



RUSSIAN  
PRESIDENCY  
2012-2013

# Council of the Baltic Sea States Annual Report for the Russian Presidency 2012-2013



# CBSS Russian Presidency 2012-2013

## Index of content

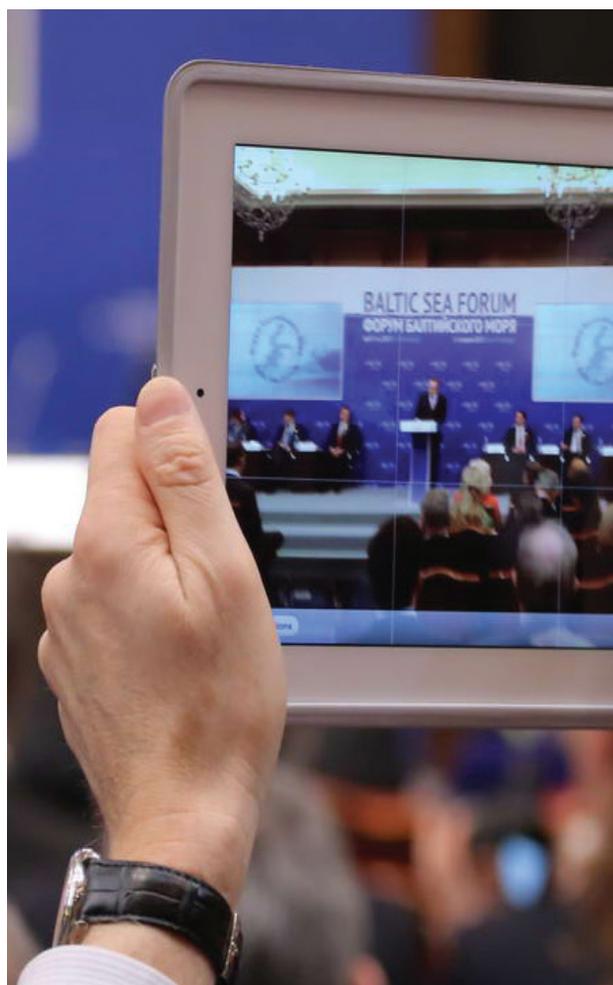
Priorities/Outcomes.....	3
Main Events.....	5
Committee of Senior Officials.....	9
Exploring common ground.....	12
Leading regional climate change adaptation.....	14
Empowering dialogue through creativity.....	16
Investing in an innovative future.....	18
Increasing project orientation.....	22
Bringing expertise together.....	23
Fighting against human trafficking.....	26
Auditing issues of children at risk.....	28
Working together through social dialogue.....	30
Uniting regional education.....	32
Strengthening cooperation.....	33
CBSS Finnish Presidency 2013-2014.....	36
International Secretariat Employment.....	38
Selected events during the CBSS Russian Presidency.....	40



# Priorities

Three high level events constituted the political framework for the Russian CBSS Presidency. At the level of Heads of Government, CBSS leaders gathered in St. Petersburg 5-6 April 2013, to discuss further measures to improve the ecological state of the region, following up on the 2010 Baltic Sea Action Summit in Helsinki. The CBSS Council of Foreign Ministers met 6 June in Kaliningrad for the 18th Ministerial Session. One of the items for discussion focused on the search for “common ground” between regional strategies. It was agreed that the CBSS provides one such suitable forum in which to formulate regional approaches. Earlier in the Presidency period Ministers of Transport met 5 December 2012 in Moscow where they discussed amongst other items measures to meet new, stricter environmental standards for maritime transport in the region.

Also during the period, the Pilot Financial Initiative (PFI) signed at the 2012 Stralsund Summit started to work, enabling funding of a \$65 million dollar credit for a solid waste recycling facility in St. Petersburg, as well as a \$110 million dollar credit facility for financing of innovative Small and Medium sized companies in North West Russia. Discussions started with Nordic and Polish financial institutions on a possible regional widening of PFI beyond North Western Russia.



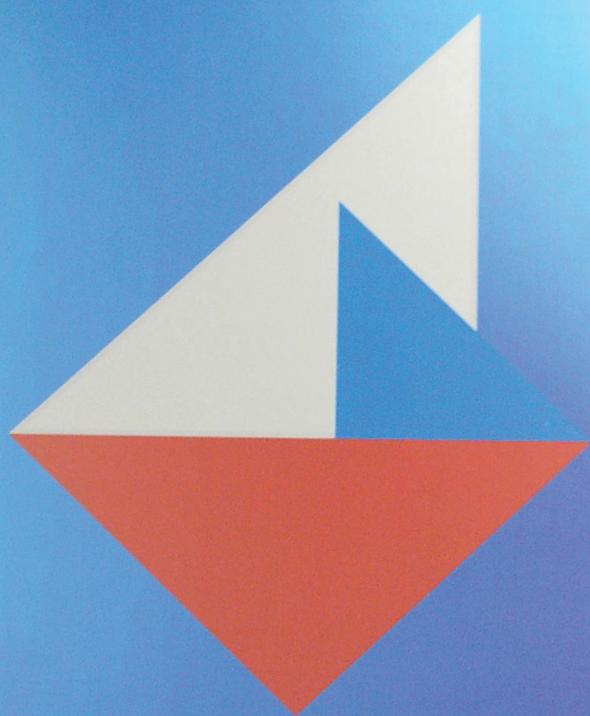
The South Eastern Baltic Area Modernization Partnership (SEBA) culminated with a well-attended Conference in Kaliningrad 7 June 2013, enabling a number of cooperation projects focusing on this part of the region. One such project focuses on developing sustainable tourism in the natural park Vyshtynets/Vistyitis/Krasnolesye/Rominten which straddles the borders between Southern Lithuania, North-Eastern Poland and the Russian Kaliningrad region. This particular tourism project, alongside others which are currently all in their initial phase are supported by the €1 million CBSS Project Support Facility (PSF), which started to operate March 1st 2013.

## Outcomes

St. Petersburg Initiative at the Baltic Sea Forum

Progress of Pilot Financial Initiative (PFI) and a successful launch of Project Support Facility (PSF)

South Eastern Baltic Area (SEBA): Final Conference on Creativity and Cooperation in the region in Kaliningrad



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## Main events

**1.** Baltic Sea Forum (High Level Conference of the Heads of Government on Protection of the Environment of the Baltic Sea), April 5-6, 2013, St. Petersburg

**2.** 18th Ministerial Session, June 5-6, 2013, Pionersky, Kaliningrad Oblast

**3.** 5th CBSS Conference of Ministers of Transport, December 5, 2012, Moscow

**4.** XI Baltic Sea NGO Forum, Tolerance and Cultural Diversity in the Baltic Sea Region, April 16 – 17, 2013, St. Petersburg



## 1 CBSS Leaders discuss ecology of the region

Heads of Government and High Level Representatives of the CBSS together with the region's business community and non-governmental organizations met at the High Level Conference on the Protection of the Environment of the Baltic Sea Region in Saint Petersburg, April 5-6, 2013.

The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the 2010 Baltic Sea Action Summit (BSAS), and to assess progress made so far towards the common goal of achieving a good environmental condition in the Baltic Sea Region. It aimed to identify further means of strengthening cooperation for sustainable development, including public-private partnerships in the field of environmental protection for the Baltic Sea Region.

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev opened the Conference, which gathered some 300 Baltic Sea cooperation stakeholder representatives in addition to Heads of Governments and Ministers from all the CBSS countries. One main outcome of the conference was the St. Petersburg Initiative, an effort to further strengthen the involvement of the non-governmental sector through an advisory body, the composition of which shall be finalized at the forthcoming HELCOM Ministerial in Copenhagen in October 2013.





## **2** CBSS Foreign Ministers encourage synergies between regional strategies

The 18th Ministerial Session of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) took place 5-6 June 2013 at the Presidential residential complex Yantarnaya Zvezda, Pionersky in the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation. At the formal session of the Council, general issues pertaining to Baltic Sea Cooperation were discussed. The steady progress of the CBSS in developing the project orientation of the organization was noted with satisfaction, as well as the role of the CBSS as one platform for the EU – Russia interaction, including the creation of synergies between regional strategies such as the EU Baltic Sea Region Strategy and the Russian Strategy for Socio-Economic Development of the North-Western Federal District. It called on the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials to finalize its review of the CBSS long term priorities established by the 2008 Riga Summit in time for the Summit in Turku, Finland in June 2014. The emergence of new financial tools for the region such as the CBSS Pilot Financial Initiative (PFI) and the CBSS Project Support Facility (PSF) was also met with satisfaction. The full text of the Ministerial Declaration can be found at [www.cbss.org/coordination](http://www.cbss.org/coordination).



The 5th CBSS Conference of Ministers of Transport, 5 December, Moscow

### 3 CBSS Transport Ministers focus on clean shipping

The 5th CBSS Conference of Ministers of Transport was held in Moscow on December 5, 2012, under invitation by the Russian Minister of Transport Maxim Sokolov. Previous Conferences of the Ministers of Transport were held in Szczecin (1992), in Kaliningrad (1994), in Berlin (1997), and in Gdansk (2001). This meeting agreed on the need for more regular meetings in the future. The Ministerial Declaration can be found at [www.cbss.org/coordination](http://www.cbss.org/coordination).

Taking into account that the Russian Ministry of Transport chaired the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy (EGMP), maritime issues were the main focus of the Moscow Conference agenda. The issues discussed were:

- Implementation of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (BWM) in the context of measures aimed at improving the ecological situation in the Baltic Sea region; it was noted that so far 35 countries had joined the Convention, representing 28% of the total tonnage (35% is required for the entry into force of the Convention). The Ministerial Declaration called for early BWMC ratification by those CBSS Member States which have not yet done so.
- Maritime traffic management and surveillance in the Baltic Sea region as an effective safety and security component minimizing negative impact on the environment; the necessity of continual development of existing Vessel Traffic Management centres and systems was stressed, including the optimization of the use of ice-breakers.
- Implementation of Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention-74/78 in the Baltic Sea region: first results and expectations. Financing and technology transfer issues were touched upon in relation to the costs of complying with the strict new rules for sulphur and nitrogen emissions from ships entering into force 2015.

### 4 XI Baltic Sea NGO Forum, Tolerance and Cultural Diversity in the Baltic Sea Region

The event took place in St. Petersburg on 16 – 17 April, 2013. The Forum offered an opportunity for wide cross-sectorial dialogue, and brought together over 300 participants from CBSS countries and North-West Russia in order to improve cooperation in the Baltic Sea region on the people-to-people level. The creation of mechanisms to combat tendencies of racism, xenophobia and extremism were also explored.

# Committee of Senior Officials (CSO)

**Chair** - Mr Sergey Petrovich, Russia

**Delegate** – Mr Alexander Zelenov, Russia

The Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) consists of officials appointed by each Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Member States as representatives. The European Union is represented at the CSO meetings by the European External Action Service (EEAS) representative. Countries may appoint additional delegates as appropriate to attend specific meetings.

## During the Russian Presidency the CSO Members were the following:

**Chair** Mr Sergey Petrovich, MFA Russia;

**Estonia** Mr Ahti Raidal, MFA Estonia – CSO member;

**Denmark** Mr Kim Vinthen, MFA Denmark – CSO member;

**Finland** Ms Satu Mattila, MFA Finland – CSO member;

**Germany** Mr. Gerhard Almer, FFO Germany, and Mr. Karsten Steinig, FFO Germany – CSO members;

**Iceland** Ms Snjólauð G. Ólafsdóttir, MFA Iceland – CSO member;

**Latvia** Ms Vita Zivtīņa, MFA Latvia – CSO member;

**Lithuania** Ms Kornelija Jurgaitienė, MFA Lithuania – CSO member;

**Norway** Mr Dag Briseid, MFA Norway – CSO member;

**Poland** Mr Michał Czyż, MFA Poland – CSO member;

**Russian Federation** Mr Alexander Zelenov, MFA Russia – CSO member;

**Sweden** Mr Per Wallén, MFA Sweden – CSO member;

**European Union** Mr. Kalle Kankaanpää, EEAS – CSO members

## Other CBSS Member representatives attending the meetings during the year

Mr Raul Mälk, Ambassador-at-Large for regional cooperation, MFA Estonia; Ms Marina Bantšenko, Ministry of Environment of Estonia; Ms Tuulia Väliheikki, MFA Finland; Ms Anni Mäkeläinen, MFA Finland; Mr Marc Bogdahn, German Embassy in Russia; Dr Thomas Engelke, the Hanse Office in Brussels, Germany; Mr Jürgen Keinhorst, Director, Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany; Ms Miriam Ott, Federal Ministry of Environment of Germany; Ms Merethe Lúis, MFA Norway; Ms Katarzyna Barcikowska, MFA Poland; Mr Karol Kumalski, Polish Embassy in Moscow; Mr Nikolay Lakhonin, MFA Russia; Ms Anastasya Ilinskaya, MFA Russia; Mr Alexander Krestiyarov, Deputy Permanent Representative of Russia to the EU; Mr Igor Kapyrin, MFA of Russia; Mr Sergey Kudryavtsev, Permanent Mission of Russia to the EU; Ms Julia Zvorykina, Permanent Mission of Russia to the EU; Mr Andrey Grachov, Permanent Mission of Russia to the EU; Mr Sergey Mytenkov, Managing Director, IT & Communications, Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs; Mr Nuritdin Inamov, Director, Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Russia; Mr Vladimir Ivlev, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of Russia; Ms Natalia Tretiakova, Head of Division, Department for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of Russia; Ms Marina Viktorova, Chair of the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, MFA Russia; Ms Olga Kolesnikova, MFA Russia; Mr Maxim Gurov, MFA Russia; Mr Michael Webb, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the EU to Russia; Mr Alexis Loeber, Head of EU-Russia Cooperation Programme, Delegation of the EU to Russia; Ms Outa Hermalahti, EU-Russia Cooperation programme, Delegation of the EU to Russia; Ms Charlotte Haentzel, Head of political section, EU Representation in Sweden; Mr Richard Tibbels, Head of Division, EEAS; Mr Colin Wolfe, Head of Division, DG Regio, EC; Ms Joanna Kiryllo, Policy Officer, DG Regio, EC; Mr Isto Mattila, Policy Officer, Navy Captain, DG Mare, EC

**CBSS Secretariat** Mr Jan Lundin, Director General CBSS Secretariat, Mr Eduardas Borisovas, Deputy Director General CBSS Secretariat and Ms Marina Belyaeva, Communications and Project Coordinator for the Russian Presidency.

