



The Baltic Sea Region INTERREG III B
Neighbourhood Programme

*Working together to bring solutions for common
problems*



Projects in progress (2005 - 2007)

4th issue



European Union

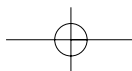


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Warnemünde,
Germany

Editorial

3



European Union

Dear Reader,

"Setting regions in motion" is the motto of the Baltic Sea INTERREG programme for year 2006. Just looking at the number of participants involved in INTERREG events, one can surely claim that the region is on the move. Hundreds of project partners and stakeholders attend meetings organised by projects, the programme as well as regional and national authorities.

2006 is the sixth year of Programme implementation and by end of March already 43 projects closed their activities. This is the time where we look into achieved results and draw links to the future. On the other hand preparations for the programme 2007-2013 are advancing and the start of the next programme is just months away, bringing even more motion to our region.

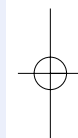
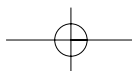
This is the forth issue of the brochure presenting running Baltic Sea INTERREG projects. It brings the portfolio of running projects closer to you. Next to maps and photos, you'll find a short description of each presented project as well as contact details. A database of all running projects is available at www.bsinterreg.net. Please feel free to contact projects directly or Joint Secretariat for more information about projects and the programme.

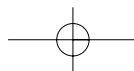
The brochure presents projects approved in the six and seventh application rounds. The 32 projects became operational in 2005 and most of them will continue implementation till end of 2007. These

projects address issues such as development of macro-regions, management of coastal zones, polycentric settlement structures, communication links, management of natural and cultural heritage as well as institution and capacity building. Almost 40 Million Euro from European Regional Development Fund and Norwegian national funds will support the activities of the projects.

We would like to thank projects involved for their contribution to the brochure as well as their hard work and creativity into achieving project results.

Darijus Vaiuško
Information Manager





What is INTERREG III B in the Baltic Sea Region?

The Baltic Sea Region (BSR) INTERREG III B Programme belongs to one of the three strands of the European Community Initiative INTERREG III. These programmes address transnational co-operation and intend to encourage harmonious and balanced development of the European territory.

There are numerous networks, organisations and political initiatives linking up the Baltic Sea Region. They are actively contributing to building up joint development strategies. Subsequently, transnational INTERREG III B cooperation projects are based on concepts like the Second Northern Dimension Action Plan, VASAB 2010 strategies, as well as, for example, the programmes of HELCOM and Baltic 21.

The Baltic Sea Region's III B cooperation area includes eleven countries separated by numerous land and sea borders. Eligible countries are the EU Member States Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden, further on Norway, North-West Russia and Belarus. In 2004 the Baltic Sea programme was transformed into a "Neighbourhood" programme allowing EU partners to apply to INTERREG, and Russian and Belarusian partners to apply for Tacis funds in one joint project proposal. Norway has traditionally been participating in the Baltic Sea cooperation on equal terms as EU countries.

Funding & timeframe

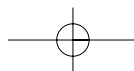
On the EU side, the programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF),

as part of the EU Structural Funds, and co-financed by project partners. The total ERDF contribution is almost 149 million Euro. Norway co-finances Norwegian partners with 6 million Euro. Partners from Russia and Belarus can receive support from the Tacis programme (7.5 million EURO).

Around 340 applications were submitted in eight calls for project applications and 120 were approved by the Steering Committee. All projects will close their activities by end of 2007. The projects in progress as well as project ideas can be found in the database at www.bsrinterreg.net.

Programme management structure

The joint Steering Committee selects projects and makes funding decisions. The Monitoring Committee oversees the use of ERDF funds. National sub-committees have an advisory status. The Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein (IB), seated at Kiel/Germany, acts as legal body responsible for programme implementation and payments to project partners. IB is a state owned development bank governed by public law. All ERDF funds are pooled in a joint bank account managed by IB. The IB also hosts the Joint Secretariat (JS). The JS, at its offices in Rostock/Germany and Riga/Latvia is responsible for the day-to-day management of programme implementation. The JS advises on INTERREG/Tacis co-operation, assists project generation, assesses applications, monitors progress and payment requests, operates the website and services the programme's decision making bodies and working groups.



Co-operation topics

The projects address topics identified under the priorities and measures of the programme:

- strategies and actions for macro-regions
- sustainable development of sectors (e.g. tourism, energy)
- integrated management of coastal zones, islands and other specific areas
- polycentric settlement structures
- communication links
- management of natural and cultural heritage and natural resources
- institution and capacity building
- maritime cooperation across the Baltic Sea

Activities

INTERREG III B does not finance large infrastructure investments but paves the way towards them. Eligible activities are, for example, the exchange of experience between partners from different countries on development concepts. Projects implement and evaluate pilot actions, make analyses such as market research, or build up information or marketing networks.

Project partners

Main partners are public authorities from national, regional, and local level, research and training institutions, foundations, NGOs and other non-profit organisations.

Experience from project implementation

In order to achieve durable results the broad political involvement is recommended when defining

project's aims. Politicians are interested in concrete results. In order to wake interest on the national level, large-scale issues should be addressed (e.g. larger infrastructure investments). Defining outputs, results, impacts and indicators is a starting point when setting up a project. And one should never forget - building transnational networks takes time!

Some figures

The 32 projects presented in this issue started in 2005 (sixth and seventh call for applications). 10 projects were approved under priority 3, focusing on institution and capacity building, six projects under measure 2.2, focusing on Communication and transport links. The remaining 12 projects represent measures 1.2. Sustainable development of specific sectors, 1.3. Integrated management of specific areas and 2.1. Polycentric settlement structures (4 projects in each). It is interesting to know that these 32 projects involve around 830 partners from all 11 countries. They will spend almost 40 Million Euro from ERDF and Norwegian national funds, with approximate total budget of 63 Million Euro.

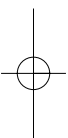
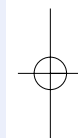
Further information

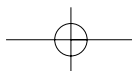
If you wish to know more about the BSR INTERREG III B Neighbourhood Programme and BSR co-operation please contact the Secretariat or visit our web site at

www.bsrinterreg.net



European Union





ET-BIOENERGY

New Bioenergy Business During Emission Trading

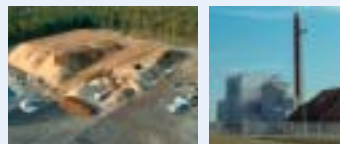


The new EU Emission Trading system as of 2005 brought new challenges and opportunities for the energy market. Typically, in some EU countries the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions tends to be more expensive than in others. This brings about new trade schemes that could be implemented in the BSR.

