



Baltic Sea Region

Programme 2007-2013

First 24 transnational cooperation projects

... and their contribution to the EU Strategy
for the Baltic Sea Region



European Union

eu.baltic.net

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May 2009

The Baltic Sea Region Programme and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – strengthening transnational cooperation

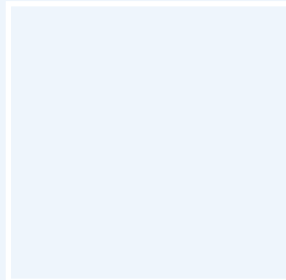


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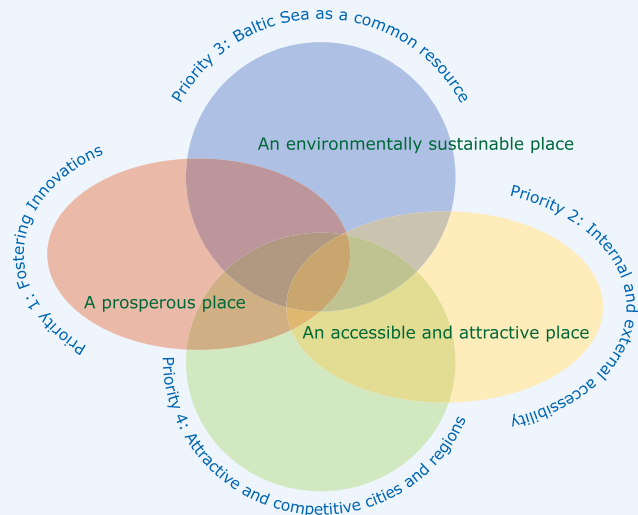
In 2009, after more than three years of joint preparation, the first generation of transnational cooperation projects - 24 in total - of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 started off. Even more projects promoting regional development will follow in the coming years. As a whole, project results will contribute to making the Baltic Sea Region a sustainable and prosperous place. Transnational cooperation means jointly tackling common problems and challenges affecting the overall Baltic Sea area. This programme will particularly support cooperation on innovation, accessibility, the environment, and city and regional development.

So far, around 66 Million Euro, or 30 % of the total available European and Norwegian programme co-financing, is already in the pipeline involving 443 project partners from 11 countries. At the same time, the Baltic Sea Region has gained special attention: It will become the European Union's first macro-region with its own tailored-made regional development strategy. Can the Baltic Sea Region stand ambitions to become a regional cooperation module for other EU regions? The new initiative of a "European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region" was launched by the European Parliament, and prepared by the European Commission in June 2009. It will be adopted at the highest political level of the Union, namely by the European Council under the Swedish EU Presidency in 2009. Consequently, all EU funded programmes of the area are called upon to contribute to the successful implementation of the Strategy.



The main aim of the Strategy is to coordinate existing efforts in order to improve the environmental conditions of the Baltic Sea, as well as to stimulate growth and balanced development of the overall Baltic Sea Region. The Strategy focuses on four pillars: environment, economy, accessibility and security. The implementation of the Strategy will be financed from national and EU funds in the area including the Baltic Sea Region Programme. From the Programme's perspective, it is clear that the four pillars of the Strategy, its priority areas described in its Action Plan, as well as its actual implementation through flagship projects are strongly interlinked with the Programme activities. As the only transnational cooperation programme in the region involving 11 countries, including Russia and Belarus, the programme is a tangible tool to ensure the successful implementation of the Strategy. Moreover, the Programme's and Strategy's playground and key players are the same.

We have prepared this overview of our first transnational projects to demonstrate that through its projects, the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 is already contributing to meet the objectives of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. You will learn more about 24 concrete cooperation projects which are expected to make a positive difference in our area. Please have a look!



Interfaces between the Baltic Sea Region Programme priorities and the objectives of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

Baltic Sea Region Programme area 2007 – 2013



The European Union's Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007-2013 promotes regional development through transnational cooperation by funding projects fostering innovations, improving accessibility, managing environmental resources and strengthening cities and regions in the Baltic Sea Region. Project partners from eleven countries - Belarus, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden - are working together in transnational projects. The partners mainly originate from the public sector (regional and local administrations, universities, NGOs etc.). The total Programme funding is 236 million Euro from the European Regional Development Fund, (ERDF), and from Norwegian national funding. The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument finances Belarusian partners.

First 24 projects of the Baltic Sea Region Programme contributing to the **4 pillars** and **15 priority areas** of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

I To Make The Baltic Sea Region An Environmentally Sustainable Place

1. To reduce nutrient inputs to the sea to acceptable levels	WATERPRAXIS
2. To preserve natural zones and biodiversity	Baltic Green Belt
3. To reduce the use and impact of hazardous substances	COHIBA
4. To become a model region for clean shipping	Baltic Master II
5. To adapt to climate change	Longlife (Baltic Green Belt) BaltCICA Eco-Region BalticClimate Urb. Energy

II To Make The Baltic Sea Region A Prosperous Place

6. To remove hindrances to the internal market including to improve cooperation in the customs and tax area	
7. To exploit the full potential of the region in research and innovation	BaltFood BONITA BSR_CBP BSR InnoReg
8. To promote entrepreneurship, strengthen SMEs and increase the efficient use of human resources	JOSEFIN  BSLN  SPIN  BASIC
9. To reinforce sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishing	

III To Make The Baltic Sea Region An Accessible And Attractive Place

10. To improve the access to, efficiency and security of the energy markets	Bioenergy Promotion 
11. To improve internal and external transport links	
12. To maintain attractiveness of the Baltic Sea Region for its citizens and to reinforce attractiveness for tourists	NEW BRIDGES Parks & Benefits

IV To Make The Baltic Sea Region A Safe And Secure Place

13. To become a leading region in maritime safety and security	EfficienSea  
14. To reinforce protection from major emergencies at sea and on land	BRISK  BALTRAD  (Baltic Master II)
15. To decrease volume of, and harm done by, cross border crime	

Horizontal Actions of the Strategy

Building a regional identity
Maritime Spatial Planning

(BaltFood)
BaltSeaPlan

Status: May 2009

 Flagship project listed in the Strategy

 Strategic project of the Programme

() Project already listed once

JOSEFIN

Joint SME Finance for Innovation

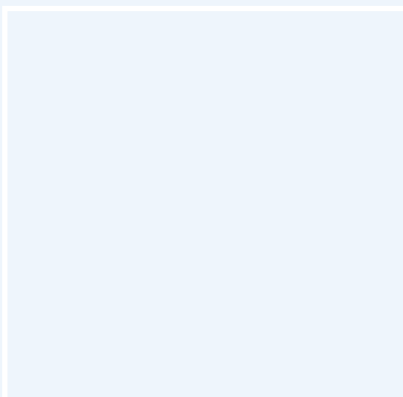


JOSEFIN contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by promoting entrepreneurship, strengthening SMEs and increasing the efficient use of human resource. In particular, the project will secure access to capital for SMEs.

Small and medium sized enterprises are important actors in the field of innovation and regional development. At present, commercial banks are reluctant to provide financing for the transnational activities of SMEs, thus limiting them to regional activities only. Consequently, those key actors do not unfold their full potential by participating in international markets.

The project "JOSEFIN" aims to bring forward innovative products of SMEs to improve the transnational commercial activity of those companies. In order to reach its goals the JOSEFIN partnership includes relevant organizations for business development, such as public authorities responsible for development and implementation of policies; public financial institutions; as well as research and technology development organizations.

