



## Director Generals Speaking Points

### Opening Remarks of the CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day 2018

Turku, 25 January 2018

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by welcoming you to the second Baltic Sea Science Day of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.

It is a great pleasure to meet so many supporters of the research cooperation. Almost a year has passed since the **first CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day held in St Petersburg**. Among today's speakers and guests are several people who helped to make the St Petersburg gathering a promising starting point for inclusive debates on cooperation in science, research and innovation. Let me thank those who joined the first CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day also for their tireless work throughout 2017 related to the Baltic Science Network and Baltic TRAM.

For those who are not familiar with the everyday work of these two initiatives let me just briefly point out their focus areas.

**Baltic Science Network** serves as a forum for higher education, science and research cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. Thus, Baltic Science Network assembles the relevant transnational, national and regional policy actors in order to prepare targeted multilateral activities aimed at brain circulation for the overall welfare of the macro-region.

**Baltic TRAM** (which serves as an abbreviation of **Transnational Research Access in Macro-Region**) runs a network of Industrial Research Centres in order to offer companies free access to state-of-the-art analytical research facilities across the Baltic Sea Region. The network helps to boost innovation, explores smart specialisation trends and encourages entrepreneurship by supporting small and medium-sized businesses.

The first results of both CBSS endorsed projects Baltic Science Network and Baltic TRAM testify to an overall readiness to engage in thorough discussions on the selected subject matters.

Just to name one such example, during the first CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day the initial highlights of our report on smart specialisation were presented. Today both Baltic TRAM project and the CBSS look back at having published and presented two analyses on the subject matter entailing a multi-level governance perspective. In parallel to today's discussions here at the Åbo Akademi University, both reports serve also as some of the reference points for wider reflections on innovation in a macro-regional setting held in Ispra.

However, this is not the one and only example which bears relevance to the mandate of the CBSS in the field of Baltic science. Baltic Science Network has also presented to the wider audiences its findings on researcher mobility across the Baltic Sea Region. During the first CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day, the initial results of the Baltic Science Network survey were presented. Today those facts and figures offered in a broader context are helpful in strengthening brain circulation in the Baltic Sea Region.

To conclude, I would like to congratulate supporters of the CBSS Science, Research and Innovation Agenda with a successful year and hope for the same enthusiasm for joint work also throughout 2018. I encourage you to continue constructive dialogue and continuous peer-to-peer learning. It is of vital importance for the overall quality of the upcoming deliverables of Baltic TRAM and Baltic Science Network. Please bear in mind that 2018 will be a defining period showing whether the participants of both CBSS endorsed initiatives and a wider circle of relevant stakeholders can agree on tangible solutions for the existing shortfalls of research cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. Among the options discussed is a **partnership focused on academic mobility for young researchers**. Your suggestions on tailoring this initiative are highly welcome.

Last but not least, special thanks go to our wonderful hosts both for their hospitality as well as engagement in the everyday work of the Baltic Science Network. The centenary of Åbo Akademi University has been a perfect timing to reflect on the recently concluded dynamic year. I wish you all fruitful discussions throughout the four workshops. Let these debates establish new collaborative ties and pave an ambitious path towards the **next CBSS Baltic Sea Science Day and the potential second CBSS Science Ministerial in Latvia.**

Thank you for your attention!