



Estonian Presidency
2014-2015

COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ESTONIAN PRESIDENCY 2014-2015

PRACTICALITY, EFFICIENCY AND COOPERATION

Estonia placed a focus on the practical implementation of the new CBSS long-term priorities, approved by the previous CBSS Finnish Presidency, through stakeholder roundtables, projects and activities.

Estonia continued to ensure that the work of the Council is efficient, impact-driven and result-based, with the Regional Director's meeting held on 5 June in Tallinn being an important milestone in this endeavor.

Estonia worked towards more coherence within the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Estonia led the Strategy's National Contact Point (NCP) Network during the second half of 2014.

Estonia strove for a better division of labour and enhanced cooperation between the different Baltic Sea regional structures. The parallel Estonian chairmanships of HELCOM and VASAB, as well as activities in the framework of the Year of the Gulf of Finland 2014 contributed to strengthening this overall coherence. Estonia also chaired the Baltic Council of Ministers and coordinated the Nordic-Baltic NB8 format.

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ESTONIAN PRESIDENCY OUTCOMES

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1.
VASAB Ministerial Declaration

2
Guidelines to prevent abusive recruitment, exploitative employment and trafficking of migrant workers in the Baltic Sea Region.

3.
Proposal to standardise reporting units for exchange of environmental radioactivity monitoring data in the CBSS.

4.

Joint cooperation on measuring the impact of fire prevention actions upon initiative of Estonian Chair of Civil Protection Network.

5.

Coherence between regional actors, especially in culture and creative sectors.

6.

Launch of the first CBSS Climate Weeks.

7.

4 PSF Projects Awarded Funding under the Estonian Presidency.

8.

Tallinn Recommendations on Family Support & Alternative Care.

9.

Launch of the Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue

10.

Renewal of the Expert Group on Maritime Policy Mandate

ESTONIAN PRESIDENCY HIGHLIGHTS

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1.

International Conference
“Responsible Business: Prevention
of Human Trafficking and Labour
Exploitation in the Baltic Sea Region”

2.

8th VASAB Ministerial
Conference in Tallinn

3.

Priority Culture! Conference
in Tallinn





4.
Baltic Sea Region Border Control
Cooperation Conference

6.
The 13th Meeting of Directors
General of Civil Protection of the
Baltic Sea States in Tallinn

5.
Expert level meeting on Alternative
Care and Family Support in Tallinn

7.
Agroforum Mare Balticum 2015

8.
The CBSS Regional Director
Generals meeting in Tallinn





TF-THB International Conference “Responsible Business: Prevention of Human Trafficking and Labour Exploitation in the Baltic Sea Region” in Tallinn, with the Estonian Minister of Justice, Andres Anvelt

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The Estonian Presidency of the CBSS in cooperation with the [University of Tartu, NGO Living for Tomorrow](#) and the [CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings \(TF-THB\)](#) held a joint conference on 24 September 2014 in Tallinn, which focused on the promotion of principles of corporate social responsibility to enable enterprises to be free of exploitative practice, fraud and violence. The conference aimed at raising participants' awareness on the current situation in the labour market, risks and consequences of labour exploitation. The event initiated an open dialogue with the private sector, state institutions and non-governmental organisations. Particular attention was paid to the prevention of abusive recruitment, exploitative employment and labour trafficking in the Baltic Sea region.

The participants looked at the international experience of promoting corporate social responsibility and preventing labour exploitation and human trafficking. The results of the EUSBSR flagship project [ADSTRINGO](#), with emphasis on the culmination of the project - [the Guidelines to Prevent Abusive Recruitment, Exploitative Employment and Trafficking of Migrant Workers in the Baltic Sea Region](#), were presented.

In addition, the situation in the local labour market and Responsible Business Initiatives and efforts to prevent labour exploitation in Estonia was addressed. Representatives of the Danish, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian private and public sectors gave first-hand

insights into national projects and good practices to fight Trafficking in Human Beings and labour exploitation at the national level. The conference laid the groundwork for strengthening the future dialogue with the private sector to prevent trafficking in human beings in Estonia.

8th VASAB Ministerial Conference in Tallinn, with Hanno Pevkur, Estonian Minister of the Interior

During the CBSS Estonian Presidency, on 26 September 2014, the 8th VASAB Ministerial Conference of Ministers responsible for spatial planning and development of 11 Baltic Sea Region countries took place in Tallinn. The Ministerial Conference discussed the progress of implementing the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region, adopted the Ministerial Declaration about planning and development challenges in the Region, as well as committed to the implementation of Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020. Ministers highlighted that closer cooperation with other pan-Baltic organisations was essential and needed for the future.

New tasks and objectives, which will promote cooperation between cities, improve the internal and external accessibility of the Baltic Sea Region, and enhance maritime spatial planning have been set. However, the main goal remains unchanged – by 2030 the Baltic Sea Region should become a well-integrated and coherent macro-region, which has overcome the socio-economic development divides between its individual parts and turned global challenges into assets.



Priority Culture! Conference “Learning from the Past, Looking into the Future” in Tallinn, with the Estonian Minister of Culture Urve Tiidus

During the Estonian Presidency of the CBSS, on 13-14 November, The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Priority Area Culture held a conference in Tallinn titled '[Learning from the Past - Looking into the Future](#)'. The aim of the conference was to present the projects and activities of PA Culture, to spread knowledge regarding cultural development and cooperation in the region and to share information and to foster exchange on the manifold activities of BSR cultural organisations. The conference was opened by the Estonian Minister of Culture at the time, Urve Tiidus, with presentations also given by the CBSS Secretariat Director General Jan Lundin, as well as the CBSS Secretariat Head of Media & Communication, Anthony Jay Olsson. As a part of the conference, the CBSS Secretariat also attended the policy area's Steering Committee meeting held in Tallinn prior to the conference. The closing of the PA Culture conference was held in conjunction with the prestigious Tallinn Black Nights Film festival (PÖFF), opened by the Estonian President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves. [PÖFF](#) is one of the largest and most distinctive film events in Northern Europe and belongs to the 15 leading film festivals of the world.



Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation Conference of the Heads of Border Guards Annual Forum in Tallinn, with Hanno Pevkur, Estonian Minister of the Interior

The Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation Heads Conference was held on 12-14 November 2014 in Tallinn and hosted by the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board. The Conference was opened by Mr. Hanno Pevkur, Minister of the Interior of Estonia.

The representatives of services dealing with border security issues reviewed the latest activities at national level as well as various operations carried out at the international level, including operations at the external land borders in the areas between the Border Checking Points (BCP) and border areas, targeting an irregular migration of third country nationals (TCN) at the BCPs and secondary movements of TCN, detecting stolen vehicles, boats or their parts at the internal borders, and safe seafaring (checks of life jackets, flares; navigation and communication equipment; certificate, age and conditions of individuals to navigate vessel). The Annual Threat Assessment report was also presented (prepared together with FRONTEX).

The conference summed up the results of the Estonian Chairmanship within the BSRBCC and considered recommendations for further cooperation. The State Border Guard Service at the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania took over the Chairmanship for year 2015. The Lithuanian Chairmanship continues to work on the aviation security, detection of stolen cars and safe seafaring.

A joint operation to address the most important security issues at the land borders was organised in summer 2014, with ongoing preparatory work on the next Annual Threat Assessment.



Agroforum Mare Balticum 2015 – Food and Energy Sustainability in Tartu, with Urmas Kruuse, Estonian Minister of Rural Affairs

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One of the highlights of the CBSS Estonian Presidency was the AgroForum Mare Balticum, held in Tartu on 14-16 April 2015. The conference, which focused on food and energy sustainability with special emphasis on soil sustainability, resource efficiency and food quality in agricultural production, was co-organised by the Estonian Ministry of Agriculture, the Estonian University of Life Sciences and the CBSS Baltic 21 Unit. Urmas Kruuse, Estonian Minister of Rural Affairs, opened the plenary session and the following roundtables, where Heads of Official Delegations discussed the impact of trade on sustainability of food and energy. The EGSD Chairmanship was represented by Ado Lõhmus, Vice-Chancellor at the Ministry of the Environment of Estonia, who highlighted in his speech the growing importance of bioenergy in regional energy systems. Other keynotes were given by Ms. Eugenia Serova, Director of Rural Infrastructure and Agro-Industries Division of FAO, Mr. Franck Jésus, Head of the Environment Division at the Trade and Agriculture Directorate of OECD and Mr Schulz-Greve, Head of Unit of Economic analysis of EU agriculture at DG Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission.

The Baltic 21 Unit also organised a session `Efficient Use of Resources` at the conference, as the second stakeholder meeting within the project EFFECT – BSR Dialogue Platform on Energy and Resource Efficiency. Moderated by Johanna Stål, Editor in Chief & co-founder of the Swedish sustainable lifestyle magazine Camino Magazine, the session focused on improving efficient use of resources in agriculture, ambitions and limitations for organic crop-production, as well as resource use in the

food, energy and water nexus. Keynotes were given by Maria Osbeck, Research Fellow, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Ola Pettersson, Senior Project Leader, Swedish Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Engineering, Thomas Kätterer, Professor in Ecosystem Ecology, Swedish University of Agricultural Science, and Peter Wallenberg, Expert and Project Leader, Federation of Swedish Farmers.

Expert level meeting on Alternative Care and Family Support in Tallinn, with Margus Tsahkna, Estonian Minister of Social Protection

Quality of care for children was the focus of an Expert Meeting on Alternative Care and Family Support organised in Tallinn on the 5-6 May 2015. At the end of the meeting government representatives, experts and professionals from the Baltic Sea Region, including all CBSS member states and wider Europe, endorsed the Tallinn Recommendations and Action Plan on Alternative Care and Family Support for the Baltic Sea Region. Targeting regional and national level actors, the document gives concrete recommendations on how to ensure quality and consistent care for children within a timeframe from 2015 to 2020 in the Baltic Sea Region.

The experts highlighted the urgency of integrating services for children and families at risk, ensuring timely interventions and longer-term follow-up services for children at risk that are tailor-made for their individual needs and accessible at a low threshold. The experts underlined the crucial importance of implementing policies and good practices at the national/local level and increasing regional cooperation. Services for family support, child protection and alternative care constitute



strategic investments in children's safety, well-being and development. These, in turn, are conditions for a safe and secure region as well as a sustainable and prosperous society.

The Estonian Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Estonian Ministry of Social Affairs and the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) hosted the expert level meeting and it was presided over by Estonia's Minister of Social Protection, Margus Tsahkna. Alternative care has been a priority for the Expert Group since its formation in the early 2000s. The purpose of the 2015 expert meeting was to assess and discuss the present situation of institutional and family-based care and achievements and challenges in light of previous regional commitments.

The Tallinn Recommendations and Action Plan is a standard-setting document and a blueprint for future joint activities in the Region. The Polish Presidency of the CBSS will take the document into the first phase of implementation. The progress on the actions for follow-up will be monitored by the EGCC in regular meetings and a report entitled "Family Support and Alternative care: the Baltic Sea States Regional Report 2015" (ISBN: 978-91-980572-4-9) has been published.

The 13th Meeting of Directors General of Civil Protection of the Baltic Sea States in Tallinn, with Hanno Pevkur, Estonian Minister of the Interior

The 13th annual Directors General Meeting, took place in Tallinn on 3 June 2015 and was opened by Hanno Pevkur, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia. The tradition of this gathering of international Directors General of Civil Protection institutions started

in 2002 – also in Tallinn. The focus of the meeting was on fire safety and prevention work. All representatives – from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden and Russia – reported on their work in the field of fire safety and civil protection in general, having an unique opportunity for planning future collaboration on the spot. The Estonian Rescue Board is planning a larger, multinational project on measuring the impact of fire prevention and invited the international colleagues to provide their expertise and knowledge – receiving great support from all participants.

The ongoing projects, such as From Gaps to Caps and BaltPrevResilience were presented to the audience and partners, to share the already achieved results and progress. Helena Lindberg, Director General of MSB, promoted the Baltic Leadership Programme, planned to take place again in Warsaw at the end of November 2015 and encouraged her colleagues to send members of their team to the course.

The Estonian Rescue Board hosted a dynamic event, introducing Estonian art, music and food at Schloss Fall outside of Tallinn, where guest speaker Lauri Tabur, Director of the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, gave an eye-opening keynote speech about the changing role of civil protection institutions in the light of new technology and changing trends in the 21 century.

The handover of the CBSS Presidency from Estonia to Poland was highlighted by a presentation of the past year of the Estonian presidency by the chair of the Estonian presidency, Ambassador Raul Mälk and an overview of planned activities during the upcoming Polish presidency by Col. Tomasz Kolodziejczyk. The symbolic manifestation of this change in presidencies was the handover of the Civil Protection Bell from Estonia to Poland, as a grande finale of the meeting.





COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS (CSO)

Chair: Mr Raul Mälk, MFA Estonia

Delegate: Ms Triin Uibo, MFA Estonia

The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) consists of senior officials appointed by each Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Member States and the European Union represented at the CSO meetings by the European External Action Service (EEAS) representative. The Director General of the CBSS Secretariat Jan Lundin and the Deputy Director General, Secretary to the Committee, Eduardas Borisovas are also both present at the meetings. Countries may appoint additional delegates as appropriate to attend specific meetings.



During the Estonian Presidency the CSO Members were the following

Denmark: Mr Kim Vinthen,
MFA Denmark – CSO member

Estonia: Ms Triin Uibo, MFA Estonia – CSO member

Finland: Ms Erja Tikka, MFA Finland
and Ms Kristina Pingoud, MFA Finland - CSO members

Germany: Mr Michael Däumer, FFO Germany
– CSO member and Mr Florian Seitz,
FFO of Germany – CSO member-substitute

Iceland: Ms SnjólauG. Ólafsdóttir, MFA Iceland
and Mr Guðmundur Árni Stefánsson,
MFA of Iceland – CSO members

Latvia: Ms Vita Zivtina, MFA Latvia – CSO member

Lithuania: Ms Kornelija Jurgaitienė, MFA Lithuania
– CSO member and Ms Lina Rukštelienė,
MFA Lithuania – CSO member-substitute

Norway: Mr Dag Briseid, MFA Norway – CSO member

Poland: Mr Michał Czyż, MFA Poland – CSO member

Russia: Mr Sergey Petrovich, MFA Russia – CSO
member

Sweden: Mr Hans Olsson,
MFA Sweden – CSO member

European Union: Mr Marko Mäntylä,
EEAS – CSO member



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Other CBSS Member representatives attending the meetings during the year

[Mr Eirik Nestås Mathisen](#), Embassy of Norway in Tallinn;
[Ms Julie Bryhn](#), Embassy of Norway in Tallinn;
[Mr Grzegorz Poznański](#), MFA Poland;
[Ms Katarzyna Barcikowska](#), MFA Poland;
[Ms Aleksandra Świergolecka](#), MFA of Poland;
[Ms Anna Konashkova](#), Embassy of Russia in Estonia;
[Mr Nils Jansons](#), EEAS, Deputy Head of Division for Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation and OSCE and
[Mr Paavo Palk](#), Delegation of the European Commission in Tallinn.

CBSS Secretariat was additionally represented by

[Ms Gertrude Opira](#), Head of Administration presented the budget and the Project Support Facility
[Mr Anthony Jay](#), Head of Media & Communications presented the Balticlab programme
[Ms Krista Kampus](#), Senior Adviser & Head of Baltic 21 Unit presented the review of the Expert Group on Sustainable Development
[Ms Turid Heiberg](#), Senior Adviser & Head of Children's Unit presented on transnational child protection activities
[Mr Ilya Ermakov](#), Senior Adviser presented on the prolongation of the mandate of the Expert Group on Maritime Policy
[Ms Iris Kempe](#), Senior Adviser presented the Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue
[Mr Janusz Gąciarz](#), Senior Adviser as Co-Coordinator of PA Secure presented Policy Area Secure at the Safe and Secure Roundtable
[Ms Mirjam Külm](#), Media & Communications Officer as delegate to the Regional Directors Meeting;

At **the video conference** with the CSO on 4 February 2015, the EU services were represented by:
[Mr Richard Tibbels](#), Head of Division for Eastern Partnership, Regional Cooperation and OSCE, European External Action Service (EEAS); [Mr Philip Rose](#), Cooperation Coordinator, EEAS; [Ms Joanna Kiryllo](#), Programme Manager, European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO); [Ms Carmen Falkenberg Ambrosio](#), Head of Section, European Commission, Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR); [Ms Micheline Koçak](#), Programme Manager, European Commission, DG NEAR and [Mr Wolfgang Behrendt](#), Desk Officer, EEAS

The CSO held 5 meetings during the reported period. The meetings took place on the following dates:
Tallinn, 29 – 30 September 2014;
Stockholm, 2 – 3 December 2014;
Tallinn, 3 – 4 February 2015;
Tallinn, 23 – 24 April 2015;
Tallinn, 4 June 2015.

External Guests attending the meetings during the year

Regional Identity

[Ms Anna Cara Keim](#), Crossing the Baltic
[Ms Anna Ceynowa](#), Co-coordinator of EUSBSR PA Culture, Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
[Ms Anna Karpenko](#), Project Leader and previously local coordinator for CBSS SEBA
[Mr Antti Paasio](#), EuroFaculty Consortium, CBSS IEG EuroFaculty Pskov
[Ms Camilla Wristrel](#), Programme Manager for Talent Mobility, Swedish Institute

[Ms Darja Akhutina](#), General Director, Norden Association, St. Petersburg, Russia

[Ms Gabriele Woidelko](#), Program Director, Education, Spokesperson of the EUSTORY Steering Committee, Körber Foundation

[Ms Ilze Gailite Holmberg](#), Senior Adviser, Secretariat of the Nordic Dimension Partnership on Culture

[Ms Jaana Simula](#), Chair of UBC Cultural Committee, Cultural Director of City Pori

[Mr Kari Hyppönen](#), President of Baltic Sea Region University Network

[Ms Karina Petersone](#), Director of the Latvian Institute

[Ms Maike Janneck](#), Head of the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs

[Mr Marcus Hagemann](#), Head of Secretariat of Ars Baltica

[Ms Marianne Lehtimäki](#), Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage of the Baltic Sea States

[Ms Paula Lindroos](#), Acting Director, Baltic University Programme Secretariat

[Mr Stefan Musiolik](#), Co-coordinator of EUSBSR PA Culture, Ministry of Justice, Cultural and European Affairs of Land Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

[Ms Tina Gotthardt](#), EUSTORY manager, Körber Foundation

Sustainable & Prosperous Region

[Ms Martina Proosa](#), Chairwoman of the VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR)

[Mr Talis Linklaits](#), Head of the VASAB Secretariat

[Mr Tarmo Ots](#), Chairman of the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP), Head of Communication Department of the Estonian Maritime Administration

[Mr Thor-Sten Vertmann](#), Counsellor, Energy Department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications representing the Estonian BASREC Presidency

[Ms Ülle Vaht](#), Chairwoman of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21, Estonian Ministry of Environment

Safe and Secure Region

[Mr Alexey Abramov](#), Deputy Head of the NCB Interpol Moscow, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia

[Mr Alo Tammsalu](#), Deputy Director General, Estonian Rescue Board, Estonian Chairman of the Civil Protection Network

[Mr Andrey Stepanov](#), Chairman of the EGNRS, Head of Division for Radio-ecological and Analytical Research of V.G.Khlopin Radium Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia

[Ms Anna Markina](#), University of Tartu

[Ms Anniki Lai](#), Head of Department, Ministry of Social Affairs, Chairwoman of Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC)

[Mr Bengt Sundelius](#), Strategic Advisor to the Director General of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB



[Mr Dariusz Kadukowski](#), Senior Expert, International Cooperation Department, National Headquarters of State Fire Service, Poland

[Ms Eva Biaudet](#), Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, Finnish National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking

[Ms Helen Neider](#) – Veerme, Estonian Presidency of the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation, Estonian Police and Border Guard Board attended the 1st CSO Meeting in Tallinn and presented the BSRBCC

[Mr Ilya Sevostyanov](#), Unit Head, NCB Interpol Moscow, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia representing the Russian Presidency of the Baltic Sea Task Force on Organised Crime

[Ms Jaana Sipilä](#), IOM Office in Helsinki

[Mr Jan Widberg](#), Director, Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Latvia

[Mr Jevgeni Jutkevits](#), Expert on International Cooperation, Estonian Rescue Board

[Ms Julia Fredriksson](#), PA Secure Co-coordinator EUSBSR, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB

[Ms Julia Kovalenko](#), SOS Children's Villages Estonia

[Ms Kristiina Vilu](#), Chief Specialist on International Cooperation, Estonian Rescue Board

[Mr Leemet Paulson](#), Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) Chairman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

[Mr Maciej Godlewski](#), Deputy Director, International Cooperation Department, National Headquarters of State Fire Service, Poland

[Mr Simo Kohonen](#), Acting Head of IOM Office in Helsinki

KEY ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CSO DURING THE ESTONIAN CBSS PRESIDENCY

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// Adopted the Note of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials to the Council on the Implementation of the CBSS Long-term Priorities and the Annex on Progress in Strategic Actions to Implement the CBSS Long-term Priorities.

// A Roundtable “Baltic Sea Regional Identity - Is it only a CBSS long term priority?” was held at the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meeting in December 2014, in Stockholm. The roundtable gathered representatives across the board from the arts, education, culture, entrepreneurship, policy, youth affairs and tourism. Anna Cara Keim of the NGO Crossing the Baltic, alongside Karina Petersone of the Latvian Institute, gave the keynotes to the session. Other representatives included the EUSBSR Policy Area Culture Co-ordinators, the EuroFaculty Consortium, the CBSS International Expert Group EuroFaculty Pskov, the Swedish Institute, the Norden Association of St. Petersburg, Russia, the Körber Foundation, Germany, the Secretariat of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture, the Union of Baltic Cities Culture Committee, the Baltic Sea Region University Network, the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs, Ars Baltica,

the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage of the Baltic Sea States, the Baltic University Programme and the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation.

// The implementation of the CBSS long-term priority Sustainable and Prosperous Region was discussed at the CSO meeting in September 2014 in Tallinn with the representatives of VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR), VASAB Secretariat, Estonian Presidency of CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 and Estonian Presidency of BASREC. The CBSS Secretariat Director General Jan Lundin also provided input to the implementation of the priority on behalf of Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) and the Expert Group for Maritime Policy (EGMP).