One important way of reducing emissions is to replace fossil fuels (oil, natural gas) with bio-fuels (e.g. wood, agricultural by-products such as straw). The aim of the project is to define and evaluate different business concepts for the BSR countries in the area of bioenergy utilisation. As the price level of bio-fuels is different in different countries, it may be economically viable to create a framework for international trade. The product to be traded may be e.g. biomass, energy, or emission allowances.

All the options may be realised in different ways. The aim of the project is to find win-win opportunities, in which both the exporting and importing countries/regions will profit from the system. The project outcome will show opportunities for feasible

investments in the form of tentative regional investment programmes and estimate the socio-economic impacts of these investments on the case regions. These impacts may be quite impressive on a regional



level, as they directly boost several business areas like fuel production and transport, equipment manufacturing and maintenance, plant construction and energy production and use. In addition, the impacts also cover forestry and agriculture by bringing new value and utilisation options for their by-products.

Partnership: national, regional, and local public authorities, public corporations, companies, associations, foundations, universities from Estonia, Finland, Germany and Poland
Approximate total project budget: 1.20 million €
ERDF+Norwegian national: 0,72 million €
Duration: January 2005 – January 2007
Lead Partner: Technical Research Centre of Finland

Contact person:
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 E-mail: satu.helynen@vtt.fi

Baltic Fort Route

Baltic Culture and Tourism Route Fortresses

After the end of Cold War, military fortresses lost their function. Some of them have been designated as World Cultural Heritage sites.

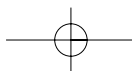
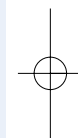
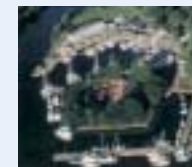
Fortresses have a significant economic and tourist potential for regional development. In transnational cooperation of 17 fortresses („Fort-Pool“) and 8 scientific institutions („Brain-Pool“) a high-quality tourist product is developed to be a model for a European culture and tourism route connecting European fortresses. The innovative project develops new marketing instruments and economic concepts for cultu-

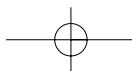


ral and tourist utilization. It promotes transnational scientific cooperation in monument protection as well as creating strategies of reconstruction and nature management.

Partnership: Fortress cities, associations of fortress, scientific institutions and universities, regional authorities and experts from Germany, Poland, Russia (Kaliningrad), Lithuania and Latvia
Approximate total project budget: 2.40 million €
ERDF: 1.77 million €
Duration: January 2005 - June 2007
Lead Partner: City Kostrzyn, Poland

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BBN

Baltic Biomass Network



Promoting Bio-energy Development through Spatial Planning Solutions

The Baltic Region with its agricultural and forest resources has great potential for fulfilling EU objectives for biomass heat, power, and fuel production. However, considerable obstacles to sustainable bio-energy development can be witnessed in Baltic Sea Regions with poorly developed logistic or production infrastructures or with market and land-use structures competing for limited resources. The Baltic Biomass Network works at a regional spatial planning level with local authorities, biomass producers and bio-energy investors in drawing up optimal production schemes for mobilising biomass resources and planning sustainable bio-energy investment projects.

Potential Biomass Produktion Sites



Visualising Bio-energy Landscapes

The BBN approach is to visualise future energy landscapes and identify suitable areas for energy crop production, solid fuel recovery and plant location by means of GIS based tools. In six Baltic Sea model regions the Network works with regional authorities adding bio-energy GIS informational layers into regional spatial planning data banks while planning concrete bio-energy investment projects.



Bio-energy scenarios for Regional Development
Together with bio-energy stake holders, BBN draws up bio-energy development scenarios in the participating regions, considering local and international market changes, new technologies and bio-energy product lines, environmental, land-use, and resource user conflicts as well as the implications of CAP reforms and EU bio-energy directives. These scenarios serve as decision making instruments at the public and private investment level for promoting long-term bio-energy development.

Partnership: national and regional public authorities, public corporations, foundations and universities from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

Approximate total project budget: 1,36 million €
ERDF+Norwegian national: 1,02 million €
Duration: January 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: Potsdam Chamber of Commerce and Industry



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www.balticbiomass.com

COASTSUST

Coastal Sustainability as a Challenge

The coastal areas of the Baltic Sea are facing new challenges. In protected coastal areas the problems are often the same, and due to this, not only local, but also transnational co-operation and communication is needed.

The main goal of the COASTSUST project is to strengthen the co-operation and information exchange between the coastal protected areas in the Baltic Sea Region. However, the project also aims at strengthening local co-operation between coastal protected areas and surrounding communities. With the help of pilot activities, new ways for sustainable use of coastal protected areas are explored.

The main project activities include:

- Workshops to increase information exchange at BSR level
- Seminars and trainings for local people and entrepreneurs
- Local meetings for developing co-operation
- Personnel exchange in which different organisations can learn from each other
- Materials, studies and events for teaching coastal communication
- Creation of information exchange platform
- Development of local natural products and their marketing
- Improving and creating information centres
- Preparing an exhibition to spread information about the project areas
- Survey on co-operation and land use planning in coastal protected areas

• Final report publication where project experiences are presented.

Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, associations from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia and Lithuania

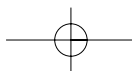
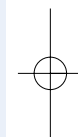
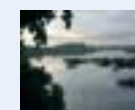
Approximate total project budget: 1,03 million €
ERDF+Norwegian national: 0,63 million €

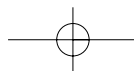
Duration: January 2005 – January 2008

Lead Partner: Metsähallitus - Finnish Forest and Park Service, Finland

Contact person:

Ms Annastina Sarlin
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Email: annastina.sarlin@metsa.fi
www.coastsust.net





BSB

Baltic SeaBreeze



Baltic SeaBreeze's overall goal is to reduce marine pollution in the Baltic Sea. It strives to build a virtual network in the Baltic Sea among guest harbours, marinas, seamen, commercial fishermen and leisure craft owners. The purpose is to improve their knowledge of sustainable development and marine pollution issues, increase the target groups' commitment to change as well as strengthening the chances for sustainable development of the Baltic Sea region.

Baltic SeaBreeze has three work packages: Marine Strategic Partnership, Media/Communication Strategy and Fishing/Shipping Network. These three work packages will target specific areas, but interact and cooperate in creating ways for educating and raising the awareness of these issues in the project's target groups and apply a media strategy. Another important actor in BSB is the international multi-stakeholder reference group with target group representatives from private/ public sectors planned to ensure added value of cooperating in a transnational way and build capacity for networking.

