional Councils in the North, Copenhagen, Denmark

25 – 26 September

"The 6th Baltic Sea Tourism Forum - Sustainability, Growth and Cooperation", Ringsted, Denmark

26 September

PFI Steering Committee Meeting, Moscow, Russian Federation

1 – 4 October

XII Union of the Baltic Cities, UBC General Conference, Mariehamn, Åland

3 October

HELCOM Ministerial Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark

8 October

Visit of the Union for the Mediterranean Secretary General Amb. Fathallah Sijilmassi to the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat, Stockholm, Sweden

8 – 9 October

CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) Meeting, Helsinki, Finland

10 October

International Expert Group Meeting EuroFaculty, Stockholm, Sweden

15 – 16 October

The 2nd CSO Meeting under the Finnish Presidency, Helsinki, Finland

1 November

Baltic Sea Labour Forum Annual Round Table, Helsinki, Finland

5 November

The 13th CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy Meeting, Helsinki, Finland

11 – 12 November

4th Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Vilnius, Lithuania

12 November

Panel discussion "From Shoreline to Working on Shore. Civil Security in the Baltic Sea Region: Turning Challenges into Opportunities for Cross-Sectorial Cross-Border Cooperation", Vilnius, Lithuania

2 December

3rd PSF Selection Committee Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden

3 – 4 December

The 3rd CSO Meeting under the Finnish Presidency and the Annual Consultations with CBSS Observers, Stockholm, Sweden

5 December

The 9th Meeting of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development, Stockholm, Sweden

5 December

First Round Table on Climate Change Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region, Hosted by the Swedish Ministry of Environment, Stockholm, Sweden

11 – 12 December

The 1st ADSTRINGO Expert Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden

October

17 – 18 October

CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) Meeting, Helsinki, Finland

17 – 18 October

21st BSSSC Annual Conference, Helsinki, Finland

18 October

ADSTRINGO High Level Conference "Exploring the Links between the Internet and Trafficking in Human Beings: Cyberspace for Prevention, not Recruitment", the 7th EU Anti-Trafficking Day Side Event, Vilnius, Lithuania

23 – 24 October

"Climate from a Nordic Perspective", Nordic Baltic Climate Conference, Tallinn, Estonia

28 – 29 October

14th BEAC Ministerial Session and Commemoration of the BEAC 20th Anniversary, Tromsø, Norway

November

11 November

Open Seminar and Launching Event of the Horizontal Action Neighbours in EUSBSR "Develop New Ideas for Cooperation with Neighbours in the Baltic Sea Region", Vilnius, Lithuania

19 – 20 November

CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety Meeting, Vilnius, Lithuania

20 – 22 November

The Conference of the Heads of the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC), Helsinki, Finland

25 – 27 November

Baltic Sea Task Force on Organized Crime Strategic Meeting, Oslo, Norway

December

12 December

VASAB Stakeholder Meeting "Creating synergies for well-integrated and coherent Baltic Sea Region", Helsinki, Finland

13 – 15 December

Balticlab 2.0 Launch Networking Weekend, Stockholm, Sweden

16 December

European Commission Consultations on HA Sustainable Development and Bioeconomy, (CBSS Secretariat and Nordic Council of Ministers) Brussels, Belgium

17 December

Seminar on Green Public Procurement within the framework of the Baltic GPP Project, St. Petersburg, Russia

18 December

Northern Dimension Steering Group Meeting, Oslo, Norway

2014

16 January

Working Seminar "Green Technology and Alternative Fuels Platform", Viking Grace/Stockholm, Sweden

20 January

Workshop on the "Establishment of the Baltic Sea Region Urban Forum for Smart Cities", Tartu, Estonia

28 – 29 January

The 4th CSO Meeting under the Finnish Presidency, Helsinki, Finland

4 February

Meeting of the Northern Dimension Partnership's Working Group on Transport and Logistics, Helsinki, Finland

5 February

EUSBSR Seed Money Facility Secretariat Meeting with EUSBSR Priority Area Coordinators and Horizontal Action Leaders, Berlin, Germany

6 February

Baltic Sea Regional Workshop Series "The Baltic Sea – Protecting our Economic Future: Connecting the Tourism Industry & the Baltic Sea" SESSION I Riga, Latvia

7 – 11 February

Balticlab 2.0 Project Development Programme Module One, Riga, Latvia

3 – 4 March

BSPC-CBSS-BASREC Seminar on Energy Efficiency, Helsinki, Finland

6 – 7 March

The 5th CSO Meeting under the Finnish Presidency, Brussels, Belgium

11 March

The 4th Meeting of the St. Petersburg Initiative, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

12 – 13 March

The 2nd ADSTRINGO Expert Meeting, Vilnius, Lithuania

19 March

Conference on "How to Enhance Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region", Helsinki, Finland