The main achievement of the project will be the use of a European counter guarantee fund. With this fund, JOSEFIN will back-up financial instruments for SMEs such as loans, guarantees, seed or venture capital. The financial risk of transnational activities for companies and financial institutions involved will thus be reduced. This will boost cooperation and international activities of enterprises. SMEs will have better access to financing, and will be assisted by individual advisory and coaching services. For financial institutions, a new risk sharing model for safer credit provision will be implemented. This model will allow more realistic assessment of the creditworthiness of SMEs.



Project in keywords:

- Improving financial support schemes for transnational and innovative SMEs supplemented by individual capacity building.
- Development and implementation of SME support structures in the Baltic Sea Region.

Partnership	Public authorities, public financial institutions, foundations, research and technological development organizations from Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden
Number of partners	23
Lead partner	Investitionsbank Berlin, Germany
Approximate total budget	3.9 million €
ERDF funding	2.9 million €
Norwegian funding	0.2 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Torsten Mehlhorn Tel.: +49 30 21 25 36 92 Email: torsten.mehlhorn@ibb.de

www.josefin-org.eu

BSR_CBP

Capacity Building Programme on Trans-National Cluster and Innovation Systems in the Baltic Sea Region

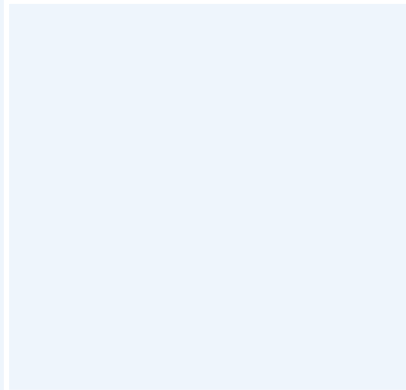
BSR_CBP contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by exploiting the potential of the region in research and innovation.

This project is a spin-off from the European Cluster Alliance launched by the European Commission's Directorate General Enterprise. The initiative identified a necessity of a common framework for cluster policies and transnational innovation programmes. The ministries responsible for innovation policy in the Baltic Sea Region saw a need to increase transnational capacity building.

The project "BSR_CPB" will design training modules on cluster facilitation and the implementation and management of public cluster support programmes. Those modules will subsequently be implemented as pilot trainings on regional, national and transnational levels.

The project will facilitate the transfer of knowledge and experience in the management of clusters between selected Baltic Sea countries. The training modules will be subsequently merged and complemented with an action plan for capacity building for the entire Baltic Sea Region after 2010.

The transnational transfer of cluster development and implementation instruments will lead to tighter and more active transnational networks between civil servants from respective ministries and agencies.



Project in keywords:

- Development and implementation of capacity building measures for decision-makers and stakeholders of Baltic clusters and innovation systems.



Partnership

Danish public authorities, Latvian Investment and Development Agency and Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems VINNOVA.

Number of partners	3
Lead partner	Triangle Region, Denmark
Approximate total budget	0.4 million €
ERDF funding	0.3 million €
Duration	12 months (January 2009 – January 2010)
Contact person	Susanne Krawack Tel.: + 45 75508383 Email: sk@trekantomraadet.dk



BaSIC

Baltic Sea Innovation Network Centres

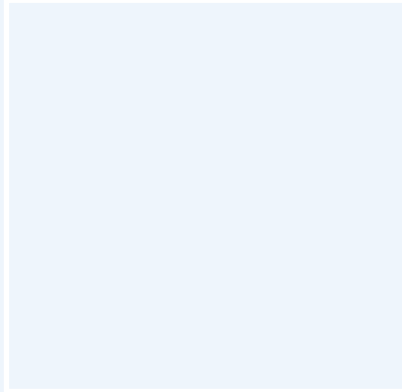
BaSIC contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by promoting entrepreneurship, strengthening SMEs and increasing the efficient use of human resources.

Rapidly growing SMEs seeking to internationalize their business often meet obstacles as the markets are still disconnected. Innovative SMEs suffer from different regional regulations, financing conditions, and rules for investing and opening branch offices.

The project “BaSIC” aims to build a “Baltic Sea Archipelago of Innovation” with seamless working conditions for innovative SMEs that will accelerate the innovation dynamics in the metropolis regions. The project will identify, select, train and coach SME-gazelles – small firms that have great growth potentials. SME-gazelles will get harmonized access to international markets and open gateway to financial instruments. The project consortium consists of leading science parks and innovation centres with strong support from the Baltic Metropolis Network.

BaSIC developed training programmes for SMEs will cover regional peculiarities and specifications such as legislation, tax, and market access regulations. BaSIC will also cooperate with the project “JOSEFIN”, and will introduce their financial instruments (loans, guarantees, seed and venture capital) to the coached SMEs. Communication and cooperation between regional clusters will increase. This will result in the establishment of strategic alliances between selected clusters in the Baltic Sea Region.

A further aim of the project is to set up Market Access Points in the metropolis regions involved that will provide synchronized services and tools for the SMEs. The Points will help fast growing innovative companies to internationalise their activities, particularly in the Baltic Sea Region.



Project in keywords:

- Creating harmonized working conditions for innovative SMEs for easier access to markets in the Baltic Sea Region.

Partnership Regional authorities, leading science parks, innovation centres and regional development agencies from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden

Number of partners	16
Lead partner	WISTA-MANAGEMENT GmbH, Germany
Approximate total budget	2.8 million €
ERDF funding	1.9 million €
Norwegian funding	0.1 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Helge Neumann Tel.: +49 30 63922240 Email: helge@wista.de



BaltFood

The Baltic Sea Region Food Cluster: Innovation and Competitiveness in Action

BaltFood contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by exploiting the potential of the region in research and innovation, as well by building a regional identity.

The food industry has developed into a highly competitive industrial sector. Emerging trends such as more demanding consumers, changing functionality of food, a concentration process in the retail sector, and shorter product lifecycles, however, require constant technological evolution. In this regard, one can identify various deficits within the SME sector: late recognition of food trends, low conversion of scientific findings into marketable food products, or below average innovation rates.

The project "BaltFood" aims to secure this dynamic, but very mature marketplace within the Baltic Sea Region through transnational cooperation to address common challenges and channel know-how into process and product innovations.

The project partnership consists of 13 national and regional organizations from the business and scientific communities, as well as public bodies representing food cluster organizations in six countries within the region.

BaltFood integrates local, regional and national food cluster organisations around the Baltic Sea into one commonly managed food cluster. This will lead to the exchange of knowledge across the whole Baltic Sea Region. A branding concept for worldwide promotion of the cluster will be applied. Furthermore, BaltFood will identify present and future innovations and trends in the food sector and disseminate them across the region. In order to successfully transfer knowledge from science into the production process, the project will prepare training curricula, and a Baltic Food Academy shall be established.



Project in keywords:

- Development of a Pan-Baltic food cluster to improve knowledge transfer and market awareness; adaption of training programmes and development of a common branding concept.

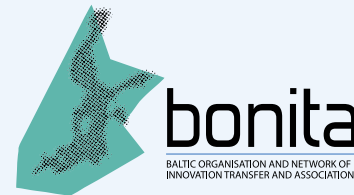
Partnership	Public authorities, public development corporations, scientific institutions and food sector networks from Denmark, Lithuania, Finland, Germany, Poland and Sweden
Number of partners	13
Lead partner	Lübeck Business Development Center
Approximate total budget	2.4 million €
ERDF funding	1.9 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Björn P. Jacobsen Tel.: +49-451-706550 Email: jacobsen@luebeck.org

www.baltfood.de

BONITA

Baltic Organisation and Network of Innovation Transfer Associations

BONITA contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by exploiting the potential of the region in research and innovation.



