



Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation

Hamburg Chairmanship 2009-2010



Biennial Report

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BSSSC Board Meeting in Tallinn, October 2010

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Facts and Dates

The Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC) is a political network of subregions in the Baltic Sea Region founded in Stavanger, Norway in 1993. BSSSC acts as a political network organisation with the aim to strengthen regional co-operation and to promote the interests of subregions to national governments and institutions of the European Union. It co-operates closely with other key organizations and institutions in the Baltic Sea Region and Europe. BSSSC is open to all subregions (regional authorities) below the level of central government. Representatives from all Baltic Sea states are involved in the work of BSSSC. The permanent organisational bodies of BSSSC are the Chairperson (elected by the Board on a rotational basis for a two-year period), the Board consisting of two representatives of each of the ten Baltic Sea Region countries, the Secretariat, which follows the Chairperson and ad hoc Working groups. Altogether the network represents about 170 regions.

BSSSC Board Meetings and Seminars 2009-2010

2/3 February 2009, Hamburg, Germany

- ▶ Seminar: GKSS Research Centre and BALTIX – A regional hydro climate research network in the Baltic Sea Region

18/19 May 2009, Lund, Sweden

- ▶ Seminar: ESS and Max-Lab – Centre for Materials Research in the Baltic Sea Region

13 October 2009, Ringsted, Denmark

- ▶ BSSSC Annual Conference, no additional seminar

3/4 December 2009, Brussels, Belgium

- ▶ Seminar: BSSSC Meeting with EU Parliamentarians on the Baltic Sea Strategy

25/26 February 2010, Szczecin, Poland

- ▶ Seminar: Waste Water Treatment and Green Industry in West Pomeranian Region

20/21 May 2010, Stockholm, Sweden

- ▶ Seminar: Report from the Workshop on Communicable Diseases and Information on Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS)

12 October 2010, Tallinn, Estonia

- ▶ BSSSC Annual Conference, no additional seminar

9/10 December 2010, Rovaniemi, Finland

postponed (27 January 2011, Hamburg, Germany)

BSSSC Annual Conferences

13-15 October 2009, Ringsted, Denmark

17th BSSSC Annual Conference
Regions Taking the Challenge – Between the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the UN Climate Summit

12-14 October 2010, Tallinn, Estonia

18th BSSSC Annual Conference
Qualifying the Region for the Future – Implementing the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Editorial



After two exciting years, the Hamburg BSSSC Chairmanship has come to an end. Based on our very positive experience made with the outgoing Norwegian Chair two years ago, it is now up to us to continue the troika idea and hand over the chairmanship to our West Pomeranian friends. Let me briefly review what has been happening in between.

Over the past two years, BSSSC has progressed substantially. During the Hamburg Chairmanship, we focused on the fields of climate and environmental policy, science and education, youth policy and public health. We actively participated in EU discussions on the Baltic Sea Strategy, Cohesion Policy and Northern Dimension. By initiating a wide variety of new activities and projects, we have jointly managed to further intensify collaboration across the Baltic Sea.

This is particularly true for our commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development reflected in all areas of the work of BSSSC. With the Annual Conference 2009 in Ringsted, BSSSC started to take action to cope with climate change by fostering exchange of experience and encouraging the development of new, common approaches on mitigating the effects of climate change

in the region. As the very positive feedback on the discussion about the adaptation to climate change revealed, communication between scientists and regional decision-makers is urgently needed. To follow up this approach, Hamburg and the interdisciplinary environmental research network for the Baltic Sea Basin, BALTEX, will host a conference for the Baltic Sea Region on „Adapting to Climate Change“ in May 2011.

Alongside environmental protection, we consider education and employment to be a key determinant for the socioeconomic well-being of the population in the region. Qualification and high educational standards are basic prerequisites for a competitive knowledge society across the Baltic Sea. At the Annual Conference 2010 in Tallinn, we therefore focused on qualification, education and skill enhancement of the Baltic Sea population. A number of different, well-attended workshops allowed for a sophisticated discussion on education and qualification – from school and university exchange to workforce mobility. As the resolution of the conference showed, numerous cross-border project cooperations in the field of education have already been launched.

In order to ensure that these issues are also heard on the wider European level, BSSSC has actively participated in the development and the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the first macro-regional strategy ever to be developed. The intensive co-operation with the European Com-

mission resulted in the Commission's decision to organise the 1st Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region back-to-back with our Annual Conference 2010 in Tallinn. We thus proudly recapitulate that together, we have succeeded in establishing BSSSC as a central institutional mouthpiece for the Baltic Sea Region vis-à-vis the EU Commission and other important Baltic Sea organisations. This institutional strengthening of BSSSC is clearly demonstrated by its positive influence on project applications. As our recent experience has shown, letters of support issued by BSSSC for INTERREG applications have markedly increased the chances for funding to be granted by the EU.

For us in Hamburg, the BSSSC Chairmanship was an eventful time beyond compare. I am happy to present our Biennial Report and hope that it will help us all to recall the successful events and results of our joint work during the past two years. I would like to thank all of you for your substantial support that helped BSSSC to progress, both as an institution as well as regarding the content. We are proud of what we have achieved, and we are glad to see the incoming West Pomeranian Chair so committed to the forthcoming tasks. Hamburg is clearly looking forward to the years to come!

With best regards

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Carsten-Ludwig Lüdemann'.

Carsten-Ludwig Lüdemann
BSSSC Chairman 2009-2010



BSSSC Brussels Antenna

Lars, as deputy director of the Hanse-Office you represented the interests of BSSSC in Brussels and supported the Hamburg Chairmanship with your expertise and tightly-knit network. According to your

LF: The Baltic Sea Region as such is famous for its amount and variety of organisations on all levels. The colleagues that run regional representations from all around the Baltic Sea here in Brussels bring this culture of co-operation

Even if the "Baltic Sea Group" is not officially "informal" by name, co-operation in all of these networks is carried by an atmosphere of good humour and fun while being output-oriented and efficient at the same time.

BSSSC on the European Stage – Interview with BSSSC Brussels Antenna Dr Lars Friedrichsen

experience, what is the main challenge for BSSSC acting on the European stage?

