



EUSBSR 7th Annual Forum - 8 and 9 November 2016 in Stockholm

The Baltic Sea Region - Vision 2030

ONE REGION - ONE FUTURE

Application for staging a seminar

Organisers:

BSSSC (Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation) (coordinator) <http://bsssc.com/>

UBC (Union of Baltic Cities) <http://www.ubc.net/>

ERB (EuroRegion Baltic) <http://www.eurobalt.org/>

- in close dialog with the PAC Education.

Date: 8 November is preferred

Type of seminar: Political seminar (90 minutes)

Focus: BSR Vision 2030 - youth perspective - "Nothing about us without us" - including youth representatives in dialog with politicians from local and regional level

Format: Statements + a moderated dialog/debate

1. Statements/youth voice from the three organisations put forward by two members of each of the youth networks (BSSSC, UBC and ERB) - all together 6 youth representatives (3 x 10 minutes = 30 minutes).
2. Input from Baltic Sea Youth Forum (if this will be organised as part of the AF 2016)
3. Moderated dialog between youth representatives, three regional/local politicians from the three organisations and some representatives of the national level (EUSBSR) (35 minutes)
4. Questions and comments from the audience to the panel (20 minutes)
5. Short summing up by youth representatives (5 minutes)

The seminar will be open for all participants.

Main target group will be national coordinators/policy coordinators, politicians and other actors involved in the EUSBSR implementation and the work with the vision towards 2030.

Introduction

The young inhabitants of the Baltic Sea Region are important stakeholders when discussing the future of the Region. BSSSC, UBC and ERB all have long experience in involving and including young people in the work of the organisations. Among others BSSSC organised - together with the European Commission DG Regio - a youth conference 3 - 4 February 2009 " We are the future you are planning for" providing input to the EUSBSR consultation process. The results from the conference were presented by two youth members at the 2nd stakeholder conference in Rostock-Warnemünde. The input from the BSR youth were positively received and led to inclusion of some softer measures in the final strategy document adopted by the European Council.

The Union of the Baltic Cities and its Youthful Cities Commission have organised several youth-related seminars and events with representatives of its Member Cities, promoting youth empowerment and participation. And, Euroregion Baltic through its ERB Youth Board has since 2008 been including the youth perspective in its work by organising conferences and seminar, as well as implementing a joint international youth project entitled Youth Cross-border Cooperation and Dissemination (Yc3) which contributed to the goals of EUSBSR.

Aim of the seminar

Adding value to the Annual Forum by including a bottom up perspective on the BSR Vision 2030 discussions - involving young people as well as politicians from local and regional level – including representatives from Russia and Norway. The Stockholm seminar shall also support youth cooperation across the Baltic Sea Region in such a way that it allows young people from all parts of the region to meet each other and forge links of friendship and cooperation.

Seminar idea

When focusing on Vision 2030 for the BSR in Stockholm in November, it is important to include a youth perspective. BSSSC, UBC and ERB are, through their decentralised structures, able and willing to provide this perspective by staging a political seminar raising the voice of the young people. The youth representatives will also include the voice of the partner countries Russia and Norway.

The seminar will attempt to identify ways to provide better cooperation capacity for youth within the Baltic Sea Region on how to develop strategic youth policy in the region, and allow representatives on non-EU regions to become better engaged in the work on the improvement of Baltic Sea area.

Young people are interested in - and concerned about - almost all topics related to the EUSBSR, and their input will in its nature be touching upon several topics. The most important issues will be;

- Sustainability and a green future - including clean water, climate change, green transport, circular economy

- **Prosperity, growth and jobs** - including education, mobility, school to work, avoidance of brain-drain, safe and secure local communities, health and well-being, culture and identity, migration and integration, xenophobia, etc.

These two main themes will be interlinked with the horizontal issue concerning the cooperation capacity of the youth networks and how we can better use their knowledge and expertise to create strategic youth policy within EUSBSR.

Preparation of the event

To prepare the youth perspective we will use our youth networks - and young people from BSR will meet and discuss BSR vision 2030 at internal events before November. Among others in the BSSSC youth meeting alongside the BSSSC Annual Conference in Hämeenlinna 13 - 16 September 2016, the Youthful Cities Commission meetings of the UBC as well as the ERB Youth Board meeting on Bornholm on 8th June 2016. Messages from the youth of the BSR will then be delivered at the AF in Stockholm via the proposed seminar.

