

# ***ESF Transnational cooperation within the objectives of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – empowerment of social dimension***

**5<sup>th</sup> Transnational Partner Forum, 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2012, Warsaw**

*The meeting is co-financed by the European Union under the European Social Fund*

# **PART 1**

## **Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region – concept of the macro-regional strategy**

# Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region

The Baltic Sea Region – for centuries a place of political, economic and cultural **cooperation as well as clashes**.

The **last 20 years** – especially remarkable – achievements in a vast array of areas, including peaceful systemic transformation from communism to democracy, sustainable development, cutting-edge technologies, innovations, social well-being.

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region is an important part of the cooperation architecture in the BSR. It has **enhanced co-ordination** across existing structures, organizations, networks, projects.

The most important Baltic structures include:

- **Council of the Baltic Sea States** – since 1992 (this year 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary) – an overall political forum for regional inter-governmental cooperation. Members: 11 states (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Sweden) and the European Commission (<http://www.cbss.org/>).
- **Northern Dimension** – drawn up to 1999, provides a common framework for the promotion of dialogue and concrete cooperation in Northern Europe between European Union, Iceland, Norway and Russia.
- **Other** – Nordic Council of Ministers, HELCOM, VASAB (Visions and Strategies around Baltic Sea), Baltic Sea States Sub-regional Cooperation, Union of the Baltic Cities and many more...

# Macro-regional strategies

EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – the **first macro-regional strategy** in Europe.

2<sup>nd</sup> macro-regional strategy → The **EU Strategy for the Danube Region** – adopted by the European Commission in December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in June 2011. EUSDSR is “a united response to challenges affecting an area which stretches from the Black Forest to the Black Sea, including 100 million inhabitants” (source Danube Strategy webpage <http://www.danube-region.eu>).

It comprises 14 countries in the region, **both EU and non-EU** (Member States: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia as of 1.7.2013; Accession Countries: Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro; Neighbourhood Countries: Moldova, Ukraine).

**Macro-regional strategies** – a demanding process, effort to improve coherence between large number of actors, policies, priorities, requiring continuous political commitment.

The **development of new macro-regional** strategies in the light of the assessment by the EC expected by June 2013.

# EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region in numbers

- Running since October **2009**
- Involving **8** EU states
- **3** objectives:
  - to Save the Sea
  - to Connect the Region
  - to Increase Prosperity
- **17** Priority Areas (social dimension: PA Inno, PA SME, PA Health and PA Education)
- The **3** NO rule:
  - no new EU funds
  - no new institutions
  - no new EU legislation