Cooperation and transfer of knowledge between research institutions and industry is insufficiently developed in the Baltic Sea Region. A transformation into a high-tech area can only be achieved if available scientific knowledge is successfully put into practice. Although universities develop new technologies and products, their innovations are often not transferred to commerce. This may be due to a lack of structures that would facilitate such transfer, or to the mindsets of academic staff who do not put enough attention on commercial application. At the same time, SMEs do not exploit their vast potential for innovation due to missing resources.

The project "BONITA" addresses these deficiencies by bridging the gaps between universities, laboratories, industrial actors and policy makers. The project consortium represents a mix of institutions responsible for regional technology transfer.

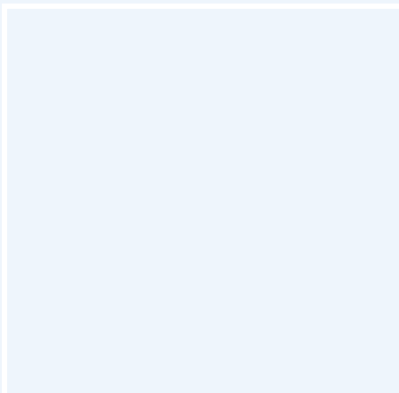
The project will evaluate and enhance the existing technology and innovation transfer models throughout the Baltic Sea Region. A training program will be implemented to advance competence levels of personnel in charge of implementing the enhanced transfer model. The project additionally calls for the creation of a, BONITA company. The company will support the network of organisations and specialists working with the enhanced transfer model. The main activities of the company will be commercial exploitation and promotion of findings in research obtained during and after the project.

BONITA will also set up a virtual exhibition and showrooms to demonstrate how research results in the field of mobile and wearable computing devices can be used for marketing. They will also help to share innovation experiences among partner countries.



Project in keywords:

- Improvement of models for technology and innovation transfer in the Baltic Sea Region.



Partnership

Universities, public authorities, research and technological development supporters from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden

Number of partners

14

Lead partner

University of Bremen, Germany

Approximate total budget

2.6 million €

ERDF funding

1.9 million €

Duration

36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)

Contact person

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www.tzi.de/tzi-vernetzung/bonita/



SPIN

Sustainable Production through Innovation in Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

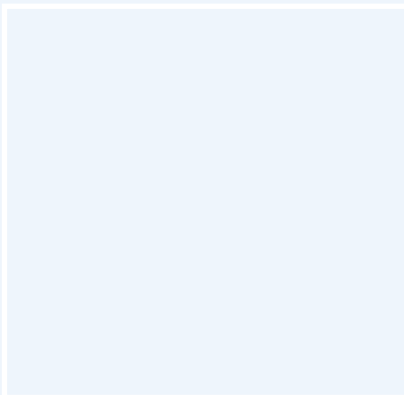


SPIN contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by promoting entrepreneurship, strengthening SMEs and increasing the efficient use of human resources

The Baltic Sea Region has great R&D potential. Yet, the application of innovations, especially by SMEs, is rather scarce. Due to rapid globalisation and new environmental standards, SMEs are forced to be more innovative. Even if SMEs have considerable innovation potential and the capacity to incorporate new technologies and know-how into their business, they often depend more on external support and the benefits of networking.

The project "SPIN" is a Baltic 21 Lighthouse project. It is a joint effort of governments, applied R&D universities and transnational NGOs. The project will increase the exploitation of the eco-innovations by SMEs based on the principle "eco-innovation supply – demand matching". This will lead to public benefit and private profits, and at the same time reduce economic and environmental costs. SPIN will facilitate the application of eco-innovations in SMEs. The partners will create and test a transnational best practice tool box, which will help SMEs to apply eco-innovations. Their production processes will become cleaner, and their profits and competitiveness will increase.

Furthermore, the project partnership will establish the SPIN network consisting of one national contact point per country and expert institutions in the field of eco-innovations. This network will help to overcome the large disparities in the territorial distribution of innovation clusters. National contact points will provide assistance and support to the SMEs and act as a bridge between SMEs and researchers.



Project in keywords:

- Promoting application of eco-innovations by Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the Baltic Sea Region.



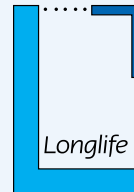
Partnership

National and regional authorities, universities and NGOs from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden

Number of partners	9
Lead partner	Federal Environment Agency, Germany
Approximate total budget	3.0 million €
ERDF funding	2.2 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Horst Pohle Tel.: +49 340 21033374 Email: horst.pohle@uba.de



www.spin-project.eu



Longlife

Sustainable, energy efficient and resource-saving residential buildings with consideration of unified procedures, and new and adapted technologies

Longlife contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by developing solutions to adapt to climate change, in particular, energy efficient housing.

The construction boom of the last decades fuelled the growth of the markets in the Baltic Sea Region. However, high-end technologies are still not widely used in large-scale housing construction. Owners and investors don't introduce new energy-efficient technologies as these are more expensive. Moreover, building technologies and procedures such as planning, approval, tendering, financing, and sustainability standards are different between the countries, and thus hinder the exchange of technologies.

The project "Longlife" aims to optimize methods for buildings and construction, adapt and implement new technologies, and harmonise building procedures between countries. This will lead to a reduction of energy consumption during the building's lifecycle. The project will also tackle the financing of sustainable residential buildings through various EU funds.

Longlife will develop guidelines for energy efficiency, sustainability, resource-saving buildings and low lifecycle costs. These guidelines will include minimum requirements for sustainable buildings, which can be met by all participating countries with their current state of technologies, yet aiming at the state of the art. Furthermore, these guidelines will be implemented in a prototype residential building. Complete planning, administrative and tender documents for a prototype building will be developed based on a common standard, yet still adapted to regional conditions. Financing and maintenance models for this prototype project will be developed for planners, as well as housing and construction companies.



Project in keywords:

- Developing innovative and higher standards for sustainable and energy-efficient residential buildings.

Partnership

Regional authorities, universities, competence centres and housing associations from Denmark, Germany, Lithuania and Poland

Number of partners	12
Lead partner	Berlin Institute of Technology, Germany
Approximate total budget	2.4 million €
ERDF funding	1.9 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Maria-Ilona Kiefel Tel.: +49 30 8036242 Email: info@kiefelundpartner.de

www.longlife-world.eu



BSR InnoReg

Strengthening Innovation Governance in Baltic Non-Metropolitan Regions through Transnational Cooperation

BSR InnoReg contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by exploiting the potential of the region in research and innovation.

The Baltic Sea region is recognized as an attractive and dynamic territorial cooperation area in Europe. With increasing global economic challenges and uncertainty, all regions in the area must react more quickly and address challenges, through innovation. Regions outside the metropolises in the Baltic Sea Region are committed to enhancing development and governance of innovation. At the same time, they face major challenges in securing the availability of a skilled work force, developing bridges between education, science and economy, and supporting creation and reform of small and medium-sized enterprises.

The project “BSR InnoReg” aims to reinforce innovation governance and to support environments outside the metropolitan areas. Project partners will focus on increasing effectiveness of activities supporting regional innovation by enhancing the strategic capacities of business development organizations. The partner regions will also jointly develop and test new instruments to support innovation. The instruments aim at user-driven and customer-oriented innovation, start-up financing, and involving students in innovation processes.

The project brings together decision-makers from the involved partner regions. They will discuss global economic challenges and agree on a Memorandum of Understanding on efficient innovation policies. The Memorandum will guide support for innovation and economic development, especially in the regions outside the metropolitan areas. The project partners will also create a handbook on practical instruments to support innovation.



Project in keywords:

- Enhancing innovation support and governance focusing on the non-metropolitan areas of the Baltic Sea Region.