// A Roundtable “CBSS long-term priority – Safe and Secure Region” took place during the CSO meeting in February 2015 in Tallinn with the attendance of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman of Finland/Finnish National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking, the Estonian

Presidency of the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, the Russian Presidency of the CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear Radiation and Safety (EGNRS), the Estonian Presidency of the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC), the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Co-coordinators of Priority Area Secure of EUSBSR, NCM Office in Latvia, the IOM Office in Helsinki, the SOS Children’s Villages of Estonia, the National Headquarters of State Fire Service of Poland and the Estonian Rescue Board and University of Tartu.



Organisational

- // Adopted the Annual Report of the Finnish CBSS Presidency 2013-2014
- // Heard a briefing on the Estonian CBSS Presidency activities following the accepted priorities
- // Held its regular Annual Consultations with CBSS Observers to share information on the new long-term priorities of the CBSS, to inform about the Estonian CBSS Presidency plans and other activities of different subsidiary bodies of CBSS and its partners
- // To continue a tradition of annual meetings with the EU services represented by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and European Commission Directorates General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG Regio) and Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), held a video conference to discuss developments of the EU Strategy for the BSR and review of its Action Plan, BSR Programme and financing period 2014 – 2020 and cross border cooperation (CBC) in the EU neighbourhood in 2014-2020
- // Took note of the latest preparations of the renewed Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and on preparations to the 6th EUSBSR Annual Forum held on 15 – 16 June 2015 in Jūrmala, Latvia
- // Considered the role of CBSS as a forum for political dialogue, with an article by H.E. Mr. Martin Lidegaard, the Danish Foreign Minister in the Baltic Rim Economies 4/2014 serving as a background information for this discussion

- // Considered the Director General's presentation on the developments of the CBSS in the future

Expert Groups

- // Discussed future plans and activities of the CBSS EG on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 and approved the Report on the CBSS EGSD - Baltic 21 assessment
- // Approved the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP) request to extend its current mandate for another 3-year period until 2018, starting from 1 July 2015 and invited the EGMP to amend its mandate according to the CBSS EGMP Concept Note on the Future of the Group. The renewed EGMP mandate will be approved by the CSO at the beginning of the Polish CBSS Presidency
- // Was informed about the Balticlab Programme and the third Networking Event held in Stockholm in December 2014
- // Was informed about the results of the 1st Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue event, held on 10-16 September 2014 in Narva and Tallinn, Estonia and Ivangorod, Russia, by the CBSS Secretariat and the Spokesperson of the EUSTORY Steering Committee of the Körber Foundation, Germany
- // Considered the Study Report of the PSF project "The Future of the EuroFaculty" prepared by Prof. Antti Paasio, Ms Kaisu Paasio and Ms Céline Charpentron
- // Approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for an independent evaluation of the EuroFaculty Pskov Project 2009 – 2015 and applicability of the EuroFaculty concept

in the future which was drafted and adopted by the International Expert Group of the CBSS EuroFaculty Pskov project (IEG)

// Discussed the financial situation of the project with the Lead Country Sweden of the CBSS EuroFaculty Pskov project and the Turku University representing the EFP Consortium and agreed on a concept of the final event of the EuroFaculty Pskov to be held on 21 – 22 October 2015

Cooperation with other entities

// Considered university cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region and its future with the President of the Baltic Sea Region University Network

// Considered further cooperation with the VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) and the VASAB Secretariat

// Was informed by the ARS BALTICA Secretariat on the ARS BALTICA activities and plans for culture cooperation among CBSS Member States

// Took note of the results of the 23rd BSPC Annual Conference “Baltic Sea: Quest for Harmony” held on 24 – 26 August 2014 in Olsztyn, Poland

// Took note of the results of the 22nd BSSSC Annual Conference “Time for new beginnings and innovation in the Baltic Sea Region” held on 15-17 October 2014 in Jūrmala, Latvia

// Heard information on the Forum Green Day promoting strategies and values for sustainable development

convened jointly by the CBSS and the Nordic Council of Ministers at the XIII All-Russian Strategic Planning Forum held on 27 - 28 October 2014 in Saint Petersburg, Russia as well as a Information Session of HA Neighbours of the EU Strategy of the BSR conducted by the Secretariat

// Met with and discussed issues of cooperation with the representative of the Estonian Presidency of the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation

// Met with the Russian Presidency of the Baltic Sea Task Force on Organized Crime 2015 – 2016 represented by the National Contact Bureau of Interpol in Moscow, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia to be informed about the latest plans and activities of the BS TFOC

// Had a thorough discussion on CBSS cooperation with the 4 Regional Councils in the North and other organizations in the Northern Europe on a basis of the PM prepared by the Secretariat

// Took note of the information on the meeting of 4 Regional Councils in the North held in September 2014 in Kirkenes, Norway and exchanged views how to develop further coherence between the 4 regional councils in the North and Northern Dimension partnerships

// Considered the CBSS cooperation with other European macro-regional organizations such as the Adriatic Ionian Initiative (AII), Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC), Central European Initiative (CEI), South East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) through the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Visegrad Group (V4) through the International



Visegrad Fund (IVF) taking into account a PM prepared by the Secretariat on the CBSS cooperation with macro-regional organisations in Europe outside the North

// Was briefed at the Annual Consultations with the CBSS Observers on the CBSS cooperation with other macro-regional organizations in Europe and in particular about the CBSS cooperation with MEDA countries in the field of climate change and on the decision of the MEDA Environment Ministers of May 2014 to establish the Climate Change Adaptation Working Group as an outcome of cooperation between the CBSS Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Union for Mediterranean

// Was informed about the possibilities of cross-border cooperation developed by the project "Development of trans-border Russia-Poland-Lithuania natural area Vishtynets Lake/Rominten Forest through regional interdisciplinary partnership" funded by the CBSS Project Support Facility

Administrative

// Decided to approve a selection of Mr. Bernd Hemingway of Germany to the position of a Deputy Director General of the CBSS Secretariat

// Decided to approve the secondment of Ms Kamila Wojsznis from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Poland from September 2015 until end of August 2016 to work in the Media and Communications Unit of the Secretariat

// Approved the Financial Report of the Secretariat for the year 2014 and took note of the Independent Auditor's Report for the CBSS Financial Year 2014

// Adopted the CBSS budget proposal for the financial year 2015 budget including also the Baltic 21 and Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings parts of the budget

// Considered the Secretariat budget reviews from January to August 2014 and from January to April 2015 as well as a preliminary Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2014

// Approved a revised Project Support Facility Manual and a revised PSF Appraisal Working Guidelines for the PSF Selection Committee

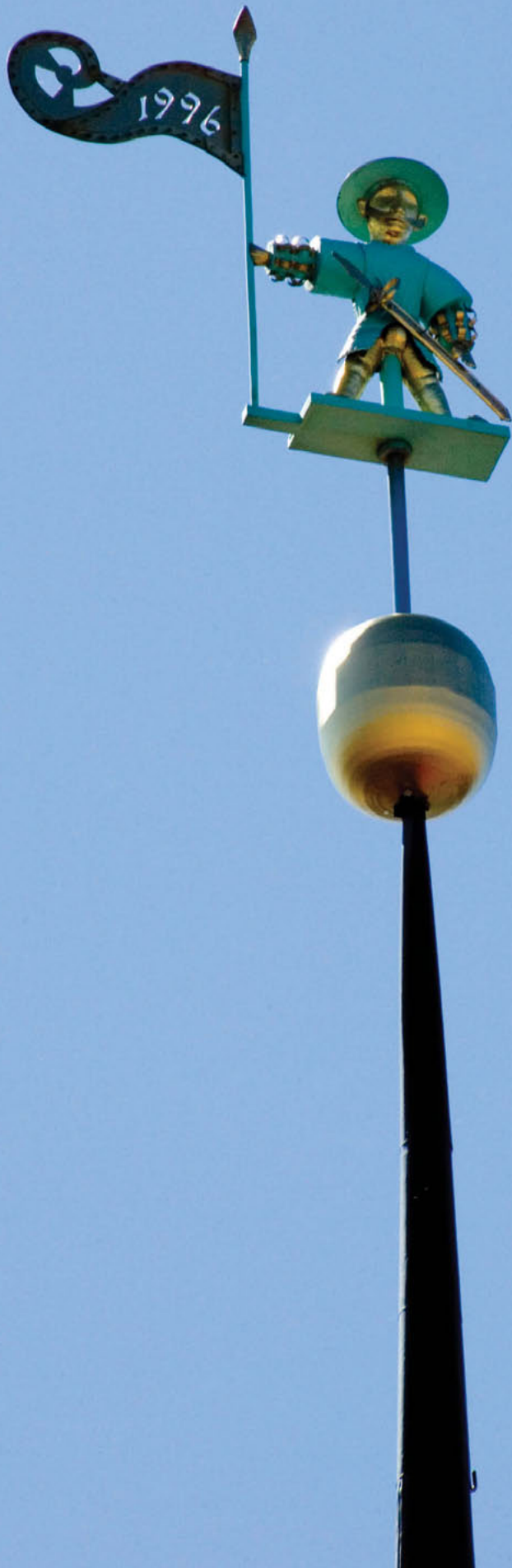
// Discussed and approved the projects submitted for PSF financing, approved the fifth set of projects and closely followed the progress of the previously approved projects

// Considered preliminary ideas about a possible succession to the CBSS Project Support Facility

// Discussed September 2014, December 2014 and April 2015 status reports on the CBSS finalized projects, participation in projects and on the CBSS project ideas

// Considered reports of the Director General of the CBSS Secretariat and were presented with the Annexes to the Director General's reports on selected visits, meetings and contacts by the Secretariat

// Was informed about the incoming Polish CBSS Presidency 2015 – 2016 priorities and about the first CSO meeting under the Polish Presidency



A person is performing fire hula, a traditional Hawaiian dance. They are holding a poi, a ball of fire, which is glowing brightly against the dark background. The person's hair is styled in a traditional manner, and they are wearing a dark top with a red and black striped sleeve. The scene is lit with warm, orange light from the fire, creating a dramatic and dynamic atmosphere.

ACTIVITIES OF THE ESTONIAN PRESIDENCY



The Night of Ancient Lights

Every year, on the last Saturday in August people gather along the shores of the Baltic Sea to celebrate the Night of Ancient Lights. This annual celebration has become a tradition in several countries of the Baltic Sea region and every year more bonfire festivals are arranged by local organisations, municipalities, tourist boards and committed individuals. A chain of hundreds of bonfires are lit along the shores of the Baltic Sea in order to celebrate the summer, the Baltic Sea and the connections between the people in the region.

The idea of celebrating the Night of Ancient Lights is based on the traditional usage of signal fires as instruments of communication and navigation for seafaring people. The Night of Ancient Lights was originally an initiative to mark the 75th independence anniversary of Finland in 1992, with some friends on Estonian islands being also invited to join in. In the years after, the tradition has lived on, with its goal to show the unity of coastal people and pay tribute to history and cultural heritage. The Night serves as a reminder of the importance of protecting the Baltic Sea – the sea that links together all the inhabitants of the region.



Baltic Sea NGO Network 13th Annual Forum in Tallinn

The Baltic Sea NGO Network held its 13th annual forum – in accordance with the CBSS Presidency rotation – in Tallinn on 10-11 June 2015. In its aim to support civil society in the Baltic Sea region, the forum serves as a meeting point for NGOs of the region and gives the opportunity to exchange best practices and to find future project partners. The CBSS plays an active role in the forum, offering its network to strengthen NGO cooperation. The Forum was opened by Jüri Ratas, Deputy Speaker of the Estonian Parliament, Ambassador Raul Mälk, the CBSS Estonian Presidency Chairman and Jan Lundin, CBSS Secretariat Director General. The Council was further represented through the Task Force Against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) and the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC), who organised a workshop on cooperation in the field of combating human trafficking in BSR, together with the Norden Association in Russia, which was moderated by Vineta Polatside, Head of Unit & Senior Adviser of the TF-THB. As NGOs play a vital role in supporting governments in the prevention of trafficking, the protection and assistance of victims, the prosecution of offenders, safe return and the compensation for victims. Hence it is important to raise the profile of NGOs and consult them in regards to legislative processes and their implementation. The Forum was concluded with a panel on regional identity, including a presentation on a project on common cultural tourism, presented by Darja Akhutina from the NORDEN Association, Russia.

The CBSS Regional Director Generals meeting in Tallinn

On 5 June 2015, the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States convened a meeting of the Regional Director Generals of the CBSS member states.

The previous CBSS Regional Director Generals meeting took place in Moscow on the 23rd of May 2013, where a review of the CBSS long-term priorities took place. This time the discussions focused on cooperation and division of labour between the different structures in the Baltic Sea Region, such as the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the Northern Dimension, the Regional Councils in Northern Europe and HELCOM. The meeting was hosted and opened by Ms Aino Lepik von Wiren, Director General of the Department of Europe and Transatlantic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia.

The CBSS CSO Chairman Ambassador Raul Mälk presented to the group the main outcomes and processes of the CBSS Estonian Presidency 2014-2015. Ambassador Mälk noted that the biggest task throughout the Estonian Presidency has been the implementation of the new long-term priorities of the CBSS, which were adopted under the Finnish Presidency in June 2014. One of the keywords throughout the Estonian Presidency has been “cooperation”, with a focus on more sectorial and specialist level cooperation between the different formats in the region. This has been manifested through the three regional roundtables held throughout the Estonian Presidency. The roundtables have helped to guide the work in the three priorities, as well as to mark the challenges and opportunities ahead. The meeting concluded with an introduction to the upcoming Polish Presidency of the CBSS by Mr. Grzegorz Poznanski, Deputy Director of the European Policy Department of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation Maritime Security Exercise

Developing further cooperation mechanisms between authorities dealing with maritime and border security in the region was one of the focus points of the CBSS Estonian Presidency. Hence a Maritime Security Exercise was organized by the BSRBCC in Estonia in June 2014, with participation from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia & Sweden. The exercise resulted in a BSRBCC Instruction Video, which was presented to regional stakeholders at the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation Conference of the Heads of Border Guards Annual Forum in Tallinn in November 2014.



I hear.
– Somebody is calling.

Reviewing and extending the Mandate of the Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP)

During the Estonian Presidency the mandate of the EGMP was extended for three more years until 2018. A special consultation of the Expert Group was held in April 2015, before the Committee of Senior Officials agreed on the prolongation of the mandate during their meeting in Tallinn in June 2015. The CSO invited the EGMP to amend its mandate according to the CBSS EGMP Concept Note on the Future of the Group. The renewed EGMP mandate will be approved by the CSO at the beginning of the Polish CBSS Presidency. According to the Concept Note in coming years the EGMP should focus on creating stronger links between maritime clusters, industry representatives and administrations, identifying areas of common interest and responsibilities with other regional organisations and strengthening networking between relevant authorities of neighbouring countries.



EUROPEAN UNION STRATEGY FOR THE BALTIC SEA REGION (EUSBSR)



During the CBSS Estonian Presidency, the European Commission undertook a revision of the Action Plan of the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. As it is the first macro-regional strategy of its kind to be initiated by the European Union six years ago, an extensive consultation with Member States concerned and stakeholders in the region was carried out. The revised Action Plan, which is more streamlined and focused compared to the previous one, consists of 13 Policy Areas and 4 Horizontal Actions, in total 17 thematic areas of macro-regional significance. It also includes a new chapter on the role of regional organisations/ networks and their added-value within the EUSBSR.

The revised Action Plan was presented to the 'High-Level Group of macro-regional strategies' for approval on 3 June 2015, in Brussels, and was introduced at the 6th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR in Jūrmala, Latvia. The CBSS Secretariat is now coordinating the Horizontal Action Climate under the CBSS Baltic 21 Unit and continues to co-ordinate the now-called Policy Area Secure, a merge of the previous Priority Areas Secure and Crime, together with the Swedish Contingencies Agency, as well as Horizontal Action Neighbours jointly with the City of Turku. Through projects and processes, the CBSS is further involved in the other policy areas and horizontal actions, such as Policy Area Culture and Policy Area Education.



EUSBSR 6th Annual Forum: Achieving E-Quality by Connecting the Region

For the sixth time, policymakers and stakeholders from the whole region gathered for the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Annual Forum on 15- 16 June 2015. This year's host was Latvia, marking the final months of their EU presidency. The beautiful beachside of Jūrmala provided the perfect location for the conference, with "Saving the Sea" being one of the priorities of the EUSBSR.

It was Latvia's Prime Minister, Laimdota Straujuma, who set the tone for the days ahead in her opening speech of the Forum:

"The BSR has enormous potential – it is an engine for growth and trade; it is a hub for innovation and a bridge of connectivity. Despite all the progress we have made, there is more we can do: we can boost transport and energy links, we can improve the ecological situation of the Baltic Sea, we should realise the benefits of the digital age. The EU Strategy provides the framework, but it is our people that provide the energy."

Under this theme the following days were filled with dynamic panel discussions, back-to-back meetings and thematic workshops, all with the goal to meet each other and discuss future cooperation. A broad range of speakers enabled the discussions to be lively and diverse, addressing e-governance and digitalisation, gender equality and the importance of culture and innovation. Amongst the high level speakers were Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria, Ms. Laimdota Straujuma, Lithuania's Prime Minister Algirda Butkevičius, Parliamentary Secretary from the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica, Estonia's former Prime Minister and now Special Adviser to European Commission, Siim Kallas, MEP Urmas Paet, former Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Dr. Henryka Mościcka-Dendys, Undersecretary of State for Parliamentary Affairs, European Policy and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and Lena Andersson Perch, Director of DG REGIO at the European Commission. In the digital flair of the conference, the audience also received video messages from Alexander Stubb, Former Prime Minister of Finland and Estonia's President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves.

The Conference, labelled "Achieving E-Quality by connecting the region", addressed issues such as digital connectivity, smart energy markets, competitiveness of the region and sustainability. Representatives from the computer, tech and the telecommunication industry met policy makers from the European Commission and Estonia on stage, to reinforce the importance of digitalisation on the EUSBSR agenda, discussing points such as cybersecurity, the EU's programme for a Digital Single Market and examples such as Estonia, paving the way from bureaucracy to e-citizenship.

The Council of the Baltic Sea States was represented in sessions on the Baltic Science Network, Communicating the EUSBSR, Gender Driven Innovation and Creative Entrepreneurship, where the Programme Managers Mirjam Külm (CBSS) and Olga Knudsen (Swedish Institute) presented their joint programme Balticlub. Jan Lundin, CBSS Secretariat Director General, was interviewed on the topic of the Baltic Science Network and the Secretariat also coordinated a stand in the Networking Village.

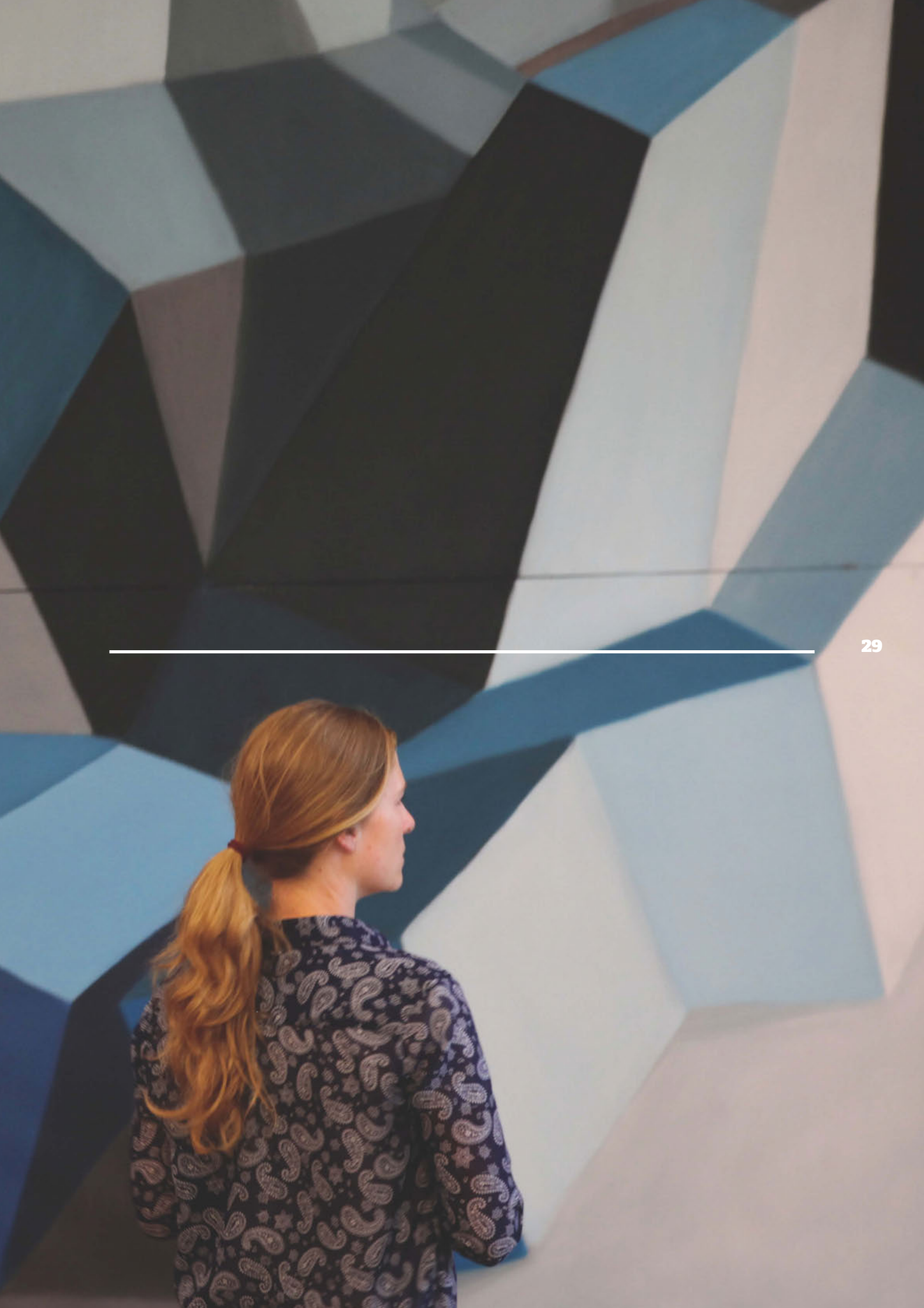
As a final headline during the closing session, the upcoming CBSS Polish Presidency and its priorities were introduced by H.E. Ewa Debska, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Latvia. The next EUSBSR Annual Forum will be hosted by Sweden in the autumn of 2016.



