

Annual Report Norwegian Presidency 2010-2011

Council of the Baltic Sea States



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in order of the agreed upon priorities as
adopted by the Declaration on Reform
of the CBSS*

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16TH CBSS MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), consisting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden and a member of the European Commission met for its 16th Session in Oslo at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway.

Reaffirming the core role of the CBSS as a forum for all multilateral intergovernmental cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region in areas agreed by its members;

Recalling the significance of the Riga Declaration on the reform of the CBSS and the Vilnius Declaration on A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 and the guidance they provide for further action;

The Council:

notes with appreciation the effective measures taken by the Norwegian Presidency to make the Council more visible and action-oriented, and the work under its priority areas of maritime policy and counter-trafficking also enhanced by the work and commitment of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference in these areas;

notes with appreciation the work done by the Expert Group on Maritime Policy, especially on clean shipping, and calls on future Presidencies to take this work forward, seeking synergies with HELCOM and other regional organisations and policy developments;

notes with appreciation the work of Visions and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB) and HELCOM on maritime spatial planning and their joint adoption in 2010 of the Baltic Sea Broad-Scale Maritime Spatial Planning Principles;

notes with appreciation the tangible initiatives undertaken by the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, including trafficking for labour exploitation, and encourages Member States to contribute financially to this important work;

welcomes the focus of the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk on the rights of victimised or neglected children in areas where regional cooperation can play a significant role;

welcomes the work and the report of the Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety on environmental radiation monitoring programmes in the Baltic Sea Region and notes with appreciation the ongoing work to enhance assistance capabilities among the CBSS countries in case of nuclear or radiological emergencies and calls for the application of the highest and strengthened nuclear safety and environmental standards; notes with appreciation the results achieved by the EuroFaculty project in Pskov in upgrading the education in Business Economics/Business Administration at the Pskov State Polytechnic Institute (PPI) in line with international standards and the Bologna principles as well as the financial commitments recently made by Member States allowing a second three-year phase of the project starting from 1 January 2012;

endorses the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015, calls for its active implementation, encourages support for a green economy and welcomes the efforts underway to develop a climate change adaptation strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;

acknowledges the need to explore ways and means to develop cooperation within the CBSS with the aim of adding value to bilateral partnerships on innovations and modernization in the economic, social and legal spheres, thereby helping to increase the competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region;

notes the shared responsibility of the public sector and business community for the continued dynamic and sustainable development in the Region and calls for an exchange of experiences in the field of public private partnerships to encourage more investments in the future of the Region;

supports the development of green transport corridors and sustainable logistical systems in the Baltic Sea Region, and encourages the extension of transport corridors to the neighbouring countries;

encourages synergies in the cooperation between the four Regional Councils in the North and other structures relevant to the development of the Baltic Sea Region, notably the Northern Dimension, recognizing the advantages of projects which involve joint efforts of these structures;

welcomes the efforts under way in establishing cooperation between Iceland, Norway, Russia and the EU in areas where common objectives could be identified under the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region;

commends the activities of Ars Baltica over the last twenty years in promoting art and culture in the Baltic Sea region as well as achievements by the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in sustainable management of cultural heritage assets and invites all regional structures in the field of culture to combine efforts in the promotion of cultural cooperation in the region;

notes the agreed continuation of youth cooperation as a way to promote social cohesion, inter-cultural dialogue and regional identity in the Baltic Sea region and in this regard commends the efforts of the Expert Group on Youth Affairs;

supports measures aimed at expanding cultural and educational relations, direct people-to-people contacts, including the facilitation of current visa regimes for the citizens of all CBSS Member States while welcoming the visa dialogue between the EU and Russia pursuing a common goal towards visa free short-term travel for their citizens;

welcomes the agreements between Norway and Russia and between Latvia and Russia on the facilitation of travel for border residents and ongoing negotiations on similar agreements between Poland and Russia and between Lithuania and Russia;

supports the continuation of transnational efforts in the field of civil protection under the aegis of the CBSS and continued regional activities in contingency planning and cross-border rescue services cooperation while seeking synergies with other Regional Councils in the North;

commends the efforts of the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Co-operation to establish and sustain an efficient multi-agency co-operation platform with maritime focus, concentrating on preventing and counteracting cross-border criminality in the Baltic Sea Region;

stresses the importance of decisions made by the 2010 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting in Moscow to implement the ecosystem approach in the region, and welcomes that all Baltic coastal countries have prepared their National Implementation Programmes in support of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan;

welcomes deepened cooperation by the Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation (BASREC) for sustainable and secure energy supplies in the region and its ambitious project activities focusing on energy strategies for the post-Kyoto period, including elements such as energy planning, energy efficiency, wind power, bio energy, combined heat and power, and also carbon capture and storage;

values the intention to establish a Forum for Social Dialogue in the Baltic Sea Region in conjunction with the final Conference of the Baltic Sea Labour Network in November 2011;

The Council also:

tasks the Committee of Senior Officials to consider further actions to help achieve the goals set out in the Vilnius Declaration A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 and to report in this regard to the 9th Baltic Sea States Summit in 2012 at the latest;

tasks the Committee of Senior Officials to set up and start implementing a program of modernization of the South Eastern Baltic Sea area with special focus on the Kaliningrad region and its neighborhood, and to report to the 9th Baltic Sea States Summit in 2012 as well as to the 17th Ministerial Session of the CBSS to be held in 2013;

instructs the Committee of Senior Officials to review and evaluate the long-term priorities as foreseen in the Riga Declaration and to submit its conclusions and possible proposals to the next Ministerial Session;

instructs the Committee of Senior Officials to consider ways to further strengthen the effectiveness of the CBSS as a focal point of information and coordination, and to report on actions taken in this regard to the Ministerial Session in 2013 at the latest;

instructs the Committee of Senior Officials to consider ways to further strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat to effectively communicate CBSS activities and achievements in order to make them more visible and widely known, and to report on actions taken in this regard to the next Ministerial Session;

reaffirms the direction of the CBSS towards a more project-oriented organisation and underlines the need to consolidate the Secretariat budget line for project development by setting aside sufficient financial resources in the annual budgets;

agrees on the dissolution of the Expert Group on Customs Cooperation and Border Crossing Aspects acknowledging the results and taking note of the final report;

The Council furthermore:

thanks the host country of the Secretariat, Sweden, for providing it with new and spacious premises;

welcomes Germany as the incoming Presidency for 2011-2012 and its invitation to host the 9th Baltic Sea States Summit on 30 – 31 May 2012;

decides to hold the 17th Ministerial Session of the CBSS in the Russian Federation in 2013.

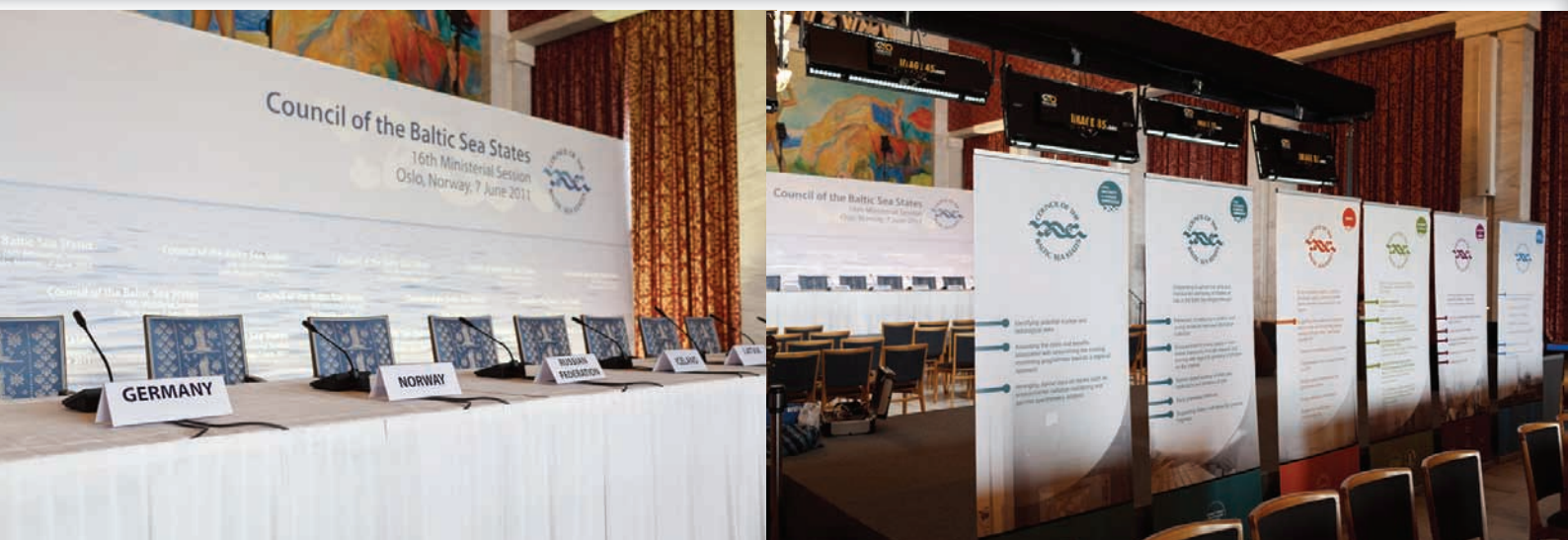


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WHO'S WHO OF THE NORWEGIAN PRESIDENCY

Chair of the Council of the Baltic Sea States HE. Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre

Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials Amb. Dag Briseid

Norwegian representative to the Committee of Senior Officials Ms. Merethe Luis

Assistant Adviser Ms. Viebecke Vraalsen

THE COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS (CSO) Norwegian Presidency

Chairman - Ambassador Dag Briseid, Norway

Delegate – Ms. Merethe Luis, Norway

The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) consists of officials appointed by each Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Member States and representatives of the European Commission. The Director General of the CBSS and the Secretary to the Committee are also both present at the meetings. Countries may appoint additional delegates as appropriate to attend specific meetings.

During the Norwegian presidency, the CSO consisted of:

Mr. Dag Briseid, Chairman, MFA Norway
 Mr. Karsten Petersen, MFA Denmark
 Ms. Tiia Miller, MFA Estonia
 Mr. Kalle Kankaanpää, MFA Finland
 Mr. Klaus-Jochen Gühlcke, MFA Germany
 Ms. Snjólaug G. Ólafsdóttir, MFA Iceland
 Mr. Dainis Garancs, MFA Latvia
 Ms. Kornelija Jurgaitienė, MFA Lithuania
 Ms. Merethe Luis, MFA Norway
 Mr. Jacek Sawicz, MFA Poland
 Mr. Andrey Pritsepov, MFA Russia
 Mr. Sten Luthman, MFA Sweden
 Mr. Lars Grønberg, European Commission

The following delegates also attended Committee Meetings during the Presidency.

Mr. Arti Hilpus, Estonian Ambassador to Norway,
 Ms. Hannele Lehtimäki, MFA Finland, Ms. Soili Mäkeläinen-Buhanist, MFA Finland, Mr. Joonas Heiskanen, MFA Finland, Ms. Tuulia Väliheikki, MFA Finland,
 Mr. Thomas Terstegen, MFA Germany, Mr. Gerhard Almer, MFA Germany, Mr. Klaus von Lepel, MFA Germany,
 Mr. Hermann Örn Ingólfsson, MFA Iceland,
 Mr. Neris Germanas, MFA Lithuania,
 Mr. Paweł Łączki, Permanent Mission of Poland to the EU, Mr. Józef Domagalski, Embassy of Poland in Oslo, Mr. Leszek Prokopowicz, MFA Poland,
 Mr. Gleb Rusetski, MFA Russia, Mr. Nikolay Lakhonin, MFA Russia, Mr. Nikolay Shpikalov, Embassy of Russia in Stockholm,
 Mr. Andrey Kolesnikov, Embassy of Russia in Oslo, Mr. Vladimir Koptelov, MFA Russia,
 Ms. Ingrid Hjelt af Trolle, Ambassador of Sweden to Norway,
 Mr. Isto Mattila, European Commission, Mr. Anders Lindholm, European Commission, Mr. Martin Lassen Skyly, European Commission,
 Mr. Jan Lundin, Director General CBSS Secretariat and Mr. Eduardas Borisovas, Deputy Director General CBSS Secretariat.

The CSO convened for 6 meetings during the reported period. The meetings took place on the following dates: Oslo, 21-22 September 2010; Stockholm, 16-17 November 2010; Brussels, 26-27 January, 2011; Oslo, 15-16 March 2011; Stockholm, 10-11 May 2011 and Oslo, 06-07 June 2011.



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INTRODUCTION

The Annual Report covers activities conducted during the Norwegian Presidency of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), 1 July 2010–30 June 2011. In its capacity as the managing body of the CBSS in-between the Ministerial Sessions, the CSO ensures the implementation of decisions emanating from the Baltic Sea States Summits and the CBSS Ministerial Sessions. Furthermore, the CSO monitors the functioning of the five CBSS expert bodies located at the Secretariat (the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21, the Expert Group on Maritime Policy, the Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety, the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings with a focus on adults and the Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk), the work of other CBSS structures and bodies, including the EuroFaculty Pskov Project, as well as Baltic Sea cooperation in general.

The CSO is assisted by the Permanent International Secretariat in Stockholm. After the decision of the Heads of Government at the 3rd Baltic Sea States Summit in Kolding Denmark, 2000, as also reflected in the CBSS' Terms of Reference, the CBSS encompasses all multilateral intergovernmental regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region.

Ambassador Dag Briseid of the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs chaired all meetings of the CSO during the Norwegian Presidency with the aid of the Norwegian delegate Ms. Merethe Luis, in the cities of Oslo, Stockholm and Brussels. The CSO was instrumental also in the preparation of and follow up to the CBSS Regional Directors meeting on 15 March 2011 in Oslo, as well as for the negotiation of the Oslo Declaration and other documents for the 16th CBSS Ministerial Session held on 7 June 2011 in Oslo.

The CSO focused its monitoring and decision making on the five long-term priorities of the CBSS, and within these, on three priority fields of the Norwegian Presidency, namely counteracting trafficking in human beings, maritime policy and the continued reform of the CBSS with a view to achieve greater effectiveness and visibility, common objectives and concrete results.

Key decisions taken by the Committee of Senior Officials during the Norwegian Presidency in detail by meeting schedule

The first Committee of Senior Officials meeting of the Norwegian Presidency in Oslo discussed the results of the 8th Baltic Sea States Summit held in Vilnius, the role of the CBSS vis-à-vis the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, decisions required by the Audit Memorandum for the financial year 2009 and the preliminary assessment of the possibilities of cooperation between the CBSS and the Kaliningrad and Pskov Regions of the Russian Federation.

The second meeting of the CSO discussed the cooperation with the strategic partners of the CBSS, the financing of the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, CBSS project development and new remuneration and allowances system for the CBSS Secretariat. The Committee agreed on how to implement the EU Strategy for the BSR where mutual interests and possible projects could be identified. The CSO also accepted giving VASAB the status of a CBSS intergovernmental network.

The CSO held its Annual Consultations with the Observers of the CBSS back-to-back with the second CSO meeting in Stockholm. The representatives of the Observers provided detailed reports of their joint activities with the CBSS structures.

The third CSO meeting adopted new Guidelines for CBSS participation in projects which replaced the previously adopted Guidelines for CBSS participation in projects and the CSO procedure for adoption of projects. The CSO meeting approved the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010 – 2015 to be submitted to the 16th Ministerial Session. The Committee also focused on the Budget of the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings and on cooperation with Baltic Sea Region intergovernmental networks.

The third meeting was held in conjunction with the Annual meeting with the European Commission Services in Brussels. This Annual Meeting gave the opportunity for the CSO and the European Commission to exchange information on the development of both the Northern Dimension Policy Framework and the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. It also proved a useful forum to discuss in more depth activities in the fields of environment, integrated Maritime Policy, transport cooperation and energy policy relevant to the region.

The fourth CSO meeting included joint meetings with the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 and with the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation (BSSSC) Board. The CSO adopted the Guidelines for cooperation with CBSS Intergovernmental Networks and asked the Secretariat to draft a letter to Intergovernmental Networks informing them about this decision of the CSO. The Committee also approved the Recommendations on CBSS cooperation with Observers and Regional Organisations which replaced previously adopted recommendations. The meeting considered the Draft Oslo Declaration and preparations for the 16th CBSS Ministerial Session in Oslo, CBSS project development, the Secretariat's budget proposal for the financial year 2012 as well as deciding on an extension of term for the NDPHS Secretariat as a CBSS Project for one year.

The CBSS Regional directors' meeting held back-to-back with the fourth CSO meeting deliberated on the relations between the CBSS and other organisations and structures operative in the BSR with a focus on the other regional councils in the Northern Europe, the Northern Dimension Partnerships and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. They also discussed preparations for the 16th CBSS Ministerial Session in Oslo and the draft Oslo Declaration in particular. The Regional Directors also considered the Norwegian, German and Russian Presidencies in order to focus on long-term questions and priorities. They also debated on the ongoing reform of the CBSS.

The fifth CSO meeting decided to propose to the 16th Ministerial Session in Oslo to discontinue the activities of the Expert Group on Customs Cooperation and Border Crossing Issues under the framework of the CBSS. The work of the Expert Group will be placed within an EU-Russia context. The topic of visibility was discussed in light of work undertaken since the adoption of the Information and Communication Strategy in 2010 and the Secretariat was given the mandate to continue to focus on new outreach channels especially further website development and the use of social media. The meeting considered preparations for the Ministerial Session in Oslo, discussed the Draft Oslo Declaration, the draft Synopsis of the Annual Report, the continuation of the Euro Faculty Pskov Project, the Secretariat Financial Report and the Audit Report for the financial year 2010, the Secretariat Budget Review for January – April 2011, the Secretariat budget proposal for the financial year 2012 and preparations for the 20th Anniversary of CBSS as well as requesting the Secretariat to draft a new version of the Rights and Obligations of the Observers of the CBSS.

The sixth CSO meeting focused almost solely to the drafting of the Oslo Declaration and the agreed text was presented for adoption by the 16th CBSS Ministerial Session. The CSO decided to prolong the EuroFaculty Pskov project with a second phase, 2012-14, on the understanding

that Russia will continue to support the project financially or in kind. The meeting then discussed the Budget of the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) where the Senior Adviser presented different options for decision on how to present the budget for the coming period. No final decision was taken but consensus leaned towards option 3, which would enable those Member States whose line ministries could finance the Task Force to continue to do so with the rest of the contributions emanating from a regular Foreign Ministry contribution. This will be followed up during the first meeting under the German Presidency. CBSS project development, the facilitation of the issuance of multiple-entry visas to CBSS Expert Groups participants, and CSO meetings under the incoming German Presidency of the CBSS were also discussed. It was decided to postpone discussion on the Rights and Obligations of the Observers of the CBSS to the first CSO meeting under the German Presidency.

Throughout the year the CSO were also given informative presentations by the following expert bodies (in order of presentation):

- The Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP)
- The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB)
- VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region
- The Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21
- The Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation
- The Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk (EGCC)
- The Baltic Sea Region Civil Protection Network
- The International Expert Group (IEG) of the EuroFaculty Pskov Project
- The Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation (BASREC)
- The Baltic University Program (BUP)

Meetings of the Committee of Senior Officials arranged under the Norwegian Presidency

At the operational level the Norwegian Presidency convened six meetings of the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) chaired by Ambassador Dag Briseid and aided by the Norwegian delegate to the CSO, Ms Merethe Luis.

- September – regular meeting in Oslo
- November – regular meeting in Stockholm in conjunction with the Annual Consultations of the Observers
- January – regular meeting in Brussels in conjunction with the Annual Meeting with the European Commission services
- March – regular meeting in Oslo in conjunction with the CBSS Regional Directors' meeting
- May – regular meeting in Stockholm
- June – pre 16th CBSS Ministerial Session in Oslo

Meetings and key events organised under the Norwegian Presidency

- 16th Ministerial Session of the Council chaired by the Norwegian Foreign Minister in Oslo
- 19th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, with an address by the Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mariehamn, Åland Islands
- Diplomatic and Consular Training on Counteracting Human Trafficking opened by the Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Oslo, Norway
- DEFLECT Trafficking for Labour Exploitation Conference opened by the Norwegian State Secretary for Justice and the Police, Oslo, Norway
- The Baltic Sea as a Pilot for LNG in Europe, promoting the use and distribution of maritime LNG opened by the Norwegian State Secretary for Trade and Industry, Oslo, Norway
- A joint meeting of Maritime Policy groups of the CBSS, BSPC and BSSSC, Europe Maritime Day, Gdansk, Poland

Other meetings and events that the Presidency attended on behalf of the Council Chair

- 2nd Northern Dimension Ministerial Meeting, Oslo, Norway
- 2nd Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum, Tromsø, Norway
- Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference Enlarged Standing Committee in Brussels, Belgium
- Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, Tallinn, Estonia
- Baltic Sea Action Summit Follow-up conference, Helsinki, Finland
- Bergen International Film Festival, Bergen, Norway
- Cultural Heritage Education Conference, Fredrikstad, Norway

Other meetings and events

- IV Baltic Sea Cultural Heritage Forum, Riga, Latvia
- Nordic Baltic Conference: Stop Trafficking and Stand for Health! Riga, Latvia
- Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation Annual Conference, Tallinn, Estonia
- EU Anti-Trafficking Day Conference, Brussels, Belgium
- Launch of Safe Trip campaign, Stockholm, Sweden
- Annual Meeting of the EGYA, Oslo, Norway
- Regional Human Trafficking Conference, Minsk, Belarus
- 14th Conference of Public Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States, Helsinki, Finland
- 3rd Baltic Sea Tourism Forum Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region: from common ideas to common results Kaliningrad, Russia Federation
- Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation Conference, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
- Regional Human Trafficking Conference, The Hague, The Netherlands
- Meeting of the 4 Regional Councils in the North, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Conference on the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Jurmala, Latvia
- 4th Baltic Sea Tourism Forum, Sopot, Poland
- European Maritime Day in Tallinn and event in Gdansk
- Coordination Meeting of Regional Organisations, Stockholm, Sweden
- Conference organised by the project EU4U: Russia and the European Union: Agenda 2011, Kaliningrad, Russian Federation
- Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Baltic Sea NGO Forum in Stockholm, Sweden
- Conference Northern lights in Europe: The Baltic Sea region at the beginning of the German Presidency of the CBSS, Berlin, Germany





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Concrete actions undertaken across the organisation during the Presidency Period

The Council on the occasion of the CBSS 16th Ministerial Session, Oslo, takes note of this document which acts as a precursor to the CBSS Annual Report. The Annual Report will be published and transmitted on 1 July.

The Committee of Senior Officials, aided by the Secretariat

- **Continued** the reform path envisaged in the Riga Declaration to make the organisation more project oriented and cooperation more structured.
- **Approved** new Guidelines for CBSS participation in projects initiating a permanent review of the organisation's involvement in project related activities.
- **Adopted** new Guidelines for CBSS cooperation with CBSS Intergovernmental Networks creating a structural basis for interaction with other governmental actors in the region.
- **Revisited** the organisational Recommendations for CBSS cooperation with Observers and Regional Organisation and agreed on the Rights and Obligations of Observers making external CBSS cooperation more target oriented.
- **Hosted** the Annual Consultation Meeting with Observer States as one out of several external relations initiatives.
- **Developed** a new visual identity and media infrastructure for the organisation.



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NORWEGIAN PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES

- **Fight against trafficking in human beings**
- **Maritime policy**

THE TASK FORCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS - TF-THB

- **Finalised** the training seminars programme for diplomatic and consular personnel on counter human trafficking in December 2010 after having trained more than 550 officials representing 94 countries and 5 continents.
- **Produced** a practical Handbook for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel on How to Assist and Protect Victims of Human Trafficking with 2500 copies distributed.
- **Designed** and implemented two new projects in 2011: "Model Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Law Enforcement and Social Service Providers in Providing Assistance to Victims of Trafficking" and "Data Collection and Education on Forced Labour and Counter Trafficking (DEFLECT)".
- **Organised** a regional MoU seminar in Oslo 23 March 2011 with national coordinators, police and social service providers to discuss the implementation of the Model MoU on national level.
- **Initiated** the DEFLECT project with an international kick-off conference in Oslo on 7-8 June 2010 attended by high level experts and more than 80 participants from relevant labour and counter trafficking sectors in the region.
- **Launched** an information campaign (in six languages) against human trafficking, Safe Trip, in Sweden in cooperation with the national actors National Support Operations against Human Trafficking and Swedish National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence against Women (NCK), providing potential female victims with a national support line service.
- **Conducted** an in depth assessment on the existing data collection mechanisms on human trafficking in the 11 CBSS Member States. The report Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanisms in the Baltic Sea Region was published in April 2011 and distributed in 400 copies.
- **Organised** an international research seminar on counter human trafficking, The Nexus between Research and Operative Work, in Uppsala 25 November 2010 gathering international and national experts, researchers and operative workers.

EXPERT GROUP ON MARITIME POLICY - EGMP

- **Organised** a workshop on the Baltic Sea as a pilot for Liquefied Natural Gas in Europe in Oslo 10 March 2011 attended by more than 90 experts and business leaders from national authorities, ports and maritime industry sectors in the Baltic Sea Region.
- **Organised** a joint event with the maritime expert groups from BSSSC and BSPC at the European Maritime Day in Gdansk in May 2011.

CBSS LONG-TERM PRIORITIES

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY



EXPERT GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – BALTIC 21

- **Submitted** the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development for 2010-2015 for endorsement.
- **Submitted** policy input and position papers to the Annual Stakeholder Conference on EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and EU Consultations on UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.
- **Adopted** new criteria for Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects.
- **Initiated** the development of a Baltic Sea Region wide climate change adaptation strategy to be carried out in the BALTADAPT project.
- **Endorsed** EcoVillages as a new Baltic 21 Lighthouse project and started implementation of actions to support sustainable lifestyle and rural development.
- **Developed** new regional project activities on Green Public Procurement, Corporate Social Responsibility in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Youth and Sustainable Lifestyles.
- **Facilitated** outreach activities and knowledge exchange between Baltic 21 and experts in Ukraine and Belarus, among other things by organising a seminar in Lviv, Ukraine.
- **Provided** financial assistance to local partners in NW Russia to participate in Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects.
- **Produced** a series of short promotional films on the four strategic areas for the period 2010-2015.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



BALTIC SEA LABOUR NETWORK

- **Facilitated** cooperation with labour market stakeholders in North West Russia at a special meeting in St.Petersburg with the aim to create sustainable labour markets in the region.
- **Explored** the possibilities for establishing a more permanent Forum for Social Dialogue in line with the final Conference in November 2011.