LF: The main challenge today is to keep up the momentum that came with the EU Baltic Sea Strategy (EUSBSR). All eyes were on the region in 2009 and 2010 when we developed the first ever macro-regional strategy.

It is a natural process that these waves of interest for certain ideas come and go. This is in a way very typical for discussions and decision-making processes in Brussels. The same happened for example with the European Maritime Policy after a peak with the Bluebook in 2008.

BSSSC now has to prove that it is still there when it counts, when all our ideas are brought to the implementation phase. This is the harder part of the process; I have to admit that. But, I am sure there are many chances that our Polish successors of the West Pomeranian region will take advantage of e.g. the Polish EU Council Presidency in the second half of 2011 when the first major review of the EUSBSR is due.

Networking remains one of the most popular and useful activities in Brussels. How is the network of Baltic Sea Regions working in Brussels and how do they make the voice of the region be heard in the EU?

and networking with them. I am sure that there is no other European "macro-region", to use this term again, that reaches such a level of organisation and co-operation in Brussels like the Baltic Sea Region.

The "informal Baltic Sea Group" (iBSG) brings together some 55 regional offices from the region.

A small steering group of interested colleagues organises events, like our annual summer reception in mid-June – a well-established date on the Brussels agenda of activities. The iBSG was among the first groups contacted by the EU Commission DG Regional Policy in spring 2008 when the EUSBSR idea started to emerge.

We also have a regular contact group between the iBSG and DG Regio to keep us mutually informed on all developments. Additionally, the "Baltic Sea Group" comes together every year for the Open Days at the beginning of October to organise interesting seminars and the also famous Baltic Sea reception at the Hanse-Office.

What did BSSSC achieve in the last two years? What have been your personal highlights of all the projects you have been involved in?

LF: I had an excellent start into my time as BSSSC Brussels Antenna when I was given the chance to organise the EUSBSR Youth Conference in Hamburg in

February 2009 together with our local youth administration and the EU Commission. Those young people that presented their ideas for the future of their region in our Hamburg Parliament's main assembly hall really left me impressed.

In the same year, BSSSC and the EUSBSR were present all over

Brussels during the Open Days. The BSSSC Chairman at a press conference at the Commission's Berlaymont building together with the Commissioner for Regional Policy and the Swedish Council presidency – there is nothing more a lobbyist could ask for. Finally, the chance to organise our 2010 Annual Conference in Tallinn back-to-back to the first Annual review of the EUSBSR was the cherry on top of the pie.



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EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

BSSSC and Europe's First Macro-Regional Strategy

The Baltic Sea Region faces many challenges that go beyond national and regional boundaries and that call for a more integrated, cross-border and inter-regional approach. Based on ideas that were first put on paper by the European Parliament's Baltic Sea Intergroup in 2005, the European Council asked the European Commission to develop a strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in December 2007.

BSSSC has been an active player in the development of this first ever European macro-regional strategy from the very beginning. The official consultation process was launched at the BSSSC Annual Conference in Kaunas in September 2008, where the first of four roundtables took place (Transport/Accessibility). BSSSC Board member Knud Andersen from Danish Regions did not only take over the responsibility to define a position for BSSSC, but also got on board five other important organisations from the region that signed a joint statement. In the following process BSSSC together with the European Commission and the

Hanse-Office developed and carried out a youth conference on the Strategy in February 2009 in Hamburg. Under the title "We are the future you are planning for!" 100 youngsters came together to discuss their vision of the region's future with experts. Two representatives from the event presented the results at the final stakeholder conference of the Strategy in Rostock.

Subsequently, BSSSC was present on many other conferences in Brussels and the region. The BSSSC Chairman for example participated in a press conference on the subject with the Polish Commissioner and the Swedish Council Presidency in October 2009 at the European Commission building Berlaymont in Brussels during the Open Days. At the same event, the Chairman of the BSSSC Working Group Maritime Policy, Stefan Musiolik, presented the "Clean Baltic Shipping Concept" at a high level conference in Brussels. The respective project received funding from the Baltic Sea Region Programme and has supported

the practical implementation of the ideas we brought up since then.

We established a very close, fruitful relationship with all the relevant colleagues in the Commission. Displaying that, representatives from the European Commission were present at several BSSSC Board Meetings and events. BSSSC closely followed not just the development of the Strategy but also the implementation process. In 2010, BSSSC rapporteur David Hunt from B7 kept his eyes on the work and put special emphasis on the vital importance of regions.

Last but not least BSSSC's important role in the whole process was acknowledged by the EU, who declared BSSSC the co-organiser of the first annual review conference of the Baltic Sea Strategy in Tallinn in October 2010.

All in all, BSSSC used the available chances that came along with the Baltic Sea Strategy and brought its relations to the European institutions to another level.

BSSSC Brussels Antenna



A particular success for BSSSC: the linkage of the 1st Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region to the BSSSC Annual Conference. BSSSC Chairman Lüdemann, President of the Committee of the Regions Bresso, Estonian President Ilves and EU Commissioner Hahn (from left to right) presenting their views on the EU Strategy for the BSR during a press conference in Tallinn in October 2010.

Cohesion Policy



Discussion on the EU Budget for Cohesion Policy after 2013

In early 2010 BSSSC established an ad hoc Working Group chaired by Danish Regions to prepare a position paper on the EU Budget for Cohesion Policy after 2013. This paper served as the Baltic local and regional authorities' input to the EU Commission's budget review 2010. The paper won the support of UBC-Union of Baltic Cities and B7-Baltic Sea Islands Network.

The three Baltic Sea organisations find that the EU needs a future multiannual budget reflecting the urgent need for growth, new jobs and healthy living con-

ditions for their citizens. They call for an EU budget with Cohesion Policy and the regional and local authorities as driving forces. The position paper presents five key messages that are of special concern to the Baltic Sea organisations:

- ▶ EU regional policy must cover all EU regions and all regions should therefore remain eligible for Structural Funds.
- ▶ European Territorial Co-operation (Interreg programmes) should be strengthened.
- ▶ The transnational strand Interreg IV B should be the key instrument to support

new macro-regional strategies, e.g. EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

- ▶ The Rural Development Programme should focus more on the promotion of job opportunities and economic development.

The Eighth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP8) must receive extra funds to support the Europe 2020 goals. In particular, co-operation between industry, government and knowledge institutions should be strengthened.

