

# BETWEEN BALTIC SEA AND THE BLACK SEA

THE CITIES AS ENGINES OF INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION

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- **The main added value: the first ever initiative** dedicated to strengthening of the cooperation between Baltic and Black Sea cities;
- to define the **seaports as gates to the interior and as hubs on land routes** uniting both seas (Sea-Land-Sea);
- to **share the know-how of the regional cooperation** of the Baltic region with the Black Sea partners;
- to **rise the awareness of societies** in both regions about common past and mutual benefits stemming from the cooperation (win-win).

## So far, so close

- very **closely located seas** in Europe no directly connected through the seawaters but through rivers;
- the **continental context**: North-South Axis within Eurasia, the end of New Silk Road- both seas as gates to Europe;
- the **global context** – both seas located on the sea-land corridor between the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian Ocean.



Source: <http://rsta.royalsocietypublishing.org>



# WHY? HISTORY AND CULTURE



Source: <http://s1.zetaboards.com/anthroscape/search/32/?c=3&mid=1747524&month=2&year=2013>

**„United in diversity”** (often) forgotten legacy of history

- **Interactions through trade** (from Varangians to Greeks, Gdansk-Lviv-Istanbul);
- **Migrations** (e.g. Crimean Goths, Lithuanian Tatars, Estonians and Poles in Georgia, Gammalsvenskby in Kherson Oblast, Mennonites from Prussia in the Ukrainian Steppe);
- **State traditions** (Kievan Rus, Polish-Lithuanian Union/Commonwealth);
- **Common heroes** (e.g. Charles XII and Pylyp Orlyk).

# WHY? HISTORY AND CULTURE



Source: <http://vefir.pressan.is/timansras/2011/06/27/4410/>

Developing **infrastructure**  
(planned and realized):

- **Railways**  
(Viking project)
- **Pipelines**  
(Odessa-Brody-Gdańsk)



Source: <http://www.litrail.lt/en/web/kroviniai/viking-train>

# WHY? ECONOMY

Developing **infrastructure**  
(planned and realized):

- **Motorways**  
(Via Carpathia)
- **Canals**  
(Danube–Oder–Elbe)



source: <http://magyarepitok.hu/harom-tengerrel-kotne-ossze-magyarorszagot-egy-kozlekedesi-folyoso>



# WHY? EU AND CITY DIMENSION

- **Twinning** and partnerships of the **Black Sea cities** the most developed with **Baltic cities** in the EU.
- **The Baltic** region as one of **the most advanced** in the world concerning **regional cooperation**, particularly on the municipal level.

# WHY? EU AND CITY DIMENSION

- The **local authorities** in the **Black Sea** region enjoying the **highest social confidence** among public institutions.
- The **Black Sea** area as an European region with **the least developed cooperation between its cities**.
- The cooperation between the **Baltic** Sea and the **Black Sea** as an efficient instrument to **strengthen ties** between the letter and **the EU**.

- **Expert programme** affiliated to **the Union of Baltic Cities** coordinated by **WiseEuropa** in cooperation with **Gdańsk**;
- **Expert team** composed of analysts, scientists, representatives of local authorities, NGOs and business communities from both regions (a healthy mix of practice and theory);
- **Regular seminars** of the expert team on a rotating basis in the cities of both regions;
- **Thematic reports** with a comprehensive **list of recommendations**.

## A special focus on:

- **Economic cooperation between cities** in a wider interregional context, especially transport networking (Sea-Land-Sea).
- **Transfer of know-how** from the Baltic cities to the Black Sea cities:
  - intercity cooperation,
  - municipal administration and services,
  - engagement of local communities,
  - protection of environment,
  - rediscovery of common cultural and historical ties.





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# Thank you for your attention

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