



4 June 2015

Annex

Progress in Strategic Actions to Implement the CBSS Long-term Priorities

Regional Identity:

A Round Table “*Baltic Sea Regional Identity - Is it only a CBSS long term priority?*” was held at the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meeting in December 2014, in Stockholm and was attended by representatives of the NGO Crossing the Baltic, EUSBSR Policy Area Culture, the EuroFaculty Consortium, the CBSS International Expert Group EuroFaculty Pskov, the Swedish Institute, the Norden Association of St. Petersburg, Russia, the Körber Foundation, the Secretariat of the Northern Dimension Partnership on Culture, the Union of Baltic Cities Culture Committee, the Baltic Sea Region University Network, the Latvian Institute, the Baltic Sea Secretariat for Youth Affairs, Ars Baltica, the Monitoring Group on Cultural Heritage of the Baltic Sea States, the Baltic University Programme and the Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation.

EuroFaculty

The CBSS EuroFaculty Pskov (EFP) project (2009-2015), has developed a Business Management BA and MA Education for the University of Pskov, Russian Federation. The 2nd and final phase of the EFP will be completed in August 2015 followed by the closing event of the project will be held in October 2015.

The concept of the CBSS EuroFaculty programme was initiated to support the development of university curricula and teaching methods of selected universities in the Baltic Sea Region. Since 1993 the programme has assisted in the training of local academic staff in the subjects of Economics, Business Administration, Political Science, and Law. The EuroFaculty concept has thus become one driver for implementation of international standards for high education in the Region.

The EFP Business Development Programme called the *BDPro – Your Journey to Innovation and Growth* started in September 2014 and the Pskov State University launched a new international Master of Science programme in September 2014 as well. Other partner universities have joined the EFP activities through 4 different models of cooperation 1) jointly coordinated courses, 2) boot camps, 3) interdisciplinary clusters and 4) entire study modules.

A Report *the Future of the EuroFaculty* was prepared as a PSF project led by the University of Turku, and the future of the concept is currently being discussed within the Project Consortium, which in addition to Finland includes prominent stakeholders in higher education from Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Norway and Poland. The CSO considered with the EFP International Expert Group and University Consortium the implementation of the

EuroFaculty Pskov project and decided to launch an independent “Evaluation of the EuroFaculty Pskov Project 2009 – 2015 and applicability of the EuroFaculty concept in the future”.

Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue

At the first Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue, 22 young Europeans from 12 different countries from the broader Baltic Sea region discussed the history and future of borders and identities. The pilot project was implemented in Narva/Ivangorod/Tallinn in September 2014 as a private public partnership of CBSS together with the Körber Foundation of Germany.

The Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue has been looking at the Baltic Sea region and its neighbouring countries through the European history and analyzed its historic and current developments linked to borders, identity, mobility, inclusion and dialogue.

Throughout the programme, the participants were encouraged to take to upload them to Instagram. The images became the virtual exhibition #balticeye, documenting the participants journey from their shared past, their generation, experiences with borders and identity. Prints of these images were exhibited at the premises of the European Commission (DG REGIO) in Brussels in January 2015. The exhibition is planned to move to the European Parliament and the European Commission Delegation in Moscow for further display. Issues of youth cooperation will be discussed at the 6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in June 2015, in Jūrmala, Latvia.

The Baltic Sea Youth Dialogue will continue in summer 2015 in Potsdam, Germany and in autumn 2015 in Olsztyn, Poland for the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. A larger event might be organized in 2016. Participants will gain knowledge about the common history in the Baltic Sea region and will be invited to shape a Baltic Sea regional identity for the future.

Balticlab

Balticlab is an innovation & leadership programme for creatives and entrepreneurs in the Baltic Sea Region, run jointly by the Council of the Baltic Sea States Secretariat and the Swedish Institute. The programme creates a collaborative mindset across borders and acts as a mental switch for the participants to identify their practice regionally. Over the course of its three-year run, Balticlab has gathered together over 250 creatives and entrepreneurs from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus and Poland, giving them a space to prototype the future of the region, through networking and mentored teamwork, crossing countries and disciplines.