The CSO convened for 8 meetings during the reported period. The meetings took place on the following dates: Moscow, 19-20 September 2012; Pskov, 23-24 October 2012; Stockholm, 12-13 December 2012; Brussels, 29-30 January, 2013; Moscow, 18 March 2013; Saint Petersburg, 3-4 April 2013; Moscow, 23-24 May 2013 and Kaliningrad, 3-4 June 2013.



### Key actions taken by the CSO during the CBSS Russian Presidency

Agreed on the text of the Statement of the High Level Conference on the Protection of the Environment of the Baltic Sea Region (Baltic Sea Forum) and submitted it to the Baltic Sea Forum for adoption.

Agreed that the St. Petersburg Initiative in support of the Baltic Sea Action Summit 2010 process will be launched at the Baltic Sea Forum.

Approved the draft Declaration of the 18th CBSS Ministerial Session and submitted it for adoption by the 18th CBSS Ministerial Session held in Pionersky, Kaliningrad Region of Russia.

Adopted the Annual Report of the German CBSS Presidency 2011 – 2012.

Participated at the CBSS Regional Directors' meeting where the initial discussion on a review of the CBSS long term priorities took place and where it was considered how the review of the CBSS long term priorities should be performed.

Adopted the Guidelines for the CBSS Project Support Facility.

Adopted the Implementing Rules for the CBSS Project Support Facility.

Discussed projects submitted for the PSF financing and approved the first set of projects.

Discussed preparations to and results of the 5th CBSS Confer-

ence of Ministers of Transport prepared by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation and the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy.

Held the CSO Annual Consultations with CBSS Observers and concluded that the exchange of views was useful and that the future Annual Consultations should be more oriented on the CBSS projects where Observers could participate.

Convened the CBSS meeting with EU services - EEAS and Directorates of the Commission - and discussed regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region between different actors in the field.

Discussed how to enhance cooperation between the 4 Regional Councils in the North.

Decided to grant CBSS Strategic Partner status to the Baltic Sea Region University Network and took note of the presentation by the President of BSRUN which detailed how BSRUN could contribute to the long term CBSS priority of Education and further facilitate the EU - Russia cooperation in education.

Discussed the CBSS cooperation with its Strategic Partners overall.

Met with the St. Petersburg Administration of the Russian Federation and acknowledged the projects introduced at this meeting.

Discussed the potential of further CBSS cooperation with the Pskov Region of the Russian Federation and ways for the inclusion of the Pskov Region in the SEBA activities.

Considered strengthening cooperation with the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation at the joint meeting with the Regional Government.

Considered the main modalities of the Pilot Financial Initiative with representatives of the two development banks KfW of Germany and VEB (Vnesheconombank) of Russia and encouraged other international financial institutions and national financial authorities from the CBSS Member States to participate in the PFI.

Encouraged the implementation of the BalticLab initiative jointly with the Swedish Institute, firstly through the BalticLab Networking Weekend, Stockholm for creative entrepreneurs and secondly through the subsequent three Leadership Programme modules in Malmö, Nida and Kaliningrad for talent sponsorship and project generation.

Discussed youth cooperation in the region and supported the CBSS Youth Camp concept developed together with the Baltic Artek youth camp in the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation.

After thoroughly discussing the CBSS Expert Group on Youth Affairs (EGYA) issues, decided that the EGYA should be frozen for the time being whilst retaining the option for any future CBSS Presidency to convene a meeting of the group, thematic workshops and other activities could continue if financing and willingness permitted. The CSO also decided to suspend the activities and financing of the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs in Kiel, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany.

Adopted the amended Terms of Reference of the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy.

Approved the Terms of Reference for the Mid-Term Review of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21.

Took note of the results of the First Agricultural Conference of the Baltic Sea Region prepared by the CBSS Secretariat and the Secretariat's Baltic 21 Unit in particular together with the Russian partners.

Discussed thoroughly the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings long term financing and agreed on the importance to continue the TF-THB activities.

Considered modalities of the on-going SEBA process and preparation of projects under this partnership and also envisaged to involve the Pskov and Leningrad regions of the Russian Federation into the SEBA Programme.

Followed substantial preparations for the final SEBA Conference in Kaliningrad.

Attended a kick-off meeting of the 2nd phase of the EuroFaculty Pskov Project (EFP) and expressed satisfaction on how the 1st EFP phase was implemented and on how preparations to implement the 2nd phase of the EFP were on-going.

Discussed the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) activities and priorities and made suggestions to the draft EGCC mandate and priority paper.

Continually considered the update on CBSS project activities and decided to take a careful review of the CBSS project ideas list.

Continually took note of the Director General's reports and suggested to add short comments on the events included into the Annex to the Director General's report on selected visits, meetings and contacts by the Secretariat.

Considered preparations to the XI Baltic Sea NGO Forum.

Decided to extend the term of the NDPHS Secretariat as a CBSS Project until 1 July 2013.

Endorsed the Secretariat's suggestion to use the services of Hucama in the development of the assessment system of the Secretariat staff and asked the Secretariat to develop rules and procedures to connect the development system and its application to the wage system.

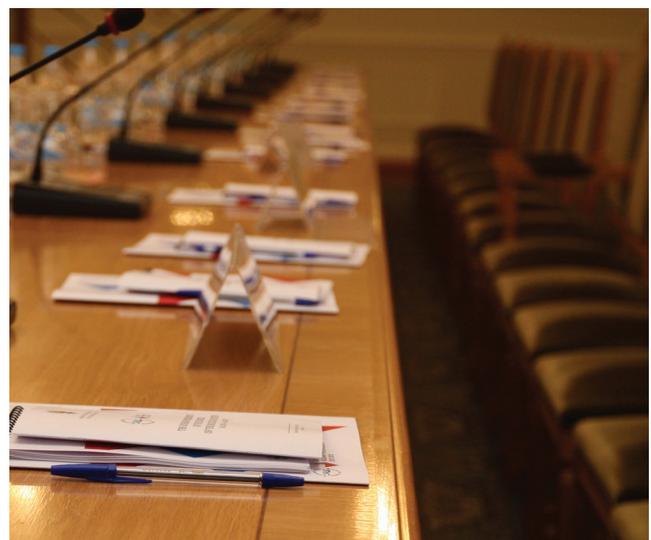
Agreed with the decision taken by the Director General of the Secretariat to establish an exchange rate corridor for the remunerations and allowances of the Secretariat staff.

Endorsed the Director General's membership in the Board of the Baltic Sea Music Education Foundation.

Approved the Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2012 and expressed its satisfaction with the significantly improved financial situation of the Secretariat.

Approved the Audit Report of the CBSS Secretariat for the Financial Year 2012.

Considered the Secretariat budget proposal for the financial year 2014 including a contribution column for the Project Support Facility.



# Exploring common ground between Regional Strategies





The 2012 Stralsund Baltic Sea States Summit agreed to explore potential common ground between the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and the corresponding (but more recent) Russian Strategy for the Socio-Economic Development of the North-Western Federal District. This will was reiterated in the 2013 Kaliningrad Council Ministerial declaration, which talks about “synergies” between the strategies.

The CBSS is one suitable platform for finding and utilizing such common ground. The CBSS Secretariat has long been active in an EUSBSR framework on issues and projects involving also non-EU members of the CBSS, and focusing on themes of mutual benefit such as civil security on land, sustainable development, climate change adaptation and the fight against trafficking of human beings. Several CBSS activities and networks launched prior to or outside of the existence of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy have subsequently come to be recognized as important within the EUSBSR as well.

In this Annual Report, the reader will find a number of CBSS projects and activities which occur also within an EUSBSR framework, but involving non-EU CBSS partners (Russia, Norway and Iceland). The work on creating such synergies shall go on and intensify through tools such as the South Eastern Baltic Area Modernization Partnership (SEBA), a CBSS framework subsequently recognized by the EU also as part of the EUSBSR under the Horizontal Action - Neighbours. The CBSS Secretariat is in cooperation with the City of Turku coordinating this Horizontal Action. Another, Horizontal Action – Sustainable Development and Bio-Economy, is coordinated by the CBSS Secretariat and the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM) with the NCM coordinating Bio-Economy. In addition, the CBSS Secretariat also holds the function of co-coordinator for the Strategy Priority Area Secure which is co-coordinated with Sweden and focuses on protection from emergencies and accidents on land, (where the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters– EMERCOM - is an important project participant) amongst others. The potential of the Russian corresponding North West Strategy was discussed in January 2013 at a meeting between EU and CBSS representatives led by the Russian CBSS Chair in Brussels. Continued discussions on this are foreseen later in 2013 in connection with the All-Russian Forum on Strategic Planning in the Regions and Cities of Russia 21-22 October in St. Petersburg and the 4th Annual Forum of the EUSBSR 11-12 November in Vilnius.

# Leading regional climate change adaptation

**The Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 (EGSD)** held its 6th meeting on 20 – 21 November 2012 in Stockholm, Sweden. Amongst other the EGSD members submitted suggestions for new project cooperation with Russia and Belarus, worked on the text proposal for the revised EUSBSR Action Plan, specifically the new Horizontal Action “Sustainable Development” that was developed in close cooperation with Nordic Council of Ministers in the function of co-Horizontal Action Leader (HAL).

The EGSD initiated a **Mid-term Review on the current status of implementation of the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable development 2010 – 2015**, the future mandate of the EGSD post 2015 as well as structure, membership and set-up of the Expert Group with a view to its new role in supporting the Lead of the EUSBSR HAL SD.

**Finland** will return with a representative to the Expert Group and has appointed a **Chair from the Finnish Ministry of Environment (MoE) for the duration of the Finnish CBSS Presidency 2013 – 2014**.

## Main highlights of Russian presidency

**17-19 September, Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation (BSSSC) Conference** in Lilleström, Norway, closing the project to policy loop of three Baltic 21 Lighthouse Projects by informing the BSSSC resolution with recommendations from the projects Ecoregion, SPIN and Bioenergy Promotion I.

**20 November 2012, Round table discussions on the promotion of Bioenergy in the Baltic Sea Region** with participation of Russian and Belarusian partners; the event will be followed up in late Autumn 2013.

**21 – 23 November 2012, Kick off meeting of the project EFFECT – Dialogue Platform on Energy and Resource Efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region** with Baltic 21 as a Lead Partner in Stockholm, Sweden; Russian fully fledged partner City of Petrozavodsk and Leontief Center St. Petersburg as associated partner, that also allows for an increased cooperation with the Nordic-Russian Growth Arena project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

**10 – 11 December 2013, 2nd Policy Form on Climate Change Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region** in Stockholm, Sweden with intensive participation of Russian partners from Kaliningrad Oblast and St. Petersburg, as well academia as well as from the policy side; for the first time there were more Russian participants than participants from individual Scandinavian countries; the event was followed up by the 3rd Policy Forum in Tallinn 29 – 30 May 2013, implementing the final steps on the way to the launch of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Autumn 2013.

**21 March 2013, 1st Agricultural Conference in the Baltic Sea Region** in St. Petersburg, Russia, resulting in a protocol of intent between the Russian NGO Agropolis North West and the CBSS Secretariat on cooperation and project initiation.