ENERGY



BALTIC SEA REGION ENERGY COOPERATION

- **Decided** on a number of concrete regional energy projects and activities with completion date 2011 - first half of 2012 on: "Energy policy strategies for the post-Kyoto", "Rotating summer schools on energy planning and energy efficiency", "Conditions for wind power", "Transportation and storage solution for CO2" and "Energy efficiency investments for Street and other public outside lighting".

- **Upgraded** the BASREC webpage: www.basrec.net
- **Completed** this year's phase of the "Rotating summer schools on energy planning and energy efficiency" project through the event "Baltic Sea Region Rotating Energy Planning Academy (BALREPA) – Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – 23rd to 26th May 2011, Kaliningrad, Russia".

EDUCATION AND CULTURE



THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERT GROUP OF THE EUROFACULTY PROJECT IN PSKOV

- **Commissioned** an independent assessment of the project two-thirds through the initial project period (2009-2011).
- **Recommended** to the CSO, on the basis of the findings of the assessment, that the project be prolonged for a second three-year period (2012-2014) in order to (1) ensure sustainability of results achieved; (2) disseminate know-how and experience gained to other Higher Education Institutions in Russia; and (3) to contribute to regional cooperation and development. A decision on a second phase of the project is pending.

ARS BALTICA

- **Re-launched** its website, www.ars-baltica.net, with new accessible content and graphic profile.

MONITORING GROUP ON CULTURAL HERITAGE

- **Organised** the 4th Baltic Sea Region Forum on cultural heritage which gathered over 250 participants from the region to discuss synergies between ecological balance and heritage values.
- **Secured** financing for the first phase of the project "Sustainable historic towns Urban Heritage - Good for the Climate!".

CIVIL SECURITY & HUMAN DIMENSION



EXPERT GROUP ON NUCLEAR AND RADIATION SAFETY

- **Produced** a report on environmental radiation monitoring programmes in the BSR based on a previously prepared extensive survey and on the outcome of a Topical Day organised by the expert group in Oslo in April 2011 and attended by 30 participants from the region.

EXPERT GROUP FOR COOPERATION ON CHILDREN AT RISK – EGCC

- **Finalised** the project "Baltic Sea Region Information Management to Prevent Trafficking" (BSR IMPT).
- **Published** a report on how information management on children at risk of trafficking and children that are trafficked can be improved.
- **Organised** the conference "Child Trafficking – A crime calling for a child protection response" in Oslo with 100 participants from the entire region and beyond.
- **Supported** and coordinated the National Contact Points on Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children, focussing on assisting children at risk of trafficking by enabling contacts between child protection specialists in different countries.
- **Collated** research, analysed interviews with child victims and prepared an analytical report within the ROBERT project aiming at preventing children from coming to harm in the online environment.
- **Initiated** the development of the first ever training material on systemic auditing of child residential facilities in the AudTrain project.

THE EXPERT GROUP ON YOUTH AFFAIRS:

- **Strengthened** contacts and exchange between the Baltic Sea and the Barents Region.
- **Provided** policy input to the future EU youth programme.

THE BALTIC SEA STATES CIVIL PROTECTION NETWORK

- **Organised** a high-level seminar with approximately 40 attendees in May 2011 in Oslo back to back with the meeting of the Civil Protection Network on Directors General level.
- **Submitted** a first round joint project application to the European Commission for the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Flagship project 14.3, dealing with regional risk analysis.

THE BALTIC SEA REGION BORDER CONTROL COOPERATION

- **Organised** the 13th Conference of the Heads of the Border Guards in November 2010 in St. Petersburg.
- **Organised** Baltic Border Committee expert workshops, exercises and joint operations to deal with challenges such as hazardous cargo, illegal immigration and smuggling activities, vehicle related crimes, ship inspection and boarding.

THE PROSECUTORS GENERAL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES

- **Organised** the 14th Conference in Helsinki in November 2010 focusing on counter trafficking.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

UN, OSCE, Council of Europe

The CBSS Secretariat participated in and contributed to the OSCE Regional High Level Expert Workshop on Comprehensive Co-operation in Synthetic Drug Supply Reduction in Baltic Region, Vilnius, 20-21 October 2010. Recommendations of the workshop included a request for: "further training on precursors, handling hazardous materials and detecting clandestine labs at borders terminals. In this regard, the workshop welcomed the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) active participation in providing such courses for customs and law enforcement agencies in this region."

The CBSS also provided a written contribution to the OSCE Summit held in Astana, Kazakhstan, 1-2 December 2010, outlining its work in the Baltic Sea Region.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe was featured in the Summer edition of *Balticness*, his article focused on the recent report of a Group of Eminent Persons within the context of the Pan-European project *Living together in 21st century Europe*.

On 10 June 2011, upon an invitation from the Lithuanian Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Jan Lundin addressed the 876th meeting of Permanent Council in Vienna. The Permanent Council is one of the main regular decision-making bodies of the OSCE. It convenes weekly in Vienna on ambassadorial level to discuss developments in the OSCE area and take appropriate decisions.

Mr Lundin highlighted the close cooperation between the OSCE and the CBSS, in particular between the TF-THB and the Office of the Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as in work on the second priority of the Norwegian CBSS Presidency, namely maritime policy.

While supporting the choice of priorities by the Norwegian CBSS Presidency, the European Union also emphasised the complementary role that regional and sub-regional organisations can play and looked ahead to the incoming German Presidency. The USA stressed the importance of the fight against human trafficking and supported the progress made by the TF-THB, both in the Baltic Sea Region and in the wider OSCE area. The Russian Federation underlined the strong partnership that was developing between it and Germany who will form (along with Norway) the CBSS Troika from 1 July 2011 and looked ahead to projects in the South East Baltic Sea area (SEBA) as decided by the Council.

Finally, Norway congratulated the CBSS Secretariat on the progress achieved during its Presidency and expressed its hope that the areas that it prioritised will continue to develop apace.

Norway stated that "[the CBSS] is heavily involved in promoting many of the same goals and values as the OSCE at the sub-regional level...the Norwegian Presidency has paid particularly strong attention to trafficking for labour exploitation and has initiated, in close cooperation with the

CBSS Secretariat and its Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, a number of projects." An OSCE press release is available at: <http://www.osce.org/pc/78591>

The Journal of the Permanent Council is available at: <http://www.osce.org/pc/78796> and the delegation statements (reference numbers in the journal) will soon be published here: <http://www.osce.org/pc/documents>

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has formally requested to be considered a Strategic Partner to the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) after the organisations successful collaboration with the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings and the publication of the Handbook for Diplomatic and Consular Staff on how to assist and protect victims of human trafficking. A representative was present at the 16th Ministerial Session in Oslo as an Observer. This will be discussed at the first meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials under the German Presidency.

The CBSS TF-THB presented its work at a side event to the 20th UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna and made an intervention at the High Level OSCE meeting on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation.

PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION

Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference

The contacts between the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) and the CBSS continued to be regular and of mutual benefit during the Norwegian Presidency of the CBSS. Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Erik Lahnstein, participated with an introductory speech at the 19th BSPC in Mariehamn. He emphasised that the cooperation between CBSS and BSPC is pragmatic and works very well. Parliamentary support is crucial to successful cooperation between the governments, and the parliamentarians were urged to further develop the dialogue with CBSS. The CBSS is also mentioned in very positive terms in many of the paragraphs in the resolution from the 19th BSPC. The chairmen of the two BSPC working groups that were set up at the 18th BSPC in Nyborg in 2009 – Trafficking in Human Beings and Integrated Maritime Policy – gave status reports on the work of their groups and cooperation with these groups have proven to be very fruitful for the CBSS TF-THB and EGMP. At the BSPC Enlarged Standing Committee in January 2011 the Chairman of the CBSS CSO informed the members of the state of cooperation in the CBSS suggesting also that the Chair of the BSPC be regularly invited to the CSO to improve communication even further. The Chair of the BSPC participated in the CBSS Ministerial in June 2011 allowing the parliamentary perspective to be heard.

Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum

The Second Northern Dimension Parliamentary Forum was hosted by the Norwegian Parliament, Stortinget, in Tromsø. The four partners in the Northern Dimension Partnership (the EU, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation) were represented as were, parliamentary delegations from bodies such as the European Parliament, the Nordic Council, the West-Nordic Council, the Baltic Assembly, the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference and the Barents Parliamentary Conference, as well as representatives of the indigenous populations of the High North. The CBSS, as a participant in the Northern Dimension, took part as well. The Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Espen Barth Eide, addressed the Forum emphasising the richness of international organisations discussing common issues and solving common problems.

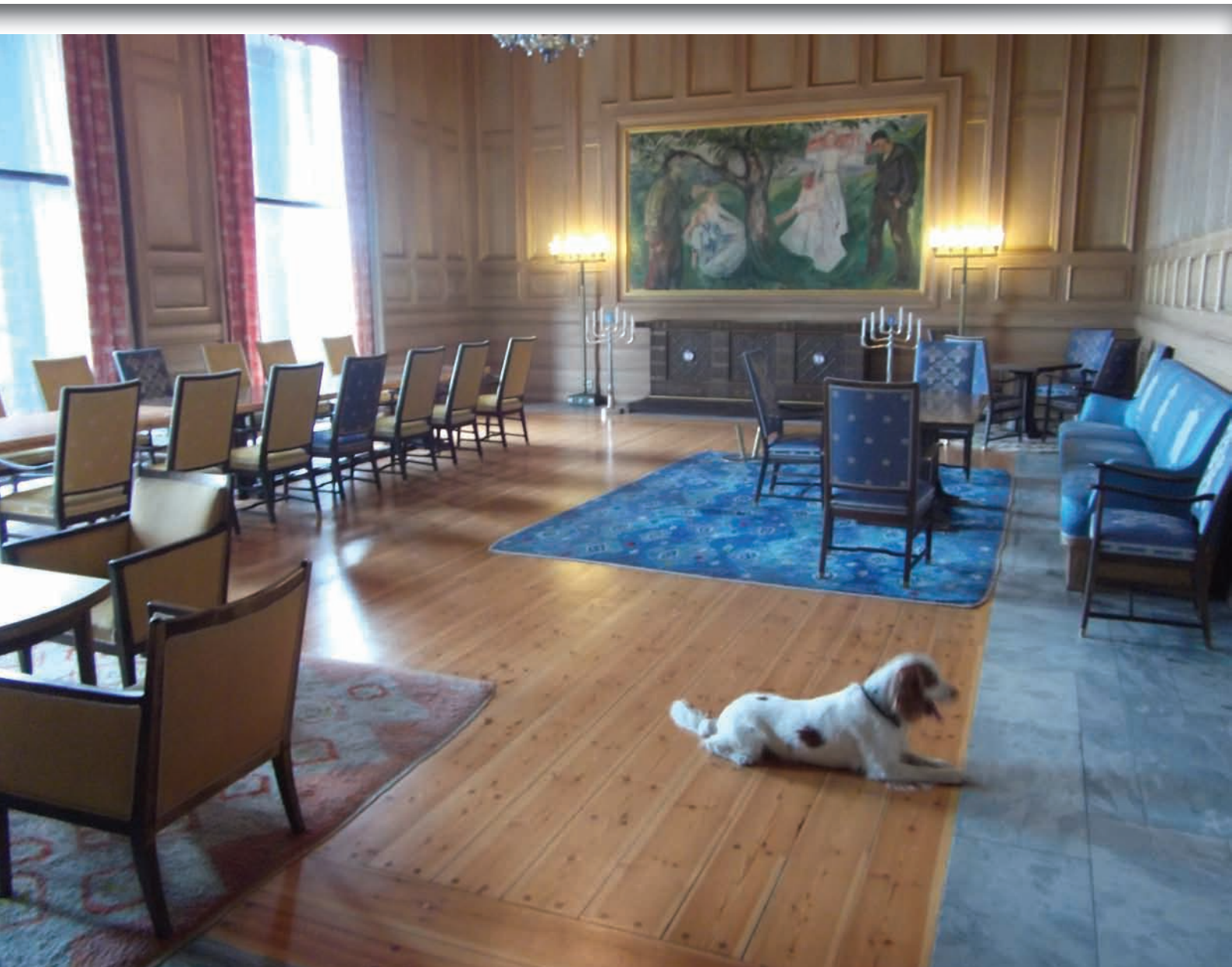
Baltic Sea NGO Forum

The Baltic Sea NGO Forum is a network of non-governmental organisations in the Baltic Sea Region. The NGOs of the region first came together in this context at a regional preparatory conference for Baltic Sea NGOs in Copenhagen in March 2001. Since then the Baltic Sea NGO Forums have been held almost annually under the auspices of the rotating CBSS Presidencies, the first one was held in Lübeck, Germany in 2001 and the IX Forum took place in Vilnius, Lithuania 15-17 April 2010. The Forum enjoys the status of a Strategic Partner to the CBSS. The Norwegian CBSS Presidency provided support to the organisation of a meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Baltic Sea NGO Forum at the CBSS Secretariat on 25-26 May. Representatives from the NGO community of all 11 CBSS Member States participated in the meeting which represented a revival of the network with discussions focusing on the future of the network. The participants agreed that organising yearly forums is not the only answer to the aims of the network and identified two projects on Funding of NGO cross-border cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region and Support of civil society development for the public good which will be prepared. They also identified a need in being better connected to ongoing processes in the region. A final challenge is finding financial support to organise

two yearly meetings of the Coordinating Committee as well as an Annual Forum.

Regional Councils Meeting

At the end of the Norwegian Presidency the CBSS Secretariat along with the outgoing and incoming Chairs of the Committee of Senior Officials hosted a meeting of the Regional Councils. In attendance were the Councils of the North including the Barents Euro Arctic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers but also representatives from other regional groupings further south in Europe. These included the Mediterranean Union, the Regional Cooperation Council and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation. Discussions centred on developing synergy and in particular counteracting Trafficking in Human Being and Sustainable Development aswell as sharing experiencing on project funding and development.



Norwegian Presidency Priority - Maritime Policy

CBSS Expert Group On Maritime Policy (EGMP)

Chair:

1 of July 2010 - 30 of June 2011, Mr Lars Almklov, Maritime Department, Ministry of Trade and Industry of Norway

Under the reporting period 2010-2011 major developments for the EGMP included:

- Initiating an LNG-strategy for clean shipping in the Baltic Sea Region
- Improved coordination between regional intergovernmental organizations: HELCOM and VASAB
- Strengthened cooperation with strategic partners: BSPC and BSSSC Working Groups on Maritime Policy
- Taking full account of the work conducted in the Northern Dimension Policy Framework and of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea region
- Further implementation of the key tasks as per the EG's ToR, particularly the development of the virtual communication platform

Priority during the period chaired by Norway

The Chairmanship follows the CBSS Presidency, and the EGMP was consequently in 2009-2010 chaired by Lithuania, co-chaired by Germany. During the Norwegian CBSS Presidency 1 July 2010- 30 June 2011, there was not any formal co-Chair. However, the Chair consulted and coordinated the actions especially with the previous (Lithuania) and the next (Germany) Chairmanships, as well as the hosts of the meetings and workshops (e.g. Poland in May 2011). The Norwegian EGMP Chairmanship priorities were dedicated to further implementation of the CBSS Riga Declaration of 2008 as well as the key tasks anticipated by its ToR - with specific focus on establishing regional cluster cooperation in the field of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) in shipping, and strengthening the EG's visibility through development of its virtual communication platform and exchange of best practices and know-how.

Number of Meetings

During the reporting period three regular meetings took place: two in Oslo 19 October 2010 and 11 March 2011 (back to back with Norwegian Presidency workshop on LNG use in Baltic Sea shipping on 10 March), and one in Gdansk, Poland, 18 May 2011 (back to back with the European Maritime Day 2011 and the first Joint Event of the three Maritime Policy Working Groups of the CBSS, BSPC and BSSSC on 20 May). A seminar on Maritime Policy for the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, diplomatic and consular corps resident in Oslo was held within the framework of the 16th Ministerial Session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States on the morning of the 7 June 2011.

Secretarial Function

The EGMP is being provided with a secretarial function from a designated Senior Adviser

Composition of the Expert Group

- The EGMP is currently composed of representatives from the 11 CBSS Member States and the European Commission (DG Mare),
- The Expert Group is composed by representatives from Prime Ministers' Offices and Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Regional Development, Transport & Infrastructure, Industry & Trade and Maritime Administrations.

Main activities of the EGMP

The Expert Group on Maritime Policy is cross-sectoral and coordinates its work mainly between the priority areas of Economic Development, which may include innovation and competitiveness and a favourable business environment, fostering entrepreneurship, cluster development, maritime economy, transport & logistics, research and development, and Energy, which may include energy security, energy efficiency and saving, and the impact of energy on the Environment.

Initiating an LNG-strategy for clean shipping in the Baltic Sea Region

Taking over the EGMP chairmanship, Norway suggested an Annual Work Plan with 3 regular meetings of the Expert Group and a workshop of international scope and significance, which would directly facilitate further networking and thus regional exchange of knowledge. The Presidency was particularly aimed at creating better conditions for establishing regional cluster cooperation in the field of LNG as a maritime fuel for shipping. Due to the expected growth in maritime transport and the related environmental challenges, as well as new emission regulations from 2015/2016 onwards, there is a need to examine alternative fuel solutions.

This was in line with the EGMP's tasks anticipated by its Terms of Reference:

- "to initiate a maritime economy cluster in the Baltic Sea region to combine regional interests, strengthen their visibility and enable a regional maritime policy dialogue between business and political decision-makers;
- to initiate a network for marine science, research and development in the Baltic Sea region"; as well as it was in compliance with the BSPC Working Group Integrated Maritime Policy political recommendation in the context of its 4th session in Tallinn in November 2010:
- "to promote the use of alternative marine fuels such as LNG in the Baltic Sea Region by creating incentives for investments in the development of the necessary port infrastructure with a well developed network of filling stations and uniform industry - and usage standards".

Following the Annual Plan's objectives, the 5th regular meeting of the Expert Group was held in Oslo 11 March back-to-back with the workshop on use of LNG in shipping organized by the Norwegian Chairmanship the day before. The seminar was attended by more than 90 participants with a good geographical and institutional distribution representing governmental agencies, business and industry leaders and maritime cluster representatives. All the presentations given at the workshop are available on the CBSS website. Participants assessed the workshop as a good example of using the CBSS platform to combine dissemination of best practices with promotion of national competitive advantages of the host country and the creation of premises for LNG in shipping related market - both regionally and globally.

Improved coordination between regional intergovernmental organizations: HELCOM and VASAB

As envisaged by CBSS Riga Declaration, overlapping mandates with bodies under CBSS umbrella and outside the CBSS are to be avoided. In such a division of labour HELCOM deals primarily with issues of marine protection, while the EGMP works in the fields of maritime economy, infrastructure and technology. Representatives of VASAB dealing with maritime special planning have attended about a half of the EGMP meetings, including the 4th in Oslo, and VASAB topics were touched upon at the 6th meeting as a part of the Poland Maritime Strategy introduced by the Maritime Institute in Gdansk. Discussions on maritime spatial planning have been held also in context of the HELCOM Action Plan for the Baltic Sea.

Strengthened cooperation with strategic partners: BSPC and BSSSC working groups on maritime policy

Upon invitation by the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) and the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC) representatives of the CBSS participated in their respective Maritime Policy groups' meetings. The Norwegian EGMP Chair addressed the BSPC Working Group Integrated Maritime Policy 5th session in Stockholm 24 March 2011, and together with the forthcoming German Chair of the Group attended its final 6th session in Schwerin 20-21 June 2011 to brief the participants on the work done as well as on the priorities and working plan of the German CBSS Presidency. Three working and expert groups of the CBSS, BSPC and BSSSC introduced themselves at the first ever joint event within the framework of European Maritime Day 2011 in Gdansk on 20 May, which appeared to be one of the central presentations during stakeholders day, and has been reflected on the organizations' respective web sites. Strengthening cooperation between the strategic partners of the CBSS was appreciated by the Council's Oslo Declaration of 2011, as well as by the political recommendations for the 20th Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference.

Taking full account of the work conducted in the Northern Dimension Policy Framework and of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

The EG's composition provides for continued exchange of information concerning ongoing CBSS and EU activities in the field of Maritime Policy. Particularly, the EC delegate to the EGMP introduced at its 6th meeting in Gdansk the list of maritime projects within the EU BSR Strategy.

It has been decided that one of the Group's meetings under German Chairmanship will be dedicated to project hearing.

Development of virtual communication platform and communication tools focusing on Maritime Policy

Media and Communications unit introduced several steps to be taken to develop various communication tools across the organization and the head of the Media and Communications attended the Group's 4th meeting in Oslo. The follow-up was provided in a respective PM submitted for discussion at the EG's 6th meeting in Gdansk, outlining further developments, including:

- new visual identity for each CBSS long term priority fields;
- photographs visualizing maritime issues;
- articles in Balticness print edition;
- EGMP quick screens displayed alongside others at various events;
- Balticness Light EGMP and maritime policy related entries distributed to all the expert groups, the EUSBSR coordinators as well as other stakeholders;
- EGMP related presentations being uploaded to the CBSS website;
- EGMP printed factsheet;
- new generic CBSS power point template developed;
- Twitter and Facebook – the Secretariat has begun tweeting on behalf of the Expert Groups following several Maritime interest groups in the region;
- synergies with the European Maritime Forum will be further explored.

It was noted that Virtual Communication Platform will be developed in line with other activities across the board but are stalled right now due to budget constraints. This will be addressed in the first half of the German Presidency and an intern assistant will be specially designated to the EGMP.





Norwegian Presidency Priority – Counter Trafficking The CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB)

Introduction

Since its establishment in November 2006, the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) has proven to be an important and well connected actor in countering trafficking in human beings in the CBSS Region and its neighbouring states.

The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) is an expert group of government representatives from ministries in all the 11 Member States of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). It is an important arena for transfer of knowledge and best practices in order to increase prevention and enhance the protection of victims of human trafficking in the region. The TF-THB strives to address identified flaws in current policies and operative work in the region through collaborative projects.

In line with the reform strategy of the CBSS, the TF-THB focuses on hands-on, practical work to address gaps in existing practices and policies and to respond to emerging trafficking trends. It achieves this through the implementation of projects to better prevent trafficking, protect its victims and increasingly to facilitate work on the prosecution of traffickers. To focus its projects where most needed, a number of the TF-THB activities assess the new trends as well as existing counter-trafficking work and policies in each CBSS Member State. The TF-THB has also become an important tool for information exchange, transfer of knowledge and the sharing of best practices between governmental experts on human trafficking in the CBSS Region.

The TF-THB and the organisation's work against human trafficking in the CBSS Region has been one on the two focus areas of the Norwegian Presidency 2010-2011.

Composition and Mandate of the Group

The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) is composed of 18 representatives from the Ministries responsible for monitoring human trafficking and developing counter-trafficking policies in the CBSS Member States. These include the Ministries of Family Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Gender Equality, Interior, Justice, Social Affairs and Welfare. Additionally, an expert from the Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security at the European Commission and staff from the CBSS Secretariat are members of the group – in total the group consists of 12 women and 6 men. The Chair of the TF-THB rotates among the TF-THB Member States and follows the CBSS Presidency. The chair during the Norwegian Presidency has been the National Coordinator against Human Trafficking in Norway from the Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police.

The TF-THB is mandated to fight all forms of human trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region (with the focus on adults). The TF-THB mandate has been extended twice, most recently by the CSO meeting in Vilnius on 10 May 2010. The current mandate was prolonged until 30 June 2014.

Secretarial Function

The TF-THB is being provided with a Senior Adviser who is also Head of the TF-THB Unit at the CBSS Secretariat. From January 2011 until end of June 2014 Sweden has pledged funds for the position of the Senior Adviser - Head of Unit.

A Project Officer has been employed on a temporary contract from 1 November 2009 until December 2010 and a briefly also a Project Assistant on a short term contract from October to December 2010. These positions were all funded by Sweden during the reporting period with the possible view to multi-lateralising the positions in the budget in the future. A temporary extension of the contract of the Project Officer has been made possible thanks to project funds for 2011 from the Sida Baltic Sea Unit and an extra contribution from Norway.

In order for the TF-THB unit to fully function and to be able to implement its current activities securing a Project Officer for the mandate period of the TF-THB is needed. During 2010 the TF-THB presented a Project officer budget for 2011. Upon a CSO decision 26 January 2011 to approve the TF-THB budget for a Project Officer a Call for Contributions was sent out to the Member States 9 March 2011.

The Secretariat has since received the contributions from a few of the Member States and the alternative solutions on how to secure a budget for a Project Officer until end of June 2014 is currently being discussed. It was raised during the final CSO meeting under the Norwegian Presidency 6 June where a number of alternatives were presented to the CSO. Following the discussion a suggestion on how to merge the TF-THB budget into the core budget of the Secretariat will be presented to the CSO meeting in September 2011.

The TF-THB has had the assistance of two interns at the CBSS Secretariat during the reporting period; one from the U.K. and one from Norway.

Funding of the CBSS TF-THB

In the Swedish Government's National Action Plan against Prostitution and Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Exploitation, which was presented in July 2008, 7 million SEK were pledged to support the work of the CBSS TF-THB. Through the National Action Plan and the Swedish Government decision UD 2008/33399/EC, the TF-THB received support for its preventive and protective counter-trafficking work in the region for the years 2008 – 2010.

The funds were provided to cover the salary of the Senior Adviser position at the Secretariat and also planned project activities of the Task Force during this period.

In November 2008 the first instalment of 1 million SEK was received by the CBSS Secretariat to be used before the end of 2008. This first contribution supported the planning and start-up phase of the strategic activities of the TF-THB, the salary of the Senior Adviser and the production of information material about the work of the TF-THB. The second instalment of 3 million was received in January 2009 and the final instalment of 3 million was issued in January 2010.

