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photo: Marek Czasnojc

## 19'th BSSSC Annual Conference

5-7 October 2011, Szczecin

Today it is important to identify and to start the new engines of sustainable growth in Europe. The new growth engines must work towards strengthening European cohesion: economic, social and territorial. Aiming for cohesion is not a cost; it gives strength, taps unused potential, expands the growth basis, and generates European social capital. Therefore this year the 19th BSSSC Annual Conference will tackle the question of how to use the EU cohesion policy for growth and integration of all the regions around the Baltic Sea. In the sessions and workshops numerous aspects of territorial cohesion, urban-rural cooperation, science, innovation, education and last but not least social cohesion will be discussed.

As in the previous years, BSSSC will continue its active participation in the process of developing and reviewing the Baltic Sea Macroregional Strategy with an

appreciation of its influence on tightening interregional cooperation on one hand and on the other, noticing the many ongoing shortcomings such as funding alignment and the insufficient involvement of the Russian Baltic Sea regions.

BSSSC undertakes its important task of representing the interests of the whole region to the EU and to express the voices of the regions during a review of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in 2011.

The 19th BSSSC Annual Conference is organized under the Patronage of the Polish Presidency in the EU Council and will be hosted by the Westpomeranian Region.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to Szczecin – the capital city of our region.

**MAŁGORZATA LUDWICZEK**  
BSSSC Secretariat

## EDITORIAL

We are pleased to announce the first issue of the BSSSC newsletter which reaches you just at the beginning of the Westpomeranian Chairmanship. The year 2011 is significant for Europe and for the Baltic Sea Region.



The Chairmanship of the  
**Westpomeranian  
Region 2011–2012**  
in BSSSC

At present, issues such as the new EU budget, the Europe 2020 strategy and the shape of the post 2013 cohesion policy are being discussed. What is more, Europe is still emerging from an economic crisis, which has affected all European regions.

In this respect, the Europe 2020 strategy sets out the strategic guidelines for recovering from the crisis and lays the foundations for intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth.

The first edition of the BSSSC newsletter in 2011 offers you not only an overview of the BSSSC activities but gives you an insight into the current European issues.

The spring season has inspired us to launch the new layout and we hope that you will enjoy it.

We wish you a pleasant reading !

With best regards,

**OLGIERD GEBLEWICZ**  
BSSSC Chairman

# CBSS within the Baltic Sea regional cooperation

Reflections after the joint CBSS and BSSSC meeting in Oslo



photo: Krzysztof Barczyk

The meeting between the CBSS Committee of Senior Officials and the BSSSC Board during the Norwegian Presidency of CBSS and of the Chairmanship by the Westpomeranian region of Poland of the BSSSC on 15 March 2011 could be considered as a significant step getting these two organisations even more closer.

There was a well-prepared and rather tight agenda for this meeting including discussions on the long-term vision for the Baltic Sea Region adopted by the Heads of the Government in June 2009 and on the European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region endorsed by the European Council in 2009. The prospects of the CBSS-BSSSC cooperation in particular within three concrete fields: maritime policy, sustainable development, and youth issues were discussed. While in the first two mentioned fields both organisations are cooperating, there was a significant possibility to initiate a cooperation in the field of youth issues at this joint meeting including also the representatives of of the BSSSC youth network.

The BSSSC is the firm strategic partner of CBSS and both organisations are in contact frequently. The CBSS Secretariat is participating regularly in the BSSSC Board meetings as an observer and the CBSS Presidency is being present at the BSSSC annual conferences. Both organisations coordinate in many fields and share the same historical development in the Baltic Sea Region remembering how the

cooperation started in the Baltic Sea Region, crossing the old dividing lines.