Efforts on achieving higher awareness will be carried out with hands-on activities that will communicate economic, environmental and social effects of marine pollution to marine ecosystems. BSB will arrange transnational activities with reference group participation, for example, a common strategy/action plan for better standards among guest harbours/marinas, promoting Best Practice guest

harbours/marinas, producing uniform training materials and public awareness campaigns addressing the target groups. Pilot studies on environmental petrol and boat washes will study transportation systems for biofuel and test new concepts for boat washes with the hope of establishing these as commercial products in future.

Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, companies, associations, foundations and universities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 2,72 million €

ERDF+Norwegian national: 1,46 million €

Duration: January 2005 – December 2007

Lead Partner: Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation

Contact person:

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BaltMet Inno

Baltic Metropolises Innovation Strategy



Baltic Metropolises Innovation Strategy Project (BaltMet Inno) is a joint innovation project of the major cities in the Baltic Sea Region. It aims at strengthening the role of cities as developers of innovation environments at local, regional, national and international levels.

The project goal is to produce a common innovation policy framework for the Baltic Sea Region and to create transnational, metropolis-driven innovation networks. The project also explores new ways of strengthening the link between urban planning, spatial development and innovation policy measures in order to create successful innovation environments in the metropolitan areas.

BaltMet Inno activities aim at strengthening innovation capacities of metropolises, focusing on the following themes:

- local innovation strategies
- regional marketing
- innovative business clusters
- innovation competencies and entrepreneurship

BaltMet Inno is the key project of the Baltic Metropolises Network. The mission of the network, set up in 2002, is to promote innovativeness and competitiveness in the Baltic Sea Region by engaging the focal actors in the area - cities, universities and commercial enterprises - in close co-operation. The focus of the co-operation is on innovation policies, the promotion of mobility of top experts and pooled marketing.

Partnership: regional and local public authorities, companies, foundations and universities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Russia and Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 2,60 Million €

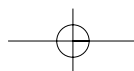
ERDF+Norwegian national: 1,59 Million €

Duration: January 2005 – December 2007

Lead Partner: City of Helsinki, Finland

Contact person:

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inno.baltmet.org



COINCO

Corridor of Innovation and Cooperation



12 million inhabitants

COINCO covers the cross boarder region stretching from Oslo via Gothenburg, Malmö and Copenhagen in Scandinavia to Berlin/ Brandenburg in Germany.

Up to 12 million inhabitants live in this corridor, which includes three capital cities and a number of larger cities, as well as some of the most important centres of logistics, science and education and a unique variety of cultural and tourism attractions.

An intelligent region

It is the main goal for the COINCO project to create a sustainable, attractive and competitive region in a European and global context - or to put it another way: an intelligent region! The specific objective of the COINCO Project is to develop a strategy document on how to develop the corridor in the future in the fields of Innovation, Cooperation, Transport and Infrastructure.



Ferry in the fiord of Oslo



Two rounds of workshops

In order to develop this strategy, two rounds of workshops will be held in the COINCO Project. The first round consists of three regional workshops, one in the Gothenburg-Oslo Region, one in the Öresund Region and one in the Berlin-Brandenburg Region. The outcome of these workshops will be a Vision Document defining the visions to be worked with in the COINCO Project.

The second round of workshops consists of a number of interregional thematic workshops. On the basis of the visions developed in the first round of workshops, thematic workshops will be arranged, developing strategies for realisation of the visions.

Partnership: regional and local public authorities, public corporations and research institutions from Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 1,06 Million €
ERDF+Norwegian national: 0,60 Million €

Duration: March 2005 – April 2007

Lead Partner: The Municipality of Copenhagen, Denmark

Contact person:
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www.coinco.eu

Public transportation



Baltic Tangent

Infrastructure improvement for socio-economic reasons

The Baltic Tangent (BT) project arises from unsatisfactory socio-economic situation in large parts of the BT area. The peripheral location in relation to the main transport infrastructure corridors in the Baltic Sea Region constitutes a serious disadvantage for economic and labour market development in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark and Russia. The project focuses on how to improve East-West links, including road, railroad and maritime traffic, to the main transport corridors. The regions and municipalities will benefit from the economic growth potential in the South Baltic Sea Region.

A Baltic Tangent strategy and activity plan

The main outcome will be the development of a transnational transport infrastructure strategy for the BT cooperation area. Other output is an extended partnership - a network of representatives from trade and industry and public actors - and an action plan for implementation. The project will generate knowledge how to benefit from a secondary transport infrastructure network linked to the TEN routes. The project deals with spatial planning and infrastructure integration as well as with logistics and BT aspects on intermodal solutions.

Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, public corporations, associations, foundations, universities, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 2,20 Million €

ERDF: 1,21 Million €

Duration: January 2005 – January 2007

Lead Partner: The Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden

Contact person:

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www.baltictangent.org



Castles Tomorrow



Development of castles and manor houses of BSR as cultural heritage objects and town centers in rural areas

The project will help to safeguard, preserve and develop castles and manors in rural areas as cultural heritage objects and town centres of these rural areas. The project aims to increase capacity of culture heritage objects operators through research, know-how and pilot activities.

Many of the culture heritage objects in the Baltic Sea region are located in disadvantaged rural areas. In many cases, the owners and operators of these sites don't have sufficient knowledge how to attract tourists to these destinations. The project also aims to create new jobs in rural areas through a meaningful usage of their cultural heritage objects such as castles and manor houses.

The concrete activities include organising study tours and training sessions in each of partner countries; developing a handbook to be used as a learning and teaching tool; and elaborating a development model as a tool to be used by operators of culture heritage objects. This model is to be implemented in pilot objects in countries involved in this project.

A number of industry best practice objects will be promoted within this project using newsletters, video materials, marketing brochures and a web page.

Partnership: national and local public authorities, public corporations, associations, foundations and universities from Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia
Approximate total project budget: 0.79 million €
ERDF: 0.52 million €
Duration: Januar 2005 – Januar 2007
Lead Partner: Livani District Council, Latvia

Contact person:

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 Tel: +371 5307270
 E-mail: marika@livani.lv
 www.castletomorrow.net

Gušthaus Ludorf,
 Germany



BBDN

Baltic Business Development Network

The development of the Baltic Sea Region as a whole is characterized by large economic and social differences, cultural barriers, different languages and different business structures. Small and medium-sized enterprises have problems benefiting from the advantages of the enlarged market due to their lack of knowledge and skills regarding business structures outside their home markets.