The TF-THB operates as an independent unit with its own budget, within the structure of the CBSS. The generous financial support of Sweden has enabled the TF-THB to develop and implement five major strategic activities during the period and provided the means for the TF-THB to initiate a number of other projects to strengthen work against human trafficking in the Region. The funds also covered the salary and related costs of the Senior Adviser position at the Secretariat.

The funding provided by Sweden ended in December 2010, halfway through the Norwegian CBSS TF-THB Presidency, and a final report on all the TF-THB activities during 2008-2010 was sent to the Swedish Government 21 March 2011.

Bearing in mind the fact that the funds would cease by the end of 2010 the TF-THB actively sought new funding options during the reporting period in order to ensure the support of its ongoing and planned activities. On several occasions the TF-THB Secretariat formally addressed the CSO in writing and in person to outline the existing financial situation whilst urging them to consider future government funding possibilities for the TF-THB activities and the Secretarial function. This would enable the efficient continuation of the ongoing functions and projects of the TF-THB.

The TF-THB has also actively sought external financial sources. A positive development is that the TF-THB has managed to secure funds from the Baltic Sea Unit at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for its main project activities during 2011, the Memorandum of Understanding Project and DEFLECT. Meetings and Chair Function

During the Norwegian Presidency the TF-THB has been chaired by Mr. Jan Austad from the Ministry of Justice and the Police in Norway. In total 3 Task Force meetings have been held during the reporting period: Stockholm 26 November 2011, Oslo 24 March 2011 and Oslo 9 June 2011.

TF-THB Activities

When the funding from the Swedish National Action Plan against Prostitution and Human Trafficking was sought from the Swedish Government, the TF-THB decided, upon suggestions from the Secretariat, to focus on five major strategic activities for the period 2008-2010.

These activities were to be implemented during the following two years complementing the ordinary work of the TF-THB including the liaison and cooperation on various activities with relevant national and international counter trafficking actors in the region and beyond.

For the Period of 2008 - 2010 the TF-THB has implemented a number of strategic activities which have been successfully concluded during the reporting period:

- Training Seminars on Human Trafficking for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel in the CBSS Region
- Joint project with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on Fostering NGO and Law Enforcement Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking in, from and to the Baltic Sea Region
- Regional Information Campaign against Trafficking in Human Beings
- Improved Data Collection and Support to Research on Human Trafficking in the Region

First strategic activity: Training Seminars on Human Trafficking for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel in the CBSS Region

Under this first activity, the TF-THB has conducted training seminars on human trafficking for diplomatic and consular personnel in all the CBSS Member States.

The aim has been to equip diplomatic and consular staff with the knowledge and tools to react if they have reasons to believe that the person they are assisting or approached by may possibly face a human trafficking situation. The seminars delivered tools to consular sections on how to best respond to any suspicion of a potential trafficking case and/or discovery. Specifically, they provide consular staff with instruments to assist victims through cooperation with social services, support organisations, police, immigration authorities, customs, labour inspectors and other relevant actors.

The training seminars were meant for consular and diplomatic staff at the embassies of countries of origin, transit or destination who deal with potential victims of human trafficking through their daily work. It was aimed to supply a platform for networking and the possibility of establishing contact points between consular personnel and other institutions and authorities that they might come in contact with through their work. The seminars therefore brought together participants from a large number of embassies, and also invited representatives from ministries of foreign affairs, ministries of interior and ministries of justice and the police, and representatives from national and international organisations providing shelter and assistance to victims of human trafficking to participate as lecturers and to share their experiences.

CBSS Member States and Observer States have been invited to send participants from their embassies or consulates as well as relevant government ministries to each of the Training Seminars. The seminars were also open to participants from all countries with representations in the hosting capital, including Asian, South American, Arabic and African countries who one would not think of immediately having bearing on the Baltic Sea Region. The importance of including all countries that are affected by human trafficking, both countries of origin, transit and destination, was emphasized, which was the background for inviting states that are not CBSS Member States or Observer States.

Consultants from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission to Moldova conducted the Seminars together with the TF-THB Secretariat, delegates to the TF-THB and governmental and nongovernmental national experts. Additionally, a representative from the CBSS Expert Group on Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) often provided a brief outline of the specific measures required for assisting victims of child trafficking.

In general the TF-THB tried to expand the list of invited guests as well as trainers for these trainings to broaden cooperation with relevant actors in the region and beyond. International actors were therefore also involved in the training seminars, amongst them the Organization of American States (OAS). The OAS runs a similar training program for consular and diplomatic staff on human trafficking in Latin America. The TF-THB has contributed with lecturers at these seminars and vice versa, and the two organisations have drawn on each others experiences with organising these kinds of events.

The European Commission opened the training seminar in Belgium, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Representative on Human Trafficking participated in Finland and the OSCE/ODIHR (the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) gave a lecture on the Role of Consular and Diplomatic Staff in Ensuring Protection for Victims of Human Trafficking: the example of Poland, at the training seminar in Warsaw.

The very first training took place in Denmark on 24 November 2008, with more than 40 participants. Thereafter approximately one training seminar was held every two months, spreading out from Helsinki to Madrid, and finishing up in Riga on 10 November 2010, 25 months after the first training. All of the CBSS Member States (except Russia which is reforming its Ministry of the Interior and therefore plan to hold the seminar at a later date), and Belgium and Spain, hosted a training seminar. The seminars in Belgium and Spain were connected to the EU Presidencies, with the one in Belgium conducted during the Swedish Presidency which lasted from July until December 2009 and the one in Madrid under the Spanish Presidency which followed immediately after, from January 2010 until June 2010.

In total, twelve Training Seminars have been held:

- 24 November 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 28 April 2009, Tallinn, Estonia
- 25-26 May 2009, Reykjavik, Iceland
- 2 September 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania;
- 11 November 2009, Helsinki, Finland;
- 25 November 2009, Brussels, Belgium, under the Swedish EU Presidency;
- 12 May 2010, Warsaw, Poland;
- 31 May 2010, Stockholm, Sweden;

- 8 June 2010, Madrid, Spain, under the Spanish EU Presidency;
- 10 June 2010, Berlin, Germany;
- 13 October 2010, Oslo, Norway
- 10 November 2010, Riga, Latvia

The number of participants has varied from 30 up to 75 and more than 550 consular and diplomatic officials from 94 countries and 5 continents were trained during this training programme.

The participants were always requested to fill in an evaluation form after the training seminar and an evaluation report was written following each seminar. All of the trainings have been well received and participants have expressed that they have increased their knowledge about human trafficking and that they feel more prepared to handle these cases and assist potential victims of this crime.

The seminars deliberately reached out to a wide audience so that it could serve as a platform for wider and deeper cooperation after the seminars were over. The meeting point that the seminars provided will help to build a network of assistance between the participants, not only between consular and diplomatic staff from different countries, but also as a contact point to the state police, shelters and other NGOs and the international actors that were present.

The training programme has collected the advice given at the seminars in the Handbook for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel on Victim Assistance and Protection on how to identify and assist victims of human trafficking who consular and diplomatic staff may encounter through their profession. The handbook has been developed in joint cooperation between the TF-THB and the IOM Mission to Moldova and builds on the 12 training seminars.

It is designed as a practical guide for consular staff to use in their daily work as a tool for dealing with cases of human trafficking and its intention is to provide an easy to use, illustrative guide for consulates and embassies. The staff should utilize it as an everyday tool to assist victims and potential victims as well as to strengthen and channel their cooperation with other actors, for instance social service providers, police, immigration officers, customs officials and labour inspectorates.

The handbook starts with an overview of the international legal framework and the nature of human trafficking, and gives an introduction to the international legal framework that consular staff should be aware of, such as the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the relevant EU legislation. It also identifies "push and pull" factors that help explain why people are trafficked and where they might go when trafficked.

It then turns to concrete advice on how to identify and assist victims of human trafficking. This includes information on how to recognise a victim of human trafficking, and how to assist this victim when she or he has been identified. It also offers useful ideas on who to contact for further assistance and how to conduct an interview with a person who might have been the victim of trafficking or is at risk of becoming one.

Contact points and resources for further information are also included for each of the CBSS Member States, and for Belgium and Spain who also hosted seminars.

In addition to the wide distribution of the handbook to all trained embassies in the region and relevant international actors it is also for download online at www.cbss.org/tfthb.

The ambition is that the handbook be distributed to all the foreign missions of the CBSS Member States and influence the Member States curricula in this field.

The Handbook was launched on 25 May 2011 at the CBSS Secretariat in Stockholm with the Swedish Minister for EU Affairs, Ms. Birgitta Ohlsson, giving an introductory speech, and with participants from the embassies that participated at the training seminar in Stockholm last year and other invited embassies.

The Handbook was furthermore launched and presented to the diplomatic community in Norway and the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials at a side event to the CBSS Ministerial arranged by the Norwegian Presidency Tuesday 7 June at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Oslo.

Outcome and outputs:

- Increased knowledge of human trafficking of the consular staff attending the trainings
- The consular staff feel more prepared to handle cases of human trafficking and assist victims of trafficking
- A methodological handbook developed and distributed to embassies and consulates in the CBSS region

Means of verification:

Written evaluation reports from every Training Seminar.
The Handbook for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel on Victim Assistance and Protection distributed in 2500 copies to embassies and consulates in the CBSS region

Budget 2008: 77 885 SEK
Budget 2009: 638 697 SEK
Budget 2010: 193 521 SEK
Total Budget: 910 103 SEK

Financing:

The Swedish National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for sexual exploitation

Follow up project to the UNODC project - Development of a Regional Model Memorandum of Understanding between Law Enforcement and Civil Society Service providers

In line with the recommendations made at the Regional Conference and in the joint CBSS-UNODC report, the TF-THB commenced work on a model Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2010. MoUs are regarded by experts as the most effective type of formalised cooperation agreement. They are already being implemented between actors in some of the countries in the CBSS Region and elsewhere, however, there is considerable scope for the expansion of the use of MoUs to protect the victims of trafficking throughout the Region. Among the benefits of implementing MoUs between actors are the clarification and common understanding of objectives, policies and roles, clearly defined procedures to avoid misunderstandings, clearly defined mutual rights and responsibilities and more efficient and effective victim support and protection.

As a pilot project, the Task Force decided to develop a model MoU for cooperation between law enforcement agencies and victim service providers assisting victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation as this is the most observed form of trafficking in the Region.

The MoU consists of two sections: firstly it outlines the general terms of reference of the MoU which are common to all Memorandum signatories; secondly, the Annexes detail the terms of cooperation of the specific relationship, including the responsibilities and obligations of the Memorandum signatories. The structure of the MoU has been designed to allow for different bilateral agreements to be developed through the addition of annexes, tailored to the specific relationships.

A very first draft was developed, presented and discussed at the Baltic Sea Regional Conference – Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings – Regional Aspects, on 21-22 May 2010 in Vilnius, Lithuania. This Conference was jointly organised by the Lithuanian CBSS Presidency, the Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania, the IOM, the European Migration Network and the TF-THB.

The discussions held at this conference provided the basis for further development of a Model MoU. It furthermore served as a platform for the drafting of a project application to the Sida Baltic Sea Unit in order to allow the finalisation of the model MoU and facilitation of its implementation throughout the region in 2011. The project application was accepted by Sida and 300.000 SEK was granted for this project for implementation in 2011.

On 23 March 2011 the TF-THB held an expert MoU Seminar in Oslo to present the MoU to relevant stake holders in the region forming the basis for the formalisation of cooperation relationships between actors working to counter trafficking in the Region. The expert seminar provided the participants with three levels of interaction, international, regional and national and gathered national police, service providers, national coordinators, TF-THB delegates and international experts. During national round table discussions the participants could build consensus and plan possible avenues of roll out in the differing national perspectives (where small teams discussed the issues in their own national language - three to six individuals - whilst using a model MoU in the English language complemented by a translation provided by the Secretariat in their national language). The national teams were then asked to report back to the larger group after each session and then the exercise was repeated with new input and additional questions which acted as springboards for discussion.

Following the seminar 23 March an updated MoU including guidelines have been produced together with a seminar report and the CBSS Member States are now in the process of implementing MoUs at national level.

Outcomes:

- Draft Model Memorandum of Understanding between law enforcement agencies and specialist

service providers in English and Russian;

- Seminar Report from the Seminar 23 March;
- Baltic Sea Regional Conference – Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Human Beings – Regional Aspects, held on 21-22 May 2010 in Vilnius, Lithuania.
- Wider understanding of the importance of MoUs and actual and potential use and adoption of MoUs in several CBSS Member States which ultimately leads to better clarification of roles and responsibilities in the field.

Financing:

Sida Baltic Sea Unit 300.000 SEK

Second strategic activity: Data Collection and Education on Forced Labour Exploitation and Counter Trafficking (DEFLECT)

Another follow up project to the joint project with the UNODC is Data Collection and Education on Forced Labour Exploitation and Counter Trafficking (DEFLECT). DEFLECT was developed during 2010 and is one of the major activities in the pipeline for spring 2011. DEFLECT is a comprehensive regional training project on trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation purposes involving labour inspectorates, trade unions, employment agencies and other relevant actors. Partners to the project are a number of important international and regional actors in this namely; The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), The International Union for Food (IUF), The Baltic Sea Labour Network (BSLN), the Baltic Sea Trade Union Network (BASTUN) and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC). Also this project has received generous support from Sida of 1 000 000 SEK to implement a first phase of the project started in April 2011.

The first phase is comprised of an international conference in Oslo which was held 7-8 June 2011 and a baseline study to assess the current situation of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation in the region. Further funding will be needed from external sources for a phase two of the project and different options are currently being looked into.

Outcomes:

- A cross sector network has been established and energised where representatives from different areas have come to together to assess the issue
- First phase Conference brought out the complexity of the issue and was the first of its kind in the region to specifically address Labour Exploitation.

Financing:

Sida Baltic Sea Unit in total 1 000 000 SEK

Third strategic activity: Regional Information Campaign against Trafficking in Human Beings

The TF-THB agreed to run a joint regional information campaign during the project period 2008-2010. However, information campaigns require careful planning to ensure efficiency and to guarantee that they effectively reach the target group. Information campaigns are also very costly and without funding from other project partners the budget of the TF-THB for this project period would not in any way near suffice for an information campaign covering the whole CBSS Region. To initiate this activity and to ensure its sustainability, the TF-THB agreed on the implementation of a pilot campaign only targeting human trafficking into Sweden.

If successful this information campaign could then after this project period run throughout the region, adapting the messages to national needs and requirements of each Member State.

The project was implemented jointly with the Swedish National Coordinator against Prostitution and Trafficking at the County of Stockholm, the newly established Nationellt Metodstödsteam mot Prostitution och Människohandel (NMT - National Support Operations against Prostitution and Trafficking in Human Beings – which consists of representatives from the Swedish Police, Prosecutor's Office, Migration Board and Social Welfare Authorities) and the Swedish National Centre for Knowledge on Men's Violence Against Women (NCK) that runs the national 24 hour support line for women Kvinnofridslinjen.

It was agreed with the project partners to call the pilot campaign Safe Trip and it was designed to target transport hubs in Sweden with a telephone number to a support line that foreign

women in Sweden, who might be potential victims of trafficking or are at the risk of becoming victims of trafficking, can call for assistance.

The support line to which the information campaign is connected to was decided to be Kvinnofridslinjen, the Swedish national telephone support line for women who have been subjected to threats and violence or sexual assaults. Until recently the staff of this hotline had not been trained to handle calls from potential victims of trafficking. However, with this project their mandate and knowledge has been broadened so that they now are able to also assist and refer this group. During the autumn 2009 the personnel at Kvinnofridslinjen were trained about human trafficking by the TF-THB Secretariat, the National Coordinator and a representative from the Commission against Trafficking at the Stockholm Police. On EU Anti-Trafficking Day, 18 October 2010 the collective information campaign was launched. Safe Trip is an information campaign that is especially directed at women who are potential victims of human trafficking and who have been or are at risk of being trafficked to or within Sweden. The campaign aims to open our eyes to the crime of human trafficking and inform (potential) victims of how to receive help to escape a seemingly hopeless situation. From 18 October 2010, Safe Trip has been displayed at locations in the Stockholm area – initially, at the international airports, on the metro and commuter trains and on the street level – through which victims could be trafficked en route to exploitation. Swedish authorities, hospitals and female health clinics, service providers and organisations as well as embassies and cultural institutions have welcomed the campaign and are displaying the campaigns posters, leaflets, information cards and website banners in waiting rooms and reception areas.

The campaign encourages female victims and potential victims of human trafficking to call the 24 hour Swedish national telephone helpline for women subjected to threats, violence and sexual assault. All calls are free of charge, will be received anonymously and will not be shown on the callers' telephone bill. Interpretation services are available.

The information campaign carries five messages in six languages - Swedish, English, Romanian, Russian, Spanish and Thai. The languages have been identified together with operative actors in Sweden depending on the nationalities most commonly identified in Sweden.

- Forced to sell sex?
- Threats of violence?
- The victim of threats?
- Deceived into performing services against your will?
- In Sweden you never need to accept:
 - Being threatened
 - Selling sex against your will
 - Being forced
 - Being beaten

Safe trip is Stockholm's first ever counter-trafficking campaign and it has proven to be a success, spotted by almost one in three Stockholmers since it was launched in October.

Both main aims of the campaign has been reached; to make the general public aware of the problem of human trafficking, and to reach out to victims of trafficking who are in need of assistance. The next step in the process, to make Safe Trip nationwide, has started, and ultimately the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings aims to have similar campaigns all over the Baltic Sea Region. The posters have been clearly visible all over Stockholm, from the minute you arrive to collect your luggage at Arlanda airport until you have parked your car in front of your destination and spot the poster on the parking meter. A majority saw the campaign, which is urging victims of trafficking to call Kvinnofridslinjen (a national helpline for women) for assistance, on posters in the carriages of the Stockholm metros.

A website www.safetrip.se has also been developed by the communications department at the CBSS Secretariat and since its launch it has had nearly 2000 visitors from 61 countries. An e-mail address for contact to the campaign organisers at CBSS and the National Coordinator has also been established and comments and questions are received and answered. Positive feed back has been received from the general public and a few young women offered jobs abroad have also contacted the email address for advice on how to minimize their risks.

The exact number of women who have called the national helpline as a result of the campaign is uncertain, as it receives calls for many different reasons and detailed information is restricted due to secrecy. The helpline has however reported on calls that have been specifically concerning cases of trafficking, proving that Safe Trip reaches out to those who are in need of help.

In addition to being noticed by the public and potential victims, Safe Trip has also been noticed by the general media. Articles have been published in both Aftonbladet and the international bulletin Global Eye, published by the International Organization for Migration and on the UN website UN.GIFT knowledge hub on human trafficking. Radio Sweden ran a piece online and on the airwaves and CNN International also made an interview with the Senior Adviser about the campaign for a current series on sex trade in the Scandinavian countries. The campaign has also contributed to increase the general knowledge of the CBSS and TF-THB,

as more people that had seen the campaign reported that they knew of the organisation than those who hadn't seen it – it even received comments on the blogsphere.

According to Yougov, a polling company reviewing the impact of Safe Trip, everyone thinks that human trafficking is a problem which it is important to combat. However, few of the people polled were satisfied with the way the community has handled this issue in the past. Safe Trip was considered a positive measure to combat trafficking in human beings, and might contribute to remedy the mediocre image of action against trafficking. The interviewers received feedback that Safe Trip carried a clear message and that it focuses on an important problem.

One of the most important achievements of the campaign is to give victims of trafficking in Sweden new permanent means of getting help by expanding the mandate of Kvinnofridslinjen to also assist victims of trafficking. When the Safe Trip campaign is over, victims of trafficking will still be able to seek competent assistance through Kvinnofridslinjen's help line. This ensures the relevance of the campaign also on a longer term basis.

Outcome and outputs:

- Increased support to potential victims and victims of human trafficking in Sweden;
- Provision to potential victims and victims of human trafficking travelling to, through or within Sweden of a hotline number to contact for assistance;
- Training of staff of the hotline against gender based violence, Kvinnofridslinjen, in preparation to assist and refer potential victims of trafficking
- Kvinnofridslinjen mandate permanently expanded to also assist victims of trafficking; and
- Launch of information campaign and supporting material distributed to relevant travelling spots in Sweden.
- www.safetrip.se
- Increased information and knowledge to the general public on Sweden's activities to counter act human trafficking.
- Expansion of the Safe Trip campaign to other County boards in Sweden who also carry the campaign – making the campaign national

Means of verification

Result from the YouGov market analysis
 Number of callers to the help line
 Number of visitors to the website www.safetrip.se
 Feedback from media and the public

Financing:

The activity was jointly financed by the CBSS TF-THB and the National Coordinators Office, at the County Administrative Board of Stockholm. The TF-THB received in November 2011 300.000 SEK from the County Administrative Board out of which 146 704 SEK were used during the year and the rest carried over to 2011. The total budget for Safe Trip has been 879 553 SEK out of which 732 849 SEK were financed by the Swedish National Action Plan 2010 and 146 704 SEK by the contribution from the County Administrative Board of Stockholm.

Budget 2010 and Total Budget: 879 553 SEK

Fourth strategic activity: Improved Data Collection and Support to Research on Human Trafficking

In order to develop policies and working methods that can successfully counteract trafficking in human beings, it is essential to have the right tools to monitor the changing patterns of the crime to constantly update and enhance the knowledge base in this field. Only if there is sufficient statistical knowledge on the victims, the traffickers, the trafficking process and the criminal justice responses to human trafficking, can victims of human trafficking be properly identified and assisted as such.

Trafficking in human beings is a clandestine activity. The victims of this crime are part of a hidden population, which is hard to reach and observe. Therefore, it is difficult to precisely identify the magnitude of the problem or the characteristics of the persons involved in the crime. A significant discrepancy between the estimated number of victims and those actually detected can be observed.

In this context, the concealed nature of human trafficking also exacerbates the collection of data on human trafficking. However, the collection of data on human trafficking is necessary in order to be able to:

- develop effective and well-targeted prevention and protection mechanisms
- produce appropriate and successful strategies to act against traffickers
- generate appropriate criminal justice responses to fight the crime

It is important that organisations and authorities within one country exchange the collected data in order to map trafficking patterns on the national level. Since trafficking in human beings is a cross-border crime it is also important that the collected statistical data is exchanged between countries, in order to identify common (regional) trends.

Apart from this it is not only essential to know which data is collected, but also by whom it is collected, how the data is collected and protected and who has access to it.

Although it can be noted that in recent years continuous progress has been made towards the development of a common understanding of human trafficking and the establishment of common indicators for data collection on human trafficking, there are still weaknesses in data collection mechanisms and knowledge exchange between various actors.

Assessment Study Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanisms in the Baltic Sea Region

It was decided as part of the five strategic activities for the period 2008-2010 that the CBSS TF-THB needs to look into data collection on human trafficking in the region. At the eighth meeting of the CBSS TF-THB in March 2009 the delegates decided to start the fourth strategic activity by conducting a desk top study which would assess the information on human trafficking that is currently collected, its public availability and which actors are tasked with the gathering of data in the CBSS Member States.

It was clear and apparent when defining the rationale behind the study that without understandable, verifiable and transparent data there can be no analysis of trends – which in turn impacts on policy development and therefore effective counter trafficking activities. Thus far, there has been no overview of the data collection mechanisms in the CBSS Region, although some countries have been engaged in bilateral or smaller group data collection enhancement projects.

To develop its details and implement this activity a project officer was hired on a short term contract from 2 November 2009 - 31 December 2010.

For this project, the TF-THB decided to use the recently published Guidelines for the collection of data on trafficking in human beings, including comparable indicators as a starting point. These guidelines were developed in 2009 under a joint project of the Federal Ministry of the Interior of Austria in cooperation with the IOM in Vienna and with the financial support from the European Commission.

Using the Guidelines as a background, the purpose of the project has been to map how, by whom and which type of data is being currently collected in the 11 CBSS Member States.

The Guidelines outline the types of data on human trafficking that states should collect on the victims, the traffickers, the trafficking process and the criminal justice responses to human trafficking. They also discuss procedural considerations, such as, who should analyse and access the data and how data should be gathered, evaluated and disseminated.

It was thought to be beneficial for the CBSS TF-THB to have the data collection project connected to the Guidelines and to see how countries in the region live up to the requirements in the Guidelines

The overall objective of this project was to support and contribute to an enhanced knowledge base on data collection in the CBSS Region and thereby strengthen the relevant actors to better counteract trafficking in human beings. In doing so the project also strives to endorse international and regional research on human trafficking, especially regarding the research on data collection mechanisms in this field, with the purpose of globally supporting and enforcing more efficient data collection mechanisms and therefore improving policy and programmatic responses to human trafficking.

The result of the investigation was the production of an assessment study "Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanism in the Baltic Sea Region". The publication is envisaged as firstly a baseline study on the data collection capacity and activity that currently exists and secondly as a springboard for future enhancement of data collection mechanisms in the region.

The information presented in the study was researched and compiled independently as a desk top study and then subsequently verified and clarified in cooperation with the government officials and agencies responsible. Therefore the study commissioned by the CBSS TF-THB was never thought to be an independent study, but more of a fact-finding mission by the group as a self-assessment of the current state of play.

The assessment study "Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanism in the Baltic Sea Region" indicates that a number of enhanced efforts to gather data on various aspects of human trafficking have been implemented in the Baltic Sea Region alongside the establishment and continual improvement of specialised databases. Although National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms are not a widely established function in the region, the CBSS Member States have developed systems to address data collection through other institutions.

However, a number of challenges in the data collection mechanisms in the 11 CBSS Member States have been identified. These challenges mainly fall under the headings of data availability, data transparency and data comparability.

Based on the finding of the assessment study, it is recommended to the CBSS Member States to:

- Enhance efforts to collect and publish data on the victims, the traffickers, the trafficking process and the criminal justice responses
- Amplify data collection to include qualitative data
- Establish National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms
- To place a stronger focus on trafficking in human beings for other forms of exploitation in addition to the established focus on sexual exploitation
- Safeguard human and financial resources for data collection
- Simplify identification procedures

The findings of this study will be presented and discussed with counter trafficking actors as well as with researchers who work in this field. Furthermore, this assessment will be used as a base line study for potential future activities in this field if a need for improvements will be found.