The 6th Baltic Sea States Summit in Reykjavik in June 2006 literally recognised the consolidation in the CBSS of all regional intergovernmental, multilateral co-operation taking place between the CBSS member states. Nevertheless, that statement has never materialised in reality, at least fully. Instead we have several intergovernmental multilateral actors in the Baltic Sea Region working in a non-hierarchic and autonomous fashion in their own right. Most notably we have the EU with its regional programmes and macro-regional strategies such as the EUSBSR. Rooted to the EU but with the full participation of Iceland, Norway and Russia, there is the Northern Dimension with its Partnerships. There are also thematically focused intergovernmental organisations, such as HELCOM and intergovernmental cooperation forms which are based on considerably different or smaller country constellations and geographic coverage than the CBSS but which still are working multilaterally within the BSR and on the same thematic fields as the CBSS, most notably the Nordic Council of Ministers, Barents Euro Arctic Council and the Arctic Council.

The CBSS is an overall political forum for regional intergovernmental cooperation between the eleven member states as well as the European Commission. Developments such as Baltic 21 becoming the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development-Baltic 21, and VASAB, dealing

with spatial planning, moving closer to the CBSS in terms of joining the CBSS “family” as an intergovernmental network while remaining autonomous, have quite recently widened the scope of the CBSS. This clearly enhances the CBSS role as a coordinator of regional intergovernmental cooperation and the CBSS Secretariat being a switchboard for the Baltic Sea Region.

A decision to reform the CBSS was included in the Riga Declaration adopted on 3 June 2008 and by the same Declaration the CBSS has established five permanent priority areas – the environment, economic development, energy, education and culture, civil security and the human dimension. In some of these areas the CBSS is most active, in some cases the CBSS structures abstain for the reason that the ND or other organisations are actively involved.

As an outcome of the reform the CBSS expert groups were established on Nuclear and Radiation Safety, on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21, on Customs and Border Crossing Aspects, on Maritime Policy, for Cooperation on Children at Risk, on Youth Affairs, on EuroFaculty Pskov and the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings. In addition to that the CBSS has strongly evolved relationship with intergovernmental networks created by the other state institutions of the CBSS member states: Ars Baltica, CBSS Group of Senior Officials on Culture, CBSS Senior Officials network on Tax Cooperation, Baltic Sea Region Energy Cooperation BASREC, Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage in the Baltic Sea States, Baltic Sea States Civil Protection Network, Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation, Baltic Sea Task Force on Organised Crime, Baltic Sea States Prosecutors Network and Visions and Strategies for the Baltic Sea Region VASAB.

In order to make cooperation with special participants and strategic partners more effective, the Latvian CBSS Presidency 2007–2008 proposed to merge the two categories into a single category of a strategic partner. So the external cooperation of the CBSS was formally structured into: 1) cooperation with strategic partners – Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), Baltic Sea States Subregional Cooperation (BSSSC), Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions – Baltic Sea Commission (CPMR-BSC), Baltic 7 Islands Network (B7), Organisation on Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Union of Baltic Cities (UBC), Baltic Development Forum (BDF), Baltic Sea Chamber of Commerce Association (BCCA), Baltic Sea Forum – Pro Baltica, Baltic Sea NGO Forum, Baltic Sea Trade Unions Association (BASTUN), Baltic Marine Environ-

ment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and ScanBalt, 2) with Observers (only 10 states outside the scope of the membership of the CBSS belong to that category), 3) with other regional organisations including the 4 regional councils in the North mentioned above, 4) with the EU policies and strategies as the Northern Dimension and the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and 5) with other interested partners as the Council of Europe, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, International Organisation for Migration and others active in particular CBSS priority fields.

Of the latest developments the Vilnius Declaration: A Vision for the Baltic Sea Region by 2020 adopted by the 8th Baltic Sea States Summit on 2 June 2010 in Vilnius stem out of the CBSS CSO intention to prepare the future vision for the region. After the Riga Declaration on reforms the Vilnius Declaration on a Vision is covering all important fields of cooperation and it was achieved that the declaration is basic, political, operative, short and understandable to the public. At the same time this is the Declaration of the Heads of Governments and every member state is responsible to follow these general guidelines. The Vilnius Declaration is indicating even stronger

cooperation for regions and national states in many areas, including transport connections, science and education. There is the strong interlink between the Declaration and the EU Strategy for the BSR.