Kick-off meeting of BBDN

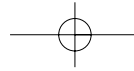
In order to support and facilitate international business between SMEs, the Baltic Business Development Network projects' objective is to implement a Virtual Baltic Development Agency (VBDA). The VBDA will be based on transnational cooperation between Regional Development Agencies and Business Schools from all nine countries in the Baltic Sea Region. Companies will get access to the VBDA through regional access points called Baltic Business Service Centers, which will offer transnational business services on the national level. Common standards will be used to support SMEs in transnational entrepreneurship activities.

BBDN will increase comparative business knowledge of RDAs that are established to support regional development. Universities and Business Schools will get access to the new research that drives development. BBDN will aim for equal business training schemes and examinations in the whole region.

Partnership: regional and local public authorities, companies, foundations and universities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden
Approximate total project budget: 2,00 million €
ERDF: 1,24 million €
Duration: January 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: Baltic Business School, University of Kalmar, Sweden

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 E-mail: raminta.laukeviciute@hik.se
 www.bbdn.org





Innovation Circle



Innovation Circle aims to stimulate innovations and long term development in rural districts and smaller and medium sized towns in the Baltic Sea Region.

In many European countries, urban areas are magnets that attract people from smaller towns and rural districts because cities offer more hope for jobs, education, cultural activities, health care and better living standards. At the same time, areas located further from growth centers face downsizing and ageing population, emigration of young people, high unemployment, limited access to education and a lack of novel ideas for creating new jobs and stimulating industry.

In order to strengthen the competitiveness of smaller places, the local authorities must look for different ways to open their inhabitants to innovations - as entrepreneurs, as consumers, and as citizens. The Innovation Circle project will address this challenge by training people from different sectors within the region about how to work together to change their communities into attractive places for living, working and visiting.



Innovation Circle will organize the „Innovation Academy“, a problem based training programme to improve partners' competence for working with innovations and stimulation of entrepreneurship in their region. On the basis of this learning, we expect that at least 50 innova-

Youth planning the future of Mysen community, Norway



tive projects will be defined and implemented in partner regions and participants will continue to work as „agents of change“ in their communities. To ensure sustainability of actions started within the Innovation Circle, the Innovation Forum will be established for future cooperation, experience exchange and the development of an innovative environment in rural areas in the Baltic Sea Region.

Partnership: regional and local public authorities, public corporations from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden
Approximate total project budget: 2,29 million €
ERDF+Norwegian national: 1,39 million €
Duration: February 2005 – October 2007
Lead Partner: Alytus City Municipality, Latvia

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www.innovationcircle.net

Challenging the assumptions of Innovation Academy participants



ScanBalt Campus

A European model case for transnational and transectoral institution building in education, research and development.

An education and R&D network enabling improved mobility and knowledge transfer in the life sciences and biotechnology sector.

ScanBalt Campus is a project in the ScanBalt Bioregion aimed at creating a critical mass in research and education within the fields of biotechnology and life sciences. The project increases the mobility and skill level of students, lecturers and researchers by creating new education and research platforms which unite 31 universities, hospitals and companies from 10 Scandinavian and Baltic countries. The project is a pioneering means of putting the Bologna process into practice through a single, effective network.

The network is formed from individual Campus Knowledge Networks, which provide enhanced opportunities for education and research and development within different areas of life science and biotechnology. These networks include critical subjects such as regenerative medicine, environmental biotechnology, informational biology, molecular diagnostics, process analytical technology, intellectual property, entrepreneurship and training for future life science leaders. Sector experts, operating within the networks, will co-operate and thus strengthen the global competitiveness of the biotech and life-science sector in the Scandinavian and Baltic countries.



The Campus Website provides information on the project's progress and acts as a virtual hub for its activities. The formation of ScanBalt Campus Academy will enable the supervision and dissemination of the Campus project's activities.

Partnership: regional public authorities, public corporations, companies, associations, foundations and universities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden

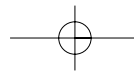
Approximate total project budget: 0,82 million €
ERDF+Norwegian national: 0,47 million €
Duration: March 2005 - December 2006

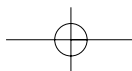
Lead Partner: Centre for Environment and Sustainability at Göteborg University and Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

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www.scanbalt.org/campus

Campus project leaders from across the Baltic region





B-SME

Baltic Spatial development Measures for Enterprise



The project „Baltic Spatial Development Measures for Enterprises“ focuses on strengthening competitiveness in the whole Baltic Sea Region in general, and of SMEs in particular.

Nearly 98 % of the total economy in the Baltic Sea Region consists of small and medium sized enterprises, which are the driving force for innovation and strong economic growth. The project's main goal is to support these SMEs by implementing three work packages.

The first work package concentrates on the promotion of co-operation between private and public supporters of the economy as well as improving a network for the SMEs. The second work package focuses on vocational educational training. It develops and certifies a curriculum for 2 dual courses of studies in the subject „management“ for SME executives, who will graduate as Bachelors. The studies will take place in four different cities of the Baltic

Sea Region.

Work package three implements concrete measures for enterprises, such as the setting up of an English course, development of quality management and special seminars for SMEs to increase their international activities. Additionally a virtual cooperation forum will be set

up, where enterprises can find cooperation partners from the other countries and get useful information about all countries of the Baltic Sea Region.

In order to promote the Baltic Sea Region as a strong and competitive economic area, it is indispensable to fortify the cultural identity and develop a common „we feeling“. Therefore, the project aims not only at virtual communication, but also at intense real networking within the Baltic area.

Partnership: regional and local public authorities, public corporations, associations from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden
Approximate total project budget: 3,01 million €
ERDF+Norwegian national: 2,01 million €
Duration: January 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: Hanseatic Parliament e. V., Germany

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Matchmaking in Gdansk



B-SME conference in Gdansk



Annual meeting



RECO

Regional Cooperation in Waste Management



Central objective is to support the development of the waste management system in participating countries/regions.

This is to be achieved by:

- establishing Regional Waste Management Institutions (RWMI)
- supporting cross-border and cross-sectoral co-operation in waste management
- capacity building through the development of waste management handbooks and other information material, educational seminars, training and study visits
- raising the level of participation and knowledge in waste management issues among companies in participating regions through publishing and the dissemination of information material
- ensuring public participation through developing material and activities for raising of public awareness in waste management issues
- ensuring an efficient long-term development of the waste management systems in the participating regions via updating and further development of waste management plans
- supporting investments in waste management infrastructure through providing participating regions with information on best available technology, sources of funding and EU public procurement rules, etc.

Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, public corporations, associations, foundations and universities from Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden

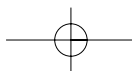
Approximate total project budget: 1,66 million €
ERDF: 1,12 million €

Duration: January 2005 – January 2008

Lead Partner: County Administrative Board of Stockholm, Sweden

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EuRoB II



Institutionalization of the European Route of Brick Gothic - a culturally and historically inspired tourism route marketing the brick Gothic heritage and related cultural offers

Architectural cultural heritage is one of the most tangible witnesses of our past. Architecture can, just as paintings, survive centuries without alteration and without losing its fascinating aura.

Brick Gothic enjoys a position of particular importance in the European architectural history. Its development is closely connected with the history of the countries in the Northwest and Northeast of Europe between the 13th and the 16th century as well as the rise and fall of the Hanseatic League. EuRoB draws its potential exactly from this history.

St. Anne's church in Vilnius



The starting point for EuRoB in 2002 was the initiative „Wege zur Backsteingotik“ in Mecklenburg-West Pomerania. After learning of the success of this initiative for local and regional tourism development, its expansion to other countries around the Baltic Sea was a logical step. Regional development and

transnational co-hesion can thus be brought together and linked with concrete measures to improve the economic situation in the partner regions.



Old harbour in Wismar

By the end of 2007, the route should be able to be self-dependent, having a solid marketing strategy at hand and a clear view of the activation work necessary and possible for the single objects of the route.

Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, public corporations, associations and foundations from Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 1,64 million €
ERDF: 1,07 million €

Duration: December 2004 – December 2007
Lead Partner: German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development, Germany

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Panorama of Chelmno



AGORA

Network Sustainable Tourism Development in the Baltic Sea Region

The development of the tourism sector seems to be a promising approach to support regional development - especially in rural areas with strong economic problems. Consequently, a lot of sustainable tourism projects have been carried out in the BSR so far. Unfortunately, there is only a low degree of coordination, and long-lasting effects are few and mostly limited to the area where the projects took place. Methodologies and experiences are hard to find or not accessible at all after the projects have been terminated.



AGORA Kick off meeting

Thus, the Baltic 21 working groups on sustainable agriculture and tourism initiated the project AGORA. As the name AGORA (in the Ancient World: a market place with a strong communication function) already indicates, the project intends to establish an Information & Service hub for the entire BSR. AGORA starts with existing results, knowledge and experience of other tourism projects - to compile information, instruments and methods for making them accessible to the public. Tools in spatial planning and tourism management shall be evaluated and improved. Several pilot projects will

test these tools while demonstrating that sustainable tourism can generate economically profitable results, without endangering ecological values. A sustainability check for tourism projects shall be developed and tested.

All experience and expertise of the partners will be integrated in the Strategy Factory, to conclude policy recommendations for sustainable tourism development and to present a strategy concept for the BSR.

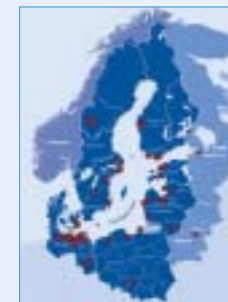
Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, companies, associations and universities from Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden
Approximate total project budget: 2,29 million €
ERDF: 1,64 million €

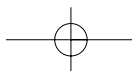
Duration: July 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-University of Greifswald, Germany

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Approved as Baltic 21 Lighthouse project





ASTRA



Developing Policies & Adaptation Strategies to Climate Change in the Baltic Sea Region

Focusing on the Baltic Sea Region, the project ASTRA assesses regional impacts of the ongoing global change in climate and subsequently develops adequate strategies and policies for climate change adaptation.

The impacts of climate change, along with the societal impacts of natural hazards, play an important role in the spatial and economic development of regions:

- the economic losses caused by natural hazards and extreme weather events are continuously rising.
- climate change has potential long-term effects on the living environment, especially on coastal areas. Questions on rising sea level and coastal protection will be a challenge for future regional development.

AstrA case study areas



Positive responses towards these impacts on development are mid to long term strategies that are supported by decision makers and other stakeholders, including regional and local planners.

ASTRA's partners comprise various research institutes and regional planning offices around the Baltic Sea Region, broken down into 19 inner circle and 16 outer circle partners.

Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, companies, associations and universities from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 2,25 million €
ERDF: 1,40 million €

Duration: June 2005 – December 2007

Lead Partner: Geological Survey of Finland

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ReMiDo

Sustainable reintegration of post-soviet military residential areas as a challenge and opportunity for regional development



Post military areas, used by the Soviet Army in former times, cause problems to municipalities and regions in the southern and eastern part of the region. These areas were not subject of civil use and regional planning in the second part of 20th century. After having been left by the Soviet Army they were "out-law" -territories and in many cases they are still in this situation. Lot of post military residential areas are abandoned or people live in destroyed houses. Municipalities and regions alone have not enough knowledge, capacity and financial power to develop (or to look after at least) these areas at the moment.



The project will investigate best and "bad" practices of dealing with these areas, present selected solutions to decision makers and start pilot activities.

Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, public corporations, companies and universities from Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 2,16 million €
ERDF: 1,59 million €

Duration: June 2005 – December 2007

Lead Partner: National Agency "Housing Agency", Latvia

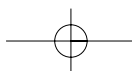
Contact person:

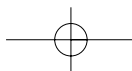
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Pilot object, Liepaja



Scientific project structure





BUSTRIP



Baltic Urban Sustainable Transport Implementation and Planning

Towards Sustainable Urban Transport

BUSTRIP will provide practical solutions and tools for European cities and municipalities to deliver Sustainable Urban Transport. The 12 partner cities in the BUSTRIP project are the first in Europe to start preparing and implementing Sustainable Urban Transport Plans (SUTP). SUTP's are advocated in the European Commissions' Thematic Strategy on the Urban Environment (6th Environmental Action Plan). BUSTRIP is uniquely positioned to show European cities how to deliver sustainable transport whilst generating economic growth.

Each of the partner cities will receive a peer review that will assist them in understanding their current progress towards Sustainable Urban Transport. They will use this to prepare their SUTP and revise existing plans, from which they will implement pilot actions that will make tangible progress.



Pedestrian street in City of Kaunas

BUSTRIP will produce a SUTP toolbox of techniques, collecting all the learning experiences and best practices from the cities. The toolbox will assist European cities to understand SUTP and the opportunities available to move towards sustainable urban transport.