Outcome and Output:

- Contribute to an enhanced knowledge base on data collection in the CBSS Region
- Conduct an in-depth baseline study assessing the current data collection mechanisms in the CBSS Member States in order to identify needs for improvements
- The Publication of Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanisms in the Baltic Sea Region - an in depth assessment of the current data collection on human trafficking and the indicators used in the CBSS Region

Means of verification

The report Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanisms in the Baltic Sea Region printed and distributed in 400 copies throughout the region

Financing:

The Swedish National Action Plan for 2010 and Norwegian funds for spring 2011

Budget 2010: 40 456 SEK
Budget 2011: 90 633 SEK

Research Seminar "Human Trafficking: The Nexus between Research and Operative Work"

The importance of building understanding of the complexity of human trafficking across different fields of academic discipline and acknowledging how our knowledge bases need to be broadened to enable us to counteract human trafficking is not to be under-estimated. In 2008 the TF-THB began discussing ways to specifically improve national and regional reactions to emergent trends in human trafficking models which would be combined with a better comprehension of underlying shifts in trafficking operations and their mechanisms. Research was viewed as one vital element to gain insight on the evolving situation, especially as national bodies and civil servants often lack the time in their everyday working situations to track new and upcoming analysis.

The research seminar Human Trafficking: the Nexus between Research and Operative Work,

Uppsala 25 November 2010 was one outcome of the fourth Strategic Activity – Improved Data Collection and Support to Research on Human Trafficking in the Region. The seminar was co-organised and hosted by the CBSS TF-THB and Uppsala University, specifically the Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies and the Centre for Police Research. The other outcome of the fourth Strategic Activity is the publication *Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanisms on Human Trafficking in Baltic Sea Region* (see above) – the initial findings of which were discussed in the third panel of the day entitled Existing cooperation Models and Knowledge Tools in the Fight against Human Trafficking.

The seminar was designed to not only give a platform for researchers and practitioners in Sweden to present and discuss their work but to link their work with the international research community. Furthermore, the seminar set out to frame research in policy reality by citing fieldwork examples, bringing together strands not only from academia or the government but also from the third sector of charity and NGO experience. More importantly the point of the seminar and the fourth strategic activity as a whole for the TF-THB was to achieve practical input for further development of national governmental action against Human Trafficking - to connect research to operative work and better cross reference the two spheres. The point was not to present research for research sake – it was to focus on the crucial and often neglected connection between research ideas and findings with policy change and active implementation of newly identified methodologies in practice. In short it was to present cutting edge research and bolster the potential of new thinking which hopefully proved exciting for the participants. 24 individuals took the floor over the course of the day. Key-note speakers flew in from Thailand, the U.K. and the United States. Panellist and moderator input was provided by individuals representing a diverse mix of organisations and institutions based in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Norway and of course Sweden. They were complemented by additional perspectives from the European Commission, Brussels and the IOM HQ in Geneva, supplemented by the CBSS TF-THB delegates (Estonia, Iceland, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden), and the host organizations and participants (69 registered participants plus 24 speakers = 93 total) made the seminar a truly international event.

Outcome and output:

- Facilitate a network of researchers in the field on human trafficking
- Research seminar on Human Trafficking: the Nexus between Research and Operative Work, in cooperation with Uppsala University, held on 25 November 2010, Uppsala, Sweden.

Means of verification

Seminar Report and other documentation

Financing:

Shared costs between Uppsala University and the CBSS TF-THB (The Swedish National Action Plan 2010)

Total Budget: 72 126 SEK

Outreach work of the TF-THB

Joint Cooperation with National and International Actors

Since the mandate of the TF-THB was prolonged and the funds secured for 2008-2010 the TF-THB Secretariat has put a strong focus on presenting the work of the TF-THB by arranging meetings and liaising with relevant actors in this region and representing the TF-THB at international conferences.

In addition to the joint activities with the IOM and the UNODC, the TF-THB has participated and given presentations on its work at UN.GIFT and OSCE meetings in Vienna as well as at EU events in Brussels.

Furthermore, close cooperation was developed with the Swedish EU Presidency and the TF-THB participated in the expert networking group of international organisations which was gathered to prepare the Ministerial Conference against Trafficking held in Brussels 19-20 October 2009. Cooperation with the EU Commission has strengthened during the last two years and there has been cross participation at several events. The new EU Counter Trafficking Coordinator Myria Vassiliadou has been contacted since taking up her position and the TF-THB expects good cooperation with her in the role, especially as her former position was Director of the European Women's Lobby which the TF-THB is most familiar with. A meeting between her and the TF-THB Chair took place in Oslo in late June, she was also interviewed in the Summer issue of the *Balticness Journal*. The TF-THB Secretariat has held meetings and presented its work to a number of relevant stakeholders such as the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking

in Human Beings, a position previously held by Ms. Eva Biaudet. In 2010 the close cooperation continued with the new OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, who formerly represented the EU Commission in the TF-THB until the beginning of 2010. Since 2009 the TF-THB is represented by the Senior Adviser in the OSCE Expert Alliance Coordination Group against Trafficking, which is composed of the major international organisations and NGOs in this field in Europe. The Senior Adviser was furthermore invited to write an article about the activities of the TF-THB, which was published in the OSCE Yearbook 2009.

A cooperative relationship has been established with the Organization of American States (OAS), an organisation which has a long experience of conducting counter trafficking trainings for consular staff and other officials in the Americas. To exchange experiences in this field the OAS participated at the training seminar in Iceland and the Senior Adviser of the TF-THB participated as a trainer at an OAS training seminar in Trinidad Tobago in June 2009.

In Sweden, a number of new initiatives for joint activities were initiated during the reporting period with the support of the Swedish National Action Plan against Trafficking. The TF-THB Secretariat has participated in many of the events arranged by other actors and vice versa and a network of national actors has been established.

Through joint activities such as the Safe Trip project, the TF-THB has established a close cooperation with national operative actors in this field in Sweden such as the National Coordinator against Prostitution and Trafficking who is responsible for co-ordinating the operative work against trafficking in Sweden. The Senior Adviser of the TF-THB has participated as trainer in a number of events arranged by the National Coordinator against Prostitution and Human Trafficking as well as other Swedish institutions and organisations, such as the Swedish Institute and the Police.

The Swedish Institute was, in connection to the Swedish National Plan of Action on Prostitution and Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes, commissioned by the Government to spread information on Swedish methods and perspectives relevant to the work on prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes on an international basis. The TF-THB has a constructive working relationship with the Swedish Institute and during the Swedish EU Presidency the Training Seminar for Diplomats in Brussels was co-arranged by the Swedish EU-presidency, the TF-THB and the Swedish Institute. The Senior Adviser to the TF-THB has also taken part in a number of seminars in Stockholm informing visiting delegations from the Middle East, Turkey and Nigeria on ways to prevent trafficking and to assist the victims.

The Senior Adviser to the TF-THB also contributed and participated in international conferences arranged by the Swedish Institute in Turkey, Belarus and Brazil. In Sao Paulo, Brazil, the conference Regional Cooperation to Combat Human Trafficking was organized by the Swedish Institute, the Swedish Embassy in Brazil and the UNODC in correlation with the Swedish royal families official visit to Brazil in 2009.

Harvard University in Boston has shown great interest in the work of the Task Force and information is constantly shared. Possible link-up and planned events are being looked into for the future.

The Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) Working Group on Civil Security, especially trafficking in human beings, was established in early 2010 and is chaired by Line Barfod, MP, Denmark. It aims to elaborate joint BSPC policy recommendations on trafficking in human beings. The TF-THB took part in the second meeting of the Working Group which was held in the Swedish Parliament on 8 April 2010. The meeting delivered extensive information to the BSPC on strategic policy as well as operational measures in the fight against trafficking in human beings. The TF-THB has further developed this cooperation with the BSPC and delegates from other Member States have contributed to subsequent meetings in the region. Joint projects have been designed and the CBSS TF-THBs work and provided input plays an important role in the BSPC final policy recommendation for enhanced counter trafficking work in the region. Safe Trip was presented at the seventh meeting of the WG at the Lithuanian Parliament.

The TF-THB has cooperation with NGOs as a high priority. Representatives from NGOs in the Region are always invited to the CBSS events and their input is most relevant when setting up and designing new project ideas. Through participation in events and meetings the TF-THB has also made efforts to keep up the contact with the network of NGOs in the region which was established by the Nordic-Baltic Task Force.

It has been a priority since the Danish Presidency to establish a closer relationship with the NCM. After cross participation in several activities, notably the TF-THB UNODC Conference and the NCM organised seminar on the Health aspects of Human Trafficking. The possibility of joint projects for 2011 and onwards are now being discussed, especially in the field of counteracting labour exploitation.

As a part of its outreach work the TF-THB has drafted articles on its work and also been interviewed for various publications and reports. For a selection of publications, press cuttings and comments please visit www.cbss.org/Civil-Security-and-the-Human-Dimension/press.

Communication and Information Material about the work of the TF-THB

The TF-THB has worked closely together with the Communication Unit at the CBSS Secretariat. The TF-THB has also always sought advice from the Communications Unit at an early stage, bearing in mind the necessity of communication in results dissemination and general impact for each of its strategic activities, especially in the project application phase and project implementation cycle.

The TF-THB Secretariat has since 2008 developed its own image bank with photographs to use for its different product tools. These images were especially used in the UNODC report and also when producing the website for Safe Trip. The Safe Trip website www.safetrip.se was designed and developed by the Communication Unit at the CBSS Secretariat

Most of the layout work for the various publications and productions has either been done in house or supervised by the Secretariat. Outside creative input has also been sought from illustrators, designers and graphic specialists – most importantly for budgetary discipline through contacts and at considerable negotiated discount. This has enabled the TF-THB to create much higher level presentations and campaign material than would have been possible otherwise.

The TF-THB makes full use of the CBSS website www.cbss.org/tfthb and has advertised the shortcut to its section on its publications. A new logo was furthermore designed for the TF-THB in 2010.

In its efforts to improve communication and outreach work the TF-THB has also started a twitter account on www.twitter.com/tfthb. The account enables the TF-THB to stay in contact with counter trafficking actors globally and by doing also inform about the current activities of the TF-THB but even more importantly to keep itself up to date with ongoing initiatives on national and international level.

The TF-THB has designed and produced information materials about the work of the Task Force in the form of a brief leaflet explaining the rationale and the activities of the TF-THB and a set of fact sheets outlining the strategic activities in detail and furthermore explaining trafficking in human beings as well as the mandate of the Task Force. All of the material is also available in Russian and was developed, updated and reprinted during 2008 and 2009. The TF-THB has also had the assistance from the Communications Unit to produce quick screens for the TF-THB to use when arranging seminars and conferences.

Budget 2010: - 22 408 SEK (other communication expenditure is included in the above strategic project budgets)

Financing: The Swedish National Action Plan 2010

Concluding Remarks

The work and the activities of the TF-THB have been successfully implemented during the reporting period.

The funding has allowed the TF-THB to plan and implement project activities against human trafficking for the benefit of the Region.

In order to develop policies and working methods that can successfully counteract trafficking in human beings, it is essential to have the right tools on how to monitor the changing patterns of the crime to constantly update and enhance the knowledge base in this field. A number of the TF-THB activities have therefore aimed at assessing the current work and systems in place to counter act human trafficking in the CBSS region.

The joint project with the UNODC assessing the existing cooperation models between state and civil society actors in victims assistance provided not only an enhanced knowledge to actors in the region but also a basis for the TF-THB from which to develop future project to address the identified gaps.

The assessment study *Hard Data: Data Collection Mechanism in the Baltic Sea Region* indicates a number of challenges in the data collection mechanisms in the 11 CBSS Member States. With an enhanced knowledge base on data collection the aim of the study has been to strengthen the relevant actors to improve data collection in their Member States by addressing lacks in areas such as data availability, data transparency and data comparability.

Capacity building of relevant actors has also been a main priority for the TF-THB. Inadequate identification of victims of trafficking still remains one of the biggest obstacles to effectively fight human trafficking. Since the CBSS is located under the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the 11 Member States, it was therefore a well placed forum to offer training seminars to the consular and diplomatic sections of the foreign services.

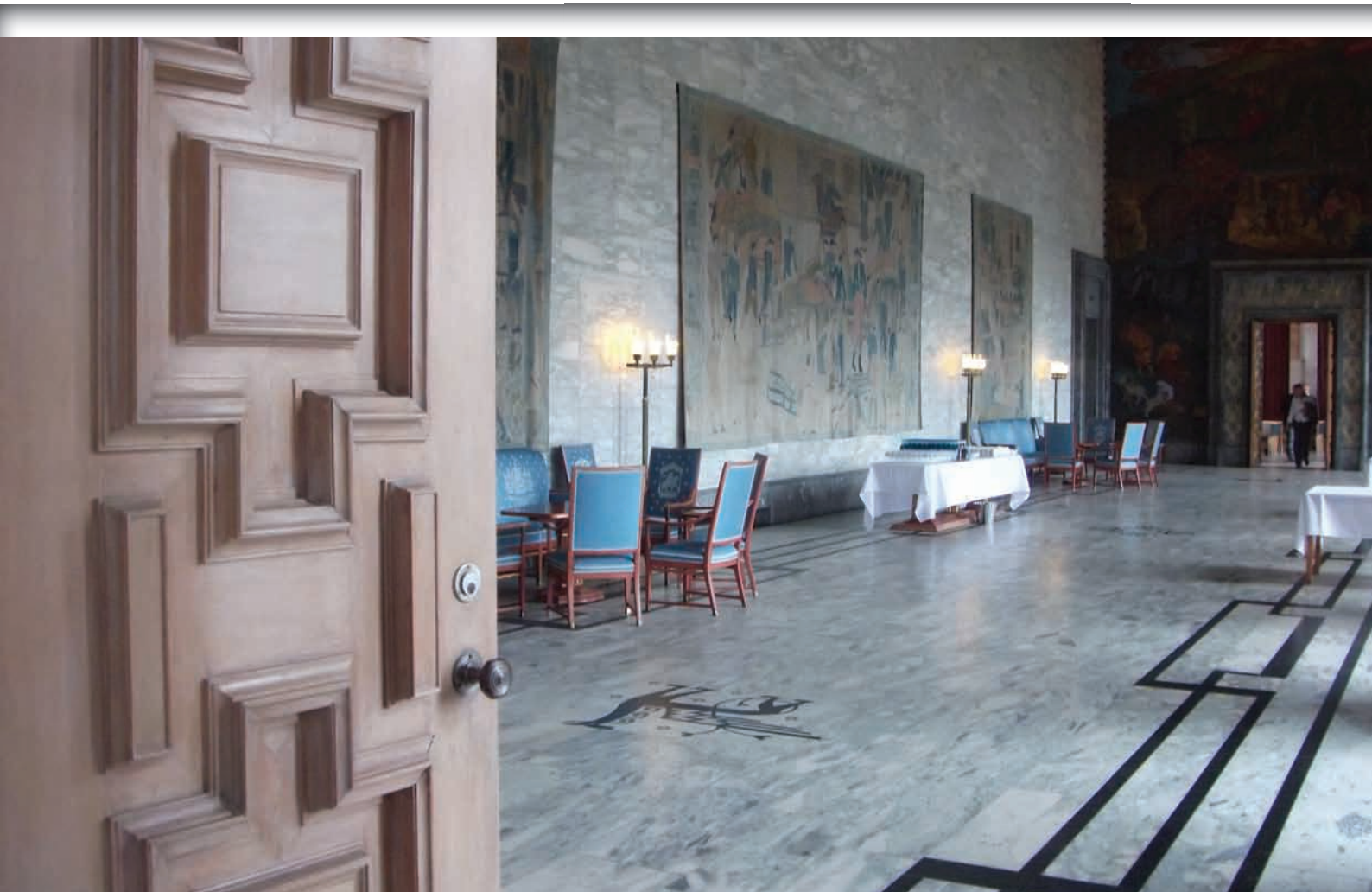
The evaluation of the training seminars and the Handbook to Diplomatic and Consular Personnel

on How to Assist and Protect Victims of Trafficking have shown that the seminars have provided consular staff with instruments to identify and assist victims through an increased knowledge of the problem and the national and international legal framework. It has also provided tools for cooperation with social services, support organisations, police and immigration authorities through providing contact points and information about the authorities and responsibilities of the various actors. Finally, it has introduced its participants to interview techniques that are useful when dealing with a potential victim of human trafficking, and guidance on what signs to look out for in a person that is suspected of being exposed to human trafficking.

In addition to an enhanced knowledge base and capacity building for relevant actors the TF-THB has also worked with direct outreach to potential victims of trafficking. The Safe Trip information campaign was especially directed at women who are potential victims of human trafficking and who have been or are at risk of being trafficked to or within Sweden and provided them with a number to a national hotline to call for support. Evaluations have shown that the campaign managed to reach out to victims. It furthermore, was very well received by the general public where three thirds were very positive towards the campaign and found it clear and well targeted, useful and needed in society.

The funding has not only made it possible for the TF-THB to implement its planned activities. It has further made it possible for the TF-THB to develop into an important arena for the transfer of knowledge and best practices in the region, in order to increase prevention and enhance the protection of victims of human trafficking.

Having recently completed an intense two-year period of activities the TF-THB is now commencing a number of new projects. Future strategic activities for 2011 and beyond are being implemented and developed by the TF-THB and its project partners.



THE FIVE LONG-TERM PRIORITIES OF THE COUNCIL



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CBSS Expert Group On Sustainable Development – Baltic 21

Chair of the Expert Group: Mr. Herbert Kristoffersen, Ministry of Finance Norway

Under the reporting period 2010-2011 major developments in Baltic 21 include:

- Agreement on the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development for 2010-2015
- Submission of policy input or position papers to the Annual Stakeholder Conference on EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and EU Consultations on UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012
- Adoption of new criteria for Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects
- Initiation of the development of a Baltic Sea Region wide climate change adaptation strategy to be carried out in the BALTADAPT project
- Endorsement of EcoVillages as a new Baltic 21 Lighthouse project and started implementation of actions to support sustainable lifestyle and rural development
- Development of new projects on Green Public Procurement in the Baltic Sea Region, Corporate Social Responsibility in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the Baltic Sea Region as well as Youth and Sustainable Lifestyles
- Facilitation of outreach activities and knowledge exchange between Baltic 21 and experts in Ukraine and Belarus, organised one seminar in Lviv, Ukraine
- Provision of financial assistance to local partners in NW Russia to participate in Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects
- Development of Baltic 21 promotional films

Baltic 21 is a greenhouse for sustainable ideas. We find and develop creative and practical solutions for sustainable development, facilitate them and make them grow. Today, we have over 200 partners working together on projects for eco-innovation, education for sustainable development, promoting bio-energy, adapting to climate change and more. We bring together experts from governmental organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders. Together we develop hands-on projects and turn results into policy recommendations.

Baltic 21 meets the environmental, social and economic challenges facing the Baltic Sea Region by developing a multitude of sustainability projects. Each one with the most suitable partners and tailor made methods. We call these projects "Lighthouse Projects". They are the core of our work and within their frameworks we find, develop and test practical solutions for sustainability.

Baltic 21 has a project-to-policy approach which means that we transform the findings or outcomes of a Lighthouse Project into general policy recommendations that can be applied in the Baltic Sea Region and beyond. These recommendations are introduced and promoted on different political levels such as national governments, the European Commission and the United Nations.

In the years 2010-2015 our four strategic areas of cooperation are:

- Climate Change: become a low carbon and climate adapted region
- Sustainable Urban & Rural Development: create a region of sustainable cities and towns in symbiosis with vibrant rural areas
- Sustainable Consumption & Production: be a forerunner region in Sustainable Lifestyles and Green Economies
- Innovation & Education for Sustainable Development: become a leading region on education for sustainable development and eco-innovations

Baltic 21 held two meetings of the Expert Group during the time period of this report, in Berlin, Germany, on 1-2 December 2010 and in Oslo, Norway, on 14-15 March 2011.

In addition, a coordination meeting with all the Lead Partners of the Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 23 February 2010. Reports from all the above mentioned meetings are published on the CBSS website <http://www.cbss.org/Environment/latest-meeting>.

CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015

The Strategy was developed in 2010 through involvement of members of the Expert Group and partners in Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects as well as other relevant stakeholders in the Baltic Sea Region. The Strategy was adopted by the CSO on 26 January 2011 and taken note of by the 16th Ministerial Session of CBSS on 7 June 2011. The Strategy calls for following actions:

- Spreading climate-smart solutions in agriculture and forestry
- Promoting bioenergy
- Developing a new climate change adaptation strategy for the whole Baltic Sea Region
- Promoting better management of urban-rural interactions
- Facilitating integrated sustainable agriculture and forestry
- Developing sustainable tourism
- Spreading sustainable consumption and production methods and initiating corporate social responsibility in small and medium sized enterprises
- Sharing knowledge and best practices in green public procurement
- Creating environments for youth culture and sustainable lifestyles as well as supporting youth entrepreneurship
- Enhancing education for sustainable development by promoting inter-disciplinary and new teaching methods and develop new study material
- Facilitating knowledge transfer and supporting cooperation between educational institutions
- Spearheading initiatives for the uptake of eco-innovations in small and medium sized enterprises

A majority of these actions will be carried out through already on-going Lighthouse projects and/or the development of new projects and other initiatives. The CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 will monitor the implementation and prioritise each year in its annual Work Plan which activities will be highlighted and emphasised in a particular year.



Lighthouse Projects

The term, Lighthouse Project (LHP) has been coined to denote projects designed to demonstrate sustainable development in action. The Baltic 21 Lighthouse Project is a quality label issued by the Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21. The LHP criteria demand the projects to be innovative and demonstrate sustainable development in practice on a Baltic Sea Regional level, are cross-sectoral, involve a multi-stakeholder partner network and include a learning aspect. These projects are led by different members of the Expert Group.

An adopted Lighthouse Project becomes a fully-fledged Lighthouse Project as soon as it secures funding for its implementation. Currently Baltic 21 has 11 Lighthouse projects, 9 on-going and 2 projects with pending decision for funding.

Lead Partners of the LHPs are members of the Expert Group and regularly report on its activities. The CBSS Baltic 21 Unit is either an associated partner with no project budget or regular partner with a budget. As an associated partner the CBSS Baltic 21 Unit will go to some project events and works to enhance visibility of the projects, in particular, dissemination of project results to relevant policy fora. As a regular partner CBSS Baltic 21 Unit has a clear role and responsibility of implementing specific tasks, often related to policy development and communication of results and good practices. Currently, the CBSS Baltic 21 Unit is a regular partner in Baltadapt and EcoRegion.

Five Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects are now approaching the final year of implementation and tangible results stemming from these projects are highlighted below:

Baltic Sea Region Bio-energy promotion

The project aims at strengthening the development towards a sustainable, competitive and territorial integrated Baltic Sea Region in the field of sustainable use of bio-energy. Some of the main outcomes of the project so far:

- Policy assessment report on sustainable bio-energy production

- Policy guidelines on criteria for sustainable bio-energy
- Policy guidance paper on Promoting sustainable bio-energy production and consumption in the frame of the National Renewable Energy Action Plans and beyond, including transnational recommendations
- Assessment report on certification schemes for sustainable bio-energy
- 44 pilot projects with good practise examples of bio-energy production and use at the sub-regional level
- Set up of a Virtual Brokerage Platform for bio-energy business developments
- Organized a series of facilitation workshops to support bio-energy market "match-making" resulting in the creation of new networks, clusters and public-private partnerships

EcoRegion

The aim of the project is to develop the Baltic Sea Region into the world's first EcoRegion, where economical growth goes hand in hand with environmental integrity and social justice. Some of the main outcomes of the project so far:

- Assessment report on Baltic 21 as the basis for the new mandate of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21
- Background studies for the development of the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015
- Collection of 200 Good Practices on practical local and regional sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region, publicly available in a database
- Published three thematic periodicals, Perspectives, on tourism, territorial cohesion and education for sustainable development
- Capacity building on integrated sustainability management systems in 10 model regions

EHSA

The aim of the Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Agriculture project is to transfer knowledge through seminars and training courses and develop new educational packages. Some of the main outcomes in the project so far:

- 3 course books for Master level on sustainable agriculture, land use, rural development, ecosystem health and management
- Teacher training workshops within Baltic University Programme

SPIN

The SPIN project aims at bringing together demand and supply side of innovative and environmental friendly techniques (eco-innovations). This matchmaking process creates business opportunities for the suppliers and helps to reduce environmental burden and to exploit cost saving potentials through more sustainable production in SMEs applying eco-innovations. The project focuses on the sectors construction, decentralised wastewater treatment, surface treatment and biogas. Some of the main outcomes of the project so far:

- Collection of 200 eco-innovation products as well as good practice examples publicly available online in the SPIN database
- Country specific background papers on the aforementioned sectors
- Country assessment reports on SME needs as well as barriers and incentives to apply eco-innovations
- Synthesis report summarizing the country studies
- Transnational toolbox helping SMEs to exploit their resource and energy efficiency potentials
- Transnational sector workshops that reached out to 250 SMEs to foster matchmaking

New Bridges

NEW BRIDGES project aims to strengthen quality of life through improved management of urban-rural interactions. Some of the main outcomes the project has achieved so far:

- Project has reinforced the knowledge of urban-rural interaction and introduced the concept of quality of life to regional planning
- Brought more systematic ways for project based regional planning by introducing the Integrated Management System
- Developed more participatory planning methods in the city-regions where those did not preliminary exist and elaborated the existing ones
- Approached around 20 000 inhabitants through baseline surveys
- Involved together more than 500 stakeholders in local stakeholder meetings at eight partner city-regions
- Increased cross-sectoral co-operation and new kind of partnership in regional planning
- Offered a neutral platform for enhancing cross-border co-operation between different administrative units in the city-regions

AGORA 2.0

The project AGORA 2.0: Heritage Tourism for Increased Baltic Sea Region Identity aims at close cooperation between tourism stakeholders of the Baltic Sea Region. Partners are public authorities on national and regional level, as well as international NGO and business and heritage organizations, which are all dealing with tourism development and influence national tourism policies. In addition, the project aims to foster a common Baltic Sea Region identity by highlighting, developing and marketing the natural and cultural heritage as a potential business environment and an outstanding strength of the region based on principles of sustainability. The project is mentioned as a flagship project in the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

During the reporting period the project has developed a questionnaire on "What do we have in common in the Baltic Sea Region" which has been widely distributed throughout the region. The questionnaire is also available online (www.bsr-identity.net). The project has held two project meetings during the reporting period one in October 2010 in Minsk, Belarus and one in March 2011 in Tallinn, Estonia. Moreover, the project is playing an active role in the development of a "Sustainable Tourism Strategy" as outlined in the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015 and as a contribution to the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Duration of the project: Jan 2010 – Dec 2012

Lead partner: Baltic 21 Tourism Sector Lead Party Germany, University of Greifswald

Number of partners: 23 partners from 9 countries

Budget: 2 834 050 € (from the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013)

BALTADAPT

The Baltic Sea Region Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (BALTADAPT) is a project that seeks to provide joint transnational solutions to address the sustainable management of the Baltic Sea in the context of climate change. There are good experiences of adaptation in the region both at national and regional level but they are fragmented. The project will be the main platform for the preparation of a climate change adaptation strategy for the whole Baltic Sea Region, as called for by the action plan accompanying the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy. At the same time the project facilitates a knowledge brokerage process on climate change adaptation between political decision makers and research leading to improved institutional capacity and improved policies, programmes and regulations.