Balticlab 3.0 launched with the third Networking Weekend, December 2014, and continues with workshops in Riga, Warsaw and Gothenburg during spring and summer 2015.

In addition to the programme, Balticlab is currently developing a *Balticlab Innofesto - an Innovation Manifesto for the Baltic Sea Region*. The manifesto takes input from the Balticlab participant network and will act as a recommendation document for governments and regional stakeholders to support innovation and collaboration in the region. This will build on the already existing and ongoing initiatives on innovation and start-ups in the region.

CBSS Summer University

A CBSS Summer University was initiated to advance regional cooperation in higher education, adding to what has already been achieved by the EuroFaculty concept. The project was funded by the CBSS Project Support Facility (PSF) and the first CBSS Summer University took place on 4th – 14th August 2014 at the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden, and focused on Multilevel Governance and Administration in the Baltic Sea Region. The next CBSS Summer University will be held at the Humboldt University of Berlin in August 2015.

Culture tourism

The project “Common Map for Culture Tourism in the BSR” led by the Russian Association for cooperation with the Baltic Sea countries NORDEN was funded by the CBSS PSF and was developed with the aim to establish a sustainable platform for cooperation in the sphere of culture tourism and update information about cultural and historical heritage objects in the region.

Sustainable and Prosperous region:

The implementation of the CBSS long term priority Sustainable and Prosperous Region was discussed at the CSO meeting in September 2014 in Tallinn with the representatives of VASAB Committee on Spatial Planning and Development of the Baltic Sea Region (CSPD/BSR), VASAB Secretariat, Estonian Presidency of CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 and Estonian Presidency of BASREC.

Climate Change Stakeholder Platform – Climate Dialogue

Establishment of the BSR-wide Climate Change Stakeholder Platform is a new strategic action initiated by the CBSS Baltic 21 to facilitate coordination on capacity building and knowledge exchange among the member states on the issue of climate change.

The Platform provides the Baltic Sea Region countries and key stakeholders a framework for information exchange, supporting the development and implementation of the national climate policies and advancing joint climate actions in the Baltic Sea Region. Together with all BSR countries, the research community and pan-Baltic organizations (BSSSC, Nordregio, UBC and VASAB) as well as the European Environment Agency are involved in this activity.

The 4th roundtable of the Climate Dialogue, held on 29th April in Tallinn, decided to initiate a **joint project with the Nordic Council of Ministers on capacity building** trainings for local and regional authorities and an awareness raising campaign. Further development of the climate change information web portal – the **BSR Climate Inventory** was also agreed.

The seminar “Adaptation the Baltic Sea Region to climate change”, organized by the CBSS-Baltic 21 at the **2nd European Climate Adaptation Conference** on 14th of May in Copenhagen discussed the hot-spots of expected climate change and its impacts in the Region. Experiences and practices on mainstreaming climate adaptation and possibilities for low carbon development in the Baltic Sea Region were introduced by Estonia, Sweden, Russia and Latvia.

The **Climate Dialogue** cooperation will continue during the Polish CBSS Presidency - the 5th round table meeting will be held under Polish CBSS Presidency in autumn 2015. In spring 2016 the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Poland will organize an international conference focusing on climate change adaptation.

Low-Carbon Development in the Baltic Sea Region

A study was initiated by the CBSS Baltic 21 project BALLOON. The study highlights the main problems to be addressed and identifies the areas for cooperation actions at macro-regional level to meet the low carbon/green economy objectives. The project was led by the Latvian Ministry of the Environment and Regional Development and contributes to the CBSS strategic objective "To support the transition of the Baltic Sea region towards a competitive, green and low-carbon economy".

Solutions and governance aspects for increased energy efficiency in the BSR

The guidelines for low-tech solutions and governance aspects for increased energy efficiency in buildings in the BSR is an outcome of the project **EFFECT** – Dialogue Platform on Energy and Resource Efficiency in the Baltic Sea Region led by the CBSS Baltic 21. The document contributes to an increased awareness of national, regional and local governments by providing concrete governance measures, low-tech examples and know-how on how to work towards increased energy efficiency for establishing the minimum requirements and certification systems for energy performance.