**22 May 2013, Exhibition at European Maritime Day** in Malta, Valetta where Baltic 21 had the possibility to inform, share knowledge and disseminate policy recommendations on sustainable coastal and maritime tourism collected by the Baltic 21 Lighthouse Project AGORA 2.0, where its Lead Partner the University of Greifswald is also leading the EUSBSR Flagship Project “Sustainable tourism strategies” alongside EGSD Member Baltic Sea Tourism Commission, (BTC).

**3 June 2013, First Open European Day and EU Cities Adapt Final Conference back-to-back with the Resilience Cities Conference**, Bonn, Germany; in cooperation with organizers ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the European Environmental Agency, CBSS-Baltic 21 as HAL Sustainable Development implemented a first workshop on linkages between the EU, national and regional/local climate change adaptation strategies with a view to launch a macro-regional adaptation strategy; The event discussed multilevel-governance aspects of climate change adaptation and the need in coherence in adaptation work.

## 1 CBSS-Baltic 21 becomes Leader of the Horizontal Action Sustainable Development in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its Action Plan

CBSS-Baltic 21 is cooperating in this respect with the Nordic Council of Ministers that takes the responsibility for the Action "Bio-economy" in the same HA, CBSS-Baltic 21 implements the 2nd and 3rd Policy Forum on Climate Change Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region in the on-going project Baltadapt in Stockholm and Tallinn, thus implementing the priority "Developing a climate change adaptation strategy for the Baltic Sea Region" to be launched in autumn 2013 as called for in the EUSBSR and the CBSS Strategy for Sustainable Development 2010 - 2015. In this respect we have also cooperated closely with the EUSBSR Priority Area Secure and the Flagship Project 14.3 which worked on civil protection and preparedness measures and created a "Dialogue in practice" on the synergies between climate change adaptation and civil protection mechanisms. Other new cooperation partners have emerged as well like the European Environmental Agency and the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP). Furthermore, cooperation with CBSS Strategic Partners like HELCOM, VASAB and UBC has increased in a coherent manner.

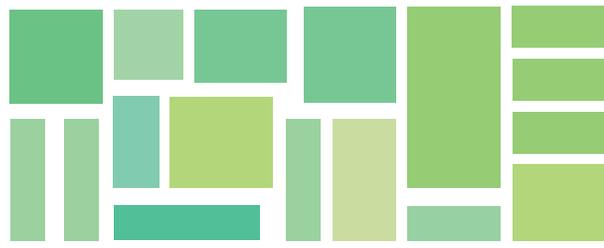
## 2 On 21st November 2012 CBSS-Baltic 21 as Lead Partner launched a new project "EFFECT – Dialogue Platform on Energy and Resource Efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region" with partners from Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden, as well as Belarus. The project is followed by VASAB, Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference and the Russian Leontief Center. The project is funded by Swedish Institute.



EFFECT's main aim is to map, foster and communicate good practice solutions in eco-efficiency that attract and enable cities, villages and BSR sub-regions as well as other relevant actors from the local,

regional, national and pan-Baltic level to jointly develop and implement policies and concrete actions on becoming more energy and resource efficient, sustainable and resilient, while stimulating a greener economy. In the long term these activities will contribute to the creation of resilient societies and the promotion of the Baltic Sea Region as a Green Region. The 2nd project partner meeting took place 25 – 27th June 2013 in Malmö, Sweden where the project cooperated with the Nordic-Russian Green Growth Arena, a network with a similar topical focus funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

## 3 CBSS-Baltic 21 organized the 1st Agricultural Conference in the Baltic Sea Region during Baltic Sea Week in St Petersburg 21 March 2013 in cooperation with Russian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Agropolis North-West, North-West Development and Investment Promotion Agency, North-West Regional Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Science, St.Petersburg State Agrarian University and the Leningrad Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



### FIRST AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION

The conference was focused on discussing the process of transferring successful agri-technologies and solutions, elaborated in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) in the recent years, into the agricultural industry of the North-West region of Russia, as well as exchanging experiences between the experts of the BSR thus implementing the priority "Climate smart agriculture" as well as "Sustainable natural resource management" in the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010 – 2015. Good practice solutions were contributed by the Baltic 21 Lighthouse Project Bioenergy Promotion II and other projects such as Baltic Manure, Baltic Compass, BERAS and Baltic Deal - all of which are funded by the 2007-2013 Baltic Sea Region Programme.

As a result of the conference a "Protocol of Intent" was signed between the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat and the NGO Agropolis North-West with a specific focus on establishing a platform for knowledge-exchange and innovation technology transfer in sustainable agriculture.

# Empowering dialogue through creativity

The South Eastern Baltic Sea Area (SEBA) activities in 2012-2013 were aimed at development of several project ideas which would further lead to concrete project proposals for regional cooperation in the area of South Eastern Baltic. The project coordinator based in Kaliningrad according to the agreement with the Information Office of the Nordic Council of Ministers initiated and conducted a series of working group meetings and workshops with regional stakeholders. The work was focused on such areas as sustainable development, culture and creative industries, education and tourism within a CBSS priority framework.

The central SEBA project idea is focused on the development of a trans-border (LT-PL-RUS) natural park Vyshynets/Vistytis/Krasnolesye/Rominten. It combines the two CBSS priorities of sustainable development with education and culture and involves partners from three countries. In May 2013 a project proposal was submitted to the CBSS Project Support Facility (PSF) Selection Committee; in June 2013 it was approved for funding. The vision for the future is to become a "common-ground" Flagship Project of both the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Russian Strategy for Socio-Economic Development of the North Western Region which would allow regional cooperation to foster across borders, thus improving the local economy and creating new jobs as well as implementing new models of sustainable development for such natural areas.

The 2011 – 2013 SEBA period culminated in the conference "Creativity and Cooperation in the South-East Baltic Area" which was held in Kaliningrad on 7-8 June, 2013. The conference brought together 170 participants, including major Baltic Sea region stakeholders from the sectors of tourism, cultural policy and university provision for networking and connection. The conference was organized around four sessions in areas prioritized by the CBSS; tourism and sustainable development, cooperation in the field of arts, culture and creative industries, university networking, and cultural heritage. During the conference a number of new cooperation projects within the CBSS framework, including the Balticlub programme and the Vyshynets/Vistytis/Krasnolesye/Rominten project were introduced. The conference demonstrated the rich cultural and creative potential of the SEBA area. The programme included a special musical and art event "The Spirits of the Baltic" and culminated with an excursion to the Vyshynets/Vistytis/Krasnolesye/Rominten park.

## Main highlights of Russian presidency

**13-14 September 2012, Forum of Regions-Partners, Kaliningrad:** During the forum, in cooperation with the NCM supported project on development of creative industries in the Kaliningrad region, a discussion was held on cultural policies and the usage of regional creative resources as means to modernize the SEBA region by the involvement of the main regional stakeholders in the field; the concept of creative industries as a factor of modernization was introduced.

**16 – 17 April 2013, SEBA and Horizontal Action co-coordinator Turku Workshop at the Baltic Sea NGO Forum, St. Petersburg:** During the workshop, the partnership element of SEBA and HA Neighbours was developed by bringing in the NGO community to the stakeholder group as well as bringing knowledge about the concept of SEBA and the new Horizontal Action Neighbours to the NGO community therefore enabling the Baltic Sea NGO Network and its member organisations to participate in the cooperation process.

**7-8 June 2013, Kaliningrad, Conference Creativity and Cooperation in the South-Eastern Baltic Area:** The SEBA Modernization Partnership Initiative culminated with a conference displaying the creativity and human potential of the South Eastern Baltic Sea Area.

## 1 Development of the transnational (LT-PL-RUS) cross-border natural park Vyshtynets/Vistyitis/Krasnolesye/Rominten

When the SEBA project started in 2011, attention focused on a natural area where communication and cooperation between LT, PL and RUS was almost non-existent; a vision of "wholeness" from within and outside the area was missing with respect to institutions on all three sides of the borders, as well as from the perspective of local residents perception. As a result nature protection, for visitors and local residents alike does not enjoy the possible benefits of a fully realized potential for this unique area.

During 2012-the end of June 2013, a Working Group of motivated stakeholders was established. As a result of meetings, workshops and collective brainstorming, a vision of the Flagship Project (2013 – 2016) was shaped with the main stress being placed on the sustainable development of a transnational cross-border natural park through a networking model, establishing links between municipalities, regional and national authorities, private businesses, ecologists, NGOs and the creative sector of Lithuania, Poland and the Kaliningrad region of Russia, with possible involvement from all states of the Baltic Sea region. The initial steps for funding were taken which has enabled the financing of the first project stage through the PSF CBSS funding. The main purpose of this stage (July 2013- July 2014) is to gain knowledge and materials that can facilitate exchange and the growth of more creative ideas, as well as to define common interests between the three sides. It will allow an environment of collaboration to foster and encourage conditions for further development of the Vyshtynets/Vistyitis/Krasnolesye/Rominten forest area in accordance with principles of sustainability, to identify potential resources for ecological living, learning, creating and traveling.

## 2 Baltic Artek

In August 2012 the CBSS contributed to the Baltic Artek Youth Camp in Kaliningrad, with an international component focusing on education and dialogue on sustainable lifestyles, and bringing youth from the entire Baltic Sea Region to the camp. To follow-up on this pilot representatives from the CBSS Secretariat, Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs, Baltic University Programme at CSD Uppsala, Immanuel Kant State University in Kaliningrad and Agency for Youth Affairs of the Government of the Kaliningrad Region gathered in Stockholm in April 2013 to broaden the international initiative at the previous year's Baltic Artek, with a view to strengthen the long term youth cooperation in the field of sustainable development in the BSR.

The project aims to foster informal learning, facilitate people-to-people contacts, intercultural dialogue and network-building between youth from Russia and other countries of the BSR. The mobile concept titled "CBSS Summer Youth Camp 2013" within the International Stream of the Baltic Artek, which will take place 7-15 August 2013 in Kaliningrad. The seminars will cover topics such as responsible entrepreneurship, making sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage, project development and management training, as well as sustainable consumption.



# Investing in an innovative future

During the Russian CBSS Presidency, the CBSS has been involved in a number of activities related to modernization and sustainable development, as well as helping to form ties between young entrepreneurs in the region.

## Main highlights of Russian presidency

**16 November 2012, the Russian Vnesheconombank and the German KfW signed the first agreement rolled out in the frame of Pilot Financial Initiative (PFI) under the umbrella of the CBSS.** The \$110 million dollar money transfer agreement was signed for the purpose of financing projects in the North-West of Russia focused on sustainable development and modernization in the field of municipal and regional infrastructure, energy efficiency, ecology, climate protection and comprehensive development.

**22 November 2012, International Conference in Kaliningrad offers new financing possibilities for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Public Private Partnerships (PPP).**

**12 December 2012, Signing procedure of the second credit agreement under the CBSS' Program took place in Stockholm.**

**14-17 December 2012, Balticlub Programme networking weekend,** organised in partnership by the CBSS Communication Unit and Swedish Institute's Baltic Sea Unit, Stockholm.

**12 – 16 April, Balticlub Project Development Programme, Module One,** organised by the CBSS Secretariat and the Swedish Institute, Malmö.

**3-7 May 2013, Balticlub Project Development Programme, Module Two,** organised by the CBSS Secretariat and the Swedish Institute, Nida.

**4-8 June 2013, Balticlub Project Development Programme, Module Three,** organised by the CBSS Secretariat and the Swedish Institute, Kaliningrad.

## 1 Modernization of solid waste recycling facilities through Public Private Partnership in St. Petersburg

The swift economic development of St. Petersburg – Russia's second largest city - poses considerable challenges to the city's urban infrastructure. A significant portion of the environmental pollution and greenhouse gas emissions derives from the waste management sector. With the Solid Waste Management Programme 2020 the City of St. Petersburg is committed to address these challenges by combining the public and the private sector. Sound and feasible financing models prove fundamental in addressing this topic in a sustainable manner.

In December 2012, KfW and Vnesheconombank (VEB) signed a Loan Agreement targeted to meet just this specific demand. The Loan Agreement on extending a local currency counter value of \$65 million dollars is aimed to support an essential modernization of the urban solid waste system in the City of St. Petersburg. In this regard, one specific form of a public private partnership is supported, whereas the final beneficiary is a renowned private urban waste services provider. The funding enables the modernization of waste sorting and recycling facilities with the waste services provider. The targeted benefits entail: enhancing the waste treatment efficiency; enriching the waste treatment quality; scaling-up the quality and the quantity of the recyclables; enhancement of the secondary resources market.

Thereby the overall investment will contribute to improved environmental, climate and resource protection. Rolled out in the framework of the Pilot Financial Initiative (PFI)\* under the umbrella of the CBSS, the project provides a tailor-made financing solution with a regional focus on the Baltic Sea and Northwest Russia. It is a successful first step in establishing a broader financing platform to replicate such success stories in Russia and in other Baltic Sea countries. Thereby, the PFI represents a unique opportunity for engagement of other financiers in supporting PPP models for enhancing the environmental, climate and resource protection by modernizing urban infrastructure in the Baltic Sea region.