The project implementation phase was launched in January 2011 in Roskilde, Denmark. The focus so far has been on developing detailed work plans for each of the work packages, setting up a web site and developing a communication strategy for the project.

Duration of the project: June 2011 – Sep 2013

Lead partner: Danish Meteorological Institute

Number of partners: 11 partners from 7 countries

Budget: 2 858 925 €

Baltic Sea Region Bioenergy Promotion

The Bioenergy promotion project is a platform for cross-sectoral and transnational networking to facilitate information and knowledge exchange, a coordinated policy development and application of bio-energy promotion instruments. The project aims at strengthening development towards a sustainable, competitive and territorially integrated Baltic Sea Region in the field of sustainable use of bio-energy. One of the main objectives is to assess and optimize the existing policies for sustainable supply and use of biomass originating from different sources and produced for heating and cooling, electricity generation, and as a transport fuel. Provision of information and knowledge transfer will ensure transparent business possibilities between the BSR countries. The project is mentioned as a flagship project in the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The project has held several workshops and conferences during the reporting period throughout the region on sustainability criteria for the production and use of biomass, national renewable energy action plans and certification systems. The workshops and conferences have resulted in policy assessment report on sustainable bio-energy production and guidelines on criteria for sustainable bio-energy. 44 pilot projects with good practice examples on bio-energy production and use at the sub-regional level as well as a Virtual Brokerage Platform for bio-energy business development are now up and running on-line (www.bioenergypromotion.net). The project is applying for an extension to the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013.

Duration of the project: Oct 2008 – Jan 2012

Lead partner: The Swedish Energy Agency

Number of partners: 33 partners from 10 countries

Budget: 5 062 910 € (from the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013)

EHSA

Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Agriculture (EHSA) is an educational course package for the Baltic University Programme in cooperation with Envirovet Baltic. The goal is to transfer knowledge through a series of seminars and training courses and develop a new educational package on sustainable agriculture, land use, rural development, ecosystem health and management for teachers and students with potential to adapt them for people working in government offices, ministries, and municipalities and as agricultural advisors and agricultural managers.

The three books for Masters level students produced by the project are currently being finalized and will be published August 2011. The books focus on Rural Development and Land Use, Sustainable Agriculture, and Ecology and Animal Health. The books will also soon be translated into Russian. The project has a large multiplying effect since when the educational materials are ready they will be used by hundreds of students in all the countries across the BSR including Ukraine and Belarus. The project is linked to a flagship project in the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region to strengthening cooperation – on a voluntary basis – between universities of the region.

Duration of the project: Sep 2005 – Dec 2011

Lead partner: Baltic University Programme

Number of partners: 230 universities from 9 countries

Budget: 600 000 € Financed by SIDA/Urban and the Baltic Sea Unit of SIDA, the Swedish Institute and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

EcoRegion

The objective is to contribute to develop the Baltic Sea Region into the world's first Eco-Region, where economic growth goes hand in hand with environmental integrity and social justice. A number of selected model regions will implement selected sustainable development measures identified with the help of the cyclical sustainable development management scheme. The project is as well strengthening the Baltic 21 sectoral networks as contributing to the implementation of the the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015. The project is mentioned as a flagship project in the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

During the reporting period, EcoRegion partners held two project conferences (so far in total five) in September 2010 in Tallinn, Estonia and in May 2011 in Oslo, Norway. During these conferences regional partners attended training workshops on cyclical sustainability management. Sector partners discussed and developed a database of good practices on sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. The database was launched in the early fall of 2010 and contains of more than 200 good practices on sustainable development in the region. The project also produces a thematic publication called EcoRegion Perspectives. For the reporting period two EcoRegion Perspectives were issued; one on Territorial Cohesion in January 2011 and one on Education for Sustainable Development in May 2011.

Duration of the project: Oct 2008 – Jan 2012

Lead partner: German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear

Safety**Number of partners:** 24 partners from 10 countries**Budget:** 2 983 056 € (from the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013)**EcoVillages**

Ecovillages for sustainable rural development project aims at helping our society to get closer to nature again and to develop new ways of living together on the land in a genuinely more sustainable way. This is especially important given the climate crisis and resource shortages. The eco-village concept is an innovation concept offering solutions to resource, climate and social life challenges, societies of the Baltic Sea Region are facing today. Eco-villages are an alternative to the individualistic, consumerist and commodified systems many urban areas represent. Sustainability as understood by the project partners includes physical, environmental, economic, social and cultural aspects. The overall objective of this project is to develop more sustainable ways of living in the rural areas of the Baltic Sea Region by offering a toolkit for initiators and developers of eco-villages. This project is mentioned as a flagship project in the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The project was launched in February 2011 and during the reporting period emphasis has been put on developing detailed work plans for the different work packages, setting up a web site and developing a communication strategy for the project.

Duration of the project: Sep 2010 – Dec 2013**Lead partner:** Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics**Number of partners:** 6 partners from 6 countries**Budget:** 1 467 330 € (EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013)**SPIN**

Sustainable Production through Innovation in SMEs (SPIN) project aims at helping SMEs to become more sustainable in their production patterns, i.e. to achieve a better energy and resource efficiency performance. This is realised by offering appropriate tools for the identification of energy and material saving potentials which in a next step can be exploited by implementing eco-innovations. Thereby, production in SMEs can be made substantially more sustainable in terms of environmental, economical and social performance through technical and organisational innovations. This will lead to the creation of public benefits and private profits whilst reducing economic and environmental costs. The project is mentioned as a flagship project in the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The project identifies and collects eco-innovation highlights in its open-access database (www.spin-project.eu). So far 200 eco-innovation good practices have been collected. In addition, it supports dissemination and deployment of eco-innovations by directly addressing SMEs in workshops designed to respond to their needs. To date, workshops have reached out to 250 SMEs. Matchmaking between companies' needs elicited by EU environmental legislation and the available innovative solutions will be carried out. The project will elaborate a transnational action plan enhancing the application of eco-innovations throughout the Baltic Sea Region.

Duration of the project: Oct 2008 – Jan 2012**Lead partner:** Federal Environment Agency, Germany**Number of partners:** 9 partners from 7 countries**Budget:** 2 937 160 € (from the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013)**NEW BRIDGES**

Regions and municipalities are the key actors in managing urban-rural interactions and their impacts on quality of life. The New Bridges project aims at improving the management of quality of life in urban-rural planning and through improved management of urban-rural interaction. The project focuses on individual preferences and future potentials with regard to residential preferences, provision of services, mobility and accessibility. The project analyses the preferences of different population groups and stakeholders, and develop new working methods and pilot models. By applying the multi-stakeholder involvement principle the project will provide recommendations for the coherent and integrated urban-rural planning.

The project has during the reporting period focused on implementing the pilot actions identified in the first phase of the projects, based on people preferences within the partner city-regions. Moreover, partners are now developing plans for better management of urban rural interactions in their city-region. Two partner conferences were held during the reporting period, one in February 2011 in Turku, Finland and one in June 2011 in Wroclaw, Poland.

Duration of the project: Oct 2008 – Jan 2012**Lead partner:** Union of the Baltic Cities**Number of partners:** 15 partners from 9 countries**Budget:** 2 813 730 € (from the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013)

MARLIN

The Baltic Marine Litter (MARLIN) project intends to contribute to the reduction of marine litter on the shores of the Central Baltic area. Planned activities include awareness raising actions on marine litter among policy makers, other relevant stakeholders, media and the broader public in this geographical area, and capacity building measures in local municipalities and NGOs to address the issue of marine litter in environmental management routines. The project aspires to use the competence gathered in the network of the project partners to engage the stakeholders in the joint education and information campaign, as recommended by the HELCOM Baltic Seas Action Plan. The grass-root level campaign (e.g. with engagement of relevant NGOs, Eco-schools, managers of Blue flag beaches and marina managers) would be dedicated to engage the individual and communities in the project area in changing of littering behaviour in the area of project activities, and in the whole Central Baltic area at large (the latter through dissemination of good practice).

Duration of the project: 2 years

Lead partner: Keep Sweden Tidy

Number of partners: 4 partners from 4 countries

Budget: 787 828 €, EU IV A Central Baltic Programme

Lighthouse Projects with funding pending

A majority of Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects are funded by the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013. The quality label of Baltic 21 Lighthouse Projects have proven to be useful for projects to securing funding. The CBSS Secretariat works with Lighthouse Projects to assist them in promoting their projects in order to secure funding.

Baltic Landscapes (decision will be taken on the 28th Sept 2011)

The Baltic Landscapes project focuses on sustainable use and management of natural resources, emphasizing empowerment of societies to meet sustainable development issues on the local level. To achieve progress along this line there is an evident need for neutral platforms to develop cooperation and common understanding between different local land use stakeholders and actors with different interests and visions. This also includes aspects of gender, minorities (i.e. Sámi people) and disabled people (i.e. accessibility in the landscape). Furthermore, there is a need to develop landscape-scale areas where sustainability problems are identified and solutions explored. This is done in close cooperation between the research community, local inhabitants, land users and other land based stakeholders, decision makers and policy developers. The project is mentioned as a flagship project in the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Duration of the project: 3 years

Lead partner: Swedish Agriculture University

Number of partners: 16 partners from 7 countries

Budget: 3 618 000 €, funding pending (4th call of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013)

Baltic GPP Green Public Procurement

Duration: September 2011-June 2014

Budget: Total: 1 477 611 EUR

Lead partner: Swedish Environmental Management Council (SEMCO), Svenska Miljöstyrningsrådet

GPP is a tool widely recognised across Europe as having the potential to significantly contribute to a sustainable model of growth for countries and regions, by channelling the huge purchasing power of the public sector towards more innovative and more eco-efficient products and services. In order to ensure widespread implementation of GPP practices throughout the public sector it is critical to further build up the GPP experience already existing across the region.

Baltic GPP will establish a wide capacity building programme on Green Public Procurement (GPP) within Core Procurement Institutions (CPIs) across the Baltic Sea Region, based on commonly applied training materials and purchasing actions of major Public Procurement Organisations in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Germany. Activities are followed by associate partners in Estonia, Lithuania and Poland.

Baltic GPP originates from the needs assessments carried out in 2010 within the flagship project "The Baltic GPP Network" as laid out within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, priority area 8.4. It will explicitly contribute to implement the Helcom agreement focussing on reducing pollution.

The following objectives are foreseen: (1) Increase the level and uptake of GPP in the Baltic Sea Region; (2) Stimulate green growth through GPP by procuring innovative products and services and involving excellent (SME) suppliers for green solutions; (3) Better address core environmental priorities such as the Baltic Sea pollution and Climate Change mitigation

and adaptation measures through GPP; (4) Align regional approaches to GPP application and foster life-long learning and exchange within the Baltic Sea Region.

Role of CBSS Baltic 21:

Fully fledged partner with own budget; mainly contributing to WP 2 Communication and Dissemination, in line with implementation of CBSS Strategy for Sustainable Development on "Sustainable Consumption and Production".

BALTIC SUSTAIN (this project will no longer go forward)

The Baltic Sustain project will include activities to modernize study programmes on sustainable development at universities in the Baltic Sea Region. Moreover, the project will create cooperative programmes to help building bridges between universities, municipalities, local authorities and NGOs and provide a platform for know-how transfer in the field of sustainable city planning, renewable energy, redevelopment of former industrial areas ecosystem services including water management and green areas. The project is linked to a flagship project in the Action Plan accompanying the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region to strengthening cooperation – on a voluntary basis – between universities of the region. Partners in the project are currently considering various different funding possibilities.

Duration of the project: 3 years

Lead partner: Baltic University Programme

Number of partners: 16 partners from 8 countries

Budget: 4 600 000 € funding pending

Projects implemented by the CBSS Baltic 21 Unit

The CBSS Baltic 21 Unit regularly receives specific funding (in form of project grants) from the Swedish Ministry of Environment and the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. These projects are administered by the Senior Adviser and Head of the Baltic 21 Unit and assisted by the Project Officer Baltic 21 Unit, Project Assistant Baltic 21 Unit and the CBSS Secretariat administration.

Promotion of Baltic 21 towards actors in Belarus and Ukraine

Baltic 21 has been actively working to promote Baltic 21 principles on sustainable development towards actors in Ukraine and Belarus. Being part of the Baltic Sea catchment area these countries were seen as natural partners for Baltic 21 to cooperate with furthering regional sustainability. For the reporting period the project grant was received specifically to support the sustainable rural development and increasing the between Baltic 21 experts and partners in Belarus and Ukraine.

During the reporting period a seminar was organized by the CBSS Baltic 21 Unit on "Promoting Environmental Innovations – Learning by Doing", October 2010 Lviv, Ukraine. The seminar brought together experts from Ukraine and Belarus as well as Baltic 21 partners on exchange of experiences and lessons learned on SME and Eco-Innovations, Eco-efficiency and Environmental Innovation Technologies as well as Eco-Innovative Education and Leadership. The Seminar also facilitated a dialogue on new project developments and collection of project ideas for cross-border cooperation programmes.

Duration of the project: May 2009 – Dec 2010

Financing: Annual contribution of SEK 200 000 grant from the Swedish Ministry of the Environment.

In total SEK 400 000.

Promotion of Participation of the Russian Stakeholders

The CBSS Secretariat has since 2009 facilitated and supported active participation of local and regional partners from NW Russia in Baltic 21 Lighthouse Projects. The grant is being used to support Russian participation in the Lighthouse Projects. Both the Lighthouse Project Lead Partners and the Russian stakeholders were consulted and a series of support actions to be implemented.

For the reporting period the major activities implemented are participation of the Russian associate partners in the project meetings, seminars and workshops, such as 10th Pellets Industry Forum in September 2010, Stuttgart, Germany; 5th EcoRegion conference, September 2010, Tallinn, Estonia; 2nd AGORA 2.0 project meeting in October 2010, Minsk, Belarus; 2nd Bioenergy Promotion Conference in November 2010, Kaunas, Lithuania; Workshop "Russian Participation in Sustainable Development Projects: Lessons Learned and Prospects for the Future" in December 2010, Stockholm, Sweden. Moreover, the project grant provided funding for local activities, such as case-studies, and so forth, in order to enable Russian partners contribution to the overall objectives of the projects.

Duration of the project: since 2008, on-going

Financing: Annual contribution of SEK 200 000 grant from the Swedish Ministry of the Environment.

In total so far SEK 800 000.

Baltic Sea Region – Mediterranean and Baltic Sea Region exchange of experiences in sustainable development

CBSS Baltic 21 regularly contributes to initiatives that seek to facilitate an exchange of experiences in sustainable development between Baltic Sea Region and both the Mediterranean and Baltic Sea Regions.

In January 2011, a delegation from DATAR, a French governmental organisation in charge of spatial planning and regional development visited the CBSS Secretariat. The DATAR has also the responsibility of coordinating the Structural Funds programmes in France and was interested to exchange views on regional cooperation and experiences with the development and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region with a particular focus on sustainable development and energy.

Duration of the project: since 2003, on-going

Financing: One time contribution of SEK 100 000 grant from the Swedish Ministry of the Environment.

CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 promotional materials

To accompany the reform process and the integration of Baltic 21 as a CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development, with a new mandate and a more clearly articulated project centered approach, the Expert Group saw a need to update Baltic 21's promotional materials. It was agreed that this should be done as a project and funds were raised in 2010 and 2011 to secure the following:

- Development of new messages together with a PR consultant based on the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015
- Production and printing of a new 4-page brochure
- Production and printing of four new factsheets for each of the strategic areas of cooperation
- Design of a new logo for the quality label Baltic 21 Lighthouse Projects
- Update of information on Baltic 21 on the CBSS website: www.cbss-org/Environment/baltic-21
- Closing down the old Baltic 21 website www.baltic21.org
- Development of a Facebook site with regular updates on main activities of CBSS Baltic 21 Unit and other relevant events and initiatives: www.facebook.com/cbss.baltic21
- Production of four short web films, one for each of the strategic areas of cooperation

Duration of the project: since 2009, on-going

Financing: EUR 43 769 grant from the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

CBSS Baltic 21 Unit

The secretariat function of Baltic 21 is carried out by the Baltic 21 Unit. The unit is staffed by: Senior Adviser and Head of Unit 100 %, Project Officer 100 % and Project Assistant 100% (as of 1 March 2011). The salaries of the Baltic 21 Unit are funded by both regular budget and project funds. The Baltic 21 Unit regular budget also partly finances CBSS Administration Team through the shared costs system. Moreover, project budgets contribute to the financing of CBSS Project Accountant and in part with reference to the Expert Group promotional material the CBSS Media and Communication Officer. At present the Unit does not contribute to the financing of the Head of Media and Communications position.

In 2010 all Member States contributed to Baltic 21 budget for Financial Year 2010.





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CBSS Expert Group On Customs Cooperation And Border Crossing Aspects (EGCB)

Council of the Baltic Sea States in its Oslo Declaration of 7 June 2011 agreed on the dissolution of the Expert Group on Customs Cooperation and Border Crossing Aspects acknowledging the results and taking note of its final report.

Background and Mandate of the EGCB

A decision to establish the Working Group Customs Cooperation and Border Crossing Aspects was made by Customs Authorities Director Generals at a meeting in Helsinki 1 June 2004. The Working Group consisted of 10 Member States (all CBSS Member States except Iceland), the European Commission. Belarus had Observer Status. The establishment was motivated by the challenges in border crossing between the Member States of the CBSS, first and foremost the long waiting times for road transport. The Polish Presidency of the CBSS organized a preparatory meeting for the Working Group in Warsaw, 31 May 2005, in which the group's mandate was adopted. In accordance with the recommendations of the Riga Declaration adopted by the CBSS in 2008, permanent Working Groups were to be transformed into time bound Expert Groups with clear-cut mandates. The representatives of the 4th WGCB meeting in Copenhagen June 2009 agreed to transform the group into the Expert Group on Customs Cooperation and Border Crossing Aspects. Following this the Expert Group was to be in force up to 2011, unless otherwise decided.

Working methods, secretarial function and number of meetings

The Expert Group's approach has been that of annual or biannual meetings on expert level organized – including secretarial function - by the rotating CBSS Chairmanship. In the period between 2005 and 2011 eight meetings have been held. CBSS Secretariat representatives (a dedicated Senior Adviser) attended all the meetings. The meetings were organized around Multi Annual Action Plans (MAAP) and a set of Terms of Reference as follows. In 2006 a subgroup, with participants from Russia, Poland, Estonia, Sweden and Finland was established in order to draft a Multi-Annual Action Plan 2006 -2009. The Action Plan was adopted by the Director Generals of Customs Administrations on 15 June 2007 during the Swedish Presidency, and sets out the most important efforts as recognized by the expert group. A revised Multi-Annual Action Plan was prepared under the Danish and Lithuanian chairmanship during 2008-2009. The recommendations built on the MAAP for 2006-2009, and in large part echo the challenges and objectives identified in the first MAAP. However, reference to the annual questionnaire was removed, as well as the Laufzettel project including a reference to possible discussions within the EU-Russia Working Group.

In addition to the MAAP, the Expert Group has established a Terms of Reference, which describes the objectives of the Working Group, as well as the structure and working methods (of which the MAAP forms a part), in addition to the reporting structures. The last set of Terms of Reference was adopted in 2009 (annex 4). This document identifies the following as the WGCB main objectives:

- To improve regional border-crossing cooperation of all authorities involved in border operations with a view to meet a maximum 2 hour border crossing objective formulated in the Bergen Declaration and reiterated in the Moscow Action Plan, thereby ensuring a smooth flow of goods in the region covered by the activity of the CBSS;
- To strengthen regional relationships in the area by promoting common training, cross-border exchanges in information and best practices;
- To harmonize working practices by customs authorities on both sides of common borders;
- To launch and oversee new projects related to customs activities and determine the impact, relevance, effectiveness and feasibility their activities have on the trade flow in the region covered by the activity of the CBSS.

Main activities of the EGCB

Laufzettel projects

The MAAP (2006-2009) established time measurement studies at border crossings as one of the tools in achieving the 2 hour border crossing time goal set out in the WGCB mandate and repeated in the Terms of Reference. The key purpose of the Laufzettel project was to identify the bottlenecks that affected the length of time spent at the border by commercial transports. These time studies were to build on studies conducted by the previous Procedures Working Group under the BSCC in 2001 and 2003. A common manual which described the working methods to be used had been prepared. The Laufzettel measurement clearly showed that the waiting time in queues were the most time consuming part. At the first meeting of CBSS Open Ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Border Crossing and Customs Aspects organised by Finnish Customs in March 2006,

a study trip to Vaalima(FI)/Torfjanovka (RU), as part of the preparations to the Lauzettel project.

During the presidency of DK and LT, the working group concentrated its efforts on the preparations of this study. During this time DK developed a tool for easy data entry, and under the LT chairmanship a seminar was organised for the Heads of Border Crossing Points in question (EE, FI, LV, LT, PL, RU) on practical issues of the measurement project. However, it proved difficult for some of the countries involved in the Laufzettel project to carry out the measuring due to various reasons. In November 2009 the working group decided to transfer the competence on the Laufzettel project to the Working Group on EU-Russia Customs Border Issues. This was agreed upon by both the Commission and RU.

Seminars and workshops

In addition to the abovementioned seminars and workshops, the seminar on "EU Customs and Trade Days" for RU traders and customs officials was organised in Kaliningrad, RU, on May 27-28, under the presidency of Lithuania in 2010, in cooperation with the Government of Kaliningrad. Different topics were presented; amongst others, the Commission presented the Customs policy and the customs legislation of the EU and the EU-Russia Customs Cooperation Strategy and the Russian Federation presented the Customs Union of Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan and the EU-aspects of the cooperation.

Questionnaires

The Terms of Reference also envisaged an Annual Questionnaire. The questionnaires were sent out to the members of the CBSS during the period 2006 to 2009 in order to get feedback from Member States on the developments of the WGCB's initiatives.

Achievements

In the course of its work since 2005 the CBSS Working Group and later, Expert Group on Customs Cooperation and Border Crossing Issues has achieved some important results. However, not all of these are apparent at first sight. The expert group has established a set of best practices and goals based on identified challenges at border crossing points. This has resulted in the identification of key challenges, priorities and working methods. The Terms of Reference, Multi Annual Action Plans, questionnaires and conducted workshops are some examples of the considerable efforts carried out by the Expert Group and its members. This presents the continued work on challenges of border crossing with excellent documents and information for their effective targeting. The group has also encouraged closer cooperation among customs authorities in the Baltic region. This cooperation has been important not only in the context of the work of the Expert Group, but also in a wider context, including other groups under the CBSS umbrella, the EU, Barents cooperation and more.

With regards to the established goals in the MAAP, there were several that witnessed an improvement: Duplication of agencies and controls in border control, improvement in training and competence building have all improved. Electronic declarations and risk management is widely used. In addition, all of these achievements have had great influence on the EU-RU dialogue on both an organisational and practical level. Experiences from the Laufzettel projects, the identified challenges, and the proposed actions are among these. In other words, the CBSS WGCB has to a certain extent prepared the ground and facilitated the work taking place in the EU-RU dialogue.

Concluding remarks

The most important reason for the group's recommendation of not continuing its efforts is due to external reasons. By the birth of the Working Group on EU-Russia Customs Border Issues in 2006 the CBSS WGCB experienced that the main aspects of its work was shared by a group that consisted of all the same Member States, with the exception of Norway. By investing in a set of tools that were not available to the CBSS WGCB, it soon became the preferred arena for addressing challenges faced on border crossing points in the Baltic region in general and the along the EU-Russia border in particular. The transfer of the Laufzettel project from the CBSS WGCB to the EU-RU dialogue during autumn 2009 illustrates this. Further difficulties in completing this project already under the EU-Russia Working Group on Customs Border Issues prove that the issue was in fact too ambitious for the CBSS WGCB which had no strong execution powers. It was therefore decided to continue the work the other forum and discontinue the CBSS Expert Group at the end of the current time limited mandate in June 2011.

