

BALTIC SEA STATES FORUM

Cultural Heritage in Promotion and Development of the Baltic Sea Region

National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk

Gdańsk, November 28th–30th 2018

Organizer:

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk.

Main target:

- The sustainable effective use of tangible and intangible cultural resources of the Baltic Sea Region as a driving force for further social and economic development of the Baltic States.
- Building and enhancing security of cultural heritage – safety of museum and collections.
- Expanding transborder networking and development of projects in the domain of protection and promotion of cultural heritage, education and scientific researches, capacity building, etc.

Structure of the forum:

3 thematic sessions, chaired by moderators will be followed by 4 panel discussions devoted to development of chosen subjects and case studies. The programme of each session foresees 3-4 introductory speeches, which will open a common discussion. The discussions will be chaired by moderators. The sessions and panel discussions will be concluded by moderators or rapporteurs.

Participants:

Polish experts and experts from the countries of the Baltic Sea Region (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, the Russian Federation, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Germany and other interested countries)

- representatives of ministries responsible for cultural heritage, also ministries of defence and crisis situations and other governmental bodies, as appropriate
- national UNESCO commissions
- national Blue Shield committees
- international bodies:
 - NDPC Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture
 - Policy Area Culture of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region
- supraregional and regional associations, agencies and institutes
- experts, practitioners

General themes:

Introduction

The cultural heritage of the Baltic Sea is outstanding even in a global comparison. It harbours treasures such as submerged landscapes from the Stone Age, an abundance of shipwrecks from centuries of intense trade and conflict, and beautiful coastal landscapes formed by women and men living with the sea. This heritage shapes the identities of the people in the region. But pressure on the sea and its coasts is rising. The Baltic Sea is one of the world's most frequented water-bodies. Wind farms, aquaculture and mining are also claiming their share of the limited space. Natural disasters or disasters caused by men can seriously endanger this maritime world. The Baltic states should enhance international cooperation to safeguard intangible and tangible legacy of the region through scientific researches, knowledge exchange, early warning systems, common projects aiming at awareness building and education. Increasing touristic attractiveness and branding is a way for economic growth and a chance for social revival and interest for maritime heritage.

I SESSION:

Development of common initiatives towards the safety of cultural heritage of BSR

- present threats to cultural heritage – regional, national and institutional challenges
- safety of collections – legal and organizational environment; conservator's dilemmas

The session is designed to be a platform of exchange of experiences and best practices in the domain of safety of cultural heritage in case of special threats and crisis situation. Baltic Sea Region – rich and diversified cultural resource - could be endangered by terrorism or natural and civilization disasters. The potential damage and loss of cultural goods should be an incentive for sustaining a multi-holder and supranational dialogue aiming at capacity building and knowledge sharing of professionals in the sphere of cultural heritage security. Special attention would be attached to the issues referred to the practical implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in Event of Armed Conflict and its Protocols and activities of Blue Shield network. The experts representing various organizations and different Baltic Sea regions may take advantage of the Gdańsk forum to present international initiatives as well as national plans and actions for protection of cultural heritage, underwater heritage included. Present challenges and some issues concerning legal and organizational aspects, among them dilemmas to be faced by a conservator, will be discussed during the session.

A choice of proposed topics:

- Evaluation and classification of threats concerning cultural heritage
- Combating illegal trafficking of cultural goods and vandalism
- Proceedings in armed conflict and crises situations /systems of protection/ mutual aid
- Legal systems on behalf of protection of cultural heritage; international and national perspective

- Programmes and projects for the safety of cultural heritage/new technologies/trainings/
- Blue Shield activities
- Models of intergovernmental and institutional cooperation

II SESSION:

Cultural potential of BSR – perspectives for enhanced international cooperation; pros and cons

The session is foreseen as a review of programmes and initiatives in the domain of culture and cultural heritage, which could be beneficial in the domain of increasing BSR potential. The presentation and discussions will be focused on such topics as regional attractiveness, local societies activation and inter-generational building bridges projects. Coastal and underwater cultural heritage such as ship wrecks and archaeological sites can help brand cities and regions, attract talent and foster tourism.

Evaluation of existing financial instruments and their role in supporting regional projects shall lead to further reflection on possible enhancement of trans-border cooperation and better involvement of the governmental and local institutions and other stakeholders. The session may generate discussions on future funding resources, also in the framework of the new EU Financial Perspective beyond 2020. Other topics are also possible.

A choice of proposed topics:

- European Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in sustainable social and economic development of the region
- Development of cultural tourism and activation of civil society: projects' potential
- Education of young generation: promotion of history and traditions; building inter-generation ties through cultural projects
- Increasing regional attractiveness – the role of cultural projects and their stimulating effect on economic growth (chances and barriers)
- Financial resources supporting development of cultural projects in BSR, e.g. *INTERREG, Creative Europe, EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism, Routes4U programme, other*
- Possibilities of expanding trans-border cooperation – the role of governmental and local institutions, NGO.
- Other (selection of proposals)

III SESSION:

Cross-border projects for preservation and sustainable use of cultural heritage resources BSR – their evaluation and future steps

The last session will be a review of research projects in the process of knowledge building on BSR as well as an arena for identification of the necessities and challenges in this regard. Aiming to integrate management of cultural heritage in and at the Baltic Sea into maritime spatial planning should be one of the goals of multilateral cooperation. The preservation of specific cultural and technological maritime heritage will be a starting point for debates on future sectoral works of the experts. The participants may reflect on the role of cultural institutions and their cooperation with civil society facing the most burning problems in BSR. The discussion among practitioners on protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, especially connected to unique BSR traditions and characteristic landscape will also tackle a complex issue of maritime archeology.

A choice of proposed topics:

- Development of knowledge on BRS/research projects and dissemination of their results
- Cases of good practices and exchange of experiences in the framework of projects – e.g. BalticRIM, Maritime Heritage Atlas, Crossroads 2.0 and others
- Looking back, moving forward – the role of cultural institutions and other stakeholders facing present challenges (migrations, population ageing, etc.)
- Protection of disappearing traditions and skills/counteracting globalization
- Protection of archeological sites – maritime archeology
- Perspectives for preservation of BSR cultural heritage and maritime landscapes – standard setting and instruments