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*Igor Kaniecki
Director, Interreg South Baltic Programme
Interreg funding for glocal development in the maritime economy*

The workshop on "Interreg funding for glocal development in the maritime economy" was divided into three parts related to the programmes, the projects and a discussion.

The first part combined presentations of three Interreg Programmes, providing funding for cross-border development in maritime economy sectors: the South Baltic Programme, the Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak Programme and the Central Baltic Programme. The presentations familiarised the audience with the idea of INTERREG funding and the concept of cross-border cooperation. The presenters also explained the geographies and the thematic areas supported by their Programmes, especially the ones related to maritime economy (e.g. transport, tourism, environment, innovation, etc.). Some of the funded projects exemplifying the contribution to development in the maritime sector were briefly outlined.

The next part was the presentations of three Interreg funded Projects:

- BBVET - Boosting Business Integration Through Joint Education – South Baltic project;
- INTERMARE – Internationalisation of South Baltic Maritime Economy – South Baltic project;
- Baltic Blue Growth - Baltic Blue Growth - Initiation of full scale mussel farming in the Baltic sea – Baltic Sea Region project

Each of the project presented in about 10 minutes:

- The goals and ambitions of the project – what is it about?
- How it is related to glocalisation, 'thinking globally and acting locally' in the maritime economy.
- What are the main activities and actions in the partnership and what is the current progress in the project.

The third part was a discussion in three groups, around the following topics:

- Examples of good practices that participants have heard of (incl. from project presentations; local projects) and which they think should be transferred and/or upscaled to other cities or regions?
- What is needed to transfer and/or upscale the idea (project) to your own city or region? What can be the obstacles? How long can it take?

As an outcome of the discussion in groups the following best practices, that are worth to be upscaled or transferred were identified:

- Promoting the recycling of PLASTICS, e.g. local community actions to clean the beaches (as cleaning the forests) from plastic garbage, attracting youth into this topic, incentives for recycling plastic
- Greening Transport measures – by shaping transport corridors, awareness raising through digital agenda

- Promoting cross-border cooperation between different stakeholders and awareness raising among youth in particular
- Establishing student companies and providing funding to ideas

As to conditions and drivers for transfer/upscaling of ideas, these were mentioned:

- open-mindedness
- changing the perspective
- involvement of local people, youth
- motivating by showing a bigger picture, showing the benefits
- meetings for exchange of information and idea;
- great, large scale actions in social media;

The main obstacles to transferring best practices were defined as:

- limited access to funding
- market entry barriers, and market response
- logistics
- different legal frameworks in different countries