January

28 – 29 January

CBSS "PROTECT Children on the Move" Project's First Expert Meeting "Case Assessment and Best Interest Determination: Special Considerations and Procedures in Transnational Cases of Children Exposed to Exploitation, Trafficking, and Children at Risk", Stockholm, Sweden

30 January

European Commission Consultations on Priority Area Secure (CBSS Secretariat and MSB), Brussels, Belgium

30 January

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Steering Committee Session, Brussels, Belgium

31 January

European Commission Consultations on Horizontal Action Neighbours (CBSS Secretariat and City of Turku), Brussels, Belgium

February

11 – 12 February

BSRBCC Seminar "Maritime Transport of Nuclear and Other Radioactive Materials in the Baltic Sea Region", Helsinki, Finland

13 February

Seminar on the role of EU Transport Corridors for Enhanced Growth, Helsinki, Finland

18 February

CBSS Civil Protection Network Senior Officials Meeting chaired by Director Tiina Peltola-Lampi, Stockholm, Sweden

19 – 20 February

EUSBSR Priority Area Secure Strategic Project Development Workshop, Stockholm, Sweden

25 February

Energy Committee of the Russian State Duma Roundtable "Waste to Energy", Moscow, Russian Federation

March

19 – 20 March

XV International Environmental Forum, Baltic Sea Day, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

20 March

Joint Meeting between the EGCC and TF-THB, Helsinki, Finland

20 – 21 March

CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) Meeting, Helsinki, Finland

20 – 21 March

CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) Meeting, Helsinki, Finland

21 – 25 March

Balticlab Project Development Programme Module Two, Tallinn, Estonia

3 April

The 5th Northern Dimension Forum "How to Increase Future Competitiveness? Public Private Partnerships in Regional Infrastructure and Education Development", St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

7 – 8 April

The 4th Northern Dimension Senior Officials Meeting and Steering Group Meeting, Oslo, Norway

9 April

The 14th CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy Meeting combined with the Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogue Preparatory Workshop, Helsinki, Finland

9 – 10 April

The 5th Working Meeting of the EUSBSR, Tallinn, Estonia

1 – 5 May

Balticlab 2.0 Project Development Programme Module Three, Warsaw, Poland

6 May

CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear Radiation Safety Meeting, Stockholm, Sweden

13 May

Pan Baltic Round Table "Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region", Stockholm, Sweden

13 – 14 May

CBSS "PROTECT Children on the Move" Project's Second Expert Meeting on "Returns and Transfers: International and European Standards, Procedures and Safeguards for Children Exposed to Exploitation, Trafficking and Children at Risk", Riga, Latvia

1 – 2 June

The 7th CSO Meeting under the Finnish Presidency, Bengtskär Lighthouse and Turku, Finland

1 – 5 June

Turku Baltic Sea Days including the 5th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR, XII NGO Forum, and the 16th Baltic Development Forum, Turku, Finland

4 – 5 June

10th Meeting of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development, Turku, Finland

5 June

1st Coordination Meeting of Horizontal Action Neighbours & Workshop, Turku

12 June

Baltic Sea Regional Workshop Series, "The Baltic Sea – Protecting our Economic Future: Connecting the Tourism Industry & the Baltic Sea" SESSION II, Riga, Latvia

April

24 – 25 April

Nordic – Baltic – North-West Russian border regional Cooperation and Knowledge Forum, Tallinn, Estonia

28 – 29 April

XII CBSS Civil Protection Network Directors-General Meeting, Helsinki, Finland

28 - 29 April

The 6th CSO Meeting under the Finnish Presidency, Helsinki, Finland

29 April

4th PSF Selection Committee Meeting, Helsinki, Finland

29 April

The 2nd Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Adaptation Round Table, Warsaw, Poland

May

16 May

TRACE Project Kick-Off Meeting, London, United Kingdom

16 – 23 May

PSF Vistynets Project, "Interdisciplinary Expedition to the Lithuanian side of Vistytis Lake: Meeting with the Local Administrations, NGOs and Foundations", Vilkaviskis District, Lithuania

19 May

EGMP led Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogue Joint Event at the European Maritime Day 2014, Bremen, Germany

20 – 21 May

Baltic Sea Cultural Routes – Eastern Viking Forum II, Kotka, Finland

26 – 27 May

CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) Meeting, Helsinki, Finland

June

12 June

ClimUrban Workshop at the Geological Survey Finland (GTK), Espoo, Finland

18 June

"Clean, Safe and Smart Maritime Transport in the Baltic Sea" Event at ITS Europe, Helsinki, Finland

17 June

Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Forum PartiSEApate Conference, Riga, Latvia

30 June

"Baltic is the New Black: Balticlab Seminar on Fresh Thinking in the Region through Innovation" at Almedalen, Visby, Gotland, Sweden

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Council of the Baltic Sea States: From Idea to Action:
Empowering Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