REGIONAL IDENTITY

28

Regional Identity, one of the three renewed long-term priorities of the CBSS, aims to develop and foster the concept of Baltic Sea Region identity and a sense of belonging to the Baltic Sea Region through engagement and dialogue.





Roundtable on Regional Identity

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Throughout the Estonian Presidency, 3 thematic gatherings were held on the long-term priorities of the CBSS back-to-back with the CSO meetings. As part of the second meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials under the Estonian Presidency, on 2 December 2014 the CBSS hosted a roundtable on Regional Identity at the Secretariat in Stockholm. The roundtable was moderated by Raul Mäik, Chair of the CSO, MFA Estonia.

Projects on cross-border cooperation, culture, education and youth cooperation were presented by experts and partners of the region, emphasizing actions and future possibilities to implement the new long-term priority Regional Identity.

Among the keynote speakers was [Anna Cara Keim, the editor of the Crossing the Baltic Blog](#), who gave a speech on regional identity in the Baltic Sea Region. In her speech she focused on the question of whether Baltic Sea Region identity exists and how it can be defined in the absence of a consensus on what Baltic Sea Region identity is. This problem was illustrated also by the results of the Crossing the Baltic survey report, which showed that people do not identify themselves with the Baltic Sea Region.

Another keynote speech was made by [Karina Petersone, Director of the Latvian Institute](#), on the topic of the impact of national identity on regional identity. She noted that there is a need to understand why the Baltic Sea Region identity should be developed. The discussion also focused on the role of collective identity, on what keeps people together: common space; collective memory; arts, literature, culture, education and tourism.

While talking about the influence of cross-border cooperation in forming regional identity, [Darja Akhutina, General Director of Norden Association](#) introduced the

project “Common Map for Culture Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region”. In her opinion the challenge in developing Baltic Sea Region identity lies in better coordination between projects in the sphere of culture tourism.

[Ms. Camilla Wristrel, Programme Manager for Talent Mobility, Swedish Institute](#) presented the Swedish Institute and its activities towards BSR identity, most notably their work with leadership and talent programmes. One programme in particular was put forward - Toolkit, which focuses on regional competitiveness and attractiveness to talent. The purpose of the Toolkit is to encourage local and regional public sector actors to enhance their efforts to welcome, receive and integrate international talents, as well as provide them with concrete tools to do so.

[Ms. Ilze Gailite Holmberg, Senior Adviser, Secretariat of the Nordic Dimension Partnership on Culture \(NDPC\)](#), however, put forward why a discussion on Baltic identity is important for the region. The Baltic Identity is worth developing, to create a space that is safer, more integrated and connected, a goal, which will take time to be reached, and one towards which the NDPC is working.

Presentations were also given by [Gabriele Woidelko, \(Körber Foundation\)](#) and [Tina Gotthardt \(Körber Foundation\)](#) who introduced the EUROSTORY project as one successful example of youth cooperation in the region.

The topic of the role of the education in forming regional identity was elaborated on by [Paula Lindroos \(Acting Director, Baltic University Programme Secretariat\)](#), [Kari Hyppönen \(President of the Baltic Sea Region University Network\)](#), and [Antti Paasio \(EuroFaculty Consortium\)](#) who all focused on the role of cooperation between universities.

[Anna Ceynowa, Co-coordinator of EUSBSR PA Culture, Polish Ministry of Culture and National](#)

[Heritage](#), said in her presentation that the strength of the Baltic Sea Region is in its diversity. She presented five actions that introduce culture cooperation in the region: traditional culture cooperation, cultural heritage, cultural industries, institutional cooperation and cultural identity.

Several initiatives, programmes and networks are operational within the CBSS Regional Identity priority. These includes Balticlab, a programme aimed at increasing regional future-thinking, innovation and prosperity through entrepreneurial and creative industry collaboration, as well as Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue (BSYD), which brings together young Europeans to discuss the region's history and future identity. BSYD has also organised an Instagram exhibition on the topic of identity, titled Balticeye. Other initiatives include EuroFaculty Pskov, the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage and ARS BALTICA. The CBSS is also a co-coordinator of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) Horizontal Action Neighbours, as well as been involved in the actions of the Policy Area Culture and the now concluded identity-building project OneBSR. You will find an overview of all the activities within these formats on the following pages.

The roundtable was the first time the CBSS invited open dialogue with all potential partners on regional identity since the adoption of the new priorities.

Balticlab 3.0: Prototyping the region's future

In its 3rd year Balticlab, the innovation programme run in partnership by the [CBSS](#) and [Swedish Institute \(SI\)](#), has grown in size, as well as ambition. The programme, bringing entrepreneurs and creatives in the Baltic Sea region together to prototype the future through joint

initiatives, aims to create a community of entrepreneurs and creatives, who through collaboration and strengthened connectedness empower the region to become more innovative, creative and prosperous.

As in previous years, Balticlab 3.0 consisted of two curated and linked events: the large-scale Balticlab Networking Weekend in December 2014 for 60 selected participants and the smaller project-building Balticlab Ideation of 30 participants, taking place between March-August 2015. The participants of this year's programme came from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus & Poland, with the aim to involve all Baltic Sea countries in the future.

Spanning across 9 countries, as well as gender and disciplines, the programme creates a strong network of talented and active decision-makers, who work together and collectively represent what the region wishes to see itself as: diverse, united and smart. With participants, who also hold a connection to Brazil, India, Japan and the USA, the programme represents a region with a global reach and mindset. Rather than politicians and public sector officials, this group represents a collective who otherwise would not be likely to work together with Baltic Sea partners on this scale.

Through its Ideation programme, Balticlab gives the participants a combination of an entrepreneurial and creative mindset and encourages them to see the potential for innovation in the region. With start-up entrepreneurs working together with the creative industries on joint projects and business ideas, both sides gain a new skillset, which they can also implement in their everyday work beyond the Balticlab framework. This year the Balticlab group has been assisted in their development process by a group of outside experts and speakers from the fields of art, PR, innovation management, future-forecasting, business modeling and entrepreneurship.





This year the programme has also expanded its collaboration with other culture and entrepreneurship initiatives in the region. A large part of this has been linked to Balticlub's role in the framework of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), with Balticlub moving from its current flagship position under Horizontal Action Neighbours to Policy Area Culture & Creative Sectors. Linked to this, Balticlub has been in talks on future collaboration with Creative Ports - an initiative by the Goethe Institute in Germany, as well as Creative Business Cup, taking place in Denmark.

This year the programme has been presented at several regional gatherings, such as the OneBSR Final Conference in Helsinki in September 2014, the EUSBSR Taskforce for Communication meeting in Stockholm in April 2015, the PA Culture Flagships workshop in Rendsburg in May and the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Jurmala in June. Balticlub was also presented as a "showcase example" at the Central Baltic Interreg Programme Annual Event in May by Baiba Liepa from INTERACT Point Turku. Additionally, Balticlub presence at the annual European Association of Communication Director's Communication Summit in Brussels in June gave opportunity to widen the network. Furthermore, for a third year running, Balticlub also took to the stage at the Swedish annual political gathering Almedalen in July, where the CBSS Secretariat Director General Jan Lundin introduced the programme as an example of regional collaboration for stronger innovation infrastructures.

In its exposure, Balticlub was also covered by the fashion, lifestyle and creative industries magazine NWind in November 2014, as well as the regional publication Baltic Rim Economies in January 2015.

One of the biggest communication outcomes for the programme this year has been the launch of its feature documentary [Balticlub: Connecting Creative](#)

[Minds](#) in cooperation with the Swedish creative agency Flip-Flop Interactive. The documentary is a journey into the Balticlub experience. With reflections from the Balticlub participants on their discoveries and challenges throughout the programme in 2014, as well as contributions from the Balticlub mentors and inspirational speakers, the film explores Balticlub as a process and the Baltic Sea Region as a place where creativity, innovation and interdisciplinary connections flourish.

As a part of its increasing policy-changing agenda, Balticlub is currently working on a Balticlub Gold Book, which will map the creative and entrepreneurial scene in the region, as well as a Balticlub Innofesto- Manifesto for Innovation. Balticlub Innofesto will act as a policy document, combining input from the Balticlub Network on what they see as essential conditions for a more favourable habitat for innovation in the Baltic Sea Region.

For more information on Balticlub and the group ideas from this year see www.balticlub-online.eu.

Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue: a view on the region through the eyes of young Europeans

In collaboration with [Koerber Foundation](#) and [Narva College](#), the [Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat](#) organised the first Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue in September 2014. From their respective networks, they invited 25 young Europeans, aged 16-19, from 12 different countries to a weeklong programme of workshops, lectures, debates and practical experiences that took place in Tallinn and Narva (Estonia), as well as in Ivangorod (Russian Federation).

Coming from a generation that grew up in a Europe of free movement, the participants developed their own





perspective of history and different dimensions of their personal, cultural and regional identity.

In addition to workshops and roundtable discussions on history and identity, including a session with [Jevgeni Ossinovski, Minister of Education and Research](#) of the Republic of Estonia, the participants also worked on an Instagram exhibition of the event titled “Balticeye”, which was opened on 29 January at the premises of the Directorate-General for Regional Policy, European Commission in Brussels. The three winning images from the #balticeye Instagram exhibition are on permanent display in Estonia, in the main gallery hall of Narva College.

The exhibition, which opened in Narva, documents the participants' views on their generation, shared past, life on borders and identities. The exhibition is also viewable at www.balticeye.net.

On 24-27 June 2015, the event “The Future of the Baltic Sea Region in 2040 – Strengthening the Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue 2014” gathered 17 young Europeans in Genshagen, Germany. The group, consisting of participants from the 1st Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue back in 2014, met for a follow-up module to discuss and reflect on the history and future of the Baltic Sea region. Through a combination of workshops, roundtable discussions and presentations, the event aimed to provide knowledge and share experiences about the common history and present-day situation in the Baltic Sea region, as well as to create a common ground for the future. To symbolise the participants' journeys in the Baltic Sea Region in the future, they designed personalised suitcases over the module and presented them to the group.

The 2nd Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue takes place in Olsztyn, Poland in September 2015 under the Polish CBSS Presidency.

EuroFaculty Pskov- upgrading university education in Pskov

The EuroFaculty Pskov project is an educational development project launched in 2009 in the region of Pskov in Western Russia, close to the border of Estonia and Latvia. The aim of the project is to up-grade university education in Business Economics/Business Administration at the Pskov State University (PskovSU), which is a result of a merger of five education institutions in Pskov.

2015 marks the final year of the EuroFaculty Pskov (EF-P) project, after an extension until December 2015. The project looks back on an active year of regional cooperation, with several working groups dedicated to teaching exchange, university capacity building, university-business collaboration and innovation.

The Inno working group has been active in raising and disseminating awareness of entrepreneurship and innovation. A dynamic seminar on university-business-collaboration “Innovation for International Growth” was organised in January 2015 in Riga with more than one hundred participants. A workshop on entrepreneurial activities for students took place in February 2015 in PskovSU with over 40 attendees. During the workshop, students were developing business ideas in teams and they were given presentations on students-driven entrepreneurship societies at University of Turku (Boost Turku) and University of Latvia (Boom Riga). Similar work will continue under the Working Group Inno during the final project year, such as a teacher training programme in autumn 2015.

The Master Working Group is dedicated to establish an international Master at PskovSU jointly with University of Latvia. Both programmes and faculties are cooperating in various ways such as joint teaching,

merging parts of its content and the exchange of teachers and students. Several new initiatives during the final project year are planned.

In an effort to learn from the past and plan for the future, the Committee of Senior Officials have discussed the legacy of EF, based on the report submitted by the EF Pskov Management Team at the University of Turku at its meetings in December 2014 in Stockholm, in April and in June 2015 in Tallinn.

In order to evaluate the long-term success of the EF programme, the need for a thorough, independent evaluation was raised and a call for tender placed. As a result of the tender, the independent evaluation will be carried out by Technopolis Group, Estonia. A preliminary evaluation report of the EuroFaculty Pskov Project 2009 – 2015 and applicability of the EuroFaculty concept in the future is expected in October 2015.

ONEBSR: Ten nations, thousands of stories

As a part of the priority of Regional Identity, the CBSS has been involved in the now finalised OneBSR project - an umbrella project for branding the Baltic Sea Region (BSR), with various stakeholders together aiming to produce elements for the Baltic Sea Region image and identity. To this end, the CBSS was represented at the OneBSR final conference “Baltic Sea Region Global Competitiveness: Challenges and Opportunities”, with the Head of Media & Communication of the CBSS Secretariat Anthony Jay taking part at the panel on culture and identity, and the Balticlab Programme Manager Mirjam Külm from the CBSS Secretariat representing the CBSS on the panel on public-private partnerships in regional promotion. The final conference reviewed what has been achieved and

also looked to the future. The conference’s closing session shared the most important participant take-a-ways and future perspectives with the attendants.

Previously, the CBSS Balticlab programme has also played a role in the project’s Tallinn pitching event “IdeaMarket” in September 2013, where Balticlab offered a special prize for the winning group, to attend the Balticlab 2.0 Networking Weekend in December 2013.

The OneBSR project took place between September 2012 and September 2014, with the objective to market the whole region and its different parts by developing joint promotional services and test them in practice, to give positive publicity to BSR lifestyles and to encourage a “we-feeling” in the Baltic Sea Region.

Intergovernmental Cultural Cooperation

Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States: Cultural heritage as a strategic resource on the regional level

The Monitoring Group has at the moment three active working groups. Activities of the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States focus both on intrinsic value of cultural heritage and its sustainable management. They promote the potential of cultural heritage as a strategic resource for sustainable and competitive development of the region. The Monitoring Group is one of the CBSS’ intergovernmental working groups, which is dedicated to identifying, acknowledging and highlighting the rich diversity of the Baltic Sea States cultural heritage. Additionally to the CBSS priority “Regional Identity”, the Monitoring Group contributes to the priorities “Sustainable and Prosperous Region” and “Safe and Secure Region”, as the group’s activities also address sustainable management, good practices and topical challenges on the regional level.

Active member-states of the Monitoring Group during the Estonian Presidency were Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Germany (Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenburg-Verpommern). During the Estonian Presidency, the Monitoring Group held two meetings: in Kiel in October 2014 and in Stockholm in April 2015. The elaboration of a revised Monitoring Group Strategy 2015-2020 also started with a workshop held in spring 2014. The work continued in the framework of the Pro BSR - project, which is financed by the CBSS Project Support Facility and where the Monitoring Group acts as a Reference Group.

One of the objectives of the Pro BSR-project is to map joint regional actions across sectors in maritime policy. The Monitoring Group at the moment has three active working groups. The regional approaches of the BSR Working Group on Underwater Heritage have proved that the Baltic Sea holds a unique treasure of underwater heritage. Increasingly, its underwater and coastal heritage is





endangered due to large infrastructure investments in the sea-bed and coastal areas. Maritime spatial planning (MSP) is a topical joint approach in the EU and BSR, and could be used as an effective tool for comprehensive and exemplary cross-sector approaches. Thereby, in line with protecting the marine biodiversity, we could preserve the invaluable diversity of underwater cultural heritage of the Baltic Sea.

The Baltic Sea Region Working Group on Underwater Heritage is bringing the regional underwater database up-to-date. The PSF-funded project “Evaluating the Universal Value of the Submerged Heritage of the Baltic Sea (USHer)” is led by the Estonian National Heritage Board. The BSR Working Group on Coastal Culture and Maritime Heritage is preparing a travelling exhibition and a booklet on coastal culture issues in the BSR. The Council of Europe’s Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro-convention) acts as a streamlining reference for the theme of the BSR Working Group on 20th Century Built Heritage. Each Working Group has met at least twice a year.

Preparations for the VI BSR Cultural Heritage Forum have also started. The event will be held in September 2016 at the University of Kiel. The historic legacy of post-war 20th century architecture in a regional context will be analysed and discussed. An evaluation of different types of environmental areas in all BSS countries will be presented to decision-makers and professionals in the field. The purpose is also to raise awareness of challenges regarding preservation and maintenance of these milieus. The event will contribute to the development of a regional perspective and a common approach to revitalise and reuse these areas in a sustainable manner.

The Monitoring Group guides and coordinates the preparations, which are carried out by the BSR Working Group on 20th Century Built Heritage. The Archaeologisches Landesamt Schleswig-Holstein and

National Heritage Board of Sweden are in charge of practical preparations and an online report of the Forum. The Ministry of Justice, Culture Issues and European Affairs Schleswig-Holstein supports the event.

Contributing to the diversity of European heritage and adopting European policies on a regional level.

The EU enables a tailored regional policy for each of its macro-regions and their specific circumstances. The EUSBSR is one example of this, corresponding to challenges and resources of the Baltic Sea region. The Monitoring Group has contributed to the content of the revised EUSBSR Action Plan regarding the Policy Area Culture. The group also closely follows the work of the Reflection Group “EU and Cultural Heritage”, which has contributed to the Council of EU’s formal statement, “On Cultural Heritage as a Strategic Resource for a Sustainable Europe” (June 2014). The conclusions of this paper reflect an entirely new, more comprehensive approach to relations between various EU regulations and cultural heritage. This initiative creates an inspiring framework for further regional collaboration cross sectors.

ARS BALTICA: Building cultural bridges around the Baltic Sea region and beyond

The year 2014 has been a strong year of transition for the cultural initiative ARS BALTICA, which has since its foundation in 1990 maintained strong links with the Council of the Baltic Sea States. On many levels new energy and a forward drive was put into gear by creating new prosperous cultural partnerships throughout the



Baltic Sea Region and beyond. More responsibility has been taken on a political level. ARS BALTICA has advised its stakeholders within the cultural field on projects & creative solutions and been present at the hotspots of culture around the Baltic Sea Region to speak up for culture as the driving force for social well-being and a sustainable society.

Having strongly lobbied, alongside with the Ministry for Culture and National Heritage of Poland and the Ministry for Culture and European Affairs of Land Schleswig-Holstein, for Culture to become one of the Policy Areas within the EUSBSR in 2013, ARS BALTICA has since taken an important role in implementing the new Policy Area by giving professional advice on cultural matters, as well as giving technical support for marketing and a strong online-presence. Several creative workshops within the PA Culture framework have so far been co-organized and designed with the help of ARS BALTICA.

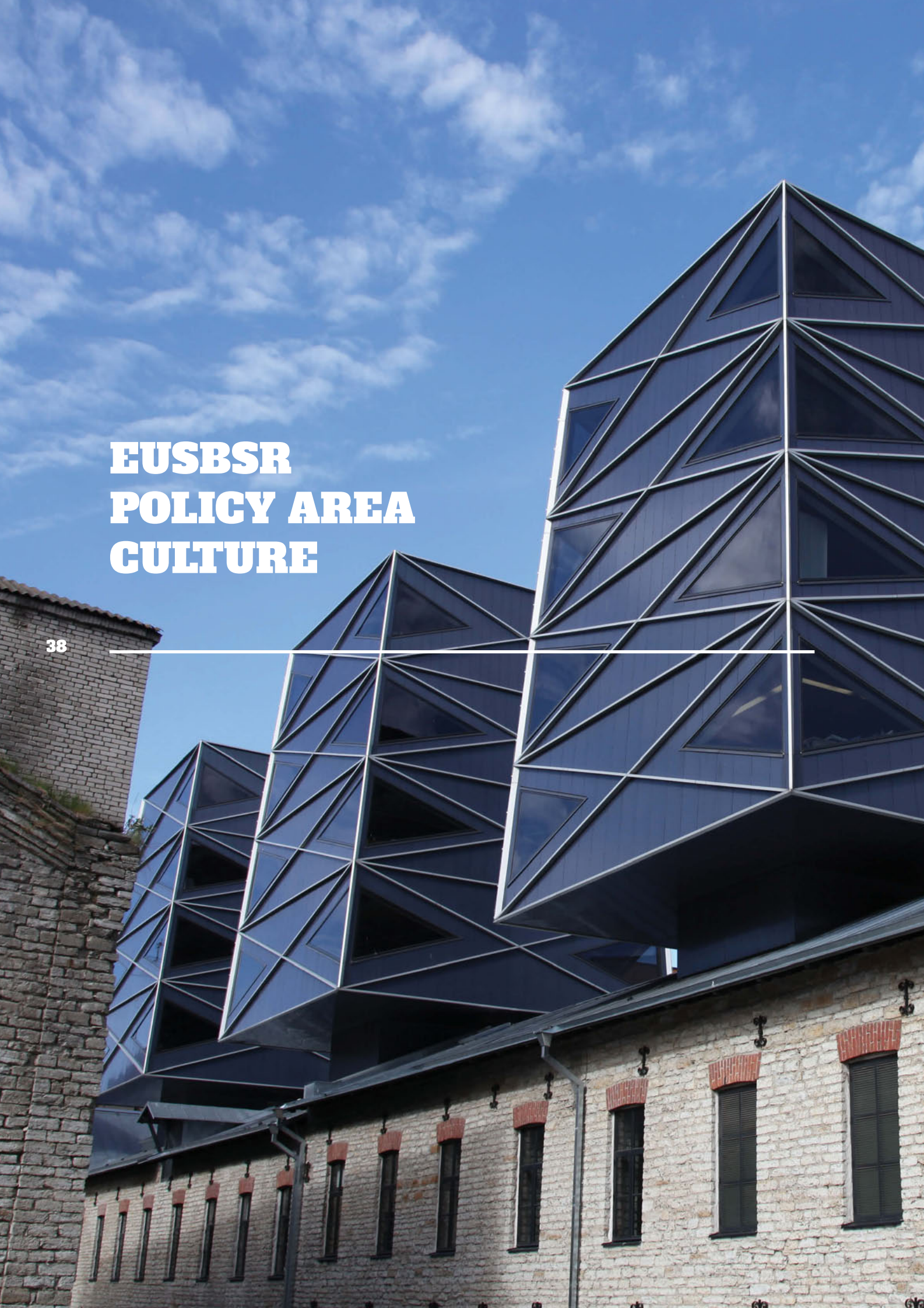
The latest workshop was held in Schleswig Holstein on 19-20 May 2015 and brought together twelve strong cultural programmes & projects from all around the Baltic Sea within the acting-fields of Cultural Heritage, Social Innovation and Culture & Creative Industries, in order to define possible synergies and to receive information and advice on possible funding tools. The outcome was fruitful for the participants, who left the workshop with new ideas and concrete solutions on how to move forward. With its involvement in the EUSBSR and the PA Culture framework, ARS BALTICA shows a strong presence at major political platforms. Amongst the most significant of these platforms in 2014/2015 were the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Turku in June 2015, the first PA Culture conference in Tallinn in November 2014, the BSSSC annual conferences in Helsinki & Jurmala and many trips to all the cultural ministries around the Baltic Sea, to promote further development of cultural cooperation and creativity.