PILOT FINANCIAL INITIATIVE



a new financing tool for sustainable economic development in the region



KFW



VNESHECONOMBANK



Modernization of solid waste recycling facilities through Public-Private Partnership in St. Petersburg

\*The Pilot Financial Initiative (PFI) was launched at the 2012 Baltic Sea States Summit and offers a financing possibility for small and medium-sized enterprises and for public-private partnerships. Partners are the CBSS Secretariat and the Russian as well as German public promotional banks: Vnesheconombank (VEB) and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). In the first phase KfW provides financing through Vnesheconombank for on-lending to projects approved by a Steering Committee consisting of representatives of the PFI Partners. It is envisaged that the Initiative will be extended to other financial institutions from the CBSS region, and there have been exploratory talks during spring 2013 between PFI partners and Nordic and Polish financial institutions - the Nordic Investment Bank as one example.



*Balticlab Project Development Programme, June 2013, Kaliningrad*

## 2 Support to innovative SMEs

In February 2013 as a result of PFI the SME Bank (Small and medium sized enterprises financing arm of the Vnesheconombank Group) launched a new credit product – SME-Baltics, to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the regions of Kaliningrad, Leningrad, Novgorod, Pskov and the city of St. Petersburg. The maximum credit amount available to one SME with the product is 60 mln rubles or equivalent in USD, maturity – 1 to 5 years. Under this Initiative, SME Bank provides financing for SMEs, which implement innovation, modernization and energy-efficient resource-saving and environment-friendly projects. The credit line of \$100 million dollars was opened for SME Bank in 2013. In February 2013 the first \$20 million dollar loan agreement on SME-Baltics product was signed with AKB InvestTorg-Bank. One of the beneficiaries of lending support under this agreement is a consumer goods company from St. Petersburg. The funds were used to implement new technologies in the manufacturing of high-tech personal protective equipment and clothing.

In April 2013 SME Bank signed three new loan agreements for the total value of \$17 million dollars with a loan maturity of 5 years. SMEs can get access to these funds via AKB InvestTorg-Bank (new agreement), AKB Legion and The First Republic Bank. Thus the First Republic Bank will finance a number of deals including the project of manufacturing secondary polymer material in the Leningrad region. Funds will be also allocated to support the construction of waste recycling plants in the Leningrad region, creation and exploitation of greenhouse complexes, expansion of petroleum and dry products transportation services, organization of biofuel production, reconstruction of a poultry farm, and modernization of automotive components production to name a few. The main goals of the SME-Baltics product are to promote new production processes and business models, launch new products in the Russian market, introduce new services (including IT, communication and engineering services), update and replace manufacturing equipment, and implement regional diversification.

## 3 Balticlab, a programme for the Baltic Sea region.



Recently there have been many discussions on the need to support and utilize young entrepreneurs and those involved in creative industries as an important export driver, reviver of national branding and economic growth in the countries of the Baltic Sea Region. Balticlab is a new concept created jointly by the CBSS Secretariat Media and Communications Department and the Swedish Institute to fill what we recognised as a

relative lack of networks bringing young talented entrepreneurs and creative industries from the region together, but also to provide them with a platform for working together more concretely on a regional level. The aim of Balticlab Project Development Programme has been to create a link between individuals with potential to drive change and innovation on the one hand and the policy-making and policy-enacting community engaged in Baltic Sea Region territorial cooperation on the other.

In spring 2013 a group of 19 individuals from the original Balticlab Network of 67 participants, formed during a networking weekend in December 2012, were thus invited to team up in working groups to develop project prototypes that link their personal interests with the need to foster integration in the region. The programme participants, who came from Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden, met and worked intensively during the interlinked programme modules in Malmö, Nida and Kaliningrad between April-June 2013. The participants were provided with the tools, coaching and perspectives needed to manage macro-regional cross-border collaborations in areas related to their own interests, but with a link to the themes addressed by the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) and the South Eastern Baltic Area Modernization Partnership (SEBA) initiative. The first Balticlab Project Development Programme culminated with the four Balticlab project presentations at the SEBA Final Conference in Kaliningrad on 7 June.

As a follow-up to Kaliningrad, Balticlub was also present at the Swedish Annual political forum Almedalen during the Council of the Baltic Sea States and Swedish Institute joint seminar "Facelift-ing the Baltic Sea region" on 5 July, 2013. The seminar included a Balticlub panel discussion on innovation and new technologies with Mr. Oscar Wåglund Söderström, the State Secretary to the Swedish Minister of EU Affairs, Mr. Eitvydas Bajarunas, the Ambassador of Lithuania to the Kingdom of Sweden, Ms. Helen Nilsson, Head of the Swedish Institute Baltic Sea Unit and Mr. Jan Lundin, the Director General of the Council of the Baltic Sea States, along with Mr. Klaus Hahn, COO of Volontaire agency in Stockholm and Mr. Jan Lundin, the President of the Swedish Travel and Tourism Industry Federation. The seminar also included presentations on the four Balticlub project prototypes.

#### Balticlub Project Development Programme Outcomes:



**Mind Mill** builds on creativity in the Baltic Sea region, with the aim of transforming the region into the most creative place for business on the continent. The project envisions bringing creative young people together and helping them jumpstart their careers and at the same time connecting them

with businesses and organisations, that have yet to realise how valuable creativity can be. This will be achieved by creating a space, where young creative people can come together and work on the issues that are affecting the Baltic Sea Region.

[www.building.themindmill.eu](http://www.building.themindmill.eu)



**Baltic Design Ship** looks at design not just as a logo on a website, but as a means of creative

problem-solving in concept development, business or politics. This is why the Ship aims to combine the potential of people from different disciplines. The most outstanding minds in the region will be renting studios on the Baltic Design Ship for various periods of time, working together on interdisciplinary projects, including development of new products, facilitating workshops and giving presentations. At first this creativity hub would be going from one Baltic city to another, then continue to other parts of the world, marketing Baltic Sea regional design globally. The project is currently building a virtual ship online, which will represent realtime design events in different harbours of the Baltic Sea.

[www.balticdesignship.com](http://www.balticdesignship.com)



**Social Innovation Baltic** is a prototype for a web-based platform in order to connect social innovators in different countries of the

Baltic Sea region and to make this collaboration easier. Through international cooperation social entrepreneurs in the Baltic Sea region might be able to mitigate environmental, social problems in the region, connected to education, health care, marine pollution and many others. Social Innovation Baltic promotes knowledge exchange between countries of the region and simplifies collaboration by easing the process of finding partners. Through entrepreneurial people in the region the platform aims to build a community of investors to promote the opportunities and potential of the region.



**Project Little Brother** is a communication initiative, which gives everyone, who is interested in a given regional event, the opportunity to take part and engage, even when they are not able to

actually be present. Working together with the Sweden-based communication agency Volontaire, the project points out that the CBSS, BDF, EUSBSR and European Commission have some common goals: improving accessibility, amplifying information and improving engagement. Project Little Brother closes this gap between closed meetings and the wider public. It combines existing technologies in a new way, with everyone being able to use it with minimal effort. It enables individuals to record, broadcast and describe physical meetings, creating a unique searchable documentation.

[www.projectlittlebrother.org](http://www.projectlittlebrother.org)

**Helen Nilsson, Head of the Baltic Sea Unit, SI:** "To maintain the energy and drive of the development of the region, its important that we include and integrate the younger generation into this important work and for them to feel ownership of the EUSBSR and to bring new solutions to common problems. This is something that the Swedish Institute wants to be a part of and I am very proud and happy for our engagement in the Balticlub project."

**Klaus Hahn, COO at Volontaire communication agency:** "Overall I think we can only build this region by individual meetings and I think this is what Balticlub really proves. That the ideas we can create together will build this region."

**Oscar Wåglund Söderström, State Secretary to the Swedish Minister of EU Affairs:** "The Balticlub projects are truly inspiring, they answer the question on how we should work together more efficiently, and how we should find partners in the region."

Balticlub is a Flagship Project under Horizontal Action Neighbours of the European Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. See [www.balticlub-online.eu](http://www.balticlub-online.eu) for more information on the individual projects, programme and participants.

# Supporting Projects

**The CBSS Project Support Facility (PSF)** was created at the 9th Baltic Sea States Summit in Stralsund, Germany, on 30 – 31 May 2012. It marks a new phase in the development of CBSS as a project oriented organisation as for the first time the CBSS has its own financial mechanism to grant funding to projects. This aspect complemented the project development and project-led work that the organisation already undertakes.

The planned timeframe of the facility runs until 2015, with a continuous open call for applications. The main purpose of the CBSS Project Support Facility is to co-finance the development and implementation of Baltic Sea macro-regional cooperation projects alongside giving seed money to projects, which would bring added value for the Baltic Sea region, show impact in regional cooperation and foster long-term partnerships.

The launch of the CBSS Project Support Facility open call first took place on the 5 March 2013 after which five projects were submitted for consideration.

The CBSS Project Support Facility Selection Committee\* met on 22 May 2013\*\* at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia in Moscow for its first meeting and considered 5 project applications submitted to receive the PSF funding.

The PSF Selection Committee agreed to recommend four projects for funding in their submission for approval to the Committee of Senior Officials Meeting in Kaliningrad 3-4 June 2013. The total funding awarded across the four projects amounted to €181,400.

The Lead Beneficiaries are based in Germany, Russia and Sweden. The Co-Beneficiaries are based in Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden. The focus priorities of the projects include economic development, civil security and human dimension, education and culture and environment and sustainability.

**The projects are as follows:**

**Cross Border Information Management in the BSR (CBIM-BSR) related to BSLF;**

**Development of a trans-border (LT-PL-RUS) natural park Vyshtynets/Vistytyis/Krasnolesye/Rominten.**

**CBSS Summer Youth Camp 2013 at the International Stream of the Youth Forum Baltic Artek;**

**Survey on State Support for NGOs in the Baltic Sea Region.**

A fifth submitted project Baltic Design Ship project application was returned to the project partners in order to provide additional clarifications. It is envisaged that the project will be considered again at the next PSF Selection Committee meeting in Autumn 2013 under the Finnish Presidency\*\*\*.

More updated information can be found here along with the rules of procedure and application form as developments take place [www.cbss.org/project-support-facility/](http://www.cbss.org/project-support-facility/)



\*The Selection Committee consists of the Committee of Senior Officials Troika (preceding, current and future Chair of the CSO) alongside the CBSS Secretariat Management (Director General, Deputy Director General, Head of Administration and Head of Media and Communications).

\*\*The inaugural meeting of the PSF Selection Committee was attended by the German, Russian (Chair) and Finnish CSO Representatives (representing the Troika) and the DG, DGG and HoA (the HoMC is currently on sabbatical and sent written comments to each project proposal).

\*\*\*The Troika members invited to the second meeting of the PSF Selection Committee will represent Russia, Finland (Chair) and Estonia.



# Bringing expertise together to strengthen preparedness

The Civil Security & Human Dimension Priority of the CBSS is a broad area encompassing several fields of enquiry and function. The pooled expertise which the CBSS Expert Groups, Task Forces and affiliated networks bring forward covers cooperation between:

border guards (Baltic Sea Region Border Guard Cooperation), including maritime surveillance;

prosecutors (Prosecutors General of the Baltic Sea States) including prosecuting environmental crime (Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime/ENPRO)

as well as national experts addressing issues such as:

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

children at risk (Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk (EGCC));

tax crime (CBSS Senior Officials Network on Tax Cooperation)

organised crime (Task Force on Organised Crime (TF-OC))

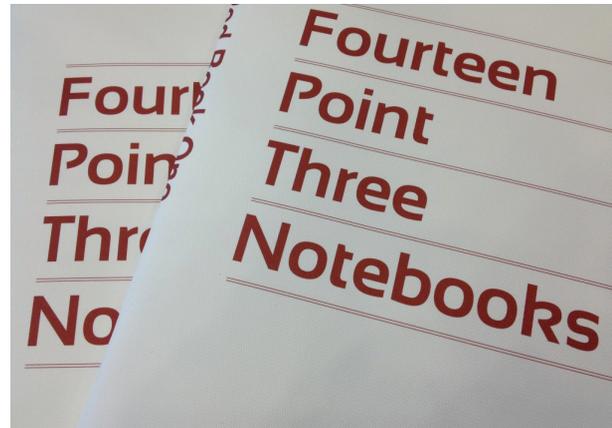
Additionally an all hazard approach to the whole cycle of disaster management including prevention, preparedness and response is considered (CBSS Civil Protection Network and the Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (EGNRS)).