BSSSC Working Group on Cohesion Policy

Co-operation with Russia

Looking East

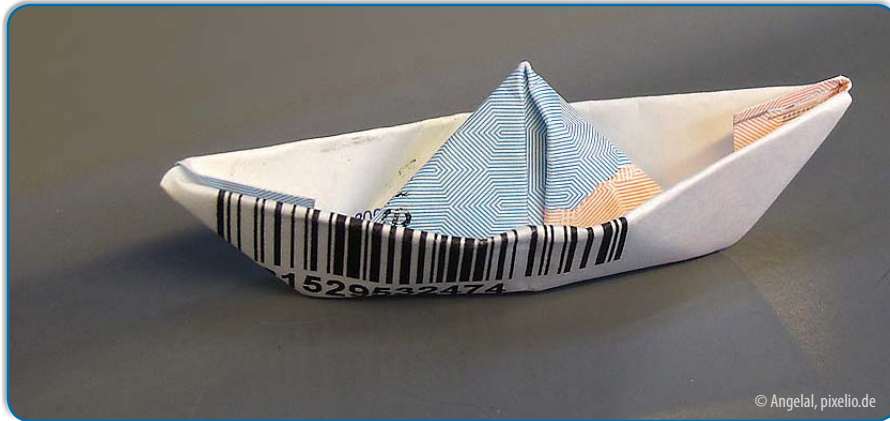
One of the priorities for BSSSC has been to maintain prosperous work relations with Russia, as Russia without any doubt is an important Baltic Sea partner in geographic, economic and cultural terms. Due to the intensive co-operation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg with the cities of St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad, the Hamburg BSSSC Chairmanship took on this task and brought in its own work experience with Russia. In St. Petersburg, the Hanse-Office actively took care of all matters related to BSSSC. Furthermore, the BSSSC Chairman

and BSSSC Secretary-General Stefan Herms visited St. Petersburg in 2008 and 2010 to personally inform the Russian partners about important BSSSC activities. Various meetings revealed that Russian partners preferably cooperate in bi- and trilateral projects with single BSSSC members, especially in the fields of Public Health and Youth Policy. Russian partners are actively involved in the work of the BSSSC Working Group on Youth Policy and attend youth meetings and conferences. Regarding Public Health, Russia demonstrated a strong interest in the BSSSC initiative on creating a Baltic co-operation

on communicable diseases taken by Stockholm County and attended the workshop in Stockholm in May 2010.

With regard to the forthcoming future BSSSC intends to use the existing Russian contacts several of its member regions have to involve Russia in the different fields of work and in projects like the BSSSC-supported TransBaltic, one of the flagship projects of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. BSSSC is convinced that a solid base for co-operation has been created and will continue to further intensify co-operation with Russia. **BSSSC Secretariat**

Maritime Policy



Clean Baltic Sea Shipping (CleanShip)

The project contributes to the implementation of priority four of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy: To become a model region for clean shipping. On 18 and 19 November 2010 the CleanShip Kick-off conference took place in Stockholm. The partnership of the project represents stakeholders from regional and local governments, port cities, ports, ship owners, ship fuel makers, energy suppliers, NGOs, ship security bodies and maritime research bodies. The partners come from all countries of the Baltic Sea Region including Russia (Kaliningrad).



The goal of the project is to reduce ship borne emissions and water pollution by developing a joint clean shipping strategy which is based on several pilot projects, e.g.:

- ▶ **the Port of Trelleborg** will elaborate how Bio-LNG (Liquid Natural Gas) logistics can be organized
- ▶ **AIDA cruises** will develop the idea to supply ships during stay in ports with natural gas from the local gas grid
- ▶ **the Ports of Stockholm, Helsinki and Turku** will develop an Environmental Port Index
- ▶ **the Port of Oslo** will take charge of shore-side electricity for large size ferries.

A Political Committee representing different political levels and relevant business sectors will ensure the transferability of the results and pilot measures. The BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy is member of the Political Committee.

For more information refer to
www.clean-baltic-sea-shipping.eu

Developing the Baltic Sea Region into Europe's Maritime Best Practice Region

The BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy (WGMP), established in spring 2008 and chaired by Schleswig-Holstein/Germany, currently has members from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden. The Working Group sees its task in bringing together the maritime players of the region, formulating a 'regional maritime voice' and initiating or giving support to maritime flagship projects contributing to the vision of developing the Baltic Sea Region into Europe's maritime best practice region by 2015.

Over the past two years, the focus was on the initiative Clean Baltic Shipping. Within the consultation process towards the EU Baltic Sea Strategy BSSSC, with the support of another five Baltic Sea organizations (e.g. Baltic Development Forum, CPMR Baltic Sea Commission), submitted the proposal for a five-point action plan "Clean Baltic Shipping" to be promoted as a flagship project within the Baltic Sea Strategy.

This initiative was successful. Important elements of the project were then included into the Action Plan of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy tabled by the EU Commission in June 2009:

On-shore power supply for ships

- ▶ Environmentally differentiated harbour dues
- ▶ Voluntary ban of waste water discharges in the Baltic Sea
- ▶ Awarding of best practice in the fields of clean shipping and sustainable port management
- ▶ Introduction of labels for Clean Baltic Shipping and sustainable port management

Next step was to initiate the development of an INTERREG project to support the implementation. In June 2010, the project Clean Baltic Sea Shipping (short form CleanShip) was approved for funding within the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013. The project was granted the status "strategic project" and a funding amount of 3 million euro. Project partners will fund another 1 million euro. The chairman of the BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy, Stefan Musiolik, is member of the Political Committee of the project.

The next two years will be dominated by the implementation of the Clean Baltic Shipping project. Further activities of the Working Group are planned to raise public awareness for maritime activities and perspectives, e.g. in connection with the European Maritime Day 2011 in Gdansk and 2012 in Göteborg.

BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

A Project-Oriented Focus for a Clean Baltic Sea Region

Among the key priority areas of BSSSC the aspect "Climate Change and Sustainable Development" remains very high on the agenda. BSSSC has continuously reinforced its commitment to address the challenge of climate change for example by coordinating climate protection projects. The Hamburg Chairmanship has put special emphasis on elaborating concrete projects, some of which will be presented in the following.