Expected outcome

Raise the voice of the young people of the Baltic Sea Region - including Russia and Norway - at the Stockholm Annual Forum – and bring their views and proposals into the discussion on BSR Vision 2030.

Messages from the BSR youth to the media and Annual Forum

Hey! We've got something to say!

Taking care of tomorrow! We want to take part!

Nothing about us without us!

Contact person/coordinator: Ann Irene Saeternes, Eastern Norway County Network – head of BSSSC task force strategy - on behalf of BSSSC, UBC and ERB

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EUSBSR Annual Forum 2016, Stockholm

Application for seminar category: *Political Seminar, 90 minutes*

Applicants: Union of the Baltic Cities, *Brandenburg region plus BSSSC (tbc)*

Heading: (100 characters)

How to enhance the role of cities and regions in the Baltic Sea cooperation?
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Description: (300 characters)

This political seminar tackles the role of cities and regions in the Baltic Sea cooperation and aims at strengthening it. What is their role and emphasis in carrying out the EUSBSR objectives in saving the sea, increasing prosperity and connecting the region? The Baltic Sea Region is lucky to entail a significant amount of well functioning cities and regions as well as corresponding pan-Baltic networks that promote international cooperation and seek solutions to common challenges with foreign partners across the borders. This seminar aims at finding out what does the future hold for the Baltic Sea's regions and cities and what part does the EUSBSR play in it, It is also an important forum in developing approaches to strengthen the role of local and regional cooperation in the BSR.

Message to the media: (in one sentence)
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This political seminar discusses the role of cities and regions in the Baltic Sea cooperation and seeks ways and means to strengthen it.
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Elaboration: (1000 characters)

Effective cooperation in the Baltic Sea cooperation requires the mobilization of all potential resources and stakeholders. The EUSBSR Action Plan rightly emphasizes the need to involve all actors vertically and horizontally in this cooperation. The cities and the regions being closer to the citizens are essential partners in effective multi-level governance structure. They, and their pan-Baltic organisations and networks should therefore be fully mobilized in this work. However, it also requires that they feel "ownership" of the EUSBSR through participation in structures of governance.
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Today the inclusion of regions and cities in implementing the EUSBSR is more important than ever because it brings the EUSBSR to a more practical level and closer to people living in the Baltic Sea Region. Importance of this should not be underestimated when the distance between European institutions and national governments and the population seems to be growing.
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This political seminar will be a panel discussion with approximately 5 speakers that represent key pan-Baltic networks and some of the key cities and regions, taking into account also neighboring countries. Important role is also played by active dialogue with the audience.
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Venue and time:

Estimated number of participants is about 80 and the duration of this political seminar is 90 minutes. We estimate that this seminar will be a panel discussion with 5 speakers + moderator. The participants will also be invited to have an interactive session. We would need a podium, microphones and a screen.
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Organisation and partners: (500 characters)
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The main organizers of this seminar are the UBC and the Brandenburg region, while participation of the BSSSC is still to be confirmed. HA Capacity and its other co-coordinators will participate in planning. Additional partners may be invited to join as organizers/partners.

Seminar application I

This version: 17 May 2016

Title (86/92/34/100):

- Alternative 1: From Mare Dividum to Mare Acronymum: what is the secret behind the different acronyms?
- Alternative 2: Under the acronym umbrella: what is the added value of the various pan-Baltic organisations?
- Alternative 3: Making sense of the alphabet soup?

Description (360/300):

Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region is at times characterised as "over-organised" but "under-governed" and the organisational landscape compared to an "alphabet soup". During this interview seminar representatives from five different local and regional organisations will be asked about the history, rationale and future potential of their respective acronym.

Message to the media (176/100):

Start making sense of the acronyms that flood the BSR (sic!) organisational landscape in a high-paced interview seminar with representatives from the organisations in question.

Elaboration (968/1000):

Making sense and differentiating between the many acronyms used to denote organisations and actors working with Baltic Sea Region cooperation can be difficult. At times one begins to think about the conversation between John Cleese and Terry Gilliam in their movie *Life of Brian* where they themselves are uncertain of which faction or front they do represent – and why.