THE BALTIC SEA LABOUR NETWORK

The BSLN is a transnational project of 22 partners and several associated partners in 8 countries of the BSR, which for the first time brings together social partners, experts, governments, politicians, and non-governmental organisations within this kind of a regional scheme. The lead partner is the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg – Ministry of Science and Research, and the practical work is coordinated by the BSLN project manager Ms. Katariina Röbbelen-Voigt. The CBSS Secretariat is a full-fledged project partner in this project which is part-financed by the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013, which started in November 2008 and will end by January 2012. Its subsidy amount, divided between the partners and between the three-year period, is about 2.7 Mio EUR. The project has the full support of the CBSS and it has been discussed several times at the CBSS CSO. The BSLN is at the same time one of the flagship projects in the context of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

The Steering Committee

The Steering Committee represents the high-level decision making actors in the BSLN, the Committee includes the Director General of the CBSS Secretariat. The first meeting of the Steering Committee took place in October 2009 in Riga. Constructive discussions led to agreement on its role and working methods. It was emphasised that BSLN is filling a gap, as there are already working groups for topics like the environment, safety, sea traffic, crime and so forth, but this is the first group dedicated to tackling labour market issues. The Steering Committee in its statement, in its entirety available at the BSLN website, recognised a need to define issues for discussion between trade unions, employers, parliamentarians and governments. Common values must also be identified. Particular activities could then be defined as focal points for the dialogue. If successfully carried out, the solutions would be measurable and could be presented as examples for successful social dialogue. The team wants to concentrate on active labour market policies, seeking both tools for normal labour market conditions and actions for the current economic slowdown. In its statement, the tripartite Steering Committee further agreed that the Baltic Sea Labour Network's aim is to become a Forum for the decision and policy makers of the Baltic Sea Region, combining knowledge and ideas in order to come up with strategies, policies and the Lithuanian Presidency 2009-2010 Annual Report - 36 practical solutions. In particular, the Steering Committee agreed that the BSLN is looking to use social dialogue and active labour market policies to address the challenges of the economic crisis and issues raised by the mobility of labour in the Baltic Sea labour markets.

The Facilitator Team

The more operational driving force of the project is the 10 member tripartite BSLN Facilitator Team. Led by the Ministry of Science and Research Hamburg and including representatives from trade unions, employer organisations, the CBSS Secretariat and the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), this team has met regularly during the reporting period. Additionally, there have been several video conferences. Team members have different responsibilities in the project, such as management of the communication or coordination of the research activities. The team has had active and lively discussions at the meetings and has already made great progress. The team coordinates the partners' activities and takes care that these meet the project objectives. It supports the partner institutions in the development and carrying out of national action plans and in setting up coordination centres in the focus countries Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The team also ensures that all necessary information is disseminated within the project group and outwards. Primarily it is a platform for internal information dissemination, but it also addresses joint statements or press releases related to the operational progress of the project. Furthermore, the team also prepares the Steering Committee meetings, workshops, conferences and other events, and develops and carries out the transnational activities. The work of the tripartite team is already successful and provides a good example of the prosperous performance of social dialogue in the BSLN project.

Research working group

Research is one crucial part within the BSLN in order to provide a comprehensive picture of the challenges facing labour markets in the Baltic Sea Region. For this reason a working group has been established, responsible for coordinating all research activities of the partners and to cooperate with existing research institutions and projects. The aim is to work like a think tank and, in the framework of the project, to build up a network of knowledge for experts, researchers and academics. The challenges of the current economic situation underline the importance of BSLN. The first meeting of the research working group was held in September 2009 in Hamburg. The German partners BWH e.V. (Education and Training Centre for Hamburg Business) and Nordmetall had invited the group members to discuss the labour market research activities within the project. It was one decisive step towards implementing the BSLN since coordinated research on specific issues and cooperation with existing research institutions play a crucial part. In the workshop seventeen participants from trade unions and employers' organisations in the BSR presented their recent research activities according to the BSLN work plans. The statements made clear that the exchange of experience is of high importance for all social partners in the BSR, in order to develop active labour market policies that ad-

dress the economic crisis. Beside these overall issues, the partners have special priorities which will be also transported to the transnational level. For instance, the Finnish partners were to accomplish a qualitative interview study focusing on questions related to immigrant workers in Finland. Other partners have an interest in developing new approaches which will enable them to face the perceived impacts of the crossborder mobility as well. They will focus their research, for example, on questions regarding the social inclusion of immigrant workers. Another area of interest is the training of young workers and those soon to enter the employment market and their overall integration into those labour markets. The gap between the need of the enterprises and the abilities of the applicants is a general problem in several partner countries. The differing training and educational systems in the Baltic Sea States provides the BSLN with the opportunity to exchange information and develop new approaches in this area. Members of the group underlined the need for cooperation with existing research institutions.

The BSLN mid-term conference

Beside many smaller events by, or related to, the project, the BSLN activities in the reporting period culminated into a mid-term conference which took place in May 2010 in Vilnius, with a large and high-level participation. The two main priority areas of the BSLN featured in both keynote speeches and the working groups, which were namely - developing social dialogue in the BSR and sustainable and mobile regional labour markets, mainly connected to a more general discussion on the economic development of the region. In the conference, initial research findings achieved within the BSLN context were also presented and discussed. The CBSS CSO Chairman opened the conference with his welcoming speech. The CSO under the Norwegian Presidency has shown continued interest in the project and the DG of the Secretariat has been active in the prolongation of the project.

Website

The BSLN website <http://bslabour.net> provides detailed and updated information not only about the project, its structures and partners, and related events (such as speeches in the mid-term conference) but also general country information on labour markets in the BSR as well as commented links to other information sources.

Publications

The publications, including statements, strategies, studies etc. by the BSLN or its partners, are available at the BSLN website.

Balticness

Balticness – The Official Journal of the CBSS – in its Spring/Summer issue gave considerable visibility to the activities of the BSLN, including factual information about the project as well as various opinions and statements from the social partners on what they saw to be important regional labour market issues for the region. The issue was prepared for the 8th Baltic Sea States Summit alongside a special eight page preview which was produced especially for the Conference.

An open network

Despite the fact that the BSLN project itself is based on an agreed-upon partnership, the network is by no means closed - new members are invited join it. All interested parties, such as trade unions, employer and business organisations, politicians, experts, public officials, NGOs and academics, are most welcome to take part in BSLN's work for sustainable labour markets in the BSR, to strengthen dialogue and form an open and new communication channel in order to achieve sustainable development in labour market practice. The BSLN network has also been an interested contributor to the CBSS TF-THB DEFLECT project.



Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-Operation (BASREC)

In 1998, the intergovernmental Baltic Sea Region Energy Co-operation was initiated by the Baltic Sea countries and the European Commission. BASREC is part of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) as an intergovernmental network.

BASREC's main objective is to promote sustainable growth, security and prosperity in the region and supports therefore the creation of competitive, efficient and well-functioning energy markets. BASREC is pursuing energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, along with measures to develop and use new, low-carbon and energy-efficient technologies and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) in order to ensure sustained economic growth in the short and the long run.

The participation in the work programme 2009-2011 - in addition to BASREC Member States and the European Commission - also involves the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) and of course the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) with which BASREC is aligned. In addition BASREC closely cooperates with other regional institutions such as Baltic Development Forum, Nordic Investment Bank and Baltic Gas.

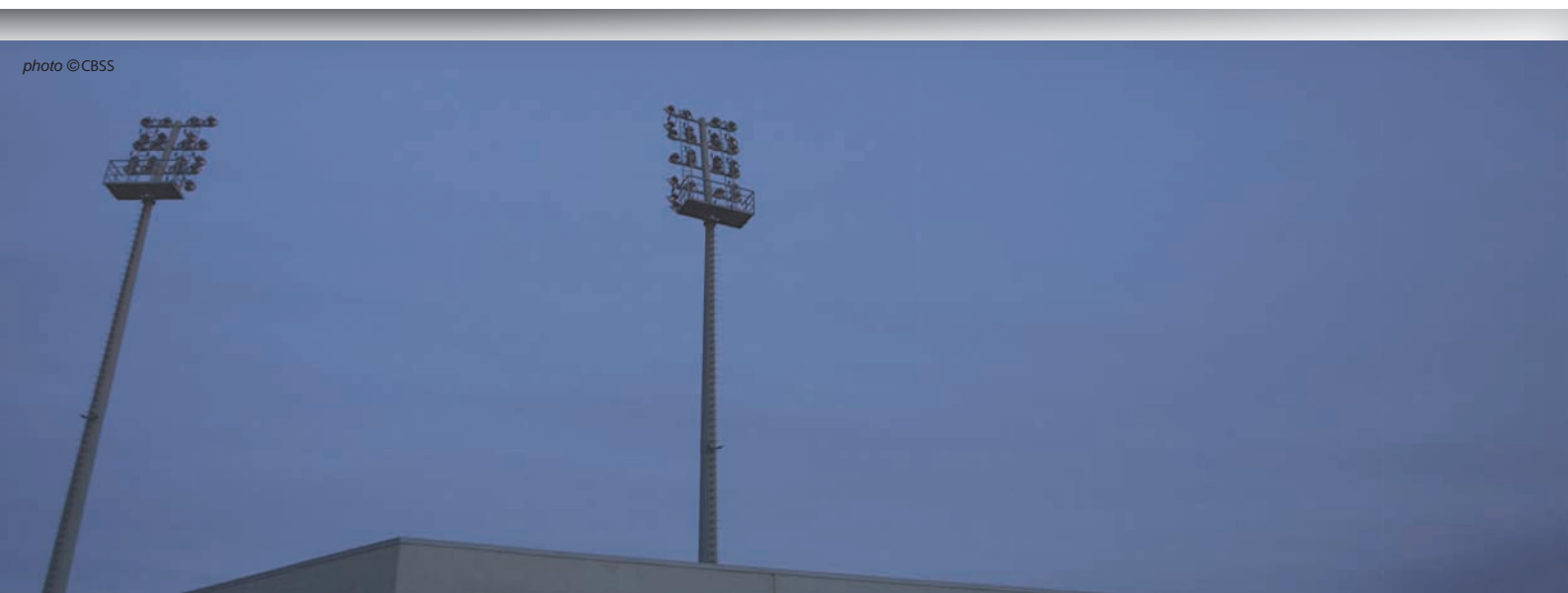
BASREC has a Budget Framework of EUR 1 million for carrying out activities for the three-year period.

During the Norwegian presidency in the period of 1 July 2010 – 1 July 2011, we have primarily followed-up on the excellent work initiated/materialised by previous chairmanships and decisions already taken within this cooperation. In our work we continued to make extensive use of the established Executive Committee (ExCom comprises of the four chairmanships in this cooperation period – Denmark, Lithuania, Norway and Germany). ExCom is to assist the chairmanship in its work and ensure continuation of the work during the yearly rotating presidencies of BASREC. In addition ExCom is the owner of BASREC projects/activities including the duty to sign contracts and invoices for reimbursement.

Responses to climate change and the follow up to Cop 15 has been high on our agenda and required actions in a wide range of areas such as energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy technologies.

Concrete regional energy projects/activities have been decided and will be concluded during the last chairmanship in this cooperation period - Germany:

- BASREC web-page (completed);
- Energy policy strategies for the post-Kyoto (contract established);
- Rotating summer schools on energy planning and energy efficiency (agreement with NCM). The Kaliningrad part of the "Rotating summer schools on energy planning and energy efficiency" project has been completed through the event "Baltic Sea Region Rotating Energy Planning Academy (BALREPA) – Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy – 23rd to 26th May 2011, Kaliningrad, Russia";
- Conditions for wind power (contract established);
- Transportation and storage solution for Carbon Capture and Storage (contract under negotiation);
- Energy efficiency investments for Street and other public outside lighting (under development).
- Energy Efficiency round table to take place in Moscow next autumn (under development).





EDUCATION

International Expert Group (IEG) of the EuroFaculty Pskov Project

Chair – Ambassador Kerstin Asp-Johnsson, Sweden

During the reporting period 2010–2011 the International Expert Group of the EuroFaculty Project in Pskov:

- Commissioned an independent assessment of the project two-thirds of the way through the initial project period (2009–2011).
- Recommended to the CSO, on the basis of the findings of the assessment, that the project be prolonged for a second three-year period (2012–2014) in order to (1) ensure sustainability of results achieved; (2) disseminate know-how and experience gained to other Higher Education Institutions in Russia; and (3) contribute to regional cooperation and development.
- Concluded that the Lead University would need a budget for a possible second phase of the same size as for the current three-year phase, i.e. EUR 750 000.

Member States have committed financial support for a second phase amounting to EUR 730 000, which together with unused funds from the current phase comes to well above the target of EUR 750 000. The CSO decided at its meeting on 6–7 June to prolong the EuroFaculty Pskov project for another three years (2012–2014), on the understanding that Russia will continue to support the project financially or in kind. The CBSS Ministerial meeting in Oslo on 7 June noted with appreciation the results achieved by the project as well as the financial commitments recently made by Member States allowing for a second three-year phase of the project starting from 1 January 2012.

The aim of the project

The aim of the project is to upgrade university education in Business Economics/Business Administration at the Pskov State Polytechnic Institute (PPI) and originally also at the now dissolved non-state Pskov Volny Institute (PVI). This is being done by a Consortium of five universities led by the University of Turku with guidance from the International Expert Group (IEG), which acts as a steering group for the project.

Meetings of the IEG

During the reporting period, the IEG held three meetings: two in Turku in November 2010 and February/March 2011 respectively and one in Stockholm in June 2011. The Chair of the IEG reported on the progress of the project to the CSO at its meeting in Oslo in March. In addition, the Chair, members of the IEG as well as the Project Leader and the Consortium in various constellations participated in meetings and conferences in Pskov and elsewhere to further the implementation of the project. A CBSS Senior Adviser provided secretarial assistance to Sweden as Lead Country of the project and prepared minutes of the IEG meetings.

Developments during the Norwegian Presidency

Several external developments have affected the implementation of the project:

- After a period of some uncertainty a decision was taken on 10 June 2010 to dissolve the Pskov Volny Institute (PVI), one of the beneficiary institutions. This had a negative impact on the introduction of additional education, which needs a restart but remains one of the directions of the project.
- A decision to merge Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Pskov (the Pskov Pedagogical University, the Pskov State Polytechnic Institute and three vocational colleges) into a new Pskov State University (PSU) was signed by Prime Minister Putin on 27 December 2010. On 7 April 2011 the Russian Federal Ministry of Education and Science (MES) decided to appoint the former Vice Governor of Pskov, Mr Yuri A. Demyanenko, as interim Rector of the new PSU for one year, with the task of implementing the merger. The merger of the HEIs into a strong Pskov State University will open up new possibilities and will have a decisive impact on the course of EF-P project efforts during the second phase.
- Project activities were boosted during the Norwegian Presidency by a new Project Leader. This meant that responsibility for the project was transferred from the Pan-European Institute to the Business and Innovation Development (BID) unit of the Turku School of Economics at the University of Turku (TSE/UTU). Throughout the year, the new Project Management has been proactive in contacts with the Lead Country and in keeping close relations with Pskov, including the beneficiary institution, the regional authorities, and the local business community.

Findings of an independent assessment

After a tender and selection procedure, in early November 2010 the IEG engaged a team with long experience of evaluating international cooperation projects in the field of higher education. The team was given clear terms of reference for the task, agreed by the IEG, and was asked to present its final report by mid-February 2011.

The findings of the assessment show the following:

- The major task of the project, to create a new Bachelor degree in Business Economics/Business Administration along Bologna lines, has been fulfilled. The curriculum is laid down in a Study Handbook, offering three different profiles: Credit & Finance, Accounting & Auditing, and International Business. Teaching will begin this autumn and the first students will graduate in the spring of 2013.
- Progress has been made in other related fields, i.e. the introduction of new teaching and learning methods, with problem and project-based learning and increased self-study.
- There is an increasing awareness of the need to change examination methods accordingly.
- The next step will be to develop courses for the Master level, once the Bachelor degree is in place. Planning for the Master level is expected to be completed by the end of 2011, but studies will not be able to start until 2013.
- The second leg of the project, the programme of further/additional education, has had a poor start. This task was assigned to the Pskov Volny Institute (PVI), which was dissolved by a decision in June 2010.
- There is a need for more language training in English. Proficiency in English, which is of paramount importance for international cooperation at all levels, is still low among teachers and students, even though some progress has been made.
- A mobility scheme for Master and PhD students is not in place. This will be a task for the second phase.
- Access to books and journals has improved considerably, mainly through the well-equipped electronic reading room, which is a very tangible result of the EF-P project. The project has also made it possible for the PPI library to connect with international databases through a two-year subscription to the EBSCO BSC. It is essential that the PPI can secure an extension of the subscription.
- After some initial problems the management and organisation of the EF-P project are functioning well, and no changes are suggested on this point.
- The EF-P project is well anchored within the receiving institution and also among the authorities, especially at the regional level.
- Dissemination of knowledge and experience from the project has started.
- The overall picture of the funding, according to the assessment team, is that money has been well spent on central activities and that the EF-P project to date has given substantial value for money.

This led the assessment team to the overall conclusion that the arguments in favour of a second phase of the EF-P project outweigh the possible arguments against it. In its own deliberations, the IEG also concluded that arguments in favour of a second phase of the EF-P project outweigh the possible arguments against it. A second phase was considered necessary to consolidate the results achieved so far and to ensure the sustainability of the project, and to be able to disseminate the experience of the EF-P project as an interesting example to other Russian higher education institutions.

Plans for a second phase 2012–2014

At its meeting in June 2011 the IEG discussed a preliminary proposal for the second phase of the project presented by the project leader, Professor Antti Paasio. Three points were highlighted in terms of content.

- On the Bachelor studies: the first students will not graduate until 2013; a substantial proportion of the profiling studies have not yet been piloted and tested but this will be done in order to consolidate the Bachelor degree.
- On Master programmes: a two-year Master programme needs much more new content than the profiling studies at Bachelor level; Master programmes must also contain a large proportion of English-language modules; the curriculum will be developed by the end of 2011 but major efforts will be needed during the whole project period 2012–2014.

- On additional education: a one-year Management Development Programme will be developed with a view to acquiring a stand-alone EPAS accreditation. The timetable will be challenging but an internationally sustainable additional education programme needs a recognised quality standard.

The financial situation of the projectAll the CBSS Member States and two external partners, the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Free & Hanseatic City of Hamburg, have pledged contributions to the first phase of the project. It is likely that at the end of the first phase on 31 December 2011, some money will remain in both the Lead Country account and in the budget of the Lead University/Consortium for the project:

- The Lead Country account consists of all the cash contributions of the Member States and external partners. With payments due during 2011, the surplus at the end of 2011 is expected to be approx. EUR 50 000.
- At the end of last year (2010) the Lead University budget for the project showed a surplus of approx. EUR 128 000, due to the delay of planned activities and the change of project management. With a number of planned activities and input from the new management for 2011, it remains to be seen how much will be left by the end of the year. Any remaining surplus both in the Lead Country account and in the budget of the Lead University/Consortium will be transferred to the second phase of the project.

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CULTURE

Norway during its Presidency of the CBSS contributed to cultural cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region with two key events:

- The Bergen International Film Festival (BIFF) an annual event, was organised for the 11th time in 2010, this time in conjunction with the Norwegian Presidency of the CBSS, it featured 150 films in the program which is a new record. The Baltic Sea was one of the focuses of the festival which also included a specific human rights programme "Checkpoints".
- A Cultural Heritage Education Conference which was organised in Fredrikstad, Norway 7-8 April 2011 within the framework of the long standing cooperation on cultural heritage in the Baltic Sea Region. This cooperation takes place in the Monitoring Group for Cultural Heritage which has had a working group on children and cultural heritage education in place since 2006. In Norway, cultural heritage education has a natural place within the highly successful "Cultural Rucksack" initiative which has been part of the Norwegian government's cultural policy since 2001 and covers primary and secondary school.

Cultural cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region takes place in various CBSS intergovernmental networks: the Senior Officials Group for Culture, the Ars Baltica, and the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage of the Baltic Sea States. All three bodies report to the Conference of Ministers for Culture.

The Senior Officials Group for Culture (SOGC)

The second meeting of the Senior Officials Group for Culture (SOGC) was held on 3 February in Kirkenes, Norway and was organised in conjunction with the Barents Spektakel 2011 held under the patronage of Queen Sonja of Norway. The participants had the opportunity to join several of the festival activities. The meeting was chaired by Mr Bendik Rugaas, Norway, as the chairmanship of the SOGC follows the rotation of presidencies of the CBSS. The meeting was organised in two sessions; on monitoring existing cultural cooperation under the CBSS umbrella and on synergies with other structures in the Baltic Sea Region.

Both the Ars Baltica and the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States gave an account of their activities to the SOGC. It was clear from the presentation of Ars Baltica that its Secretariat is very active in furthering cultural cooperation but the discussion among the SOGC representatives revealed concern over the fact that there are many cultural cooperation mechanisms in the region and that consequently synergies need to be ensured, particularly with the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture (NDPC). The Monitoring Group is a very active network which is largely considered as useful and interesting.

The SOGC had a general discussion on synergies with the Nordic Council of Ministers and with the Arctic Council followed by a presentation on Barents cooperation by a representative of the International Barents Secretariat and the Head of the Norwegian Barents Secretariat. Otherwise the main focus of the discussion was the NDPC where the NCM also features heavily.

The SOGC took note of the fact that there is a need for streamlining and convergence in the cultural field in the Baltic Sea Region and that it will be crucial for Ars Baltica, the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage and the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture to identify funding for a sustainable future.

Ars Baltica

Under the reporting period 2010-2011 major developments in the Ars Baltica include:

- return to project oriented work
- increased visibility and strength of the network through
- active networking on national and international level
- personal presence at conferences and meetings in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR)
- the launch of a new website www.ars-baltica.net
- a doubling of the numbers of subscribers to the ARS BALTICA newsletter
- further developed cooperation with CBSS, NDPC and other bodies active in the field of (cultural) cooperation in the BSR
- actively starting the process of internal re-construction with regard to new bodies such as the CBSS Senior Officials Group for Culture

During the Norwegian Presidency of the CBSS, Ars Baltica has taken significant steps towards the future of the network as a strong cultural think tank for the BSR. In February 2011, a new website www.ars-baltica.net was launched. Together with the Ars Baltica newsletter, sent out on bi-weekly basis, the website contains information about events, conferences, grants, funding opportunities, education programmes and political developments relevant for cultural operators from the BSR. From January 2010 to February 2011, the number of subscribers to the Ars Baltica newsletter more than doubled. Entering the era of Web 2.0, an interactive platform for the exchange of information between artists and cultural representatives was established in March 2011.

In September 2010, Ars Baltica took the decision to return to project oriented work. Three new projects were granted with the reworked Ars Baltica logo: "Nordlichter" (music), "Connecting" (arts and crafts) and "The Virtual Baltic Sea Library" (literature). Contact has been successfully re-established with the leaders of current Ars Baltica accredited projects. A completely new section on the website presents all these projects. A project archive covering the whole time of Ars Baltica's existence is also under construction.

Following the call for promoting cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and exchange mentioned in the Riga Declaration of the Ministers for Culture from 2008, Ars Baltica actively advocates for the cultural life and the high quality of cultural expressions from the Baltic Sea Region. Thus Ars Baltica will, for example, be represented at the conference "La rencontre de Tallinn" (Estonia) in June 2011 where both the Ars Baltica Secretariat and two Ars Baltica granted projects will contribute to the discussion on cultural cooperation in the BSR.

Close cooperation continued between the CBSS Secretariat and Ars Baltica, with the aim of beneficial future collaboration between the CBSS, Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture, the Regional Councils and Ars Baltica. In March 2011, the Ars Baltica Organising Committee started their 40th meeting with a visit to the CBSS Secretariat. In February 2011, the Ars Baltica Secretariat reported to the CBSS Senior Officials Group for Culture at their annual meeting in Kirkenes.

2011 is the year of Ars Baltica's 20th anniversary. Within the framework of another Ars Baltica Forum with workshops and panel sessions on various topics and with participants from all over the BSR, to be arranged in September 2011 in Northern Germany, the start of the German CBSS Presidency will be highlighted and will act as the cultural launch of the Presidency. New and innovative approaches for projects of a larger dimension are planned and initiated by Ars Baltica in the time of the Norwegian and the German CBSS Presidency. One of them is a new label "Ars Baltica Youth" which focuses on cultural education of young people from around the Baltic Sea.

The Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage of the Baltic Sea States <http://mg.kpd.lt/>

Under the reporting period 2010-2011 major developments in the Monitoring Group include:

- The 4th Baltic Sea Region Forum on cultural heritage gathered over 250 participants from the region to discuss synergies between ecologic balance and heritage values.
- Cultural heritage facilitates common understanding of a regional perspective. The poster exhibition "Preservation of Historic Ships" and a documentary film on underwater heritage were introduced at the 4th Forum.
- The first phase of the "Sustainable historic towns Urban Heritage - Good for the Climate!" project has secured financing.
- Recommendations of the 3rd Forum on interaction between tourism and cultural heritage were disseminated on three platforms of other networks in the region. This interaction between tourism, nature and cultural heritage sectors aims at sustainable interaction of regional assets both to local development and regional branding.
- Involvement of the Russian Federation to the practical networking of the MG has started and can multiply the action sphere of measures.

The priorities for regional cooperation on cultural heritage during the Lithuanian chairmanship of the MG include, besides facilitating fruitful regional networking, enhancing the accessibility of cultural heritage and to act as a regional spokesman that raises awareness and shared responsibility for cultural heritage. Fluent communication and well operating collaboration between the CBSS Secretariat and the Monitoring Group (MG), particularly with the MG Chair and Coordinator, has continued. Participation of the Russian Federation in the MG-networking gives very positive input to the cooperation that links now all the Baltic Sea States. The MG looks forward to include experts of the Russian Federation to the working groups and thematic networks.

The 4th Cultural Heritage Forum of the Baltic Sea States took place in Riga in September with more than 250 participants from the whole region as well as neighbouring countries such as Belarus and Ukraine. The Forum titled "Cultural Heritage – Contemporary Challenge" was organised by the State Inspection for Heritage Protection of Latvia upon the initiative of and collaboration with the MG and with the support of the France - UNESCO Convention for Heritage and the UNESCO World Heritage Fund.

The four workshops of the Forum were prepared in close regional collaboration with the Latvian Heritage Inspection and Nordic National Heritage bodies. The Norwegian Directorate of Cultural Heritage was engaged with the preparations for the workshop on Environmental impact assessment of existing historic buildings in urban management. Regarding the workshop on Restoration of cultural heritage and authenticity, the Swedish National Heritage Board shared the responsibility. The workshop on Cultural heritage as a public good and an asset for regional development was managed together with the Finnish National Board of Antiquities. The workshop on Cultural heritage and contemporary architecture was initiated by the Latvian Inspection and experts. The speakers represented the whole region.

