



## **Director-General Speaking Points**

### **“Welcome Words”**

Baltic TRAM Mid-Term Conference

on 25 October 2017

Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)

*Dear distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,*

It is a great honour for the Council of the Baltic Sea States and me personally to welcome such a distinguished audience. Baltic TRAM Mid-Term Conference takes place in the year when the Council of the Baltic Sea States is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The discussions on the future of the Council of the Baltic Sea States were started during the Icelandic Presidency in March with a symposium titled “A Future Outlook on Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region”. These debates were continued in June during the CBSS Reykjavík Ministerial which assembled the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Baltic Sea Region and a representative of the EU. The essence of this high-level dialogue is captured in the Reykjavík Declaration and *Realizing the Vision: CBSS Baltic 2030 Action Plan*.

Baltic TRAM is one of the driving forces behind the region-wide consultations on this Action Plan and one of the key implementers of its thematic strands. This conference is thus another contribution to the discussions on the future cooperation possibilities.

Baltic TRAM has sought to craft novel solutions for science–business cooperation bearing in mind the lessons learnt of the leading research centres across Europe, such as, for example, the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility based in Grenoble. Here I am making a reference to the thought-provoking discussions which took place during the Baltic TRAM Opening Conference last October in Hamburg. As you can see from the Baltic TRAM Mid-Term Conference programme,

today we are continuing debate on the cooperation between analytical research facilities and business sector by taking into consideration new solutions developed across the world.

Furthermore, the outward looking perspective is also of importance due to the considerable weight Baltic TRAM holds in influencing the future transnational cooperation, be it in the macro-regional context of innovation governance, as in the **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region**, or the Baltic Sea Region-wide advancement of the Sustainable Development Goal 9 in the framework of the **CBSS Baltic 2030 Action Plan**. In either case, Baltic TRAM, as the successor to the **Baltic Science Link** or as one of the driving forces behind the focus area “**Transition to sustainable economy**” of the Action Plan, will have an opportunity to shape the policy expert thinking on what future support measures should be applied to sustain the outstanding innovation track record of the Baltic Sea Region.

Baltic TRAM Mid-Term Conference is a good example how recommendations presented in the context of the European Research Area are put into action. Namely, an encouragement of joint industry-academic events aimed at intensifying public-private collaboration. Thus, it is my great pleasure to see among the guests not only curious students, distinguished researchers, academics and policy-makers, but also private sector representatives.

To conclude, I would like to extend my gratitude to the Royal Institute of Technology, which has kindly accepted to host the Baltic TRAM gathering. I could not think of a better combination of novelty and tradition than Baltic TRAM Mid-Term Conference taking place under the helm of the CBSS Presidency of an outstanding European innovation nation, and being hosted by an institution with a renowned track record of research excellence.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you fruitful discussions during these two days.