



# Baltic Sea Region

Programme 2007–2013

## Newsletter July 2012

### Highlights

- 3 new projects approved by the Monitoring Committee
- Next steps in the Programme preparation for 2014–2020
- Cooperation between EU and Russia for 2014–2020
- Projects join forces in clusters
- Register for the Programme Conference

### 3 new projects approved by the Monitoring Committee – multi-level governance and branding

The projects PartiSEApate, BSR TransGovernance and ONE BSR got the green light. The Monitoring Committee of the Baltic Sea Region Programme decided to grant support to three new cooperation projects at its meeting in Riga on 12 June.

The projects involve 49 project partners and will receive 4.3 million EUR from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The projects implement two horizontal actions of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region's Action Plan: "Strengthening multi-level governance, place based spatial planning and sustainable development" and "Build a regional identity".

#### PartiSEApate - Multi-level Governance in Maritime Spatial Planning throughout the Baltic Sea Region

The partners will develop a pan-Baltic approach to Maritime Spatial Planning and a concept for its institutional framework and governance model. Instruments and models will be tested within three pilot cases. Approximate project budget: 0.9 million EUR. 10 partners.

#### BSR TransGovernance – Multi-Level Governance support to the implementation of PA 11 in the EU Baltic Sea Strategy

The project will demonstrate how multi-level governance models and tools can better align transport policies in the Baltic Sea region at various administrative levels and incorporate the business perspective. Approximate project budget: 1.6 million EUR. 22 partners.

#### ONE BSR - Baltic Metropolises Accelerating Branding and Identity Building of the Baltic Sea Region

The Baltic Sea Region does not have a strong shared identity nor an image easily recognised externally. Marketing of the region can be structured and performed in a more systematic way. The project will use the existing regional features to attract tourists, investors and talents.

Approximate project budget: 3 million EUR. 17 partners.

Six project applications had been submitted during the fifth call to the Baltic Sea Region Programme's Joint Technical Secretariat at Rostock and Riga by the end of March 2012. The applicants had to demonstrate their potential to contribute to the development of the whole Baltic Sea region. The Programme's Monitoring Committee, including national and regional representatives from all eleven participating countries, selected the best project proposals. Throughout 2012 the Monitoring Committee is being chaired by Latvia (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia).



*Ilze Krieva, Chair of the MC, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of Latvia and Ronald Lieske, Joint Technical Secretariat*



*Kadri Jushkin (Ministry of the Interior, Estonia), Wilfried Görmar (Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Germany) and Anneli Kivirand (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia)*



*Diana Zaleckie and Jovita Seiliūtė (Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania)*

#### Programme in figures

Number of calls launched:	<b>5</b>
Number of projects:	<b>83</b>
Number of projects contributing to the EU Strategy of the Baltic Sea Region:	<b>45</b>
Number of project partners:	<b>~1330</b>
Total Programme budget (2007-2013):	<b>222.8 million EUR</b>



Part-financed by the European Union  
European Regional Development Fund and  
European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument



**All funds committed, no further calls**

After the fifth call for applications the Programme funds have been exhausted. There will be no further calls for new

project proposals. Next calls are planned in the Programme period 2014–2020.



**Next steps in preparation for 2014–2020**



*Left: Joanna Kirylo (DG Regio, European Commission), Niels Bjerring Hansen (Danish Business Authority) and Bettina Rafaelsen (COWI, ex-ante evaluator).*

The members of the Joint Programming Committee (JPC) met for the second time in Riga on 13 June 2012. Representatives of all eleven countries including Russia and Belarus are part of the Committee. The Committee continued work started at the first meeting (see [http://eu.baltic.net/Programming\\_started\\_.20549.html](http://eu.baltic.net/Programming_started_.20549.html)) and was informed about the legislation and guidance for 2014–2020 by the European Commission's representative.

The stakeholders involved in the region (EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Priority Area Coordinators (PAC), Horizontal Action Leaders (HAL), National Contact Points (NCP) and pan-Baltic organisations) were asked, via questionnaire, about the cooperation themes that should be covered by the new Programme. "Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency" and

"promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures" were among the most popular.

The JPC also acknowledged the application of the Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein as Managing Authority for the future Programme. The application included that the main office of the future "Joint Secretariat" would stay in Rostock, Germany. The Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein is a public non-profit making development bank owned by the German Land of Schleswig-Holstein.

The Joint Programming Committee will have its next meeting on 28 November 2012. The new Programme for 2014–2020 shall be finalised in 2013 and sent for approval to the European Commission. We expect the first call for project proposals in 2014.

**Cooperation between EU and Russian organisations within the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014 – 2020**

The partnership with Russia is of strategic importance for the whole Baltic Sea region. The Programme's Joint Programming Committee invited the Russian authorities to participate in the process of setting up a new Programme from the very beginning. This might eliminate one of the main limitations in the current Programme: the non-availability of funds for Russian partners.

The two Joint Programming Committee meetings held to date were attended by all

eleven countries covered by the Programme, including Russia. An open dialogue among all participating countries is vital for drafting the new Programme, which has to meet expectations of the stakeholders from the Baltic Sea region, the EU and Russia.