Partnership: UBC commissions on environment and transportation, regional and local public authorities and universities from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Sweden
Approximate total project budget: 3,13 million €
ERDF: 1,73 million €
Duration: July 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: Union of the Baltic Cities, Commission on Environment, City of Turku, Finland

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BEEN

Baltic Energy Efficiency Network for the Building Stock

The European building stock is a major contributor to energy waste and CO2 emission. Multi-storey residential buildings form a significant proportion of this building stock: around 13% in the old EU member states and more than one third in the new Central and Eastern European member states. Here, the prefabricated housing stock is predominant, characterised by an enormous maintenance backlog and very low structural and thermal quality.

So far, no comprehensive policies have been developed in these countries to start the energy efficient refurbishment (EER) of their prefabricated housing stock. Especially effective legal and administrative structures need to be developed, as without them building refurbishment proves difficult in a stock, in which a huge part of dwellings has been privatised to the sitting residents.

In order to tackle these problems and comply with EU standards with regard to energy efficiency, the BEEN project aims to develop strategies and tools - technical, legal, institutional and financial - that promote EER of residential buildings in the Baltic Sea



Region, focusing on the multi-storey housing stock erected between 1950 and 1990. In the course of the project, the implementation of best-practice projects will be of particular importance. Here, the jointly elaborated approaches and instruments will be "tested" in the exemplary refurbishment of three multi-storey buildings, one each in Estonia, Lithuania and Poland.

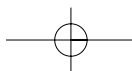
Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, public corporations, associations and universities from Belarus, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Russia
Approximate total project budget: 1,48 million €
ERDF: 1,08 million €
Duration: July 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: Berlin Government, Senate Department for Urban Development, Germany

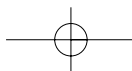
Contact person:
 Ms Britta Schmigotzki
 Tel: +49 30 20 67 98 02
 E-mail: schmigotzki@iwoev.org
 www.been-online.net

Energy efficient refurbishment of a residential building in Latvia within a German-Latvian pilot programme



Residential building in Piaseczno selected as possible best-practice project





RENET



Retail Development - The Competence Network in the Baltic Sea Region

Supermarkets, shopping centres, discounters and other forms of retail are growing in an unbalanced way in many cities around the Baltic Sea.

RENET includes cities and regions dealing with specific location requirements of retail enterprises. In a learning competence network, public-private partnerships are assessed and new strategies and good practices are developed.

The main idea of RENET is the ever growing necessity for public institutions to deal with the location strategies of large enterprises that have been already acting on transnational level as well as with the structural requirements of local, small scale retailers. Within a dynamic, "learning" network, intersectoral and integrated development plans and processes,

strategies for revitalising city centres as well as strategic, public-private partnerships will be developed and tested.

Relevant levels of public bodies (district, city, region/country) are acting differently and have developed diffe-

rent instruments and philosophies for dealing with retail within the European context. The respective interest groups partially still do not act in national or European networks; exchange of knowledge and experience is not yet satisfactory.

Partnership: regional and local public authorities, companies and associations from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden
Approximate total project budget: 2,71 million €
ERDF: 1,62 million €
Duration: June 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: City of Osterholz-Scharmbeck, Germany

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The city centre of Jakobstad, Finland

Puttgarden, Germany, with 6.000 sqm the biggest border shop in the BSR



A guided walk through the shopping centre of Bergvik, Karlstad, Sweden

BalticBroadband

Baltic Rural Broadband Project



The baseline of the Baltic Rural Broadband Project is the lack of broadband supply in rural areas as a result of economic considerations of national telecommunication providers. However, there are technical solutions, e.g. radiolines connected to protected WLAN networks, which allow cheap and cost effective connections for rural areas. A new technology (WIMAX) is currently under development. The modular concept of radio based technologies allows the successive implementation of local networks with relatively low investment cost which might also be implemented at local or subregional level.



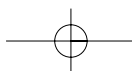
However, the creation of broadband access as a part of local and regional infrastructures has generally not yet been understood as a task for regional or local policies since the advantages are often yet unrecognised.

On a practical level, the project shall create a framework for a transnational laboratory for the project partners which allows the transfer of experience

from the more advanced partners to the others and which multiplies knowledge and practical experience on wireless internet technologies within the BSR. The results of the various pilot projects will be made available to all interested regions.

Partnership: regional and local public authorities, public corporations, companies, associations, foundations and universities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden
Approximate total project budget: 3,43 million €
ERDF+Norwegian national: 2,01 million €
Duration: June 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: ProArbeit Communal Public Corporation, Germany

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LogVAS



Logistic potentials for value added services in port-located areas

In order to feed new economic power to portlocated areas and to seize the related opportunities, the LogVAS project intends to promote economic growth and sustainable development in the Baltic Sea region. The objective of the project is to identify potentials of value added services in the BSR and their activation for port-located areas. This shall be used as a basis for political and economic decisions regarding large investments in the ports, surrounding commercial areas and their hinterland connections via rail, road, air and inland waterways. In detail the project aims:

- to create an information basis, which makes it possible to identify logistic potentials for value added services in portlocated areas,
- to develop a traffic model in order to make the benefit of value added services for potential users transparent and to point out economic as well as political planning strategies for the further development of portlocated areas,
- to draw up viable logistic market concepts which combine sea, rail road, air and inland waterway transport,
- to intensify the co-operation and the division of labour on



the trans-national and intraregional level,

- to enhance investments in ports, commercial areas and their hinterland connections and
- to create a forum for co-operation between public and private actors as well as the sciences across borders and sectors.

The main results of the project is a comprehensive traffic model and database based on different national and regional statistic structures, logistic maps and brochures.

Partnership: local public authorities from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 1.78 million €

ERDF: 0,99 million €

Duration: July 2005 - December 2007

Lead Partner: Lübecker Hafen-Gesellschaft mbH, Germany

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www.logvas.com

Kick-off meeting in

Lübeck

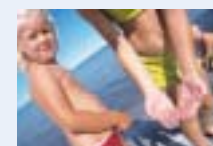


Baltic Master

Maritime Safety - Transport and Environment in the South Baltic Sea Region



The Baltic Sea is one of the world's most heavily trafficked waters, and transport by sea is increasing dramatically. Today, the Baltic Sea is, on average,



Beach life along the Baltic coasts is threatened by the increased risk of a large-scale oil accident.

already the scene of one major oil-related accident every year. A large-scale oil catastrophe threatening the economy and environment of coastal regions could happen at anytime.

Baltic Master aims to improve maritime safety by integrating local and regional perspectives into the decision-making process. The focus is on issues concerning preparedness, prevention and marine spatial planning.