Collaboration with the **Baltic Sea Energy Cooperation (BASREC)** was increased in the areas of mutual interest such as sustainable production of bioenergy, and CO2 emissions.

Assessing the status of sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region: a macro-regional perspective

The Council Declaration on the implementation of the CBSS Vilnius Declaration recommended the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 to work on a new Sustainable Development Agenda for the Baltic Sea Region with specific goals post 2015, following the global SD framework. This process started with the review of Baltic 21, followed up by the report "*Assessing the Status of Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region: a macro-regional perspective*". The Report is one of the milestone documents paving the way for discussions on elaboration of a new sustainable development agenda for the Baltic Sea Region post 2015. The opportunities for future implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at regional and national level as well as the CBSS potential role in the SDG implementation was discussed at the seminar "Improving the Baltic Sea region's capacity towards Sustainable Development" organized by CBSS Baltic21 on 9th of April.

AgroForum Mare Balticum 2015 on Food and Energy Sustainability was co-organised by the Estonian Ministry of the Agriculture, the Estonian University of Life Science and the CBSS EG on Sustainable Development - Baltic 21 on 14-16 April 2015 in Tartu, Estonia. 250 participants from 17 countries and several international organizations participated in the Forum. The CBSS Baltic 21 organised an EFFECT project session on efficient use of resources in agriculture to look into main challenges and solutions

in the Baltic Sea Region for developing an efficient and resilient agro-food system to increase both productivity and sufficiency.

Maritime Policy

A decision as to the future development of the CBSS Expert Group on Maritime Policy has been taken during the Estonian CBSS Presidency. EGMP had an extraordinary meeting on 14 April 2015 dedicated to its mandate and presented their decision to the CSO recommending to continue the group for 3 more years, addressing working methods and priority topics – including blue growth, sustainable use of coastal location, short sea shipping, maritime industry clusters and new products development - providing more added value, as well as ensuring a division of labour and better coordination in the maritime field between CBSS, HELCOM and EUSBSR. The CSO agreed to prolong the EGMP mandate for 3 more years until 30 June 2018. The EGMP and the Secretariat will strive to play coordinating role in promoting the Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogue and invite the BSSSC as a co-chair.

Continued Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogue

A preparatory event under working title “Promoting Maritime dimension in the Baltic Sea cooperation” will be organized in Jūrmala 14 June 2015 in connection with the EUSBSR Annual Forum. Two Baltic Sea Maritime Dialogues will be proposed during the Polish CBSS Presidency - the first in Poland in September 2015, and the second in Turku, Finland - within the framework of the European Maritime Day in May 2016.

Baltic Sea Labour Forum

BSLF Enlarged Steering Committee meeting took place 2 June 2015 in Helsinki, Finland to discuss recent developments and preparations for BSLF Annual Round Table in autumn 2015, and to introduce the project BSLFmobINIT.

Safe and Secure:

A Round Table “*CBSS long term priority – Safe and Secure Region*” took place during the CSO meeting in February 2015 in Tallinn with the attendance of the Non-Discrimination Ombudsman of Finland/Finnish National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking, the Russian Presidency of the CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear Radiation and Safety (EGNRS), the Estonian Presidency of the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC), the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Co-coordinators of Priority Area Secure of EUSBSR, NCM Office in Latvia, the IOM Office in Helsinki, the SOS Children’s Villages of Estonia, the National Headquarters of State Fire Service of Poland and the Estonian Rescue Board and University of Tartu.

Policy Area Secure within the revised EUSBSR Action Plan will include elements of the former PA Secure and PA Crime. Sweden (Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency MSB) together with the CBSS Secretariat will continue assuming responsibility for this Policy Area. The CBSS Secretariat shall continue ensuring that also the interests of non-EU Members of the CBSS are taken into account in this work.