Nevertheless, it is a challenge for the CBSS to coexist and find its role in the con-



text of other regional formats of cooperation and it is very important to have the most rational division of labour, to avoid unnecessary overlaps, to create win-win situations and synergy rather than harmful competition. To some extent the fragmentation of intergovernmental cooperation in the BSR may lead to a governance model with many in-build, multiplying faults: learning the same lessons over and over again by different agents, wasting resources, loosing the overall objectives, avoiding responsibilities without a clear division of tasks, relying on opportunism caused by the unclear struc-

tures, struggling with information overload from uncoordinated activities, making wrong decisions because of a lack of necessary information and co-ordination. The organizational fragmentation cannot, for political or other reasons, apparently be solved with any clear-cut solutions, based on such organisations as the CBSS working as an umbrella for all intergovernmental cooperation forms in the BSR.

The current EU macro-regional approach, combined with close cooperation with non-EU countries such as Iceland, Norway and Russia, seems to speak in the language of enhanced regionalisation implementing in practice the basically old idea of Europe of the "Olympic rings". This could open a "window of opportunity" to emphasize in much more definite terms the Baltic Sea Region's own joint interests and identity, without undermining the importance of European and pan-European integration and globalization at large.

Prepared by

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## Eco4life

### Baltic Network for Environmental and Life Sciences to Boost Cross Border Cooperation



Department of Genetics and Patomorphology of the Pomeranian Medical University headed by Prof. Jan Lubiński, together with German and Lithuanian academic centres commenced the implementation of an entrepreneurship promotion project.

**"E**co4life – Baltic Network for Environmental and Life Sciences to Boost Cross Border Cooperation" is to combine the experiences of entities within the scope of the so called "life sciences" in Mecklenburg – Vorpommern in Germany, Westpomeranian Region in Poland and the Klaipeda District in Lithuania. In each of the 3 regions, contact points have been organised for the creation of regional cross border cooperation networks to boost entrepreneurship in the Southern Baltic Region.

The implementation of the project begun in November 2010, the project will run for a period of 3 years with a budget of EUR 934,000.

The area of interest for the project are life sciences and environmental technologies encompassing all of the sciences directly or indirectly associated with living organisms. All biological and some technical sciences belong to that group, such as: biology, environmental science, biochemistry, medicine, genetics, tissue engineering, biomaterials, nanotechnology, proteomics and many others. These sciences belong to the most promising when it comes to the sources of innovation for the economic development of Europe.

Partners of the Eco4life project are: The Pomeranian Medical University in Szczecin, Klaipeda University (Lithuania) and BioCon Valley (Germany). The aim of the project is the improvement of competitiveness and the creation of a strong South Baltic Region with respect to science and business.

In Greifswald, Szczecin and Klaipeda, contact points have been created with databases of entities and their competencies within the scope of "life sciences".

Scientists, entrepreneurs and local authorities are conducting meetings with the aim of exchanging experiences as well as regional and supraregional strategies equalising the differences between the South and North Baltic Sea Regions.

Workshops and training sessions for scientists and entrepreneurs and being held on a regular basis with the aim of educating and the promotion of entrepreneurship. Information regarding the forthcoming workshops can be found on the [www.eco4life.info/aktualnosci](http://www.eco4life.info/aktualnosci) web site.

The project is supported by local authorities, young companies and ScanBalt – a network of natural sciences in the Baltic Sea Region. BioCon Valley is the lead partner of the project.





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# The cohesion policy is not a Policy of the past.

It nurtures the future of the European Union.  
That is why we must renew it.

This clear and strong message sent by Jose Barroso was heard by 800 participants of 5th Cohesion Forum. The forum took place to answer two important questions: what the EU achieved thanks to its implementation, and what is the future of the policy.