One great achievement is the approval of the project "Clean Baltic Shipping" by the INTERREG Monitoring Committee. The

tive co-operation with the "CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21". BSSSC is now permanently represented in the expert group by a representative of the Hamburg Ministry of Urban Planning and Environment.

In the years 2009 and 2010 the co-operation with the BALTEX Network intensified remarkably. One offspring of this collaboration is the joint BSSSC/BALTEX Conference on Climate Change on 31 May 2011 in Hamburg. BSSSC remains convinced that the issue of climate change and sustainable development needs to be addressed on political level. Since a lack of interconnectedness of scientists, practitioners and decision makers has been detected the conference provides an opportunity for the mentioned target group to present and discuss concrete examples of adaption to climate change.

Last but not least, during the last two years two cities from the Baltic Sea Region, Stockholm and Hamburg, have been awarded the title "European Green Capital" by the EU Commission. This can be seen as a confirmation of the ambitious goals and measures undertaken by the member regions in the Baltic Sea Region with regard to sustainable development.

BSSSC Secretariat



project, initiated by BSSSC regions, foremost Schleswig-Holstein, was designed as a flagship project as well as a so-called strategic project in the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (see page 7).

In the same way BSSSC successfully supported the project "Cool Bricks", aiming at combining climate protection and the reduction of greenhouse gases with appropriate heritage conservation of historical buildings like many of the typical 1920s residential houses in Hamburg. The project is an ideal example of common grounds in the Baltic Sea Region since many of the region's cities are characterised by brick facades and brick masonry. Due to this similarity partners from nine Baltic countries jointly tackle the above-named issue.

In addition to that, BSSSC supports the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan and sustains the construc-

Supported by BSSSC: The project „Cool Bricks“ to combine climate protection and heritage preservation.



Climate Change and Sustainable Development

The BSSSC Conference 2009 in Region Zealand, Denmark, entitled "Regions taking the Challenge – Between the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and the UN Climate Summit" provided the opportunity to discuss the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and especially one of its cornerstones: The endeavour to make the Baltic Sea Region more environmentally sustainable.

With the issues of global climate change and sustainable development on the agenda, the 2009 Annual Conference highlighted the climate-friendly

egy and to means aimed at reducing carbon emission in ports and shipping but also highlighted the importance of involving young people and youth organisations in all these activities. Substantial and valuable input by the YESS workshop (BSSSC Youth Event on Sustainable Societies; see page 12) was presented to all participants on the last conference day. The youth clearly put emphasis on environmental responsibility and energy efficiency, claiming more efficient public transport as well

All Eyes on Copenhagen –

17th BSSSC Annual Conference in Ringsted, 13-15 oct. 2009

direction of BSSSC activities – in particular by reviewing and launching concrete initiatives on renewable energy systems, energy efficient public transport, climate-based innovation and regional climate planning. The BSSSC actions altogether focus on mitigating the effects of climate change and adapting to these new circumstances in order to make the Baltic Sea Region a model region for activities related to climate change. An outstanding approach of BSSSC and its member regions to climate change has been to establish the BSSSC Working Group on Maritime Policy. Putting theory into practice, the before-mentioned project Clean Baltic Shipping was developed and – underlining its great success – incorporated into the Action Plan of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy by the European Commission. BSSSC also endorsed its commitment to the Joint Platform on Energy and Climate and the support of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission HELCOM.

As an outcome of the conference, BSSSC and its member regions did not only commit themselves to the implementation of the EU Baltic Sea Strat-

as cheaper ecological food, to mention only some examples.

Considering that the UN Summit COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009 directly followed the Annual Conference, BSSSC put much effort in developing recommendations for Copenhagen. There is no doubt that climate change seriously affects the Baltic Sea Region, thus making it a priority on the agenda of the responsible authorities of the BSSSC member regions. In this regard BSSSC urged the European Union and nation states to deal with the UN Climate Change Summit on the highest political level in order to produce an ambitious, transparent and binding post-Kyoto agreement on reduction targets. BSSSC further underlined the importance to support technology transfer from developed to developing countries. The conference provided the opportunity for the BSSSC regions to send a signal to the UN Climate Summit, underlining that they are not only generally ready to have a share in addressing global climate change in the future but that they already demonstrated commitment and concrete actions.

BSSSC Secretariat



Youth Policy

True to the maxim “Nothing about us without us” the BSSSC Youth Network and the BSSSC Working Group on Youth Policy, consisting of civil servants and youth representatives from the participating BSSSC regions, foster youth co-operation and the exchange of ideas on topics of common interest. Beyond that, both entities promote stronger links between young people and political decision-makers. As elected youth delegates Pawel Gradzko from region West Pomerania and Ingrid Klemp from the Eastern Norwegian County Network represent the ideas and actions of the young people to the BSSSC Board.

tion to young people’s opinions and gets the voices of the youth heard?

IK: In my experience, the young people of the BSSSC Youth Network have a unique opportunity to participate in political debates and decision processes. We have our say at the various youth meetings and, maybe most importantly, at the BSSSC Annual Conference. The youngsters participating in the meetings come from very different backgrounds and regions, which creates a great platform for discussions. When we reach a conclusion on a certain topic we speak with a unified voice and the two youth representatives in the BSSSC Board get the

We are the Future You are Planning for!

Pawel, you represent the BSSSC Youth Network to the Board for more than one year now. What do you think are the main challenges faced by young people in the Baltic Sea Region?

PG: In my opinion, young people are especially facing problems in their transition from education to working life. The global economic crisis has hit the youth very hard. But even in good times young people are more vulnerable to unemployment than adults. We have the feeling that our education system is not able to respond to the reality of today’s labour market’s needs. Most schools lack the capacity to make education more practical and to develop training strategies. Bringing informal learning practices into a school environment is challenging for teachers but very worthwhile. For the years to come, it is crucial to reduce school drop-out rates, improve the job prospects of school leavers and intensify the links between business and education.

Ingrid, young people should be given the possibility to influence politics. In which way does BSSSC draw atten-

tion to hear what we – the youngsters – have to say. I guess that otherwise our voice would not be heard. A very good example is the BSSSC youth conference on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy in Hamburg in 2009. About 100 young people from the Baltic Sea Region discussed their ideas on the Strategy with representatives of the EU Commission and politicians and, finally, the topic “youth” found its way into the Strategy. It is now up to us to take a closer look at the results.

