

All about energy efficiency

Between 17th and 19th of September the BSSSC 20th Annual Conference was held in Lillestrom, Norway. As normal, prior to the Annual Conference the Youth Event of BSSSC Youth Network took place. The main topic of the youth meeting was energy efficiency - that is why it was called GREEN; the acronym stands for Gathering on Regional Energy Efficiency in Norway.

During the first day of the GREEN conference youth representatives from the countries from the macroregion made presentations about their regions. Young people exchanged their experiences and knowledge about: organizing youth structures in their regions, regional and national level government priorities concerning youth, energy resources used by countries and changes which occurred in the field of energy efficiency in the last few years within the regions.

After the presentations and discussion the youth team visited the Museum of Technology. The visit was enhanced with a quiz with prizes for the winners. The first team to answer all questions connected with the exhibition correctly won "Antivirus board games".

On the second day the discussions were all about the topic of energy efficiency. The task of the teams was to create solutions to raise the level of it. The ideas of the young people were judged by a professional Jury, which gave the best group a prize. Also during this day the election of the new youth representative to the BSSSC Board took place. Kevin Kiraga was the candidate from the Westpomeranian Region. With the support of the member regions he was chosen to represent the interests of the young representatives in the Board. Kevin Kiraga replaced Ingrid Klemp from Norway who has been a member of the board from 2010. In the next days the youth were listening to politicians and specialists from the Baltic Sea macroregion, who were discussing renewable energy resources, fighting against the economical crisis, energy efficiency, financial support of energy renewable resource projects and energy efficiency in connection to the future programming period.

The most important events during the Conference were the signing of the resolution, as well as the symbolical passing of the bell to the Finnish side - the region of Uusimaa. The presidency of the new region will start in January 2013. The next Youth Event will take place alongside the 21st BSSSC Annual Conference next year in Helsinki. We hope that the youth representation of the Westpomeranian Region will have the opportunity to take part in such an interesting meeting again.

Youth Board Member is elected - 2012

During the GREEN Conference in Oslo the new Board Member to the BSSSC Board was elected. The new youth representant is Kevin Kiraga from Westpomeranian Region.

Kevin Kiraga is an active member of the Youth Democrats Association in Świnoujście. At the same time he study International Relations at the University of Szczecin. Kevin Kiraga took place over Ingrid Klemp and together with another youth Board Member Vladimir Svet will represent the youth group for the next year.

Preparatory meeting for international youth seminar – GREEN

Between 10-12 May 2012 a meeting of young people from the Working Group on Youth Policy was held in Tallinn. The capital of Estonia welcomed 30 participants from Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Germany and of course Estonia with beautiful and sunny weather.

During the meeting, the new participants in the Working Group were introduced to the main topics and ideas behind the Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC) and the Working Group on Youth Policy. Experienced youth participants shared their knowledge about the previous group meetings and BSSSC conferences since 2008. One point of discussion focussed on the proposal of a youth workshop which should be held before the BSSSC annual conference in September 2012 in Oslo, Norway. The youth members presented ideas, suggestions and comments related to this workshop. An interesting initiative has been presented by one of the two youth representatives on the BSSSC Board – Vladimir Svet. He suggested to create a youth network co-management declaration, which would consist of common principles regarding the creation and functioning of youth city councils in the Baltic Sea Region.

The initiative has sparked a lively, and interesting discussion. Cultural, legal and social differences between the regions led to different opinions on how to best promote and support the work of youth city councils in the Baltic Sea Region. Due to many divergent opinions, only a preliminary draft regulation was agreed upon. A presentation of the final version of the guidelines is planned for September 2012, following consultations in the regions and online discussions. After the hard work, the participants were rewarded with a tour through the old town of Tallinn. They visited an medieval apartment house in the very centre of the city, which houses different youth NGOs. The participants had an opportunity to see how youth organizations in Estonia are functioning.

Youth participation in meetings like this one in Tallinn is very important and forms an integral part of the youth work within the BSSSC network. Young people are given the chance to learn about international teamwork and tolerance, which are extremely valuable values.

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