Partnership

National, regional and local authorities, business development organisations from Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany and Poland

Number of partners 18

Lead partner The Baltic Institute of Finland, Finland

Approximate total budget 2.3 million €

ERDF funding 1.8 million €

Duration 36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)

Contact person Johanna Leino
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Email: johanna.leino@tampere.fi

www.baltic.org/bsrinnoreg

BALTRAD

An Advanced Weather Radar Network for the Baltic Sea Region

BALTRAD contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by reinforcing protection from major storms, at sea and on land.

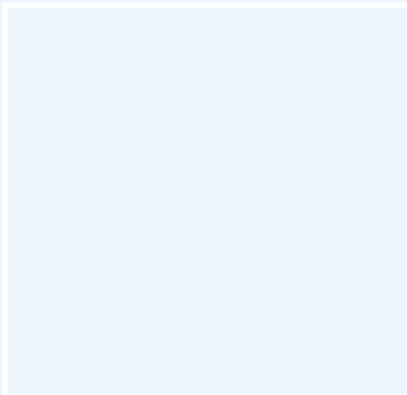
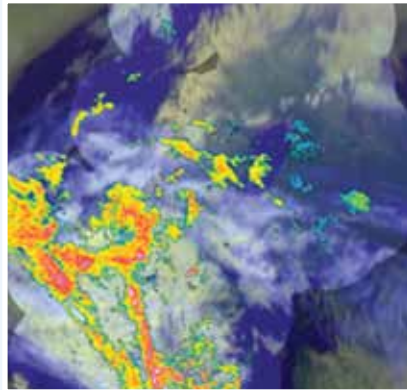
baltrad



The countries in the Baltic Sea Region differ in climate, weather and water conditions that are difficult to predict. However, accurate and timely weather forecasts and warnings help to save lives and property, as well as optimize activities for several sectors of the economy.

The aim of the project "BALTRAD" is to create a cutting-edge, real-time weather radar network for the Baltic Sea Region. The investments will result in advanced IT infrastructure – radar data exchange and processing tools. High-quality radar-based information will facilitate clearer, better and more precise weather forecasts and decision-making. Pilot cases will present how the radar network can be used for various scenarios, such as emergency planning in the event of flooding, aviation activities, nuclear emergency, and optimised traffic and risk management.

The network's platform will be based on the technology currently being developed for the World Meteorological Organisation Information System, which is the next generation global standard for the exchange of meteorological data. Thus, BALTRAD will develop mechanisms complying with European and world standards. As a result, the countries of the Baltic Sea Region will be able to share and process weather radar data and generate the information they need based on a set of common standard methods, thus mitigating regional capacity imbalances.



Project in keywords:

- Next generation weather radar network for the Baltic Sea Region and potentially the whole of Europe – a cutting-edge, real-time tool supporting weather forecasts and decision-making process.

Partnership	Weather and hydrological services and national public authorities from Sweden, Finland, Poland, Latvia, Denmark, Estonia and Belarus
Number of partners	8
Lead partner	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, Sweden
Approximate total budget	2.1 million €
ERDF funding	1.6 million €
ENPI funding	0.04 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Daniel Michelson Tel.: + 46 11 4958494 Email: daniel.michelson@smhi.se

www.baltrad.eu

WATERPRAXIS

From Theory and Plans to Eco-efficient and Sustainable Practices to improve the Status of the Baltic Sea

WATERPRAXIS contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by reducing nutrient inputs to the Baltic Sea. Project enhances the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.



The Baltic Sea suffers from heavy eutrophication caused by nutrient loads and pollution by harmful substances. The EU Water Framework Directive aims at healthy ecological status of all waters by 2015. Practical measures to reach this objective are included in River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). RBMPs are based on the natural geographical and hydrological units (river basins), instead of administrative or political boundaries. However, when putting general level RBMPs into practice, one faces a variety of obstacles. It is difficult to apply water pollution control methods and change land-use practices since the RBMPs cover large geographical, often transnational areas and the best practice examples are yet not available.

The overall objective of the project "WATERPRAXIS" is to enhance the practical implementation of RBMPs in the region and thus improve the state of the Baltic Sea.

The project partnership consists of authorities in charge of water management and of experts in environmental technology, economics, nature, social sciences and education. The consortium covers eight coastal countries of the Baltic Sea.

The project will analyze contents and planning processes of RBMPs and prepare best practice action plans for the pilot areas. The plans will aim to protect the waters and raise public participation. Additionally, concrete cost- and eco-efficient investment plans will be prepared for selected sites. Publications, trainings and educational programmes will help to disseminate the information to actors involved in the management of waters.



Project in keywords:

- Improved water quality in the Baltic Sea Region through cost-efficient and eco-efficient water protection measures.

Partnership	Environmental institutes, universities and public authorities from Finland, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden and Russia
Number of partners	11
Lead partner	Finnish Environment Institute, Finland
Approximate total budget	2.0 million €
ERDF funding	1.5 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Seppo Hellsten Tel.: +358 40 500 4999 Email: seppo.hellsten@ymparisto.fi

www.waterpraxis.net

COHIBA

Control of Hazardous Substances in the Baltic Sea Region

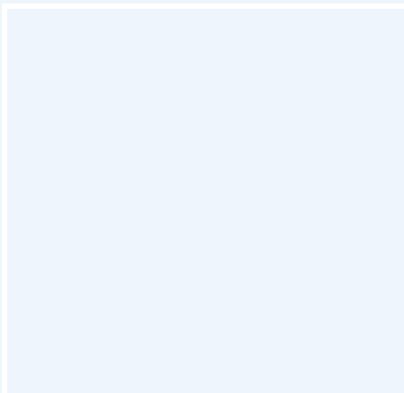
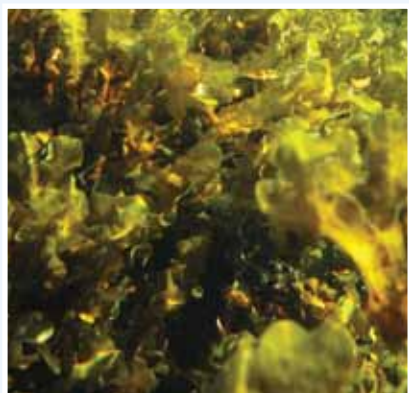
COHIBA contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by reducing the impact of hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea.



For a long time, the Baltic Sea was considered an infinite receptacle: everyone thought that everything just disappeared there forever. However, this attitude is changing and people understand that the sea is extremely sensitive. The challenge of environmentally hazardous substances is particularly affecting the Baltic Sea countries. The prevention and elimination of pollution coming into the Baltic Sea from various sources urgently needs a solution.

The project "COHIBA" aims to identify the most important sources of target hazardous substances and estimate their impacts on the marine environment. Joint assessment and management methods will be a basis for common understanding and decision making on actions reducing the input of hazardous substances into the Baltic Sea. The project will also support the implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, which aims to restore the healthy ecological status of the marine environment by 2021. With its adoption, the countries involved committed themselves to achieve a "Baltic Sea with life undisturbed by hazardous substances".

COHIBA will identify the sources and analyse the flow patterns of 11 target hazardous substances that are of special concern to the Baltic Sea. The project will perform screening of municipal and industrial waste waters, landfill effluents and storm waters. Additionally, project partners will work on recommendations on how to improve control of chemicals, using biological testing of waste waters, based on the Whole Effluent Approach. COHIBA will also produce guidance on cost effective management of the 11 substances to be adopted by HELCOM. The implementation of the guide will reduce discharges, emissions and leaks of hazardous substances.