**D**uring two days representatives of high level political decision makers from Member States and European Commission, regional and local authorities, economic, social and academic partners took part in discussion about the past, presence and future of cohesion Policy and its contribution to the Europe 2020.

There was no doubt about importance of the policy. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk underlined that Poland and its major transformation is the best example of implementation the Cohesion Funds.

He pointed out that during last few years GDP in Poland arose from 45% of average European GDP to 65% what was unquestionably achieved among others factors thanks to implementation of Cohesion Policy. Similar voices came from other countries as Lithuania, Hungary, Slovenia, Germany and Sweden.

The positions about the future of the Cohesion Policy was common in many points

for Member States. There was stressed the need of remaining ESF as part of cohesion policy, as the key factor of fulfilling the Europe's 2020 objectives concerning inclusive and sustainable growth. Very often representatives of different regions picked the necessity of having bottom-up approach, so the objectives foreseen by Europe 2020 were deeply rooted by local, regional and national level.

During the forum quite often appeared concern about the system of conditionality and its impact on regions, project partners

and beneficiaries. According to some of the speakers it might cause obstructive impacts on regional and local actors who de facto don't have major influence on implementation of macroeconomics processes.

5th Cohesion Forum proved that Cohesion Policy is the living heart of European Integration which cannot be stopped. But all are agreed that we are facing new challenges which must be catch up by new rules of its implementation. Following the speech of President Barroso:

The European Union needs cohesion Policy more than ever before. It is the lifeblood of European union; without it the European union would wither away. But we need to inject new life into the cohesion policy.

**SEBASTIAN GOJDŹ**

Head of Regional Office  
of Westpomeranian Region



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# A Green Hamburg Invites You to Join in

As the second city from the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) – after Malmö in 2010 – the European Commission awarded Hamburg the title of “European Green Capital” in 2011. The award features outstanding performance in environmental protection. Simultaneously, the EU Commission expects competing cities to increase their efforts in environmental protection, while learning from one another through the exchange of best practices.

**H**amburg won the award for the variety in its environmental policy initiatives as well as for its ambitious goals for the future. Not only did Hamburg reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 15% from 1990 to 2007 but it will also continue in that same line, with the Hamburg Senate aiming for a 40% reduction by 2020, climbing towards an 80% reduction by 2050. Hamburg’s answer to the demands of the city’s growing economy and increasing population is inward growth, taking into account environmental issues. Prime examples of this are Hafencity, the largest urban development project in Europe, as well as the International Building Exhibition (IBA) in Wilhelmsburg.

The award and Hamburg’s environmental activities go well in line with BSSSC’s commitment in the same field. Supporting BSSSC’s priority area “Climate Change and Sustainable Development” Hamburg launches various activities in 2011.

## Green Capital fosters European dialogue

European Green Capital provides a platform for a Europe-wide exchange to discuss environmental issues and urban development with experts and citizens. As one of the flagship projects Hamburg introduces the “Train of Ideas” in April 2011.. The project presents possibilities how cities of the future may become environmentally friendly cities with a high quality of life.



The actual train with seven containers hosts an exhibition with themes surrounding urban development and living such as mobility, energy, climate protection, nature, city greenery, resource protection, economy and consumption. The exhibition is designed to cover certain topics – important for Hamburg but for the whole BSR as well – from various perspectives: the personal, local and regional and the global perspective.

The exhibition opens on 15 April in Hamburg Altona.

Departing from Hamburg on the 22nd of April, the train will commence its tour throughout Europe, visiting a total of 18 European cities. On its tour the train will – of course – also visit cities of the Baltic Sea Region, including Warsaw, Malmö, Gothenburg, Copenhagen, Oslo, Riga and Tallinn. More information can be found at [www.train-of-ideas.net](http://www.train-of-ideas.net).



photo: BSU Hamburg

To learn more about Hamburg as European Green Capital and the programme in 2011, please visit the infopoint near Hamburg’s main train station, where Hamburg’s ideas as well as examples from all across Europe are presented, or [www.hamburg-greencapital.eu](http://www.hamburg-greencapital.eu).

## EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL HAMBURG

# Get involved: the Event Calendar

## goodgoods

The trade fair for sustainable consumption (27-29 May 2011)

“goodgoods”, Germany’s largest sustainable consumption exhibition on 8,000 square will feature the most attractive sustainable products, services and projects offered today or in the immediate future. For more information see: <http://www.goodgoods.de>.

## Environmental Youth Summit

Youth participation and youth policy has not only been a vital field within

BSSSC but will also have high importance in Hamburg as Green Capital 2011. In the summer of 2011 Hamburg invites local youth throughout Hamburg and Europe to the first Environmental Youth Summit.

## GreenPort Congress 2011 (14-15 September 2011)

Taking up one of BSSSC’s core topics, environmental and harbour experts from around the globe will convene in Hamburg for the „GreenPort Congress 2011“. The event hosted by the Hamburg Port Authority (HPA), the „Eco Ports Foundation“ and the „European

Seaports Association“ (ESPO) will focus on incentives for the sustainable and environmentally sound development of the port industry. For more information see: [www.hamburg-port-authority.de](http://www.hamburg-port-authority.de).

## International Environmental Law Conference (15-16 September 2011)

The first International Environmental Law Conference gathers experts from around the world to discuss the status quo of environmental law and to develop guidelines for the future. For more information see: <http://www.icoel.org/>.

# European Maritime Day 2011 Gdańsk

photo: Pawel Klein

This year European Maritime Day will be held in Gdańsk/Poland – at the invitation of the Marshal of Pomorskie Voivodeship, Gdańsk Mayor, and the Polish Ministry of Infrastructure.

**O**f course, as it in Brussels, Rome and Gijon/ Spain in the previous years, it is co-organised also by the European Commission's Directorate for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. The main conference will be held on May 19th in the Polish Baltic Philharmonic Hall (a great example of industrial revitalization project) in the heart of the old city of Gdańsk. May 20th – in the same venue – is devoted to the stakeholders' day – 15 events, three sets of five parallel sessions.

The main theme of the conference is "Maritime Policy: Putting People First". This humane approach is also visible in the numerous side events being organized from May 19th to May 22nd. And it is also accompanied by the Baltic Tourism Forum held in Sopot on May 17-18th.

Just to remind you, European Maritime Day was established jointly by the European Council, European Parliament and European Commission in 2008 as part of the EU maritime policy. Its goal is to raise European citizens' awareness of the sea and their importance.

The organizers hope that this year the EMD conference and festivities will be both



very information and fun. We extend a very warm welcome to you to participate. We also suggest you to stay over the weekend to enjoy beautiful May days in Gdańsk - the capital of Pomorskie Region.

For more information on European Maritime Day as such, this year's programme and the venues, please visit <http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/maritimeday>.

**KRYSTYNA WRÓBLEWSKA**  
Office of the Marshal  
of Pomorskie Voivodeship



photo: Pawel Klein

# Volunteer!

## Make a difference

This is what the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union have named the Year of Volunteering in 2011. Naming 2011 the year of volunteering turns the focus of the whole European Union and the whole Europe on the voluntary work. The voluntary work is important and its aim is to raise awareness of the value and importance of volunteering.

**F**acilitating an enabling the environment for volunteering and recognize voluntary activities are also some of the main working areas. Last but not least, they want to cooperate with organizers and organizations to improve the quality of the voluntary activities.

by developing solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, thus contributing to reinforcing the social cohesion in the European Union.

