



**Director-General Speaking Points**  
**“Baltic Sea Region Perspective”**  
**Panel 4 “The Way Forward”**  
Baltic Science Network seminar  
16 November 2017, Kumu (Tallinn)

*Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Thank you for this opportunity to engage in the discussion on the future of researchers’ mobility in the Baltic Sea Region. This subject is of great importance to the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

Moreover, I am particularly delighted to discuss researchers’ mobility in an event hosted by an EU Presidency whose thinking on research and innovation resonates well with one of the three CBSS long-term priorities "**Sustainable and Prosperous Region**". The **Tallinn Call for Action** outlines that investments in innovation are a necessity for sustained competitiveness, rather than a luxury. Such a support to research provides promising grounds for further Baltic Sea Region-wide discussions on how to jointly enhance the macro-region’s potential in the global setting.

In relation to the topic of today’s discussions – Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation, I would like to highlight the recently published CBSS analysis "**Multi-Level Governance of Innovation & Smart Specialisation**". It offers a splendid insight in the considerable variety of frameworks that support research and innovation discussed among the speakers today, for example, EUSBSR’s Policy Area Education and BSR Stars S3.

I would like to draw your attention to the **CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda** as one of the key umbrellas which support the existing Baltic Sea Region-wide initiatives and their follow-up activities. The previously mentioned CBSS analysis "**Multi-Level Governance of Innovation & Smart Specialisation**" indicates that there are already plenty of opportunities for the Baltic Sea Region-based institutions to continue building their capacity and advance their research excellence.

Let me give you two examples. Firstly, **Baltic Science Network** has the potential to benefit from a wealth of expertise and findings. The thinking on the sustainability of its upcoming national action

plans is continuously enriched by various insights. One of them being the Baltic Sea Region-wide researcher support to **Blue Growth** provided by **BONUS**.

Secondly, I should highlight the **Baltic TRAM**. It is the sister project of the Baltic Science Network, which was also endorsed during the first CBSS Science Ministerial. The Baltic TRAM can serve as a considerable source of inspiration how analytical services, and thus the skills of researchers, are made more accessible to the business sector across the Baltic Sea Region.

I would like to commend the members of the Baltic Science Network for their active engagement with other key actors of the Baltic Sea Region. Today's discussions show that the Baltic Science Network members possess a considerable expertise in relation to the **EU Framework Programmes** and the **Cohesion Policy** instruments. Such a knowledge will facilitate the drafting of the upcoming national Action Plans.

Another example how the Baltic Science Network can make a lasting impact in the Baltic Sea Region is its strong anchorage to the on-going work of the CBSS. On the one hand, Baltic Science Network translates the **CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda** into more concrete steps. On the other hand, it will pave the way for more extensive examination of the **Baltic 2030 Action Plan** implementation.

Last but not least, it is a pleasure to observe that the Baltic Science Network is thinking along the lines of the **European Research Area**. Such an approach is valuable for the lasting legacy of the Network's outputs. Likewise, it is of relevance for the continuous advancement of the CBSS long-term priority "Sustainable & Prosperous Region".

I would like to conclude my remarks by thanking Baltic Science Network for its contribution to the CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda provided so far. Let the high-level guidance of the **CBSS Reykjavík Ministerial** and **26<sup>th</sup> Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference** pave the way to the second phase of the Baltic Science Network implementation.

Thank you for your attention.