Project in keywords:

- Fostering innovative methods of controlling hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea.

Partnership	National, regional and local authorities, universities, research centres and NGOs from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden
Number of partners	22
Lead partner	Finnish Environment Institute, Finland
Approximate total budget	4.9 million €
ERDF funding	3.8 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Ansa Pilke Tel.: +358 40 834 6537 Email: ansa.pilke@ymparisto.fi

www.environment.fi/syke/cohiba

BaltCICA

Climate Change: Impacts, Costs and Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region

BaltCICA contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by developing solutions to adapt to climate change and supporting the development of a regional adaptation strategy at the level of the Baltic Sea Region.

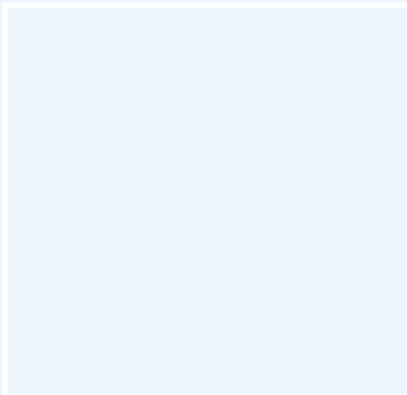


The scientific community expects climate change to affect the frequency of floods and storm surges. Changes in precipitation patterns and temperatures will put further pressure on availability and quality of public drinking water. As large parts of the population in the Baltic Sea Region are settled along coastal areas, their settlements are especially sensitive to a rise of sea level.

The project "BaltCICA" will improve the ability to deal with the impacts of climate change. Cities and settlements from different countries face similar challenges, and tackling these collectively will be of advantage. The project will assess impacts of the climate change and elaborate adequate response mechanisms. Furthermore, the project partners will cooperate on alternatives and best practices to abate negative effects of climate change.

The project consortium consists of representatives from regional and municipal public authorities, national research institutes and pan-Baltic institutions.

BaltCICA will elaborate different scenarios of the climate change to assess the impact in selected case studies. The climate change issues will be included in local and regional planning processes. The project will support actors with cost-benefit evaluation of adaptation measures. Partners will prepare appropriate defence measures to protect potential flood prone areas. Projects will test specific settlement structures resilient to climate change and will develop backup plans to safeguard water supplies.



Project in keywords:

- Adaptation measures abating effects of climate change.

Partnership

Regional and municipal public authorities, national research institutes and pan-Baltic institutions from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden

Number of partners	24
Lead partner	Geological Survey of Finland, Finland
Approximate total budget	5.3 million €
ERDF funding	3.9 million €
Norwegian funding	0.1 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Johannes Klein Tel.: +358 50 550 2628 Email: johannes.klein@gtk.fi

EfficienSea

Efficient, Safe and Sustainable Traffic at Sea



EfficienSea contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by ensuring that the Baltic Sea Region becomes a leading region in maritime safety and security, in particular, for e-navigation.



Some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world cross the Baltic Sea. Forecasts predict further increases in marine industries and marine traffic volumes. This will heighten the risk of shipping accidents, oil spills, and the release of hazardous substances or loss of human lives.

The overall aim of the project is to enhance maritime safety and the environmental state of the Baltic Sea region. The project "EfficienSea" will develop and test tools to improve maritime safety.

The project consortium consists of 17 partners from six countries in the region. Among the consortium members are national maritime administrations having knowledge about present and future challenges in use of the sea, a public authority representing those suffering consequences of environmental pollution, and scientific organisations providing strategies for the decision support systems and policies.

EfficienSea will establish a dynamic risk management system to respond to the increasing traffic and deficits in the monitoring of ship traffic. Activities in the field of e-Navigation will include the assessment of emerging innovations within the field of maritime data. Simultaneously, authorities will be prepared for major investments required to implement harmonised marine navigation systems. Activities in the areas of Vessel Traffic Data and Maritime Planning will address the challenges emerging from the growing use of the sea. The project will simplify regulations and improve coordination between authorities.

EfficienSea is approved as a strategic project due to its strong backing by national authorities as well as its impact on the Baltic Sea region.



Terje Rakke/brijans.se



Project in keywords:

- Risk prevention, safety and planning in the maritime sector.

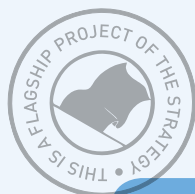
Partnership	Maritime administrations, public authority, academic and scientific organizations and non-governmental organizations from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Poland and Sweden
Number of partners	17
Lead partner	Danish Maritime Safety Administration, Denmark
Approximate total budget	8.0 million €
ERDF funding	5.3 million €
Norwegian funding	0.6 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Gertrud Hermansen Tel.: +45 3268 9635 Email: ghe@frv.dk

www.ufficiensea.org



BRISK

Sub-Regional Risk of Spill of Oil and Hazardous Substances in the Baltic Sea



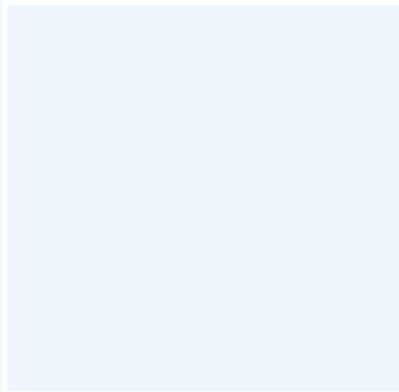
BRISK contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by reinforcing protection from major emergencies at sea and on land, and by ensuring clean shipping. The project will map existing marine pollution response capacities and make sub-regional plans for cross-border response cooperation.

The Baltic Sea today is one of the busiest seas in the world, accounting for more than 15% of the world's cargo transportation. Both the number and the size of ships have grown in recent years, especially concerning oil tankers, and this trend is expected to continue. The Baltic's narrow straits and shallow waters make navigation very challenging and increase the risk of shipping accidents.

The project "BRISK" aims to prepare the whole Baltic Sea Region to tackle major accidental oil spills. The HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan was adopted by the Baltic Sea countries and the European Commission in 2007. The project will work to fulfil the requirements of the HELCOM Recommendation on strengthening sub-regional cooperation in the response field.

BRISK will perform the first overall risk assessment for the Baltic Sea. The study will check whether the emergency and response capacities in each sub-region are sufficient to tackle medium-size and large oil spills. This should also lead to a common understanding of the existing challenge. Furthermore, the project will identify missing resources and prepare pre-investment plans describing how the Baltic Sea countries should jointly fill in the identified gaps. Such sub-regional approach is the most cost-efficient, as countries can "share" their resources to build a common pool of response vessels and equipment sufficient for a given sub-region. Another aim of the project is to speed up the process of developing and concluding sub-regional agreements for joint response operations between neighbouring countries.

BRISK was approved as a strategic project as it is important for the sustainable development of the whole Baltic Sea Region.



Project in keywords:

- Developing an appropriate level of preparedness for response to oil spill pollution in the whole Baltic Sea area.