The Forum stated that cultural heritage can contribute to sustainability as built resources tested examples of enduring solutions as well as experienced excellences and best practices of well being. Heritage values should be taken into careful consideration when responding to actual development challenges such as reducing emission, energy saving and other approaches towards an ecologic balance in our societies. The Forum encouraged national governments to be more involved in safeguarding cultural heritage so that in the long run their actions will strengthen the ambience and attractiveness of the place and ensure the prudent development of the region. Forum material and resolution can be found online <http://www.mantojums.lv/?lang=en> and a Forum publication is under preparation.

Two thematic exhibitions, launched at the Forum, were prepared by the regional working groups under the MG; the poster exhibition Preservation of Historic Ships and a documentary film on underwater heritage. From Riga, the poster exhibition started its tour in several copies to all 11 BSS countries. Seminars on underwater heritage with a keynote speaker from UNESCO, on coastal culture and maritime heritage, on cultural heritage education and on indoor climate in unused churches were prepared in conjunction with the Forum.

The Monitoring Group has agreed to arrange its 5th Forum in 2013 in Estonia. The uniting aspects of cultural heritage and the maritime dimension of the region will be highlighted.

The MG has been invited to present the output and recommendations of the 3rd BSR Cultural Heritage Forum on relations between cultural heritage and tourism at the Nordic-Baltic workshop organized by the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (Visby, October), at the 3rd Baltic Sea Tourist Forum (Kaliningrad, November) and at the Baltic Nature Tourism Conference (Riga, March).

The project of the regional working group on sustainable historic towns named "Urban Heritage - Good for the Climate!" focusing on energy efficiency and built heritage, has secured first phase funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers, TEG working group. The project will be launched in May.

Long term collaboration accumulates joint initiatives and a wider perspective for integrating safeguarding of cultural heritage and development. This know-how is exploited, for example, when using the EEA-Norway grants and other available financial mechanism for quality projects and expert collaboration on cultural heritage. As an example, preventing crime against cultural heritage is a global topic that requires international networking. The MG has continued its exchange of experience and cooperation towards limiting this problem. In 2010 the MG members from Poland and Norway started a project funded with an EEA-Norway grant devoted to this topic which will continue in 2011 and be summed up at a pan-Baltic conference in May (www.stop-heritage-crime.org).

Finally all the cultural heritage bodies in question have faced profound administrative changes and economic cuts during recent years. Sharing information of the roles and methods of reorganised national administration has turned out to be useful for strategic planning on national and even regional levels.

Cooperation with the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture

The NDPC will soon be up and running, a MoU was signed 2010 and an action plan is ready with a work plan for 2011 under elaboration. Voluntary contributions are coming in; a Senior Adviser has been recruited and will be based at the NCM which will host the NDPC for the next three years. During that time a final decision will be made on a more permanent Secretariat. Initial focus will be on the creative industries and two NCM instruments in this field will be at the NDPC disposal, KreaNord and the Nordic Innovation Center (NICe).

The NCM invited the other Regional Councils of the North to discuss cooperation in the framework of the NDPC at a Secretariat level meeting in Copenhagen in August 2010. A CBSS Secretariat representative attended together with the Monitoring Group Coordinator and the Head

of the Ars Baltica Secretariat. The meeting discussed topics of common interest in order to find synergies as well as to avoid duplication in the NDPC approach. Questions on how to bring culture, cultural heritage and economic profit together and what kind of promotions are connected and relevant for the whole region were discussed as was the importance of identifying existing cultural infrastructure in form of experts, institutions, services and audiences that can be mobilised. This discussion was continued at the SOGC meeting which emphasised the need to ensure synergies in the cultural field in the Baltic Sea Region.

CBSS Expert Group On Youth Affairs (Egya)

Chair, 1 of July 2010 - 30 of June 2011: Mr Bjørn Jaaberg Hansen, Ministry of Children, Equality and Social Inclusion of Norway

Under the reporting period 2010-2011 major developments in the EGYA include:

- Continued strong cooperation in the field of youth policy
- Strengthened contacts between the Baltic Sea and the Barents Region
- Policy input to the future EU youth programme

Priority during the period chaired by Norway

Norway's chairmanship of the Council of the Baltic Sea States coincided with its chairing of the Expert Group on Youth Affairs (EGYA) i.e. from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. This period has seen continued developments in the cooperation in the field of youth policy, making it stronger and more visible in the Baltic Sea Region. The EGYA has succeeded in coordinating goals and activities and Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs (BSSYA) has served as a one-stop point for cooperation across borders and between stakeholders. Multiple steps were taken and several actions were initiated to increase and strengthen contacts among the EGYA members, among them the initiative of increasing contacts towards the neighbouring Kaliningrad Region of Russia and especially to the Barents Region and the Barents Youth Coordination Office in Murmansk.

Number of Meetings

During the reporting period one meeting took place in Oslo, 25-26 of October 2010.

Secretarial Function

The EGYA is being provided with a Secretary Function from the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs in Kiel which works closely together with the Chair to reach set goals in the field of youth policy. At the meeting of the EGYA on 7 a decision to prolong the mandate of the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs until end 2012 was taken. In addition a Senior Adviser in the CBSS Secretariat has been designated a focal point for youth affairs.

Composition of the Expert Group

The EGYA is currently composed of 11 representatives from the 11 CBSS Member States, one representative of the European Commission and one youth representative from the Baltic Youth Forum.

Main activities of the EGYA

The overall aim of Baltic Sea cooperation in the field of youth policy is to promote intergovernmental cooperation, the active participation of young people and to encourage youth exchanges in order to promote a better understanding and knowledge of the Baltic Sea countries. The aim is furthermore to highlight the potential of young people and to recognize the potential of young people.

Special attention was dedicated to further cooperation with the Baltic Sea Sub-Regional Cooperation Network (BSSSC) and its Working Group on Youth Policy (BSSSC-WGYP) which the BSSYA maintained close contacts with and provided with information and counselling of activities and projects. The Norwegian Chair of the EGYA participated in the BSSSC Annual Conference in Tallinn in October 2010 and introduced the work of the EGYA to the audience as well as general outlines of European youth policy. The EGYA also supported a small youth conference on a ferry on the Baltic Sea between the BSSYA, the BSSSC-WGYP and the BSSSC Youth Network. Subsequently the BSSYA was involved in preparation for the BSSSC youth event in 2011 for which first steps for submitting a project application to EU "Youth in Action" were developed and agreed upon. The good synergies between the EGYA and the BSSSC in this regard were noted at the joint meeting of the CBSS CSO and the BSSSC Board in Oslo on 15 March.

Increased contacts to the Kaliningrad region of Russia

A prominent example for intensified cross-border cooperation was the participation of six international representatives from youth work structures of the CBSS countries at the "Baltic Artek" camp in August 2010 in Kaliningrad where young people discussed topics of

enhanced Youth Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. The (BSSYA) facilitated their participation which was financially supported by the EGYA. This action also represents a follow up to the CBSS CSO meeting held in Kaliningrad in December 2009 where the Regional Administration of Kaliningrad introduced the concept of the "Baltic Artek" youth camp.

In autumn 2010 CBSS (Baltic 21 and CBSS Unit Culture and Education) started based on their mandates a joint working process in order to add an international aspect to the newly established Baltic Artek Youth Camp in Kaliningrad, Russia. At the EGYA meeting in October 2010 in Oslo, the idea was presented to the Expert Group members. In August 2011 Baltic 21 travelled to Kaliningrad in order to explore further possibilities for cooperation on Youth issues in the Baltic Sea Region in relation to the Baltic Artek Youth Camp. The Units are currently in close cooperation with the Youth Secretariat in Kiel developing a project proposal for the conduction of an international workshop session at 2012's Baltic Artek Youth Camp focusing on Regional Identity, Democracy and Sustainable Lifestyles. The paper will be presented at the Baltic Sea Youth Conference in Mözen, Germany in October 2012 where CBSS Baltic 21 will speak in a session on cooperation with Russia and Baltic Artek in order to attract interested Youth in the preparations of the project. Afterwards the project proposal will be further distributed among relevant actors across the Baltic Sea Region and potential funders searching for financial and content-wise support. The Baltic Artek Youth Camp will take place in July/August 2012.

Strengthening the contacts to the Barents Region

The EGYA intensified its cooperation with the Barents Region through strong contacts between its BSSYA and the Barents Youth Coordination Office in Murmansk. The respective Secretariats already cooperated according to their respective Work Plans intensively through e-mail and telephone contacts thereby ensuring a constant flow of information between the Barents and the Baltic Sea region in the past years. These contacts were deepened further in August 2010 when Ms. Maria Petrova from the Barents Youth Cooperation Office (BYCO) in Murmansk came for a study visit to Germany and met her colleague at the (BSSYA). The respective Secretariats discussed on that occasion aspects of youth participation in the regions and developed ideas for a stronger collaboration in the future. BYCO is an information and counseling office run by the Working Group on Youth Policy of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council.

Participation of youth from the Baltic Sea Region at the Barents Youth Event

The Norwegian Chair of the EGYA suggested and supported a participation of four youth representatives from the Baltic Sea region at the "Barents Passion Week" in Kirkenes, Norway. The Norwegian Chair and the BSSYA held close contact with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat in Kirkenes to enable the participation of youth from Lithuania, Latvia and Germany in this youth event high in the North. The Barents Regional Youth Council prepared the event as a "Barents Passion Week" from 27 to 31 October 2010. The participants elevated life in the north through creative workshops on different culture and arts, ending with an alternative performance celebrating living in the Barents and in the Baltic Sea Region.

Contribution to the Consultation Process on the future EU youth programme

The EGYA at its meeting in Oslo agreed on the BSSYA contributing to the consultation process on the future European youth programme. The BSSYA prepared its contribution from its regional perspective and out of its experience concerning the present "EU Youth in Action" programme.





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The Expert Group On Nuclear And Radiation Safety (EGNRS)

The EGNRS, established in 1992, consists of representatives of competent national authorities in the field of nuclear and radiation safety. Since its beginning the Chairmanship has been held by Finland, Sweden, Germany and Norway. In April 2011 the group's longstanding Chairman Mr. Finn Ugletveit, Senior Adviser at the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority, gave the chairmanship over to Mr. Juha Rautjärvi from the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK). According to the current Terms of Reference, adopted on 26 March 2009 for five years, the chairmanship period is for three years, which means that Mr. Rautjärvi will chair the group during the rest of the agree-upon mandate period.

Meetings

Following tradition, the EGNRS held two regular meetings during the reporting period. On 17-18 November 2010 the EGNRS meeting was hosted by the Finnish Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority in Helsinki, and on 13-14 April 2011 by the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority in Oslo. Two preparatory meetings one month prior to the regular EGNRS of a smaller group were held, one in Stockholm and one in Oslo.

Furthermore, two meetings of the ad-hoc working group on environmental radiation monitoring were held, first one in Helsinki on 19 November 2010 and on 15 February in Stockholm.

The Agreement on the Exchange of Radiation Monitoring Data

One of the core activities of the EGNRS is the implementation of the intergovernmental agreement between the CBSS Member States on gamma radiation data exchange from 2001 and its extension to airborne measurements from 2006. This is an online, secured data exchange system which ensures access to results from the national dose rate and air monitoring networks without undue delay. The evaluation of the access to the results of the national monitoring networks is a standing topic on the agenda of the EGNRS, and it is a permanent challenge to maintain the network so that all countries supply the system with their own data whilst at the same time being granted access to each other's data.

The EURDEP data monitoring system of the EU is partially parallel to the CBSS system – basically the same data can be currently found in both systems. There is a close cooperation between the EGNRS and those responsible on EURDEP, and this cooperation is discussed in the EGNRS meetings. The EGNRS has decided to continue its forerunner role and focus on two issues in particular within this context. The first concerns better use of the existing data and focuses on the visualisation of the data, thus remaking the data from numbers into illustrative easy-to-use figures. This development process is going on with Germany in lead. The second concerns the validation and quality assurance of the data. The ad-hoc working group on data validation prepared in 2009 a detailed and well-prepared report on this issue which was adopted by the EGNRS in its April 2010 meeting. It includes several technical recommendations, which the countries have started to implement. Follow up to implementation is included in the EGNRS agenda. The EC has welcomed the report as a model case, whose recommendations will be used also in the wider EC context.

Environmental monitoring

Developing systems to monitor radiation in the environment is currently an important part of the EGNRS activities. The EGNRS started activities in this field already before the Fukushima disaster, but this event has placed the topic, as well as nuclear and radiation safety in general, again at the front of public attention.

With this mandate, the EGNRS has reviewed the situation with respect to the monitoring of radioactivity in the marine, terrestrial and limnic environments of the CBSS region. Many national and some international programmes are in place, but currently, each programme is set up independently, with limited possibilities for the efficient sharing of comparable results with other countries. The EGNRS, having previously also been at the forefront of organising the exchange of results on gamma dose rates and air monitoring, has in recent years therefore discussed the additional value of extending this cooperation to other environmental compartments as well, to include various other samples types from the marine and terrestrial environments.

The EGNRS believes that by sharing this information, other aspects of environmental monitoring of radioactivity in the region can be improved considerably in a cost-effective way, to the benefit of the whole region. The benefits of having compatible data and sharing our monitoring results would include:

- A better and broader basis for action in an emergency situation
- A better basis for modelling and developing prognoses
- A better basis for information to the public
- A basis for avoiding redundancies and overlaps in our monitoring programmes
- A basis for filling current gaps in our monitoring programmes

In 2008, the EGNRS decided to look more closely into the possibility of achieving such a task, and an ad-hoc working group on environmental monitoring was established for this purpose. Its first task would be to assess the current situation of monitoring programmes in the CBSS.

Soon after, an ad-hoc working group organised a survey of the national environmental monitoring programmes for radioactivity in the CBSS Member and Observer States, and in December 2009, a questionnaire requesting detailed information about the programmes in these countries was distributed. The purpose of the survey was to get an overview of the existing variability among the monitoring programmes in the region, and thereby get a more concrete perception of the challenges and benefits that the harmonisation process and the access to more data could potentially bring. The information has now been collected and organised. The results of this survey and a draft report on the observations and evaluations on the collected information were presented at the Topical Day in Oslo on 12-13 April 2011.

The Topical Day discussed the different elements of environmental monitoring and the costs and benefits associated with streamlining the existing monitoring programmes towards a regional approach. The Topical Day also offered an overview of the current variability among national environmental radioactivity monitoring programmes, thereby illuminating the existing differences and similarities between them. Experiences from existing multilateral cooperation in the field of monitoring of radioactivity in the environment, including from HELCOM, OSPAR and the EC, were presented.

The Topical Day resulted in recommendations of how to proceed. The conclusions and recommendations, outlined in the report published in June 2011, will serve as the basis for further actions made by the CBSS.

Regional assistance in case of nuclear emergency

There exists an IAEA Convention on assistance in the case of a nuclear accident. However, the issue of the need for a regional agreement on this, which would oblige the CBSS countries to really take the preparatory measures that would be needed in case of an real case where international assistance would be needed, has been raised in the EGNRS for several years, and the discussion on the need for that kind of an agreement has been tabled on several occasions and the way forward has been rather disputed.

It was finally decided in the April 2010 EGNRS meeting that no intergovernmental agreement would be needed but one should adopt a more practical approach to work further with assistance preparedness. Following the discussion and decisions of the CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (EGNRS) meetings in Luxembourg 15--16 April 2010 and in Helsinki 17-18 November 2010, it was concluded that a time-limited working group on assistance preparedness should be established. While the EGNRS is already active in this field, e.g. in facilitating gamma spectrometry laboratory cooperation, there are several other issues that could be better coordinated in order to increase regional inter-compatibility in a case of an emergency.

In early 2011 the competent authorities represented in the EGNRS nominated their representatives to this group. The group has decided to meet for the first time in 2011 to prepare a Terms of Reference for the group, with concrete tasks, to be approved by the EGNRS in its November 2011 meeting.

Cooperation of laboratories doing gamma spectrometry analysis

In its meeting in St. Petersburg in April 2009 an ad-hoc working group on Gamma Spectrometric Analysis was established to propose and carry out actions in order to enhance and improve the capabilities of laboratories within the region in the field of gamma spectrometry. The overall objective of this work is to improve and enhance the capabilities of CBSS Member States in their reliable quantitative and qualitative analysis by gamma spectrometry and better utilise the capabilities, both competence and capacity, present in the region. The work addresses the challenges of normal exposure situations as well as those of emergency situations.

The Terms of Reference to the working group were adopted in the Warsaw EGNRS meeting in November 2009. The working group has since then prepared a major, very technical questionnaire of about 30 pages which was sent out to the CBSS Member States in May 2010 with a view to establish a firm basis for future actions and priorities. A tentative report was prepared and discussed in the EGNRS' April 2011 meeting. The work will continue.

EGNRS communication exercises

The EGNRS has traditionally organised one or two communication exercises in a year without prior notification, usually after office hours, to test the functioning of the emergency communication system. Poland organised one in November and one in December 2010. The results provided reasons to check the national systems in some cases.

Other

Information sharing through written "country reports" is one of the most useful parts of the EGNRS meetings, serving as a way to update each country situation, on such issues as reactor decommissioning or new builds, incidents and accidents, or technical or legal developments. Furthermore the EGNRS meetings have served an important platform to exchange information and opinions on issues which are not directly EGNRS issues, such as the EU and IAEA "basic safety standards" or other relevant issues, conferences or studies,

Budget

The EGNRS has a budget of 5000 EUR/year. The 2009, 2010 and 2011 budget was decided to be saved to be used for the April 2011 Topical Day on Environmental Monitoring, amounting altogether to 15 000 EUR.

Expert Group For Cooperation On Children At Risk (EGCC) & The Children's Unit

Chair: Poland, Representative from the Polish Ministry of National Education, Major Specialist Małgorzata Skorka

Vice Chair: Germany, Representative from the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Ms Julia Schermann

Composition of the group

The Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk, EGCC, consists of eleven members; all member countries to the CBSS have appointed senior officials to the group. The Russian Ministry of Education has during the year not participated in any of the meetings of the expert group nor in any of the group's activities, meetings or conferences. The EGCC consists of representatives from the line ministries dealing with children's issues, mainly ministries of social affairs, ministries of education and designated child ministries. The group consists of six women and four men. This is not counting the Russian representative since it has not been communicated to the group who this representative is. The European Commission has not assigned a member to the EGCC. The period the EGCC is chaired by each country is rotated among the members to the group and does not follow the CBSS presidency.

Meetings of the EGCC

The EGCC has had two meetings, one in Riga on October 18th and 19th 2010 at the invitation of the Latvian Ministry of Welfare and one in Prague on April 7th and 8th. The Prague meeting was held back to back with the conference Quality in Alternative Care. Reports from the meetings of the EGCC are published on the Childcentre website. The chair of the EGCC and the Head of the Children's Unit presented the work of the group to the CSO in January 2011. The EGCC priority document guiding the work for the period 2009 – 2011 focuses on:

- The protection of children from all forms of sexual exploitation including - Unaccompanied and trafficked children
- Children abused by being offered money or other forms of remuneration in exchange for sex
- Children and online sexual exploitation
- The protection of children from all forms of sexual abuse and sexual violence
- The rights of children in institutions and in other forms of out of home care.
- At the EGCC meeting in April 2011 a priority document for the period 2011 – 2013 was adopted.

Major activities arranged by the EGCC

Many of the activities have been made possible through the close cooperation with governmental agencies, NGOs and IOs. The EGCC often takes on the role of coordinator, initiating project applications and contacting parts of the established regional network of public agencies, international organisations and NGOs in order to form a suitable group for the specific task. EGCC also functions as a hub for professionals and policy makers facilitating contacts across the region. In all its work, the EGCC aims at supporting professionals in the region, improving their capacity to prevent violence, abuse and exploitation of children by promoting in the region new tools and the most recent knowledge available.

Protecting Children from all Forms of Sexual Exploitation

Preventing the trafficking of children and protecting unaccompanied migrant children

Project: Baltic Sea Region Information Management to Prevent Trafficking – BSR IMPT
The EGCC has through the grant awarded by the EU via the Daphne III programme implemented this one year project. The 12 month project has been managed and coordinated by the EGCC via the Children's Unit and conducted in partnerships with three NGOs in the region: Save the Children Denmark, Caritas Lithuania and Tartu Child Support Centre in Estonia. Expert seminars: In September 2010 links between trafficking of children and children in criminality and in begging were explored at the expert seminar in Tallinn. In the project a total of three such seminars were conducted and a consultant made 60 interviews with stakeholders across the region. The final report with recommendations was published and launched at events in Tallinn, Stockholm and Vilnius in December 2010. The report is available in hard copies and online. The project was reported to the Commission in February 2011.

Time frame: December 2009 – December 2010

Financing: EUR 100 000. European Commission 80%, EGCC and project partners 20%

Outcome: Reports from the expert seminars. Final report published in December 2010.

Main findings from the report:

- All work to prevent trafficking must be based on children's right to protection from all forms of violence.
- Young people up to the age of 18 are children.
- A national co-ordination function is vital in order to manage information on children at risk of trafficking.
- It is important to disseminate numbers on children and young people who are:
 - o identified as victims of trafficking,
 - o suspected to be victims of trafficking,
 - o considered to be in abusive or exploitative situations or
 - o in contexts that may lead to them becoming victims of trafficking.
- Transparency on what the figures are based on is crucial in order to manage the complexities involved.
- Regional/local information collation is essential and there should be open lines of communication with the national level.
- When collecting and managing regional/local information, use should be made of existing professional networks organising professionals working with children.
- NGOs should be involved in information collection at the local/regional and national levels.
- The voluntary sector, faith-based organisations, labour organisations and commercial enterprises should be involved at the local level.
- Information collected should be carefully scrutinised to see if it can be validated through e.g. triangulation.
- National co-ordination should be in contact with research institutions and universities in order to encourage as broad an evidence base as possible.

Conference: Child trafficking – A criminal act calling for a child protection response, Oslo 20 – 21 June 2011.

At the invitation of the Norwegian Minister of Children, Equality and Inclusion the EGCC organised a conference that gathered 80 experts from the region and beyond. The specific focus was on the cooperation between law enforcement and child protection in cases where children are exploited in begging and in criminality as part of the trafficking crime. The situation for asylum seeking children and the exploitation of their vulnerability was also presented and discussed. Outcome: Points of action to secure the rights of children trafficked for the purpose of exploitation in criminality and in begging. Input to a project developing training material for professionals meeting with asylum seeking children.

Financing: The Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Inclusion and the EGCC.

Time frame: 20 – 21 June 2011.

6th Meeting of the National Contact Points on Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children: Back to back with the conference on child trafficking, the National contact Points met in Oslo. At the meeting all issues regarding cases in the region handled by the network were discussed. Outcome: Input to the EGCC future work on the topic. Clarifications on tasks for the NCPs.

Financing: The Norwegian Ministry of Children, Equality and Inclusion
Time frame: 21 June 2011

National Contact Points on Unaccompanied and Trafficked Children are appointed in all CBSS member states except Germany and Russia. Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova take part in the implementation of the programme and have also appointed National Contact Points, NCP.

Expert input: The EGCC through its secretariat has continued to give expert input to actions in the Swedish government's plan against prostitution and human trafficking which ended in December 2010. One of the actions is supporting the group of Swedish experts that were trained in the 2-year training organised previously by the EGCC. Through targeted seminars the Swedish experts disseminate their knowledge to colleagues in the child protection services, migration centres and youth institutions. Swedish UNICEF has as another part of the Swedish governmental plan organised the final seminar on children and trafficking in Stockholm and the EGCC was there one of the presenters.

Financing: Swedish government.
Time frame: November 2008 – December 2010

Expert input: The EGCC is a member of the advisory group to the ongoing UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre's research on trafficking of children in the Nordic Countries. An advisory group meeting has been held in Florence to which the EGCC contributed with the findings of the previously mentioned BSR IMPT project. The EGCC is also consulted with the draft report. The full report is due in August of this year.

Financing: UNICEF
Time frame: February 2010 – August 2011

Children and online sexual exploitation

Project: ROBERT – Risktaking Online Behaviour – Empowerment through Research and Training.

ROBERT project is coordinated by the EGCC through the Children's Unit at the Secretariat. Project partners met in Stockholm for the kick-off meeting in June 2010. Research on online vulnerabilities and harms have been collected across the region and the rest of Europe and this has been set up in a publications database available at www.childcentre.info/robert. The research findings have been compiled into a report. Interviews with children and young people that have been sexually abused in the context of the Internet has started and the partners have developed interview guides for focus group interviews with young people that belong to groups considered to possibly be more at risk of coming to harm using Information and Communication Technologies .

Financing: EUR 400 000. The European Commission Safer Internet Programme, 100%
Time frame: June 2010 – June 2012

Partners: EGCC coordinates in partnership with Save the Children Denmark, Linköping University, Sweden, Tartu University, Estonia NGO Stellit International, The Netherlands and the Russian Federation, Innocence in Danger, Germany, Save the Children, Italy, Edinburgh University and Kingston University, the UK:

Outcome: 1. Report from research collection (May 2011). 2. Report from interviews with young people that have come to harm (Early 2012). 3. Report from the focus group interviews (March 2012) 4. Report from the interviews with offenders of online crimes against children (April 2012). 5. Final conference (May 2012).

Expert input: The secretariat is part of the advisory board on the UNICEF Innocenti Centre's research on child protection in the converged online and offline world. The EGCC was represented by the Head of Unit at the Advisory group meeting and has also contributed to the text.

Financing: Innocenti Research Centre
Time frame: February 2010 – June 2011
Outcome: EGCC input to the research report

The Rights of Children in Institutions and in Other Forms of out of Home Care

Project: Systemic Auditing of Child Care Institutions – AudTrain.

In this project, coordinated by the EGCC through the Children's Unit, training materials for professionals conducting audits and supervision of child residential care units are developed, translated, adapted and tested on groups of professionals across the region. The material builds on Norwegian expertise and the training is the first in its kind.

Financing: EUR 250 000, EU Leonardo da Vinci Programme 75%, EGCC and partners 25%.

Partners: Fylkesmannen in Hordaland, Norway, Linneaus University, Sweden, Estonian Social Work Association, Estonia, the State Inspectorate for the Protection of Children's Rights, Latvia, the Government Agency for Child Protection, Iceland.