The voluntary work is beneficial both for the volunteers and for the local community. As a youth one can get life experience and education through voluntary work in many different forms. Youth are able to learn things that are impossible to learn in formal education. The skills and contacts gained through the voluntary service may in the end give youngsters better job prospects and opportunities in life. The community gets back an active and committed youth with ideas and a will to help. There is no doubt that for both parts it might be a positive experience.



photo: Izabela Szerwińska

benefits it brings for youth in the Baltic Sea Region. During the Youth Conference we will be able to get the youth ideas, experiences and thoughts around the topic of the voluntary activities. I think that there is a great potential in the voluntary work and that it has a connection to the other topics that the BSSSC already are working with for instance the cohesion policy. Therefore encouraging youth to more voluntary activities between regions will result in a positive development both for the youths and the regions around the Baltic Sea.

### INGRID KLEMP

Youth Board member in the BSSSC Board



photo: Magdalena Szerwińska

From a youth perspective the voluntary work is a great way to get new experiences and to try something different. You can get the possibility to travel to a different countries, get to know a new culture and help to make a difference in the local community. The European Voluntary service provides youth in Europe with a unique chance to put their active citizenship into life through voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU. They contribute

In the BSSSC youth network we are going to bring the Year of volunteering into the 19<sup>th</sup> BSSSC Annual Conference which is to be held in Szczecin in October 2011.

It is going to be the theme of the Youth Conference and also to be the topic of the youth workshop during the BSSSC Annual Conference. The Youth Conference and the Annual Conference is a great way to put attention to the opportunities youth have to participate in voluntary work and to the



European Year of Volunteering 2011



# Calendar **May / August**

**27/29 April**

**SWINOUJSCIE-HERINGS DORF**  
Baltic Business Forum 2011: Europe:  
North, East-Business without Borders  
[www.balticbusinessforum.eu](http://www.balticbusinessforum.eu)

**5/6 May**

**RIGA** Green Growth in the Baltic Sea  
Region  
[www.norden.org](http://www.norden.org)

**3/4 May**

**ROSTOCK** Cruise and ferry passenger  
shipping on the Baltic Sea – New  
opportunities and challenges  
[www.ostseeinstitut.uni-rostock.de](http://www.ostseeinstitut.uni-rostock.de)

**11/12 May**

**SKELLEFTEA** TransBaltic  
Conference  
<http://transbaltic.eu/>

**18/20 May**

**GDANSK** BSSSC Board meeting,  
4th Baltic Sea Tourism Forum,  
European Maritime Day 2011  
[www.bsssc.com](http://www.bsssc.com), <https://emd2011.regware.be/>

**26/27 May**

**STOCKHOLM-HELSINKI** (ferry)  
CPMR Baltic Sea Commission General  
Assembly  
[www.balticseacommission.info](http://www.balticseacommission.info)

**31 May**

**HAMBURG** BSSSC / BALTEX  
Conference – Adapting to Climate Change  
(case studies from the BSR)  
[www.baltex-research.eu](http://www.baltex-research.eu)

**6/7 June**

**OSLO** 16th CBSS Ministerial Session  
[www.cbss.org](http://www.cbss.org)

**15 June**

**BRUSSELS** Informal Baltic Sea Group  
seminar “The EU Strategy for the Baltic  
Sea Region – We implement the first  
European Macro regional strategy!”

**15/17 June**

**GDANSK** 9th International Symposium  
TransNav 2011 on Marine Navigation and  
Safety of Sea Transportation  
[www.transnav.am.gdynia.pl](http://www.transnav.am.gdynia.pl)

**22/26 August**

**ST. PETERSBURG** Baltic Sea Science  
Congress 2011  
[www.bssc2011.org](http://www.bssc2011.org)

**28/30 August**

**HELSINKI** 20th Baltic Sea Parliamentary  
Conference – Green Growth for a Bluer  
Baltic Sea  
[www.bspc.net](http://www.bspc.net)

## BSSSC SECRETARIAT



fot. Tomasz Murański

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The Chairmanship of the  
**Westpomeranian  
Region 2011-2012**  
in BSSSC