Partnership

National authorities, institutes, coast guard and maritime rescue services from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden

Number of partners

10

Lead partner

Admiral Danish Fleet HQ, National Operations, Maritime Environment, Denmark

Approximate total budget

3.3 million €

ERDF funding

2.6 million €

Duration

30 months (January 2009 – July 2011)

Contact person

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www.helcom.fi

Baltic Master II

Maritime Safety – Transport and Environment in the Baltic Sea Region

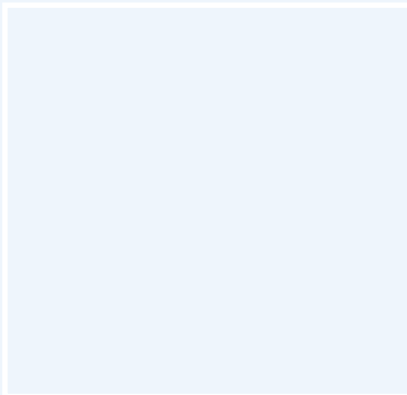
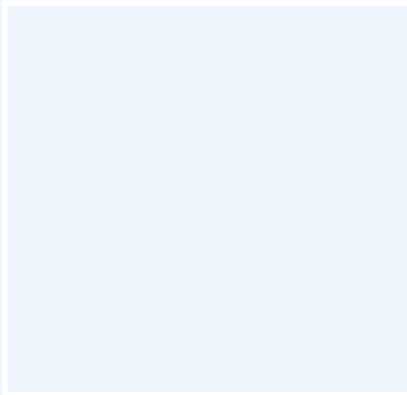
Baltic Master II contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by reinforcing protection from major emergencies at sea and on land, and by implementing actions to reduce ship pollution.



The Baltic Sea has an extremely sensitive marine environment. At the same time, the Baltic Sea exhibits a very high traffic volume. Yet, many coastal regions do not have an on-land oil contingency plan in case of an accident. The capacity to respond to the accidents in many regions and municipalities does not correspond to the high number of ships passing through the Baltic Sea. The environment and the well-being of the coastal communities may be at stake.

The overall aim of the project "Baltic Master II" is to improve the land-based response capacity to oil spills and to prevent pollution from maritime transport. The project brings together actors from local, regional and national authorities, research institutes, universities and pan-Baltic organisations. This link between different levels will ensure a combination of hands-on knowledge and strategic work.

Baltic Master II will develop oil contingency plans for the participating regions and test them jointly. The project will also combine the development of oil contingency plans with coastal management to the gap between these two areas. Traditionally they have been managed separately, but are in reality connected. The project will also contribute practical solutions and suggestions for investments. These preventive measures will increase maritime safety and prevent pollution in the Baltic Sea.



Project in keywords:

- Improving response capacity to oil spills in coastal communities.

Partnership	National, regional and local authorities, universities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden
Number of partners	30
Lead partner	Region Blekinge, Sweden
Approximate total budget	4.0 million €
ERDF funding	3.1 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Therese Nilsson Tel.: +46 455 305025 Email: therese.nilsson@regionblekinge.se

www.balticmaster.org



Baltic Green Belt

Baltic Green Belt contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by preserving natural zones and biodiversity, and by developing solutions to adapt to climate change.

The European Green Belt is an ecological initiative running through the continent following the route of the former Iron Curtain. The division of Europe limited economic and social activity for over 40 years. It also allowed for the development of an astonishing biodiversity along the former borders. The aim of this European initiative is to save natural assets that grew alongside these former no-men's lands.

Within the Baltic Sea Region the Green Belt was indicated along the South-Eastern coast from Germany to Finland. However, there were no activities planned to improve the environmental state of the Baltic Sea coast. The project "Baltic Green Belt" aims to fill this gap and develop an ecological network for the Baltic Sea Region. Activities of the project focus on nature conservation and improvement of the ecological situation of the coastal strips on both sides of the Baltic Sea.

A significant part of the project is dedicated to dissemination activities aimed at including the Baltic Green Belt ideas into policies, programmes and actions. The Baltic Green Belt will evaluate the status of protected areas, natural and cultural sites, infrastructure development and water quality. The project unites partners from local and regional public authorities, universities, non-governmental and international organisations.



The project will raise awareness and offer solutions related to biodiversity, agricultural land based pollution, and climate change. This will stimulate sustainability. Project partners will compile summarizing reports for each Green Belt Country. The reports will enable successful lobbying among decisive municipal, regional and international bodies. Partners will provide and share scientific information on positive and negative effects of establishing protected areas and the conservation of sandy beaches. Pilot actions will demonstrate in practice how to improve the Baltic Sea's water quality through enhanced sanitation networks and lower emission levels in agricultural production.

Project in keywords:

- Protection of cultural and natural heritage along the Baltic Sea Coast following the trail of the former Iron Curtain.

Partnership	Local and regional public authorities, universities, non-governmental and international organisations from Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden
Number of partners	13
Lead partner	Christian Albrechts University of Kiel, Germany
Approximate total budget	2.3 million €
ERDF funding	1.8 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Susanne Neufeldt Tel.: +49 431 880 7246 Email: sneufeldt@uv.uni-kiel.de



BaltSeaPlan

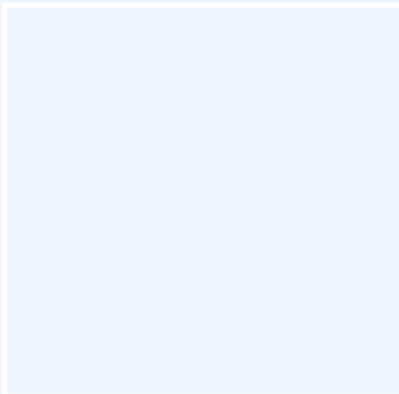
Introducing Maritime Spatial Planning in the Baltic Sea

BaltSeaPlan contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by encouraging the use of Maritime Spatial Planning around the Baltic Sea and developing a common approach for cooperation.

Pressure on the space and resources in the Baltic Sea is growing. Different interests, such as shipping, wind farming, mineral extraction, nature and shore protection have to be balanced in a multi-sectoral perspective.

The project "BaltSeaPlan" follows the call of the EU Commission for its member states to draw up integrated maritime strategies and to introduce Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning (IMSP). The overall aim of the project is to create a joint understanding of the instruments and processes necessary to successfully realise the IMSP in the Baltic Sea Region. The BaltSeaPlan also contributes to the implementation of both HELCOM recommendation on Broad-scale Marine Spatial Planning and the VASAB Gdańsk Declaration.

BaltSeaPlan partners will jointly develop a common vision for the Baltic Sea. Furthermore, partners will prepare proposals for a national maritime strategy in each country. The proposals will be developed taking into account the land and sea interdependence, economic, social and ecological aspects. Seven drafts of cross-border Integrated Maritime Spatial Plans will be worked out for selected Baltic areas, such as the Pommeranian Bay, Gulf of Gdańsk or the Middle Bank. These plans will offer a direction and vision for how the coastal and marine space should be used. In addition, the plans will lay out zones which provide different priorities for different sections based on the identified national scenarios.



Project in keywords:

- Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning – a tool for harmonious use of the sea space and resources.

Partnership National and regional authorities, maritime and research institutes and NGOs from Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden

Number of partners 14

Lead partner Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency, Germany

Approximate total budget 3.7 million €

ERDF funding 3.0 million €

Duration 36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)

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www.baltseaplan.eu

Urb.Energy

Energy Efficient and Integrated Urban Development Action

Urb. Energy contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by developing solutions to adapt to climate change, in particular, energy efficient housing.



