Research Cooperation in Baltic Sea Region

Tadas Juknevičius
8 February, 2017
St. Petersburg
Plan

• About MOSTA
• Research cooperation in Baltic Sea Region
• Baltic Science Network
MOSTA

MOSTA established by the Ministry for Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania (April 27, 2007) which:

• Provides recommendations on the development of the national research, higher education (HE) and innovation system
• Organizes research, HE and innovation monitoring
• Analyses the conditions of Lithuanian research, HE and innovation system
• Participates in development and implementation of research, HE and innovation policy

From January 1st, 2017, MOSTA is operating under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania office.

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Seven reasons to increase cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region (A Beginner’s Guide to the Baltic Sea Region Strategy)

1. Smarter problem-solving
2. Smarter ways of working and methods
3. Better cooperation on environmental issues
4. Bigger market
5. Increased knowledge and bigger networks
6. Safety and security
7. More resources
Number of Articles (Highly Cited Papers and Hot Papers (WoS 2013–2015))
## 7FP projects

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**Note:** The percentages represent the distribution of H2020 projects cooperation among different countries.
Researchers’ mobility drivers (policy makers perspective)

1. The presence of private research sponsoring programs
2. The presence knowledge intensive business environment
3. Quality of research environment in the country of destination...
4. Personal development goals including cultural enrichment
5. Ease of access to research funding
6. Participation of your country in large research infrastructure projects...
7. Opportunity to get job or internship in private businesses
8. Possibility to establish international collaborative/professional...
9. Institutional requirements of academic mobility experience for...
10. Opportunities to access benefits of social, medical, family aid...
11. Economic factors (higher salary, stipend or other forms of...
12. Currently active government mobility programs in your country

The presence of private research sponsoring programs is very strong, followed by the presence knowledge intensive business environment. Quality of research environment in the country of destination is also very strong, but not as strong as the other factors.

Very strong: Blue
Strong: Orange
Medium: Gray
Weak: Yellow
Minimal: Blue
Researchers’ mobility drivers (researchers perspective)

- Possibility to establish international collaborative/professional
- Professional development goals
- Policies in the home institution: e.g. academic mobility is a requirement
- Social security, family aid programs in the country of destination
- Economic factors (i.e. higher reimbursement in the country of destination)
- Ease of accessing to research funds in the country of destination
- Open, welcoming and non-discriminating research environment in the...
- Possibilities to access large scale research infrastructures facilities (such...
- Quality of research environment in the institution(s) of the country of...
- Quality of research environment in the institution(s) at the country of...
- Possibility to carry out research that is difficult or impossible to carry out...
Baltic Sea Region cooperation

- BONUS (Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme) - Nordtek – Baltech – The Baltic Sea Region University Network (BSRUN) – Baltic University Programme (BUP) - Association of Nordic University Rectors Conferences (NUS) - NordForsk (Research) - NordPlus (education) - Interreg: Baltic Sea Region, etc.
Challenges

• The political framework is not always coherent with the realities of research cooperation.
• Different level of research excellence in BSR countries.
• Availability of resources (including funding) for common projects.
• Promoting success. If you do not know how to promote your success, you are overseen on the regional level.
• More support for research cooperation would be needed. In addition, more systematic follow-up is needed.
• Better utilization of RI.
What is the Baltic Science Network?

• BSN is a new network, which we will develop into a leading transnational forum for higher education, science, and research cooperation of the Baltic Sea Region.

• BSN is a policy network gathering relevant transnational, national and regional policy actors from the BSR countries.

• The Network serves as a springboard for targeted multi-lateral activities in the frame of research and innovation excellence, mobility of scientists and widening participation.
Why Baltic Science Network?

- National or regional answers are not sufficient anymore for the large societal challenges
- A closer transnational cooperation and joint presentation of interests in higher education, science and research within the Baltic Sea Region is needed
- Within the Baltic Sea Region a macroregional dimension is missing in the science policy field
Main Objectives

- Develop and implement science policies and strategies in the Baltic Sea Region in a macroregional dimension
- Integrate in a coordinated manner macroregional interests into science policy on EU, national, regional and local level
- Develop and implement transnational programmes to:
  - Support higher education, research and innovation infrastructures
  - Widen Baltic Sea Region multilateral cooperation
  - Develop new mobility tools
Who is already involved?

**Lithuania**
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Research and Higher Education Monitoring and Analysis Centre (MOSTA)

**Poland**
- University of Gdansk
- Ministry of Science and Higher Education

**Denmark**
- Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (DASHE)

**Sweden**
- Swedish Research Council

**Russian Federation**
- St. Petersburg State University of Economics (UNECON)

**Finland**
- University of Turku
- Åbo Akademi University (representing BUP)
- Ministry of Education and Culture

**Baltic Sea Region**
- Council of the Baltic Sea States
- EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- Baltic Sea Region University Network
- Baltic University Programme
- BONUS
- STRING
- NCM-NordForsk

**Estonia**
- Ministry of Education and Research

**Latvia**
- Ministry of Education and Science

**Germany**
- Hamburg Ministry of Science, Research and Equalities
- Senate Chancellery of Hamburg
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Science and Equality of the Land of Schleswig-Holstein
- Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of the Land of Mecklenburg Hither Pomerania

**Norway**
- Ministry of Education and Research
Added value

- Common platform for closer policy cooperation
- Political decision makers are integrated in the whole process just from the beginning
- Synergetic approach which incorporates and builds on:
  - Already existing structures in the Baltic Sea Region
  - On-going initiatives related to higher education, science, and research policy
Actions

- Widening Participation
- BSR-wide Mobility
- Research & Innovation Excellence
- Exchange & Learning of Best Practices
- Joint Lobbying on EU & International Level
Embracing complementarity

- BSN is intertwined in the following regional structures:
  - One of the major projects of the Council of the Baltic Sea States’ Science, Research & Innovation Agenda
  - Flagship of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region under the Policy Area Education, Research and Employability
  - BSN supports the goals set out in the EU Global Strategy by engagement of Russia in the Network
  - Establishment of the network is funded by the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme
CBSS Science Ministerial
16 June 2016 in Kraków, Poland
Baltic Science Network Political Kick-Off
16 June 2016 in Kraków, Poland
Thank you!