In parallel, the cooperation terms are discussed between the Russian authorities and the EU Commission services. At the 1st JPC meeting (March 2012) the European Commission announced its support for

the participation of Belarus and Russia in the future Baltic Sea Region Programme. According to DG DEVCO there are plans to transfer funding for Russian and Belarusian partners in the future Baltic Sea Region Programme from ENI (European Neighbourhood Instrument) to ERDF. In this case the EU-programme funding would be managed only by DG REGIO and would be implemented under the ERDF rules. Financing agreements with Russia and Belarus would still be necessary. Negotiations will continue this year.





**Projects join forces in clusters**

In the clusters the partners from different Baltic Sea Region Programme projects share

knowledge and experience in linking thematic fields of interest. Together partners make

stakeholders aware of the project achievements and change the political agenda.

Partners from eight projects combine expertise in renewable energies, sustainable technologies, resource saving in buildings and energy efficiency in urban context. Technologies and energy saving procedures already exist - the cluster will introduce them to politicians and stakeholders.

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*An example for energy efficient renovation: New Town Hall in Roskilde, Denmark*



**Limited resources and climate change call for sustainable and energy-efficient solutions in the Baltic Sea Region**

Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources

Energy

**Support of SMEs as innovation sources: training, advice, tools & financing**

*Assessment of the innovation potential (Photo: Bonita)*



Innovation

Innovation in SMEs

Innovation in SMEs is at the core of economic development. In this cluster 15 partners build upon the tools developed to identify future needs, demands and draw recommendations for innovation support in SMEs and communicate them to the relevant stakeholders.

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The cluster involving 15 partners has two main targets:

- Fight against nutrient pollution by reducing the nitrogen and phosphorous leaching in the rural and urban environment and supporting the development of nutrient recycling,
- Environmentally sound management of hazardous substances by improving the current regulations and finding obstacles and opportunities.

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*Re-meandering Fladså river in Næstved Municipality, Denmark (Photo: Næstved Municipality)*

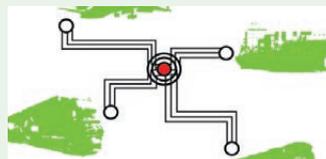
Baltic Impulse - saving the Baltic Sea waters

Water

**Reducing pollution and eutrophication in the Baltic Sea**

Transport

Sustainable, multimodal and green transport corridors



**Connecting remote areas in the Baltic Sea Region - paving the way for future transport solutions**

*Business solutions and systems for multimodality and smooth transport operations across borders*

Being a platform scaling the whole Baltic Sea region and connecting all modes, the cluster co-operation will lay out the formula for a green BSR transport network. Eight organisations join forces and will be combining their vast knowledge covering all aspects of sustainable transport development. With this coherent concept they will take joint standpoints on future EU and macro-regional transport and regional growth policies.

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**Register for the Baltic Sea Region Programme Conference, 19-20 Sept 2012**



For registration, programme and practical information go to [www.bsssc.no](http://www.bsssc.no). The registration deadline is 31 August. The hotel rooms are reserved until 16 July.

Achievements of transnational cooperation projects as well as planning for the next period 2014-2020 are on the agenda of the Baltic Sea Region Programme during the year 2012.

At the Programme Conference in Lilleström (Oslo Region), we will see what difference transnational cooperation can make when successful projects continue working as thematic clusters (energy, innovation, transport and water). We will also look into the future of the European Territorial Cooperation 2014-2020. Will the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the Baltic Sea Region Programme go

hand in hand? We will discuss the relationship between the Strategy and the Programme's priorities. The audience will be invited to contribute actively to the discussions.

You will meet and hear prominent actors and decision makers: i.a. Ms Liv Signe Navarsete, Minister of Local Government and Regional Development of Norway, Ms Danuta Hübner, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the Committee on Regional Development and Mr Olgierd Geblewicz, Marshal of the Westpomeranian Region and the BSSSC chairman.

The Baltic Sea Region Programme Conference 2012 will run back to back with the 20th Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC) Annual Conference, 17-19 September 2012, in the same venue.

**News from the Joint Technical Secretariat**

Ms Alke Voss (Communication Officer) left the JTS at the end of June. We wish her all the best with her new assignment in Kiel.

As from 2 July 2012, Ms Fiona Alsfasser (Programme Assistant) will replace Ms Edith Belusa. Edith will be on maternity leave until mid-2014.



For **further information** please go to [eu.baltic.net](http://eu.baltic.net) and feel free to contact the Joint Technical Secretariat.

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**Calendar of Programme events**

Event	Date	Place
Annual Conference of the Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC)	17-19 September 2012	Lilleström, Norway
Baltic Sea Region Programme Conference 2012	19-20 September 2012	Lilleström, Norway
Joint Programming Committee Task Force meeting	20 September 2012	Lilleström, Norway
Monitoring Committee meeting	27 November 2012	Riga, Latvia
Joint Programming Committee for the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020	28 November 2012	Riga, Latvia



The Baltic Sea Programme 2007-2013 is investing in Europe's future by fostering sustainable growth of the region.