



CBSS EXPERT GROUP
Sustainable Development – Baltic 21

Ensuring prosperous economies, healthy societies and dynamic ecosystems in a balanced and integrated manner

Baltic 21 is a greenhouse for sustainable ideas. We find and develop practical solutions for sustainable development, facilitate and make them grow.

Today, we have over 200 partners working together on projects for eco-innovation, education for sustainable development, promoting bio-energy, adapting to climate change and more. We bring together experts from governmental organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders. Together we develop hands-on projects and turn results into policy recommendations.

Baltic 21 takes an active role in the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and provides a platform for external aspects of the Strategy, notably cooperation with Russia.

Policy input to the 16th Ministerial Session of the CBSS

Acknowledges the important role that the Baltic 21 network, with its CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21 and Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects, plays to promote sustainable development in the Baltic Sea region and *calls upon* the implementation of the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015

Welcomes efforts underway to develop a climate change adaptation strategy for the region

Welcomes deepened energy cooperation for sustainable and secure supply in the region based on the use of innovative technologies for increased energy efficiency and savings as well as to promote the use of sustainable bio-energy

Supports coordinated efforts on eco-innovations and green economy in the Baltic Sea Region

Invites the Ministers of Education to meet to acknowledge their responsibility and strengthen political recognition of and collaboration for Education for Sustainable Development in the Baltic Sea Region

Key results from on-going Baltic 21 Lighthouse projects

Baltic Sea Bio-energy promotion

The project aims at strengthening the development towards a sustainable, competitive and territorial integrated Baltic Sea Region in the field of sustainable use of bio-energy. Some of the main outcomes of the project so far:

- Policy assessment report on sustainable bio-energy production
- Policy guideline on criteria for sustainable bio-energy
- Policy guidance paper on Promoting sustainable bio-energy production and consumption in the frame of the National Renewable Energy Action Plans and beyond, including transnational recommendations
- Assessment report on certification schemes for sustainable bio-energy
- 44 pilot projects with good practise examples of bio-energy production and use at the sub-regional level
- Set up of a Virtual Brokerage Platform for bio-energy business developments
- Organized a series of facilitation workshops to support bio-energy market "match-making" resulting in the creation of new networks, clusters and public-private partnerships

EcoRegion

The aim of the project is to develop the Baltic Sea Region into the world's first EcoRegion, where economical growth goes hand in hand with environmental integrity and social justice. Some of the main outcomes of the project so far:

- Assessment report on Baltic 21 as the basis for the new mandate of the CBSS Expert Group on Sustainable Development – Baltic 21
- Background studies for the development of the CBSS Strategy on Sustainable Development 2010-2015
- Collection of 200 Good Practices on practical local and regional sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region, publicly available in a database
- Published three thematic periodicals, *Perspectives*, on tourism, territorial cohesion and education for sustainable development
- Capacity building on integrated sustainability management systems in 10 model regions

Ecosystem Health & Sustainable Agriculture

The aim of the Ecosystem Health and Sustainable Agriculture project is to transfer knowledge through seminars and training courses and develop new educational packages. Some of the main outcomes in the project so far:

- 3 course books for Master level on sustainable agriculture, land use, rural development, ecosystem health and management
- Teacher training workshops within Baltic University Programme

SPIN

The SPIN project aims at bringing together demand and supply side of innovative and environmental friendly techniques (eco-innovations). This matchmaking process creates business opportunities for the suppliers and helps to reduce environmental burden and to exploit cost saving potentials through more sustainable production in SMEs applying eco-innovations. The project focuses on the sectors construction, decentralised wastewater treatment, surface treatment and biogas. Some of the main outcomes of the project so far:

- Collection of 200 eco-innovation products as well as good practice examples publicly available online in the SPIN database
- Country specific background papers on the aforementioned sectors
- Country assessment reports on SME needs as well as barriers and incentives to apply eco-innovations
- Synthesis report summarizing the country studies
- Transnational toolbox helping SMEs to exploit their resource and energy efficiency potentials
- Transnational sector workshops that reached out to 250 SMEs to foster matchmaking

New Bridges

NEW BRIDGES project aims to strengthen quality of life through improved management of urban-rural interactions. Some of the main outcomes the project has achieved so far:

- Project has reinforced the knowledge of urban-rural interaction and introduced the concept of quality of life to regional planning
- Brought more systematic ways for project based regional planning by introducing the Integrated Management System
- Developed more participatory planning methods in the city-regions where those did not preliminary exist and elaborated the existing ones
- Approached around 20 000 inhabitants through baseline surveys
- Involved together more than 500 stakeholders in local stakeholder meetings at eight partner city-regions
- Increased cross-sectoral co-operation and new kind of partnership in regional planning
- Offered a neutral platform for enhancing cross-border co-operation between different administrative units in the city-regions