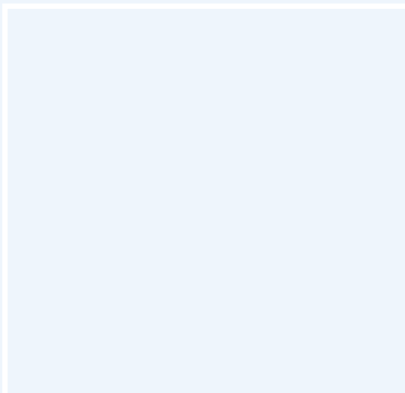
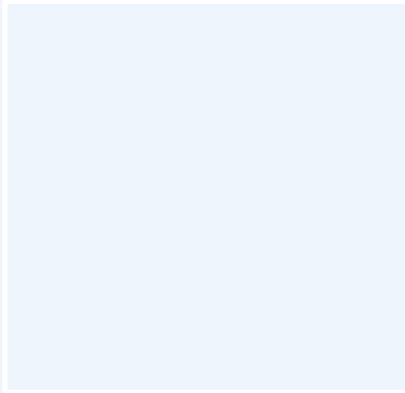
Climate change and limited energy resources are global challenges. The European housing stock is one of the major contributors to the waste of energy and CO₂ emissions. Moreover, buildings are responsible for over 40% of the final energy consumption and for more than 25% of CO₂ emissions in the EU. Therefore, improved energy efficiency in buildings, increased use of renewables, and energy saving settlement structures are becoming more important. However, the refurbishment rate is very low, especially in the new EU member states.

The project "Urb.Energy" aims at promoting sustainable and holistic rehabilitation of the residential areas in the Baltic Sea Region. It will combine the approach of integrated urban development with the energy efficient refurbishment of the building stock, and the energy supply structure. The project will involve owners, residents and other local actors to realise investments. Thus, the urban settlements in the regions will achieve better energy performance. This will help to make the region less dependent on energy imports and less affected by rising energy prices.

The project partners will prepare five integrated urban development strategies for the target areas in Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. These approaches for urban renewal can be transferred to other cities and regions around the Baltic Sea. Urb.Energy will provide manuals on integrated urban development strategies and energy efficient refurbishment of the housing stock, and renewal of the related energy supply systems. It will also present guidelines on innovative use of financial instruments from public and private banks, and EU structural funds necessary to implement investments. The project will facilitate rehabilitation of the urban areas.

Project in keywords:

- Implementing energy efficient urban development concepts in the residential areas.



Partnership

Regional and local authorities, housing and urban development associations and a national funding institution and competence centres from Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

Number of partners

15

Lead partner

German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development, Germany

Approximate total budget

3.8 million €

ERDF funding

2.9 million €

ENPI funding

0.2 million €

Duration

36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)

Contact person

Petra Schwarz
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Email: p.schwarz@deutscher-verband.org

www.urbenergy.eu

Bioenergy Promotion

The Baltic Sea Region Bioenergy Promotion Project

Bioenergy Promotion contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by increasing use of renewable energies. The project will foster conditions that support the Baltic Sea Region in reaching the 20% target for renewable energies by 2020.



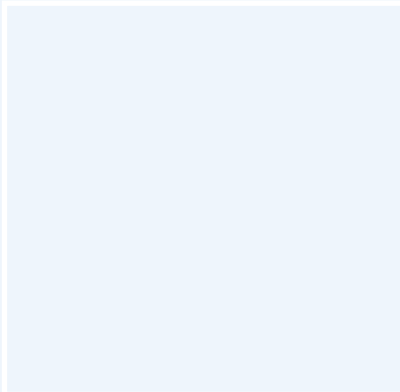
Bioenergy Promotion

In Europe and in the rest of the world, energy consumption is growing. Yet, huge biomaterial resources are not utilised to the greatest extent possible. The interest in these resources is increasing. Therefore, it is necessary to balance the competition between the usage of biomaterial resources for food, fibre and fuel.

The project “Bioenergy Promotion” aims at strengthening the sustainable use of bioenergy in the Baltic Sea Region. It will contribute to a common understanding of the opportunities and challenges. The project will serve as a major regional platform for cross-sectoral and transnational networking to facilitate the coordinated policy development, design and application of instruments which promote bioenergy.

Bioenergy Promotion was selected as a Baltic 21 Lighthouse project. The consortium includes national and regional authorities, research institutions, experts in the field of forestry and agriculture, and biomass companies. Bioenergy Promotion was approved as a strategic project.

The project will develop criteria for sustainable biomass supply, use and trade. These policy guidelines will contribute to the development and implementation of national and regional biomass action plans. The action plans and feasibility studies will facilitate bioenergy investments in the Baltic Sea Region. The project will also establish a virtual brokerage platform to meet the needs of all players of the biomass market by contributing to the fair trade options in the region. It will also provide a possibility to create networks, clusters and public-private partnerships in the bioenergy sector.



Project in keywords:

- Creating a critical mass for competitiveness and technology innovation in the bioenergy market.

Partnership

National and regional authorities, universities, environmental and forestry development centers, agencies for renewable resources from Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden

Number of partners	34
Lead partner	Swedish Energy Agency, Sweden
Approximate total budget	5.1 million €
ERDF funding	3.3 million €
Norwegian funding	0.4 million €
ENPI funding	0.1 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Sonja Ewerstein Tel.: +46 16 5442207 Email: sonja.ewerstein@energimyndigheten.se

www.bioenergypromotion.net

NEW BRIDGES

Strengthening of Quality of Life through Improved Management of Urban Rural Interaction

NEW BRIDGES contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by maintaining attractiveness of the Baltic Sea Region for its citizens and maximising the economic potential in the entire region.



The forecasts say that by 2020 around 80% of people in Europe will live in urban areas. Growing demand for land in and around cities may have negative impacts and prevent balanced development. Until now, regional planning and development have often been performed without systematic reference to impacts they have on quality of life. The existing tools and practices do not sufficiently take into account varying conditions and interactions between urban and rural areas.

The project "NEW BRIDGES" aims to improve urban-rural planning. Project partners will evaluate the potential for sustainable urban-rural interaction. The project will implement new working methods and pilot actions that correspond to the needs of the population. This will attract people and investment into the Baltic Sea Region. The project partnership includes local and regional authorities and expert organizations throughout the Baltic Sea Region.

Key pillars for quality of life are residential preferences, services, mobility and accessibility. The project will look into individual preferences of different population segments (families, entrepreneurs and pensioners) and stakeholders (resident associations and business associations). Their preferences will be compared with the existing policies and practices. Gaps will be transformed into actions through pilot planning and development projects at city and rural levels. Experience from those pilot projects will help to develop a set of policy and practice recommendations targeted at authorities at local, regional and national policy making and planning levels. The project will prepare a priority list for investments to improve quality of life. Partners will also introduce a new management model integrating cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder working methods.



Touffii Vesanto

Project in keywords:

- Quality of life, integrated urban-rural planning and development that better takes into account needs of different population segments.

Partnership	Local and regional public authorities and international organisations from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden
Number of partners	12
Lead partner	Union of the Baltic Cities, Commission on Environment, Finland
Approximate total budget	2.8 million €
ERDF funding	2.2 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Sakari Saarinen Tel.: +358 44 9075994 Email: sakari.saarinen@ubc.net

www.urbanrural.net



BalticClimate

Baltic Challenges and Chances for local and regional development generated by Climate Change

BalticClimate contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by developing solutions to adapt to climate change and supporting the development of a regional adaptation strategy at the level of the Baltic Sea Region.

Society is grappling with how to deal with climate change – not as an unsolvable problem, but as a manageable situation. Even though international and national guidelines and recommendations are being developed, the local and regional levels lack support, resources, knowledge and experience on how to deal with it. In addition to mitigation measures, early adaptation is required. It will reduce unavoidable negative effects and may bear new chances for the economy, the environment, and the social sector.

The project “BalticClimate” is aimed at small and medium-sized cities and rural areas within the Baltic Sea Region. The project will identify how to approach climate change pro-actively in daily regional and municipal practice and long-term planning to open up new opportunities for development.

The project will regionalise various climate change scenarios, assess impacts on the local and regional level, and carry out vulnerability assessments to identify fields of action. Partners will evaluate alternatives for spatial and traffic planning, location and structure of residential areas, energy solutions, and farming decisions. The project will also prepare a SWOT analysis for the participating regions.