At the renowned Tallinn Music Week, a special session was held on cultural cooperation throughout the region, discussing new forms of working together and offering inspiration and advice to young professionals in the field of music. As one of the cultural highlights, the Nordlichter Biennale in Berlin joined forces with ARS BALTICA in the end of 2013 and another edition in 2014, which proved a great success with over a hundred artists and creative people from the whole region coming together to celebrate and share music as a common language in front of over 2,000 visitors. With the support of ARS BALTICA, the festival will now take the next step and merge into a platform teaming up with partners from Estonia, Norway and Denmark, to become the first real space of shared-sounds in the region.

In 2014/2015 a strong focus was put on defining how to strengthen the approach of a "network for networks", to help scale up the presence and visibility of cultural actors, creative entrepreneurs and cultural acts from

around the Baltic Sea and beyond. The result so far was a clear necessity of well-defined spaces to meet in person to exchange ideas, to give advice, to find project-partners and as a next step to realize visionary cultural projects. This approach has in the last two years led to concrete results in bringing together complementary projects and partners from all countries involved, plus many countries outside the region. To name a few, ARS BALTICA has in 2014/15 helped new projects such as Baltic House, Culturability BSR, Baltic Warriors, Bridges Arts & Science, Creative Ports and Nordlichter Biennale. to get in touch with new actors and develop their concept further to successfully define the creative future of the region. Partnerships and synergies with renown platforms such as the Union of Baltic Cities, The Four Motors of Europe, OnTheMove, Goethe Institute and other important actors in Europe are being defined, to further develop bridges within already concrete projects. Parallel to new initiatives, already existing partnerships have been supported by daily work with press-releases, social-media support and a monthly newsletters, as well as sharing their work and information through the valuable database of contacts, which is constantly being updated and developed.

To underline the international aspect and to create further possibilities in developing international cultural links, ARS BALTICA has in October 2014 opened a new subsidiary office located within the premises of the Embassy of land Schleswig-Holstein in Berlin alongside the existing office in the NORDKOLLEG Academy of Culture in Rendsburg. This allows ARS BALTICA to further move on in supporting cultural cooperation within the Baltic Sea Region and to further advocate for the significance of arts and culture on the political level.



EUSBSR POLICY AREA CULTURE





EUSBSR Policy Area Culture: Culture as a resource for creativity and innovation

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Culture, including creative industries, the arts and cultural heritage, are sources of common identity and shared values. Building on these aspects will boost the commitment of the region to the goals of the EUSBSR and to territorial cohesion. Recognising culture as a resource for creativity and innovation by integrating the creative and cultural sector in the region will simultaneously enhance its potential for economic growth and employment. PA Culture focuses on promoting and visualizing BSR culture and creative industries, on preserving and showcasing its cultural heritage and on improving and facilitating cultural cooperation in the region. In doing so Policy Area Culture contributes to the fulfillment of the following overall objectives of the EUSBSR: connecting people in the region, improving competitiveness & meeting the targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

After having successfully lobbied for this new Policy Area within the EUSBSR back in 2013, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland and the Ministry of Justice, Cultural and European Affairs of Land Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) have taken on the role as Policy Area Coordinators. They are supported in the implementation by the BSR cultural initiative ARS BALTICA and the Nordic Council of Ministers and other BSR relevant stakeholders, such as the Council of the Baltic Sea States, as well as Ministries of Culture from the Baltic Sea Region. The PA Culture Steering Group (SG) aims to ensure that PA Culture activities are aligned with the interests of the whole region. The SG is made up of representatives of the Ministries of Culture of the Baltic Sea states as well as of relevant BSR organizations dealing with cultural affairs. The

SG contributes to taking decisions regarding the further development of the Priority Area, its objectives, projects, co-operations and guiding principles.

CBSS role within PA Culture during the Estonian Presidency:

In diverse formats and events throughout the year, which were organised in close cooperation with all the different partners, the policy area works towards reaching out to cultural actors and increasing cooperation and synergy-building within the BSR.

One such highlight was a workshop on Culture and Creative Industries held within the premises of the CBSS Secretariat in Stockholm on October 29-30, 2014. The meeting was co-hosted by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of Poland and the Ministry of Justice, Cultural and European Affairs Schleswig-Holstein with support by ARS BALTICA and the Adam Mickiewicz Institute. The CBSS hosted 45 representatives from the music and fashion industries from all the Baltic Sea Region countries, still facing many difficulties on their path to be successful on the global market and thus seeking support on their way to expanding their brands internationally. The event was moderated by Ragnar Siil, founder of Creativity Lab, and consisted of two parallel workstreams focusing on the fashion industry and the music industry, as well as a final roundtable on how to bring these industries forward in a regional setting. Among the speakers and participants were Helen Sildna, the founder of Tallinn Music Week, Natalie Mets, one of the founders of the Baltic Scene initiative, as well as several fashion designers and music managers from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

The innovation programme Balticlub, a partnership between CBSS & Swedish Institute, has also significantly increased its role within the PA Culture framework, having recently applied to become a flagship under the policy area. Balticlub was hence presented at the PA Culture Flagship Projects workshop in Rendsburg 19-20 May and at the PA Culture-led parallel session "Culture and Creative Entrepreneurship" at the EUSBSR Annual Forum in Jurmala 14-16 June 2015.

As a part of the PA Culture Steering Committee, the CBSS was also represented at the Steering Committee meeting in Jurmala on 16 June 2015, where future flagship projects of the priority, including Balticlub, were presented.

More information on the activities and projects of PA Culture can be found at:
www.eusbsrculture.eu




Anke Spoorendonk, Minister of Justice & Cultural and European Affairs from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany visits the CBSS Secretariat to talk culture and cooperation

On 6 March, 2015, the CBSS Secretariat hosted a meeting with Anke Spoorendonk, Minister of Justice & Cultural and European Affairs from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, to talk about ongoing and future activities linked to culture under the EUSBSR Policy Area Culture & Horizontal Action Neighbours. The minister was accompanied by Stefan Musiolik, Co-coordinator of EUSBSR PA Culture & Head of Unit of Baltic & North Sea Affairs at the Ministry of Justice of Schleswig-Holstein.

Jan Lundin, Director General of the CBSS Secretariat and Eduardas Borisovas, Deputy Director, introduced the state of play of flagships under HA Neighbors. Anthony Jay, Head of Media and Communications briefed the Minister on this year's activities of Balticlab 3.0 in Riga, Warsaw and Gothenburg. The importance of culture as a uniting force was stressed alongside a constructive dialogue on youth cooperation. Dr. Iris Kempe, Senior Adviser for Culture at the CBSS Secretariat, introduced the work on the Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue, which took place in Tallinn, Narva and Ivangorod in September 2014. The Minister also met with Alice Bah Kuhnke, Swedish Minister for Culture and Democracy during their stay in Stockholm.

Next to collaboration in the framework of the EUSBSR, the CBSS Secretariat and the Land of Schleswig Holstein also collaborate within ARS BALTICA, and the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage.



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The hand is wearing a grey, textured knit glove. The background is dark and out of focus, with some other sparklers visible in the distance.

EUSBSR HORIZONTAL ACTION NEIGHBOURS

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Building understanding between stakeholders across the region

The main goal of Horizontal Action 'Neighbours' is to promote dialogue and cooperation between multilevel stakeholders in the EU and the North Western territories of the Russian Federation, Belarus, Norway and Iceland, in a mutually advantageous manner. It works especially to facilitate cooperation 'across the borders' in the policy areas where such cooperation is needed and improves the efficiency of the EUSBSR or addresses the interests of both, the EU and non-EU participants. The Horizontal Action is based on two independent but parallel streams of activities: the extensive work of CBSS to promote regional cooperation between its Member States, and the 'Turku process', a joint initiative by the cities of Turku/Regional Council of Southwest Finland, St. Petersburg and Hamburg (Secretariat by the Centrum Balticum Foundation) to promote practical cooperation between EU and Russian partners. The current flagships under Horizontal Action Neighbours include the CBSS & Koerber Foundation joint project Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue, Eurofaculty Pskov and the Rominten project, which addresses the issues of development of cross-border areas for sustainable tourism, as well as

fostering labour market related activities in the the Rominten Forest/Vistynets Lake area in the South-Eastern Baltic Area.

In cooperation between Horizontal Action Neighbours, the CBSS's Strategic Partner Baltic Sea Region University Network and the EUSBSR PA Education, a seminar was held on 28 October 2014 in St. Petersburg, Russia, targeting higher education stakeholders in northwest Russia. More than 40 representatives from over 10 universities participated in a discussion on how to increase participation by Russian educational institutions in relevant parts of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy, including education, youth and labour mobility. The main CBSS activities in this area were also introduced, in particular the Eurofaculty Pskov project. After the conference, PA Education coordinators received one-page summaries from five universities in St Petersburg, presenting proposals for new project initiatives.

HA Neighbours coordinators Jan Lundin, Director General of the CBSS Secretariat and Mikko Lohikoski, City of Turku, also participated in a workshop on common ground between regional strategies at the traditional Baltic Sea Days on 19 March 2015 in St Petersburg.

A similar event was held in Reykjavik, Iceland,

on 12 May 2015, where representatives of the European Commission DG REGIO, HA Neighbours, the Union of Baltic Cities and CBSS introduced Baltic Sea Cooperation and the EUSBSR to Icelandic stakeholders, through an initiative organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland.

In an effort to explain Baltic Sea Governance and the EUSBSR also to stakeholders outside the region and to learn about similar approaches elsewhere, Director General of the CBSS Secretariat and representatives of DG REGIO participated in a conference on macro-regional strategies and regional organisations in Sarajevo on 21 April 2015.

The second meeting of the HA Neighbours Coordination Group took place in Jurmala on 15 June 2015. On 14 June a Maritime Dialogue event "Promoting Maritime Dimension in Baltic Sea Cooperation", involving also Russian stakeholders, was co-organised by HA Neighbours and the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy in cooperation with DG Mare, DG Regio, Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), and PA Safe and PA Ship.

A follow-up event of the HA Neighbours/EUSBSR seminar for Norwegian stakeholders, which took place in May 2014, is also taking place on 27 August 2015 in Oslo.

**SUSTAINABLE
AND
PROSPEROUS
REGION**





The Sustainable & Prosperous Region priority of the CBSS focuses on contributing to improved living standards in the Baltic Sea Region, through joint efforts and pooling of expertise of the countries of the region. The priority works towards finding efficient solutions to modern challenges, giving a strong impetus to sustainable economic and social development, healthy societies and dynamic ecosystems in a balanced and integrated manner.

Thematic Session on the Sustainable & Prosperous priority at the 1st CSO meeting of the Estonian Presidency

The implementation of the Sustainable and Prosperous Region long-term priority was one of the main themes at the first CSO meeting under the CBSS Estonian Presidency on 29-30 September 2014 in Tallinn. The CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 represented by the Chair Ms. Ülle Vaht, Adviser at the Estonian Ministry of Environment and Ms. Krista Kampus, Head of the Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 - of the CBSS Secretariat, presented the unit's strategic framework, and made proposals on the future implementation of the long term priority Sustainable & Prosperous Region.

Selected CBSS Intergovernmental Networks, such as VASAB, represented by Martina Proosa, Chair of the VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region and Talis Linkaits, Head of VASAB Secretariat, and BASREC, introduced by Thorsten Vertmann, Counsellor of the Energy Department of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia holding the BASREC Presidency, shared their views on how their networks could add value in developing a prosperous and sustainable region in the future. The CBSS Secretariat Director General Jan Lundin, also presented the Baltic Sea Labour Forum and the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy and their possible input into the implementation of this long term priority.

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The Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP)

The Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP) held a special consultation of the Expert Group's mandate in April 2015, before the Committee of Senior Officials agreed on the prolongation of the mandate during their meeting in Tallinn in June 2015. Read more on the renewed mandate on page 23. The Estonian chairmanship of the EGMP was carried out under the slogan "The Baltic Sea Connects" with the main focus on developing maritime transport links between small and medium size cargo ports, promoting the cruise industry in the region and creating a network and marketing strategy for yacht harbours.

The Expert Group gathered on two other occasions during the Estonian Presidency. The 15th meeting of the EGMP took place in Tallinn on 30 January 2015, at the premises of the VTS centre of the Estonian Maritime Administration, which hosted a number of guest speakers focusing on the cruise industry and maritime transport links in the Baltic Sea Region. It was followed by an internal EGMP session, which was opened by

Ambassador Raul Mälk, Chair of the CSO under the Estonian CBSS Presidency.

On 14th of April in Old Harbour Yacht Marina, Tallinn, representatives of the EGMP Member States discussed the future work of the Group and concluded the drafting of the Concept Note.

On Sunday, 14 June 2015, back-to-back with the EUSBSR Annual Forum, the EGMP co-organised the event "Promoting the Maritime Dimension in the Baltic Sea Cooperation" in Jurmala, Latvia, together with HA Neighbours, City of Turku, DG Mare, DG Regio, Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC), EUSBSR PA Safe and PA Ship. After welcoming words by Mikko Lohikosi, City of Turku, a panel discussion with Haitze Siemens, Head of Unit of DG Mare, and Odd Godal, Norwegian National Expert from DG Regio, provided the delegation with a perspective from the European Commission. The Estonian EGMP Chair Tarmo Ots gave an insight into current and future activities of the Expert Group. A number of key actors of the maritime sector, such as HELCOM's Executive Secretary Monika Stankiewicz, Sanna Sonninen from the Finnish Transport Safety Agency and Alexey Bakhtov from the St. Petersburg Initiative, spoke on ongoing actions and initiatives, which are dedicated to sustainable shipping, the digitalisation of maritime safety and regional cooperation.

The event opened a discussion on issues, which also had a high profile during the Annual Forum in Jurmala 15-16 June, where several panels and workshops addressed the topics of blue growth, maritime safety and initiatives for a cleaner Baltic Sea.





Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF)

The Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) is a tripartite Forum for Social Dialogue in the Baltic Sea Region, which was founded in 2011 (as one of the main results of the former The Baltic Sea Labour Network project). It consists of 28 member organisations (social partners) and observers from around the Baltic Sea Region, promoting cross-border labour market cooperation. The BSLF serves as a platform for exchange of experience and communication between social partners and other key labour market actors in the Baltic Sea Region. This is realised through member meetings, projects and the Annual Roundtable meeting. The focus areas are youth employment and mobility of labour. The BSLF aims to promote social dialogue, tripartite structures and cooperation as crucial elements of sustainable growth and social development in the BSR. Baltic Sea Labour Forum is also a flagship project of the EUSBSR Project Policy Area Education under the action social inclusion - developing innovative education and youth, coordinated by Hamburg (Germany) and the Norden Association (in Sweden).

The Annual Round tables and the Enlarged Steering Committee meetings of the BSLF are attended by the CBSS Secretariat Director General, the Head of Media and Communications and the Senior Adviser assigned to the economic development portfolio in their capacities as Steering Committee Member and Facilitator Team Member. The lead and coordinator of BSLF is the CBSS Secretariat. The CBSS Secretariat is supported by BWH - Education and Training Service for Hamburg Businesses, Germany.

Political support

The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) Secretariat is one of the founding members of the BSLF

and supports the work actively in the Facilitator Team and Steering Committee. The German MP and member of the BSPC Standing Committee, Franz Thönnies, is a member of BLSF Steering Committee.

During the Estonian Presidency the BSLF focused on topics of mobility of labour and also demographic issues.

Joint Tripartite Conference of the Best Agers Lighthouses project and Baltic Sea Labour Forum

On 16-17 September 2014 about 120 participants gathered in Riga to discuss the topic "Employment for the Future: How should the Baltic Sea Region respond to ageing workforces". The conference participants shared good practices of employers and trade unions and identified a need for further transnational cooperation. Nine exhibition stands offered information about practical age management experiences. Visitors also had the chance to talk to company representatives and partners of the Best Agers Lighthouses project. The scientific and practical findings of the project fed into recommendations for social partners and policy-makers as well as for employers. The Best Agers Lighthouses project was part-financed by the European Union's Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 and ended in September 2014.

The seed money project **BSLFmobINIT** started in December 2014 and aims to develop a work and project plan for a new BSLF Flagship Initiative, addressing mobility of labour in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). It is partly financed by the EUSBSR Seed Money Facility. Taking up the recommendations of the EUSBSR Action Plan, the seed money project is focused on three working areas, which are all relevant for the flagship project: cross border labour market information for employees

and companies; working conditions and the prevention of undeclared work & vocational mobility, occupational orientation and school-business cooperation.

Upcoming events during the CBSS Polish Presidency

BSLF and the seed money project BSLFmobINIT are organising a Roundtable meeting on 18 November 2015 in Gdansk, Poland as a part of the upcoming Polish Presidency.

Visit the website of the Baltic Sea Labour Forum at www.bslf.eu to find out more about the organisations.

VASAB – CBSS Intergovernmental Network

As one of the main future goals for VASAB, the 8th VASAB Ministerial urged the Member States and the Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR) to initiate and support territorial development and maritime spatial planning projects.

"We have to concentrate our efforts on the issues important for us all: planning and balancing the use of marine space, improving accessibility and connectivity, ensuring energy connections, and a shift towards renewable resources and energy saving, applying the place based approach to the development, creating prerequisites for development of different types of regions. Without a doubt, one of the important themes for the next seven years is maritime spatial planning. We realised it already five years ago in Vilnius and made it one of the priorities for our cooperation. And it is an important priority up to today, even increasingly so," emphasised Minister of the Interior of Estonia, Hanno Pevkur at the conference on 26 September in Tallinn.

VASAB is together with HELCOM a coordinator of Horizontal Action "Spatial Planning" within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). During the Estonian chairmanship several new project ideas were supported in the field of urban flood management, urban campus development, urban brownfield regeneration and cross-border maritime spatial planning.

Moreover, VASAB is represented and participates actively in both, the CBSS - Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 and the Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Dialogue Platform.

VASAB was one of the organisers of the VI Annual Forum of the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy, which took place on 15-16 June 2015. As underlined by VASAB Chair, Katri-Liis Ennok, "we believe that the VI Annual Forum supported by VASAB will be successful in providing new ideas, new stimulus and new perspectives for the Region."

BASREC – CBSS Intergovernmental Network

The collaboration between the CBSS Baltic 21 Unit and BASREC has increased during the last year. BASREC actively contributed to elaborating the policy recommendations "Bioenergy Production in the Baltic Sea Region" by the CBSS Baltic 21 project "Bioenergy Promotion". The CBSS Baltic 21 has been involved in the work of the Carbon Capture Storage Network – a network initiated by BASREC. The Head of the CBSS Baltic 21 Unit, Ms Krista Kampus, attended the BASREC meeting in Estonia on 25th of March 2015, where the possibilities for future integrated cooperation between CBSS and BASREC were discussed among other issues.







The meeting also addressed possibilities to improve the efficiency of the BASREC format after 2015, including the GSEO meetings and the role of BASREC within the regional cooperation networks of the Baltic Sea Region. The countries found that beyond 2015, the GSEO will meet on an ad hoc basis, based on mutual interest in regional energy issues. The new initiatives post-2015, which require dedicated financing, will be discussed and decided on a case-by-case basis by interested parties.

In regards to the CBSS new long term priority “Sustainable and Prosperous Region” and the strategic actions on development of a low-carbon economy, energy efficiency and energy labelling, as well as the EUSBSR new Horizontal Action “Climate Change”, led by the CBSS and its action “Low-emission development”, BASREC is a very important contributor to the future implementation of the mentioned actions. Therefore it is important to maintain and strengthen the cooperation between CBSS Baltic 21 and BASREC – e.g. by involving the BASREC experts in the work of the CBSS Climate Dialogue Platform as well as in the Flagships and initiatives on emission reduction and low-emission development.

Expert Group on Sustainable Development (EGSD) – Baltic 21

The Expert Group of Sustainable Development (EGSD) convened two times during the Estonian Presidency, the 11th meeting was held 21- 22 October 2014 in Tallinn and the 12th meeting was held in Tallinn on 28 April 2015.

For the Estonian Chairmanship of the EGSD, the main areas of focus have been the Baltic 21 review, the

promotion of sustainable development and the joint climate change actions in the BSR (including implementing the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference resolution on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency).

The Estonian EGSD Chairmanship was kicked off with the international seminar [“We cannot do it alone - How to save the sea on shores across borders”](#) organised by Baltic 21 on 1st of July in Visby. The seminar highlighted some of the main policy actions and discussed the added value of cross-border cooperation in saving the Baltic Sea waters while ensuring sustainable development and inclusive growth. The seminar was organised in cooperation with the EUSBSR PA HAZARD, the Swedish Institute, the Zennström Foundation and the Baltic Sea Action Group. The keynote speeches were provided by Mr Meelis Münt, Deputy Secretary General of the Estonian Ministry of Environment Ms. Lowri Evans, Director General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Ms. Elena Basile, the Italian Ambassador to Sweden and Ms. Ewa Dębska, Head of Northern Europe Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland.

