

Baltic Sea Cultural Cities

Connecting Citizens & Cities through Culture



Dr. Kaarina Williams

Senior Adviser for
Regional Identity

BSSSC Annual Conference
2020



Baltic Sea Cultural Cities

Seed Money project

Connecting
citizens
and cities through
culture

Funded by

SI. Svenska
institutet



Baltic Sea Cultural Cities:

Water connects us, but culture unites us



Main aims

- The goal is to **connect cities, people and cultural actors** in the region & to strengthen the regional commonalities while also promoting cultural diversity
- Regional cooperation: establishment of a sustainable, long-term **cultural format**
- Regional Identity: **strengthening feeling of togetherness**, solidarity, tolerance and regional identification
- Platform for **cooperation & cultural exchange**
- Implementation of **SDGs**



Baltic Sea Cultural Cities



Framework and overarching principles:

- Nomination of a “**Baltic Sea City of Culture**” (regular rhythm)
- Focus on cities and regions **fostering cooperation** among them, not competition
- Citizen Participation: increasing the **visibility** and **accessibility** of the region's creativity and cultural heritage
- Finding **common denominators** for Baltic Sea cities, also smaller cities and regions
- Could be developed in **connection with and differentiation to** EU and international cultural frameworks (ECOC and UNESCO)



Baltic Sea Cultural Cities



Citizen Participation

- strong focus on citizen participation and ownership, increasing the number of contacts between people and cultural actors
- more about co-creation than consuming cultural offers as a spectator
- addressing especially the younger generation as well as excluded parts of society



Baltic Sea Cultural Cities



Partners

- CBSS as Lead Partner
- Ars Baltica Secretariat
- City Culture Institute in Gdansk
- Regional Council of Ostrobothnia
- Kaunas Artists House/Kaunas City
- Union of Baltic Cities, Cultural Cities Commission
- City of Kiel, Department for Education, Youth and Culture
- Ministry of Justice, European Affairs, Consumer Protection and Equality of Land



Baltic Sea Cultural Cities



Thematic focus: guiding questions for the project consortium

- Horizontal (e.g. design, music, handicraft)?
- Vertical (e.g. digitalization, inclusion, diversity, sustainability)?
- One topic per year? Every second year?
- Cross-cutting initiatives or activities within only one format?
- Target group? Whom do we want to involve and reach out to?
- What are the needs of cities and regions?



Baltic Sea Cultural Cities



Methodology: guiding questions for further project development

- How do we want those cities/regions who are selected to cooperate?
- How will they be selected? By whom?
- Do we want to present the existing resources and the existing culture or produce new common projects for participating cities?
- Sustainability: what happens when the Cultural City period is over?
- What would make it attractive and interesting to young people? How do we



Baltic Sea Cultural Cities

Thank you for your attention!



COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC
SEA STATES
The Secretariat
www.cbss.org