And on which topics did you work within BSSSC for the last two years?

IK: We especially worked on the youth’s concerns regarding sustainable development issues such as sustainable lifestyles in its ecological and social aspects. Education was the other big topic we worked on and we always put a strong focus on youth empowerment. We never get tired of stressing that the development of personal skills like creativity, the power to think, the strength of judgement and communication are essential requirements for a good performance.



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© Pawel Gradzko

Youth Policy



BSSSC Youth Conference on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy in Hamburg, 3-4 February 2009

"We are the future you are planning for!" was also the guiding slogan for the youth conference jointly hosted by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, the BSSSC Youth Network and the European Commission. Adolescents from all over the Baltic Sea Region met to discuss the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The conference was also attended by representatives of the Commission.

On the basis of several workshops, the conference provided a platform for the youth to express their expectations of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and its cornerstones that were then under consultation. The participants emphasised how important it is for the present decision-makers to consider the interests of the youth, as it is the future generation who will be most affected by the decisions made by today's politicians. They particularly called attention to better environmental protection in the Baltic Sea Region and demanded stronger public involvement and more rigorous environmental standards. Education and career support was considered a second essential factor for the future well-being of the population surrounding the Baltic Sea. Amongst other, the participants demanded stronger support of young entrepreneurs

and a more harmonised educational system across the Baltic Sea Region. The discussants furthermore called to improve the infrastructure and accessibility in the region – including, for instance, a more developed, environmentally friendly railway system. Safety, the fourth cornerstone of the EU Strategy, was last discussed by the youth representatives, underlining especially the importance of social protection and of safe conditions in the field of public health and medical assistance.

To present these results, the BSSSC youth representatives, Alexandra Ehlers and Gerd Tarand, were invited to the 2nd Stakeholder Conference on the EU Baltic Sea Strategy a few days later in Rostock/Warnemünde.

**BSSSC Working Group
on Youth Policy**



© Ingrid Klemp

Youth Policy

YESS – Youth Event on Sustainable Societies 12-15 October 2009, Roskilde



Fifty youth representatives from the Baltic Sea Region followed the invitation to join YESS – the Youth Event on Sustainable Societies in Roskilde, Denmark, in October 2009. The two-and-a-half day workshop, which took place at the same time as the BSSSC Annual Conference, gave the youth a unique opportunity to share ideas, experiences and visions on the topics sustainable lifestyles, youth culture and youth democracy.

Exploring the region, the young participants were inspired by real-life examples: By visiting the ecovillage Svanholm they looked into modern consumption patterns in a sustainable society while vivid local develop-

ment and democracy was witnessed in the self-governing neighbourhood Christiania in Copenhagen. The youth representatives approached the field of youth culture by taking a look at the Roskilde Festival, one of Europe's biggest rock music festivals. The festival's organizers motivated its visitors to take climate-friendly actions such as using public transport before the event or throwing a sustainable party.

Welcomed warmly by the Region Zealand Youth Team the youngsters from Poland, Germany, Russia, Lithuania, Estonia, Denmark, Sweden and Norway developed ideas for a sustainable Baltic Sea Region in eager discussions. In the end, proposals such as the creation of a better and cheaper public transport system and the increased offer of free cultural and sports events to ensure a better inclusion of young people from all parts of the society were found among the most popular ideas. The participants framed their best ideas in a 10+1 Action Plan which they introduced at the BSSSC Annual Conference to politicians and stakeholders.



Young People's Way to the Labour Market – Youth Event 11-14 October 2010, Tallinn

The BSSSC Youth Event's topic in 2010 was definitely one close to many young people's reality in the Baltic Sea Region: Their entry to the working world. The participants identified similarities in the preparation of young people before starting to work and discussed the actual needs, interests and expectations of the young entering the labour market.

The workshops on topics such as vocational education, non-formal education, mobility and sustainable self-development put forward various outcomes, of which the demand of improved and practice-oriented education and an intensified interlocking between school and economy clearly stuck out. Moreover, the youth demanded an increased acknowledgement of informal education and the encouragement of labour mobility. They also displayed social responsibility by underlining the need of measures to support socially disadvantaged youngsters. Additionally, the fields of self-improvement and lifelong learning were broadly discussed.

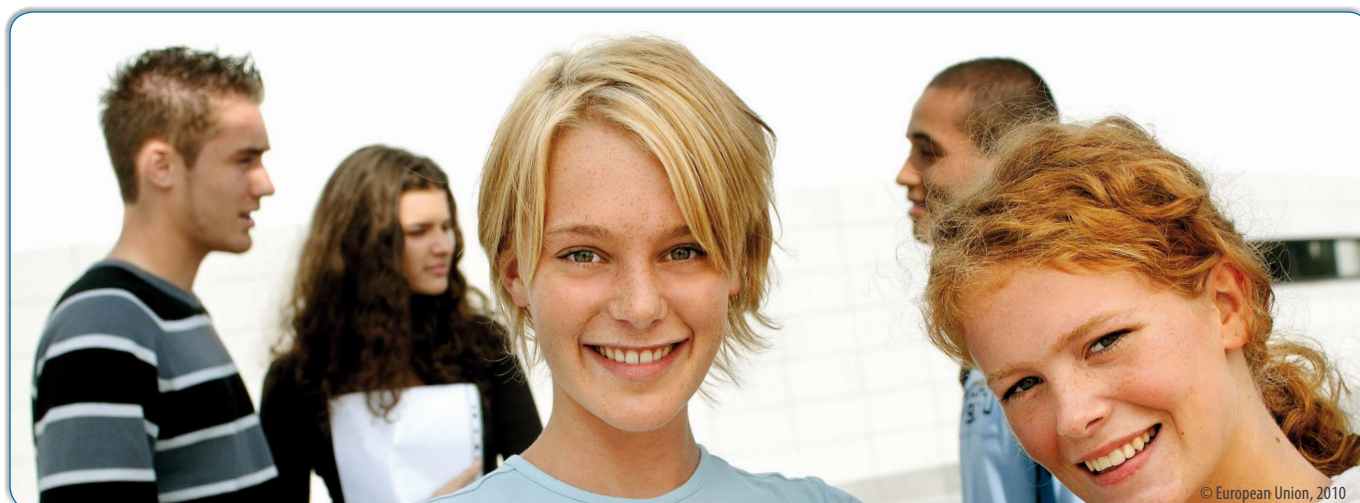
To round off the conference, the youth event's participants joined the BSSSC Annual Conference in order to share their views on education and qualification and challenges their generation faces when entering the job market. True to the maxim "Nothing about us without us" lively dialogues took place between youth, politicians and representatives of institutions and administrations who attended the Annual Conference. During the conference a separate workshop was held to discuss the young people's challenges and needs in terms of education and the entry to the labour market.