With the aim to improve the [coordination of sustainable development](#) in the BSR, the EGSD has continued with the implementation of the Baltic 21 review process as well as following-up on the assessment study “Assessing the status of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region: a macro-regional perspective”, carried out by the Uppsala Centre for Sustainable Development at Uppsala University. The results of the external evaluation of Baltic 21 and the recommendations were introduced at the CSO meeting on 3-4 February in Tallinn, Estonia, and further discussed during the 12th EGSD meeting on 28 April in Tallinn, Estonia.

[Education for Sustainable Development](#) was another focus area during the Estonian EGSD Chairmanship. The Estonian Environmental Board and the Estonian Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Research, University of Tartu, Tallinn University, Wageningen University (Netherlands), Daugavpils University (Latvia), Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre and Baltic University Programme organised an International Conference [“Pathways to the Future”](#) 22-24 April in Tallinn, Estonia. The keynote speech was given by [Mr. Marko Pomerants, Estonian Minister of Environment](#).

The four thematic sessions (Creativity in and for ESD, Values in education and ethics of ESD, Sustainable schools and Sustainable communities) provided an opportunity to share ideas and experiences between the Baltic Sea region countries and to discuss the future of education which could support sustainable development. The Conference contributed to the World Environmental Education Congress, which took place on 29 June - 2 July 2015 in Gothenburg, Sweden.

[Climate Change Action](#) (climate adaptation and low emission development), has been another key area for

the EGSD. Two roundtable meetings of the BSR Climate Dialogue Platform were facilitated in 2014, thus further implementing the Baltic Sea region Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan. In October 2014, the EGSD approved the policy recommendations “Bioenergy promotion in the BSR”, elaborated by the EUSBSR Flagship “Bioenergy Promotion 2”, and submitted them to BASREC in order to support further implementation of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference resolution on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency.

The EGSD has also contributed to the EUSBSR coordination and review process, leading to a revision of Horizontal Action Sustainable Development into Horizontal Action Climate: www.cbss.org/sustainable-prosperous-region/egsd-baltic-21/

Sustainable Development coordination in the BSR

In the summer of 2014 the Council acknowledged the Expert Group on Sustainable Development for its previous work in implementing the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015, and provided new recommendations for the future. It called for the EGSD, to work on a new sustainable development agenda for the BSR post-2015 as well as to proceed with activities relating to climate change action and facilitating green economy, energy efficiency, sustainable production and consumption in the region.

Following the Council’s decisions and inspired by the current global processes to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the EGSD has continued its effort to coordinate sustainable development by facilitating the discussions on further implementation, the SDGs in national, as well as sub-national level.

Towards this end, on 9 April in Stockholm, the EGSD and the Baltic 21 Unit as the Leader of EUSBSR Horizontal Action “Sustainable” organised a seminar “Improving the Baltic Sea Regions capacity towards Sustainable Development”. The seminar aimed to

initiate discussions between the BSR countries on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the UN’s Open Working Group and to bring the conversation about the upcoming SDGs into a Baltic Sea Region context, as well as to engage stakeholders across the region and across sectors in a dialogue. The event, which was moderated by Alan AtKisson, founder and president of AtKisson Group, gathered representatives from the ministries and government institutions in charge of SD coordination, Pan-Baltic organisations, EUSBSR coordinators, experts working with the UN Stakeholder Forum and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and a representative from the U.S. Embassy Copenhagen.

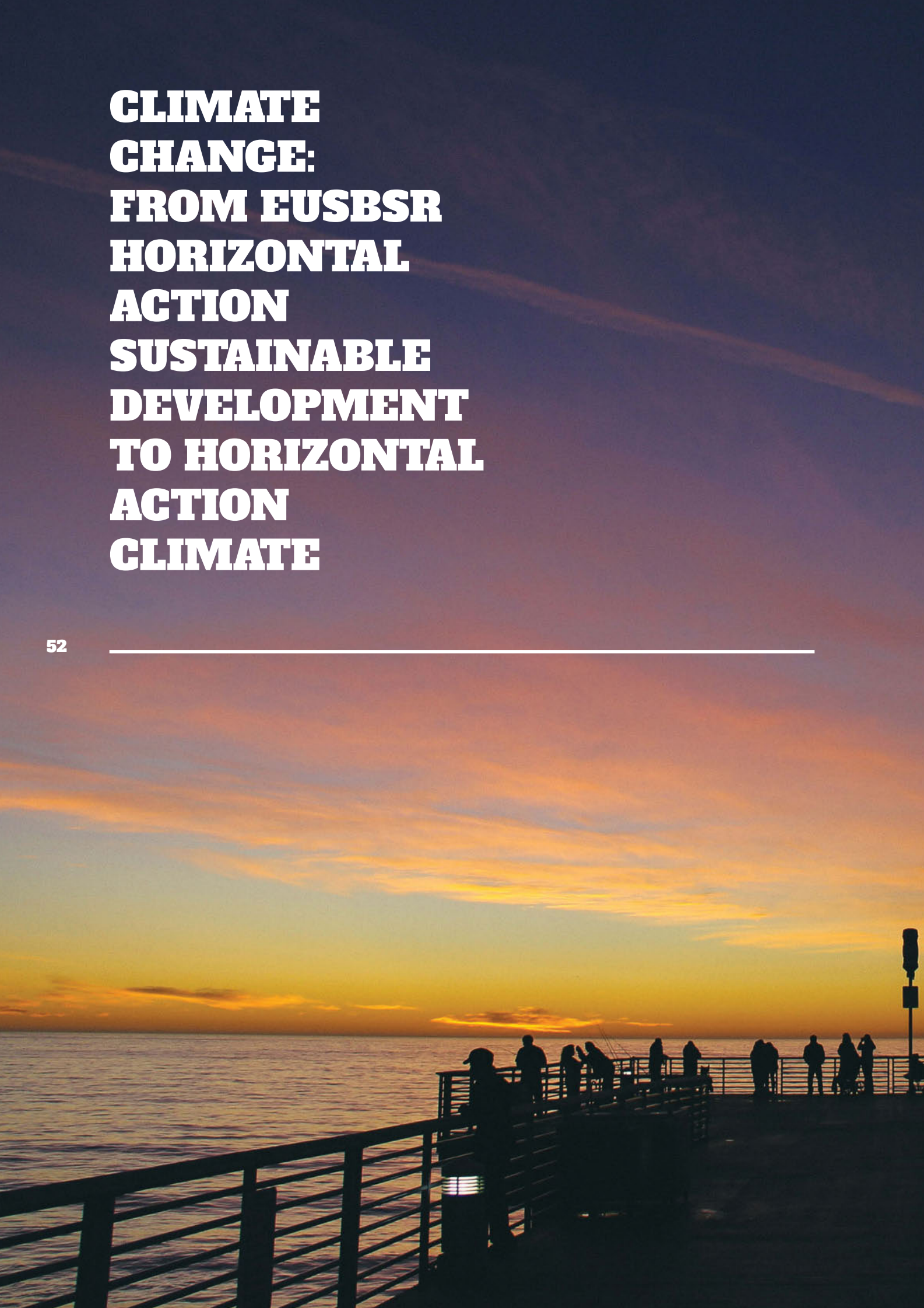
Mapping the status of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region

Following the Council’s mandate, the EGSD initiated the study “Assessing the status of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region: a macro- regional perspective” in September 2014, carried out by the Baltic University Programme/Uppsala University.

The study is to be finalised in autumn 2015 and will serve as a basis for further discussion among the stakeholders on identifying the areas that could be relevant for the Baltic Sea region with regard to the global SDGs.



**CLIMATE
CHANGE:
FROM EUSBSR
HORIZONTAL
ACTION
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
TO HORIZONTAL
ACTION
CLIMATE**



Since March 2013 the Baltic 21 Unit has been leading Horizontal Action Sustainable Development of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). In the new revised EUSBSR Action Plan, launched during the 6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region on 15- 16 June 2015 in Jurmala, the HA Sustainable Development has been renamed Horizontal Action Climate focusing on two main actions: low emissions development and climate adaptation.

Overall the action aims at:

- Facilitating integrative cross-sectorial policy discussions and alignment of policies, including mainstreaming of climate change into sector policies
- Promotion of low emission and climate resilient development
- Empowering regional cooperation in creating and the EU climate and energy policy development
- Promoting sustainable production and consumption-oriented measures

CBSS Climate Weeks, 14 April – 15 May

From 14 April - 15 May 2015, the Baltic 21 Unit implemented 'CBSS Climate Weeks', aimed at raising awareness, increasing capacity on climate change and promoting adaptation and mitigation actions in the Baltic Sea region. The initiative was an umbrella for a number of events and activities:

- AgroForum Mare Balticum (See page 8 for more information.)
- 2nd Stakeholder Event EFFECT – BSR Dialogue Platform in Energy and Resource Efficiency
- Integrated session “Efficient use of resources” at the AgroForum Mare Balticum, Tartu, Estonia
- Low Carbon Projects Development Workshop - follow-up to the Baltic Leadership Programme on Low Carbon Economy
- Lecturing session for Master and Post-Doc students of natural sciences at Lund University, Centre Environmental and Climate research
- 12th meeting of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development, Baltic 21/ Steering Group HA Sustainable Development with a focus on the revision of the EUSBSR Action Plan and including the new Horizontal Action Climate
- 4th Roundtable – BSR Climate Dialogue Platform, Tallinn, Estonia
- Baltic Sea Session at European Climate Change Adaptation Conference, ECCA 2015, Copenhagen, Denmark

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One of the key events of the CBSS Climate Weeks was the Baltic 21 session '[Adapting the Baltic Sea Region to a changing Climate' at the 2nd European Climate Change Adaptation Conference \(ECCA\)](#), in Copenhagen

from 14th May 2015. The session gave insights to the challenges and developments of adaptation strategies in the Baltic Sea Region on a national and city level, with examples from Estonia, Sweden and the city of St. Petersburg, as well as an example of Low Carbon Policy development from Latvia. The Baltic 21 Unit also reflected on the transnational cooperation process on adaptation in the Baltic Sea region within the framework of the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy Horizontal Action Sustainable Development.

During the three conference days (12th - 14th May) ECCA hosted three different poster sessions, in which posters were created and displayed. One presentation included first results from the BONUS funded project on the reduction of nutrient loadings from agricultural soils to the Baltic Sea via groundwater and streams. Another pictured the vision on the newly developed ClimUrban project, which is developing new approaches to urban flood management to decrease discharge of hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea.

Baltic 21 activities at the conference also included a panel discussion at the launch event of the 2nd assessment of climate change in the Baltic Sea region, BACC II report 2009-2014 by the Baltic Earth Programme. The purpose of the first BACC assessment (BACC) is to provide the scientific community with an assessment of ongoing climate variations in the Baltic Basin based on the latest available data.

For more information see: <http://www.ecca2015.eu/>.

Baltic Sea Region Climate Dialogue Platform

Under the Estonian Chairmanship, as part of the activities under Horizontal Action Sustainable Development, Baltic 21 facilitated the biannual roundtables of the Baltic Sea



Region Climate Dialogue Platform, back to back with the meetings for the EGSD.

The [3rd Roundtable of the Baltic Sea Region Climate Dialogue Platform](#) took place on 12 November 2014 in Tallinn, Estonia, hosted by the Estonian Ministry of Environment. With the participation of representatives from CBSS member countries, as well as relevant regional organisations, such as the European Environment Agency, Baltic Earth Programme and VASAB, the meeting especially focused on deepening the scope of cooperation of climate adaptation in the BSR. Towards this end, the meeting provided good examples of climate change challenges and adaptation strategies in Sweden and Estonia.

The 3rd Roundtable agreed upon the potential for a more robust evidence base on impacts and consequences of climate change – a Baltic Sea Region climate inventory, as well as an awareness raising and capacity building project pertaining climate adaptation in the region.

The [4th Roundtable of the Baltic Sea Region Climate Dialogue Platform](#) took place on the 29 April 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia, and was hosted by the Estonian Ministry of the Environment. The meeting gathered representatives from 6 CBSS member countries, as well as the European Environment Agency, VASAB and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (CPMR). Examples of national adaptation strategies and good practices were presented by Latvia, Poland and Sweden.

As a continuation of the previous roundtable, the 4th roundtable agreed on the next steps in strengthening knowledge-sharing for impacts and consequences of climate change in the BSR - the [Climate Inventory](#). This will feed regular information to the BSR sub-section of the EU Climate-Adapt website and database. Finally, the 4th roundtable also agreed on the joint development of a capacity-building and training seminar on adaptation for local and regional authorities, and a macro-regional awareness-raising campaign on climate change for the Baltic Sea region. For more information see:

<http://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/transnational-regions/baltic-sea/general> .

EUSBSR HA “Sustainable” Baltic Leadership Programme on Low Carbon Development

In the summer of 2014 Baltic 21 and the Swedish Institute agreed to initiate, under EUSBSR HA Sustainable, the BLP on Low Carbon Economy. The aim was to build a transnational and cross-sectorial network working on emission reduction and promoting sustainable consumption and production and in sectors/ fields related to sustainable bioenergy, land use and waste management.

The Baltic Leadership Programme (BLP), initiated and financed by the Swedish Institute, is a unique

training programme designed by the Swedish Institute to contribute to the implementation the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by building a strong network of both experts and generalists from different sectors and levels of government. Participants are trained in techniques necessary for the successful development and implementation of cross-border cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Two modules of the BLP were organised in Stockholm, Sweden, on 29 September-3 October 2014; and in Brussels, Belgium on 24-28 November 2014 with a total of 22 participants. In addition, Baltic 21 organised a follow-up low carbon project development workshop on 14-16 April 2015 in Tartu, Estonia. The programme gathered 38 participants from national and local authorities, NGOs, pan-Baltic organisations across the region, including Belarus and other Eastern Partnership countries, as well as stakeholders from the EUSBSR Flagships (EFFECT, BALLOON and LOCAL).

Flagships

The Baltic Sea Region Climate Dialogue Platform

The Baltic Sea Region Climate Dialogue Platform, now as a HA Climate EUSBSR Flagship, has in 2014 continued to initiate and promote a macro-regional response to climate change action through its roundtables.

The national ministries and state agencies, who are members are as following: Ministry of the Environment of Estonia, Climate and Radiation Department; Estonian Environmental Research Centre; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, Natural Resources and Water Management Unit; Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia, Division Climate and Environmental Policy Integration Department; Ministry





of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, Pollution Prevention Department, Climate Change Policy Division; Norwegian Environment Agency, Section for Climate Science and Adaptation; Ministry of the Environment of Poland, Department for Sustainable Development; Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology, Environmental Monitoring (Roshydromet); Swedish Metrological and Hydrological Institute, SMHI; Swedish Civil Contingency Agency, MSB, Risk and Vulnerability Reduction department; EUCC –The Coastal Union Germany e.V. on behalf of county government Mecklenburg- Western Pomerania, Ministry for Energy, Infrastructure and Regional Development. The following organisations are also members of the initiative: Barents Euro Arctic Council (BEAC); VASAB; Stockholm Environment Institute, Tallinn Office; Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC); Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) Baltic Sea Commission; The Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC); Nordregio.

EFFECT (low emission development)

EFFECT – the dialogue platform on energy and resource efficiency – was officially launched in November 2012 and is scheduled to be concluded in August 2015 by the project partners: County Administrative Board Dalarna, Sweden, Nordregio, Sweden, Kaunas City District, Lithuania, Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning (Boverket), Sweden, Central Mining Institute, Poland, City Of Petrozavodsk, Russia, Belarusian National Technical University, BNTU, Belarus and Institute of Agrarian Economics, Lithuania, and EFFECT observers. Tallinn Science Park Tehnopol, Estonia, Hedmark County Council, Norway and Karelian Regional Institute of Management, Economics and Law.

The project has elaborated two main reports: 'Low Carbon Economy Policy and Project Review Background

Paper One and 'Energy Efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region Policy Review Background Paper 2' and a third report is to be concluded in the autumn of 2015. The 4th meeting of the EFFECT project partners took place in Jurmala, Latvia, on 16th October 2014, while the 5th meeting was held 10-11th December 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Both project meetings were designed as main project development workshops. A follow-up project BuildingEFFECT, focusing on building regional nodes for increased engagement and provision of solutions on Energy Efficiency in buildings', has been developed and plans to submit to the 2nd call of the INTERREG Baltic Sea region programme in the autumn 2015.

Potential EUSBSR flagships for HA Climate

In the light of the revision process of the Action Plan, stakeholders have already been working actively on the development of new flagships under the Horizontal Action Climate. During the Estonian Presidency 2014/2015 the following projects were approved for seed money by the EUSBSR Seed Money Facility, supported by Horizontal Action Climate:

Baltic Urban Forum on Smart Cities, BUF, (low emission development)

The project "Baltic Sea Region Urban Forum for Smart Cities", aims at strengthening the innovation capacities of BSR local authorities and related innovation actors for the implementation of sustainable urban development. To do so, the project provides the models and tools for smart city profiling and early dialogue throughout the BSR.

ClimUrban (climate adaptation)

The project is developing new approaches to urban flood management, to increase efficiency of water management for reduced nutrient inflows and decrease discharge of

hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea. Towards this end goal, ClimUrban is working with public and private actors dealing with water quality issues. ClimUrban is also in close cooperation with PA Secure.

Balloon (low emission development)

Balloon supports the development of low carbon economy policies in the Baltic Sea region. The project aims to foster a sustainable use of renewable energy by increased institutional capacities to manage integrated cross-sectorial development planning, evaluation of impacts and defining potential for long-term sustainability.

ClimUrban and BSR Urban Platform for Smart Cities have been invited to submit a main application for the INTERREG Baltic Sea region programme, following their submission of a concept note to the first call. Balloon plans to submit a concept note for the 2nd call for the INTERREG Baltic Sea Region Programme in late 2015.

Cooperation with Russia and Belarus

According to a decision by the Swedish Ministry of Environment, an extra contribution to Baltic 21 is foreseen for cooperation with partners from Russia and Belarus in Baltic 21 projects and activities clearly related to the implementation of the main areas of cooperation as outlined in the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010 – 2015. As a result, in 2014/2015 two projects have been financed: LearnWater and FOOD.

LearnWater

The project Building Neighbourhood Learning Facility for Water Experts (LearnWater), has aimed to exchange experiences and launch the development of Belarusian “Neighbourhoods” life-long-learning concepts for the

water management sector and to support, for example, the sustainability of investments in new technology in the country. Towards this end, the activities have included the exchange of experiences under guidance of expert representatives, onsite problem-solving, further training (related to practice) for the operational staff onsite, peer-to-peer learning and enhancement of self-control and optimisation of operating procedures.

Lead beneficiary: Union of the Baltic Cities, Commission on Environment (UBC)\co City of Turku, Finland
Associated partners: Technical University of Berlin, Germany

Technical associated partner: Association of water and wastewater enterprises “Aqua-Bel”, Belarus, and as Vitebsk Municipal Unitary Manufacturing Enterprise (Vitebsk Vodokanal), Belarus.

Seed money project’s total budget: 24 840 EUR
www.cbss.org/sustainable-prosperous-region/activities-russia-belarus/

FOOD to LOCAL

- Formation of new local food markets

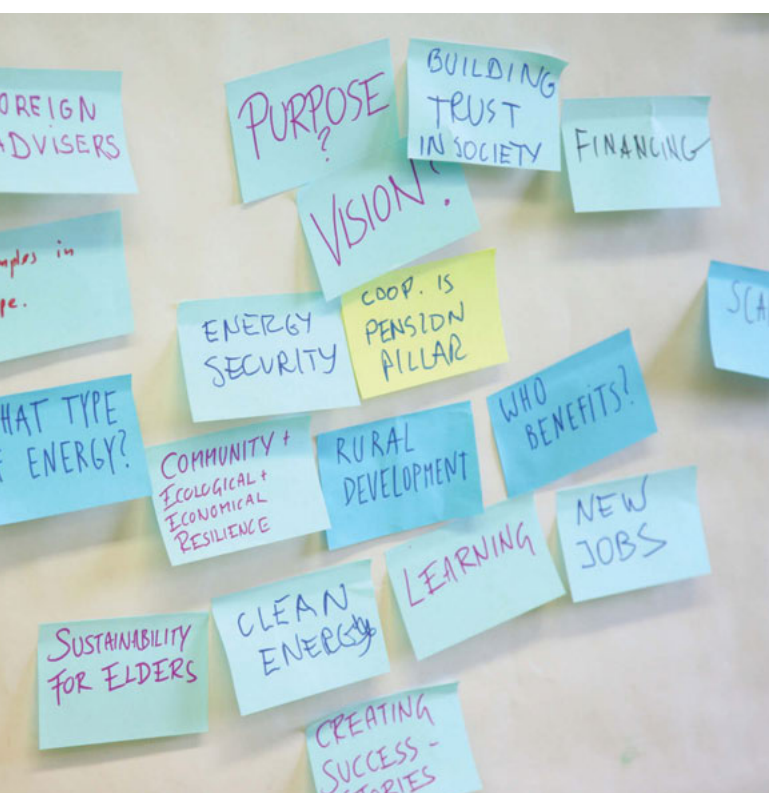
The objectives of the project have been to analyse the initiatives based on partnership approaches, which help to lower the barrier to market entry for small to medium-size producers and cooperatives seeking to increase their local retail sales in Lithuania, Kaliningrad oblast of Russia and Belarus. The project discussed and evaluated strengths and weaknesses of innovative initiatives to establish short supply chains and create new local food markets. It also developed recommendations for initiators of projects aiming to create new local food markets.

The FOOD project also developed ways to spread the best innovative models of the local food movement social initiatives in the BSR region countries. FOOD resulted in the development of a concept note to the first call of the INTERREG Baltic Sea Region Programme with the working title LOCAL, with its main aim being to foster community supported agriculture systems across the Baltic Sea region.

Lead beneficiary: Lithuanian Agrarian Institute of Agrarian economics, V. Kurdirkos g.18-2, 03105, Vilnius, Estonia.

Cooperation partners in Belarus and Russia: the Moscow University of Psychology and Sociology, Russia, and the Republican Scientific Unitary Enterprise – The Institute of System Research in Agro-industrial Complex of the National Academy of Science of Belarus” in Belarus.