The coordinator status shall increase the ability of the Secretariat to deliver tangible results in the areas of civil protection, fight against THB and protection of children at risk. The CBSS Secretariat activities against trafficking in human beings are aimed at enhancing protection of victims of trafficking and assistance to trafficked persons. Closer cooperation with the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation and facilitated contacts between relevant Baltic Sea Networks, such as the Baltic Sea Task Force against Organized Crime will enhance security in general. The status of the CBSS Secretariat as a coordinator of Policy Area Secure within the revised EUSBRS Action Plan will be taken into account in this regard.

Actions towards enhancing civil protection capabilities of the Region will also be taken based on identified risks and strong networks of stakeholders.

Strengthening cooperation to protect Children

In order to implement the CBSS long term priority the CBSS Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk (EGCC) initiated two new projects on alternative care and child-friendly justice highlighting the urgency of providing children with quality care and justice in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings and providing actions plans for future regional work. The development of Guidelines and a Wiki on transnational child protection will guide the capacity building in the region on the protection of children at risk of exploitation and trafficking.

Tallinn Recommendations and Action Plan for Alternative Care and Family Support

The Recommendations was the result of a significant study and a discussion among technical experts including the Expert Group for Cooperation on Children at Risk on 5 - 6 May 2015 in Tallinn;

The recommendations focus on the prevention of family separation, the transition from institutional to family care and children's rights in alternative care with a timeline for follow up.

Report on how to strengthen child-friendly justice in laws and practice in the region

The EGCC cooperates with the Council of Europe on the gathering, taking and testing of evidence from children in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings with an aim to facilitate the transposition of good practices into the various national legal systems.

Representatives from the justice and child welfare sector have recently discussed good practices in the region and laid out a plan on how to follow up the recommendations for the different CBSS member states. The Baltic Sea Region is a model region and the results will be brought to other regions in Europe and beyond.

Guidelines and a Wiki on transnational child protection

Guidelines for key actors against trafficking and exploitation will be developed and in the next years form the background for targeting and training key stakeholders in the Region such as decision-makers, police, prosecutors, social workers and children and young people;

The Wiki on transnational child protection will be an organized site on Wikipedia offering a space for key stakeholders to inform about projects, tools and research on child trafficking, exploitation and cross-border challenges.

Strengthening cooperation to counter trafficking in Human Beings

Guidelines to prevent exploitative employment and trafficking of migrant workers

In July 2014, the project ADSTRINGO, where CBSS TF-THB is an associated partner, which has the status of an EUSBSR Flagship project and which is supported by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Commission was finalized and it broadened the scope of actions against THB for forced labour in the Baltic Sea region, brought together strategic actors such as trade unions, labour associations, labour inspectors and tax authorities, and created stronger partnerships against human trafficking for labour exploitation; A complementary project focusing on Poland & Russia culminated at the end of 2014. Specific research on the situation in Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden is available in English and the national language;

The culmination of the project is the *Guidelines to Prevent Abusive Recruitment, Exploitative Employment and Trafficking of Migrant Workers in the BSR*;

The Guidelines contribute to an increased awareness of the phenomenon of trafficking for forced labour and exploitation of migrant workers in the Baltic Sea region and target a diverse group of stakeholders: states, businesses, trade unions and civil society, and provide action-oriented recommendations and practical guidance to prevent labour trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers, as well as they promote more effective action and collaboration between these different actors; The Guidelines are available in English, Estonian, Finnish, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian as well as Swedish. There is also a shorter *InBrief* version of the guidelines in all project languages that are also translated to Latvian and German.

Specific guidelines for the municipalities on human trafficking

The CBSS TF-THB strengthened the role and capacity of municipalities in the chain of assistance to victims of human trafficking via the baseline assessment study and EU level expert group meeting “Local action against human trafficking” in May 2015 in Riga as part of the STROM initiative implemented by the Ministry of Interior of Latvia, and the guidelines for municipalities providing local stakeholders with expert knowledge and tools needed to deal efficiently with human trafficking cases at the local level.