BSSSC Working Group on Youth Policy



Science and Education

Cross-Border Qualification for a Knowledge Society



BSSSC started activities to develop and enhance co-operation at school level and with teacher training institutes in order to exchange examples of good practice. It was a main task in the discussions at the Annual Conference 2010 to define a common approach of quality in teaching and learning, to develop school leadership and to contribute to the development of the knowledge triangle. BSSSC supported the debates following the EU Baltic Sea

Strategy in the field of education, especially by looking at opportunities of developing the co-operation between universities in the Baltic Sea Region. A first class flagship project sailing under Swedish lead flag and covering university co-operation is the Baltic University Programme integrating far more than 200 universities around the Baltic Sea in a network of co-operation (for more information see below). These debates within BSSSC have

aimed at building a common regional identity while being aware of intercultural similarities and differences and hereby increase the attractiveness of the region.

BSSSC underlined the importance of education and training in the post-Lisbon strategy "EU 2020" and takes into consideration the remaining challenges for the European education systems, as working on literacy and numeracy skills.

BSSSC Secretariat

The Baltic University Programme – University Co-operation in the Baltic Sea Region



Harmonisation in educational matters steadily becomes more important – not only to facilitate cross-country student mobility but also to profit from common research interests and abilities.

Therefore, the Baltic University Programme (BUP), a regional university network of about 225 universities, has been advocating university collaboration for 20 years now. It does not only plan, produce and coordinate undergraduate and master level courses in

subjects important to the entire Baltic Sea Region and runs joint research projects but also underlines the role universities play in a sustainable democratic development.

Main work fields are environmental protection and the support of regional co-operation on issues of sustainable development. The BUP also sets clear focus on the co-operation with municipal and regional administrations. Almost 10 000 students participate each year.

www.balticuniv.uu.se

Science and Education

Qualifying the Region for the Future

18th BSSSC Annual Conference in Tallinn, 12-14 October 2010

Qualification, high educational standards and skill enhancement are basic prerequisites for the prosperous development of regions. In Europe in the Baltic Sea Region social and economic well-being is strongly determined by human resources.

In order to meet these challenges, the BSSSC Annual Conference 2010, hosted by the Association of Municipalities of Estonia and the Association of Estonian Cities, offered a variety of well-attended workshops, each of them with a particular perspective on the topic of qualification. Together, they allowed for a sophisticated discussion on education and qualification, including the fields of school education and co-operation, lifelong learning in a knowledge society and workforce mobility. Moreover, global developments such as demographic change and migration, university co-operation as well as the youth's relation to labour were addressed. United by the joint goal to transform the Baltic Sea Region into a model region for qualification, BSSSC and the participating regions are committed to intensifying co-operation and fostering knowledge exchange in these fields.

The BSSSC resolution of the Annual Conference reveals that various successful regional project cooperations have already been launched in the Baltic Sea Region. For example, the Region of Zealand and Northern Germany are developing a database for cross-border labour market statistics to enhance knowledge on labour mobility. Likewise, Eastern Norway and Kaunas City/



At the Annual Conference the BSSSC Chairman 2009-2010 from the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg Carsten-Ludwig Lüdemann (left) officially hands the BSSSC Chairmanship over to West Pomerania. Olgierd Geblewicz (right), Marshal of the West Pomeranian Region, chairs BSSSC in 2011-2012.

Region in Lithuania are testing a Norwegian concept for enterprise education with the objective to enable young people to better participate in the labour market. Hamburg has, alongside other project activities, assumed responsibility to coordinate the priority area of education and youth within the framework of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and to foster cross-border school exchange.

BSSSC Secretariat

More Than Just a Conference



In 2010, the BSSSC Annual Conference was again enriched by interesting side events: The **First Annual Forum** of the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (page 5), the **BSSSC Youth Event** with 50 young people from all around the Baltic Sea (page 12) and the **Project Idea Café** organized by the Baltic Sea Region Programme.

Just as in Ringsted in 2009 the Project Idea Café provided a creative meeting place for sharing project ideas and finding project partners. An exhibition and various presentations of European Territorial Co-operation Programmes gave an overview on potential funding sources for transnational projects and regional co-operation was supported by holding search sessions for prospective project partners.

For more information on BSSSC supported projects within the Baltic Sea Region Programme please see pages 15 and 19.

Transport and Infrastructure

Towards an Integrated Transport System in the Baltic Sea Region



BSSSC supports the project TransBaltic, a transport and infrastructure project co-funded by the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013. TransBaltic is one of few transnational projects that have been granted a strategic status by the authorities of the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme.

A substantial part of the work in 2010 was to create a recognisable brand of TransBaltic as a strategic macro-regional project. Through a close dialogue with the European Commission, the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications (as a co-chair of Priority Area 11 in the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region) and the transport corridor projects, TransBaltic received acknowledgement as:

- ▶ an important implementation tool of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy, which well complements the joint undertaking of the national transport ministries of the countries in the Baltic Sea Region in the form of the Baltic Transport Outlook;
- ▶ one of the officially acclaimed initiatives in the EU green transport policy area, additionally strengthened by a signed agreement between the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, TransBaltic, EWTC II and Scandria on joint green transport activities;
- ▶ an initiator of the pan-Baltic foresight process in the transport development area;
- ▶ a platform for debating the Baltic Sea Region dimension of European transport and regional development agendas, including such issues as Motorways of the Sea policy, green corridors, TEN-T guidelines, future orientation of the Cohesion Policy.