Seed money project’s total budget: 177 124 EUR
www.cbss.org/Baltic21/activities-russia-belarus/



A high-angle photograph of a snowy mountain slope. The snow is uneven, with patches of brown grass and dark rocks visible. A small stream flows through the center of the slope. In the bottom right corner, a portion of a red helmet is visible. The text 'SAFE & SECURE REGION' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

SAFE & SECURE REGION



Safe & Secure Region is the third long-term priority of the CBSS and is dedicated to enhance societal security and safety. The portfolio covers a variety of issues, ranging from child protection and combatting human-trafficking to emergency preparedness, prevention, response and recovery in man-made and environmental disasters as well as nuclear safety. A multidisciplinary and cross-border approach is applied to strengthen societal resilience and regional capacity building. Several specialised CBSS-related networks of border guard, civil protection institutions, police, prosecutors and tax administrations support regional cooperation and connect all the relevant levels of stakeholders.



Roundtable on Safe & Secure Region

The third and last CBSS roundtable during the Estonian Presidency on the long-term priorities of the Council was held back to back with the third CSO meeting on 3 February in Tallinn and focused on the priority of Safe & Secure Region. After opening remarks by Ambassador Raul Mälik, Chair of the CSO, MFA Estonia, over ten experts spoke about their respective fields such as child protection, counter-trafficking and civil protection. Keynote speaker Eva Blaudet (Non-Discrimination Ombudsman, and National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking of Finland) opened the first session of the Round table on Human-Trafficking, outlining common challenges, newest trends and responses needed to prevent human trafficking. Her presentation was further emphasised through presentations on the ongoing work, publications and future project plans by the Estonian chair of the CBSS Task Force against Human Beings (TF-THB), Mr Leemet Paulson. Turid Heidberg, Head of the Children at Risk Unit at the CBSS gave insight on positive developments as well as challenges in child protection in the region, also tackling the issues of trafficking and exploitation.

The second part of the Roundtable was dedicated to civil security and emergency preparedness, which Professor Bengt Sundelius, Strategic Advisor to the Director General of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB opened with a keynote speech on the topic of building societal security through trans-boundary partnership in the Baltic Sea Region. From the Estonian side, it was the chair of the Civil Protection Network, Alo Tammsalu, Deputy Director General of the Estonian Rescue Board, who presented the national strategy, mission and values for the Presidency stressing the priority on fire prevention.

Through the activities of the EUSBSR Policy Area Secure, which was presented by its coordinators Julia Fredriksson, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, MSB and Mr. Janusz Gąciarz, Senior Adviser at the CBSS, many projects and initiatives enhancing international cooperation are already in place and contribute to societal resilience and overall safety in the region.

The roundtable was concluded with comments by members of the CSO and a short summary by the chair, Ambassador Raul Mälik, which reconfirmed the importance of the priority and reassured the participants in their work. The CBSS roundtables offer unique opportunities for regional key-players in the respective fields to meet and exchange their expertise. In the following pages, you can read more about the work of the CBSS under the priority Safe & Secure.

Task force against Trafficking in Human Beings

In line with its strategy for 2015-2017, the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) continued to engage in the endeavour to counteract all forms of trafficking in human beings in the CBSS Member States via preventive and protective activities. Its projects take a coherent and multidisciplinary approach. Three TF-THB meetings were held under the Estonian Presidency. The first meeting was back-to-back with the Responsible Business conference. During the second meeting, the delegates visited a local NGO dealing with victim support, as well as being hosted to a dinner by Ms Anneli Kolk, Secretary General for Legal and Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The third meeting gave Estonia the opportunity to host a workshop on potential new ways forward. The main focus of the TF-THB has been on actions that facilitate and promote partnerships, exchange knowledge and capacity building of key actors at different levels in the region to identify instances of exploitation and assist victims of all forms of human trafficking.

To maximise use of resource and expertise, the TF-THB strived to strengthen strategic partnerships and increase cooperation with local, regional and international actors working against THB and to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience to partners outside the region. The TF-THB participated in various anti - trafficking events together with the Nordic Council of Ministers, the EU anti-trafficking coordinator office, DG Home, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the OSCE Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Alliance Expert Coordination Team, and the International Organization for Migration. The TF-THB also increased cooperation with CBSS Observer States in their counter trafficking activities by implementing a joint project proposal "Trace - Trafficking as a criminal enterprise".

Main achievements:

TF-THB Conference Responsible Business: Prevention of Human Trafficking and Labour Exploitation in the Baltic Sea Region

in Tallinn, opened and attended by Andres Anvelt, Minister of the Justice of the Republic of Estonia and including a video greeting by Myria Vassiliadou, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator.

// See page 6 for more information

TRACE – Trafficking as a Criminal Enterprise

On 1 May 2014, a transnational research project “TRACE - Trafficking as a Criminal Enterprise” was launched. The two-year project is financed by the EU’s Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). TRACE aims to support stakeholders in combating trafficking in human beings by assessing and consolidating information surrounding the perpetrators and the wider trafficking enterprise in order to make policy recommendations for disrupting this activity. TRACE adopts a multi-disciplinary approach: legal, criminological, socio-economical, psychological, and law enforcement-oriented, in order to provide a full account of the phenomenon, and build upon on-going European and national projects and activities. It focuses on the activities of the perpetrators by developing an understanding of the structure, social relationships, modus operandi, travel routes and technologies associated with different types of trafficking in human beings.

In the first half of the project TRACE has greatly progressed in meeting its objectives. The project has resulted in several deliverables developed by the project partners:

// “A review of the implementation of the EU strategy on human trafficking by EU members” provides a critical analysis of the implementation of the EU strategy on human trafficking by European Member States.

// “A Review of the media framing of human trafficking” seeks to understand how the media presents the problem of human trafficking analysing media content in the UK, Poland and Cyprus.

// “A report concerning the macro and micro analyses of human trafficking” demonstrates how human trafficking is situated within the wider criminal industry, particularly in relation to other types of organised crime. In addition, partners investigated how perpetrators manage victims in the different stages of the human trafficking chain (recruitment, transportation and exploitation).



// The project provides stakeholders with current information regarding the geographic routes, modus operandi of the human trafficking industry in Europe, the response of the trafficking industry to law enforcement policies and shows how external factors such as socio, political and economic factors, or interaction with other criminal industries shape the phenomenon of trafficking.

// The CBSS TF-THB have completed a review of European and national anti-trafficking projects providing EU Member States with useful tools to dwell deeper into the challenges highlighted with the aim of finding solutions tailored to meet the contextual needs of each Member State. This included the following:

- Review of EU Policies on the Protection of the Rights of Trafficked Persons in the Criminal Justice System: Bulgaria, Romania, Sweden, the Netherlands and United Kingdom. The report analyses the extent to which Member States: Bulgaria, Sweden, the Netherlands, Romania, and the United Kingdom have implemented EU policies surrounding the fundamental rights of victims of human trafficking to access justice and seek redress for violations of their rights. The report reminds Member States that strengthening the domestic framework to effectively confiscate property and other valuable assets acquired through criminal activity, will in turn enable victims to access compensation for damages suffered, while also disrupting the business aspect of the criminal networks behind trafficking in human beings.
- Review of EU Projects - Promising Practices in Combatting Human Trafficking. The report provides Member States with tools and innovative solutions to confront specific national challenges by identifying

<p>Report Zbigniew Lasocik Emilia Rekosz-Cebula Lukasz Wieczorek</p> <p>Human Trafficking for Forced Labour in Poland – Effective prevention and Diagnostics of Mechanisms</p> <p>ADSTRINGO</p>	<p>Лиліана Соррентіно Аннііна Йокінен</p> <p>Руководящие принципы для предотвращения злоупотреблений при найме, эксплуатации на рабочем месте и торговли трудящимися-мигрантами в регионе Балтийского моря</p> <p>ADSTRINGO</p>	<p>Liliana Sorrentino Anniina Jokinen</p> <p>WYTYCZNE dotyczące zapobiegania nadużyciom w rekrutacji, wyszukiwani pracowników i handlowi pracownikami migrującymi w regionie Morza Bałtyckiego</p> <p>ADSTRINGO</p>	<p>Raport Zbigniew Lasocik Emilia Rekosz-Cebula Lukasz Wieczorek</p> <p>Handel ludźmi do pracy przymusowej: mechanizmy powstawania i efektywne zapobieganie.</p> <p>ADSTRINGO</p>
<p>Rapport Louisa Vogiazides Charlotta Hedberg</p> <p>Människohandel för tvångsarbete och exploatering av arbetskraft i Sverige: Exempel från restaurang- och bärbranscherna</p>	<p>Report Prof. Sergey Ryazantsev</p> <p>Trafficking in Human Beings for Labour Exploitation and Irregular Labour Migration in the Russian Federation: Forms, Trends and Countermeasures</p>	<p>Доклад Рязанцев Сергей Васильевич</p> <p>Торговля людьми с целью трудовой эксплуатации и незаконная трудовая миграция в Российской Федерации: формы, тенденции, противодействие</p>	<p>Riktlinjer Liliana Sorrentino Anniina Jokinen</p> <p>RIKTLINJER FÖR ATT FÖRHINDRA att migrantarbetare i Östersjöregionen utsätts för utnyttjande rekryteringsmetoder, exploatering och människohandel</p>

approaches and practices that have worked in other contexts in different EU countries, in order to adapt these best practices nationally and/or locally.

<http://trace-project.eu/>

STROM - Municipalities in the chain of assistance

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On 3 November 2014, the Council of the Baltic Sea States TF-THB in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia, commenced a transnational project [STROM](#). It aims to strengthen the capacity and role of municipalities in the chain of assistance to victims of human trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region. The project will run till October 2015 and is funded by the [CBSS Project Support Facility](#), the [Swedish Institute](#) and the [Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia](#). To assess the current role and responsibilities of [municipalities in the chain of assistance](#) to victims of all forms of human trafficking and develop effective anti – trafficking policies at the local level, a [baseline assessment](#) was carried out in the Baltic Sea Region. The study mapped out existing actors and cooperation mechanisms at the local level, captured resources as well as challenges as they are perceived and identified by the local actors, according to the individual context in the specific country.

The findings of the assessment study were presented at the international conference [“Local Action against Human Trafficking”](#) which took place on 19 – 20 May 2015 in Riga, Latvia. The conference brought together international, national and local actors from nineteen countries in Europe to share and analyse the local mechanisms in place to deal with cases of human trafficking. The conference provided a platform to identify common challenges and proven practices to counteract trafficking in human beings at the local level

in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond. Various cooperation models and coordination mechanisms at the municipal level were introduced. Furthermore, participants discussed the role of local actors in provision of the rehabilitation and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking and focused on the often neglected area: prevention of human trafficking. A parallel workshop was organised by the Ministry of Security and Justice of the Netherlands and the City of Amsterdam to collect information on the role of municipalities within multidisciplinary cooperation against trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation. The findings of the workshop will contribute to a handbook on multidisciplinary cooperation against trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation. The culmination of the project will be specific [Guidelines for Municipalities](#) outlining the main challenges and best practices in dealing with human trafficking cases at the local level.





Trainings for diplomatic and consular personnel

Pursuant to its specific objective to involve diplomatic and consular missions of countries of origin, transit and destination in the CBSS Member States in order to increase efforts to assist victims of trafficking and eradicate trafficking in human beings in and to the Baltic Sea region, the TF-THB commenced a second round of tailor-made trainings seminars for diplomatic and consular personnel. The seminars are designed to meet the specific needs of the country and formed to provide a platform for sharing best practices, challenges and knowledge to improve early identification and primary support to the actual and potential victims of all forms of human trafficking, with a view of strengthening the role of staff responsible for consular affairs in combating human trafficking. The first training seminar for the foreign diplomatic and consular officials and liaison officers was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia on 13 April

2015 in Riga, Latvia. Work on the seminars in other CBSS Member States is in progress.

ADSTRINGO- Addressing Trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation

The TF-THB in cooperation with the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), the Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania and the University of Tartu successfully implemented a 2-year transnational project "ADSTRINGO – Addressing trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation through improved partnerships, enhanced diagnostics and intensified organisational approaches". The project was implemented with financial support of the prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Commission – Directorate-General Home Affairs. Additional funds were provided by the Danish Ministry of Gender and Ecclesiastical Affairs, the Swedish Institute



and the CBSS TF-THB. It encompassed nine countries and was complemented by a parallel project focusing on Poland and Russia which was funded by the Swedish Institute. Under the umbrella concept of ADSTRINGO, four independent research reports on recruitment practices were developed in Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, and Sweden. The reports were compiled in the publication “Exploitation of migrant workers in Finland, Sweden, Estonia and Lithuania: Uncovering the links between recruitment, irregular employment practices and labour trafficking” (ISBN 978-952-5333-89-3). In addition, two research reports were published in Poland and Russia. Two national round tables were organised in most of the Member States intensifying organizational approaches, building capacity and establishing a dialogue among key labour actors at the national level. In Poland and Russia – regional meetings were organized in Warsaw, Gdansk, Poznan, Katowice, Wroclaw and Rzeszow for Poland and for Russia in Moscow, Kaliningrad (jointly with St. Petersburg), Perm, Kazan and Novosibirsk.

Building on the ADSTRINGO research findings and the main outcomes of the national meetings, regional Guidelines to Prevent Abusive Recruitment, Exploitation and Trafficking of Migrant Workers (ISBN 978-952-5333-92-3) were developed following two expert meetings in Stockholm and Vilnius and they provide action-oriented recommendations and practical guidance to enhance prevention of trafficking for labour exploitation. Additionally, the TF-THB developed the Guidelines - In Brief version to be easy to use, refer to and function as a quick overview and checklist for states, businesses, trade unions, and civil society.

All the publications are available in English and six national languages (Estonian, Finnish, Lithuanian, Polish,

Russian and Swedish). The guidelines In Brief version have also been translated into Latvian and German. A follow up to the ADSTRINGO programme with the working title ADSTRINGO II is being investigated by the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings. The programme was a flagship under the Priority Area Crime in the previous Action Plan of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region which has now been amalgamated into Policy Area Secure.

Expert Group on Children at Risk (EGCC) helps to raise children's rights on the global agenda

The Estonian Presidency of the CBSS coincided with two important milestones for children's rights internationally.





First, CBSS member states joined the worldwide celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention forms the basis of the work of the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) and all CBSS member states have ratified it. Second, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded for the first time to champions for child rights and an end to violence against children, thus highlighting the urgency of the issue globally.

The long-term objective of the Children at Risk area within the CBSS is to promote comprehensive and sustainable child protection systems that prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children through increased cooperation among relevant ministries, other stakeholders and professionals in the Baltic Sea Region.

The priorities for cooperation on children at risk include a focus on early intervention and prevention; the protection of children from all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation; the protection of migrant children and child victims of trafficking - and support for the rights of children in residential care and other forms of alternative care (out-of-home care). To these ends, strategic activities are identified to support effective child protection systems, innovation, cooperation, policy development, and child participation.

Main achievements:

Child-friendly justice is a key priority for the region, and the Council of Europe's Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines, the Council of Europe Strategy for the



Rights of the Child, and the EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child provide the basis for progress in this area. During the Estonian Presidency, the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the Council of the Baltic Sea States and the Government of Estonia, organised a conference in Tallinn in February 2015 on the handling of child evidence within the framework of a child-friendly justice system. The purpose of the event was to support and facilitate the transposition of the Council of Europe's Child-Friendly Justice Guidelines into national law and procedures. On the basis of a mapping and comparative analysis of the situation in the region, the meeting discussed good initiatives and practices in gathering and testing evidence from children in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings. The practices from the Children's Houses in the region and their experiences with handling child evidence played a central role in the discussions. A continued cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Council of the Baltic Sea States is part of the follow-up of the "[Tallinn Recommendations and Action Plan on Alternative Care and Family Support for the Baltic Sea Region](#)" from the conference.

"PROTECT Children on the Move" is an ongoing project, co-funded by the European Commission's Return Fund under DG Home and the CBSS, which aims to identify child rights standards and key agencies for better transnational cooperation. The work was based upon five expert meetings with more than 200 key experts from Europe and beyond, and was organised by the CBSS in collaboration with the project partners from Central Board of the State Border Guards in Latvia, the State Child Rights Protection and Adoption Service in Lithuania and the Stockholm Social Emergency Authority in Sweden. During the Estonian Presidency, three of the five expert meetings were held and the results and outputs of the project took shape. The outputs include a wiki on transnational child protection, which will be expanded significantly in the years to come, and a set of Guidelines for protecting children during the entire migration process.

One follow-up of the project resulted in a cooperation framework between the Nordic Council of Ministers and the CBSS which will deliver a series of thematic trainings on the basis of the guidelines. A team of experts from the Region will guide the work. The themes will focus on children in exploitation and trafficking with a view on child rights advocacy, law enforcement, and child welfare. At least 60 key stakeholders from different professions in the Baltic Sea Region will participate in 2-day trainings, and many more will be informed at various half-day seminars.

Quality of care for children was the focus of an expert meeting on alternative care and family support organised in Tallinn on the 5th and 6th of May 2015.

// See page 8 for more information

The Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety

Autumn 2014 marked the beginning of a three year period of Russian Chairmanship (2014 – 2017) of the group. The EGNRS elected Mr Andrey Stepanov (V. G. Khlopin Radium Institute, St. Petersburg) as the new chair.

The Russian Chairmanship Programme set the following priorities:

- Establish effective cooperation in nuclear forensics in terms of setting legal and operational framework for it
- Enable an exchange of environmental monitoring data between national agencies and developing cooperation between gamma spectrometry laboratories.
- Develop cooperation with regional networks of law enforcement agencies to strengthen protection against illicit trafficking of radioactive materials and radioactive contaminations.
- Develop educational activities and public awareness campaigns related to nuclear and radiation safety.
- Strengthen emergency preparedness by exploring opportunities for cooperation at the level of operational centres and emergency services.

The issue of nuclear forensics is a matter of concern at the international level and has been for a long time. Recently initialized works within the EGNRS may become an important contribution to developing effective ways of addressing challenges related to combating illicit trafficking of radioactive and fissile materials. To this end, the questionnaire on key modalities for the cooperation framework in this area has been distributed amongst the EGNRS Member and Observer States. On the basis of this survey the EGNRS will elaborate details of the cooperation framework in this respect within the Baltic Sea region.



Establishing the mechanism for an exchange of data from national environmental monitoring systems was another issue intensively analysed within the EGNRS. Significant progress has been achieved in defining data standards and technical options for transmitting data amongst involved partners.

The calendar of the EGNRS events:

// EGNRS Regular Meeting in St. Petersburg on 5-6 November, 2014, hosted by the Emergency Response Center of Rosatom and the V.G. Khlopin Radium Institute. The Programme of Russian Chairmanships in the EGNRS has been discussed and approved and the EGNRS agreed its action plan for 2015.

// The expert seminar on nuclear forensics issue held in Stockholm on 28 April 2015. The considered topic: results of the questionnaire distributed amongst EGNRS members.

// EGNRS Regular Meeting in Tromsø (Norway) on 19-20 May, 2015, hosted by the FRAM – High North Research Centre on Climate and the Environment (NRPA), the members adopted the Norwegian proposal on the units for radioactivity monitoring data exchange between the CBSS members and observer states. Adopted recommendations "[Proposal to standardize reporting units for exchange of environmental radioactivity monitoring data in the CBSS](#)" have been developed by the EGNRS sub-group on environmental monitoring, which performed a survey of the national environmental radiation monitoring programmes in the CBSS. The EGNRS Report on environmental radiation monitoring programmes among the members and observers of the Council of the Baltic Sea States from 2011 summarised the survey findings and provided recommendations on how to proceed with the effort to further harmonise and share environmental radioactivity monitoring data. One of the recommendations was to harmonise or standardise units used for sharing environmental data within the CBSS. Norway has prepared a proposal for a reporting unit standard to be used when exchanging environmental radioactivity data in the CBSS. At the meeting of the EGNRS sub-group on environmental monitoring hosted by the French Agency IRSN (Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety) in Paris and co-organised by the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA) on 15-16 April 2015, the participants agreed on one of the options, which was approved during the meeting in Tromsø followed by the silent procedure (lasting till 30 June 2015).

The Civil Protection Network – CBSS Intergovernmental Network

The CPN activity focused on strengthening safety in everyday life, at the level of local communities, neighbourhoods and households. The statistical data shows that the number of casualties and the scale of damages caused by the most common every-day accidents are still very high and have a destructive impact on life of families and individuals. In response to these challenges, every civil protection service develops its own prevention policy that is rooted in the particular social tradition and culture as well as it is correlated with national capacity. Sharing experiences, identifying best practices and impact factors are the measures, which in the long run may contribute to set the common safety culture in the Baltic Sea region and decrease the exposure of people to common everyday threats. The meetings held within the CPN during the Estonian Presidency, under the supervision of the Estonian Rescue Board, increased awareness of this challenge amongst civil protection community.

The statistical data shows that the number of casualties and the scale of damages caused by the most common every-day accidents are still very high and have a destructive impact on life of families and individuals.



EUSBSR POLICY AREA SECURE



The year under Estonia for the Priority Area Secure was marked by the review of the EUSBSR Action Plan. Under the new structure of the EUSBSR Action Plan, which was adopted 16 June 2015, the now called Policy Area Secure includes additional elements of former Priority Area Crime, supporting more than ten flagships. The merge of the two priority areas now allows the Policy Area Secure to act in the societal security paradigm that covers prevention, preparedness, response to all sorts of threats, regardless whether their origins are natural disasters, man-made disasters or organised crime. This new PA Secure framework enables a comprehensive and coherent approach to reduce trans-boundary vulnerabilities and to build common capacities for societal security in the Baltic Sea Region. This holistic approach allows addressing a broad range of challenges, from civil protection to prevention of criminal exploitation and trafficking in human beings, as well as combating organised crime.

Since the well-being of citizens, respect for their fundamental rights and freedoms are set in the background of the whole policy area, all actions will be oriented to:

- save human lives as well as protect physical and psychological integrity of human beings,
- protect public and individual properties against destruction, serious damages or illicit transfer,
- preserve vital public functions by protecting critical infrastructure.