Research analysis of policy and project responses to human trafficking at the national and EU level

Under the auspices of the transnational project “Trafficking as a Criminal Enterprise” (TRACE) funded by the EU Seventh Framework Research Programme, the CBSS TF-THB conducted a research analysis of the impact of EU policies related to the protection of trafficking victims in the criminal justice system and a desk review of existing European projects on THB resulting in the report of promising practices by EU Member States. The

added value offered by the report lies in the timely and pragmatic information contained herein, enabling Member States to better conceptualize and more effectively execute their programmatic interventions against human trafficking, which may come in response to recent shifts in national and EU policies and strategies prompted by the evolving nature of human trafficking

Strengthening CBSS Civil Protection Network cooperation

The European Union Civil Protection Mechanism together with other regional and national formats is important framework of operational cooperation for the CBSS Civil Protection Network and its partners. Important progress was achieved through the policy actions conducted by the EUSBSR Priority Area Secure and its respective Flagship Projects: Project 14.3 (To Develop Scenarios and Identify Gaps for all Main Hazards in the Baltic Sea Region) with participation of the Saint Petersburg University of State Fire Service of EMERCOM of the Russian Federation, BaltPrevResilience, and the Baltic Leadership Programme in Civil Protection. These Flagship Projects will continue to assure the sustainability of attained results.

Further improvement of the CBSS Civil Protection Network activities should be based inter alia on developing contacts and promoting exchange of experience with other relevant regional organizations, institutions and academia in the sphere of prevention and disaster management.

Increasing Risk Assessment Capabilities

The Project FROM GAPS TO CAPS (*Risk management Capability Based on Gaps Identification in the BSR*), based on recommendations of 14.3, will contribute to further strengthening macro-regional capacities for risk assessment and establishing efficient crisis management schemes to cope with natural and man-made disasters in the BSR. The key outcome of the project will be an improved macro-regional capacity to prevent major hazards and better preparedness to act jointly in cases of emergencies and accidents. First developments are envisaged by August 2015. The final project report is scheduled for October 2016.

Reducing Consequences of Everyday Accidents

The project “BaltPrevResilience”, funded with support of the EU, aims at preventing and reducing the consequences of everyday accidents. The expected results of the project are to improve collection and analysis of impact and response data from everyday accidents, to support local and national governments in developing evidence-based prevention policies, and to identify best practices in this area. The project seeks to have an impact on strengthening resilience in local communities as well as leading to establishing standardized statistical data basis on most common emergencies and accidents.

Leadership training

The Baltic Leadership Programme in Civil Protection aims at strengthening international cooperation by building a strong leaders’ network in the Baltic Sea Region. In its effort to connect decision makers who work in the area of civil security, the programme seeks to

create elements of common security culture, *inter alia* by establishing a transnational team of experts. Two Programmes have taken place so far, including both, professionals working on the project-level on the one hand and professionals in leading, strategic positions on the other. The Baltic Leadership Programme is organized and developed in partnership with Swedish Institute, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and the CBSS Secretariat, the latter in their capacity as Priority Area Coordinators for PA Secure. The next round of the Baltic Leadership Programme is planned in Warsaw, Poland towards the end of 2015.

The CBSS Civil Protection Network continues its standard activity, providing all relevant agencies from all CBSS Member States with the platform for constant communication about their activities, coordinating their plans and preparing joint actions as well as developing policy recommendations for civil protection. An example of the latter are recommendations on methods of measuring impact of fire prevention activities, developed as a result of expert seminar organized by the Estonian Presidency, which will be presented to the Civil Protection Director's General Meeting in June, 2015.

Strengthening cooperation in the area of nuclear and radiation safety

The CBSS Expert Group on Nuclear and Radiation Safety (EGNRS) will continue work on establishing macro-regional system of environmental monitoring, which enables exchange of data between existing national monitoring systems. The aim is to standardized format of measurements and contextual data, and then to develop technical platform of data exchange. Tangible results of these efforts are expected by the turn of the years 2015/16;

The EGNRS will explore legal, administrative and technical conditions to establish a cooperation mechanism for nuclear and radiation forensics, potentially linking this area also with law enforcement and justice institutions (police, border guards and prosecutors).