**More specifically, civil security (at times also referred to as civil protection) as a priority is presently and primarily addressed by three inter-connected modes of coordinated cooperation, namely: the CBSS Civil Protection Network, the CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety, as well as their corresponding activities and aligned projects, in which the overall implementing body is the CBSS Secretariat, as well as the concrete input given to the integrated framework of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region under the objective of Connecting the region.**

**Even though each remains distinct in operating logic and nature, they complement one another and provide cohesion to the form of civil protection cooperation in the region.**

**CBSS Civil Protection Network** under the leadership of the Russian Presidency (represented by the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters – EMERCOM of Russia) gave particular attention to two issues. The first echoes an on-going focus of the international civil protection community, namely: macro-regional risk assessment. In this regard an international seminar Studying Emergency Risks Common for the CBSS Countries was organized by the Russian Presidency on 11-12 December 2012 in Kaliningrad, Russian Federation. Another important subject was highlighted at the CBSS Civil Protection Network Directors' General meeting 5-6 June 2013 in Vologda, Russian Federation, and was addressed at their conference on the Development of Voluntary Fire Services. While placing emphasis on this subject, the hosts referred to their experience and lessons learnt from the severe large scale forest fires that affected Russia in 2010. The Civil Protection Network experts suggested that a well prepared voluntary fire service system may be instrumental in preparing for and responding to such a disaster which given recent experience is likely to occur in the forest-rich Baltic Sea region at some point in the future.

**Macro-regional risk assessment** issues, prioritized by the Russian CBSS Civil Protection Network Presidency, were also operationally addressed while implementing the **EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region EUSBSR Flagship Project 14.3 Developing Scenarios and Identifying Gaps for All Main Hazards in the Baltic Sea Region**. The project culminated after 18 months of implementation in June 2013, having had its final conference organized back-to-back with the 4th European Civil Protection Forum. The project represented the first time that 10 Baltic Sea region countries jointly arranged activities aimed at risk assessment from a macro-regional perspective. It was also the first time that the countries of the region jointly developed scenarios that could have not only cross-border, but macro-regional implications. These activities applied an all-hazards approach which could be viewed as truly innovative. The four thematic Task Groups of the project focused on a variety of hazards including pandemic flu, accidents at sea, extreme storms, as well as floods, forest fires and nuclear and radiation safety. While the project was welcomed as a pioneering effort at several international civil protection fora, project partners felt that though it was a very important step, it is but a first step on a long road towards developing a common approach on macro-regional risk in the Baltic Sea region.



**The Fourteen Point Three Notebooks** were published as a collection which addresses macro-regional risk through the project itself and the four thematic Task Groups. Each of the singular Notebooks presents concrete results (studies, workshop reports, developed methodologies and scenarios). The structure of the entire collection intends to act as a mirror for the project as a whole, and to reflect on the process as much as the output. Each of the books can be read singularly as a study presenting concrete findings from the working groups, at the same time they can be read as a collection.

**Red Book One** – Drawing Macro-regional Risk: Six Scenarios for the Baltic Sea Region

**Red Book Two** – Guiding and Tailoring Risk Assessment for the Baltic Sea Region

**Blue Book One** – Mapping Flooding and Flood Prevention in the Baltic Sea Region

**Blue Book Two** – A Macro-regional Approach through Shared Experience for Flood Prevention in the Baltic Sea Region

**Green Book One** – Forest Fire Rating Systems – Setting the Scene in the Baltic Sea Region for a Macro-regional Approach: The Baltic Sea Region as a Case Study

**Green Book Two** – Towards a Common Approach – Fire Prediction Systems in the Baltic Sea Region

**Orange Book One** – Building a Macro-regional Approach: A Nuclear Safety Risk Scenario for the Baltic Sea Region

**Orange Book Two** – Nuclear Safety in the Baltic Sea Region: Laying the ground for a Macro-regional Approach

**The Project Book** – 14.3 is the Message

Keeping up with the pulse of the activities set up by project implementation, the CBSS Secretariat will continue to coordinate and facilitate ad hoc and time period specific civil protection cooperation. This past year was particularly significant in this regard, due to the fact that **since February 2013 the Secretariat became a co-coordinator of the EUSBSR Priority Area Secure – Protection from Emergencies and Accidents on Land.**

One other significant contribution of the project 14.3 is **re-establishing an active engagement between the CBSS Civil Protection Network and the CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (EGNRS).** The EGNRS is the longest running Expert Group under the CBSS umbrella and the longest lasting multilateral civil protection cooperation initiative in the region. Meeting regularly at least twice a year, representatives from national nuclear and radiation safety authorities from Baltic Sea region countries not only share reports of their country activities in securing radiation safety, but also implement joint exercises, such as an exercise on communication between countries when second opinions on radiation situation are requested. During the implementation of the project 14.3, the Expert Group was invited to provide input in assessing the developed macro-regional nuclear accident scenario, which in turn constituted a strategy for Expert Group integration into on-going project activities in the Baltic Sea region civil protection cooperation. Experts look forward to continue a successful operational cooperation in 2013-2014, under both, the forthcoming Finnish Presidency of the CBSS and the Finnish Chairmanship of the EGNRS.



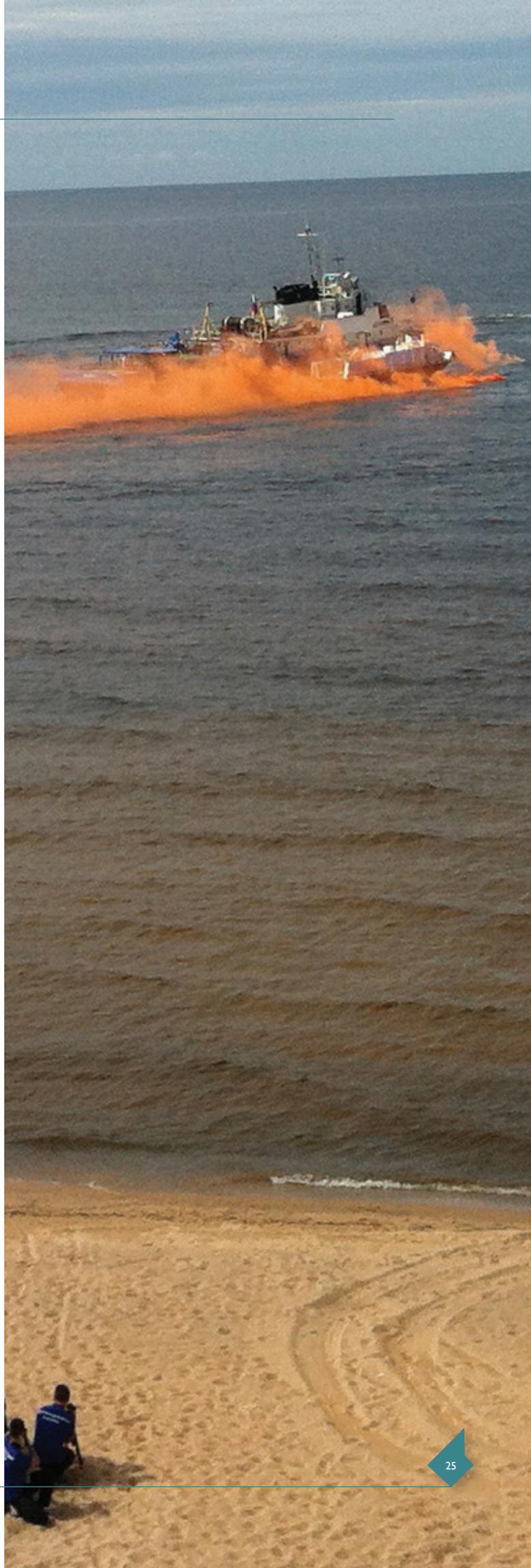
EUSBSR PRIORITY AREA SECURE



EUSBSR  
EU STRATEGY  
FOR THE BALTIC  
SEA REGION



Co-funded by the EU  
Civil Protection  
Financial Instrument



# Establishing dialogue to fight against human trafficking

Nationality



Age at time when exploitation began



Number of victims a

348

64  
t

In line with a strategy for 2012-2014, the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) continued to implement joint counter trafficking projects in the CBSS Member States. The main focus of the TF-THB has been on actions that can increase the capacity of key actors in the Region, to identify instances of trafficking for labour exploitation and develop strategies to address exploitative labour situations. To avoid duplication of efforts and maximise the use of resources and expertise, the TF-THB strived to strengthen strategic partnerships and increase cooperation with local, regional and international actors working against THB. As well as to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience to partners outside the region.

32  
labo

640  
sexual

46

### Main highlights of the Russian Presidency

As a preparation for the implementation of ADSTRINGO the TF – THB conducted a study **Actors against Trafficking for Labour Exploitation** focusing on the current forms of cooperation of counter trafficking for labour exploitation among stakeholders at the national level in the Region. The study served as a starting point and basis for a dialogue at the national level in each CBSS Member State.

Within the “ADSTRINGO” and “ADSTRINGO Poland and Russia” projects, national meetings have been organised in 11 CBSS Member States to establish a dialogue among key labour actors at the national level and a baseline research on recruitment practices in relation to trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation has been conducted in Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation, and Sweden.

The TF-THB submitted a joint application to the EU’s Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7) for the research project **TRACE - Trafficking as a criminal enterprise**. The project application was successful and the TRACE project received funding. The main aim of the 2 - year transnational project is to support stakeholders in combating and disrupting human trafficking, one of the largest criminal enterprises in the world, by assessing and consolidating information surrounding the perpetrators and the wider trafficking enterprise. The TRACE project will begin January 2014.

The TF-THB developed a report entitled **Human Trafficking - Baltic Sea Region Round-up 2013** that will be published biennially from Autumn 2013. It provides updated information about trafficking in human beings for each CBSS Member State as well as an overview THB work and best practice in the region.

The TF-THB has continued its **engagement with several anti – trafficking actors** including the Nordic Council of Ministers, International Center for Migration Police Development, OSCE Special Representative on Trafficking in Human Beings, the Alliance Expert Coordination Team, and the International Organization for Migration as well of course with the European Union Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. The TF-THB has also increased **cooperation with the CBSS Observer States** in their counter trafficking activities in general and in particular by developing the aforementioned joint project proposal “Trace – Trafficking as a criminal enterprise”.

In July 2012, the TF-THB and HEUNI (The European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations), the Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania and the University of Tartu commenced a 2-year transnational project **ADSTRINGO – Addressing trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation through improved partnerships, enhanced diagnostics and intensified organisational approaches**. ADSTRINGO aims at preventing trafficking for forced labour through enhanced national and regional partnerships and through improved understanding of the mechanisms that facilitate exploitation of labour in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden. The project is implemented with the financial support of the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the EC Directorate General Home Affairs (ISEC). The Swedish Institute Baltic Sea Cooperation Unit separately financed a similar project ADSTRINGO Poland and Russia specifically focusing on the regional cooperation.

**The ADSTRINGO project was nominated a Flagship project under the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) in line with the Priority Area Crime**, and the current strategy of the TF-THB for 2012 - 2014 has been listed as a potential flagship in the EUSBSR Action Plan.



ADSTRINGO



# Auditing and monitoring issues of children at risk

2012 was the tenth anniversary of the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) which was celebrated through a series of five events, summarising recent achievements and looking ahead. In October 2012 the EGCC had a special anniversary meeting in Reykjavik at which the founding mothers and fathers of the EGCC shared their aspirations and views for the group that kicked off the cooperation.

The EGCC also focused on finalising three major projects: Children trafficked for exploitation in begging and criminality, the ROBERT project and the AudTrain project. All coordinated by the Children's Unit and financed through external sources. Additionally the EGCC discussed the new priority document to guide the work for the next four year period.

New areas of work started during the year concentrated on support to legal guardians for unaccompanied and trafficked children and cross border child protection.

## Main highlights of the Russian Presidency

**ROBERT project** – Risk-taking Online Behaviour Empowerment through Research and Training is a ground breaking endeavour in that it has joined two regional universities in two different member states and three NGOs in as many member states with two universities and one NGO in two of the observer states. A close cooperation between researchers and NGO experts has meant the creation of a new and more solid knowledge base for support and protection of young people online.

**AudTrain** material is the only existing systematic training for staff conducting auditing and monitoring of child residential care settings. The material and the training conducted is correctly recognised in Europe.

**Children trafficked for exploitation in begging and criminality** is a timely topic in Europe where most countries struggle to enable better cooperation and coordination between law enforcement and child welfare when children are suspected of being victims of a crime. The report and the work have been presented in meetings of European parliamentarians at the parliaments in London, Lisbon and Madrid just to mention some of the events where the EGCC work is recognised.

**1 As the report from the project on children trafficked for exploitation in begging and in criminality was published, interest from some media was high.** Most issues that the regional cooperation deal with is of interest to media only when it can be directly and solidly connected to national events. The participating prosecutors and child welfare personnel that were interviewed highlighted the role of the EGCC cooperation within CBSS making it possible to develop practices enabling children to be better protected.

**2 The roundtable meeting in Vilnius, presenting the results of the project on children trafficked for exploitation in begging and criminality** was a new format: 60 persons fit around the table, both listening to the results of the project but more importantly contributing with their own experiences and suggestions. Law enforcement actors left the conference with a better understanding of the situation of the adolescent that has committed a crime but that may at the same time be a victim of a crime and child welfare providers had a more comprehensive view on how best to support the child and the criminal investigation.