All activities will be organised along two lines: addressing the human dimension of security and establishing efficient institutional mechanisms to tackle emergencies. These two threads will be duly reflected in four sections of PA Secure:

- A.** Strengthening capacity to respond and to recover from major emergencies and accidents: better risk assessment and crisis management.
- B.** Build up resilience and prevention towards emergencies and threats at the local level.
- C.** Enhancing effective cooperation in protecting human beings against criminal threats, including trafficking and exploitation.
- D.** Prevent and detect serious crime through developing an efficient framework for law enforcement strategic and operational cooperation.

PA Secure has received Technical Assistance money from June 2015 and is currently recruiting for a Project Officer or Adviser to support the Policy Area coordinators with the implementation of the new EUSBSR Action Plan.

The PA Secure Steering Committee gathered twice during the Estonian Presidency. During the first meeting in December 2014 in Stockholm, the group provided the European Commission representative Joanna Kirylo with input to the new action plan and successfully defended the Policy Area's position in the core section of the EUSBSR. The second meeting was held back to back with the Directors General meeting in Tallinn at the beginning of June and for the first time included representatives of the former Priority Area Crime. The CBSS Unit Children at Risk was presented by

the Secretariat as well as the ongoing cooperation on combatting Human Trafficking through TF-THB, by the Lithuanian TF-THB delegate Reda Sigrediene, who co-coordinates the anti-trafficking activities under the previous PA Crime. The Finnish National Police Board gave insights on the work on the actions hitherto undertaken under PA Crime and will play a coordinating role connecting the two former PAs.

More information on the Policy Area can be found here: www.bsr-secure.eu

Flagships

The Policy Area Secure, with its enlarged portfolio, now covering two former Priority Areas, supports a number of flagships under four different sections: Each of the flagships listed below answer the numerous sub-actions.

A: Strengthening capacity to respond and to recover from major emergencies and accidents: better risk assessment and crisis management.

Action A1: Develop a joint macro-regional prevention and preparedness approach towards major hazards and emergencies:

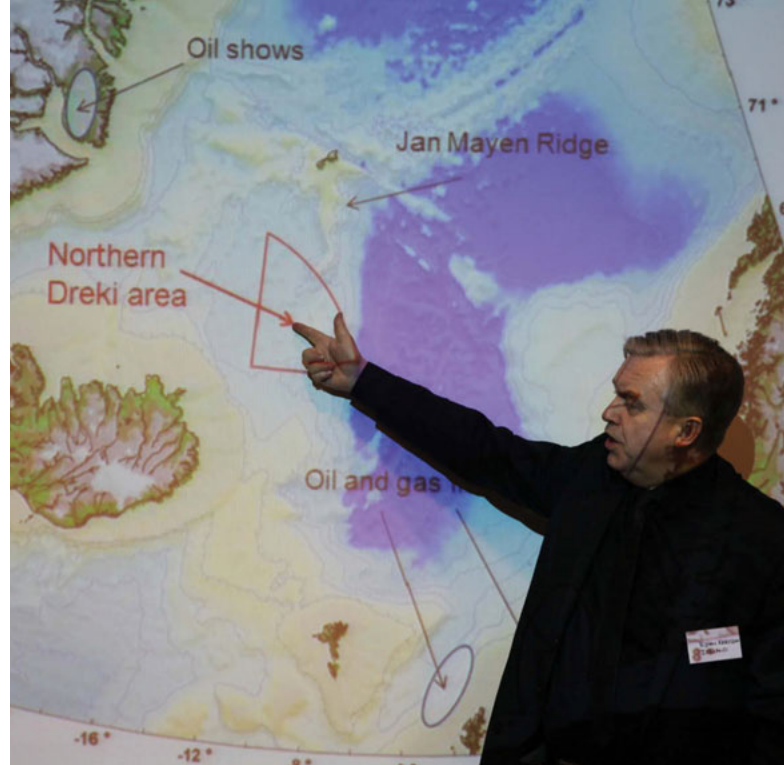
The project **From Gaps to Caps** was launched in January 2015 and was kicked off in Reykjavik, Iceland in March 2015. The two-year project, co-financed by DG ECHO, will further contribute to strengthening macro-regional capacities for risk assessment and to establishing efficient crisis management schemes to cope with natural and



man-made disasters in the Baltic Sea region. From Gaps to Caps is based on the recommendations of its [predecessor 14.3](#), whose results, compiled in 8 thematic notebooks and one project book, are currently being distributed. From Gaps to Caps is led by the Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania and the Council of the Baltic Sea States coordinates the project's publicity. The project includes the formulation of a methodology for risk management capability assessment under the supervision of the University of Iceland and the comparison of evaluations and exercises run by the Hamburg Fire & Rescue Service. Other participating organisations are: Frederikssund-Halsnæs Brand- & Redningsberedskab (Denmark), Estonian Rescue Board, Ministry of the Interior of Finland, State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia, Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB), Main School of Fire Service in Warsaw (Poland), Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB).

Action A2: Foster dialogue and common approaches to civil protection in the Baltic Sea region

The Baltic Leadership Programme in Civil Protection is financed by the Swedish Institute and organised in partnership with Swedish Defense University, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and the CBSS. The programme contributes to increasing human and social capital for international cooperation in the civil protection area amongst the relevant partners in the Baltic Sea region. This paves the way to strengthening capacity of stakeholders to implement measures aimed at improving macro-regional cooperation in all stages of crisis management cycle. The goal of the BLP is to build a strong network of dynamic leaders in the Baltic Sea region. In its effort to connect decision makers who work in the area of civil security, the programme seeks to create elements of common security culture, amongst other outcomes, by establishing a transnational team of experts. Two Programmes have taken place so far, including both, professionals working on the project and operational level on the one hand (BLP for Project Leaders, December 2012 in Stockholm and February 2013 in Brussels) and professionals in leading, strategic positions on the other (BLP for Future Decision Makers, December 2014 in Tallinn). Recruitment for a second module of the programme for Future Decision Makers is currently under way and it will take place during the last week of November 2015 in Warsaw.



B: Build up resilience and prevention towards emergencies and threats at the local level.

Action B1: Enhance a joint urban safety and prevention approach in the Baltic Sea region.

The project **BaltPrevResilience** (Baltic Everyday Accidents, Disaster Prevention and Resilience) led by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency completed two tasks: Knowledge Base and Data, as well as Assessment Evidence Meets Societal Needs. The project will contribute to better community awareness and resilience in the Baltic Sea Region in regards to prevention and reduction of consequences of accidents and crises. It will enable a common understanding of accident statistics and evaluation of experiences as well as will contribute to an establishment of a platform for sharing statistics, best practices and methodology for lessons learned. Partners in the project are: National Institute for Health and Welfare, Injury Prevention Unit (Finland), Estonian Rescue Board, Frederikssund-Halsnæs Fire & Rescue Service (Denmark), Main School of Fire Service in Warsaw (Poland), Jelgava City Municipality (Latvia), Karlstad University (Sweden).

The project **Citizens for Safety** (CIFOSA) completed its activities during its initial seed money phase. It will contribute towards establishing a platform for exchange of best practices on urban safety amongst the Baltic cities. Such a network fosters urban safety exchanges throughout the Baltic Sea region on locally-developed know-how

strategies, shares experiences, analyses functions and activities of municipalities and develops new safety management in the cities more oriented towards the needs of local communities. During the project, a survey was conducted amongst citizens on the needs and expectations related to public safety. The survey results will be translated into several products allowing citizens to participate in local safety and security programmes. Gdańsk Municipal Guard was the leading partner of this project. Participating organisations were: European Forum For Urban Security, Gdansk Municipal Guard, Gdansk University of Technology, Liepaja Municipality Police (Latvia), Riga Municipality Police (Latvia), Słupsk Municipality (Poland), Sosnowiec Municipality (Poland), Tallinn Municipality Police, Union of the Baltic Cities Commission Safe Cities, Vilnius City Municipality.

ClimUrban, a flagship dedicated to supporting cities in the BSR region to develop appropriate climate change adaptation strategies, moved to HA Climate.

// See page 56 for more information

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HAZARD brings together rescue agencies, relevant authorities, logistics operators and established knowledge partners on key safety and security issues from seven different BSR countries. The project aims to contribute to a better use of risk analysis and assessment by responsible actors and will improve the communication and operational capability in emergencies between the actors. Best practices and experiences in the BSR will be shared and evaluated. The project's duration is planned

from 2016-2018 and is led by the University of Turku.

C: Enhancing effective cooperation in protecting human beings against criminal threats, including trafficking and exploitation.

C1: Develop joint macro-regional approach to prevent trafficking in human beings and assist victims of trafficking

Task Force Against Trafficking of Human Beings (TF-THB) – Strategy 2015-2017 as a flagship of action

TRACE- Trafficking as a Criminal Enterprise

// See page 61 for more information

C2: Strengthening capacity of municipalities to eradicate THB and mitigate its impact on society

STROM- Municipalities in the Chain of Assistance

// See page 62 for more information

C3: Develop the BSR as a model region in the provision of comprehensive and sustainable social services and human rights for vulnerable groups crossing borders.





PROTECT Children on the Move

// See page 66 for more information

Child-Friendly Justice

// See page 65 for more information

D: Prevent and detect serious crime through developing efficient framework for law enforcement strategic and operational cooperation.

D1: Strengthening efficient framework for law enforcement cooperation to combat serious crime

Baltic Sea Task Force on Organised Crime

The BSTF was established in 1996 by the Heads of Governments as suitable platform for cooperation between the law enforcement agencies in combating organised crime in the Baltic Sea region. The mandate of the BSTF runs until the end of 2016. The Russian Federation holds the rotating Chairmanship during 2015 – 2016. The last BSTF Strategic Meeting, held on 27 November 2014 in Oslo endorsed “Baltic Sea Task Force. Regional Strategy 2015 - 2016”. According to the strategy, the BSTF cooperation should complement the work already done in other forms of cooperation (in particular within the Interpol, Europol, Eurojust, Nordic PTN as well as within various bilateral mechanisms of cooperation). The BSTF is aimed to be a main regional facilitator



of different types of operational cooperation by ensuring appropriate identification of the criminal threats at the regional level as well as by defining how they shall be addressed. The key asset of the BSTF is the possibility to apply a multidisciplinary approach to all challenges.

The BSTF's mission is to identify and address all sorts of obstacles (organisational, legal or practical), which hinder an effective cross-border regional cooperation in combating organized crime.

D2: Step up border security through developing efficient framework for law enforcement operational cooperation to combat serious crime

Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation

The BSRBCC focuses on security-related issues concerning border control in the Baltic Sea Region. The Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation Heads Conference was held on 12 - 14 November 2014 in Tallinn and hosted by the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board. The Conference was opened by Mr. Hanno Pevkur, Minister of the Interior of Estonia.

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// See page 7 for more information

On 10 – 11 February the BSRBCC workshop “The Aspects of the Control and Non-proliferation of nuclear and radioactive materials” was held in Vilnius, Lithuania. It was organised and hosted by the Nuclear Security Centre of Excellence at the Border Guard School of the State Border Guard Service at the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania (NSCOE). The aim was to strengthen law enforcement abilities of the Baltic Region States, to ensure effective and efficient nuclear security measures. Representatives of border guards and nuclear safety authorities from Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland took part in lectures, tabletop exercises, case studies and discussions to share best practices and to address challenges. Janusz Gąciarz, Senior Advisor at the CBSS Secretariat presented an overview of the CBSS EGNRS activities to the participants.

Project Turnstone

Aims to enhance law enforcement cooperation between border agencies (Police, Border Police, Border Guard and Coast Guard organisations in Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania Sweden and Poland) in the Northern Baltic Sea region responding to the new need for the border agencies to initiate compensatory measures and



new models of cooperation since the enlargement of the Schengen area in 2007/2008. In order to strengthen macro-regional capacity to combat various types of trans-border crime, project Turnstone has four main objectives: increasing mutual trust and understanding between the border agencies and their officials at all levels; streamlining operative day to day cross border co-operation between border agencies; initiate interaction between law enforcement agencies and the academic community; creation of effective and adaptable work methods while safeguarding the right to freedom of movement; improving social and cultural knowledge between and within the border agencies. They will be achieved by the organisation of workshops for experts on the operation as well as the intelligence level, cross-border actions, field studies and the publication of a study handbook, a joint contact list and reports. Project Turnstone is led by the Swedish Police and implemented with active participation of the other partner agencies and will run until December 2015.



CBSS PROJECT SUPPORT FACILITY



The CBSS Project Support Facility was created at the 9th Baltic Sea States Summit in Stralsund, Germany, on 30 – 31 May 2012. Its main purpose to co-finance the development and implementation of Baltic Sea macro-regional cooperation projects, which would bring added value for the Baltic Sea Region, show impact in regional cooperation and foster long-term partnerships. The facility's total amount of funding available is one million euro for the timeframe 2013 until 2015 with a continuous open call for applications. The amount of co-financing granted may range between 10.000 to 50.000 euros

PHILOSOPHY

– To support cooperation in a flexible way, and to pave the way for larger regional cooperation projects in the future, funded by much bigger funds existing in the region. This instrument adds value by being flexible, non-bureaucratic and fast.

The PSF should be used to facilitate project preparation and implementation in relation to the defined priority areas of the CBSS:

1. Regional Identity
2. Sustainable & Prosperous
3. Safe & Secure Region

Which projects qualify to apply

- Support the implementation of the above mentioned long-term priority areas of the CBSS.
- Bring added value and visibility for macro-regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.
- Have a clear transnational impact.
- Bring together different sectors and actors to increase coherence in cooperation among the CBSS Member States.
- Have outcomes of a sustainable character.
- The results of the project should be disseminated to all relevant stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region.
- Have the potential to become a basis for a network, partnership or cooperation model that would become viable beyond the duration of the project itself.
- The project must cover at least three CBSS Member States.

Who can apply

- The project partnership must involve at least three institutions/organisations from three different CBSS Member States.
- Each project has to appoint a Lead Beneficiary (LB), who is responsible for submitting the funding application and for the implementation of the whole project, including reporting and coordinating activities among the involved partners.
- Legal entities

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Progress so far

5 calls – total **70 applications**.

20 grants approved.

Total contribution from Member States by May 2015	1 000 000
Amount committed May 2013 decision	-176 400
Amount committed September 2013 decision	-99 858
Amount committed December 2013 decision	-97 112
Withdrawal of funded project from PSF	49 112*
Amount committed April 2014 decision	-329 344
Amount decommitted back to PSF (Baltic Artek CBSS project)	10 000
Amount committed April 2015 decision	-190 461
7% overhead	-70 000
Amount remaining for funding by May 2015	95 937

*withdrawal of 49.112 for LT led project

The next call for CBSS PSF applications was foreseen for **15 August 2015**. A total of **70 projects** have been submitted to the PSF Selection Committee.

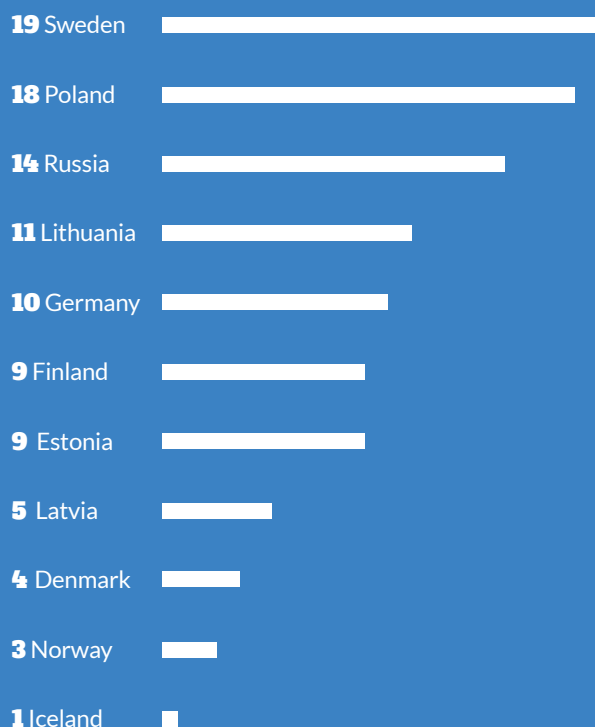
18 projects have received financing. **5 projects** are currently finished and have been reported upon. It is envisaged that this round of PSF will be completed and reported sometime during **2017**.

At the end of June 2015, **9 projects** were active and **4 more** were just awarded finances.

Out of the **20 awarded projects**, seven different CBSS Member States are represented in the Lead Party tally



Adding the total number of co-beneficiaries and project partners together for the **18 projects** that have received financing demonstrates that partners from all CBSS Member States have benefitted directly or indirectly



A total of **107 different co-beneficiaries** and **18 lead partners** totaling **125 Baltic Sea Region actors** benefitting so far from the PSF.

A total of **844.063 EUR** has been awarded up until the end of the Estonian Presidency. Taking into account the overhead of 7%, **95.937 EUR** is left out of the total agreed allocation for the period 2013-2015. As stated, **70 projects** have applied so far for consideration – the last application round in April 2015, the Secretariat received **26 project** applications requesting for a total amount of **€1.228.973**. After the technical evaluation of the proposals, all of them were considered for quality assessment and ranking.

Under the Estonian Presidency two PSF Selection Committee Meetings took place. The first on 1 December 2014 in Stockholm, and the second on 22 April 2015 in Tallinn.

The Selection Committee consists of the Committee of Senior Officials Troika (preceding, current and future Chair of the CSO) alongside the Secretariat management (Director General, Deputy Director General, Head of Administration and Head of Media and Communication).

The troika members invited to the meeting of the PSF Selection Committee held during the Estonian Presidency were Finland, Poland and Estonia as a Chair.

The Selection Committee forwards their proposals to the Committee of Senior Officials for discussion and approval.

More updated information can be found here along with the rules of procedure and application form as developments take place

<http://www.cbss.org/project-support-facility/>

Each of the 4 awarded projects during the Estonian Presidency is described on the next page with a short extract.

Improved Anti-Trafficking Efforts: Baltic-Russian Cooperation Network

The project “Improved Anti-Trafficking Efforts: Baltic - Russian Cooperation Network” is a new initiative by leading anti-trafficking NGOs from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, and the red Cross branch operating in the St. Petersburg area. The initiative aims to strengthen the expertise of anti-trafficking professionals, improve information sharing, and extend trafficking prevention efforts. The trust helpline services that will be achieved through this project will help experts from the involved states to identify new groups-at-risk subjected to trafficking threats, and new forms of trafficking. By drawing on best practices from past projects, the action will allow identification of more trafficking cases, both domestic and international, that will be referred to law enforcement. The project will require public-private partnership, and will help the involved CBSS members states to implement both CBSS priorities as well as address the recommendations by U.S State Department`s 2013 Trafficking in Person Report.

Lead beneficiary: Shelter Safe House in Latvia.

Co- Beneficiaries: NGO “Living for Tomorrow” (Estonia), NGO “Caritas Lithuania (Lithuania), NGO “St. Petersburg International Cooperation Centre of the Red Cross” (Russia).

Project’s total budget: 49 982, 90 EUR.

Environmentally Smart Agriculture in the Baltic Sea Region

The project Environmentally Smart Agriculture in the Baltic Sea Regions aims to bring together actors from three levels – policy makers, entrepreneurs and research institutions, to tackle problems of environmentally smart agriculture in the Baltic Sea region and beyond.

The long-term aim is to increase resilience in Baltic Sea agriculture by increasing the yield per land unit to meet the present needs without exceeding current resource use or reducing resources needed for the future, achieve sustainable intensification via smart agricultural practices thus contributing to Europe 2020 Strategy. Resilience in environmentally smart agriculture provokes transformative changes in meeting the demands of food security, natural resource protection and development. It diminishes vulnerability and promotes adaptive capacity by timely action and through the application of best practices to reduce the risks the farmers face.

Lead beneficiary: Eesti Maaülikool, Estonia.

Co- beneficiaries: St Petersburg State Agrarian University (Russia), St. Petersburg State University of Economics (Russia), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (Sweden), Warsaw University of Life Sciences (Poland).

Project’s total budget: 78 880, 00 EUR

Baltic Sea Culinary Routes

The aim of the project is to develop the Culinary Routes network in the Baltic Sea countries in order to strengthen identity and the feeling of belonging together as well as to preserve the vitality of rural regions. A rural culinary network will be established, meetings for the elaboration of common features of national cuisines of the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea and common criteria and promotion instruments will be organised. Common action on different events to promote the Baltic Sea Culinary Routes and its websites will be made.

Lead beneficiary: NGO Estonian Rural Tourism (Estonia)

Co- beneficiaries: Olustvere School of Rural Economics and Service Industry Studies (Estonia), Latvian Rural Tourism Association "Lauku Celotajs" (Latvia), Lithuanian Countryside Tourism Association (Lithuania), Polish Tourist Organisation (Poland), HANEN (Norway), Sydvestjysk Udviklingsforum (Denmark), SOSK, Culinary Heritage Europe (Sweden), Lahti University of Applied Sciences Ltd. (Finland), LLC "International Center of Wine and Gastronomy" (Russia), Latvian State Institute of Agrarian Economics (Latvia), Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Tourist Board (Germany).

Project's total budget: 52 172, 66 EUR

Local Research and Education Hubs - Key for Sustainability Education

The project has been developed on the conclusions and challenges defined in the first two phases of the phase of Baltic Sea Regional Network on Education for Sustainable Development and experience by the Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation.

The vision of the project is a society where people collaborate and network globally and regionally to address local sustainable development challenges and are able to find the most appropriate solutions for them.

The main aim of the project is to promote capacities of individuals in development by institutionalizing sustainable multi-stakeholder network by responding to changing development of local hubs and publication of the best practice.

Lead beneficiary: Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation (Latvia)

Co- beneficiaries: Development Bulb (Latvia), Charity Information Center "Green Dossier" (Ukraine), NGO Statera (Estonia), SWEDESD (Sweden), Centre for Lifelong Learning, Åbo Akademi University (Finland), UNESCO chair at Daugavpils University (Latvia).