Time frame: December 2010 – December 2012

Outcome: Training materials in Norwegian, Swedish, Estonian, Latvian, English and possibly Russian. Trainings conducted in Sweden, Estonia and Latvia.

Expert input: The EGCC was part of the advisory board connected to the conference "Quality in Alternative Care" held April 4 – 6 in Prague. The conference is organised by SOS Children's Villages.

Children's Unit

The Secretariat function of the EGCC is carried by the Children's Unit staffed by the Head of Unit 100% and a Project Officer working with the coordination of the ROBERT project 50%. The Children's Unit operates on a separate budget built on member states' voluntary contributions. All Member States except Russia contributed to the Children's Unit

Financing

The EGCC has been successful in securing funds for specific actions. As can be read in this annual report, most actions have been funded from external sources, especially different programmes within the EU. The co-funding most of the time necessary have then been managed by adding time the Children's Unit gives to the project. Successful project applications build on securing the participation of a vast and diverse network that can add to the project from different perspectives. Most programmes welcome the inclusion of actors from the public sector as well as from the non-governmental sector in applications for funding. The EGCC is well placed to coordinate projects, and to mobilise organisations into formulating projects targeting issues that have been identified as gaps in the region. This is made possible as the EGCC over its existence has established itself as a hub in the region to which different organisations working to protect children from violence and harm turn. To maintain the network the Children's Unit travel to meetings and conferences in order to present and to share with colleagues in the region its experiences. Most travel to advisory group meetings and to conferences has been paid by the organisers and when the EGCC contributes with presentations within its areas of expertise, oftentimes the organisers contribute with financing to the EGCC budget.

The Childcentre web site

The website www.childcentre.info has been continuously updated and used for presenting material coming out of the cooperation and other reports and studies of interest for professionals in the region. The Secretariat and the National Coordinators in the different countries are responsible for updating and adding information to the site.

As far as possible, the EGCC sees it as part of its remit to contribute with its expertise by participating in advisory groups and by presenting at conferences and meetings. The group can in this way respond favourably to invitations to make presentations and to contribute with knowledge and experiences to projects and actions organised in the region on topics within the EGCC expertise.

Other Civil Security Structures

The Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States

The Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States held its 14th Conference in Helsinki in November 2010. The conference emphasized the need to raise the awareness of and expressed the concern about the crime situation in the Baltic Sea Region, especially about organized crime and criminal hubs, their connections to international organized crime and the invasion of organized crime elements to legal business markets and their influence to these markets. The participants expressed their understanding of no country in the Baltic Sea Region being free from trafficking in human beings and it being one of the most significant threats in the field of border crossing organized crime in the Baltic Sea Region and recalled the advantages of using joint investigation teams and resources of Interpol and Eurojust. It was also decided that the Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime (ENPRO) will continue its work and that the chairmanship shall be now handed from Finland to Germany. The Prosecutors furthermore considered noteworthy that piracy is an increasing problem at international level and that the Baltic Sea Region States have to be more aware of this, and bear the problem in mind when planning future cooperation. The next 15th Conference of the Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States will be organised by Sweden.

Task Force on Organised Crime

The Baltic Sea Task Force on Organised Crime, created back in 1996 received its mandate from the Heads of Government, continued its activities on the basis of the prolonged mandate that will culminate by the end of 2016. The Annual Strategic Meeting of the Task Force took place in December 2010 in Vihula, Estonia, where the two-year chairmanship was given over from Estonia to Lithuania for 2011-2012. Beside the annual high-level meeting, the main coordinator for activities is the Operative Committee which is a multidisciplinary body consisting of above all permanent representatives from police, border/coast guard authorities, customs and national prosecution offices from each Baltic Sea region country. The main operational priorities for the 2011–2012 in Baltic Sea Region will be based on Organised Crime Threat Assessment in the Baltic Sea Region (BOCTA) and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA), further improvement of cooperation between police, border guard and customs through implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The main objective of Task Force cooperation is decreased volume and harm done by the organised crime in the region. Additional objectives are such as minimising duplication of efforts and routing the information flow into one common channel when it comes to intelligence. The Task Force could be at the frontline of assessing the new initiatives. The Task Force is also a form of discussing regional perspectives on certain matters on EU or international level.

CBSS Senior Official Network on Tax Co-operation

At the 12th meeting of the Directors General Network on Tax Administration in the Baltic Sea Region, it was decided to terminate the network. Simultaneously, it was decided to replace the network with a task group of senior officials. The 1st meeting of the network took place in Copenhagen in March 2009, the 2nd meeting took place in Vilnius on 3 June 2010 and the 3rd meeting took place in Oslo in June 2011. The sub task groups of the network include Working Group on Fishing Industry, Working Group on Debt Recovery, Working Group on Mobile Workers and Employers – Tax Audit. The working groups have investigated the respective issues in multilateral context, implementing concrete multilateral controls, and prepared reports with concrete proposals. The last mentioned working group has finalised its task, whereas others continue their work.

Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC)

The Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC), established in 1997, is a flexible regional tool for daily inter-agency (Border and Coast Guards, Police, Customs) interaction to combat cross-border crime and environmental protection of the maritime areas. Border guards and other agencies from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden are members, Iceland is an observer. From the EU bodies, FRONTEX is the main Strategic Partner, which is always present in the meetings at all levels.

The main event during the reporting period was the XIII Conference of the Heads of Border Services of the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation, held in Saint Petersburg in November 24 – 26, 2010. During the Conference the Head of the Russian Federation's Border Service officially declared the end of the Russian BSRBCC Presidency and the one-year rotating Presidency was taken over by the Polish Border Guard.

Additionally the BSRBCC meets in the context of Baltic Border Committee (BBC) meetings which is the more operational body of the organisation consisting of senior officers. During the reporting period the BBC met on 15-18 March 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia, on 5-7 July 2010 in Kaliningrad, Russia, on 18-21 October in St. Petersburg, Russia and 22-25 February in Gdansk, Poland.

Other activities during the Russian Presidency 2010 included:

- Expert workshop on coordination in responding to maritime security threats (16-18 February 2010, St. Petersburg)
- Operation with the task of monitoring the traffic and detecting infringements of the 'vessels of interest' within the Baltic Sea waters and seaports (May 2010; Operational area: Baltic Sea)
- Workshop of BSRBCC analytical experts (19-21 May 2010, Kaliningrad)
- Multilateral maritime exercise focused on the BSRBCC coordination in providing assistance to a vessel carrying a hazardous cargo aboard (8-9 July 2010 within the operational area of Russian Waters of the Baltic Sea)
- Expert workshop on the cruising vessels' and pleasure boats' traffic monitoring (25-27 August 2010, St. Petersburg)
- Border / coast guard experts' meeting within the framework of the BSRBCC Program of Expert Exchange 2010-2013 (5-7 October 2010, St. Petersburg)
- Expert workshop on countering illegal immigration and smuggling activities at maritime border-crossing points (12-14 October 2010, Kaliningrad)
- Polish Presidency 2011 gives priority to match both the current challenges and changes the border services face in the region as well as continuation of the BSRBCC recommendations and requirements:
- Development of integration and coordination based regional approach of BSRBCC services for security of the borders, effective law enforcement operations against cross border criminality and in support to the integrated regional maritime surveillance efforts
- Continuation and development of existing cooperation with the EU and regional agencies/ cooperation forms as well as neighbouring observers
- Capacity building by continuing and developing joint initiatives and best practices implemented by the previous BSRBCC Presidencies with focus on:
 - o experts experience and best practices exchange
 - o joint practical training in accordance with BSRBCC mandate
 - o joint exercise based development of operational readiness in terms of integration and coordination based situational awareness
 - o development of operational information exchange system
- Joint threat assessment based coordinated operational law enforcement efforts with the objective of border security and in support to regional integrated maritime surveillance efforts
- Expert best practices exchange and discussions, training and operation – heading higher level of coordination and integration.

The Polish Presidency in 2011 continues this practical implementation and further development of close practical cooperation with such strategic partners as Council of the Baltic Sea States – CBSS and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union – FRONTEX.

The intent is to coordinate joint BSRBCC services efforts with the purpose to continue development of initiatives introduced by the previous BSRBCC Presidencies.

The following activities have been/will be implemented in 2011 by the Polish Presidency:

- Seminar - practical aspects of international conventions and EU's law regulations implementation by the BG/CG services in the sea traffic border check process (22-25 March 2011)
- Seminar on vehicle related crimes (11-15 April 2011)
- Ship inspection/ boarding teams seminar for BG/ CG guard vessels crew members (16-20 May 2011)
- BG/CG patrol vessels visit to the port of Gdansk, including joint maritime exercise (18-21 May 2011)
- Seminar for BSRBCC BG/CG maritime surveillance experts (15-17 June 2011)
- Seminar of BG/ CG aviation experts (15-17 June 2011)

- Joint maritime operation – preparatory and debriefing experts meetings to be considered (1 June – 31 August 2011)
- Workshop analysis (21-23 September 2011)

The second BBC meeting during the Polish Presidency will take place on 25-28 October 2011. The Polish Border Guard BSRBCC 2011 Presidency will officially end during the XIV annual Conference of the BSRBCC Border Services Heads in November 2011, when the Polish Border Guard will hand over the Presidency to the Danish authorities.

The Baltic Sea States Civil Protection network

The Civil Protection network has convened annually since 2002 at the level of Directors General to exchange views on ongoing activities and to coordinate joint measures in the field of civil protection, critical infrastructure protection and other emergency preparedness issues in the Baltic Sea Region. Additionally the network meets annually at senior expert level and on an ad-hoc basis in different constellations in order to discuss particular issues or prepare joint projects.

Chairmanship

The chairmanship has followed the CBSS Presidency since Denmark assumed the role in July 2008. Consequently in 2009-2010 the network was chaired by the Lithuanian Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior, and in 2010-2011 by the Directorate For Civil Protection And Emergency Planning (DSB) of Norway. For the period 2011-201 the chairmanship will be taken over by the Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Civil Protection and Disaster Management, Ministry of Interior.

Under the Norwegian chairmanship 2010-2011 the following activities can be reported:

Forest fires

Organised by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and closely connected to the network's activities, a meeting on forest fires was held on 24-25 November 2010, Stockholm. This meeting was a part of the "Cross-border cooperation with focus on forest fires in the Baltic Sea Region" project, supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). Participating countries in the project were Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. The earlier phase of the project included a seminar organised in Pskov in Russia in May 2010, with the objective to identify possible cooperation areas within forest fire prevention and fighting. The November follow-up meeting developed a long-term action plan for future cooperation.

Senior expert meeting on further project cooperation

The chairmanship hosted the Annual Senior Expert meeting, which took place on 19-20 January under the auspices of the CBSS Secretariat in Stockholm. Participants from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, EU DG Regio and SIDA were present.

Beside preparations of the Directors General meeting in May 2011, the meeting discussed and decided upon projects. Among other things, the long-term plan for future cooperation in the field of forest fire fighting, adopted in November 2010, was discussed.

Moreover, the meeting discussed possible joint projects in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR), endorsed by the European Council in October 2009. Especially the Priority Area 14 – "To reinforce protection from major emergencies at sea and on land" was under discussion.

Project application on EUSBSR 14.3 flagship project

Resulting from the Senior Expert meeting, a project application in order to implement the EUSBSR Flagship project 14.3 was prepared and sent to the EU DG ECHO & Civil Protection. In the December 2010 version of the EUSBSR Action Plan, this task reads as follows: "14.3. For all main hazards of the Baltic Sea Region, including winter storms and floods, 'develop scenarios and identify gaps' in order to anticipate potential disasters, thus enabling a rapid and effective EU response through the Community Civil Protection Mechanism. In addition, and drawing on existing possibilities for funding in the Civil Protection Financial Instrument, strengthen training activities and exercises in cooperation with the countries of the Baltic Sea Region."

The decision concerning the approval of the application is expected in early autumn 2011, and if successful, the project would start in January 2012 and last for 18 months. The project would be led by the Norwegian DSB and the CBSS Secretariat in cooperation.

Directors General meeting and high-level seminar

IX Baltic Sea States Civil Protection Directors-General Meeting took place on the 11-12 May 2011 in Oslo. The meeting was preceded by High-level expert seminar on "Building Safety and Security - Enhancing cooperation in the Baltic Sea region". A specific theme of the DG meeting was host nation support in the case of major emergencies.

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The Council of the Baltic Sea States International Secretariat

There have been a number of key developments during the period chaired by Norway.

Inauguration of the new premises of the CBSS Secretariat

New Premises for the CBSS Secretariat

With the full support from the Host Country the CBSS Secretariat moved from Strömsborg to new functional premises at Slussplan 9, Gamla Stan in October 2010.

The CBSS Secretariat celebrated the inauguration of the new office with a ceremony and reception on 16 of November 2010. Guests from the Member States including the representatives of the Committee of Senior Officials, European Diplomatic Missions in Stockholm, International and Regional Organizations within the CBSS framework of cooperation as well as Host Country Representatives joined the evening reception hosted by the Director General, Mr. Jan Lundin, the Norwegian CBSS Chairmanship, Ambassador Dag Briseid and the inauguration guest of honour Ms. Birgitta Ohlsson, Swedish Minister of European Affairs who delivered a well appreciated inauguration speech.

Personnel

During 2010 the Secretariat continued to offer contracts of employment in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the CBSS Secretariat that were revised by the Council through written procedure in April 2009.

The revised Personnel Handbook of the CBSS Secretariat was approved by the CSO in April 2010.

The CSO tasked the Secretariat to revise and prepare a proposal for a new and own remuneration system for the CBSS Secretariat. An internal working group was formed in the Secretariat in February 2011. A first proposal is envisaged to be presented in September 2011.

New Director General of the Permanent International Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS).

The Council appointed Mr. Lundin from Sweden for an initial period of four years until 2014. His contract was signed by the Norwegian Chairman of the Council's Committee of Senior Officials on the 1 July 2010.

Other Personnel Matters

Recruitment of a Senior Adviser (Parental Leave Cover)

Ms. Bjarney Fridriksdóttir from Iceland has been recruited as a Senior Adviser and Head of Unit to cover Senior Adviser and Head of the TF-THB Unit Ms. Anna Ekstedt's parental leave starting in mid-August 2011 until mid-August 2012

Senior Adviser Nanna Magnadóttir will be on parental leave starting in October 2011.

Personnel employment during the reporting period

Director General: Jan Lundin (Sweden) (since 1 September 2010)

Deputy Director General: Eduardas Borisovas (Lithuania) (since 1 September 2009)
Secretary to the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

Senior Adviser and Head of Unit: Mia Crawford (Sweden) (since 1 March 2006)
CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21

Senior Adviser and Head of Unit: Anna Ekstedt (Sweden) (since 14 January 2008)
CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB)

Senior Adviser: Christer Pursiainen (Finland) (since 1 January 2008)
Civil Protection

Senior Adviser: Nanna Magnadóttir (Iceland) (since 1 October 2009)
Education and Culture

Senior Adviser: Ilya Ermakov (Russia) (since 16 August 2010)
Economic Development and Energy

Project Officer: Maxi Nachtigall (Germany) (since 1 September 2010)
Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21

Head of Unit: Lars Lööf (Sweden) (since 15 June 2002)
Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk (EGCC)

Locally recruited staff members

Administration

Head of Administration: Gertrude Opira (since 15 September 2004)

Project Accountant (90%): Susann Burström (since 1 March 2010)

Administrative Officer: Ligia Broström (since 1 January 2003)

Office Administrator: Sandra Ewert (since 1 July 2006)

Media and Communication

Head of Media and Communications: Anthony Jay Olsson (since 22 August 2006)

Media and Communications Officer (50%): Jacek Smolicki (since 20 January 2010)

Temporary locally recruitment contracts for the Units

Project Officer (50%): Alexandra Ronkina (since 1 September 2010)
Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk (EGCC)

Project Officer: Ciaran Morrissey (since 1 November 2010)
Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB)

Project Assistant: Anna Berlina (since 1 March 2011)
Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21

The following Internationally recruited Staff Members completed their contracts of employment.

Director General, Gabriele Kötschau (Germany) (1 September 2005 until 30 August 2010)

Project Officer, Alexandra Ronkina (20-80%) (Russian Federation) (28 January 2008 until 30 August 2010) Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk / Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21

Project Officer Marta Bociek (Germany) (1 November 2009 until 30 January 2011)
Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB)

Temporary local recruitment as a consultant for the Baltic 21 Unit

Project Officer, Yuri Kazhura (Belarus/Sweden) (6 September 2010 until 31 December 2010)
Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21

CBSS Secretariat Scholarship / Internship Programme

During the Norwegian Presidency, the Secretariat hosted six interns. All received a monthly CBSS scholarship grant or stipend granted by the unit.

Anna Belina (Estonia)
Ciaran Morrissey (Great Britain)
André Zimmermann (Germany)
Martin Bodensten (Sweden)
Ilona Filimonova (Russian Federation)
Merethe Henne (Norway)

Co-located entity NDPHS

Head of NDPHS Secretariat: Marek Maciejowski (Poland) (since 1 June 2006)

Senior Adviser: Silvija Juscenko (Latvia) (since 1 March 2010)

Budgetary matters

Financial contributions to the budgets and projects of CBSS Core Secretariat and Units

The 2010 budget of the CBSS Secretariat was financed by the Member States' contributions. At the time of closing the financial accounts for the year 2010 all Member States had fully paid their contributions to the Core CBSS Secretariat.

In October 2010, the Secretariat moved to new premises at Slussplan 9, Gamla Stan in Stockholm. The costs for the moving project were covered by the Host Country, Sweden. The Host Country has also generously offered to continue covering rental costs as well as other operating costs such as electricity, cleaning, security and property taxes. The inauguration of the new CBSS Secretariat's premises was held on 16 November. The CBSS Norwegian Presidency made a kind contribution for the reception and costs related to the event.

Core Secretariat

The budget of the Core Secretariat carried over a deficit from 2009 of 156 399 euro. In accordance with CSO decision of May 2010, 80.635 euro of the deficit was covered by funds in Working Capital Fund. After that, still 75,764 euro remained to be covered by savings in the budget of 2010. Despite measures to reduce costs, the outcome for 2010 ended with a surplus of only 15,492 euro. The outcome includes accrued vacation salaries to the sum of 13,665 euro. At the close of FY 2010, 60,272 euro of the 2009 deficit is still remaining.

Different measures, with the aim of better cost control have been initiated in 2010:

1. The Secretariat has outsourced all data and services from its server room to a data centre. The move means that the Secretariat, in future, does not have a purchase and maintain its own servers but pays monthly fees for the services.
2. The Secretariat presented a PM at the CSO meeting in November, with proposals on alternatives for a new remuneration and allowance system. Following the meeting a Working Group (WG) has been set up in the Secretariat for the elaboration of a new salary system that will include better control of currency fluctuation risks. The proposal of the WG is to be introduced at the first CSO meeting of the German presidency in September 2011.
3. From 2010, the Secretariat is to present budget reviews to the CSO every four months i.e., May, September and December.

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

The budget of the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) was financed through extra contributions made by Sweden from the Government's National Action Plan against Prostitution and Trafficking in Human Beings and channelled through the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2010, TF-THB worked apart from the main budget on four strategic projects:

1. the Training Seminars on Human Trafficking for Diplomatic and Consular personnel in the CBSS Region.
2. a joint project with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on Fostering NGO and Law Enforcement Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking in, from and to the Baltic Sea Region.
3. the Project to support Research and Data Collection in the Region under which a major assessment on the Data Collection Mechanism in the region was produced and finally,
4. an Information Campaign against Trafficking in Human Beings in Sweden called Safe Trip was partially financed by Stockholm County Administrative Board (Länsstyrelsen I Stockholm).

Additional contributions for projects to be implemented during 2011 were received from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for the Project on a Model Memorandum of Understanding between Law Enforcement and Service providers and Data Collection and Education against Labour Exploitation and Counter Trafficking (DEFLECT). Norway also contributed with project funds for 2011.

A call for contributions to the budget of the TF-THB for a Project Officer position was circulated to the TF-THB Member States on 8 March 2010.

Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21

As of 1 January 2010, Baltic 21 is integrated into CBSS as an Expert Group with an initial five year mandate. The mission of the Expert Group is to continue to actively contribute towards advancing sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region by coordinating

goals and activities, and by serving as a forum for cooperation across borders and between stakeholders, as well as support the long-term priorities of the Council.

The budget of the EGSD-Baltic 21 Unit was acquired through the contributions paid by the Member States. Regarding the budget for 2010 all Member States paid their contributions. Germany made additional contribution for updating Baltic 21 promotional material. Sweden made additional contributions for the projects to strengthen Russian participation in Baltic 21 Lighthouse Projects and for knowledge sharing between Baltic 21 experts and partners in Belarus and Ukraine. Sweden also contributed with its annual Host Country contribution. Co-funding was received from the European Union for participation in Ecoregion project within the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013.

Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk - CAR Unit

The budget of the Children at Risk Unit (CAR) was covered through voluntary contributions from the Member States. During 2010 all Member States except Russia contributed to the budget. Additionally, the European Commission contributed to the DAPHNE, ROBERT and AUDTRAIN Projects.

Co-location with the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing (NDPHS)

The Northern Dimension partnership in Public health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) Secretariat continued to be co-located with the CBSS Secretariat. The budget of the NDPHS for 2010 was covered through contributions from Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden.

IT

The CBSS servers have been outsourced since October 2010 when the Secretariat moved to its new premises. The servers are now physically hosted by IDE the CBSS IT and computer service provider at Kista, Stockholm.

The size of the conference room at the new premises of the Secretariat has given the opportunity to meet new demands for meetings and seminars arranged within the CBSS framework including CBSS CSO meetings. New conference equipment has with the kind support from Sweden been installed. The Secretariat continued working with the assessment for the installation of a video conference facility which is envisaged to be installed and ready by September 2011.

In order to harmonize the IT-environment of the Secretariat, the assessment for the upgrading of all CBSS computers to Office 2010 has been in process. The upgrade is planned to be carried out during the fall of 2011.



Media and Communications

Visibility was high on the agenda during the Norwegian Presidency.

The Media and Communication division at the Secretariat is staffed by 1 full time staff member and one part-time staff member. Costs were further lowered by bringing design costs in-house but this also impacted on the already heavy workload of the communication team.

Priority was primarily given in the first semester of the Norwegian Presidency to firstly developing a coherent visual identity for the organisation as a whole and secondly to focus on a new media infrastructure.

A package of communication tools were developed; including a concise leaflet about the organisation, a folder, new business cards for staff, and eight quick screens covering the five priorities and different areas of work, amongst other items.

These tools will be built upon over the German presidency using the new designs.

Each of the expert bodies were encouraged to adopt the new visual profile and new fact-sheets were designed and written for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21, the Expert Group on Maritime Policy and the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings. Further information materials will be produced for the priority areas of energy, education and culture and some of the specific activities under the civil security and human dimension field.

An electronic newsletter was produced (two issues so far) which was designed to fill the information gap between the Journal. We hope that the e-letter will act as a snapshot of the organisation and give a broader perspective of the CBSS by way of complement to the journal. Ultimately it is hoped that a more regular Balticness Light will replace the journal.

Two issues of the Balticness Journal were produced under the Norwegian Presidency. The autumn issue had an interview with the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the summer issue had an article by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

New designs for the website were discussed but financing will need to be sought to be able to update the site. This conversation will continue and a remedy be found during the German Presidency.

The Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat has developed a more active online presence by experimenting with social media platforms such as twitter, facebook and flickr as well as networking sites like LinkedIn. The CBSS presence on wikipedia has also been updated. The new Director General has been particularly interested in developing these aspects of the information and communication strategy and this has been supported by the Chair and the Committee of Senior Officials. The Head of Media and Communications and team presented these new developments in May and were encouraged to continue this line of work. The Russian Federation has also begun to use social media in preparation for the forthcoming presidency period 2012-2013 in Russian.

The Units have benefited from assistance from the Media and Communication team by several projects being given communication advice and visual tools such as logos to present their work more clearly and effectively.

The Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 has benefited substantially from input from the team and the participation in the various reference groups used during the consultative period and then subsequently in the implementation phase of the two segment production of the various communication tools used by the group. These included one gatefold brochure, four fact-sheets, the new CBSS Baltic 21 Lighthouse Project Logo, the Lighthouse project certificate, the Strategy on Sustainable Development (eng and rus), the Baltic 21 newsletter and currently the production of the film series on different aspects of sustainability. The CBSS Expert Group on sustainable development – Baltic 21 was the first group to experiment with a facebook page. Use of more open language and tone has been specifically focused upon.

The Head of Media and Communications presented this work at a seminar held at Nordregio.

The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) launched the safetrip campaign. The Media and Communication team produced a website for the campaign and were involved in the development of messages as well as the dissemination and production of the campaign material, such as postcards, banners, ads and flyers both online and in print.

The Head of Media and Communications specifically presented this work at the seventh Working Group meeting of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference at the Lithuanian Parliament.

The Head of Media and Communications also presented this work along with the other strategic activities at the 20th Commission on Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention in Vienna.

The Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) were the first group to experiment with a twitter profile.

Two project publications were completed during the Norwegian Presidency. The Handbook for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel on how to assist and protect victims of human trafficking was written, edited, illustrated, laid out, printed, and distributed in 2500 copies. The publication HARD DATA – Data Collection Mechanisms on Human Trafficking in the Baltic Sea Region was edited, laid out, printed and distributed in 400 copies. Both of these publications are available on CD format. Additionally - 100 presentation boxes were produced and a Memorandum of Understanding with Annexes was laid out and finalised.

The Secretariat also hosted a number of events that the Media and Communications assisted and produced. These included the inauguration of the new premises, the seminar on Black Sea / Baltic Sea Cooperation, the launch of the TF-THB Handbook and several Committee meetings including the Observer States meeting, briefing and Regional Councils meeting.

An open house for press correspondents was held.

Press releases were written and logistic support was given to the 16th Ministerial Session with mixed results. Cooperation and priority setting needs to be worked on for the forthcoming German and Russian Presidencies and proper resource needs to be allocated within the Secretariat and from the Presidency side to communications.

The Communication division will be increasingly involved in the future in several flagship projects in the EU BSR Strategy as well as the joint initiatives under the German and Russian Presidencies – these developments must be built into budget discussions for sustainability sake.



The Members of the Council are Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Sweden as well as the European Commission.

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