### **3 Publications during the year:**

Kolpakova, O. (Ed) (2012). *Online behaviour related to child sexual abuse: Focus groups' findings*. Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stockholm: ROBERT project

Quayle, E., Jonsson, L. & Lööf, L. (2012). *Online behaviour related to child sexual abuse: Interviews with affected young people*. Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stockholm: ROBERT project.

Quayle, E., Allegro, S., Hutton, L., Sheath, M., Lööf, L.: (2012). *Online behaviour related to child sexual abuse. Creating a private space in which to offend – Interviews with online child sex offenders*. Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stockholm: ROBERT project.

*ROBERT project summary.*

*ROBERT report for everyone.*

The AudTrain project has produced training folders in Estonian, Latvian, Russian and Swedish as well as English, a CD ROM with the training materials in all five languages plus an online version of the same.

*Children Trafficked for Exploitation in Begging and Criminality*. (2013): Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk. Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stockholm

Each publication and result has been disseminated widely in the network of the EGCC resulting in recognition of the work of the group and in invitations to further elaborate and discuss the outcomes. Each report is also made available on the [childcentre.info](http://childcentre.info) website.



**CHILD CENTRE**  
Expert Group for Cooperation on  
Children at Risk, EGCC





# Working Together through Social Dialogue

**The Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF)** is a platform for exchange of experience and communication between social partners and other key market actors in the Baltic Sea Region. After the successful conclusion of the Baltic Sea Labour Network (BSLN) project, the tripartite Forum for Social Dialogue in the Baltic Sea Region and for cross border cooperation in labour market was established. The BSLF aims to promote social dialogue, tripartite structures and cooperation as crucial elements of sustainable growth and social development in the BSR. It will work on common labour market issues in the BSR, based on joint transnational strategies. In particular, youth employment and mobility of labour as well as demographic changes will be taken into account.

#### Events during the period July 2012 and June 2013

The 2nd Baltic Sea Labour Forum Enlarged Steering Committee Meeting was held in Riga on 30th October 2012.

The 2nd Baltic Sea Labour Forum Annual Roundtable was held in Hamburg on 15 November 2012 and adopted a resolution related to Labour Mobility and Youth Unemployment.

The employers' association of the BSLF organised two round table meetings in May and October 2012, in Hamburg and Riga.

#### Updates from the two Working Groups of the Forum

The Cross Border Mobility in the Baltic Sea Region Working Group held its first meeting on 8 May 2013. Mikko Mäenpää, Chairman of the Finnish Confederation of Professionals STTK, and Dr. Thomas Klischan, Director General of NORDMETALL, the Employers' Association of Metal and Electrical Industries in Northern Germany assumed the position of Working Group Chair and a Co-Chair.

The Youth Unemployment Working Group agreed that the Confederation of German Trade Unions Region North - DGB Nord will lead the work and that the Working Group will focus on vocational learning issues, with the Latvian employers' association having been taken on as Co-Chair. The first meeting will be held in autumn 2013.

## Forum Projects

The Cross Border Information Management in the BSR (CBIM-BSR) Project as a support to the overall work of the BSLF was given funding in the first round of Project Support Facility (PSF) financing. The one year project will aim to development of a draft concept for an information and competence centre network in the Baltic Sea region. The project will run until July 2014.

The one year project ForumSDBSR in order to facilitate the transition from the Baltic Sea Labour Network to the Baltic Sea Labour Forum concluded in January 2013. All activities were financed within the Budget heading - Industrial Relations and Social Dialogue of the EUROPEAN COMMISSION, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

## Upcoming events during the Finnish Presidency of the CBSS

The 3rd Enlarged Steering Committee Meeting will be held in Stockholm on September 13th 2013

The Finnish Confederation of Professionals - STTK will hold an International Conference on Grey Economy and Tax Planning in Helsinki on 31st October 2013

The 3rd Annual Baltic Sea Labour Forum Roundtable will be held in Helsinki on November 1st 2013

## European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR) context

Baltic Sea Labour Forum is a EUSBSR Flagship Project under the action social inclusion of the Priority Area Education – Developing innovative education and youth coordinated by Hamburg (Germany) and the Norden Association (in Sweden).

## The Lead and coordinator of BSLF is the CBSS Secretariat.

During the course of the last twelve months the cooperation partners have continued to grow in number to 27 different labour market actors from different representations.

## New members in this period included:

- AGV NORD Allgemeiner Verband der Wirtschaft Norddeutschlands e.V., Germany
- Confederation of Danish Employers' DA (Joined already in June 2012), Denmark
- Federation of Estonian Engineering Industry (EML), Estonia
- LINPRA The Engineering Industries Association of Lithuania, Lithuania
- UVNord Vereinigung der Unternehmensverbände in Hamburg Und Schleswig-Holstein e.V., Germany
- VUMV Vereinigung der Unternehmensverbände für Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e.V., Germany

BSLF is also observed by eight further organisations.

## Other Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings were held with other stakeholders in the region to present the BSLF platform and tripartite forum including:

Meeting on BSLF with Norwegian Trade Union Confederation held at the Norwegian Parliament in Oslo on 1st November 2012. Meeting with Christian Råberg and Anders Bergström concerning BSLF, Baltic Sea cooperation and the European Social Fund was held in Stockholm on 7th January 2013.

## Russian Partners

The sustained participation of Russian partners in the Baltic Sea Labour Forum is not a guarantee and to this end under the Action: Fostering labour market related activities especially in the cross-border context of the EUSBSR Horizontal Action Neighbours the Baltic Sea Labour Forum cooperation with Russia is noted as a potential Flagship Project. In general the HA aims to increase cooperation with neighbouring countries in order to tackle joint challenges in the Baltic Sea Region. The HA is coordinated by the City of Turku (Finland) and the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat.

In order to accomplish this several meetings were held with Russian partners during the course of the last twelve months – including:

26 December, Moscow: Consultations on Russian participation in the BSLF with 2nd European Department, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

11 February, Moscow: Consultations on BSLF with Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs

3 April, St. Petersburg: Meeting with Deputy Chairman of the Pskov region Fishery Employers Association Alex Malov

4 April, St. Petersburg: Consultations on BSLF with St. Petersburg Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs

The current Russian Members of BSLF are the Confederation of Labour of Russia KTR and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia FNPR.

## CBSS Context

The Annual Roundtables and the Enlarged Steering Committee Meetings are attended from the CBSS side by the CBSS Secretariat Director General, the Head of Media and Communications and the Senior Adviser assigned to the economic development portfolio in their capacities as Steering Committee Member and Facilitator Team Member.

## Political support

The 21st Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) took place from 26 to 28 August 2012 in St Petersburg, Russian Federation. The participants called "on the governments in the Baltic Sea Region, the CBSS and the EU, as well as other organizations, civil society, private sector, communities and NGOs, to support and encourage the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) as a platform for exchange of experience and communication between the key labour market actors in the BSR, including helping the BSLF in promoting social dialogue, tripartite structures and cooperation as crucial elements of sustainable economic growth and social development."

The German MP and member of the BSPC Standing Committee, Franz Thönnies, is also member of BSLF Steering Committee and the BSLF cross border mobility working group.

The Finnish Presidency of CBSS 2013-2014 states in their work programme that they "cooperate with the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) in order to facilitate social tripartite dialogue in the region".

See the new website of the Baltic Sea Labour Forum at [www.bsif.eu](http://www.bsif.eu) to find more information on partners and the project as a whole.

# Uniting regional education and knowledge centres

After all CBSS Member States agreed to further support the EuroFaculty Pskov Project, the second three year phase (2012–2015) of the project, with newly revised objectives was launched by a kick-off event on 24 October 2012, which was attended by the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials, CBSS International Expert Group (IEG) and EF-Pskov University Consortium. The main focus of the second phase of the EF-Pskov Project will be launching an international Master Degree Programme on Baltic Sea Business and a Management Development Programme for business managers which is foreseen to start in 2014. Sweden as the Lead Country for the EF Pskov Project organized the 12th and 13th IEG meetings and the IEG coordinated the EuroFaculty project together with the University Consortium led by the University of Turku as a project leader and Stockholm School of Economics, Russia (branch in St. Petersburg), Trondheim Business School, Roskilde University, University of Tartu, University of Latvia and St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance implementing the EF-P project. The European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder), Germany started its support to the EF Pskov Project in the second half of 2012. The Conference on University Networking in the North-West Federal District of the Russian Federation and the Baltic Sea Region and Presentation of the results of the 1st phase of the EuroFaculty-Pskov Project was organized jointly by the Pskov State University, IEG and University Consortium on 16 April 2013 in Pskov. The EuroFaculty Pskov project is financed by voluntary contributions from all the CBSS Member States.

[www.efpskov.org](http://www.efpskov.org)



**EuroFaculty Pskov**

# Strengthening Cooperation

Cooperation mechanisms between the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat and the Swedish Institute (SI) have strengthened across a number of priority fields during the last twelve to eighteen months. These mechanisms have been complemented by several new methods of cooperation, including for the first time for both institutions the forging of a **Joint Partnership**. Additionally to this joint collaboration, **thematic partnerships** have been sought and new forms of project financing have been applied especially for **seed funding**.

During this time the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat began to increasingly view the Swedish Institute as a peer organization located in Stockholm with a number of similar aims rather than solely an arm of Swedish foreign policy and trade – especially post the change of status on 1 January 2012 of the Baltic Sea Unit in Visby, which had been previously part of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). By the merger of the functions working with Baltic Sea region activities – Sweden focused on the idea that macro-regional strategies would be facilitated more easily, thus enabling enhanced partnerships for the benefit of the region. On 13 October 2011 before the January change a meeting was held at the Secretariat which was followed by a second meeting on March 16 2012 held upon the initiative of the EGSD –Baltic 21 which acted as a joint meeting between the two Secretariats. These meetings facilitated a broader participation of actors and provided for a number of synergies to be explored.

The change of mindset created a clearer platform to build upon strategically for both organizations and in some instances this foundation was built jointly. Even though the Swedish Institute has not been designated a CBSS Strategic Partner in a formal sense the joint partnership has gone further in terms of cooperation and substance. Collaboration had up until this point been divided between the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings (TF-THB) working closely with the Swedish Institute in Stockholm\* and the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 cooperating on a number of projects primarily with several Programme Managers of the Baltic Sea Unit in Visby. These two parallel tracks existed simultaneously but separately for some time. In the meantime the TF-THB and the Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk were granted finances for a number of their projects. During the summer of 2012 the CBSS Secretariat also received seed money for **International Baltic Artek 2012 Summer Youth Camp** in Kaliningrad in which several Swedish facilitators and Secretariat staff participated as workshop leaders.

At the 3rd Annual Forum of the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in Copenhagen on the 18-19th June the Swedish Institute and the CBSS Baltic 21 Unit co-organized a **Roundtable on Corporate Social Responsibility among Small and Medium Enterprises entitled Towards a closer dialogue between CSR actors in the Baltic Sea Region** – which discussed common interests and the possible need for further actions. The Roundtable was organized on the basis of a desk top study conducted by the CBSS Secretariat in the preceding 6 month period. The Roundtable was linked with one module of the Swedish Institute's Management Programme Northern Europe. Alongside the previous joint organization of the TF-THB-SI Training for Diplomats and Consular Officers at the Swedish Permanent Representation in Brussels under the Swedish EU Presidency in 2009, this operative collaboration acted as a precursor for future partnerships between the two organizations on a political level that autumn.

Ultimately all these actions and the aforementioned two meetings demonstrated a commonality of interests which led to the creation of the first joint partnership between the two organizations.

**A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed by the Directors of each organization which would set out roles and expectations. An interest in Strategic Communication on both sides furthered by a belief that a Public Diplomacy project could benefit actors in the region bore fruit with the development of the Balticlub Networking Weekend in December 2012.

In the background the inter-linkages between the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the North-West Russia Strategy were both being debated and revised whilst both of our organizations engagement level evolved; especially in the priority areas of civil security, safety and crime as well the horizontal action focusing on sustainable development. The Swedish Institute was already a project partner in **the Flagship Project 14.3** and had provided seed money financing as granted support to secure the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters - EMERCOM's involvement in the project. In the context of the organisations general cooperation model – the work undertaken as part of the 14.3 project could be regarded as an interesting example of a new precedent and hybrid form of cooperation. **The CBSS Secretariat held the function of Coordinating Beneficiary and Lead Partner with the Swedish Institute operating as one of the projects co-beneficiaries and partners.** The partner agreement was specific to one aspect of the project and even extended to a cross-organisational recruitment procedure for a short time consultant. In this aspect 14.3 reversed the usual structured relation (regarding receipt of funding) between the two organisations – the Swedish Institute now reported, bureaucratically as it were, to the Secretariat. At the same time the relationship took on another dimension when the SI Baltic Sea Unit became a complementary donor for a satellite of the 14.3 project which concentrated on the involvement of Russian Partners in the project 14.3 itself. The role of the CBSS Secretariat was especially interesting here as in this case it did not become a direct recipient – rather it acted as a curator and coordinating mediator – utilizing its status as an intergovernmental organization and civil security networks especially in order for the funding to match the recipient and the project. The layered approach to our cooperation was manifold and complex – ultimately creating numerous strands and levels to coordinate and retain which crucially strengthened the project cohesion overall.