An important effort for the project is to look further into the division of responsibility in the case of a major ship accident affecting more than one country. A worst case scenario of such an accident will be presented to the rescue units of authorities from a number of Baltic Sea countries. Their response to the scenario then generates input for new guidelines on local and regional preparedness.

Maritime safety aspects are of growing importance. Baltic Master focuses on the risks of conflicts of interest arising due to increased use of sea areas and

coastal waters. Practical advice and tools on marine spatial planning will be developed.

Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, companies, associations and universities from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden

Approximate total project budget:

3,60 million €

ERDF: 2,06 million €

Duration: July 2005 - December 2007

Lead Partner: Region Blekinge, Sweden

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Coastline is the scene for an increasing number of interests.



Project partners



RAIL BALTICA



Transnational Integration through Coordinated Infrastructure and Regional Development

The Trans-European railway Rail Baltica, linking Helsinki - Tallinn - Riga - Kaunas - Warsaw and continuing on to Berlin, is to be developed within the territories of the co-operating EU Member States.

The Interreg IIB project "Rail Baltica" has two main goals: definition of the most favourable route for the Rail Baltica railway link in terms of spatial planning and regional development, and raising awareness of the relevant actors (national and regional administrations and decision makers, industry and the public) in the Baltic Sea Region on the benefits of attractive railway connections.



Activities of the project include the definition of a transnationally agreed assessment approach and development strategy to enhance the benefits of the railway link as well as the implementation of the strategy on national and regional levels. The definition of the most favourable route will therefore be in line with the studies on technical feasibility as well as on development and planning priorities. A catalogue of in-depth studies

to be implemented in future feasibility studies will be defined. To further promote the Rail Baltica railway link, a promotion initiative will be launched, and political discussions will be initiated.

Partnership: national and regional public authorities, public corporations from Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

Approximate total project budget: 1,15 million €

ERDF: 0,86 million €

Duration: June 2005 – December 2007

Lead Partner: Riga Region Development Agency, Latvia

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www.rail-baltica.net

BALANCE

Baltic Sea management - Nature conservation and sustainable development in the marine ecosystem through marine spatial planning



The overall aim of the project is to develop tools for improved and informed management through marine spatial planning. BALANCE will, in particular, focus on:

- Access to marine data,
- marine landscapes and habitats of the Baltic Sea,
- evaluation of coherence of existing marine data
- stakeholder participation, and
- guidelines for zoning and management.



Diver at work in a seagrass bed in Baltic Sea

BALANCE has developed a Data Portal enabling marine stakeholders to share marine data. The project will use marine physical, chemical and biological data to identify and describe the marine landscapes and habitats of the Baltic Sea. This includes habitats such as boulder reefs, sandbanks and eelgrass meadows. BALANCE will also develop and demonstrate the concept of "blue corridors", equivalent to green corridors in terrestrial areas. The purpose is to review and summarise different aspects of blue corridors and to demonstrate and give examples of what they may achieve.

BALANCE will use the tools mentioned above to develop a template for a transnational and cross-

sectoral approach to marine zone planning, and thus contribute to sustainable development in the Baltic Sea. The template for Baltic Sea zone planning includes guidance on management efficiency indicators, how to involve various stakeholders and examples on how marine zone planning could be developed in the Baltic Sea.

The BALANCE legacy will be a transnational marine management template and increased public awareness, which can assist stakeholders in planning and implementing effective management solutions for sustainable use and protection of our valuable marine landscapes and unique natural heritage. BALANCE thus provides a transnational solution to a transnational problem.

Submarine structure made by leaking gases with sea anemones



Partnership: national and regional public authorities, foundations, universities and research institutes from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Norway and Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 4.26 million €

ERDF: 2.27 million €

Duration: July 2005 - December 2007

Lead Partner: The Danish Forest and Nature Agency (SNS)

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www.balance-eu.org



Lagomar



Natural and cultural heritage in the southern Baltic Sea - challenges and perspectives for regional development

The Baltic lagoons form a unique maritime landscape with thousands of years of history of the interaction between man and sea. The lagoons are interfaces where rural and regional (the inland) aspects meet transnational ones (the sea). All three lagoons are not only situated on the periphery of the EU, but also form a complicated, not well-developed area, since they are situated on the borders of different nations.

The project focuses on natural and cultural information resources of the lagoons and their transnational usage, as well as on structuring this information to provide a holistic approach for a maritime cultural landscape symptomatic of lagoons. The investigation of the symptomatic offers an essential basis for unique tourist development of Baltic lagoons. From the results of other scientific, museal, and tourism projects from a national perspective of each country, it becomes clear that a holistic approach, overcoming political concepts, is essential for tourism development. Therefore, the central aim of the project is to find the systematics of the information which stands for the interaction of man and sea as a traditional process and purpose.



Lagomar's motto is: The key to history is the key to the future. If we understand how lagoon regions developed from thousands of years of man's interaction with land and sea, we can learn a lot for the future development of these European regions without linguistic, political, and ethnic borders.



Partnership: National, regional and local public authorities, public corporations and universities from Germany, Lithuania, Poland and Russia
Approximate total project budget: 2.04 million €
ERDF: 1.53 million €
Duration: July 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: University of Rostock, Germany

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TRABANT

Transnational River Basin Districts on the Eastern Side of the Baltic Sea Network

The TRABANT project endeavours to improve the basis for the integration of ecological and management aspects in the Eastern Baltic Sea region. The project also deals with links of river basin management planning to spatial planning and methods of public participation. Tools in river basin analyses and status assessment of water bodies will be evaluated and tested.

The conditions in the Baltic Sea result, to a large extent, from the activities in river basins. The activities have been and will be affected through spatial planning as well as through river basin management planning. The latter will be defined by the Water Framework Directive, which came into force in the year 2000 and has a long implementation period lasting until 2015 and beyond.

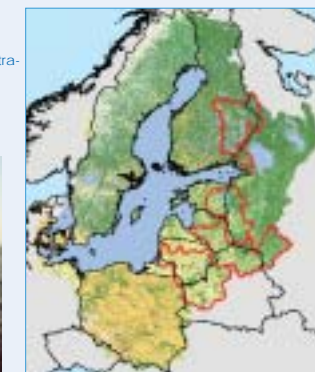
The TRABANT project concentrates on cross-regional co-operation between EU countries, and also with non-EU countries in the river basins of Vuoksi, Narva, Daugava and Nemunas.

A good foundation for river basin management is needed in the next few years. Without a successful cross-sectoral involvement of stakeholders, end-users and the general public, it will not be relevant to develop issues in sustainable water management. The project provides an opportunity for stakeholders to change ideas and develop co-operation. The project results will include recommendations and a guide book of river basin management approaches for transboundary waters, practicable

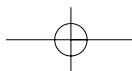
in the Baltic Sea region as well as in other European regions.