To guide decision makers and business, the project will develop an ICT toolkit. The toolkit will contain tools to handle the impacts of climate change relevant to their region.



Photos: SMHI, Sweden



Project in keywords:

- Proactive approach to climate change and development of new business opportunities responding to its effects.

Partnership

Spatial and environmental research institutes, municipal, regional and national authorities, business incubators and universities from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden

Number of partners	23
Lead partner	Academy for Spatial Research and Planning, Germany
Approximate total budget	4.2 million €
ERDF funding	3.4 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Dennis Ehm Tel.: +49 511 349 42 49 Email: Ehm@ARL-net.de

www.BalticClimate.org

Eco-Region

The Baltic 21 Eco Region Project

Eco-Region contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by developing solutions to adapt to climate change, in particular, by promoting sustainable management of cities and regions. The project will promote the Baltic Sea Region as a green region.

The development in the Baltic Sea Region is far from sustainable: excessive use of land, growing demand for energy and polluting discharges are just a few examples of negative trends. Good practices on how to turn sustainable development into a reality exist, but they are hard to find.

The overall aim of the project “Eco-Region” is to develop the Baltic Sea Region into the world’s first Eco-Region, where the economic growth goes hand in hand with environmental integrity and social justice. The project is based on the unique multi-stakeholder network of Baltic 21, which was created for the realisation of the Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea Region. The network will propose solutions to regional problems through cross-sectoral and inter-regional cooperation, and the integration of sustainable development into policy making.

Within Eco-Region numerous workshops will foster the dialogue and understanding on sustainable development within the Baltic Sea region. Ten model regions will prepare strategic sustainability plans and realize a selected set of concrete measures. A capacity building programme on cyclical, integrated, regional sustainability systems will support this process. Eco-Region will produce an open accessible web-based database and numerous other information material showing good practices and contact points on how to foster sustainable development on regional level.



Project in keywords:

- Making cities and regions more attractive and competitive in using their common knowledge and potential.

Partnership	National, regional and local authorities, universities and international NGO from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden
Number of partners	22
Lead partner	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
Approximate total budget	3.0 million €
ERDF funding	2.2 million €
Norwegian funding	0.1 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Dörte Ratzmann Tel.: +49 30 285502372 E-mail: doerte.ratzmann@bmu.bund.de

www.baltic-ecoregion.eu

Parks & Benefits

Generating Socio-Economic Effects by a Sustainable Management of Protected Areas for the Benefit of their Regions

Parks & Benefits contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by maintaining attractiveness of the Baltic Sea Region for its citizens and tourists by promoting the cultural heritage and the unique landscapes.

The Baltic Sea Region holds many sites of typically Baltic or even outstanding natural heritage. These sites are preserved by the status of protected areas. While respecting their conservation and development objectives, sustainable Nature Tourism within and around protected areas can be, or already is, an important element of the regional economies.

Up to now the economic potential is underdeveloped and offers vast possibilities for the development of tourism, of public-private partnerships, and improved nature conservation. At the same time, the existing economic performance is often underestimated, which results in prejudices about the purpose of nature protection. Therefore, all stakeholders in regions working with protected areas have to put more effort into cooperation and communication. This will foster sustainable development of the regions.

The project "Parks & Benefits" will introduce and strengthen a sustainable approach to Nature Tourism in the Baltic Sea Region. The project will increase awareness of the mutual benefits to protected parks and their surrounding regions for regional development and sustained natural development.

The main instrument is the transfer of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas from Western and Mediterranean Europe to the Baltic Sea Region, and the joint implementation in eight protected areas. The partners will carry out capacity analyses, work on management of visitor standards, quality development, and cooperation with local tourist stakeholders.

The project will result in a network of certified protected areas, improved nature tourism products (also for disabled people), increased awareness, and recognition of the benefits of nature protection on a political level.



Aivars Petriņš, LV

Project in keywords:

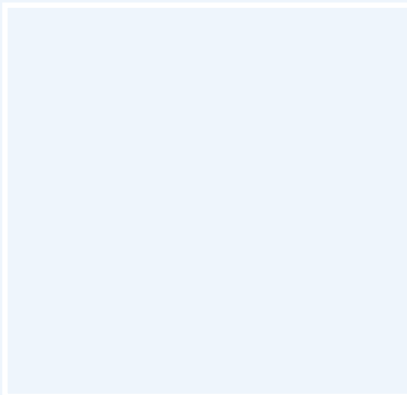
- Unfolding economic potential through sustainable use of protected areas.



Doverfjellrådet - Dovrefjell Council, NO



Müritz National Park authority, DE



Environmental Board, EE

Partnership	Protected area authorities, municipal, regional and national public authorities, business incubators, universities, NGOs from Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway
Number of partners	18
Lead partner	Ministry for Agriculture, Environment and Consumer Protection in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany
Approximate total budget	2.7 million €
ERDF funding	1.9 million €
Norwegian funding	0.1 million €
Duration	36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)
Contact person	Tobias Lerche Tel.: + 49 381 4404951 Email: tobias.lerche@animare.net

www.parksandbenefits.net

BSLN

Baltic Sea Labour Network – A European Model for Improvement of Interregional Labour Policy



BSLN contributes to the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region by increasing the efficient use of human resources through harmonisation of the common labour market.



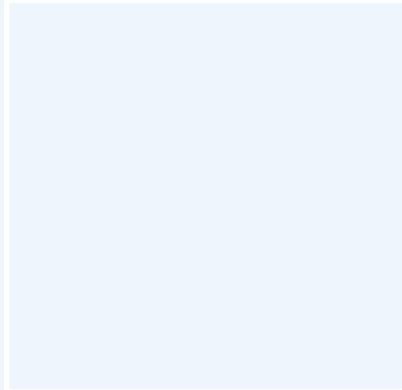
The Baltic Sea Region faces economic disparities causing significant migration of workers. There are substantial differences in wage levels, labour market policies, social and working conditions and industrial relations and traditions. Migrant workers often work below their qualification levels and under worse conditions than local workers. Among the consequences of this are a loss of competence and qualification in the work force. These issues have to be seen in the context of the increasing international competition in labour.

In order to counteract negative developments in the labour markets, the policies – which up to now have been handled only on a national level - need to be better organised on transnational level. In its efforts to achieve this goal, the project “BSLN” will create a network that will identify improvements to existing labour market policies. BSLN will facilitate interaction among non-governmental organisations, politicians, public officials and experts. In particular, the project will address demographic changes and migration processes.

The project partnership is composed of trade unions, trade union confederations, employer associations, educational institutes and public authorities around the Baltic Sea and beyond.

BSLN will evaluate regional and national labour policy strategies and help to exchange knowledge within the region. Pilot projects on migration, better integration, better working conditions, optimal use of foreign skilled workers, and lifelong learning will be implemented. A BSLN-Forum will help to coordinate regional and transnational activities and be the driving force for the elaboration of a Pan Baltic Labour Policy Agenda.

The project will setup a permanent representative body, the “International Secretariat of BSLN”, to represent the high number of organisations dealing with labour issues in the region.



Project in keywords:

- Coordination and representation of transnational labour policy.

Partnership

Trade unions, trade union confederations, employer associations, educational institutes and public authorities from Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden

Number of partners 26

Lead partner Cooperation Centre Hamburg, Germany

Approximate total budget 2.6 million €

ERDF funding 2.0 million €

Norwegian funding 0.02 million €

Duration 36 months (January 2009 – January 2012)

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www.bslabour.net





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