



CHAIR'S CONCLUSIONS
CBSS Science Ministers' Conference
Kraków, 15-16 June 2016

**Baltic Science:
Renewing the Commitment
to Science/Research Joint Actions
in the Baltic Sea Region**

The Polish Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) hereby communicates that the Ministers and high-level representatives of the Ministries for Science met in Kraków on June 16, 2016 and:

Preamble

1. **Recognised** the significance of implementation of the Vilnius Declaration – *A Vision of the Baltic Sea Region by 2020* as done on 2 June 2010, which underlines that the CBSS is a useful platform for intergovernmental coordination and monitoring of regional development strategies and formats, and offers practical implementation support where appropriate.
2. **Recognised** the adoption of the Declaration of the CBSS on the implementation of the Vilnius Declaration and the CBSS decision *on a review of the CBSS long-term priorities* on 20 June 2014 where Member States commit themselves to strengthen neighbourliness through mobility and network capacities, specifically through science and research.
3. **Acknowledged** the *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals* as adopted on 25 September 2015 and their appropriateness in utilising regional shift towards a sustainable and resilient path based on the best knowledge out of science and research.
4. **Evoked** the Chair's Conclusions *Higher Education and Science for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region* as adopted at the CBSS High-Level Meeting on Education and Science in Riga, Latvia, on September 13, 2007, which underlined the pursuit of sustainable development, regional growth and competitiveness agenda through enhanced cooperation in the fields of higher education and science.
5. **Recalled** the *Action Plan for the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR)*, as well as the Strategy for the Social and Economic Development of the North-West Federal District of the Russian Federation, Northern Dimension Partnership, other relevant strategies and action plans as practical tools for implementing integrated and coordinated governance in the Baltic Sea Region.
6. **Affirmed** their readiness to cooperate on science, research and innovation in full awareness of existing regional agreements, programs and initiatives that currently cover elements of science, research and innovation in our region, and will seek to ensure that there is no duplication of effort.
7. **Emphasised** the importance of enhanced cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region as a cornerstone for a more sustainable and prosperous region.

8. **Recognised** the importance of effectively applying existing structured mobility tools, internationalization measures and incentives for students and researchers within the Baltic Sea Region.
9. **Took note of** the results of the Working Meeting hosted by the Polish CBSS Presidency on April 26, 2016, in Leżno/Gdańsk.

Therefore, considered the following possibilities:

10. **To support** the Baltic Science Network as an important tool to enhance a macro-regional dimension of science and research policy, from which our higher education and research institutions should benefit.
11. **To recognise** that Large-Scale Research Infrastructure efforts should be based on smart collaboration and attention should, where relevant, be paid to long-term capacity building as regards sustainable research communities.
12. **To recognise** that the EUSBSR should play a more visible role in facilitating synergies between existing actors and initiatives through the Policy Area Education and the Policy Area Innovation as well as Horizontal Action Neighbours.
13. **To support** the significance of the CBSS's role in developing current and further EUSBSR and Interreg Vb BSR projects, in particular: Baltic TRAM and Baltic Science Network.
14. **To reaffirm** their commitment to cooperate in order to ensure a prosperous, sustainable and competitive region based on front running research and higher education activities as "a common good" and **to highlight** the importance of developing innovative measures to overcome innovation gaps in the region.
15. **To call** for more intensified "bottom-up" collaboration and networking in order to pursue development and synergies in specific areas of science, research, innovation and clusters collaboration.
16. **To facilitate** continuous dialogue and collaboration in science, research, innovation and higher education using existing political and regional formats and initiatives.
17. **To focus** their mutual efforts on facilitating the following:
 - a. *Processes that optimise the mutual benefits of the Baltic Sea Region's research infrastructure;*
 - b. *Concrete, value-adding projects to support the regional framework for research and innovation.*
 - c. *Processes through which the Baltic Sea Region may continue to offer best practice examples of regional development and collaboration, thus supporting*

the reinforcement of EU horizontal policies such as the European Research Area;

- d. *Processes that support transnational collaboration between relevant Baltic Sea Region small and medium enterprises networks and clusters in the area of research and innovation as well as talent management and entrepreneurship.*

18. **To acknowledge** the importance of Science Link results and **to support** the continuous efforts in building closer ties between analytical research institutions and business in the framework of the Baltic TRAM (Transnational Research Access in the Macro-region) project.

19. **To acknowledge** the Baltic Science Network as one of the possible future deliverables of the CBSS science-related activities and **to envisage** Baltic Science Network's role in identification of how regional collaboration can add value to current research and use and development of research infrastructure.

20. **To call upon** the Member States to join efforts to increase the visibility of the Baltic Sea Region as a leading science/research/innovation area both on a European and a global scale.