Baltic Sea Cultural Cities
Connecting Citizens & Cities through Culture
Dr. Kaarina Williams
Senior Adviser for Regional Identity
The CBSS

- Political Forum for the Baltic Sea Region since almost 30 years
- 11 Member States and the European Union
- Stronger together through cooperation with the closest neighbors and pooling knowledge and resources
- Three priority areas
  - Regional Identity
  - Safety and Security
  - Sustainable and Prosperous region
Regional Identity

- Culture
- Youth
- Higher Education

- Gathering and connecting actors
- Supporting and initiating projects

- Sense of belonging
- Visible cultural diversity
- Social cohesion
Long-term goals

• contributing to making the BSR’s vibrant cultural life visible, diminishing cultural barriers and fostering social and cultural cohesion in the region

• making young people’s opinions and voices on Baltic Sea policy heard and fosters intergenerational dialogue on current political and societal issues

• investing in educating and empowering future region-builders across disciplines
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Connecting citizens and cities through culture
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Idea

• Platform for cooperation, cultural exchange and regional identification
• Motto: “Water connects us, but culture unites us”
• The goal is to connect cities, people and cultural actors in the region & strengthen the regional identity while promoting cultural diversity
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Main aims

1. Regional cooperation: sustainable, long-term culture format creating a regional identity
2. Citizen Participation: increasing the visibility and accessibility of the region’s creativity and cultural heritage
3. Regional Identity: strengthening feeling of togetherness, solidarity, tolerance and regional identification
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Regional cooperation

• Nominating biannually a “Baltic Sea City of Culture”
• Focus on cities and regions fostering cooperation among them, not competition
• Producing synergies
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Citizen Participation

- strong focus on citizen participation and ownership, increasing the number of contacts between people and cultural actors
- more about co-creation than consuming cultural offers as a spectator
- addressing especially the younger generation as well as excluded parts of society
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Funding

• Seed Money Funding granted by Swedish Institute (Sept 2019 – Feb 2021)
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Partners so far

• CBSS as Lead Partner
• Ars Baltica Secretariat
• City Culture Institute in Gdansk
• Regional Council of Ostrobothnia
• Kaunas Artists House/Kaunas City
• Union of Baltic Cities, Cultural Cities Commission
• City of Kiel, Department for Education, Youth and Culture
• Ministry of Justice, European Affairs, Consumer Protection and Equality of Land Schleswig-Holstein
• Agency for International Affairs and Regional Cooperation, Kaliningrad Oblast
Baltic Sea
Cultural Cities

Work plan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Place/Country</th>
<th>Events &amp; activities</th>
<th>Partners &amp; Stakeholders</th>
<th>Responsible partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>• Finding process for accompanying experts for the projects</td>
<td>All partners</td>
<td>LP</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2019</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>• Contracting expert(s)</td>
<td>LP/Steering Group</td>
<td>LP/AB/Steering Group</td>
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<td>• Briefing expert(s) with findings of First Project Workshop in Nov. 2018</td>
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<td>• First drafts by expert(s) upon Workshop period</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>• Preparation of the first workshop on behalf of knowledge and needs shared amongst all partners</td>
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<td>October 2019</td>
<td>Malmö; Kick-Off</td>
<td>• Develop core values, guidelines for creating a valuable format of BSR-Cultural-Cities.</td>
<td>All project partners</td>
<td>LP</td>
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<td>• Outline on behalf of the findings from PA-Culture Workshop the main pillars upon the format BSR Cultural Cities.</td>
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| Nov-Dec 2019 | Virtual                 | • Accompanying the findings and putting them into solution-chapters  
• Preparing next workshop with partners and further experts  
• Create all necessary materials to reach the goals for next workshop | All project partners plus accompanying project development expert  | LP                   |
| Dec 2019   | Kaunas Project Meeting  | • Create the main format of BSR-Cultural-Cities  
• Outline the way this format creates the foreseen impact. | Participants: all project partners plus accompanying project development expert  | Kaunas Artist House  |
<p>| Feb-May 2020 | Virtual                | • Develop a short-term &amp; long-term-strategy to integrate and implement BSR-Cultural-Cities as a format. | All project partners plus accompanying project development expert  | LP                   |
| June 2020  | Project Workshop in Gdansk | • Developing a 4-year implementation schedule including all active cities with focus on funding that allows to think sustainable and long-term | All project partners, external expert(s), moderator or facilitator | City Culture Institute in Gdansk |</p>
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<tr>
<td>July-Sep 2020</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>• Pooling findings and putting them into solution-chapters</td>
<td>All project partners</td>
<td>LP/External expert</td>
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<td>• Preparing next workshop with partners and further experts</td>
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<td>• Create all necessary materials to reach goals for next workshop</td>
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<td>November 2020</td>
<td>Wrap-up Workshop: How to continue? Nordkolleg Rendsburg</td>
<td>• Implementation workshop, developing content framework and material for the implementation phase of BSCC 2021</td>
<td>All project partners plus accompanying project development expert &amp; cities/regions</td>
<td>Ars Baltica Secretariat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2020-Feb 2021</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>• Write a final report upon feasibility and findings</td>
<td>All project partners, external expert(s), moderator or facilitator</td>
<td>City Culture Institute in Gdansk</td>
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<td>• Co-create the implementation process and funding proposals</td>
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<td>• Accompany the final procedures for implementation 2021</td>
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