During the course of this interview seminar leading representatives from a wide range of the local, regional organisations and international organisations try to orientate the audience in the sea of acronyms that have developed. Participants get the chance to in turn briefly answer a set of questions designed to give the audience (better) clarity of what does this and that organisation really do – and why – and what are their future plans.

The seminar which is hosted by Horizontal Action Capacity concludes with invited comments from the research community and short questions from the audience.

Format:

Hot Seat/Interview Seminar

Venue and time:

The seminar is estimated to attract some 40% of Strategy Forum attendees and should last no longer than 45 minutes.

Technical equipment needed is one high chair per respondent (no tables) as well as possibility to stream a snippet from the Life of Brian movie (full scene in link; to be edited to include section from 26 seconds onwards): [click to view](#).

Organisation and partners:

The seminar is organised and funded by the Swedish Institute in their capacity as Horizontal Action Coordinator for Horizontal Action Capacity together with its HA Capacity partner organisations (the Norden Association and Centrum Balticum) and Nordregio.

The seminar is moderated by Slawomir Demkowicz-Dobrzanski (Swedish Institute) and Mikael Olsson (Swedish Institute).

The total number of participants/respondents are set to a 6-7 and tentatively includes:

- Secretariat of the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC)
- CPMR Baltic Sea Commission (BSC)
- Secretariat of the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)
- Baltic Sea States Subregional Co-operation (BSSSC)
- Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)
- Baltic Sea Forum (BSF)
- Baltic Metropolises Network (BaltMet)

Contact:

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Seminar application II

This version: 17 May 2016

Title (95/100):

Insiders vs. outsiders in the EUSBSR: how to cut the Gordian knot of transnational cooperation?

Description (421/300):

This seminar/workshop takes on the everlasting issue of how to enable and enhance cooperation among actors at different levels and in different countries. In particular is asked how one is to entice/allow local and regional authorities to (re)gain a more active part in developing the EUSBSR? Insights from the Baltic Executive Programme, organised as part of Horizontal Action Capacity, are used to illustrate the questions.

Message to the media (188/100):

Learn about how to mitigate what by some is described as a “turf war” between “insiders” at the national and European level and “outsiders” at the level of regional and local authorities.

Elaboration (1228/1000):

Ever since lobbying for what was to become the EUSBSR began there has been tension between the local and regional level on the one hand, and the national and European level on the other. If progress is to be made before 2030 it is time to reach a qualitatively new level of cooperation between different types of actors in the Baltic Sea Region; the relationship between “insiders” and “outsiders” needs to be re-negotiated.

A dilemma with the EUSBSR – yet to be solved – has been that the agenda-setting sphere (insiders) has lacked the financial and political clout to actually implement the agenda in

question. Rather, discretion of the funds needed has been effectively vested among other agents (e.g. local and regional authorities) that have come to be defined as “outsiders” to the process in question. In order to solve this dilemma the mutual interdependence of these groups needs to be recognized and handled; the insider-outsider dichotomy must be done away with.

Against the backdrop of what has been done during the Baltic Executive Programme the panel discussion will focus on what needs to be done to (again) entice the local and regional level to see the EUSBSR as a worthwhile framework for cooperation?

Format:

Political seminar (90 mins)

Venue and time:

The seminar is estimated to attract some 50% of Strategy Forum attendees if staged as political seminar and some 25% of attendees if staged as a workshop; either way the duration should be no longer than 90 minutes.

Technical equipment needed is one standing table for the moderator and three additional standing tables for the national/European level, the regional level and the local level respectively (no chairs) as well as projector for presentations. Wireless microphones for all.

Organisation and partners:

The seminar is jointly organised by the Swedish Institute, the Union of Baltic Cities, CPMR’s Baltic Sea Commission and the Norden Association.

On stage the following groups of actors will be represented:

- The European Commission (DG Regio; e.g. Peter Schenk)
- The national level (Poland; e.g. Joanna Wojtkowska)
- HA Capacity (e.g. Mikael Olsson and/or Mikko Lohikoski and/or Anders Bergström)
- The regional level (CPMR Baltic Sea Commission; e.g. Åsa Bjerling)
- The local level (Secretariat of the Union of Baltic Cities; e.g. Pawel Zaboklicki)
- Participants from the Baltic Executive Programme (e.g. Tarja Nuotio)

Moderator for the panel discussion will be Daniel Sköld (lead facilitator from the Baltic Executive Programme).

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