Partnership: National and regional public authorities, public corporations, associations and universities from Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Sweden
Approximate total project budget: 1.83 million €
ERDF: 0.74 million €
Duration: July 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: Finnish Environment Institute, Finland

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TraBaNT



Institution building

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Eurobaltic II

EUROBALTIC II
Civil Protection Project

EUROBALTIC Civil Protection Project II

The citizens of the BSR share the risks of accidents and disasters. The main challenge of the EUROBALTIC II project is to reduce the negative effects of them. Experience from the first EUROBALTIC project gave priority to further development in the following areas:

Risks are becoming increasingly international and cross-sectoral, and the citizens of the BSR are, likewise travelling and becoming increasingly more mobile. Risk management and public awareness on safety have become common issues to solve in order to make society less vulnerable and to support development in the region.

The project includes activities that disseminate common methodologies to integrate risk management in spatial development processes. The activities include good practise

examples on risk identification (protecting cultural heritage and the environment from floods, etc) and a network for local and regional risk management as well as the use of GIS-information in risk management. The focus on capacity building entails activities that support better and increased cross border and cross sectoral cooperation in order to handle major accidents and disasters.



After assessing cross border risks, transnational exercises, seminars and training will be arranged. Certain attention will be given to the capacity of handling oil spills in inland waters and on coastlines. The every day safety issues will be promoted by supporting local cross sectoral initiatives, based on lessons learned, a pilot project targeting young people and the development of guidelines for future development of safe communities.

Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, public corporations, associations and universities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 1,73 million €

ERDF: 1,04 million €

Duration: September 2005 – December 2007

Lead Partner: Swedish Rescue Services Agency, Sweden

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Building transnational
safety capacity



Institution building

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BEN

Baltic Euroregional Network

Due to their geographical location, border regions often lag behind in socio-economical development. Many border regions in the Baltic Sea Region suffer from low GDP growth and high unemployment rates compared to more centrally located regions. Euroregions are one of the most common instruments for the development of border regions and cross-border cooperation, but their role in the sustainable development of the BSR is still not sufficient.

The objective of the Baltic Euroregional Network (BEN) is to promote spatial development and territorial integration in the BSR by strengthening Euroregions as competent planning partners with national authorities and international institutions, and by building a network of Euroregions for continuous capacity-building and sharing of experience.

In order to achieve the objectives, the project aims at:

- increasing the institutional capacity of the Euroregions through a structured exchange of knowledge and experience;
- answering specific problems in specific Euroregions through targeted competence-building;
- deepening the communication between the Euroregions and their national, central authorities through specific forums;
- establishing a permanent network among the Euroregions through a series of durability measures or tools.

The project is expected to result in a strong network of Euroregions actively engaged in spatial development within the BSR, with increased and deepened institutional capacity and strategic planning capabilities.

Partnership: national, regional and local public authorities, public corporations, associations, foundations from Belarus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden

Approximate total project budget: 1,22 million €

ERDF: 0,84 million €

Duration:

July 2005 – December 2007

Lead Partner: Nordic Council of Ministers Office in Lithuania

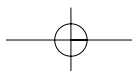
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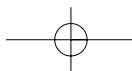
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Institution building

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HEPRO



Focus on health and social well-being in the Baltic Sea Region

The Baltic Sea Region is facing enormous challenges dealing with such situations as an ageing population, the migration of young people from rural areas to cities, unemployment, and an increase in alcohol and drug abuse. Increases in lifestyle diseases and injuries from accidents will make ever-greater demands on the treatment capacities of health services in the future.

Solutions must not only focus on risk factors which have to be eliminated to avoid injury or illness, but also on positive factors that promote the health and well-being of individuals.

The HEPRO project aims at integrating health considerations into spatial planning and development. Its systematic approach will make an important contribution to the establishment of sustainable public health policies in Europe. HEPRO brings together experts with specialist knowledge and experience

from all relevant sectors across eight countries throughout the Baltic Sea Region.



HEPRO aims to prevent diseases and injuries: children are the most important target group in the public health work.

HEPRO will carry out a transnational population survey and training programmes, and concrete findings from the survey will be used in the implementation of spatial planning processes. Results will be gathered in a tool-kit that aims to support decision makers at regional and local levels with evidence-based practical advice.

As HEPRO is a part of the WHO-Healthy Cities, HEPRO will provide support for the Healthy Cities networks in the Baltic Sea Region states and the rest of Europe.

Partnership: public corporations, associations, universities, regional and local public authorities from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, and Sweden
Approximate total project budget: 1,58 million €
ERDF+Norwegian national: 0,95 million €
Duration: June 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: Ostfold County Council, Norway

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Institution building

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Seagull II

Strengthening institutional structures and spatial development capacities of Euroregion Baltic



The main objective of the project is to enhance the institutional capacities of Euroregion Baltic in order to implement its Joint Development Programme.

Euroregion Baltic (ERB) was established in 1998 of nine member regions in six countries bordering the South East Baltic Sea.

The ERB Council and Executive Board decided in 2001 to elaborate a long-term Joint Development Programme (JDP), which was drawn up between 2002 and 2005 within the first SEAGULL project, supported by the European Community Initiative BSR INTERREG III B. The JDP was finally adopted at a Council meeting in Klaipeda on 28.11.2005.

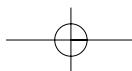
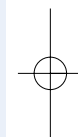
The specific objectives are to:

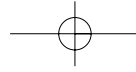
- establish permanent cooperative ERB networks of professionals within the four areas of priority in the JDP:
- Business environment, including the SME platform, rural development and tourism
- Transport infrastructure
- Social dimension with specific focus on the common labour market
- Environment and energy
- improve capacities to develop and manage larger projects by creating project development teams
- launch an internet-based communication facility
- develop a common database enabling benchmarking activities
- facilitate exchange of best practices among ERB civil servants

- increase ERB politicians' and civil servants' knowledge of EU policies relating to JDP
- promote ERB through developing transferable models, publication of project results, organising conferences and e-seminars.

Partnership: national and regional public authorities, associations from Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden
Approximate total project budget: 0,63 million €
ERDF: 0,43 million €
Duration: July 2005 – December 2007
Lead Partner: Association of Polish Communes Euroregion Baltic, Poland

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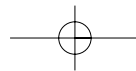


Map
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Baltic Sea INTERREG III B NP
co-operation area

Notes
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