With the TransBaltic Conference in Malmö in March 2010 the project launched a series of foresight debates on "The new geography of freight flows in the Baltic Sea Region". Two specific scenarios "the Green Scenario" and "the Barents Scenario" were subject for discussions in different locations around the Baltic Sea engaging 150 stakeholders from logistics, transport and regional development areas.

The outcomes of the debates, together with a produced extensive inventory report of planned transport investments, past and ongoing projects and strategies, laid the ground for the "TransBaltic Policy Report 2010", launched in October. The report shows a possible East-West divide in the Baltic Sea Region if the EU fails to adopt a relevant transport policy.

Further, the report acknowledges the possible risk of a changed geography of freight flows from the Baltic Sea Region to the Barents Area because of climate change and opening of the Northern Sea Route together with landbridge connections across the Asian continent. As a response to the predicted future development and to verify the findings, TransBaltic visited the Barents Area, which ended up in a letter of intent formulating the wish of the regional government of Archangelsk Oblast to cooperate with the project.

TransBaltic has also produced two more reports delivered to the European Commission: On the needed reorientation of the Motorways of the Sea policy in the Baltic Sea Region and a position paper on the new EU TEN-T policy.

TransBaltic
www.transbaltic.eu



Public Health and Quality of Life

Baltic Co-operation on Communicable Diseases

Around the world, communicable diseases are continuously transmitted. Across the Baltic Sea Region co-operation on communicable diseases is attached high value by BSSSC as well as other entities. In 2010 BSSSC discussed the issue and a transnational approach to go about it many times.

In connection with the Board Meeting in Stockholm in May 2010, a special workshop on the topic was held with participants from Stockholm, St. Petersburg, Hamburg and Pomerania. After an introduction given by Professor Karl Ekdahl from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and an eager discussion it was agreed that co-operation in this field is very important but that it currently is a solely national responsibility in most countries.

At the very same Board Meeting, Mr Marek Maciejowski from The Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS) was invited to present his organisation and to discuss possible co-operation.

Experiences and valuable knowledge has been exchanged both at the meetings and afterwards. As a conclusion, there are arenas that can very efficiently attend to co-operation regarding communicable diseases.

One of these arenas is the newly founded Baltic Antibiotic Resistance collaborative Network (BARN), with participation from Stockholm County Council among many others. In the years to come, BSSSC will continue to support the work in the field of communicable diseases.

Sören Berg, Stockholm County Council

For more information please visit

<http://www.smi.se/kalendarium/baltic-antibiotic-resistance-collaborative-network-barn>

BSSSC Supported Conferences on Public Health

3rd Baltic Conference on E-Health

The 3rd Baltic Conference on E-Health, organised by BSSSC, Baltic Sea Forum, Hamburg Chamber of Commerce and IBM took place in Hamburg on 15-16 September 2009. It featured the topics of quality management, process optimisation and interconnectivity/interoperability. Nearly 200 participants from the Baltic Sea Region, other European countries and even Africa and USA attended the conference to exchange their views and experiences. Moreover, the conference provided an excellent platform for networking and initiating new fields of co-operation.

1st Baltic Sea Health Forum on Maritime, Environmental and Occupational Medicine

In November 2009 the Hamburg BSSSC Chairmanship together with the Institute of Occupational and Maritime Medicine in Hamburg and the Baltic Sea Forum organised the 1st Baltic Sea Health Forum on Maritime, Environmental and Occupational Medicine. This conference addressed experts from universities, port authorities and port health centres. Main topics were Health and Wellbeing of Seafarers in Ports, Health and Environmental Impacts of Air Pollution caused by Ship Fuels and Emission and Gases from Cooling Systems and Hazards from Imported Containers. Furthermore, the ports of Gdansk and Hamburg presented best practice examples of seafarers' counselling and health care in ports. The participants used the opportunity not only to discuss current experiences but also to strengthen their networks and to intensify their co-operation.

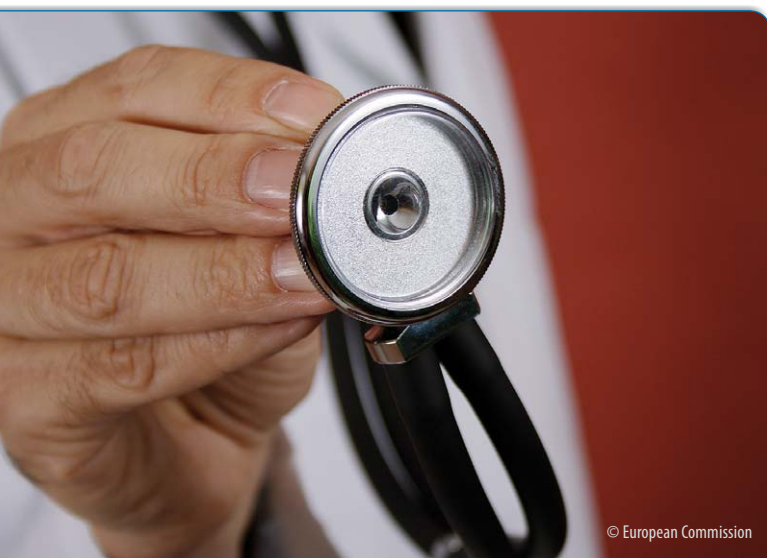
Co-operation with Northern Dimension Partnership on Public Health and Social Well-being

During the past two years BSSSC has intensified its co-operation with the Northern Dimension Partnership on Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS). The NDPHS is a partnership of eleven state governments, the European Commission and eight international organisations. It provides a forum for coordinated action to address challenges to health and social well-being in the Northern Dimension area and North-West Russia.

The NDPHS Secretariat participated in the BSSSC Board Meeting in Stockholm in May 2010 as well as in a BSSSC Seminar on communicable diseases. The BSSSC Board decided to become a partner of NDPHS, since NDPHS coordinates the project area Health in the EUSBSR and also has a strong co-operation with non-EU members in the region. The NDPHS Secretariat especially invited BSSSC to co-operate in two specific areas: Anti-microbial resistance and drug prevention among youth.