**The Swedish Institute entered into a Thematic Partnership with the CBSS EGSD Secretariat Baltic 21 Unit for the Flagship Project EFFECT** by providing funding for the initiative as well as supporting the CBSS TF-THB Unit with their project **ADSTRINGO Poland-Russia** – a complementary project to the EC Home Affairs funded project simply called **ADSTRINGO** encompassing the other CBSS Member States. Through SI's shorter term financing assistance a grant was given to co-finance a project focusing on the exploitation of children in begging and criminality.

**ADSTRINGO** is a Flagship Project under the EUSBSR Priority Area Crime. **EFFECT** is a Flagship Project under the Horizontal Action Sustainable Development and Bio-economy. **14.3** is a Flagship Project under the Priority Area Secure for the action: Develop a joint macro-regional prevention and preparedness approach towards major hazards and emergencies. Alongside 14.3 PA Secure also holds, among other projects, **The Baltic Leadership Programme (BLP)** which is a unique pilot initiative that will improve crisis preparedness in the region through professional development and networking. The first module was held 3 to 7 December 2012 in Stockholm, and the second module took place 18 to 23 February in Brussels. The planning of this Leadership Programme of the Swedish Institute was closely coordinated with the CBSS Secretariat networks of Civil Protection actors and ultimately falls under the Action: Foster dialogue and common approaches to civil protection in the Baltic Sea region in the revised version of the EUSBSR Action Plan. Here it is important to mention that whilst the CBSS Secretariat held the

de-facto function of Priority Area Co-ordinator for PA 14 in the previous EUSBSR Action Plan (before the reviewed Action Plan of February 2013) this coordination extended to actively supporting the Baltic Leadership Programme in Civil Protection to become a Flagship Project under the new **Priority Area Secure** post the Action Plan revision. This cooperation extended to direct cooperation between the Swedish Institute Baltic Sea Unit communication team and the CBSS Secretariat communication team (especially in the role of the Media and Communication team in relation to PA Secure). This direct cooperation supported the publicity and documentation of the BLP as well as a lobbying event in Brussels. The event on Macro-regional cooperation in the field of Civil Protection was held at the Swedish Permanent Representation to Brussels and functioned as the public launch of PA Secure the evening before the launch of the revised Action Plan. The Director of the Department of Global Programmes at the Swedish Institute was present on this occasion.

The first and currently only Joint Partnership between the CBSS Secretariat and the Swedish Institute is the **Balticlab** concept. The concept so far has developed two actions track – the first being the building of a wider **Balticlab Network** for young entrepreneurs and creative industries through a networking weekend back in December 2012, which was followed by the more focused and intense **Balticlab Project Development Programme** of three modules throughout April-June, 2013. The CBSS Media and Communication Unit identified a perceived lack of cooperation between entrepreneurs in the region – especially along the East –West access. The initial understanding was gathered through network contacts that were focused on the opportunities of young women for business creation tools in NW Russia. Building on personal knowledge of the Swedish Institute’s other Leadership Programmes such as YLVP and She Entrepreneurs it was noted that there was potential to create a programme based on talent and leadership focused on social entrepreneurship, social media and branding skills that would greatly enhance opportunity and network strength. It would also target a younger audience compared to the Management Programme for Northern Europe. This idea was broadened to include both genders and an initial focus on the South Eastern Baltic Sea Area combined with Sweden. The Network was perceived as a bridge and a springboard for creative industry talents to anew their approaches to the region, their methodologies as well as broadening their framework. The two regions of St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad were brought in and teamed with Lithuania and Poland to complete the geographic scope that would limit the open call. The new concept would also tie well with both institutions focus areas as well as the regional conversation referencing strategy development and cohesion. **The Balticlab Project Development Programme is a Flagship Project of the EUSBSR under the Horizontal Action Neighbours.** These initiatives were also followed up upon by tentative steps at personnel exchange and engagement when in April 2013 a second study visit to the SI Visby Office was arranged for the Media and Communications Officer – the first Study visit focused on thematic topics and mutual exchange with three advisers from the Secretariat taking part earlier in the year.

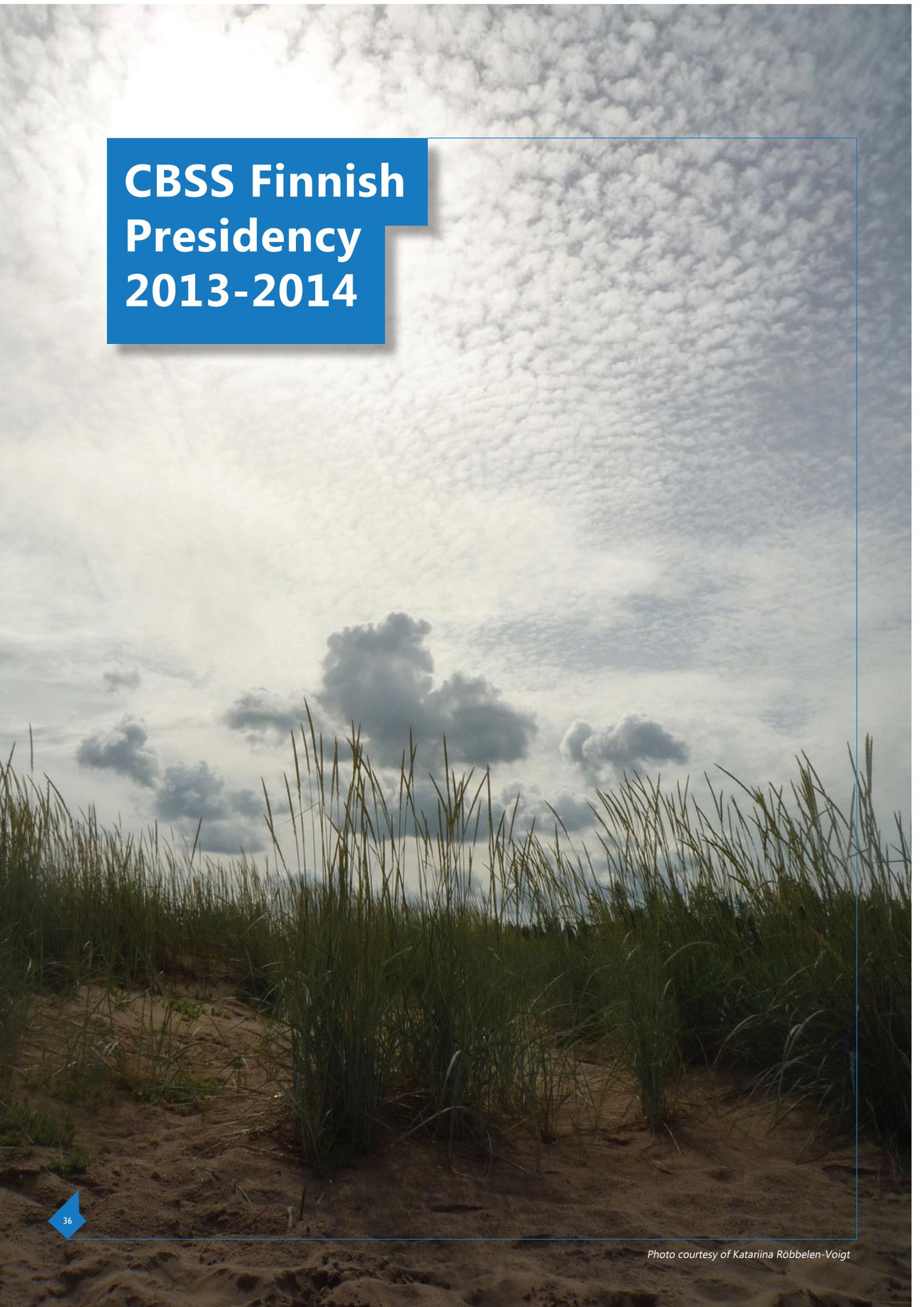
Most recently, the CBSS and SI shared the stage at Almedalen, in Visby for a seminar entitled **Facelifting the Baltic Sea region**. During this seminar the two organisations presented the Balticlab concept to a wider audience and the Balticlab Project Development Programme participants introduced the four projects they had developed throughout the spring.

This event followed on the tails of the **Baltic Development Forum Summit in Riga where SI presented the Balticlab concept on their stand in the Networking Village.**

The Council of the Baltic Sea States has now moved into the Finnish Presidency and we see these partnerships as well as other new collaborations forming strong connections with our other Strategic Partners, Macro-regional Strategy development and project portfolio building.



\*Collaboration between the TF-THB and the Swedish Institute is diverse and intensive. The TF-THB team and the responsible SI Programme Manager based in Stockholm have over the last few years jointly organized one training module in Brussels and have worked closely together on two bilateral conferences and two international conferences. The TF-THB has also given expert input to two bilateral dialogues combined with workshops, one tri-lateral national roundtable dialogue and given lectures and presentations to various regional delegations on study programs and expert visits. The TF-THB has also received four journalist delegations of variant size and regional scope, as well as two national delegations and a film crew in cooperation with the Swedish Institute. Two recent examples would be firstly; the Dialogue Session which was held on November 14 2012 in Stockholm between Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden on the subject “Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings”. The meeting was arranged by the Swedish Institute (SI), in collaboration with the Swedish Police and Prosecutor’s Office, and can be seen as a continuation of previously arranged activities on this subject in both Germany and the Netherlands – the TF-THB representative attended the full day. Secondly, the Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings and Prostitution – the experience of France and Sweden which took place in Paris on 10-11 December 2012. The Head of Media and Communication represented the TF-THB as an expert speaker in a workshop specifically on the exploitation for sexual purposes of Nigerian women.



# CBSS Finnish Presidency 2013-2014

Parallel to holding the Chair of the Council of the Baltic Sea States Finland will assume the Presidency of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council in October 2013, and will attach particular importance to improving synergies between the regional councils as well as with the Northern Dimension and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Finland pays special attention to maritime policy, civil security and people-to-people cooperation. Increased synergies and concrete projects supporting these sectors will contribute to our common goal of a clean, safe and smart Baltic Sea region.

#### **PRIORITIES OF THE FINNISH CBSS PRESIDENCY**

##### **MARITIME POLICY**

Finland takes further steps to develop the Baltic Sea Region as a model maritime region. An integrated maritime policy will further improve the competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region and promote environmentally friendly and safe maritime traffic. Finland will strengthen the dialogue between the regional actors in the maritime field, including increased cooperation with HELCOM. Maritime spatial planning in the Baltic Sea area is a vital part of an integrated maritime policy.

- Promote clean shipping with a focus on alternative fuels
- Support smart and safe maritime transportation as well as competitiveness of the Baltic Sea Region

##### **CIVIL SECURITY**

Special attention is paid to the security of civilians in the Baltic Sea States. Finland will make efforts to further stimulate the existing cooperation among the different actors in the field of civil security. The emphasis is on nuclear and radiation safety, border control cooperation as well as on prevention and management of maritime accidents.

- Intensify cooperation on nuclear and radiation safety
- Develop the management of multi-sectorial maritime accidents and the interface between operators at sea and on land
- Enhance the cooperation of Baltic Sea region border control authorities and strengthen the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation's relationship with other CBSS structures

##### **PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE**

Finland highlights the importance of vivid people-to-people contacts and well-functioning civil society, which are essential elements of regional cooperation. There is a need to find new ways to address issues related to youth in the Baltic Sea Region.

- Strengthen the role of the civil society and improve possibilities for the NGOs to participate in cross-border cooperation
- Increase the interaction between different stakeholders on youth related questions and activate young people themselves
- Cooperate with the Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) in order to facilitate social tripartite dialogue in the region



# International Secretariat Employment rotation overview

**Jan Lundin** Director General (Sweden)  
**Eduardas Borisovas** Deputy Director General (Lithuania)  
**Ilya Ermakov** Senior Adviser (Russian Federation)  
**Iris Kempe** Senior Adviser (Germany) will commence employment in September 2013

**Nanna Magnadóttir** Senior Adviser (Iceland) completed her tenure at the end of Summer 2013

**Anna Karpenko** Project Coordinator for South Eastern Baltic Sea Area (SEBA) (Russian Federation) seated at NCM Information Office, Kaliningrad, Russian Federation completed her tenure at the end of June 2013 with the completion of the first phase of SEBA financing. Anna Karpenko will continue to work with the SEBA initiative under PSF financing for the Natural Park project but on contract with the NCM Information Office for one year to begin with.

