BSLN
Baltic Sea Labour Network
BSLN – Working for sustainable labour markets

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Motivation

- Working together through labour market issues is extremely important since this dynamic region could be developed into one of the most competitive regions in Europe.

- The long-term existing trade relations have been considerably reinforced over the last few years which is also underlined by the increasing demand for skilled labour.
Motivation

At the same time the Baltic Sea States are facing some major challenges such as the current demographic development which is affecting the decrease in labour force.

Besides this, the increasing labour mobility - especially commuters in the border regions - calls for new strategies and even more importantly, for detailed information about the respective labour and vocational training markets.
Goals of BSLN

- To look for solutions regarding the impact of the economic crisis and the mobility of labour
- Active labour market policy and social dialogue
- Focus countries are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland
- Establishment of a permanent secretariat and a Forum for Social Dialogue in the BSR
Goals of BSLN

Political dimension

- BSLN is directly linked with the *Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS)* and the *Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)*
  - Project results can be directly communicated to political decision makers in the Parliaments and Governments in the BSR

- **BSLN is a flag ship project within the implementation of the EUSBSR**
  - Flag ship projects are presented in the action plan of the Commission. Through the strategy political decision making can also be influenced
Main topics

- Mobility of labour
- Active labour market policy
- Training and education

Project slogan

**Baltic Sea Labour Network –**

**Working Together for Sustainable Labour Markets**
Transnational level

- Project management / project structur
  - Tripartite Steering Committee, tripartite Facilitator Team
- Bringing together key actors / experts
- Seminars, conferences, working groups
- Research, political initiatives, knowledge transfer
- Coordination of pilot projects
National level

- Capacity building of the social partners
- Establishment of national coordination centres in the focus countries
- Pilot projects
- Trainings, seminars
- Studies
Project structure: Who we are
Project structure: What we do
Cross border information and Competence Centre

- German and Polish partners pool their expertise
- Centre in the border region Mecklenburg Western Pomerania and Westernpomeranian Voivodeship
- Information for workers and companies
- Cross border labour and vocational training market monitor
Studies in Finland, Denmark and Sweden

- Finnish qualitative interview study about social inclusion and participation in trade unions and working life among Estonian and Russian speaking immigrants
- Swedish infrastructure project on mobility of labour
- Danish research on migrant workers’ living and working conditions
Common topics

- How to get in contact with the migrants workers
- Language problem
- Personal approach

Example solutions:
- Denmark: Network activities for migrant worker groups
- Norway: collective agreement in some branches
Social dialogue in the BSR

- Social partners are the experts in labour market policy; therefore they should be heard
- Models of SD differ at national level within the region
- In the new member states low trade union and employer organisation density
- Working together is supportive and new strategies can be developed
BSLN activities

- Lithuania: Social dialogue centre to provide special educational seminars for young people
- Latvia: Development and strengthening the social dialogue by organising forums in different regions for municipalities, trade unions, employers and experts
- Estonia: Training of future leaders, inclusion in promotion of social partnership at workplace, sectoral and national levels
Common transnational activities

- The "Tripartite Forum on Mobility of Labour in the Baltic Sea Region / Mobility – blessing or course?" took place on 25 November 2008 in Copenhagen. The forum was the kick-off for the network.

- Conference "Working together for sustainable labour markets" took place on 11 May 2010 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

- As working group for the "Network of knowledge" a research coordination group was established.
Political support

- At the **18. Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC)** (31 August – 1 September in Nyborg, Denmark) the final report of the working group „labour markets“ was presented. One topic was cross border labour markets.

- Based to the recommendations of the working group the conference resolution calls the governments of the BS states to take the results of BSLN into consideration.

- At the **19. BSPC** (29-31 August 2010 in Mariehamn, Åland-Islands) the resolution recommended to establish and to support information centres.
Main tasks and activities for 2011

- Final conference 15-16 November 2011 in Hamburg
- The conference topics are based on the main tasks and the results of the partners of BSLN and on the work of the research coordination group
- The results will be discussed with other experts
- Results will be also published in a booklet
Research activities 2011

- Collection of necessary and comparable data
- Development of a knowledge pool
- Establishment of a *Network of Knowledge*, integration of experts and research institutes
- Good practice examples as basis for policies and solution models
Establishment of a Forum for Social Dialog in the BSR

- Forum members are trade union confederations, employer organisations and governmental / political institutions in the Baltic Sea Region
- The activities and topics are agreed in a tripartite Steering Committee (Resulting from BSLN)
- A forum secretariat should be established (under CBSS structures?)
- Establishment and first round table at the BSLN final conference on 15 November 2011
Aims of the forum

The core aim is the promotion of social dialogue and tripartite structures and cooperation as a crucial element of sustainable economic growth and social development in the Baltic Sea Region

- Perception of the responsibility of social partners towards the development of the labour market in the BSR
- Development of the transnational social dialogue between representatives of employer and trade union organisations and governments
- Forum for exchange of experience and communication with the key actors – network
Forms of cooperation

Main activity:

- Annual thematic round table – tripartite
- Additional cross border round tables if needed

Networking, exchange of information

In the long term

- Expert meetings of selected topics
- Conferences

Support and information provision by a network of information sources and research institutions, labour market monitoring
Network building

- Involvement of Russia is essential
- Russia is member of CBSS
- Joint meeting in Helsinki 31 March 2011
  - The Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia
  - Confederation of Labour of Russia
  - Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of St. Petersburg
  - Administration of President of Russian Federation
- The appropriate partners have to be defined in cooperation
- BSLN Steering Committee meeting 26-28 September in St. Petersburg
Conclusions

- Innovative tools and new ways to deal with labour mobility around the BSR are needed.
- National and transnational activities with all stakeholders involved.
- Social dialogue should play a key role in achieving decent and productive working conditions in all BS states and in the region as such.
Framework

**Partner**
- Ministry of Research and Science, Hamburg (Lead Partner)
- Trade union confederations from all BSR EU states
- Transnational trade union confederations (BASTUN, NFS)
- Employer organisations (Baltic States and Germany)
- Governments (CBSS)
- Parliamentarians (BSPC)

**Duration:** 36 Months, ends 31 January 2012

**Budget:** About 2.7 Mio. EUR
Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit
Contact

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