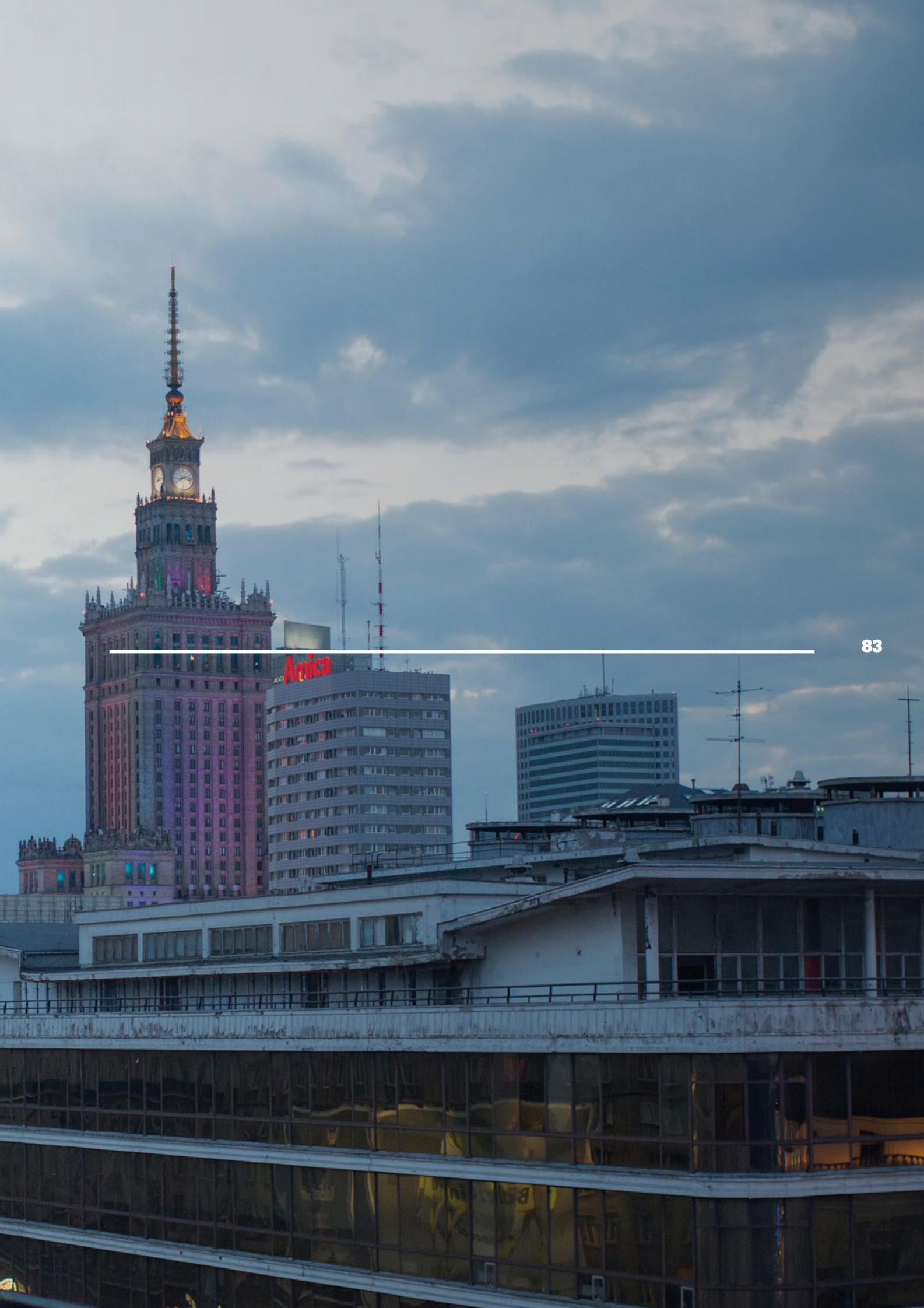
Project's total budget: 63 131, 71 EUR



THE POLISH PRESIDENCY – SUSTAINABILITY, CREATIVITY & SAFETY

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The Polish Presidency of the CBSS, which began on July 1 2015, focuses on three priorities: sustainability, creativity and safety.

Synergy in diversity.

// Next to its Presidency at the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Poland is also heading the work of ministers for spatial planning and development in the VASAB Committee, the Steering Committee of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (until September 2015), and the Steering Committee of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Transport and Logistics for the year 2016.

// In addition, in the second half of 2015 Poland will lead the work of the National Coordinators of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

// The Polish Presidency of the CBSS, which began on July 1 2015, focuses on three priorities: **sustainability, creativity** and **safety**.

// During its Presidency of the CBSS, Poland will focus on areas of cooperation, which are in line with the three long-term CBSS priorities agreed in June 2014: Regional Identity, Sustainable & Prosperous Region, and Safe & Secure Region.

// Besides regular meetings of the CBSS expert bodies, highlights during the Polish Presidency include:

// In September Ministers of Culture will meet in Gdańsk, back to back with an expert conference: Culture as a tool for social and economic growth of the region will take place. A meeting of experts of the CBSS Civil Protection Network will be held during the Polish Presidency in the first half of 2016. In spring 2016 the CBSS Civil Protection Directors will meet.



Sustainability

- // Adopting a new agenda for sustainable development for the Baltic Sea Region post 2015.
- // Continuation of activities connected to climate change adaptation, in order to minimize economic and social risks caused by the expected impacts of climate change in the region.
- // Strengthening the integrated approach to maritime issues, including the transport system in the region.
- // Enhancing collaboration with HELCOM.
- // Cooperation with respect to diversified energy sources and energy efficiency. The effective coexistence of various energy systems, the building of smart infrastructure, increased interconnectivity and well-integrated energy market are key importance for assuring energy security and supply.
- // Cooperation in the field of science, research and innovation. Poland seeks to internationalise Baltic science cooperation by striving to establish a joint research and innovation strategy for the region.
- // Setting up a Centre of Baltic Tourism, assuring a collaborative tourism sector.

To get more information on Poland at the Baltic Sea please go to www.baltic.mfa.gov.pl

Creativity

- // Promoting the culture of the Baltic Sea Region through interdisciplinary projects.
- // Enhancing the impact of activities of the existing and new cooperation networks of key cultural organizations and institutions.
- // Raising awareness of the economic potential of cultural ventures in different decision making milieus

Safety

- // Enhancing the regional response and interoperability of civil protection services.
- // Improving cooperation to combat the consequences of disasters.
- // Enhancing measures aimed at improving nuclear safety and radiological protection in the region. These actions will include: preparing the establishment of a macro-regional environmental monitoring system (exchange of radiological data); cooperation between spectrometry measurement laboratories; further strengthening of collaboration between radiation protection authorities and law enforcement agencies, with emphasis on the safe transport of hazardous materials and border control of carried goods.
- // Strengthen cooperation around the safety of children. The priority will be to make progress in the implementation of measures leading to de-institutionalisation of foster custody, improving the status of foster families and ensuring fair adoption procedures.





INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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International Secretariat

Employment rotation overview

Jan Lundin Director General (Sweden)

Eduardas Borisovas Deputy Director General (Lithuania) completed his tenure in August 2015

Ilya Ermakov Senior Adviser (Russian Federation)

Iris Kempe Senior Adviser (Germany)

Janusz Gaciarz Senior Adviser (Poland)

Bernd Hemingway Deputy Director General (Germany) from 1 of September 2015

Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB)

Vineta Polatside Senior Adviser and Head of Unit for the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) (Latvia)

Anniina Jokinen Project Officer for the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) (Finland) from 1 of September 2015

Geraldine Ramos-Bjällerstedt TRACE Research Officer, from September 2014 to March 2015

Expert Group on Sustainable Development (EGSD-Baltic 21)

Krista Kampus Senior Adviser and Head of Unit for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 (Estonia)

Maxi Nachtigall Adviser for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 (Germany)

Weronika Brynska Erasmus+ placement from May to June 2015 (Poland)

Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk (EGCC)

Turid Heiberg Senior Adviser and Head of Unit for Children at Risk

Shawwna von Blixen-Finecke Project Assistant for Children at Risk

Media and Communications

Anthony Jay Olsson Head of Media & Communications

Mirjam Külm Media & Communications/Balticlab



Programme Manager (Estonia)

Marie von Stauffenberg Media & Communications (Germany)

Kari Synnøve Johansen Media & Communications Intern Assistant (Norway) (February to July 2015)

Helina Mäll Media & Communications Intern Assistant with Erasmus+ programme (Estonia) (February to July 2015)

Eva Thóra Karlsdóttir Project Assistant completed her tenure in August 2014

Kamila Wojsznis, II Secretary, European Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Poland will begin her Secondment to the Media & Communications department as Media & Communications Officer for the period of the Polish Presidency (September 2015 – August 2016)

The Permanent International Secretariat located in Stockholm currently employs 19 staff members **as of 1 July 2015**. Additionally there are three CBSS internship trainees and two Erasmus+ placements, a total of 23 individuals.

Administration

Gertrude Opira Head of Administration

Ligia Broström Senior Administrative Officer

Susann Burström Project Accountant

Chris Tancredi Front Office and Office Administrator (on parental leave June to September 2015)


Jekaterina Popova Project Assistant

Svetlana Ozosimova Core Intern Assistant from Russia (September 2014 to July 2015)

Isabella Broström Administrative Assistant (June-July 2015)

Margareta Nordfeldt Office Administrator – Employment Agency Staff (August to September 2015)

During the Estonian Presidency, the internationally recruited staff members came from the following Member States in alphabetical order – Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

A photograph of a forest with tall, thin trees and a person in a blue coat and hat in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**CALENDAR
OF SELECTED
EVENTS
DURING THE
ESTONIAN CBSS
PRESIDENCY
2014-2015**



CALENDAR OF SELECTED EVENTS 2014

90

07.

1 July 'International Day' at Baltic Sea Week during Almedalen and first day of the Estonian CBSS Presidency, Visby, Gotland, Sweden – with Meelis Münt, Deputy Secretary General of the Estonian Ministry of the Environment

1 July OSCE Alliance Expert Co-ordination Meeting, Vienna, Austria

08.

4 - 14 August CBSS Summer University opening at Södertörn, Stockholm, Sweden

24-26 August The 23rd Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference "Baltic Sea: Quest for Harmony", Olstyn, Poland

25 - 26 August 3rd Nordic Climate Adaptation Conference, presenting BSR climate adaptation strategy, Copenhagen, Denmark

30 August Night of the Ancient Lights

09.

1-2 September Meeting of the Four Regional Councils in the North and the Northern Dimension, Kirkenes, Norway

9-10 September PROTECT Project's 3rd Expert Meeting: Returns and Transfers in Practice: Case examples of children exposed to exploitation and trafficking and children at risk, Vilnius, Lithuania

10-17 September First Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue organised by the Körber Foundation, CBSS Secretariat and Tartu University Narva College; Narva, Tallinn (Estonia) & Ivangorod (Russia) – with Jevgeni Ossinovski, (former) Minister of Education and Research of the Republic of Estonia

16-17 September Best Agers Project & Baltic Sea Labour Forum Conference: "Employment of the Future: How should the Baltic Sea Region respond to ageing workforces?" Riga, Latvia

17 September BSLF Enlarged Steering Committee meeting, Riga, Latvia

23 -24 September Green Agriculture for a Bluer Baltic Sea Conference 2014, flagship activity in the Action Plan of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Warsaw, Poland

24 September International Conference „Responsible Business: Prevention of Human Trafficking and Labour Exploitation in the Baltic Sea Region“ organised under the Estonian CBSS Presidency, Tallinn, Estonia – with the (former) Estonian Minister of Justice, Andres Anvelt

25 September 1st TF-THB meeting under the Estonian Presidency, Tallinn, Estonia

26 September VASAB Ministerial Conference on implementation of the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the BSR and endorsement of Regional Baltic Maritime Spatial Planning Roadmap 2013-2020 Tallinn, Estonia - with Hanno Pevkur, Estonian Minister of the Interior

29 September – 3 October 1st module of the EUSBSR Horizontal Action Sustainable Baltic Leadership Programme on Low Carbon Economy, a cooperation between the Swedish Institute and the CBSS Baltic 21 unit, Stockholm, Sweden

29 – 30 September, Tallinn: The 1st CSO meeting under the Estonian Presidency

10.

1-2 October Baltic Sea Tourism Forum, BSTF back to back with 3rd project partner meeting and project village presentation of TREBLE – Triple Bottom line approach in sustainable tourism development Karlskrona,

6 October L.E.A.D. – Leadership Programme Opening, Module 1- Resilience Thinking, Exponential Technologies and Sustainable Leadership Thinking at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm, Sweden

7 October EUSBSR PA on Clean Shipping 3rd international Steering Committee meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark

8-9 October Conference “Cooperation on human trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region” organized by the NCM and Norden Association, St. Petersburg, Russia

13-16 October Meeting of the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, Tallinn, Estonia

14-16 October BSR BCC Baltic Border Committee meeting, Tallinn, Estonia

16 October The CBSS Baltic 21 Lighthouse Project EFFECT – Dialogue Platform on Energy and Resource Efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region, 4th project partner meeting, Jurmala, Latvia

22-23 October The 11th Meeting of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development (EGSD) & focus group discussions on first results of the review of CBSS-Baltic 21, Tallinn, Estonia

23-24 October St. Petersburg Initiative/SPI meeting, St. Petersburg, Russia

27-28 October XIII Annual Leaders of Strategic Planning Forum, Promoting EUSBSR strategy – HA Neighbours & Forum Green Day; the CBSS and the NCM jointly promoting strategies and values for sustainable development, St. Petersburg, Russia

28 October “Blue Economy in the vulnerable Baltic Sea” – Estonian Sustainable Development Forum 2014 organized by the Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Office, the Estonian State Chancellery and the Ministry of the Environment, Tallinn, Estonia

29-30 October EUSBSR Priority Culture Workshop “How to Enter External Markets” hosted by the CBSS Secretariat, Stockholm, Sweden

11.

12 November The 3rd Round Table on Climate Change in the Baltic Sea region within the framework of the BSR Dialogue Platform on Climate Change, Tallinn, Estonia

12-13 November The Swedish Prosecution Authority and the Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Estonia expert seminar ‘Expert Seminar on Human Trafficking with a Focus on Legal Activities’, organised as part of the Nordic Council of Ministers project entitled ‘Nordic - Baltic - North-West Russian Border Regional Cooperation Part II: Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for Forced Labour, Children and Sexual Exploitation’, Stockholm, Sweden

12-14 November Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation Conference of the Heads of Border Guards Annual Forum, Tallinn, Estonia - with Hanno Pevkur, Estonian Minister of the Interior

13 November Priority Area Culture Steering Committee Meeting, Tallinn, Estonia

13-14 November Priority Culture! Conference “Learning from the past, looking into the future”, Tallinn, Estonia - with the (former) Estonian Minister of Culture Urve Tiidus

19 November BASTUN high level meeting (Director General Jan Lundin), Tallinn, Estonia

20-21 November Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP) “Trio” (EE, FI and PL) consultations, Stockholm, Sweden

24-28 November 2nd module of the EUSBSR Horizontal Action ‘Sustainable’ Baltic Sea Leadership Programme “Sustainable Development/Low carbon Economy: leadership and project management programme for relevant stakeholders in the Baltic Sea region in cooperation with Swedish Institute, Brussels, Belgium

25-27 November The 4th expert meeting in the PROTECT children on the move project: Transnational child protection - The role of judges, social services and central authorities, Riga, Latvia

26-27 November 2014-2020 Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme Conference and the Programme meeting with EUSBSR PACs/HALs, Warsaw, Poland

27-28 November Nordic-Baltic Knowledge Forum II on Human Trafficking and Social Consequences organized by the Ministry of Interior of Latvia and NCM, Riga, Poland

12.

1-4 December Baltic Leadership Programme in Civil Protection for Decision Makers. Training course for participants from all CBSS Member States

1 December PSF Selection Committee Meeting with the Troika Finland, Estonia and Poland represented, Stockholm, Sweden

2-3 December The 2nd CSO meeting under the Estonian Presidency and Annual Consultations with Observer States

2 December Round Table “Baltic Sea Regional Identity: Is it only a CBSS long term priority?” during the CBSS CSO meeting, Stockholm, Sweden

9 December EUSBSR PA Secure Steering Committee meeting at the Swedish Contingencies Agency premises, Stockholm, Sweden

10-11 December EFFECT - Dialogue Platform on energy and resource efficiency in the Baltic Sea region, 5th project partner meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark

12-14 December Balticlab 3.0: Networking weekend, launch of the third year of the Balticlab programme together with the Swedish Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

16 December Final ADSTRINGO national meeting, Moscow, Russia

CALENDAR OF SELECTED EVENTS 2015

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01.

15 January EFFECT Dialogue Platform on Energy & Resource Efficiency – 2nd stakeholder meeting, Tartu, Estonia

22-23 January VASAB CSPD/ BSR meeting, Tallinn, Estonia

23 January Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Steering Committee Meeting, Brussels, Belgium

27 January BSLFmobINIT Kick-off, Hamburg, Germany

29 January Presenting Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue at DG REGIO, European Commission / Opening of Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue Exhibition at DG REGIO, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

29-30 January The 15th CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy meeting “The Baltic Sea Connects”, Tallinn, Estonia

02.

2 - 3 February TRACE Workshop: The Act of Human Trafficking & TRACE consortium meeting, Nicosia, Cyprus

3-4 February, Tallinn: The 3rd CSO meeting under the Estonian CBSS Presidency

5 - 6 February BSSSC Board meeting, Forssa, Finland

10 – 11 February The BSRBCC /EGNRS Workshop „The Aspects of the Control and Non-proliferation of nuclear and other radioactive materials”, Vilnius, Lithuania

19-20 February Expert level conference on child-friendly justice in the Baltic Sea region, co-organized by Council of Europe and CBSS, Tallinn, Estonia

25-26 February The CBSS Civil Protection Network Senior Experts Meeting, Tallinn, Estonia

03.

10-11 March The 5th Expert Meeting of “PROTECT Children on the Move”: Reflections from the Expert Meeting series, children’s participation and discussion of the way forward, Stockholm, Sweden

11 March Meeting of the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, Stockholm, Sweden

17-20 March IV Annual conference “Baltic Sea Region: From planning to common actions”, St. Petersburg, Russia

19-21 March Balticlub 3.0, Module 1 launch together with the Swedish Institute, Riga, Latvia

23-25 March Kick-off conference of the project From Gaps to Caps, Reykjavik, Iceland

24-25 March Sankt Petersburg Initiative meeting, Moscow, Russia

25 March BASREC Group of Senior Energy Officials meeting, Tallinn, Estonia

30-31 March The 2nd TF-THB meeting under the Estonian CBSS Presidency, Tallinn, Estonia

04.

13 April Training Seminar on Human Trafficking for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel in the Baltic Sea Region, Riga, Latvia

14 April CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy extraordinary meeting, Tallinn, Estonia

15-16 April Meeting of the Sub-Group on Environmental Monitoring Issues /The EGNRS Topical Days on Environmental Monitoring, Paris, France

14-16 April AgroForum Mare Balticum 2015 – Food and Energy Sustainability, Tartu, Estonia – with the Minister of Rural Affairs of Estonia Urmas Kruuse,

14-16 April The 2nd stakeholder meeting – EFFECT – BSR Dialogue Platform on Energy and Resource Efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region, Tartu, Estonia

14-16 April Low Carbon projects development workshop – Follow-up Baltic Leadership Programme ‘Sustainable Development’ /3rd workshop of EUSBSR Baltic Leadership Programme, Tartu, Estonia

22 April PSF Selection Committee meeting, Tallinn, Estonia

22-24 April International Conference “Pathways to the Future - Education for Sustainable Development”, Tallinn, Estonia

23-24 April, Tallinn: The 4th CSO meeting under the Estonian CBSS Presidency

27 April Seminar on CBSS PSF Project “Common Map for Culture Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region” organized in cooperation with Norden Association, Stockholm, Sweden

28 April Pilot Financial Initiative Steering Committee meeting, Moscow, Russia

28 April EGNRS Expert Seminar on Nuclear Forensics, Stockholm, Sweden

28 April The 12th CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 meeting, Tallinn, Sweden

29 April The 4th Round Table of the BSR Climate Change Dialogue Platform, Tallinn, Estonia

05.

5-6 May Expert level meeting on Alternative Care and Family Support, Tallinn, Estonia – with Margus Tsahkna, Estonian Minister of Social Protection

6-7 May Meeting of the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, Tallinn, Estonia

11 May Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum, Reykjavik, Iceland

12 May HA Neighbours Stakeholder Gathering, Reykjavik, Iceland

13 – 14 May The 2nd European Climate Change Adaptation Conference (ECCA 2015), Baltic 21 session: “Adapting the Baltic Sea region to a changing climate” Copenhagen, Denmark

18-19 May From Gaps to Caps second meeting, Seminars Task C and D, Riga, Latvia

19-20 May Meeting of the Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety, Tromsø, Norway

19-20 May Conference “Local Action against Trafficking in Human beings” organized by the Mol of Latvia and CBSS TF-THB in the framework of the STROM project Riga, Latvia

21-24 May Balticlab 3.0, Module 2 Warsaw, Poland

28-29 May The 3rd TF-THB meeting under the Estonian CBSS Tallinn, Estonia

30 May – 5 June, Europe-wide: European Sustainable Development week

06.

2 June Meeting of the Eurofaculty Pskov IEG, Stockholm, Sweden

2 June EUSBSR PA Secure Steering Committee Meeting, Tallinn, Estonia

2 June Baltic Sea Labour Forum Enlarged Steering Committee meeting, Helsinki, Finland

2-3 June BSLFmobINIT Meeting, Helsinki, Finland

2-3 June The 13th Meeting of Directors General of Civil Protection of the Baltic Sea States, Tallinn, Estonia - with Hanno Pevkur, Estonian Minister of the Interior

4 June The 5th CSO meeting under the Estonian CBSS Presidency, Tallinn, Estonia
5 June Regional Directors’ Meeting, Tallinn, Estonia

8 – 9 June INTERREG South Baltic Programme kick-off conference in Szczecin

14 June EGMP Meeting – ‘Promoting the Maritime Dimension in the BSR’ within the frames of the EUSBSR VI Annual Forum, Jurmala, Latvia

14-16 June The 6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, ‘Achieving E-quality by Connecting Region(s), Jurmala, Latvia

24 – 27 June Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue, Genshagen, Germany

27 – 30 June Almedalen Political Week, Gotland, Sweden

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Empowering Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