There were three trainee assistants for the Core Secretariat during the preceding period

**Ugne Augyte** from Lithuania (March to August 2013)  
**Jekaterina Popova** UNDP placement from Lithuania (October – December 2012)  
**Evgeniya Khegay** from the Russian Federation (May - August 2012)

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## Expert Group on Sustainable Development (EGSD-Baltic 21)

**Krista Kampus** Senior Adviser and Head of Unit for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development ((Estonia) - employed since September 2012)

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

**Sam Grönholm** Project Officer (60%) for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 (Finland) employed since May 2013

**Mia Crawford** Senior Adviser and Head of Unit for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development (Sweden) and

**Anna Berlina** Project Assistant for the Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 (Estonia) both completed their contracts during the Summer of 2012.

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

**Anna Ekstedt** Senior Adviser and Head of Unit for the TF-THB (Sweden)

**Vineta Polatside** Project Officer for the TF-THB (Latvia)

**Endrit Mujaj** (Sweden) Interim Project Assistant for the TF-THB (March to October 2013)

**Bjarney Friðriksdóttir** Senior Adviser from Iceland employed on parental leave cover completed her appointment at the end of September 2012

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## Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk (EGCC)

**Turid Heiberg** (Norway) Senior Adviser and Head of Unit for Children at Risk will commence her contract in August 2013

**Lars Lööf** (Sweden) Head of Unit for Children at Risk completed his tenure at the end of May 2013

**Alexandra Ronkina** Project Officer (50%) for Expert Group on Cooperation for Children at Risk (EGCC) (Russian Federation) completed her tenure at the end of December 2012

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## Media and Communications

The necessity for the organization to focus on internal and external communications has grown incrementally since the Riga Reform Declaration as the organization and the various parts of the organization have broadened and deepened the project portfolio. The Media and Communications set-up has changed accordingly.

**Anthony Jay Olsson** Head of Media and Communications (on part-time sabbatical from March 2013 – end of 2013)

**Egle Obcarskaite** Media and Communications and Project Officer (Internationally recruited from Lithuania and employed since March 2012)

**Mirjam Külm** Media and Communications Assistant (Internationally recruited from Estonia and employed since March 2013, previously held Trainee Assistant position on the CBSS Internship and Scholarship Programme (from September 2012 – end February 2013)

**Jacek Smolicki** Media and Communications Officer completed his tenure at the end of August 2013

**Marina Belyaeva** Media and Communications Coordinator for the Russian Presidency 2012-2013  
(Internationally recruited from the Russian Federation September 2012-end June 2013)

**Gregory Daniel** Media and Communications Website Assistant (temporary local recruitment May 2012 – end January 2013)

**Shawna Robert** Media and Communications Trainee Assistant on Swedish work placement (from October 2012 until end January 2013)

**Filip Janczak** (Poland) Media and Communications & Civil Security Intern Assistant on the CBSS Internship and Scholarship Programme (March – July 2013)

**Alexander Mazurkin** (Belarus) Media and Communications Assistant on Study Placement and Swedish Institute Scholarship for his university thesis

**Szymon Knitter** (Poland) and **Edmunds Jansons** (Latvia) completed their placements during the summer of 2012

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### Administration

The Administrative arm of the Secretariat has also continued to evolve as the project orientation of the CBSS as an organization develops necessitating more administrative and financial strategy and support

**Gertrude Opira** (Sweden) Head of Administration

**Ligia Broström** (Sweden) Administrative Officer

**Susann Burström** (Sweden) Project Accountant

**Chris Tancredi** (Australia) Front Office and Office Administrator commenced his employment in March 2013.

**Jekaterina Popova** (Lithuania) Project Assistant commenced her employment on 1st July 2013 previously held Trainee Assistant position for the Administration as well as Core team during the course of 2012-2013

**Margareta Nordfeldt** (Sweden) Office Administrator – Employment Agency Staff and **Ewa Mackiewicz** (Sweden) Swedish Work Placement completed their assignments as temporary cover for the front desk over the winter 2012/13.

The Permanent International Secretariat located in Stockholm currently employed 19 staff members as of 1 July 2013. Additionally there are two CBSS internship trainees and one interim assistant. A total of 22 individuals.

The Internationally recruited staff members come from the following Member States in alphabetical order – Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia and Sweden.

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**The Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS)** continued to maintain the status of CBSS project and co-located entity during the Russian Presidency period.

The NDPHS was granted an own legal entity which came into force as of 1st July 2013. The NDPHS Secretariat will for the time being remain located in the same premises as the CBSS Secretariat.

**Marek Maciejowski** Head of NDPHS Secretariat (Poland)

**Silvija Juscenko** NDPHS Senior Adviser (Latvia)

**Shawna Robert** (USA) EUSBSR Project Assistant for the NDPHS since February 2013 as a local recruitment

During the period the NDPHS has been assisted by one trainee on the Internship and Scholarship Programme -

**Triin Pärm** ((Estonia) September-December 2012)

As of 1st July **Tarja Åkerblad** (Sweden) has been employed as Administrative Officer/Accountant

Employment contracts for NDPHS Staff members as of 1 of July are the responsibility of the NDPHS Secretariat

# Selected events during the CBSS Russian Presidency 2012-2013

1-2 August 2012, Kick off meeting of the ADSTRINGO project, Helsinki

23-24 August 2012, Russian CBSS Presidency state agencies' coordinators meeting, Moscow

26-28 August 2012, 21st Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, St. Petersburg

08/12

09/12

10/12

11/12

12/12

01/13

6-7 September 2012, VIII International Conference – Cross Border Cooperation: The Russian Federation, The European Union and Norway, Pskov

10 September 2012, Baltic Sea Region University Network conference on business and higher education, State University of economics and finances (FINEC), St.Petersburg

12-13 September 2012, The IV Baltic Transport Forum under the auspices of the Federal Marine and River Transport Agency of the Russian Federation, Kaliningrad

13-14 September 2012, Forum of the regions-partners, session on culture and creative industries as factors of modernisation, Kaliningrad

17-19 September 2012, BSSSC Conference in Lilleström, Norway

19-20 September 2012, The 1st CSO meeting under the Russian Presidency, Moscow

26 – 28 September 2012, the 4th Baltadapt project partner meeting in Berlin, Germany

28 September 2012, CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy 10th meeting, Moscow

10-11 October 2012, EGCC 10th Anniversary meeting., Reykjavik

22-23 October 2012, XI All-Russian Forum Strategic Planning in the Regions and Cities of Russia

23-24 October 2012, International Expert Group of the EuroFaculty Pskov project, Pskov

24 October 2012, The 2nd CSO Meeting under the CBSS Russian Presidency, Pskov

25-26 October 2012, Moscow Energy Week and BASREC Panel, Stockholm

25-27 October 2012, „Pskov State University conference on Adoption of the European Educational standards in cross-border areas”, Pskov

30 October 2012, Baltic Sea Labour Forum (BSLF) Enlarged Steering Committee meeting, Riga

31 October - 1 November 2012, ADSTRINGO 2nd project meeting, Stockholm

## 5 December 2012, The 5th CBSS Conference of Ministers of Transport, Moscow

10-11 December 2013, 2nd Policy Forum on Climate Change Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region in Stockholm

10-12 December 2012, Seminar on exploring risks of common emergency situation for CBSS countries organised by EMERCOM, Kaliningrad

12 December 2012, The 3rd CSO meeting and the Annual Consultations with CBSS Observers, Stockholm

14-17 December 2012, BalticLab Programme networking weekend, organised in partnership by the CBSS Communication Unit and Swedish Institute's Baltic Sea Unit, Stockholm

17 December 2012, Meeting with the Turku city administration on coordination of activities within the HAL Neighbours of the EUSBSR, Stockholm

6-7 November 2012, Meeting of the Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety, Copenhagen

7-9 November 2012, the 15th BSR Border Control Cooperation Heads Conference, Rønne, Bornholm, Denmark

7-10 November 2012, AGORA 2.0 Final Conference in Sopot, Poland

15 November 2012, Baltic Sea Labour Forum Annual Conference/Roundtable, Hamburg

15 November 2012, 11th regular meeting of the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy, St. Petersburg

16 November 2012, Pilot Financial Initiative Signing Ceremony, Moscow

19-20 November 2012, 6th meeting of the CBSS Expert group on Sustainable Development, Baltic 21 in Stockholm, Sweden

21-23 November 2012 Kick off meeting of the project EFFECT – Dialogue Platform on Energy and Resource Efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region, Stockholm

22 November 2012, PFI Conference, Kaliningrad

21-23 November 2012, Baltic Sea Task Force on Organised Crime Directors Generals' meeting, Vilnius

17-18 January 2013, Working meeting of the Vyshtynets/Vistyttis/Krasnolesye/Rominten Forest SEBA project with the regional and international stakeholders, Goldap, Poland:

24 January 2013, Agreement seminar on over-regional cooperation's aspects of the Warminko-Mazurskie Voivodeship with the Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation, Elblag, Poland

29-30 January 2013, The 4th CSO meeting under the CBSS Russian Presidency and presentation of CBSS-Baltic 21 main results and status of implementation of the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable development 2010 – 2015. Brussels

30 January-1 February 2013, EUSBSR flagship project 14.3 Mid-term Review Conference, Warsaw

8 February 2013, Study Visit to HELCOM Secretariat for planning of future cooperation between the two organizations, Helsinki

11 February 2013, Consultations on BSLF with Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, Moscow

11-12 February 2013, Russian P3CN coordinators meeting involving PFI, Moscow

15 February 2013, CBSS Secretariat and KfW meeting on PFI regionalization with NIB and NEFCO, Helsinki

22 February 2013, CBSS-Baltic 21 becomes HAL Sustainable Development in the EUSBSR

25 February 2013, EGCC international conference: Harmful information in the media – Protection of children in a changing media environment, Moscow

3-4 April 2013, The 6th CSO meeting, St.Petersburg

**5-6 April 2013, Baltic Sea Forum (High Level Conference of the Heads of Government on Protection of the Environment of the Baltic Sea), St. Petersburg**

9-10 April 2013, EGMP 12th regular meeting, Kaliningrad

12-16 April, Balticlab Project Development Programme, Module One, organised by the CBSS Secretariat and the Swedish Institute, Malmö

15-16 April 2013, International Theoretical and Practical Conference on Fighting Human Trafficking, St.Petersburg

16-17 April 2013, Baltic Sea NGO Forum, SEBA and HA Turku workshop, St.Petersburg

25-26 April 2013, Workshop on the Future of Education for Sustainable development in the BSR and International Baltic Artek/ CBSS Summer Youth Camp 2013, Stockholm

3 June 2013, First Open European Day and Climate Adaptation final conference back to back with Resilience Cities Conference, Bonn, Germany

3-4 June 2013, Expert Seminar on Trafficking for Labour Exploitation: Capacity Building for Combating Trafficking for Labour Exploitation, Vienna

3-4 June 2013, The 8th CSO meeting under the CBSS Russian Presidency, Kaliningrad

4-6 June 2013, The V Annual Forum of Kaliningrad Partner Regions, Kaliningrad

4-8 June 2013, Balticlab Project Development Programme, Module Three, Kaliningrad

**5-6 June, 2013, The 18th CBSS Ministerial Session, Kaliningrad and Pionersky**

7-8 June, 2013, SEBA final conference "Creativity and Cooperation in the South Eastern Baltic Area" Kaliningrad

9-11 June 2013, BSPC Working Group on Green Growth and Energy Efficiency, final meeting, Bornholm

25-26 June 2013, 2nd EFFECT project partner meeting in Malmö, Sweden in cooperation with Nordic Green Growth Arena project

02/13

03/13

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13-14 March 2013, Working meeting of the Vistynets/Rominten Forest SEBA project with the regional and international stakeholders, Vistytis, Lithuania

14-15 March 2013, Meeting of the Baltic Border Committee of the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation (BSRBCC), Helsinki

18 March 2013, Extraordinary 5th CSO meeting under the CBSS Russian Presidency, Moscow

18-19 March 2013, 1st European Climate Change Adaptation Conference, Hamburg, Germany

18-23 March 2013, Baltic Sea Week, Saint Petersburg

21 March 2013, 1st Agricultural Conference in the Baltic Sea Region during Baltic Sea Week (20 – 22 March 2013), St. Petersburg

3-7 May 2013, Balticlab Project Development Programme, Module Two, organised by the CBSS Secretariat and the Swedish Institute, Nida

13-14 May 2013, EUSBSR Flagship Project 14.3 Final Conference, Brussels

20-21 May 2013, EGNRS regular meeting, Stockholm

22 May 2013, 13th CBSS EuroFaculty Pskov International Expert Group, Turku

22 May 2013, Meeting of the Selection Committee on the CBSS Project Support Facility (PSF), Moscow

23 May 2013, CBSS Regional Directors' meeting, Moscow

23-24 May 2013, The 7th CSO meeting under the Russian CBSS Presidency on the 18th Ministerial Session, adoption of the renewed EGMP Terms of Reference and CBSS Regional Director's meeting on CBSS long term priorities, Moscow

26-28 May 2013, BSPC Standing Committee meeting, Tartu

29-30 May 2013, 3rd Policy Forum on Climate Change Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region in Tallinn, Estonia



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