Northern Dimension
Partnership in Public Health
and Social Well-being



Northern Dimension

The Northern Dimension (ND) is a policy framework for co-operation involving the European Union, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation. It aims at providing a platform for promoting dialogue and co-operation as well as strengthening stability and promoting economic integration, competitiveness and

sustainable development in Northern Europe. Geographically, the Northern Dimension covers North-West Russia, the Baltic Sea and the Arctic regions. Since 2009 Ann Irene Sæternes from Eastern Norway County Network follows the political developments as BSSSC rapporteur.

Important Role of Regions within the Northern European Integration

Interview with BSSSC Rapporteur Ann Irene Sæternes

Ann Irene, since its renewal in 2006 the Northern Dimension policy reflects a common policy of four equal partners. What was the main focus of BSSSC within this framework in the past two years?

AIS: BSSSC promoted the full integration of regional and local abilities. BSSSC's approach was recognized by the ND Steering Group, during the Senior Officials meeting in November 2009 and at the Ministerial meeting in November 2010. The initiative of BSSSC is underlined in their conclusions. It confirms the desirability of an active involvement of organizations representing the sub-regional level in the Northern Dimension area.

With which partners does BSSSC co-operate in this context?

AIS: The close contact to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been highly valuable for our work as well as the positive attitude of the EU Commission DG Relex. BSSSC also cooperated with the Committee of the Regions (CoR). As BSSSC rapporteur I attended the CoR conference of the ND Policy and the EU Baltic Sea Strategy in Helsingborg in November

2009. The CoR emphasised its wish to be actively involved in the shaping of the ND Policy. In November 2010 the Foreign Ministers welcomed the BSSSC/CoR initiative. They invited regional and local actors of the Northern Dimension Partners to pursue practical preparations for an enhanced sub-regional co-operation with view to submitting a concrete proposal for the next meeting of the Senior Officials in autumn 2011. Here is still work to be done!

What role do regions play in this context?

AIS: Regions can deliver practical results from their co-operation in the Northern Dimension area and contribute to the implementation of the ND policy on the ground. There are a lot of activities going on in the Baltic Sea Region that are relevant to the Northern Dimension. This policy concept is one of the best examples of co-operation with Eastern neighbours and is part of a more comprehensive bilateral framework with Russia. And with regards to financial schemes, BSSSC has been advocating systems with a broad and open access for all regional and local actors.

Which aspects of the Northern Dimension policy are of particular interest for BSSSC?

AIS: BSSSC is member of the NDPHS (Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Well-being) and promotes regional participation in all Northern Dimension partnerships. The newly established partnership on culture (NDPC) is of particular interest to BSSSC. To follow the work of the ND Business Council (NDBC) and the ND Institute (NDI), including universities and research institutions of the Baltic Sea Region, is important for BSSSC. Sub-regional involvement in concrete projects and access to financial resources is a basis of our work within BSSSC – to open the doors for all Baltic Sea Regions.



Ann Irene Sæternes is BSSSC Rapporteur since 2009.

Outlook BSSSC Chairmanship 2011-2012



West Pomeranian Region, Poland.

The West Pomeranian Region Holds the BSSSC Torch

Nowadays Europe is on the eve of very important decisions which will have great impact on its future. At present, such burning issues as the new EU budget, the Europe 2020 strategy or the shape of post 2013 Cohesion Policy are thoroughly discussed. What is more, Europe is still recover-

ing from the economic crisis, which affected all European regions. In this respect, the Europe 2020 strategy sets out strategic guidelines to recover from the crisis and lays the foundations for intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth.



The Chairmanship of the West Pomeranian Region 2011-2012 in BSSSC

At this crucial moment, the West Pomeranian Region will hold the Chairmanship of BSSSC and will keep an eye on the role of regions in shaping the future European policies with special attention

to the new programming period. The key objectives for the next two-year period will focus on the new shape of the EU Cohesion Policy, the implementation process of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the involvement of other Baltic Sea regions to the BSSSC network and the promotion of BSSSC across Europe. The Chairmanship will continue to support and develop traditional BSSSC policy areas such as maritime policy, climate change, transport and infrastructure, education and youth. Moreover, the Chairmanship will proceed to strengthen the involvement of Russian regions, especially on the basis of bilateral co-operation.

The upcoming period of the Polish Chairmanship will be based on values of co-operation, mutual respect and dialogue with other policy-making organizations such as CBSS, CoR, B7, UBC, BSPC, Northern Dimension. Looking towards the European Union, the Chairmanship wishes to maintain fruitful co-operation with the European Commission, appre-

ciating its involvement in the creation and implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Furthermore, the Chairmanship intends to support innovative interregional projects as they bring added value to all regions around the Baltic Sea. BSSSC aims at fostering the project-oriented co-operation, based on exchange of solutions and focused on technology transfer. There is a strong belief among the BSSSC members that only through such co-operation the sustainable and further development of all Baltic Sea Regions can be assured.

During the Chairmanship of West Pomerania, BSSSC will carry on as a political network organisation with respect to achievements of its predecessors and will continue to work as a Troika with the former Hamburg Chair and the Uusimaa Region, Finland, as the Chair for 2013-2014. The West Pomeranian Region looks forward to promising and successful co-operation within BSSSC in the forthcoming years 2011 and 2012.

BSSSC Secretariat 2011-2012
The West Pomeranian Region

Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013

BSSSC Supported Projects



Baltic Master II – www.balticmaster.org

Maritime safety – Transport and Environment in the Baltic Sea Region



Bio Energy Promotion – www.bioenergypromotion.net

The Baltic Sea Region Bioenergy Promotion Project



CleanShip – www.clean-baltic-sea-shipping.eu

Clean Baltic Sea Shipping



COOL Bricks

Climate Change, Cultural Heritage & Energy Efficient Monuments



FM – www.firstmotion.eu

FIRST MOTION – driving BSR regional development by innovating the high-skill growth sector “creative/AV industry”



New Bridges – www.urbanrural.net

Quality of Life through sustainable urban and rural interactions



TransBaltic – www.transbaltic.eu

Towards an integrated transport system in the Baltic Sea Region

ACTI

Amber Coast Transport Initiative

Pending – New application in progress, 4th call 03/2011, Decision 06/2011

Maritime clusters in the Baltic Sea Region

Parts of this project have been incorporated into the StarDust project:
The Strategic Project on Trans-national Commercial Activities in Research & Innovation, Clusters and in SME-Networks

IMPRINT

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Biennial Report 2009-2010



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