Source: <http://eurodialogue.org>

## **PART 2**

# **Social dimension of the BSR Strategy and the role of the European Social Fund**



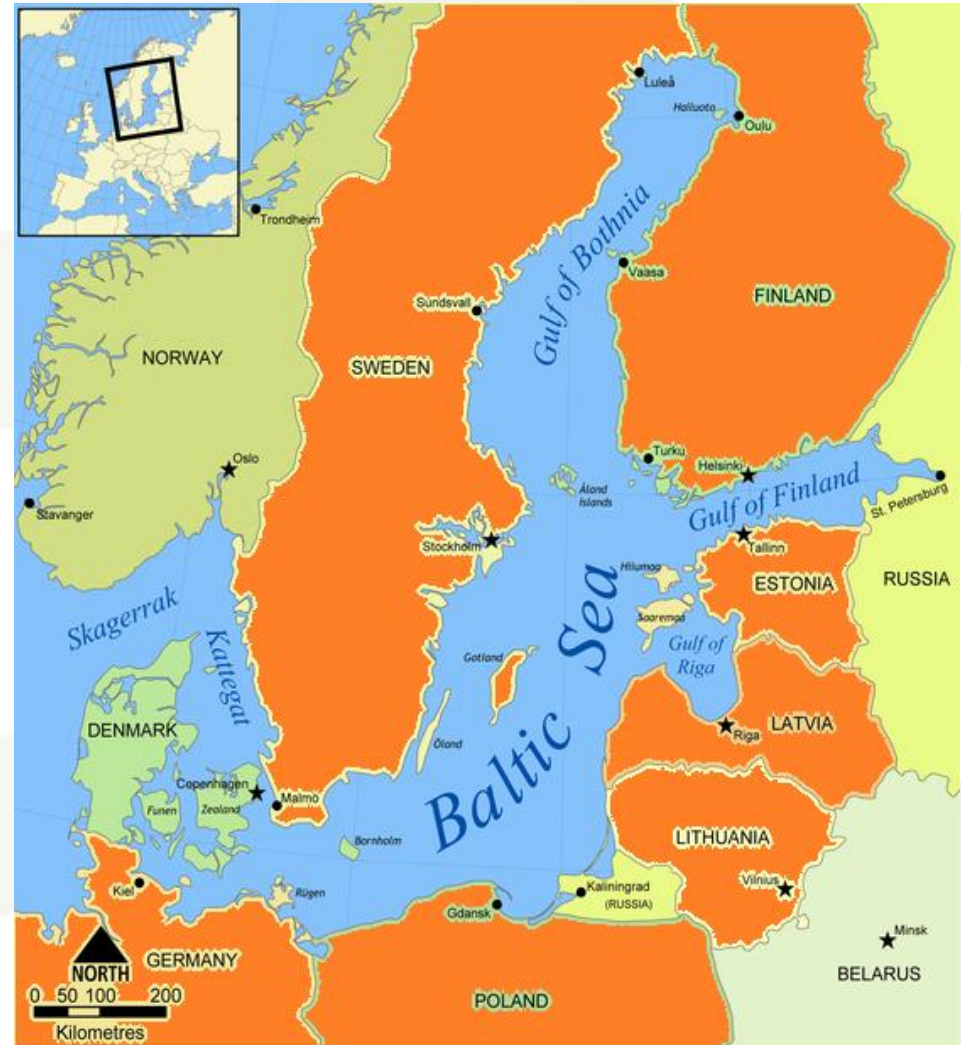
# Baltic Sea Network - ESF

**2008** – establishment of the cooperation (under German leadership) – 7 states involved

**2011** – Swedish ESF Council takes the lead:

- letter of intent
- focus on different ESF support areas and BSR Strategy
- launching of Baltic Sea Network - ESF project financed by SIDA (Swedish Agency)
- recognition of the network by EC (mentioned as a good practice under BSR Strategy)

**2012** – potential Flagship project concept in the education area (drop outs)



Source: [http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morze\\_Ba%C5%82tyckie](http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morze_Ba%C5%82tyckie)

# BSR Strategy and Polish HC OP

Priority Area	HC OP Priority
<b>PA Inno</b> – <i>Exploiting the full potential of the region in research, innovation and education</i>	<b>Priority IV</b> – <i>Tertiary education and science</i> <b>Priority VIII</b> – <i>Regional human resources for the economy</i>
<b>PA SME</b> – <i>Promoting entrepreneurship, strengthen SMEs and increase the efficient use of human resources</i>	<b>Priority II</b> – <i>Development of human resources and adaptation potential of enterprises and improvement in the health condition of working people</i> <b>Priority VIII</b> – <i>Regional human resources for the economy</i>
<b>PA Health</b> – <i>Improving and promoting people's health, including its social aspects</i>	<b>Priority VII</b> – <i>Promoting of social integration</i>
<b>PA Education</b> – <i>Developing innovative education and youth</i>	<b>Priority III</b> – <i>High quality of the education system</i> <b>Priority IX</b> – <i>Development of education and competencies in the regions</i>

- **Transnational projects** implemented in all HC OP Priorities and in the Baltic Sea Region
- Strategic and access **project selection criteria** referring to the BSR Strategy
- Recommendations for **annual HC OP Action Plans** – systemic projects in line with the BSR Strategy objectives



## **PART 3**

# **Tools and methods for effective implementation of the Strategy – flagship and ESF projects**

# BSR Strategy flagship projects

## Flagship project may

- develop key solutions, new methodology or practises or new forms of cooperation
- be either a single project or a group of projects operating in the same field

## Example of potential flagship project

- Learning for Life and Work in School in the Baltic Sea Region (LLWS Baltic)
- Leader – Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
- All states active in the BSN-ESF project involved
- Aim: to combat early school departures and develop support for vulnerable groups of young people
- Cooperation based on mutual learning between stakeholders in the BSR both at the regional and national level, as well as within projects in various EU programmes



Source: <http://www.morski.strazgraniczna.pl>

# Other initiatives

## **Inclusive Europe ([www.inclusiveeurope.se](http://www.inclusiveeurope.se))**

- ESF project aiming at strengthening transnational cooperation in the Stockholm region, with a specific focus on the Baltic Sea Region. The region will be inspired, equipped and prepared for the next programming period, and meet up with the Baltic Sea Strategy and the Europe2020
- Its vision is to establish a platform for increased mobility and exchange of skills between EU member states and support the fight against alienation and exclusion

## **Transnational Partner Fora**

- The aim is to help projects to find suitable and reliable partners and establish durable contacts/partnerships for further strengthening of TNC under the ESF
- Already 4 fora in Warsaw organised by NSI in cooperation with Swedish ESF Council and other partners (participation of ca 500 projects from 11 countries) and 1 Forum in Stockholm organised by Arbetsmiljöforum in cooperation with NSI
- Many potential partners from the BSR (mainly from Poland and Sweden).

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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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Source: <http://niespodzianka.pl/presents/f99ba7d7642a81dd6f9977dd62f75923.jpg>

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