

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 Westerpomeranian 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

BSLN

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www.bslabour.net

Vielen Dank für Ihre Aufmerksamkeit

Contact

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